

Demarest Nature News



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

www.demarestnaturecenter.org
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to all of you who have contributed generously to the Demarest Nature Center this year. Your donations are inspiring. They're also essential, since we are a non-profit, all-volunteer organization not funded by the Borough of Demarest.

You, our neighbors, make it possible for us to clean and maintain the trails and bridges of the nature center, sponsor field trips for children in Demarest schools, offer a scholarship to a worthy high school senior, and put on activities ranging from the annual photo contest to the Easter egg hunt to ice-skating parties.

As the pandemic has eased this year, we have eased back into in-person events, while maintaining safety protocols. Our birdhouse- and birdfeeder-building day was wildly popular. (Thanks to founding trustee Dave Emerson, who supplied the kits.) We also had a successful Volunteer Day and nature walk. Canoe-riding has been so popular at Oktoberfest that this year we launched Canoe Day in May, which was well-attended and which we hope will become a beloved annual tradition.

Former trustee Lenny Cottrell staged a pair of races in the nature center in June as part of his Valley Trail Series and made a generous contribution to the nature center out of the proceeds. Watch the website for information about another outside organization, Shinrin-Yoku United, which will offer "forest bathing" sessions this summer and beyond.

Please use the enclosed dues envelope or the PayPal link on the website to show your love for nature. And mark your calendars for the happiest day of the year in Demarest, Oktoberfest, which will be on Oct. 9, featuring crafts, genuine German food and beer, canoe rides, and more.

See you on the trails, *Peter Coy, President*

HAZELNUT TREES

We breathe in what trees breathe out. I am a city boy, as opposed to my parents who grew up in a village at the northern part of my home country, Turkey. That region of the country provides 70% of the hazelnuts in the world. Now I have two hazelnut trees in my backyard, a gift from my dear friend Teddy Loubas, in memory of my late parents. An article that I most recently read was about hazelnut trees. It claimed that hazelnut trees absorb more CO₂ compared to other trees. I was so proud with my two young hazelnut trees. The article also mentioned that New York state encourages farmers to replace dairy fields with hazelnut farms, just to slow down climate change. Knowing that the trees release O₂, I should say that we can't survive without them.

Sadi Tuysuzoglu, *Trustee*



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.

MAKING A HOME FOR WILDLIFE

I will never forget my first Demarest Nature Center birdhouse building event. It was a cold February morning and it seemed like spring and the bird migration season was an eternity away. The event was held at the Demarest Train Station which quickly warmed up as families arrived to build birdhouses together. It was inspiring when a family of three generations said the father and grandfather built houses together when he was a kid.



We decided to purchase a bluebird house and wren house for our backyard. These have been used by many appreciative bird families. The wrens come back every year. They always make their presence felt with their high pitched calls. This year a beautiful chickadee family nested in the bluebird house.

It reinforces how important helping animals is when I look out of my window and see these beautiful creatures using what we created. It's a blessing to have the wildlife and open space these animals call home. We should never take it for granted.

Mark Nagelhout, *Trustee*

BIRDHOUSE BUILDING DAY

Birdhouse and birdfeeder building at Wakelee Fieldhouse on April 24, 2021. Parents and children of all ages had a fun-filled day together.



THE RED FOX HELPS DECREASE LYME DISEASE

The Cary Institute is one of the largest ecological programs in the world. The Institute's Tick Project is testing environmental interventions to prevent Lyme and other tick-borne diseases in our communities. Project partners are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Bard College, the New York State Department of Health, and the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health. Dr. Rick Ostfeld, senior scientist, Cary Institute: "It's commonly believed that Lyme disease risk is tied to the presence of deer ticks and white-tailed deer. But this simply isn't correct." Studies on mainland sites in New York and New Jersey found no correlation between deer and ticks: When deer are scarce, ticks do not necessarily become scarce, because they have alternative hosts. Ticks are only dangerous if they are infected, and deer play no role in infecting ticks. The carrier most likely to bring Lyme-infected ticks into contact with human beings is not the white-tailed deer, but the white-footed mouse. Early tests that erroneously linked tick populations to deer density were flawed, said Dr. Ostfeld, because they were "conducted on an isolated island. In the real world, there are dozens of other species that serve as host to ticks – including chipmunks, mice and birds." Red foxes have long been known to be predators of mice. Mice are the main vector spreading the bacteria that causes Lyme to larval ticks nesting with them in their dens. Where there are more Red foxes there are less mice, and fewer mice means lower rates of Lyme disease. A decrease in the Red fox population is shown to cause an increase in Lyme disease as well.



NATURE PHOTO CONTEST REMINDER

Submit your photos for the John Goodwin Nature Photo Contest in our basket at the Demarest Public Library between Aug. 1st & Sept. 17th. Winners will be announced at Oktoberfest.

