

Demarest Nature News



Demarest Nature Center Association,
Box 41, Demarest, N.J., 07627

www.demarestnaturecenter.org
Summer 2008 Vol. XXXIII, No. 2

President's Message

Hello all... as you read this we're coming upon the last days of spring. Each year I'm pleasantly surprised at how much the Nature Center fills up with foliage in the spring months. In winter you can stand at the east end of Emerson meadow and see the blue & white buildings of the Demarest Swim Club through the bare trees. Turn around and look to the west; you're able to see Columbus Ave. and the high school. In spring you're surrounded by a curtain of green. A maze of various shades of jade, emerald, olive and lime. The trail leads you from one secluded place to another. It seems at this time of year "it is easy being green". The sounds of passing cars, pool fun and the baseball and softball diamonds are muffled by the leaves. In a number of areas, all you hear are the calls of the

birds, the rustling of squirrels and the wind through the trees. You can take a deep breath and forget, for awhile, that you are in one of the most densely populated places on earth.

This momentary solitude doesn't happen by itself. As always, I want to thank the continuing support from our members. Dues support the numerous educational programs we produce for the elementary and middle schools as well as the yearly scholarship we award to a deserving high school senior. Dues support or defray the cost of the various activities that the Nature Center sponsors for the public though out the year. Dues went to pay our portion for the new Morton Bridge. Dues help us sustain our existing trails as well as develop new trails like the trail along the Tenakill Brook which connects

the Demarest Nature Center to trails in Closter. Within a couple of months nature lovers will be able to enter our nature center at Stelfox and Madison Streets, it's southernmost entrance, and stroll, walk, hike, jog or bike to Durie Avenue in Closter while never leaving our beautiful New Jersey woods.

I look forward to seeing you at "Breakfast in the Woods" on June 14th (rain date June 15th) starting at 9 a.m. Bookmark our website, www.demarestnaturecenter.org for updates and information. As always you can email me directly at Kevin@demarestnaturecenter.org.

Thanks for your time..... *now take a hike!*

Kevin Riley

...a little bunny wonders about the eggs...



If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything.

Demarest Nature News

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT ADD UP

By Ray Cywinski



Above: Mark Gussen working the crowd at Volunteer Day

Below: Proud owner of a hand made birdhouse!



One cigarette butt, one gum wrapper, one coffee cup, one bottle, one can thrown on the ground or in a body of water – what is the harm? **PLENTY!** Litter strewn about is unsightly, expensive to clean up and can be harmful to wildlife.

Hopefully, we don't throw litter on our own property. Why then should we be disrespectful of other property, especially if it is not "owned" by an individual. Why do so many individuals feel that if a piece of property is owned by a branch of government, a company or other nebulous entity, we can litter and feel that someone else will pay to clean it up? After all, we pay taxes for that don't we?

Most, if not all, of us would rather our tax money go for worthwhile programs and not litter collection and disposal. But we are paying for this along our roads, in our parks, at lakes and the beach.

Companies pay to keep their properties clean, parking lots, lawns, etc. These costs are added onto the cost of their products.

We are fortunate to have the Tenakill Brook flow through the Demarest Nature Center.

(A bit of trivia - The Tenakill is one of the few rivers that flow north). Take a look at the photo accompanying this article. This photo is not doctored! This is the Tenakill Brook entering the Oradell Reservoir in Closter, our public drinking water supply. Unsightly? Yes. Costly to clean? Yes. Harmful to wildlife? Possibly.

Many of these items, "floatables" were either deposited directly into the Brook or were washed into the Brook through storm drains. As Ben Franklin said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

Wherever you are; the shore, in your car, in a park, in the Demarest Nature Center, please use litter receptacles to dispose of trash. Remember, carry out whatever you carry in with you and deposit waste in a trash receptacle. If we can carry around a full container, we can certainly carry the same container when empty to the nearest trash receptacle. By not littering, the Nature Center benefits, towns benefit, communities benefit, the environment benefits and if that is not enough, your wallet benefits!

Help keep the environment clean; we at the Nature Center will help keep the environment green.



Trash washed into the Tenakill Brook. (Photo credit: Ray Cywinski)

Demarest Nature News

28 YEARS AND COUNTING: Help Us Find The Bunny!

Help us with the Demarest Nature Center "Bunny Hall of Fame". We seem to have a few vacant moments in our collective memory regarding just who has worn the: **Bunny Suit of Honor**. We, who have not worn that hallowed suit of polyester fur, can only imagine what it must be like to, (as bunny veterans are apt to say) "walk in the fur". If you have any information please feel free to email Kevin Riley at Kevin@demarestnaturecenter.org. A few wild cards that we don't have years for:

Melissa Goldsmith (year?)
 Francie Earle (year?)
 Wendy Johnson (year?)

HALL OF FAMERS:

Marie Lendino..... 1980
 Marie Lendino..... 1981
 Sharon (lastName?) 1982
 ???????..... 1983
 ???????..... 1984
 ???????..... 1985
 Alberta Vadala 1986
 ???????..... 1987
 ???????..... 1988
 ???????..... 1989
 ???????..... 1990
 ???????..... 1991

???????..... 1992
 Karen Johnson 1993
 ???????..... 1994
 ???????..... 1995
 ???????..... 1996
 ???????..... 1997
 ???????..... 1998
 Laura Neville..... 1999
 Tom Birch..... 2000
 Tom Birch..... 2001
 Jean Wilson 2002
 Jean Wilson 2003
 Billie Stewart..... 2004
 Lourdes Francisco .. 2005
 Anita Gonzalez 2006
 Anita Gonzalez 2007
 Naomi Epstein 2008



Above: The Easter Bunny confers with an egg hunter.

