



SPRING/SUMMER 2018

Volume LXXV
Issue 2

From the Presidents Perch



WE ARE ALL THE CUSTODIANS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

I can't think of a better title for anyone who cares deeply about the environment than to be called a Custodian. A Custodian is defined as one that guards and protects or maintains; *especially* one entrusted with guarding and keeping property.

Now more than ever anyone who cares about wildlife and their habitats must consider themselves a custodian of our earth. Whether it is caring about the rain forest or the habitat in your very own backyard, it is time for everyone who cares about the future of our birds, butterflies and all wildlife to stand up and be counted and do what you can to become a guardian of the world around you. A good place to start is at home, in your own neighborhood.

For everything we do in nature is connected to everything else in the world and ultimately to our own human health. Start in your backyard and plant native plants, take a child on a nature walk, ask if there is anything you can do to take your love of nature to your local school, nature center, seniors facility or church to better help people understand the wonderful diversity of the birds and wildlife that exist close to home. By doing what you can, you will have already made the world a better place for people, wildlife and future generations to come - a true custodian of the natural world.

The challenges are many and the continuous attacks upon our environment be it local or national seem to never end, and yet to be an environmentalist means you must believe and have faith in the future. I am convinced that if we all do what we can, no matter how small it may seem at first, we will make the world a very different place -one where a majority of people will care and respect the environment. Only then will there be no need for us to prepare for the battles ahead but *'only to enjoy wildlife and our birds in the places that we as the earth's custodians saved for them to live and thrive.'*

DON TORINO

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**BERGEN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY—
Officers, Directors & Committee Chairpersons**

PRESIDENT: Don Torino
201-230-4983
VICE PRESIDENT: Karen Riede
201-463-0771
TREASURER: Dave & Nancy Hall
973-226-7825
RECORDING SECRETARY: Patrice Torino
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CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY: Julie McCall
201-639-4647
FIELD TRIPS: Chris Takacs
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BLUE JAY: Nancy Salvati
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201-747-5651
CONSERVATION CHAIR: Mary Kostus
973-779-6929
EDUCATION: Marie Longo
201-498-0809
LEGISLATION: Dave Hall
973-226-7825
FIELD WORK: Dave Hall
973-226-7825
FUNDRAISING: Peggy O'Neill
201-868-5829
MEMBERSHIP: Joseph Koscielny
201-337-3405

**2018 BCAS SPRING COUNT ON MAY 12
Bird-watchers Wanted!**



Would you like to join this year's 26th Annual "Spring Count"? It will be held Saturday, May 12, rain or shine. Our goal is to identify all bird species, and to count how many of each species are present that day. There will be groups birding at Garret Mountain, Oradell Reservoir, Teaneck Creek, DeKorte Park, Van Saun Park, Overpeck and the Celery Farm. But we would also love to send people to other promising habitats such as Mahwah/Ramapo or Tenafly Nature Center. You can join the fun morning, afternoon or evening on that day.

Please contact **Dave Hall** (david.hall@einstein.yu.edu) to join a group, or to propose where you plan to be birding that day. I will put you in contact with other participants to decide on a meeting time and place. There will also be a signup sheet at the April meeting on April 18.

The month of May brings us the best possible mix of bird-life, and this event can be a fun way to practice your bird identification skills. The more the merrier!

DAVE HALL

Published quarterly by the Bergen County Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Send articles to PO Box 235, Paramus, NJ 07653-0235 or email nancys@nj.rr.com.
Editor: Nancy Salvati .

**DON TORINO, PRESIDENT OF BCAS,
RECEIVED THE NATURAL HISTORY
SERVICE AWARD FROM THE
LINNAEAN SOCIETY OF NEW YORK.**



The award was given for our work saving the Bald Eagles nest in Ridgefield Park, protecting raptors from the methane burner in the Meadowlands plus our work restoring wild-life habitat and supporting educational programs.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Save this date !**

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15

**MEADOWLANDS BIRDING
FESTIVAL !**

**Keynote Speaker: David Sibley
Special Guest: Rick Wright**

More to come. Stay tuned.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE – This column is dedicated to all those members who in some way have enhanced, preserved, conserved, protected, educated or elevated our experiences of those things we love, the beauty of the natural world. *The Editor.*

“This wonderful Butterfly habitat in Overpeck Park is due in large part to the hard work, knowledge and dedication of Pat Knight. We could not have done it without her. Thank you Pat!” *Don Torino.*



Pat Knight shown at BCAS garden. Our garden grew from a milkweed patch into the beautiful wildlife garden BCAS has today behind the Bergen Equestrian center. I asked our master gardener Pat Knight how she came to volunteer and she told me that it was due to our president, Don Torino, who gained site recognition with the Rutgers Master Garden Program in 2013. At that time, Pat, a master gardener, was asked to be site coordinator because of her knowledge of native plants. Don Torino arranged to have the recent Rutgers MG class graduates help with the clearing and mass planting. Pat worked with Don in the selection and layout of the BCAS wildlife garden.

