

Demarest Nature News



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

www.demarestnaturecenter.org
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Can't travel because of Covid-19? Enjoy a staycation this winter by strolling through the beautiful Demarest Nature Center. We stayed open right through the pandemic for socially distanced enjoyment of nature. We welcome you 365 days a year, from dawn to dusk. Bring along the map that's inside this newsletter. Even nature center regulars may be surprised to discover that we have some beautiful new trails—including a brand-new entrance on County Road. It's opposite Arthur Court, north of the entrance to the mulch piles. Reminder: Dogs must be on leash at all times.

We hope to resume regular programming once a vaccine has been widely distributed and authorities say it's safe to mingle in public. Masks will probably be a fact of life for some time to come, alas. Conditions permitting, we plan to stage a new spring event including canoe rides and birdhouse- and birdfeeder-building.

We had to cancel our main annual fundraiser, Oktoberfest, in 2020 because of the virus, so your generosity is more important than ever this winter. The check you put in the enclosed envelope helps pay for trail maintenance, nature-oriented field trips in the Demarest public schools, a college scholarship for a worthy high school senior, and more. The Demarest Nature Center is an all-volunteer organization that is not part of the borough government. Please give to help us help nature.

See you on the trails,

Peter Coy
President

HUMANE SOLUTIONS TO HELP YOUR WILD NEIGHBORS

Many wild animals live in habitats significantly smaller than their historic range, often in close proximity to humans. This causes human-wildlife conflict. There are many strategies and precautionary measures that can be taken to avoid conflict and promote peaceful co-existence. The Humane Society of the United States works with community leaders and animal care and control agencies to create Wild Neighbors communities, where humane and non-lethal solutions are given priority when addressing conflicts between people and wildlife. Learn more about the innovative and effective approaches you can take to solve any wild animal problems you encounter in your home, yard or garden. Please visit -



<https://www.humanesociety.org/resource/wildlife-management-solutions>

Your membership dollars allow us to continue to give back to the community and preserve and protect DNC's 55 acres of meadows, forests and wetlands.

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UP CLOSE WITH KEVIN RILEY

Kevin Riley has been indispensable to the nature center for more than a decade. He was president from 2007 to 2011 and again in 2017. He also directed the Craft Show and Oktoberfest from 2009 through 2017. He currently serves as the head of trails and grounds. Here are excerpts from an interview with Peter Coy, the current president.

Where were you raised and what brought you to Demarest?

I grew up in San Marino, about 30 minutes from downtown Los Angeles. We came out to New York in '88 for Hilaury's job. She was a teacher at a comedy improv group in L.A. called the Groundlings and they were making a go of a New York satellite. By that point I had given up acting and I was a production assistant in commercials. We moved to Demarest in '98. By then Hilaury was doing writing and directing for corporate meetings and I got into the Directors Guild as a first assistant director in commercials. That petered out. I retired, you could call it, probably four years ago. I was a freelance photographer for the Suburbanite for about seven years. Now I just do photography for myself.

How did you get involved in the nature center?

John Reinke [a former trustee]. We knew each other through our kids in Boy Scouts. My son Gus and I were pretty avid backpackers. We hiked the Appalachian Trail in New York and New Jersey. Even before that Hilaury and I discovered the nature center in our walks and loved it. One thing that we did, after I became president, we got a little bit more serious about reminding people that they should respect the nature center in terms of keeping their dogs on leash. We put up the two dog waste stations, the one at the Duffy Bridge and the one over by the handball court in the swim club parking lot.

What do you do with the nature center now?

I have the honorary title, I'm not on the board any more, I guess I'm the head of trails and grounds. Our job is to keep the trails groomed and cleaned. If there's stuff blocking a trail, we take care of that. If we have to reroute trails, we reroute them. We put in new trails, although that's coming to an end because we're kind of trailled out. Clearing trails, you use your best decisions about what to tackle and what not to tackle. I know my limits. It's really a solo game right now. I don't want to have anyone with me, even if we were masked up. On average, I'd say I spend five hours a week in there.

Did you ever think this would become such a big part of your life?

I never thought I'd be this intertwined into the nature center. And I love it. I love it. What makes it real special is when someone passes by and will thank us for being out there. It's totally selfish, what I get out of it. It's a nice feeling of completion. There's a beginning, middle and an end.

What message would you like to give readers of this newsletter?

Just appreciate what you have in this town with the Demarest Nature Center. It's been around for over 40 years. We're living in the most congested state. Towns have these nature centers so people won't go insane. You're drinking the water that is flowing through the Tenakill Creek. Leave no trace, pick up after your dog, and keep your dog leashed.



THE 2020 JOHN C. GOODWIN PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

First Place/Adult



"Gentle Soul of the Forest"
Richard Harris

First Place/Child



"Tallest Tree in Demarest"
Max Goldstein

Exciting News for 2021!

You can now submit photo contest entries via email. Please send to info@demarestnaturecenter.org

You may also continue to submit your unmounted prints (no smaller than 8" X 8" or larger than 8" X 12") to the Demarest Library. Submit from August 1st – September 26th, 2021. Write your name, address, phone number, and age (if under 14) on the back of each picture.

Photos must be taken in the Demarest Nature Center.





DEMAREST NATURE CENTER ASSN.

Borough of Demarest

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Demarest, N.J. 07627

www.DemarestNatureCenter.org

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BOARD MEMBER / FILLING FEEDERS

Out on the trails filling bird feeders and removing trash. Are you a Demarest resident who appreciates nature and wildlife? Join us and become a board member. It's a great way to give back to the community.

Contact info@demarestnaturecenter.org



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Ethan Kalajian of Boy Scout Troop 1345 in Dumont built a walkway in the nature center for his Eagle Scout project, with the help of fellow scouts and troop leaders, and under the supervision of Kevin Riley, head of the trails and grounds committee. The plank walkway is in a wet area west of the Duffy Bridge on the fire road that leads to Columbus Avenue. Ethan used a GoFundMe drive to raise money for the project and donated leftover funds to the nature center.



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THANK YOU - DIRT CLUB

The Dirt Club is an environmental youth-led group that works locally to raise awareness of climate change and help the environment. A recent photo of the Dirt Club in the DNC, before they began raking the trails. The members who were in the photos, are as follows: Gavin Wong, Lisa Yip, Lubaba Sharif, Brian Lee, Noah Cohen, Hanna Cohen, Dayna Ruddock, and Alex Lourbas. The members of the Dirt Club not pictured in the photo are as follows: Julianna Marton, Andrew Kyung, Francesco Marrocco, Justin K Lee, Kevin Shih, Quinn Postman, Carlos Bayuelo, and Alissa Hsu.



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.

www.demarestnaturecenter.org • email: info@demarestnaturecenter.org