

Demarest Nature News



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

www.demarestnaturecenter.org
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Demarest Nature Center has been a haven during the Covid-19 pandemic. With the permission of the mayor and council, we kept our trails open for people to stretch their legs, breathe fresh air, and listen to the birds. All while social distancing, of course.

Now it's your turn to give back. We are a volunteer organization, not part of the borough government. Your donations support trail maintenance and our other activities, including nature-related field trips for schoolchildren, a photo contest, skating parties (weather permitting), a dog walk, birdhouse and birdfeeder building, an Easter egg hunt, canoe rides on the Duck Pond, and a scholarship for a high school senior pursuing environmental studies.

Oktoberfest, which is our other major funding source, might not happen this year because of Covid-19. So your donations are more important than ever. Please give generously, using the dues envelope inside this newsletter. And then go take your family for a walk in the nature center. You'll be glad you did!

See you on the trails,

Peter Coy
President

INJURED OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE

The Demarest Nature Center cares about the wellbeing of wildlife. If you come across wildlife that you suspect is sick, injured or orphaned, please contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. The Demarest Nature Center is not licensed by the state to take or rehabilitate sick, injured or orphaned wildlife. Only a licensed wildlife rehabilitator should handle or treat a wild animal. Do not attempt to handle any wildlife. Wild animals are not pets. It is best to leave wildlife in the wild and respect it in its natural habitat. Orphaned animals are best cared for by their parents. Although an animal may appear to be orphaned, more often than not its parents are nearby. Always leave them where they are. Do not attempt to move or feed them unless a wildlife rehabilitator tells you otherwise.

If you encounter a young wild animal that is obviously injured or orphaned, call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for advice and help. Wildlife rehabilitators are licensed and the only people legally allowed to receive and treat distressed wildlife. The goal of the rehabilitator is to release healthy animals back into the wild, where they belong.

Rehabber list: https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/rehab_list.pdf



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.

PERSONAL PROTECTION TIPS BY LYMEDISEASE.ORG



AVOID TICK HABITAT

Ticks tend to be near the ground, in leaf litter, grasses, bushes and fallen logs. High risk activities include playing in leaves, gathering firewood and leaning against tree trunks. When you hike, stay on cleared trails instead of walking across grassy fields.

DRESS DEFENSIVELY

Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves. Tie back long hair and wear a hat. Light-colored clothing helps you spot ticks before they cause trouble.

USE REPELLENT ON EXPOSED SKIN

Studies show that repellents with DEET, picaridin or lemon eucalyptus oil are the most effective.

CHECK FOR TICKS

When outdoors, periodically inspect your clothing and skin for ticks. Brush off those that aren't attached and remove any that are.

SHOWER

Once home, take a shower right away. This will wash away unattached ticks and offer a good chance to thoroughly inspect yourself.

HOT DRYER

Running your clothes in a hot dryer for 10 minutes before you wash them will kill any ticks that may be there.

PROTECT YOUR PETS

Ticks can infect dogs and cats, too. Also, their fur can act like a "tick magnet," carrying ticks inside your home. Consult with your veterinarian about tick-protection for your pets.

ARE THERE OTHER WAYS TO PROTECT MYSELF AND MY FAMILY?

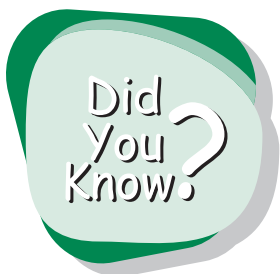
REDUCE TICKS ON YOUR PROPERTY BY:

- pruning trees
- clearing brush
- removing litter
- mowing grass short, and letting it dry thoroughly between waterings.
- Move shrubbery and overgrowth farther away from areas frequented by people.

MAKE YOUR PROPERTY UNATTRACTIVE TO ANIMALS THAT ARE HOSTS TO TICKS BY:

- eliminating birdfeeders, birdbaths and salt licks;
- erecting fencing around the property;
- clearing away woodpiles, garbage and leaf piles;
- removing stonewalls that provide homes to wildlife.
- having your property chemically treated.

Fun Facts About Local Wildlife



The nest of the **belted kingfisher** is a long tunnel and often slopes uphill. One reason for the uphill slope is that, in case of flooding, the chicks will be able to survive in the air pocket formed by the elevated end of the tunnel.

The **great horned owl** has a wingspan of approximately 4.6 feet and weigh just three pounds.

The nest holes that the **pileated woodpecker** makes offers crucial shelter to many species including swifts, owls, ducks, bats, and pine martens.

A **raccoon's** forefeet are extremely agile and resemble human hands with their five slender fingers.

TURTLE CROSSING

Turtles are on the move once the weather gets warm. Too often a road or a highway stands between them and their destination. Always help a turtle cross the road by placing them on the other side of the street in the direction they were heading. Do not try to make them change course, as they have a destination in mind and will simply try to cross the road again if placed back where they started from. Once they're safe on the other side, leave them alone. All lives are precious no matter how small.



WILDLIFE CROSSING Do wildlife crossing structures work and how do they benefit people?

