

Demarest Nature News



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

www.demarestnaturecenter.org
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President's Message

This is Since last January, I've been active, as president, promoting, organizing and participating in our events. This isn't a natural fit for me. I wasn't educated or encouraged to be a community leader. Oh, some from my generation did lead – maybe a bridge club or a scout pack. So, I came to rely on and was bolstered by the generous support and guidance of my fellow board members and especially, previous president, Kevin Riley.

Still, these were definitely new tricks...

There we were in early March, in the warm sunshine – children, parents and/or grandparents nailing together wooden kits

to make taa daa – birdfeeders and birdhouses. A few Saturdays after that, our fab, photogenic Bunny got excited toddlers and youngsters hopping to find pastel eggs hiding in the playground.

In late spring, on another perfect Saturday morning we followed our learned naturalist, Marc Gussen, through the trails discovering the wondrous and curious. And then after Marc's talk we went on to (this is, so far, my personal favorite) Volunteer Day. Everyone scouring the trails again, this time to clean up litter!

In early June, I had a real eye opener – my first Breakfast in the Woods. There we were out in the open air, past and present

trustees cooking breakfast to the crooning of Sinatra music. And it wasn't just corn flakes either. Your choice of mushroom, onion, or cheese omlettes; danish, bagels and coffee. Oh, and then we were entertained with a live, wild creature show.

During the summer I bicycled through the nature center to the pool. Our nature center is an exception in that bikes and dog walkers are permitted.

In September there was the aptly named Trial of the Trails – 5K and Fun Run. Again, another beautiful Saturday morning in glorious surroundings.

And for best and biggest event – the Oktoberfest at the Duck Pond. There were tent peaks everywhere like a gypsy camp or a circus. and handmade crafts, toys, and gifts, music, rides for the kids, a delicious assortment of carni and ethnic foods, and lots and lots of mingling.

So many Saturdays, so many thanks for your participation in making these memories go out to all our members, fellow trustees past, present and future. Marianna Simpson

Marianna Simpson
President, Trustee



DNC PRESIDENT MARIANNA SIMPSON AND BOARD MEMBER BOARD MEMBER CYNTHIA SOROKA – VOLUNTEERS EXTRAORDINAIRE

"My spirits were elevated by the enchanting appearance of nature; the past was blotted from my memory, the present was tranquil, and the future gilded by bright rays of hope and anticipations of joy." Mary Shelley

As you probably know, a portion of your membership dues is used to support free educational programs in the Demarest Public Schools dealing with nature, the environment and local history. We're very proud and excited in announcing our school programs for 2013, which could not happen without your continued support:

Kindergarten: Mrs. Duby
Demarest Nature Center tour with Closter Nature Center Naturalist Marc Gussen

Grade 1: Mrs. Licameli
Closter Nature Center walk with Marc Gussen, field trip to discuss butterflies

Grade 2: Mrs. Peterson
Abmas Farm field trip

Grade 3: Mrs. Sims
Green Brook Sanctuary field trip

Grade 4: Mrs. Cohen
Lenni Lenape history with Marc Gussen

Grade 6: Mr. Regan
Batman Rainforest program

Grade 7: Mr. Regan
Watershed Program

2013 Scholarship

\$1000 Environmental Scholarship

Do you know someone who plans on studying environmental studies or natural resource management in the coming school year (2013/2014)? They 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 the child of a current member of the Demarest Nature Center graduating from another high school. Other subjects involving habitat conservation, preservation and protection of nature and/or education of the public on these topics also qualify. The applicant must be accepted and planning to attend an educational institution. Details are available from the High Schools guidance counselors or at www.DemarestNatureCenter.org.

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Our Members!

We are grateful to all those who wish to be a supporter of the Demarest Nature Center Association. Listed below are members who have joined or renewed their membership over the last year. Please let us know if we accidentally omitted you. And thank you for your continued support!