Tick Time

The weather's getting warmer so along with all of the fun stuff that's going on this summer we also have to remember that it's tick time again. Although a Google search of the phrase "tick info" will bring up 688,000 articles, you might want to start at our Bergen County's sight for information at <http://bergenhealth.org/healthtopics/ticksandlyme.html>. And, let's cut our deer some slack... Many people know that the deer carries and feeds the tick, but it's the White-footed Mouse that usually gives *B. burgdorferi* (lyme disease) to the tick in the first place and serves as a reservoir in nature for the organism.

Benches

You've no doubt noticed the benches that are in our Nature Center. At this time we feel we have room for one or two more. Keeping in mind that Demarest Nature Center is a Nature Center and not a park, the board is cognizant not to over populate the Nature Center with too many benches. If you wish to donate a bench to honor or memorialize someone or something please contact Kevin Riley at, Kevin@demarestnaturecenter.org for details.

Below: Joseph D'Angeli from NJ Bat Man shows off his Albino Boa to the DMS 7th graders

Our Maintainers!

We just want to send out a thank you to the individuals and organizations that support the nature center with their "sweat equity". With our busy schedules these days it takes a lot to get out onto the trail and do some muscle work. Picking up trash, clearing the path, clearing downed trees from the trails, repairing bridges, and cutting back the overgrowth are all part of the job...and fun. *Thanks again!*

Trail Name	Maintainer
Nine Bridges Trail	Cub Scout Troop 270
Gus Stumpp Trail	Boy Scout Troop 101
Log Road Trail	NVRHS at Demarest Earth Club
Tenakill Brook Trail	Demarest Girl Scouts
D Loop	Demarest Girl Scouts
Stelfox Trail	The Endick Family
Dogwood Trail	The Endick Family
Connecting Trails	The Riley/Stern Family
Trestle Bridge Trail	The Cottrell Family



What's Happening This Summer & Fall!

2008 Board of Trustees

Kevin Riley
President / Newsletter Editor

Rich Van Buren
Vice-President

Ed Pittaluga
Treasurer

Marianna Simpson
Recording Sec'y

Sue Ellen Endick
Corresponding Sec'y

Patty Rotile
School Liaison

Ray Cywinski
Borough Liaison

Irfan Akdag
Amita Birch-Desai
Toni Dolan

Anita Gonzalez
Mark Mernia

Ted Piltzecker
Kwang Suk Kim
William Stegmayer

We're on the Web!
www.demarestnaturecenter.org

Email:
info@demarestnaturecenter.org

► **June 14th: Breakfast in the Woods** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., next to the Imaginative Playground in Wakelee Field. Made to order omelets, bagels, OJ, etc.... ALL FREE! Also live music, the announcement of the photo contest winners and a live animal show for the kids. Rain date June 15th.

► **July (check website for date & time) Treasure Hunt!!!** Hunt for nature in the Demarest Nature Center. Follow the clues as you walk the trails.

► **September 20th: 5K TRAIL RUN 9:15 a.m. & 1 mile Trail Fun Run 9 a.m.** Run on the trails of the Nature Center. Register by 8:45 a.m. at the Imaginative Playground parking lot. Rain or shine.

► **October: (check <http://njpalisades.org> for date & time) Raptor Project!** Live birds of prey. State Line Lookout, Palisades Parkway.

ALSO: **Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory Open House (check www.ideo.columbia.edu for dates & times)**

► **October 11th: The Craft Show at Oktoberfest!** At the Demarest Duck Pond

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The happiest day of the year in Demarest! Excellent handmade crafts for sale, German & Korean food. Canoe rides sponsored by Boy Scout Troop #101. There will be Inflatable rides, games, music, etc. Rain date October 18th.

Senior Service 2008

Once again we have the distinct pleasure to make use of the youth & strength of three seniors from NVRHS-Demarest as they participate in their Senior Service for the Demarest Nature Center.

Will Majeski, Rocco Coppola and Matt Robertson have been busy clearing trails, putting down wood chips, building bridges and have installed a new dog station for our four legged friends and their pet humans. They

have experienced the utter joy of picking up trash from the smallest gum wrapper to the ever present A & P shopping cart. They have cleared the Tenakill Brook of garbage & removed downed trees & other blockages of the water way.

I know I speak for all who use and value the Demarest Nature Center in thanking Will, Rocco and Matt for all their hard work.

All photos by Kevin Riley unless otherwise credited.



— Louis L'Amour
"The trail is the thing, not the end of the trail. Travel too fast and you miss all you are traveling for."

ECRWS
POSTAL PATRON
DEMAREST, N.J.
07627



DEMAREST NATURE CENTER ASSN.
P.O. Box 41
Demarest, N.J. 07627
www.demarestnaturecenter.org

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Demarest, N.J.
07627
Permit No. 19