

Demarest Nature News



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

www.demarestnaturecenter.org
Winter 2020 Vol. 46, No. 1

President's Message

Friends,

Have you walked in the Demarest Nature Center lately? It's beautiful all times of year. A stroll through our 55 or 60 acres of forest, field, and stream is a great way to unwind in nature. And it's right in your backyard! This newsletter contains an updated trail map. For the first time we've noted the colors of trail markers to make your navigation easier. (There's no Waze in the nature center.)

We have a packed calendar for 2020, including ice-skating parties, weather permitting; a photo contest; birdhouse- and birdfeeder-building; a nature walk and volunteer day; an Easter egg hunt; a dog walk; and of course Oktoberfest. For the first time we're welcoming leashed dogs to have their pix taken with the Easter bunny. And we're adding a Canoe Day in May, since people have so much fun canoeing at Oktoberfest.

The Demarest Nature Center Association also sponsors nature programs in the Demarest schools and a scholarship for a worthy high school senior. Most importantly, we maintain the trails, boardwalks, and bridges of the nature center. We receive no funding from the borough. All the money comes from donations and fundraising events. In this newsletter we thank our generous donors as well as Oktoberfest volunteers.

If you love nature, and we hope you do, please write us a check and mail it in the enclosed dues envelope. Thank you!

See you on the trails,

Peter Coy
President

Sighting of a Ghost Plant!

by Teddy Lourbas

The Nature Center is a wonderful place to relax and take a break from our increasingly busy schedules, especially during the holidays. The Nature Center is also a great place to discover beautiful and uncommon flora and fauna.

This past July, a rare plant was sighted alongside one of the trails on the west side of the Nature Center. (See the accompanying photo!) The *Monotropa Uniflora*, also known as a ghost plant, ghost pipe, Indian pipe or corpse plant, is a herbaceous perennial plant that is native to North America but only grows when the conditions are just right: moisture after a dry period. Because it is devoid of any chlorophyll it is generally completely white but can have black flecks or a pale pink coloration. As it does not depend on sunlight to grow, the ghost plant can grow in the dark understory of a dense forest. It is a parasitic plant that gets its energy from photosynthetic trees and its hosts are fungi that have a symbiotic relationship with trees, especially beech trees. The ghost plant flowers from early summer to early autumn and each stem has one flower. It is truly beautiful with its delicate and translucent petals.

We encourage you to take the time during this winter season to get acquainted with the woods and meadow in our Nature Center, and all that they offer. Nature often pleasantly surprises us when we least expect it.



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.

Demarest Nature News



Oktoberfest Volunteers:

Thank you to our bakers who contributed baked goods to our 2019 Oktoberfest.

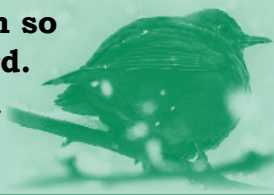
Libby Andreopoulos
Lisa Caruso
Jane Fried
Mayor Melinda Iannuzzi
Barbara Hoffman
Irini Lilikas
Gozen Tuysuzoglu

Thanks to the volunteers who helped run the Demarest Nature Center's table at Oktoberfest.
Ethan Coy and Alexander Lourbas



**Winter perches like a bird.
 Wings tucked in so
 the soul is heard.**

- Angie Weiland-Crosby



Demarest Nature Center Calendar 2020



UNTIL SEPTEMBER: Submit your photos for the John Goodwin Nature Photo Contest in our basket at the Demarest Public Library between Aug. 1 and Sept. 18. All photos must be taken in the nature center. Winners announced at Oktoberfest.



JANUARY AND FEBRUARY: Ice skating parties as conditions permit. To be on our email notification list, write to info@demarestnaturecenter.org.



SATURDAY, FEB. 8: Birdhouse and birdfeeder building in the Demarest train station from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Kits are \$15 for the first one and \$10 for each additional kit, per family. Participating children must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring your own hammer.