Roz & Stuart Alpert, Ronald Barr & Dr. Joy Micale, The Beucler Family, John & Anne Beucler, Dr. R.V. Biagioni, Marianne Bolduc, Donald Bomeisl, The Bower Family, Yvonne Caldarulo, The Cantarore Family, Patrick Cardinale, Liz & Wayne Carlin, Joe & Lisa Caruso, Dr. & Mrs. Mark Cetta, Eugene & Doris Claeysens, Mike & Charlotte Clarke, The Conti Family, Joseph Corrado, Eileen & Robert Corrado, The Cottrell Family, The Coy Family, The Cywinski Family, Dr. Philip A. D'Alesandro, William & Ruth Day, Bob & Kathy Dean, Barbara & Richard Deragon, Winifred Derfus, Assunte DeSimone, Sherry Diaz, Barbara DiNovi, Robert Dolan, David Emerson, Naomi Epstein, Gerald & Edith Escala, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Feder, William & Susan Feil, Mr. & Mrs. DJ Felton, Richard & Dr. Jane Fried, Sharon Fried, Dr. & Mrs. Frank Galtieri, Fred & Donna Giannetti, Fred Goldstein, Jamie & Eulalia Gonzalez, John Goodwin, Helen Goody, Donald Green, Edward & Olga Greenwald, Dr. Jutta Greweldinger, Joel & Mary Hamilton, Arthur Hays, Leon & Rita Hillman, Barbara Hoffman, Eva Holzer, Rosemary Hunt, Melinda Iannuzzi, Masaaku & Kumiko Ishikura, Dorthy John, Warren & Barbara Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Kabakow, Timothy & Lydia Ke, Bill & Frances Khani, Deborah King, Ellen Knatz, Dr. & Mrs. Koenigsberger, Joseph & Paula Kolacia, Sandy Kozinn, Klaus Kretchmer, Margaret Kristensen, Jenie Lee, Sam Lee, Yong & Seung Lee, Max & Ellen Leimgruber, The LePrees Family, Mr. & Mrs. Lino Linteris, Thornton & Lee Lockwood, The Lourbas Family, Roderick & Lucia MacKenzie, William & Priscilla MacPhail, Paul & Jane Majeski, Karen Maloof, David Marco, William & Priscilla MacPhail, Theodore & Marianne Martens, Michael & Mael, Robert McCormack, Mr. & Mrs. James McGahren, Richard Mercier, Christian & Hwa Soon Meyer, Norman & Barbara Miller, Glen & Lucila Mills, The Molina Family, The Molnar Family, Richard Motta, Blanche Muller, Dr. Jose Munin, Laura & Lewis Nelson, Michael & Viola Nemeth, Irwin K. & Lorraine Nissen, James Nobel, Linda Nociti, Dr. Daniel Ochs & Arlene Sparks, Cathy & Richard Olsen, Suzanne Ornstein, Fredrick & Edna Ortega, Tom & Jennifer Otto, Constatine papantonis, Deborah Pellegrini, Angela Pepe, Fred & Robin Pierce, The Pilsbury Family, Edgar & Luisa Pittaluga, The Pluzsik Family, Jeffrey & Edith Pullman, John & Lourdes Reinke, Ethel Reitsema, MaryAnn Rich, Bud & Ginny Rich, The Riley-Stern Family, Dave & Marilyn Robertson, Angela G. Rodin, Samrel Ted Rubin, Dom & Mary Rutigliano, Albert Sanz, Stephen Sapontzis, Dr. & Mrs. Stuart & Marilyn Schiffman, The Schliem Family, Albert & Cynthia Shachar, The Shelton Family, Steve Shur, Joel & Wendy Silverstien, Elaine Silvia, The Simon Family, Lee & Nancy Simonson, Peter & Marianna Simpson, Mildred Singer, Arthur Sinensky & Debbie Oremland, Mildred Singer, Margaret Slaven, Anna Smiley, Allen & Myrna Soast, Cynthia Saroka, Albert Sproul, M. Donald Stavis, Dr. & Mrs. William Stegmayer, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Steinel, Junius Stephenson, Robert & June Stoll, Harry & Jean Strickholm, Bill Strohmeier, Harvey & Mimi Strum, Karen & Fabian Tenenbaum, Victor & Frances Trubuzio, Arthur & Madeline Truningner, Gozen & Sadettin Tuysuzoglu, Dr. Benjamin & Carol Tycko, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Vadala, The Vallejo Family, Richard & Clair Van Buren, Aram Varteresian, Grace Walsh, John & Clair Westervelt, Dr. Carl Weirum, Audrey Winograd, Klaus Woltman, Richard & Nancy Stern Winters, Kyoung Soo Won, Mia Woo, Nancy S. Woods, Mark T. Wright, Charles Wrubel, Ky Yurseko, Peter & Patricia Zampieri, Robert Zenorini

*The 2013 proxy letter is posted on our website.
All members should download and cast their ballots.*

After the Hurricane

Your Nature Center was not immune to the effects of Hurricane Sandy. While many trees were damaged and some trails have limbs across them, there is also renewal. Due to increasing vigilance on the part of mosquito control, major blockages from this year's hurricane and even year's past were removed from the Tenakill. Hike along both the Wakelee Field side bank and on the Columbus side to see the cleared trunks from the river south of the Morton Bridge. "It's beautiful," says Kevin Riley, Past President of the Demarest Nature Center.

