



SPRING 2015

Volume LXXIII
Issue 2

FROM THE PRESIDENTS PERCH

PLANT MILKWEED THIS SPRING!

Just as Bergen County Audubon Society works to protect many threatened and endangered bird species and their habitat, we also find it equally important to protect and preserve other wildlife such as the Monarch Butterfly. This Spring BCAS will continue our work at our Butterfly gardens at Teaneck Creek and Overpeck Preserve. New Milkweed projects are also planned at the New Jersey State Botanical Garden and the New Overpeck County Park.

If there is no more milkweed, there will be no more Monarch Butterflies... it is as simple and as scary as that. Milkweed is the only plant that Monarch butterflies can use to lay their eggs. The eggs hatch into a beautiful caterpillar and the lifecycle continues. But this knowledge although foreboding is also empowering because everyone can do something to help the Monarch -- right now this year! Just go to your local nursery or garden center and buy some milkweed for your garden. Maybe even pick up some extra for your school, library or work place. When you plant a milkweed you will automatically make your community, state and planet a better place for a magnificent creature that is quickly disappearing and headed to the endangered species list. If you would like more info on milkweed or one that will work in your yard, drop me an e-mail Greatauk4@gmail.com or give me a call.201-230-4983 .

We are here to help you save the Monarch Butterfly this year !

On another note,

We would like to thank Dr. Ben Burton for his continued generous donations to our native plant restoration projects at Teaneck Creek Conservancy.

DON TORINO

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- PROGRAMS FOR MAY-JUNE, 2015
- FIELD TRIPS, MAY-JULY 2015
- LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP SERIES
- EDUCATION NEWS AND EVENTS
- SPRING COUNT - INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY DAY AND BIRDATHON
- ANNUAL BIRD FEEDER CLEANING AT WBU

BERGEN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY—
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Editor: Nancy Salvati .

BCAS MONTHLY MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held at Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Puffin Way, Teaneck.
Business Meeting at 7:30pm. Programs begin at 8pm.

Wed. May 20 -- WATER - What We Are Doing to Our Streams?

Speaker: Annabelle Bower of the AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador Program

Human activities are the number one cause of water pollution, affecting wildlife as well as our drinking water, homes, and more. Join us to hear about the impacts we have on our waterways, especially the urbanized streams traveling through many of our communities. Annabelle will demonstrate what a healthy stream looks like and the steps YOU can take to improve stream health. Help protect our waterways-- don't neglect them!

Wed. June 17 ---Sustainability in the Suburban Backyard .

Speaker-Elaine Silverstein, Professional Horticulturist

Elaine is certified in Sustainable Landscape Management and will define "sustainability" and discuss why it's important in the suburbs (because our individual properties are the environment). Elaine will touch on lawn care (reducing use of water and chemicals), composting,, recycling your leaves on your own property, and planting native plants.

For suggestions on a topic or speaker, contact Yitzi Kessock, ytk12@aol.com.

BOARD NOTES:

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

Rich Santangelo - Chair of Field Trips.

Yitzi Kessock, VP Programs and Events.

Don't forget to visit Don Torino's blog for these thank yous.

<http://www.wildnewjersey.tv/2015/04/07/dons-jersey-birding-thank-you-notes-to-the-birds/>

OPT TO RECEIVE THE BLUE JAY ELECTRONICALLY

Please consider receiving the newsletter electronically rather than a mailed hard copy. You will be notified when it is available and can always access it on our website.

To choose this option, send an email to BergenAudubon@aol.com with the subject E-Blue Jay, and include your name and zip code. We will happily delete your printed mailing label. Contact Beth if you need an assist at goldbug310@gmail.com.



2015 SPRING BIRD COUNT and BIRDATHON

the most exciting time in the birding year, and we encourage you to take part.

