

Demarest Nature News



Demarest Nature Center Association

Summer 2007 Box 41, Demarest, N.J., 07627

Vol. XXXII, No. 2

President's Message

Hello, my name is Kevin Riley. Last January I became the president of the Demarest Nature Center.

I have the good fortune to follow in the footsteps of Rich Van Buren who has been invaluable in giving me much needed advice in the infancy of my term. Because of Rich's and the other trustees' hard work over the past years I am the inheritor of a strong, vibrant organization.

When my family and I moved here nine years ago I was excited to find that the residents of Demarest thought enough about nature and open space to establish and support the

Demarest Nature Center since 1973.

We live in the most densely populated state in the nation. New Jersey has more people per square mile than Japan or India. We are less than an hour away from one of the largest cities on earth. New Jersey is losing more than fifty acres of open space to development every day. More than fifty acres a day! Imagine the Demarest Nature Center disappearing in one day.

We are a community that supports a nature center- our nature center is a living monument to the belief that

preserving open space adds not only to the esthetics of our community, but also to the value of our community. If nothing else, the storm last April should convince us of this. Flood control is a direct advantage of having open space such as the nature center.

Your continuing support is what sustains this Nature Center. If you haven't already done so this year, please put a check into the enclosed envelope and mail it today.

See you on the trails.

Kevin Riley



Trustee Irfan Akdad cleans up the Tenakill on Volunteer Day.

THE ROOT OF THE MATTER ...

"We don't stop hiking because we grow old; we grow old because we stop hiking."

Finis Mitchell

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Your Continued Dues Support Nature Education

This past year, your annual dues helped send Demarest second-graders to Abmas Farm in Wyckoff, where they learned about growing food naturally and eating healthy diets. You also helped bring Marc Gussen to teach

fourth-graders about the tool making and survival skills of the **Lenni Lenape Indians**. Your dues bought flowers that students at County Road and Luther Lee Emerson schools planted with the help of nature center volunteers, as well as flowers for Demarest

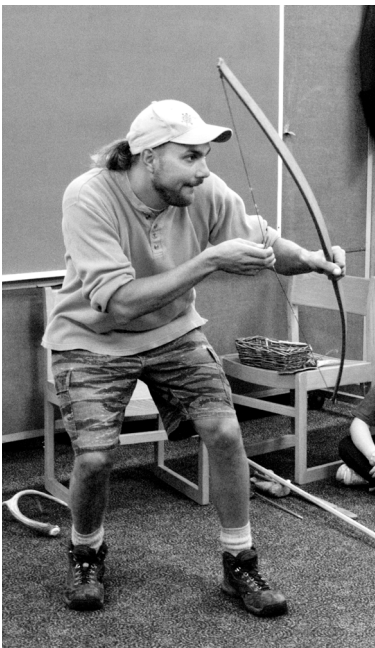
Middle School and Catholic Academy of the Northern Valley that students there planted themselves.

Thank you for supporting The Demarest Nature Center and nature education in 2007.



(Above) Sixth and seventh graders at Demarest Middle School learn about Rainforest animals and insects.

(Below) Naturalist Marc Gussen adds to Ms. Supper's teaching of the life of the Lenape Indians to the forth graders at Luther Lee Emerson School.



Let's Talk About Dogs...And Owners...

Over the next few months you'll start to notice some additional signs in the Nature Center. The signs will address the growing problem of un-leashed dogs on our trails. They will clearly state that dogs must be leashed on nature center trails according to town ordinance, #698, which prohibits "Bring(ing) a pet onto the Nature Center lands without a leash...". The fine for the owner found guilty of the offense is up to \$1000, or to be committed to the County Jail for not more than 90 days incarceration.

The trustees voted in favor of posting these signs for two reasons. First, we're hearing more complaints from hikers that they are feeling bothered and/or threatened by unleashed dogs. Second, we're hearing from dog owners that they are unaware of this ordinance. That lack of awareness is somewhat understandable. Although the law is clearly stated at almost every entrance, it is included in a list of other regulations and not highlighted.

It isn't fair to hikers to have to worry about their safety. The Demarest Nature Center wasn't created as a dog park or dog run. It was created as a nature center where dogs are welcomed as long as they are leashed. Period. Please, let's be respectful and work together to make the Nature Center a place for people *and* dogs.

Thanks for Making Volunteer Day a Big Success

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who made Volunteer Day this last April 21 a resounding success!

The picture perfect day started out with another fantastic nature walk by Naturalist Marc Gussen. The large group of children and parents were eager participants in the one hour hike through the Nature Center.

After the hike, nearly everyone picked up a trash bag & started walking the trails picking up trash. The Trestle Bridge Trail & the Tenakill Brook vicinity got some much needed attention. These two areas had a large amount of trash from the overflowing Tenakill due to the storms we have had over the last few months.