Pat said that Don’s wish was to clean out phragmites and other invasives and push this new garden back to the oak trees. Since soil is heavily clay she does seed plantings and can assess the likelihood of growth based on the garden’s clay base. I asked her what tools she needed but found that she carts them all with her each time she visits Overpeck. That’s dedication. The one thing she doesn’t bring is a hose which is now accessed through an arrangement with the Bergen Equestrian center so water is split into a 900 ft water hose for our garden (donated by Pat).

Pat has enormous enthusiasm and passion for the native plants which she has helped grow and flourish to feed the wildlife around Overpeck. I asked Pat if I’d see her at our birding events this Spring. She said maybe if there were plants to identify along the way. Maybe we have the makings of a new Spring walk!! How about it Pat?

SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY EVENTS & MEETINGS, MAY- JUNE 2018

Meetings are held at Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Puffin Way, Teaneck.
 Programs are free and open to the public.
 Business Meeting -7:30pm, Programs at 8pm.
 Check www.bergencountyaudubon.org for updates.

Wed., May 16, 2018– TBA

Wed., June 20, 2018 *Birds of Teaneck by Don Torino*, President of BCAS. Teaneck Creek Conservancy. (TCC) is known as the "Little Eden" of Bergen County for many reasons, one is its incredible diversity of bird life. Don Torino will show the many wonderful photos taken at TCC by our local photographers and discuss the amazing biodiversity of this 46 acre suburban oasis.

Contact Karen Riede at 201-463-0771 for speaker and program suggestions.

SHOP FOR YOUR SPRING GARDEN SUPPLIES AT METROPOLITAN PLANT -



Make a purchase at Metropolitan Plant & Flower Exchange Valued at \$50 or more and Metropolitan will donate \$10 to Bergen County Audubon Society.

Complete Form Below & Present at Time of Purchase
 Offer Expires 9/1/18

Cannot be combined with any other offers

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| Name _____ | | |
| Address _____ | | |
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 Fort Lee, NJ 07024
 201-944-1050

471 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
 West Orange, NJ 07052
 973-736-0049

840 Route 17 North
 Paramus, NJ 07652
 201-445-7101

1-800-METRO-13
www.metroplantexchange.com

2018 FIELD TRIPS - SPRING/SUMMER 2018

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 Field Chair, **Chris Takacs** at 201-207-0426 or americanchris22@gmail.com.

For a complete list of directions to field trip sites please visit www.bergencountyaudubon.org.

May 1 (Tues) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Spring migrants, warblers, vireos, flycatchers. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

May 5 (Sat) 8:00 AM Garret Mountain Reservation, meet at 3-tiered lot Spring migrants, warblers. Contact: Chris Takacs 201-207-0426 americanchris22@gmail.com

May 6 (Sun) 9:00 AM Losen Slote Creek Park. Spring migrants, warblers, thrushes. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

May 8 (Tues) 10:00 AM Halifax Rd. Mahwah. Spring migrants, warblers. Contact: Chris Takacs 201-207-0426 americanchris22@gmail.com

May 10 (Thurs) 8:30 AM Hatfield Swamp. Spring migrants, warblers, flycatchers. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

May 12 (Sat) Bergen County Audubon Spring Count. All-day annual fundraiser. Participants needed. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

May 13 (Sun) 10:00 AM Mother's Day at DeKorte Park. Spring migrants, shorebirds. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

May 15 (Tues) 10:00 AM Harrier Meadow. Spring migrants, shorebirds. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

May 17 (Thurs) 10:00 AM Losen Slote Creek Park. Spring migrants. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

May 19 (Sat) 8:00 AM Sandy Hook. Looking for spring migrants, shorebirds, warblers. Meet at "B" parking lot. Bring Lunch. Contact: Peg O'Neill, omargarito@aol.com 201-868-5829

May 20 (Sun) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Spring migrants, warblers, vireos, flycatchers. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

May 24 (Thurs) 8:30 AM Hilltop Reservation. Spring migrants, warblers, flycatchers, bluebirds. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