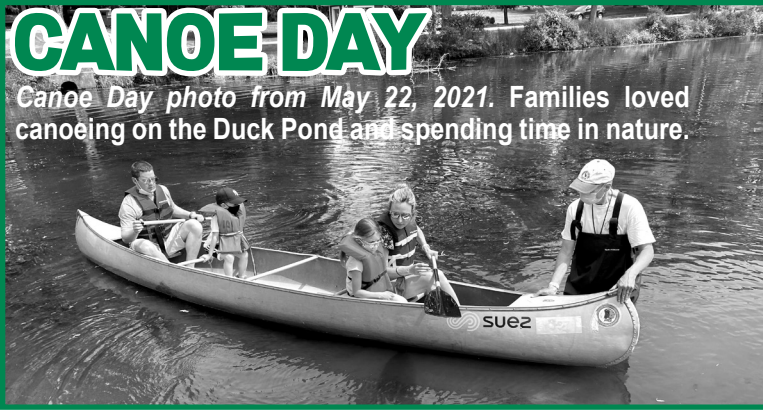
ALL PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN IN THE NATURE CENTER.

(Snake photo taken at Demarest Nature Center.)



CANOE DAY

Canoe Day photo from May 22, 2021. Families loved canoeing on the Duck Pond and spending time in nature.



OKTOBERFEST 2021 - SAVE THE DATE

Craft Show at Oktoberfest is Saturday, October 9, 2021.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year!

There will be something for everyone. Handmade crafts for sale; German food, music, and beer; homemade goodies; canoe rides; arts and crafts activities for kids; nature presentations too! 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS



Butterflies and moths are very closely related, and belong to the scientific order Lepidoptera. Though butterflies may steal the show in your garden, there are far more moth species than butterfly species. Here are four things to keep in mind when trying to tell them apart. Color isn't everything: Some butterflies are dull and some moths are colorful. Most moths fly only at night—but some fly during the day. Many butterflies hold their wings together vertically, whereas most moths don't. A butterfly's antennae have long shafts and a bulb at the tip.

RACCOONS ARE BENEFICIAL TO OUR NATURE CENTER



Raccoons play a very important role in our ecosystem. They are **important in the disposal of carrion from ecosystems and distribution of plant seeds**. Feeding on berries and nuts, not only on meat, raccoons then carry around the seeds and help in the spread and growth of the plants they eat. The raccoons play an **important role in the control of parasitic species** present in ecosystems because they also feed on them. Raccoons can also be useful in protecting bees. One of the main dangers for bees are wasps. Wasp larvae are one of the favorite foods of raccoons. They are in the position of both predators and prey which makes them essential for maintaining a balance. Raccoons are intelligent and curious sentient beings. Similar to humans, they have five toes on their front and back paws. Raccoons have distinctive dark face masks which can help deflect the sun's glare and may enhance night vision. Raccoons are mostly solitary and can live for many years in the wild.



Here are some easy ways to coexist and share this world with raccoons. Never trap and relocate wildlife during baby season. Many times as a result, babies become orphans and require help from a wildlife rehabilitator. Secure trash can lids so that raccoons cannot get into them; keep trash cans in a shed or garage. Eliminate access to food in your yard, place pet food inside, secure pet doors at night, pick up fallen fruit around the garden and restrict the use of birdseed. In the wild, raccoons den in tree hollows, hollow logs, or sometimes rocky caverns. In urban areas, raccoons may nest in drainpipes, basements, crawl spaces and house attics. If a raccoon is digging in your yard, sprinkle cayenne pepper to discourage grub-hunting. Trim branches that provide access to the house. Bright lights, loud sounds and vinegar-soaked rags may act as deterrents. They are nocturnal but are occasionally active in the daytime. The raccoon's primary enemies are humans, dogs, traps, and automobiles.



DEMAREST NATURE CENTER ASSN.

Borough of Demarest

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Demarest, N.J. 07627

www.DemarestNatureCenter.org

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STRIDE INTO SUMMER

The Valley Trail Series 5-mile and 5-kilometer races were a great fundraiser for the Demarest Nature Center on June 13, 2021.



FOREST BATHING

Shinrin-Yoku United will lead nature therapy walks beginning July 17th, departing from the bulletin board.

To sign up go to www.shinrin-yoku-united.org and select Purchase Our Walks. The price is \$35. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the nature center. Tentative dates and times:

July 17th at 10:30am
September 18th at 10:30am
October 16th at 10:30am
November 13th at 10:30am
December 11th at 10:30am

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LIVING IN HARMONY WITH DEER

Deer fill an important role as brush-cutters in the environment. They help clear the woodland floor of choking cover so new trees can grow. They also reduce undergrowth that provides tinder for wildfires. The positives for your residential garden are numerous. Deer do a good job of nibbling off sucker growth which shoot up from tree bases and stumps. Their droppings enrich the soil and their browsing can dead head your flowers causing them to produce more flowers. They periodically mow down the volunteer grasses which lessen your need for weed-whacking. Is there anything more peaceful than observing a deer resting peacefully under a large oak tree? Take some time from your busy schedule and enjoy such a special moment with nature!

– Kim Nagelhout, *Trustee*



SEEKING TRUSTEES: Please write to info@demarestnaturecenter.org if you would like to join our board.

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