*One is not born into the world to do everything
but to do something. – Henry David Thoreau*

Nature Programs Expand at Our Schools

For the 2012 and 2013 school year the Demarest Nature Center is again proud to support environmental science within our schools. Students at the County Road School will be treated to a guided nature walk of the Nature center and a June trip to discuss butterflies with naturalist Marc Gussen of the Closter Nature Center. This year's second grade class will visit the Health Barn at Abmas Farms in Wyckoff to learn about farming, natural foods and nutrition. Our third grade class will visit the Greenbrook Sanctuary for a guided nature walk where they will learn about indigenous plants and natural history. Making a connection to the Social Studies curriculum, our fourth grade class will be visited by Marc Gussen. Marc will teach the students about Lenape Native Americans and their way of life in New Jersey before the arrival of European explorers. At the Demarest Middle School, our sixth gradersts will be visited by the New Jersey "Batman" and his various exotic animals. This year's program is about animals native to the rain forest.

The Demarest Nature Center Association would like to put out a big thank you to everyone who contributed their time and energy in making The Craft Show at Oktoberfest 2012 a great success. We had a great turnout of both crafters and shoppers at this year's event.

5K Trail Run & Fun Run Results!

Lenny Cottrell of Demarest, who won the Demarest Nature Center's first cross country race in 2003 and repeated in 2010, captured a third title on Sept. 15. Cottrell, 44, covered the 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) race through the woods of the nature center in 21 minutes, 37 seconds. Not far back in second place overall was the first female finisher, Jeanne Allegra, 42, of Demarest, who ran the twisty, challenging course in 22 minutes, 26 seconds.

In the 1-mile Trail Fun Run, 6-year-old Judah Rubin of Demarest sped to victory in 10 minutes, 26 seconds, followed seconds later by the first female, Ella Cho, 7, of Demarest, who did it in 10:34.

The Demarest Nature Center has several miles of trails on 55 wooded acres in the heart of Demarest. It is open to the public year-round.



Runners came out for the 5K in force!



Hula was 'in Großen stil' at this year's Oktoberfest



What would Oktoberfest be without Korean dumplings and noodles from the Parents



Who's having fun canoeing on the Demarest Duck Pond?

What's Happening This Winter And Spring!

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Website:

www.DemarestNatureCenter.org

Email:

info@DemarestNatureCenter.org

► **January and February:** Ice Skating Parties on the skating pond next to the Imaginative Playground near Wakelee Field, as conditions permit. To be on our email event notification list, go to info@DemarestNatureCenter.org or watch for skating party announcements on the town electronic bulletin board at the corner of Hardenburgh & Piermont.

► **March 9:** Birdhouse and Bird Feeder Building, in the Demarest Railroad Station. Two sessions: the morning session starts at 11 a.m. and the afternoon at 1 p.m. Wooden Kits are \$8 for one and \$15 for two. Participating children should be with an adult. Remember to bring your hammer. Keep an eye out for information on the town board. Or visit our website for information. www.demarestnaturecenter.org

demarestnaturecenter.org

► **March 23: Egg Hunt,** @ 2 p.m. in the Imaginative Playground near Wakelee Field. Join the latest DNC Hall of Famer Bunny Rabbit. Bring your toddlers through 4th graders for some yummy fun and great photo ops. Rain date is March 24th.

► **April 20: Nature Walk & Volunteer Day.** At 9:30 Naturalist Marc Gussen will lead our walk through the trails, as we spot signs of spring in the flora and fauna. Followed by...

► **Volunteer Day,** 10:30. Wear long pants and bring your gardening gloves. We'll be cleaning up litter, doing trail maintenance and planting native, wildflower seeds in our two meadows. Meet at the Wakelee Field/ Playground

parking lot for either or both event(s). Rain date April 21st.

► **May 31: DNC Photo Contest** deadline date for cash prizes. Deposit entries at the **Demarest Free Public Library** in the DNC Basket. All photos must be taken in the nature center. See our website for contest details. Awards to be announced at the...

► **June 8: Breakfast in the Woods,** Serving breakfast 9 to 11a.m., next to the Imaginative Playground in Wakelee Field. Live music! With made-to-order omelets, bagels, coffee, O.J., etc. @ no charge. **Announcing DNC Photo Contest winners @ 10:30,** followed by a **live animal show. Mark your calendar now!** Rain date June 9th.

An Apple for the DNC?

Well, not an edible one, at least! The Demarest Nature Center is a 501c(3) not for profit organization. This means that your contributions to the DNC are tax deductible! You can also give shares of stock, like Apple Inc., to the Nature Center. We don't have to pay tax on the capital gains, then neither do you. Best of all, you still get a deduction for the donation. That's a sweet deal! Contact us at (201) 473-5466 for more information.. (All members and donors should consult with their own advisors as this is not to be deemed tax advice) Please send in your membership envelope as soon as possible!

Photos by Kevin Riley unless where otherwise credited.



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