Please help us to celebrate "**International Migratory Day**" on Saturday, May 9. We are asking members and friends to spend part of this day enjoying the spring migration by watching birds in their local area or in a nearby natural area. Chapter leaders will be available in many places to help you in identifying birds, but you may also participate on your own, or by forming your own group. Our goals are as follows:

1. **Identify** as many species as possible in "Greater Bergen County" on that day, and to count HOW MANY birds of each species are present.
2. **Report** your bird lists and total number per species to David Hall, who will compile a master list of the total species and number of birds identified.
3. **The master list** is the basis for our "Bird-a-thon" fundraiser (see below on how to participate). The more bird species that we identify, the more money BCAS will raise for local conservation and education projects!
4. **Have fun!! May 9th is THE DAY, rain or shine.**

This is the 23rd Annual Spring Bird Count for BCAS! We hope to have leaders covering many areas, including **Garret Mountain, DeKorte Park, Tenafly Nature Center, Allendale Celery Farm, Mehrhof Pond, Teaneck Creek, and MahWah Green Acres.** We would be very happy if you join one of the above groups, or you may chose your own favorite local bird spot and send back a list of what you see.

We will have signup sheets and tally sheets at the BCAS meeting on April 15. Call David Hall (evenings) at 973-226-7825 (email is david.hall@einstein.yu.edu) to join a group or to volunteer to lead an area. Beginning May 10, call or email David to report your bird list, including the total number of birds per species. We are also ready to send you a tally list by email.

DAVE HALL

Pledge Your Support for BCAS and join us in the GREAT BIRDATHON 2015 SPRING COUNT FUNDRAISER



Fill out our pledge sheet and show your support for our conservation and education efforts with projects such as habitat restoration, nest boxes, new birder classes. etc.

The Spring Count Fundraiser will be based on the total number of bird species seen by our members on May 9, 2015. We hope to find around 100-125 species. You may pledge "X" amount per species and your pledge will then be multiplied by the total number species seen on that day, or you can pledge a fixed amount. Please consider using a "Matching Grant" from your employer if it is available to you. Your pledge is tax deductible. Monies raised are used to support NJ conservation initiatives and to fund environmental education through our *Audubon Adventures* a classroom based curriculum that is used in our local schools. Last year your dollars helped to reach over 2000 students in classrooms throughout the County. Please help us continue our efforts.

You can bring your pledge to our next meeting, mail form, or use the DONATE button on our website .

BCAS Spring Fundraiser, P.O. Box 235, Paramus, NJ 07653-0235

Checks should be made payable to: "Bergen County Audubon Society"

Pledge per Species _____ or \$ _____ amount.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Contact Peggy O'Neill at (201) 868-5829 if you have any questions.

FIELD TRIPS - SPRING/SUMMER 2015

Unless noted, all field trips are rain OR shine. For last minute changes due to inclement weather or other conditions, please notify trip leader. For additional information or to make suggestions for field trips, please contact **Richard Santangelo** – 908-868-6252 or rsantangelo@gmail.com
For a complete list of directions to field trip sites please visit www.bergencountyaudubon.org

Saturday, May 2 – 8:30am. Lord Stirling Park, Basking Ridge, NJ. Warblers & spring migrants.

Leader – Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

Sunday, May 3 – 9:00am. Losen Slote Creek State Park. Warblers & spring migrants. Meet at Little Ferry DPW lot on Mehrhof rd.

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Tuesday, May 5 – 9:30am. Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Meet at parking lot on Puffin Way. Warblers, spring migrants.

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Saturday, May 9 – Bergen County Audubon Spring Count

Coordinator– Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

Sunday, May 10 – 8:00am. Garrett Mountain, Passaic County, NJ. Spring Migrants & other passerines. Meet at three-tiered parking lot.

Leader – Brenda McIntyre 201-628-5030 BSMPHD@aol.com

Sunday, May 10 – 10:00am. Mother’s Day Walk at Ridgefield Nature Center & Skeetkill Marsh, Ridgefield, NJ.

Spring Migrants, passerines & stop to see the Monk Parakeets.

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Saturday, May 16 – 8:00am. Sandy Hook, Highlands, NJ. Spring migrants & shorebirds. Meet at lot “B” right after toll.

