

# Demarest Nature News



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

[www.demarestnaturecenter.org](http://www.demarestnaturecenter.org)  
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## President's Message

### Greetings to all!

I hope everyone had a happy holiday and a safe and successful New Year.

I'd like to thank all who were able to join us for the various activities we sponsored throughout 2009. We couldn't have done it without you. Your membership in the Nature Center and patronage at our events support a variety of school programs that we sponsor.

Coming up this year will be Naturalist Mark Gussen's nature tour with our kindergarteners in the Nature Center. Marc will also conduct a class on butterflies for the first graders.

We'll also sponsor a field trip for the second graders to Abmas Farm ([www.abmasfarm.com/](http://www.abmasfarm.com/)). A north New Jersey working farm "for the past eighty years and four generations".

The third graders get to experience the specialness and beauty of Greenbrook Sanctuary ([www.njpalisades.org/greenbrook.htm](http://www.njpalisades.org/greenbrook.htm)) in Alpine where the naturalist will conduct a program that dove tails with their studies.

The fourth graders will experience Marc Gussen's wonderful presentation of the Lenni Lanape Indians and their high tech tools of the day.

The Lenni Lanape Indians inhabited this area at the time the first Europeans arrived.

The sixth graders will explore the rainforest courtesy of the New Jersey Batman ([www.njbatman.com/](http://www.njbatman.com/)). *Quick Facts: One and one-half acres of rainforest are lost every second. In New Jersey we lose forty acres of open space each day. That's like the Demarest Nature Center being destroyed in a day and a half.*

The New Jersey Batman will also conduct a program for the seventh graders to learn about bats and how this misunderstood mammal is so important to our environment and our survival. *Quick Fact: A single little brown bat can eat up from 500-1,000 mosquitoes in a single hour, and is one of the world's longest-lived mammals for its size, with a life span of almost 40 years.*

Your support also allows us to award a \$1000 scholarship every year to a senior from NV Demarest, Holy Angels or any child of a member of the Demarest Nature Center who has been accepted into a college or university to pursue a course of study related to the environmental sciences.

As you also know, your financial support funds the upkeep of our Nature Center. It pays for the tools and materials to establish and maintain our trails and common areas. We again want to thank the Michael Robertson

Charitable Foundation for their generous donation this year. If you remember, last year's contribution went towards the hiring of naturalist Marc Gussen to assist us in identifying trees on the Gus Stumpp Loop and to purchase identification tags. This year, the foundation helped us blaze the new Closter Trail. It starts at the tennis courts in Wakelee Field and proceeds north into Closter. The contribution allowed us to purchase materials for three bridges and two boardwalks as well as the blazes for the trail. You can read a review of the trail by founding member and current trustee Dave Emerson inside. Dave, besides being part of almost everything that has happened in the Nature Center since 1973, was instrumental in establishing this trail.

OK, that's my "presidential message" which is a big thank you note to all. Now take a hike!

*Kevin Riley*



Art Center at the Old Church faculty member David Shirey creating pots at Oktoberfest.  
(Photo: Kevin Riley)

*"This we know: the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth.  
All things are connected like the blood that unites us all." Chief Seattle*

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## Our Members!

We are grateful to all of our supporters. Listed below are members who have joined or renewed their membership since January of 2009. Please tell us if we accidentally omitted you.

