

Demarest Nature News



Demarest Nature Center Association
Winter 2006 Box 41, Demarest, N.J., 07627 Vol. XXXI, No. 1

President's Message

Nature conspired against the Demarest Nature Center in 2005 as eight days of **heavy rains** forced the cancellation of the Oktoberfest Craft Show for the first time. That deprived the nature center of approximately half of its yearly revenue. So this year, **your membership dues count more than ever.** If you're not a member, please consider joining. If you have been a member, please consider

moving up a category in your membership.

Exciting things are happening in the nature center this year. We're sponsoring nature presentations in the schools. We're linking our trails with those of neighboring towns. And our website (www.demarestnaturecenter.org) was recently revamped by Graphyte Design.

Be sure to pull out and save our calendar of events and check the updated map on the reverse side. Bring it along on your next walk!

We thank the individuals, organizations and merchants that help the nature center and make our sponsored activities a success.

See you on the trails,

Rich Van Buren



Photo: Barbara Hoffman

An award-winning photo from our annual contest, which is open to all.

THE ROOT OF THE MATTER ... "to establish a conservation center within the community of Demarest where land and people may be reunited for scientific, cultural, recreational, and educational pursuits."

Demarest Nature Center Constitution

Demarest Nature News

Your Dues Support Nature Education

What do you buy when you pay your annual dues to the nature center? You buy smiles of discovery on the faces of Demarest schoolchildren, who experience nature through programs we

sponsor. Last year we sponsored **Rappin' with Raptors**, in which a barred owl and a red-tailed hawk make school appearances; a presentation on the woodland skills of the Lenni Lenape Indians;

and a middle school program on bats by Exotic Wildlife Conservation. Each year we help kids plant flowers at their schools. We have several new programs planned for the schools this spring!



Above, an egret in the Tenakill Creek near the nature center.

Below, a lady's slipper on the D Loop Trail. (Photos: Kay Storck)



Introducing the Emerson Meadow

One of the most beautiful spots in the Demarest Nature Center, the meadow on the North Log Road Trail, has been named the Emerson Meadow in memory of founding trustee Luther Lee Emerson Jr., who died in 2005 at age 98.

Mr. Emerson was a long-time member of the Board of Education and a scout leader. He was involved in the design of Luther Lee Emerson

School, which was named after him and his father. His wife, Geneva, died in 1993. Benches honoring them stand side by side in the meadow. Their son, founding trustee David Emerson, has spent hours clearing the meadow.

The meadow, adorned with goldenrod and daisies, features a bird feeder, a bat house, and an **owl house**. It attracts chickadees, tufted

titmouses, nuthatches, cardinals, hawks, turkeys, box turtles, and deer.

New Benches

The nature center purchased the bench in the meadow in memory of Mr. Emerson. Klaus Kretschmer donated a bench on the South Log Road Trail in memory of his late wife, Linda, a long-time borough council member.

Thanks to Those Who Supported the Oktoberfest

Although the Oktoberfest was rained out, we thank those who agreed to support our annual event. The Demarest police, fire, and public works departments, mayor, and council. The Korean Women's PTA. The United Methodist Church.

Special thanks to **donors to the bake table**--many Demarest families as well the following businesses. In Englewood: Balthazar Bakery and Cookies by Design. In Tenafly, Cooktique and Cafe Savoy. In Closter,

Starbucks, The Farm, and Goldberg's Bagels. In Demarest, Dunkin Donuts.

Thanks also to the following **donors of items for auction**: In Closter, Hallmark Card Shop, Homewares, Northern Valley Sports Academy, Brilliant Touch Jewelry, Rudy's Pizza, Maxfit, Tiger Kim's, Stop & Shop, Clearview Cinema, A&P, and Callahan's Jewelers. In Cresskill, City & Country Specialty Housewares, Fuel Fitness Center,

Paul's House of Fish, and Golden Garden Chinese Restaurant. In Demarest, Coco Nails, Demarest Deli-catessen, Demarest Liquor Store, Pizza Express, and Ed Kabakow. In Haworth, Schaefer's Gardens and Haworth Apo-theary. In Tenafly: Benjamin Brothers, Clearview Cinema, Miller's Bakery, and Tenafly Camera.

To all, many thanks.

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Thanks for Adopting Our Trails

Looking for a way to commune with nature and give back to the community at the same time? Consider sponsoring a trail in the nature center! Sponsors pick up litter, remove small branches, and mark the edges of the trails using downed limbs. For more information, call Rich Van Buren at 201-767-7054.