Leader – Peggy O’Neil 201-868-5829 omargarito@aol.com & Bill Resotko 732-899-2004

Sunday, May 17 – 9:30AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Puffin Way. Warblers, spring migrants & nesting birds.

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Tuesday, May 19 – 10:00AM DeKorte Park Herons, egrets, waterfowl, shorebirds & spring migrants

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Thursday, May 21 – 8:30am. Hilltop Reservation, North Caldwell, NJ. Warblers & Passerines

Leader – Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

Sunday, May 24 – 9:30am. Demarest Nature Center, Demarest, NJ. Forest and wetlands along the Tenakill Brook. good for woodpeckers. *Warning: trails may be muddy.* Meet at the entrance on Columbus Rd, behind the Northern Valley HS athletic fields.

Leader – Flo Rutherford flo.rutherford@gmail.com

Saturday, May 30 – 8:30am. Bashakill Wildlife Management Area, Sullivan County, NY. Visit one of the largest freshwater marshes in NY. Meet at parking lot left of Haven Road.

Leader – Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

Sunday, May 31 – 10:00am. Shawangunk Grasslands, Ulster County, NY. Grassland birds, passerines, & other migrants.

Leader – Jeff Nicol jeffnicolphoto@yahoo.com

Tuesday, June 2 – 9:30am. Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck, NJ. Puffin Way. Late spring arrivals and nesting birds.

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Saturday, June 6 – 10 - 2pm. Annual Bird Feeder Cleaning Day at Wildbirds Unlimited, Paramus, NJ.

Fundraiser Contact – Peggy O’Neil 201-868-5829 omargarito@aol.com for more info OR to volunteer.

Sunday, June 7 – 10:00am. Native Plant Walk at DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst, NJ. A two hour plant walk looking for native plants that attract birds and butterflies.

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Sunday, June 14 – 10:00am. Bluebird Walk at New Jersey Botanical Gardens, Ringwood, NJ. Meet at the carriage house. A \$5.00 per car parking fee on summer Sundays.

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Tuesday, June 16 – 10:00am. Laurel Hill, Secaucus, NJ. Great Cormorants, waterfowl, & possibly Ravens.

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Tuesday, June 18 – 8:30am. Branch Brook Park, Newark, NJ. Spring migrants and nesting birds. Meet at the Cherry Blossom Welcome Center, located on the park road, 1/2 mile north of Heller Parkway. We will carpool from that parking lot.

Leader – Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

Sunday, June 28 – 9:00am. Wallisch Homestead, West Milford, NJ. Visit one of the last surviving large tracts of land that formed the original township of West Milford to look for Bobolink & other nesting grassland birds.

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Sunday, June 21 – 9:30am. Special Father's Day Walk at Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Bring Dad to this wonderful "little Eden" as we look for late spring migrants and nesting birds. Meet at parking lot on Puffin Way

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Sunday July 5 - 10:00am. Mill Creek Point Park & Secaucus High School Boardwalk, Secaucus, NJ. Walk the park and boardwalk looking for herons, shorebirds, waterfowl and more.

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Tuesday, July 7 – 9:30am. Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck, NJ. Butterflies, hummingbirds.

Meet at parking lot on Puffin Way

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Sunday, July 12 – 1:00pm. Butterfly Walk at New Jersey Botanical Gardens, Ringwood, NJ. Prime time for butterflies!

Meet at Carriage House.

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Saturday, July 18 – 9:00am. Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, Oceanville, NJ. Searching the shorelines for migrating shorebirds.

Leader – Peggy O'Neil 201-868-5829 omargarito@aol.com & Bill Resotko 732-899-2004

Sunday, July 19 – 1:00-4:00pm. Teaneck Creek Conservancy Butterfly Festival. Join us for this family friendly event celebrating all things butterfly. Fun activities for the whole family, butterfly and native plant walks throughout the afternoon to help you learn how to identify butterflies and what to plant to attract them to your yard. FREE

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Tuesday, July 21 – 10:00am. Birds & Butterflies Walk at DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst, NJ. Herons, egrets, waterfowl, shorebirds, butterflies and other birds of interest .