Frank & Jessie Adamiak, Roz & Stuart Alpert, Lewis Attas, Marianne Bolduc, Brian & Youngmi Bailey, Patricia Barber, Ronald Barr & Dr. Joy Micale, The Beucler Family, The Birch-Desai Family, The Bower Family, John & Dorothy Buckley, Mr. & Mrs. Mark E. Byers, Yvonne Caldarulo, The Cantorore Family, Craig & Cindy Carroll, Joe & Lisa Caruso, Deborah Cechura, Diana & Marvin Chudnoff, Eugene C. Claeysens, Mike & Charlotte Clarke, Anne Connolly, The Conti Family, The Cottrell Family, The Coy Family, Cub Scout Pack 270, The Cywinski Family, Dr. Philip A. D'Alesandro, The Danielson & Lombardi Family, Lawrence & Susan Delaney, William Day, Barbara & Richard Deragon, Winifred Derfus, Assunte DeSimone, Mike & Sherry Diaz, Robert Dolan, Beverly Drescher, David Emerson, Naomi Epstein, Gerald and Edith Escala, William & Susan Feil, Jim & Anne Ferry, Fred and Donna Giannetti, Dr. Jutta Greweldinger, Caszlo & Zsuzsa Hamas, Joel and Mary Hamilton, Leon and Rita Hillman, Eva Holzer, The Hubschman Family, Rosemary Hunt, Kumiko Ishikura, Warren and Barbara Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Kabakow, Peter Kandel, Ellen Knatz, Dr. & Mrs. Richard & Dorcas Koenigsberger, Joseph & Paula Kolacia, Sandy Kozinn, Klaus Kretschmer, Margaret Kristensen, The Krong Family, Michael & Melissa Lamon, The LaPree Family, Scott & Johanna Lasky, The Lawson Family, Yong and Seung Lee, Max and Ellen Leimgruber, George and Irini Lilikas, Thornton & Lee Lockwood, Ralph Lopez, The Loubas Family, Roderick & Lucia MacKenzie, William & Priscilla MacPhail, The Manfredonia Family, David Marco, Theodore & Marianne Martens, The Masterson Family, The Closter MCA, Mr. & Mrs. James McGahren, Richard Mercier, Christian & Hwa Soon Meyer, Mr. & Mrs. Norman Miller, The Molina Family, The Molnar Family, Michael & Viola Nemeth, Irwin K. & Lorraine Nissen, Linda Nociti, Ron Lieberman & Susan Oliff-Lieberman, Atsusi & Sumiko Ohinata, Richard & Cathy Olsen, Fredrick & Edna Ortega, The Ostlund Family, The Pellegrin Family, Daniel & Lisa Perlman, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Perrotti, Pilsbury Family, Edgar & Luisa Pittaluga, The Powers Family, Jane Quilici, John & Lourdes Reinke, The Riley-Stern Family, Dave & Marilyn Robertson, Angela G. Rodin, The Rosenthal Family, Todd & Rebecca Rothman, The Russenberger Family, The Russi Family, Dom & Mary Rutigliano, Albert Sanz, Stephen Sapontzis, Dr. & Mrs. Stuart & Marilyn Schiffman, Albert and Cynthia Shachar, The Shelton Family, Peter & Marianna Simpson, Mildred Singer, Margaret Slaven, Allen & Myrna Soast, Albert Sproul, Dr. & Mrs. William Stegmayer, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Steinel, Junius Stephenson, Harry & Jean Strickholm, Robert and June Stoll, Bill Strohmeyer, Harvey and Mimi Strum, Karen & Fabian Tenenbaum, Gazen & Sadettin Tuysuzoglu, Benjamin and Carol Tycko, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Vadala, The Vallejo Family, Richard and Clair Van Buren, Aram Varteresian, Grace Walsh, The Winograd Family, The Winters Family, The Wolfmann Family, Kyoung Soo Won, Nancy S. Woods, Mark T. Wright, Olga Zanussi, Peter & Patricia Zampieri, Robert Zenorini.

**Thank You!**



*Above: Sherry Diaz 5K Trail Run Female Winner 2nd Year in a Row (Photos: Kevin Riley)*

*Below: Mathew Early 5K Trail Run Male Winner*



## 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.

## 2010 Scholarship

### How to Apply

The one-year, \$1,000 Environmental Scholarship is for a high school senior planning to study the environment. The applicant must be: a resident of Demarest; or a member of the nature center; or attending either Northern Valley R.H.S. at Demarest or Academy of the Holy Angels. A 150-word essay is required. Applications must be postmarked by May 1.

Details are available from guidance counselors or at [www.demarestnaturecenter.org](http://www.demarestnaturecenter.org)

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## Thanks for Making Oktoberfest a Success

**Even though** the weather didn't cut us a break, we would like to give our sincere thanks to the many people who made our annual fund-raising event, the Craft Fair at Oktoberfest, a success. Our thanks to the Demarest police, fire, and public works departments, Mayor Jim Carroll, the Demarest Town Council, the Korean Women's PTO, and the United Methodist Church. Thanks also to everyone who baked goodies for the bake table and those who volunteered to help at the event. We'd also like to thank all those trustees, past and present plus all the members of the Nature Center who gave up their Saturday to make another successful Oktoberfest. We're on the constant lookout for new & interesting crafters so if you know anyone who might fit the bill you can direct them to our website for more information.



*Volunteers from the Korean Woman's PTO (Photo: Kevin Riley)*

## New Adventures in Demarest

*by Dave Emerson*

This past summer we developed two new trails in the Demarest Nature Center. We have partnered with the Closter Environmental Commission and the Closter Nature Center to include the Closter Green Acres Trails and Features on our DNC Trail Map. The two new trails begin at the tot lot and tennis parking lot behind Wakelee Field.