Wildlife crossing structures have a proven track record of promoting safe passage for wildlife across highways in North America. Whenever an animal uses a wildlife crossing structure to cross the highway, it eliminates the possibility of being hit by a vehicle.

Wildlife crossing structures generate a variety of benefits including:

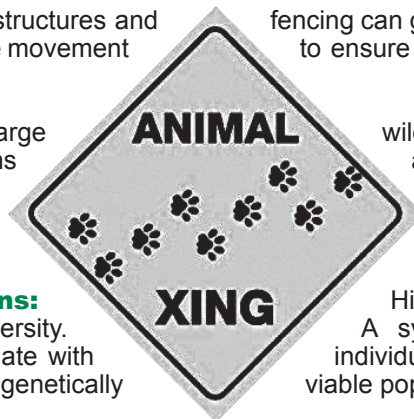
Increased motorist safety: Unlike many large-scale problems facing society today, there are proven solutions to reduce WVCs and reweave our native habitats. Wildlife crossing structures designed or retrofitted to provide safe passage for wildlife above (overpasses) or below (underpasses) a roadway, coupled with fencing, have been shown to reduce WVCs by up to 97%.

Monetary savings: Wildlife crossing structures reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, thus effectively lowering the many costs to society. Where the total economic costs associated with WVCs along a given highway segment exceed the expense of building a wildlife crossing structure to allow animals to safely cross the road, it actually costs society less to solve the problem of WVCs than it costs to do nothing.

Connected habitats: Wildlife crossing structures and linkages across highways to facilitate wildlife movement for a wide range of species.

fencing can greatly lessen the impact of traffic and provide to ensure stable local and regional wildlife populations

Wildlife protection: With 1-2 million large mortality can significantly impact populations persistence, especially for threatened separating wildlife from traffic, crossing from death or injury.



wild animals killed by vehicles every year, wildlife and jeopardize long-term population and endangered species. By physically structures protect individual wild animals

Genetically viable wildlife populations: populations and alter gene flow and diversity. allow individual animals to disperse and mate with genetic diversity needed for maintaining genetically

Highways can act as barriers that isolate wildlife A system of wildlife crossing structures can individuals in other populations, thereby promoting viable populations.

Resiliency to climate change: With changing climatic patterns and increasingly frequent extreme weather events that wreak havoc on transportation infrastructure, especially drainage structures, wildlife crossing structures can help increase resiliency.

Social values: Promoting safer highways can create a sense of motorist well-being and lessened worry when driving. When surveyed, the public repeatedly has placed an intrinsic value on public investments where our natural resources are protected and preserved, especially in the context of creating environmentally sensitive transportation improvements that meet the dual needs of safe highways and wildlife passage.

JOHN C. GOODWIN NATURE PHOTO CONTEST

Capture beautiful images forever, as you wander through the wooded acres and open meadows of the Demarest Nature Center. Then enter your print in the photo contest and perhaps bring a smile to your face again as a prize winner! 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 18th, 2020.





DEMAREST NATURE CENTER ASSN.

Borough of Demarest

P.O. Box 41

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www.DemarestNatureCenter.org

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DEMAREST NATURE CENTER ASSOCIATION 2020 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

“As a lifelong resident of the suburban city of Demarest, I have constantly felt shielded from pressing environmental issues that plague our world. In an effort to advance my awareness and respect of global issues, I enrolled in the Advanced Placement Environmental Science class at Northern Valley Regional High School. The course curriculum intertwined concepts that challenged my current knowledge and fueled my passion for sustainability and environmental protection. The course came naturally to me, and I found myself thirsting for more information on how I could personally contribute to possible solutions. Since I was a child, I have always loved nature, especially animal and plant life, and environmental science has served as a catalyst to satisfy my curiosity about the environment. The award of this scholarship would recognize the efforts I have made thus far, and facilitate even further dedication to ensuring the protection of our fragile ecosystem.” – Kayla Crowley



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PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES – Members of the nature center who have paid dues in 2020 are asked to attend the organizational meeting on Jan. 14, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall to vote on the following proposed amendments to the bylaws: Article V.1: Change annual meeting from October to January. Article V.3: Change quorum from 15 to 8.

~ SPECIAL SIGHTING ~ SOLITARY SANDPIPER

The Demarest Nature Center is a special place, full of a wide array of wildlife. It was amazing to watch and photograph this solitary sandpiper at DNC. He or she was foraging on a fallen log in one of the ponds.

This cutie definitely was a solitary bird as their name suggests. They are migratory and are typically seen in our area in May and August. They like quiet wooded swamps and freshwater wetlands. DNC definitely has this type of habitat. We definitely want to hear from you. Share your sightings and nature photographs with us. We will post our favorites on our website and Twitter. Also, please enter our annual John Goodwin nature photo contest. Photos need to be taken in the Demarest Nature Center. See our website for details. www.demarestnaturecenter.org or email us at info@demarestnaturecenter.org

Demarest Nature Center Trustee – Mark Nagelhout



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