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Sunday, July 26 – 10:00-3:00pm. Butterfly Day, DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst, NJ. 6th Annual Butterfly Day, DeKorte Park

Join us for this family friendly event celebrating all things butterfly. Butterfly walks throughout the day, learn how to identify butterflies and learn what to plant to attract them to your yard. Plus many other fun and informative activities. FREE

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Sunday, August 2 – 10:00am. River Barge Park, Carlstadt, NJ.

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Tuesday, August 4 – 9:30am. Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck, NJ. Butterflies, hummingbirds.

Meet at parking lot on Puffin Way

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Sunday, August 9 – 12:00-3:00pm. New Jersey Botanical Gardens Butterfly Festival. Join us for this family friendly event celebrating all things butterfly. Butterfly walks throughout the afternoon, learn how to identify butterflies and what to plant to attract them to your yard. Many other fun and informative activities. FREE A \$5.00 per car parking fee applies. Meet at the carriage house.

Contact – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Sunday, August 16 – 10:00am. DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst, NJ. Herons, egrets, waterfowl, shorebirds, butterflies .

Leader – Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Tuesday, August 18 – 10:00AM . Pontoon Boat Birding Cruise at River Barge Park -\$15.00 per person, pre-registration required. To register, visit njmeadowlands.gov, click on '2015 River Tour Season Is Here', follow the instructions on the form.. For more information contact Kathy Vonk 201-460-4677 or Don Torino 201-230-4983

greatauk4@gmail.com

EDUCATION

BCAS hung bird feeders at Teaneck Creek Conservancy this winter. A big **thank you** to Scott Gunther from Wild Birds Unlimited in Paramus for donating feeders, seed and suet that greatly benefited the birds and wildlife during the harsh winter.

Natalie Rehak, our 2014 Hog Island Scholarship recipient, gave a great presentation on her Educator's Week experience at our January meeting. Natalie enjoyed the camp so much that she is going to attend again this year with her son. Natalie also brought back a book and donated it to BCAS. **Thanks Natalie!**

Our third annual Eco-Art contest is underway and the theme is **Pollinators**. Students in grades 2-7 from our Audubon Adventures schools were invited to participate. The entry deadline is May 8th and winners will be announced May 28th. Awards ceremony will take place at 2PM on June 7th at the Puffin Cultural Forum in Teaneck. The artwork will once again be on display in the gallery at the Puffin Cultural Forum during the month of June. **Good luck to all who enter!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help maintain our 3 gardens this year. Our butterfly and native plant gardens at Teaneck Creek Conservancy and butterfly habitat restoration garden at Overpeck require weeding and watering throughout the season so they can continue to benefit the birds, wildlife and people that visit.



We are also looking for help planting milkweed at the New Jersey Botanical Gardens in Ringwood on May 16 from 1-4. Bring gloves, a shovel and wear sturdy shoes.

If you are interested please contact Marie Longo (201) 498-0809 MLongo8383@aol.com

Save The Dates

July 19 Butterfly Festival at Teaneck Creek Conservancy 1PM-4PM

July Moth Night in the Meadowlands at DeKorte evening event-TBA

July 26 Butterfly Day at DeKorte 10AM-3PM

August 9 Butterfly Festival at the New Jersey Botanical Gardens in Ringwood 12PM-3PM

August 16 Junior Naturalist Program 1PM-3PM

MARIE LONGO

BCAS ANNUAL BIRD FEEDER CLEANING FUNDRAISER AT WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

Mark your calendar for June 6th...

Our annual bird feeder cleaning fundraiser will take place June 6 at the Wild Birds Unlimited store on Route 17 South in Paramus. Bring in your feeders for a thorough scrubbing and cleaning.



The event will take place from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and a donation of \$4.00 per feeder is requested.