SATURDAY, MARCH 28: Nature Walk and Volunteer Day. At 9:30, naturalist Marc Gussen will lead a walk. At 10:30 we will collect litter. Bring gloves. Meet at the parking lot by the Imaginative Playground. Rain date Saturday, April 4.



SATURDAY, APRIL 4: Easter Egg hunt with a larger-than-life Easter Bunny at 2 p.m. in the Imaginative Playground by Wakelee Field. Plus, for the first time: Get a picture of your dog with the Easter Bunny and dog walk! For toddlers through fourthgraders (and dogs). Rain date Sunday, April 5.



SATURDAY, MAY 16: Canoe Day. Families loved canoeing on the Duck Pond so much at Oktoberfest that we're offering you another opportunity. Noon to 3 p.m. Rain date Saturday, May 23.



SATURDAY, OCT. 10: Handmade crafts for sale; German food, music, and beer; homemade goodies; canoe rides; arts and crafts activities for kids; nature presentations by naturalist Marc Gussen. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rain date Sat., Oct. 17.

"Demarest Nature Center Scholarship Program"



Education is the heart of it all and the hope for the future. Each year the Demarest Nature Center, working in cooperation with the Demarest Public School system, sponsors programs in the three public schools. The Demarest Nature Center Association also offers a \$500 scholarship to assist a graduating senior pursuing a study of, or related to, the environment. Your membership dues help us give back to the community.

The requirements are:

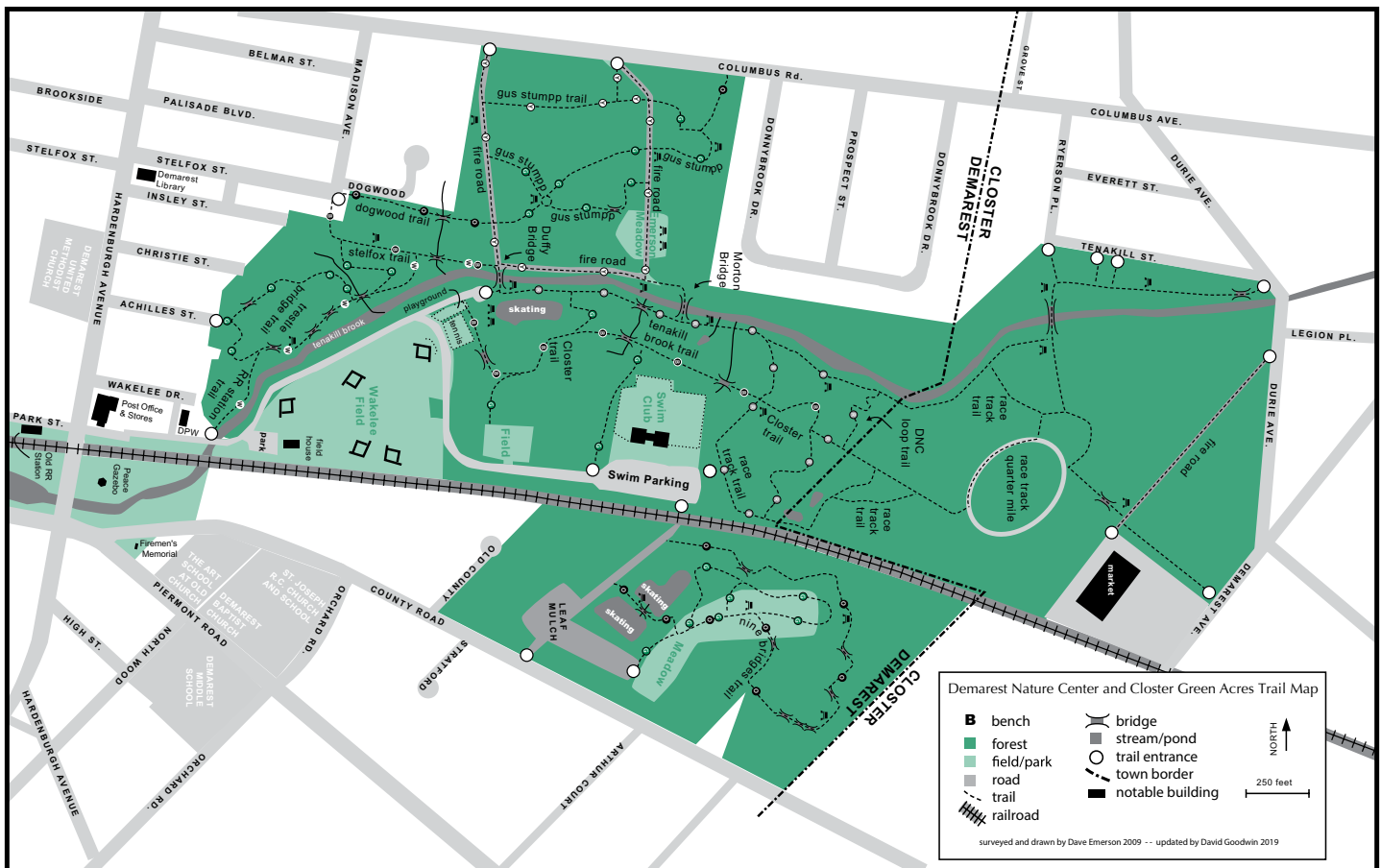
- The applicant must be a high school senior attending either Northern Valley Regional High School in Demarest, The Academy of the Holy Angels in Demarest, a resident of Closter, Haworth or Demarest attending Bergen Counties Academies or a member or the child of a current member of the Demarest Nature Center Association graduating from another high school.
- The applicant must be accepted and planning to attend an educational institution in the coming school year (2020/2021) pursuing environmental studies or a similar program such as one involving habitat conservation, natural resource management, preservation and protection of nature and/or education of the public concerning such subjects.