The first trail is The Race Track Trail. It is a one mile loop trail and is well marked with a red blaze. Start at the trailhead (red diamond trail marker) between the first bridge and the skating pond. Proceed North on The Tenakill Brook Trail along the east side of the stream. Past the Morton Bridge, the trail will turn right toward the swim club. At this point follow the red marker to the left and continue North along the brook. Watch for the Kingfisher flying over the water, catching his meal. You may also see the stately four foot Great Blue Herron (our DNC symbol) wading and waiting in the brook. There will be Mallard Ducks and Canadian Geese swimming, grazing the bottom for aquatic weeds and catching insects and crustations in the mud. (These are year round events) Continue North to the round DNC entrance sign. Just past this sign, the red diamond blaze directs you to the right. (If you go straight along the brook, you will come to the Closter footbridge, to the West side of the brook, and on to Durie Ave.) Take this red trail to the right, to the quarter mile Closter race track which is popular with dog walkers. It is a beautiful walk in the woods around the track if you want to lengthen your one mile walk. Turn right on the track for a short distance, leave the track to the right following the red diamond. Continue South over a board walk, turn left toward the railroad tracks. The red trail passes through an old stand hardwood forest of Oak, Maple, and Tulip trees. Watch for deer and squirrel and an occasional raccoon, red fox, or possum. At the round DNC entrance sign, continue South through the woods, parallel to the tracks, to the Swim Club parking lot and handball court. Go to the right and reenter the wooded red trail which leads back to the brook. Turn left and continue South to your car.

The second new trail is the Closter Trail and marked with a diamond shaped blue blaze. The trailhead starts on the path along the north edge of the playground and tennis court. It is a half mile trail to the Closter race track. The blue trail winds north behind the swim club and crosses a few streams as you amble through this old growth forest. Watch for a spring on the left which bubbles warm water, grows watercress and duckweed, and flows all year long. In the winter, with snow on the ground, you will see the plants green and happy throughout the freezing weather. You will cross the red trail and continue North. The blue trail ends when you reach the Closter race track.

At this point you have three options:

One. Turn around and retrace your steps on the blue trail back to your car.

Two. Take the race track white diamond trail to the right. Follow the path half way around the track. A yellow trail will leave the race track to the right and cross a bridge to a grassy fire road. Turn right to the A&P parking lot.

Three. Turn left on the race track and follow the red blaze to the Tenakill Brook. Turn left along the brook, back to your starting point.

Both trails are an interesting and entertaining addition to our DNC trail system. They are both a leisurely hour walk through our contiguous Demarest and Closter Green Acre woods. Find our new map enclosed. For additional copies call: Dave @ 201-910-3223 or copy from our website: [www.demarestnaturecenter.org](http://www.demarestnaturecenter.org).

# What's Happening This Winter & Spring!

## Board of Trustees

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We're on the Web!  
[www.demarestnaturecenter.org](http://www.demarestnaturecenter.org)  
Email:  
[info@demarestnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@demarestnaturecenter.org)

► **January 14<sup>th</sup>** The public is invited to the annual **Reorganization Meeting** of the Demarest Nature Center Association on Thursday at 7:30pm at the Wakelee Field House. There will be a brief report on 2009 activities, a financial report, and the election of trustees, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

► **Impromptu skating parties** will be held at the skating pond by the Imaginative Playground in January and February, weather permitting. We'll supply the hot chocolate and other refreshments. Keep an eye out for information on the railroad station electronic board. You can

also check our website for information.

► **March 6<sup>th</sup> Birdhouse and bird feeder building** in the train station. Two sessions: 11am till 12pm and 1pm till 2pm.

► **March 27<sup>th</sup> Easter egg hunt**, 2pm, at the Imaginative Playground in Wakelee Field. Rain date, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

► **April 24<sup>th</sup> Spring Nature Walk** followed by **Volunteer Day**, 9:30am departing from the parking lot by the Imaginative Playground. Rain date, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

► **May 31<sup>st</sup> Deadline for Photo Contest** submissions, see our website for more info.

## Senior Service 2010

**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 this June.

Three seniors will be selected to clear and put down wood chips on the Nature Center's trails. They will experience the utter joy of picking up trash from the smallest gum wrapper to the ever-present abandoned shopping cart. They will clear the Tenakill

Brook of garbage as well as remove downed trees and other blockages of the water way.

Nature Center volunteers will supervise the precarious chores, while the more mundane tasks will rely on the student's ability and maturity to work independently.



*Kathy Kobylarz and Ed Kabakow cooking up a storm at Breakfast in the Woods (Photo: John Goodwin)*



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