

Demarest Nature News



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

www.demarestnaturecenter.org
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President's Message

Nature is beautiful. Trees, budding flowers, rocks, mushrooms sprouting, rabbits running, squirrels chasing one another, ducks gliding on waters surface, geese flying overhead, birds of all kinds talking to one another, deer walking majestically through the brush and the leaves crackling underfoot.

Where am I describing? Our little piece of heaven within Demarest, the Demarest Nature Center.

The Demarest Nature Center is a very important part of Demarest. It is where anyone can take a stroll, hike or sit and experience nature.

We have slowly been taken away from nature. Technology, pavement, transportation, rubber soles on our shoes and our lifestyles have taken center stage. Well the Demarest Nature Center brings us back to the basics. Take some time to go into the Nature Center and just breathe. Having a passion for nature is not about the right or the left, the red or the blue or even about tree hugging. Having a passion for nature is natural. We are all connected to the natural world and need it to survive.

The Demarest Nature Center reminds us what matters. Clear your head and go back to Mother Earth and smile.

Cynthia Soroka-Dunn
President



Senior Crew 2014: Mika Yaakoba-Zohar, Kieran Derfus, Jack Rotile, and Ezra Oliff-Lieberman

Your membership dollars allow us to continue to give back to the community and preserve and protect DNC's 60 acres of meadows, forests and wetlands.

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Student Field Trips & Programs 2014

The Demarest Nature Center is proud once again to fulfill its mission in partnering with County Road, Luther Lee Emerson and Demarest Middle School to provide funding for educational programs that benefit the children of our community. A portion of your membership dues was used to support these unique programs that engage our children with nature, the environment, and local history.

Marc Gussen, a local charismatic environmental educator, led students from the County Road School. Each Kindergarten class explored the nature trails of the Demarest Nature Center to explore the local flora and fauna. Our 1st grade classes explored the Closter Nature Center on an expedition to find and study butterflies.

At the Luther Lee Emerson School the Demarest Nature Center is proud to contribute to funding the second grade trip to Abmas Farm and the third grade trip to Liberty Science Center. During the Abmas Farm trip students visited the Health Barn to learn about the connections between fruits, vegetables, farming and nutrition. In conjunction with their curriculum, Marc Gussen visited each 4th grade class to demonstrate New Jersey's native history and the Lenape way of life.

Students at Demarest Middle School benefited from DNC funding this year as well. In conjunction with Earth day, students in the 6th and 7th grade researched the benefits of plants, classified various plants and planted various seeds purchased by the Nature Center.

– Jon Regan



Country Road School Kindergarten Class with local naturalist, Marc Gussen

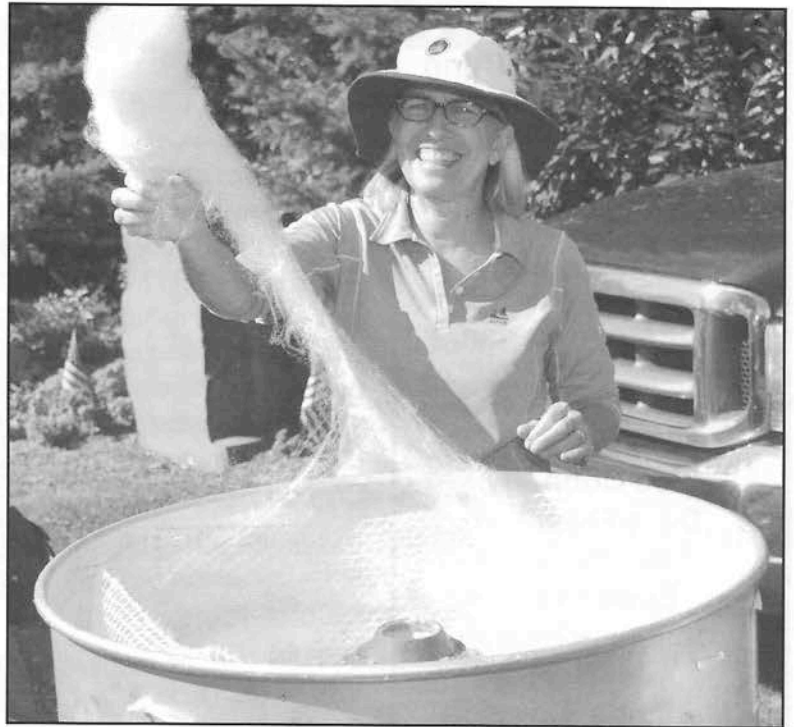
Meet the Members

Sally Keen tramps through the Demarest Nature Center in all kinds of weather. "I really like it after it rains. I put on my mud boots. There's so much water that it looks like you're in South Carolina, except there's no Spanish moss."

Sally and her family have lived in Demarest for 24 years and are long-time dues-paying members of the Demarest Nature Center. She's a school nurse and her husband, Monte, is a retired surgeon. They have three grown children.

She says she finds something new in the nature center every season.

"This year I really loved all the snowdrops that came out in early March on the Trestle Bridge Trail. That was a surprise."



Sally Keen, Oktoberfest 2013 Volunteer.



Happy Demarest residents Robert Reitsema and Daughter built a birdhouse last March.

A HUGE THANKS!

DNC's longtime Trustee, Dave Emerson makes our birdhouse and birdfeeder kits. This nature center event is always in mid March. Dave hand cuts the wood from raw lumber, which takes most of his spare time during the long winter months. The kits are assembled so DNC families can go away from our event with finished feeders and houses – a common sight here in Demarest backyards.

Thanks to Dave for his many years of service working on the trails of the nature center and for his carpentry skills too.

What's Happening This Summer And Fall!

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► June 14th

“Breakfast in the Woods!”

Next Saturday!
9am to 11am
Bring the **WHOLE FAMILY** to our annual breakfast cookout! Eggs, bagels, coffee, juice, and more under the tree canopy. Grab the kids and come out for a fun filled morning - Photo contest winners plus a live animal show!
Cost is **FREE!**

Raindate - June 15th

► September 20th

“Trial of the Trails!”

1-Mile Trail Fun Run (9am)
5K Trail Run (9:15am)
Registration opens @ 8am
Enjoy the beauty of the Nature Center as you navigate the twists and turns (and roots) of our trails. The times to beat? 7:49 for the Trail Fun Run and 22:43 for the 5k Trail Run. To see the maps of both races click the “Maps and Trails” link on our homepage and choose “Trail Map”.

► October 11th

“Oktoberfest!”

Grab your **Lederhosen** Duck Pond 10am to 5pm. Handmade crafts for sale, German and Korean food, Canoes with the Boy Scouts, inflatables, a bake sale, Alpine folk music – what else could you possibly want? Beer? Sorry, no-go. Crafters can visit the Oktoberfest page at our website for more information.

Raindate - October 18th

We are a 501(c)3!

There is no greater feeling than supporting a worthy organization. The Demarest Nature is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. This means that your donations are tax deductible. Your donations support all of our educational programs, scholarships, events and the continued preservation of our green space. Consider a gift to the Demarest Nature Center as an investment in the future of our community. Of course, it goes without saying, or with saying in this case, that we are not offering tax advice by the above statement. Contact any of our trustees if you would like more info.

Photos by Kevin Riley unless where otherwise credited.



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