Applications should include:

1. The student's name and complete contact information.
2. The name of the high school and guidance counselor contact information.
3. A copy of the student's current high school transcripts.
4. A copy of the Letter of Acceptance from the college or university where the applicant will be (or is considering) attending classes for the fall semester.
5. A 150-word essay discussing the reasons why he or she should receive the Scholarship.

Applications should be postmarked no later than May 1, 2020 and mailed to:

SCHOLARSHIP
 c/o Demarest Nature Center Association
 PO Box 41
 Demarest, NJ 07627





DEMAREST NATURE CENTER ASSN.

Borough of Demarest

P.O. Box 41

Demarest, N.J. 07627

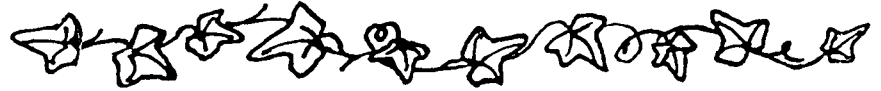
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**TRAIL MAP &
MEMBERSHIP
ENVELOPE
INSIDE**

THE DEMAREST NATURE CENTER IS PERFECT FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

The Demarest Nature Center provides a gorgeous natural backdrop for photography. Every year, during all four seasons, photographers of all ages can be found wandering the trails and looking for that perfect photo.

Each bend in the path opens up a new vista, and if you're quick on the button, you might capture a fawn, kingfisher, raccoon, pileated woodpecker, red fox or even a great horned owl. Photographs taken in the Nature Center can qualify for the annual Photo Contest.

Photo Contest 2019 Winner



Here are the Contest Rules:

1. Submit your prints (no smaller than 8" X 8" or larger than 8" X 12") to the Demarest Library. (Deadline is Sept. 21st)
2. Write your name, address, phone number, and age (if under 14) on the back of each picture.
3. There is no limit on the number of entries.
4. Photos must be taken in the Demarest Nature Center.
5. All entries become the property of the Demarest Nature Center.
6. No more than one cash prize per person will be awarded.
7. The winners will be announced at our Oktoberfest event.
8. The Demarest Nature Center reserves the right to reprint your entry photo on their website or in other nature center publicity.

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS

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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