All proceeds go to Bergen County Audubon to support our wide variety of programs and conservation efforts throughout the year, including Audubon Adventures, a curriculum provided to schools throughout the county.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you would like to help for even part of the day, contact Peggy O'Neill at # 201-868-5829. It is always a fun event and a great way to meet other members .

BCAS *LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP*

With our 75th Anniversary close at hand, it seemed fitting to give thanks and recognition to those who have supported, helped and enhanced our role in the mission of Bergen County Audubon. Therefore we will have a series of published interviews over the next few years with those who have served this society with their time, skills and talents. The first of these is Dick Engsborg.



Dick has served in many capacities on the BCAS Board. He was President, Conservation Chair and Correspondence Secretary (not necessarily in that order) for more than twenty years.

So I met Dick and asked a series of questions such as: how he discovered an interest in birding, who introduced him to it and when he found BCAS along the way?

Dick was 5 years old, a young kid, when he moved to 'wild' Bergenfield where Mom Engsborg would throw bread to the birds (pretty generous during the depression). His curiosity took form when he joined the Boy Scouts around 11 or 12 yrs. old and received birding picture books which he began to match with outside birds such as woodpeckers. Dick went on to get degrees in Music and English and began a teaching career. *(I was not surprised to hear about his teaching career, as he would go out of his way to answer questions from new birders such as myself and then remember those questions for the next trip to reinforce our knowledge, especially the differentiating field marks of different sparrows. All of a sudden, those little brown birds had names.)*

It was in the early 80's that Dick put bird feeders out at his present residence in Leonia and began to study the visitors. One of the first was a reddish bird – a house finch he later learned. His appetite for the natural world was renewed and he called an Audubon center and began seminars at NJ Audubon's Lorrimer where he also had birding classes with Dale Rousselet and then to the field with Gordon Schulte.

Soon after he began renewing his interest, he received a mail solicitation from National Audubon with a list of local chapters. When he realized that we were a lot closer then Lorrimer, he started attending BCAS meetings. That's when he met Harold Feinberg and began travelling throughout US . He recalls that his first birding trip was to Washington State.

His favorite places to bird? Out of state, he likes Southeast Arizona. In state, his favorites are Flat Rock Brook, Tenafly Nature and, especially the back of stables in Overpeck Park and behind the Shoprite in Palisades Park which are no longer available for walks due to remediation plans.

Favorite bird? Dick likes the Black-Capped Chickadee among many local birds. But Dick will always be our 'go-to guy' for those confusing brown birds, the sparrows.. Unusual bird tales? Trekking through an Arizona Canyon several times looking for Spotted Owls and a search for a Great Grey Owl in Massachusetts with Harold Feinberg. He did see both.

Stay tuned for our next honorees in the Summer edition. Let me know if you know of others in our society that deserve recognition who may not already be on our list. nancys@nj.rr.com

NANCY SALVATI

BERGEN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY



**A CHAPTER OF THE
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 235
Paramus, NJ 07653-0235**

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**Dated Material
APRIL 2015**

As Members of Bergen County Audubon Society, we share a love for birds and a concern for the environment. Our mission is to promote and protect wildlife in their natural habitat by providing opportunities for observation and conservation.

All field trips and programs are open to the public and free of charge.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2015

Please enroll me as a member of the Bergen Audubon Society (Q07) and/or the National Audubon Society.

My check is enclosed for

\$20 Chapter Sustaining Member. All funds stay in our area, helping us to support local efforts and provide services in Bergen County. Make check payable to Bergen County Audubon.

\$20 - National Audubon Society Member. (1st year rate for new NAS members only). Includes Chapter membership. Make check payable to National Audubon Society.

Name: _____

Address : _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

E-mail (I would like to be notified of upcoming events online and receive the newsletter electronically.)

BlueJay will be mailed to you unless you request online version.

Please mail to : BCAS Membership Chair, PO Box 235, Paramus, NJ 07653-0235

Volunteer opportunities in local chapter activities or committees are available. Please circle your interest and mail with your subscription or see any officer or chair at one of the meetings.

Conservation Membership Publicity Field Trips

Education Newsletter/Website Gardens/Events