May 27 (Sun) 9:00 AM Tenafly Nature Center. Spring migrants, warblers, flycatchers. Contact: Flo Rutherford 201-214-2114, flo.rutherford@gmail.com

June 2 (Sat) 8:30 AM Bashakill Wildlife Management Area, Sullivan County, NY. Marsh birds, warblers, swallows. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

June 3 (Sun) 10:00 AM Richard DeKorte Park. Spring migrants, flycatchers, shorebirds. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

June 5 (Tues) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Migrants, warblers, flycatchers. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

June 7 (Thurs) 10:00 AM Mc Faul Environmental Center, Wyckoff. Meet at Nature Center. Migrants, warblers, flycatchers. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

June 10 (Sun) 10:00 AM NJ Botanical Garden Bluebird Walk, Ringwood. Bluebirds, warblers, butterflies, flowering plants. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

June 17 (Sun) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy Father's Day Walk. Migrants, warblers, flycatchers.
Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

June 19 (Tues) 10:00 AM Mill Creek Marsh. Late spring migrants, nesting birds, shorebirds. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

June 23 (Sat) 8:30 AM Hatfield Swamp. Late spring migrants, nesting birds.
Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

June 24 (Sun) Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Wildlife Habitat Day. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

July 1 (Sun) 10:00 AM Richard DeKorte Park - Native Plant and Butterfly Walk.
Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

July 3 (Tues) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Nature walk.
Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

July 5 (Thurs) 8:30 AM Branch Brook Park. Late spring migrants, nesting birds.
Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

July 8th (Sun) 1:00PM Butterfly Walk at the New Jersey Botanical Garden in Ringwood Meet outside the carriage house. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

July 15 (Sun) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Native plant / butterfly walk.
Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

July 17 (Tues) 10:00 AM Richard DeKorte Park. Shorebirds, nesting birds.
Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

July 19 (Thurs) 8:30 AM Hilltop Reservation. Late spring migrants, nesting birds, bluebirds
Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

July 21 (Sat) 9:00 AM Brigantine - Forsythe NWR. Looking for shorebirds & shorebirds. Meet at Refuge parking lot. Bring Lunch. Contact: Peg O'Neill, omargarito@aol.com 201-868-5829

July 24 (Tues) TBA Moth Night, Richard DeKorte Park. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

July 29 (Sun) 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM 9th Annual Butterfly Day - Richard DeKorte Park. Join us for this free family friendly event. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983

**BCAS ANNUAL BIRD FEEDER CLEANING FUNDRAISER
ON JUNE 9th AT WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED
Rt 17, Paramus, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
with a donation of \$5.00 per feeder.**

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 county schools. ***Bring in your feeders for a thorough scrubbing and cleaning.***

CALLING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THIS FUNDRAISER.

**If you would like to help for a part of the day or all day, contact Peggy O'Neill at 201-868-5829.
P.S. *Lunch provided by Wild Birds Unlimited.***

EDUCATION

Marie Longo, Chair

Certified Wildlife Gardens - BCAS has currently certified 118 wildlife gardens.

In this Year of the Bird, planting native plants is a great way to make a difference for birds and wildlife and so is certifying your garden with Bergen County Audubon. Applications are available on our website: www.bergencountyaudubon.org/cwg/. You can also learn which native plants are best for your area by visiting the National Audubon Society native plant database: www.audubon.org/native-plants.

Start making a difference today.



2018 Hog Island Scholarship - Congratulations to Patrick Carney, the recipient of the 2018 Hog Island scholarship. (Shown left).

Patrick will attend the Hands-on Bird Science camp session, June 10-15. Patrick attends the University of Delaware and is double majoring in Wildlife/Insect Ecology and Conservation. *"We're so delighted to have you attend and know you'll enjoy it Patrick. Can't wait to hear all about your experience!!"*

Audubon Adventures - Our upcoming Spring Count fundraiser donations allow us to continue providing this program free to schools in our area. Audubon Adventures currently has 11 schools, 43 classrooms, 1,376 students enrolled

in the program. Please help us to continue sponsoring the program and connecting students with nature by donating during the fundraiser.