We'd like to encourage anyone taking a walk through the center not to feel shy about picking up any trash they might come upon. There are trash cans on Columbus Rd., the playground at Wakelee Field and at the hand ball courts by the swim club to deposit anything you might find along the way.

Demarest Nature News

We've got a new Trail. And a new maintainer!

Our newest trail, the Trestle Bridge Trail, is coming along quite nicely, thank-you. Below is a photo of the trestle bridge where the trail gets its name. The trail has been adopted by the Cottrell family and runs along the west bank of

the Tenakill Brook, directly across the brook from the Wakelee ball fields. When you're on the trail, you feel as if you're a thousand miles away from the daily hubbub. The easiest approach is to cross the steel bridge from the Imaginative Playground,

immediately turn left onto the Stelfox Trail, and go about 50 yards. The entrance to the trail is on your left. The trail meanders for about half a mile before reconnecting with the Stelfox Trail a bit farther south.



The Trestle Bridge!

New Bench

The Macphail family is sponsoring a new bench in memory of Marie Lendino, who cherished her time in the DNC and was, perhaps, the Nature Center's first Easter Bunny in 1980 and 1981. Marie was the wife of founding trustee Michael Lendino.



Above: The Easter Bunny didn't disappoint on it's visit to the Wakelee Playground this Spring

Thanks to the Maintainers!

We just want to send out a thank you to the individuals and organizations that support the nature center with their "sweat equity". With our busy schedules these days it takes a lot to get out onto the trail and do some muscle work. Picking up trash, clearing the path, sawing up downed trees, repairing bridges, and cutting back the overgrowth are all part of the job...and fun. Thanks again!

Trail Name	Maintainer
Nine Bridges Trail	Demarest Cub Scout Troop 270
Gus Stumpp Trail	Demarest Boy Scout Troop 101
Log Road Trail	Northern Valley R.H.S. at Demarest Earth Club
Tenakill Brook Trail	Demarest Girl Scouts
D Loop	Demarest Girl Scouts
Stelfox Trail	Endick Family
Dogwood Trail	Endick Family
Connecting Trails	The Riley/Stern Family
Trestle Bridge Trail	The Cottrell Family

Below: Another successful birdhouse & feeder building day



Websites you might want to check out:

- New Jersey Audubon Society: <http://www.nj Audubon.org/>
- New York/New Jersey Trail Conference: <http://www.nynjtc.org/>
- New Jersey DEP Division of Parks & Forestry: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/>
- New Jersey Meadowlands Commission: <http://www.meadowlands.state.nj.us/>
- Hackensack Riverkeeper: <http://www.hackensackriverkeeper.org/>

"Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors; we borrow it from our Children."

Ancient Indian Proverb

2007

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We're on the Web!

www.demarestnaturecenter.org

Email:
info@demarestnaturecenter.org

What's Happening This Summer & Fall

June 2nd BREAKFAST IN THE WOODS 9am to 11am, at Wakelee Field next to the Imagination Playground. Made to order omelets, bagels & O.J., etc—ALL FREE! There will be live music & the announcement of the Photo Contest winners. Rain date June 3rd.

July 14th Join us in a SCAVERGER HUNT in the nature center. For all children from Demarest & the surrounding towns.

Sept. 15th: 1-mile FUN RUN, 9 am, and 3.1-mile CROSS COUNTRY RACE, 9:15 am, on the trails of the nature center. Register by 8:45 am at Wakelee Fieldhouse. Rain or shine.

Oct. 6th RAPTOR PROJECT. Live birds of prey, State Line Lookout, Palisades Parkway. www.njpalisades.org LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE, www.ldeo.columbia.edu

Oct 13th CRAFT SHOW at OCTOBERFEST! Duck Pond 10am to 5pm CRAFTS, FOOD, RIDES, ETC! Rain date Oct. 20th

Senior Service 2007

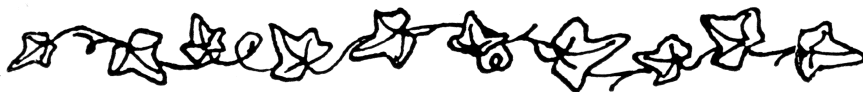
We're excited to welcome James Beddoe, Eric Mok and Jon Belleme seniors at NVRHS at Demarest to the Demarest Nature Center Senior Service 2007. Some of the projects they'll be working on over the next few weeks will be

the repair of bridges, installing boardwalks, installing the new dog litter station, moving the bulletin board, installing new benches, clearing the trails and in general helping make the Nature Center the best it can be.

Wish List

- * People willing to be called upon as volunteers for special events, including the cross country race and Oktoberfest.
* Naturalists (amateur or professional) to assist with educational programs.
* Someone to make a bulletin board for the Columbus Road entrance.
* Walkie-talkies.

To answer a wish, please write to info@demarestnaturecenter.org.



"Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till it's gone." Joni Mitchell

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