Trail Name	Sponsor
Nine Bridges Trail	Demarest Cub Scout Pack 270
Gus Stumpp Trail	Demarest Boy Scout Troop 101
Log Road Trail	Northern Valley R.H.S. at Demarest Earth Club
Tenakill Brook Trail	Demarest Girl Scouts
D Loop	Demarest Girl Scouts
Stelfox Trail	Endick Family
Dogwood Trail	Endick Family



Seeking Nature-Loving Photographers

Take a photo on the grounds of the nature center. Submit it. And you just might win a prize. The grand prize for best in show is \$100. First (\$50), second (\$30), and third (\$20) prizes will be awarded in four categories: under 14; 14 and older; black and white; and color. One prize per contestant.

Entries must be unmounted prints between 8"x8" and 8"x12". They must be submitted to the Bank of America branch in Demarest by noon, Saturday, May 20. The contestant's name, address, phone number, and age should be on the back of each photo. There is no limit on the number of

entries per person. Winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded at the Breakfast in the Woods on Saturday, June 3.

Good luck out there!

Above, Tai Chi led by instructor Dean Orfas in the East Meadow. (Photo: Rich Van Buren) Below, an owl of the Raptor Project, an event in Palisades Interstate Park co-sponsored by the nature center. (Photo: John Goodwin)

High School Seniors Get Their Hands Dirty

Each year, students from Northern Valley Regional High School at Demarest volunteer in the nature center for their Senior Service Project. It's hard work in all kinds of weather, but the students gain a renewed appreciation for nature and **a great sense of accomplishment.**

In 2005, the volunteers were Joey Keane, Matt Cybul, and Robby Corrado.

They spent five weeks grooming trails, clearing the meadow, removing debris, putting up trail markers, and constructing board walks.

The nature center is once again seeking high school students to volunteer in the nature center this spring.

Cross Country Race and Fun Run

Mark your calendars for the annual 5-kilometer Cross Country Race and 1-Mile Fun Run, which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, at 9 a.m. Both races are run on nature center trails. Fill out your application at

the Wakelee Fieldhouse before 8:45 a.m. on race day, or get a discount by downloading the application from our website and mailing it in by Tuesday, Sept. 5.



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We're on the Web!

www.demarestnaturecenter.org

Email:

info@demarestnaturecenter.org

What's Doing This Winter and Spring

Enjoy winter in the nature center by hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, or skating. There are two lighted ponds with a bench near the leaf mulch piles off County Road. They're available for playing hockey when weather permits. The pond next to the Imaginative Playground is

open for general skating, but not hockey.

Moving into spring, the nature center will offer birdhouse building on Mar. 4, the **Easter egg hunt** on Apr. 8, and the Spring Nature Walk and Volunteer Day on Apr. 22.

Then comes school flower planting and, on June 3,

the annual Breakfast in the Woods. May or June is Tai Chi in the Emerson Meadow.

Mark your calendar for the Oktoberfest Craft Show, which will be held this year on Saturday, Oct. 14. It's all on the enclosed calendar.

Hiking in and Around Demarest

The Demarest Nature Center isn't the only nearby place for a stroll in nature. The Demarest Garden Club maintains a beautiful patch of woods behind its arboretum off Anderson Avenue. You can enter it from Anderson Avenue or Lake Road.

The Closter Nature Center is just two miles away on Homans Avenue, and the Tenafly Nature Center is at the top of Hudson Avenue.

With the support of the Demarest Borough Council, we're cooperating

with other local organizations on a plan to create a marked trail over wooded paths and streets that will eventually stretch from Tenafly to New York state, and from there to as far afield as the Appalachian Trail.

Wish List

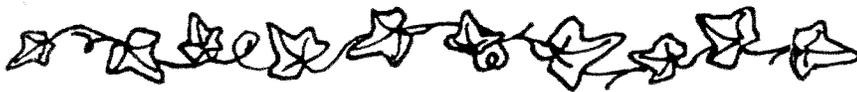
*People willing to be called upon as volunteers for special events, including the cross country race and Oktoberfest.

***Naturalists** (amateur or professional) to assist with educational programs.

*Someone to make a bulletin board for the Columbus Road entrance.

*Walkie-talkies.

If you can answer a wish, please write an email to info@demarestnaturecenter.org or call Rich Van Buren at 201-767-7054.



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