Audubon Adventures is an environmental education program that comes in the form of a printed kit and costs \$45.95 per kit, serving 32 students, recommended for grades 3-6. There is also a great interactive website for teachers and students. If you are a teacher and are interested in receiving Audubon Adventures for your classroom please visit: www.audubonadventures.org to learn more. **Contact Marie Longo to order, MLongo8383@aol.com.**

SAVE THE DATE

June 24- Habitat Day at Teaneck Creek Conservancy

July 22- Nature Day at Historic New Bridge Landing in River Edge

July 24- Moth Night in the Meadowlands at DeKorte Park

July 29- Butterfly Day at DeKorte Park

September 15- Meadowlands Birding Festival

2018 YEAR OF THE BIRD - CALLS TO ACTION

Join the National Audubon Society, National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in a yearlong celebration of birds during this 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Help build a better world for birds by taking a simple but meaningful action each month. Haven't taken the pledge yet? Visit www.birdyourworld.org to take the pledge and learn more.

MAY- Participate in Global Big Day on May 5. Look for birds and record your sightings at eBird.org in this exciting 24-hour quest to collectively record as many bird species as possible across the world. Let's break a record!!

JUNE- Skip the Plastic. Say no plastic bags, straws and water bottles and commit to recycling your household plastics.

JULY- Take a Child to Nature. Introduce a child to nature and build their love for wild animals and landscapes. A single encounter with a bird can spark a lifelong passion.

AUGUST- Discover Your Parks. Find a local place to observe birds by exploring recreational trails, city parks, state parks, national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, seashores and other sanctuaries. Help protect these havens for both people and wildlife.

CONSERVATION

Trees, Bees and Plastics!

Two are good and one is very very bad.

Mary Kostus, Chair

When I purchased my home, there was a 6-foot Eastern White Pine in the middle of the yard, The Pine grew 80ft and lost limbs during an early winter freeze. It yielded thousands of pine needles - some were used for mulch, given to friends to smoke for honey bees, the pine cones picked up by children for art projects, eaten by squirrels and even produced a two-inch sapling. In the summer, this pine shaded my home reducing the temperature inside. Then came the 3rd nor'easter of this winter season. Seven limbs, cracked and fell. One limb cracked and touched the electric service line between poles. The ground wire was the only thing holding it up dangerously hanging over the sidewalk. PSE&G came and cut the limb. I decided the tree has finally got to go.

BCAS President Don Torino points out the value of Juneberry, AKA Shadblow, AKA Serviceberry. A friend has a 16ft Juneberry in her yard and enjoys the birds that swoop in and devour all the berries before she can. The flowers also feed the bees from her hives in early spring. In searching the PSE&G website I found they have a list of recommended trees near power lines, Shadblow, Cherry, Crabapple, Dogwood, Hawthorne, which grow no more than 25 ft at maturity. National Audubon Society has a list on their website of native trees and plants that attract birds. They also reference Bergen County Audubon Society as a source for questions.

I know you need the right tree in the right place. I'm looking forward to planting a Juneberry tree after the White Pine is removed. For more information on native trees go to <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants/search> and https://www.pseg.com/home/education_safety/safety/vegetation_mgmt/right_tree.jsp

Those small round holes in your yard this spring? They could be housing a solitary native bumble bee or other species of solitary native bees. I receive many offers to apply pesticides to my yard and neighbors complain of small holes in their yards. Forget it. Do not destroy. Our food production and lives depend on them.



Plastic water bottles are another "forget about it." I have to be really desperate to buy water in plastic bottle and you should too. I participate in river and land cleanups and plastic water bottles are the worst. They blow around easily into rivers and lakes and eventually to the Ocean. The plastic contains chemical endocrine disrupters like BPA which leach into the water, your body and into the environment if they end up in a landfill will leach into the ground water there too. Birds consume the bottle caps and dead birds have been found with plastic in their crops and stomachs. **Do yourself and the environment a favor and buy a BPA free reusable water bottle.**

Pledge Your Support for BCAS and join us in the 2018 SPRING COUNT FUNDRAISER

Fill out our pledge sheet and show your support for our conservation and education efforts with projects like 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 12, 2018. We hope to find around 100-125 species. 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 fund environmental education through our *Audubon Adventures* program.

You can bring your pledge to our next meeting or

Mail form to: **BCAS Spring Fundraiser,
P.O. Box 235, Paramus, NJ 07653-0235** or
Use the **DONATE** button on our website at
www.bergencountyaudubon.org.

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

You may pledge "X" amount per species and your pledge will then be multiplied by the total number of species seen on that day, or you can pledge a fixed amount.



Pledge per Species:

or \$ _____ amount.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

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

BERGEN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY



A CHAPTER OF THE
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
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**Dated Material
May 2018**

*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 2018

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

My check is enclosed for

() **\$20 Individual** or () **\$35 Family 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