

Demarest Nature News



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

www.demarestnaturecenter.org
Winter 2024 Vol. 50, No. 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We hope you have enjoyed another year of fun and adventure in the Demarest Nature Center! We had a busy year, full of amazing events for the community to get outdoors and enjoy nature's magnificence.

We started the year with a demonstration about how to make maple syrup. We had guided nature walks, guided birdwatching tours, beekeeping demonstrations, canoeing, and workshops to build birdhouses and birdfeeders. We partnered with the summer rec program to bring kids into the Nature Center. On National Trails Day, we invited the community to do hands-on projects such as trail maintenance. We underwrote the cost of 11 field trips to take Demarest elementary students into the Closter and Demarest Nature Centers. The new Boy Scout Troop 20 which Demarest Nature Center has sponsored is also active and growing. The Nature Center hosted an Eagle Scout project to create a native plants garden that was completed by Gregory Papadopoulos of Troop 73. We will continue to support such programs in 2024.

Our next event is our monthly DNC Community Trail Walk on Feb. 3rd, Saturday morning at 10am. Join us for a nice winter walk through the nature center, perhaps accompanied by snow! Then there will be a maple syrup demonstration on Feb. 10 from 10 a.m. to noon. We will demonstrate the tapping of maple trees, and how to make maple syrup. Meet at the entrance to the Nature Center adjacent to the Imagination Playground near Wakelee Field.

We are all volunteers, and we use funds to maintain the trails and support programming that benefits the community. Your memberships and generous donations help to support these efforts. We hope you will consider supporting these important initiatives, as we try to build our local community through wholesome activities that everyone can enjoy. We hope to see you soon in the Nature Center!

– *Stephen Tillack*, President, Demarest Nature Center



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 CENTER RECAP

SUMMER REC CAMP

In July the Demarest Nature Center hosted approximately 100 children from the Demarest Recreation Camp for the day. The campers participated in educational hikes and a nature scavenger hunt. For many of the children, this was their first visit to the DNC, and for others it was an introduction to the wonders of nature. It was a great day of fun and learning, and we look forward to making this an annual collaboration with the Demarest Rec Camp.

COMMUNITY TRAIL WALKS

As an offshoot of the Rec Camp event, we began a new program-Community Trail Walks. These monthly walks are focused on bringing families into the nature center for educational hikes with a different theme each time. The inaugural hike in November was a group scavenger hunt. We all searched for a list of fall nature items, as well as wooden letters, which were hidden throughout the woods, that spelled out D-E-M-A-R-E-S-T. Everyone had a great time, and if you missed it, check out the bulletin board for instructions on completing both challenges any time.

In December, DNC Board Member and Demarest native Dave Emerson educated us about the rich and varied history of the nature center. In January, our board member and Certified Arborist, Ray Slaman led a walk about the "trees, flora and fauna that are alive in the winter months". Our next monthly DNC Community Trail Walk is on Feb. 3rd, Saturday morning at 10am. Keep an eye out on social media for upcoming hikes, which will take place the first Saturday of each month at 10am.

TRAIL CLEAN-UPS

We also had many clean-up days for trails. Community members both young and older donned their work boots and gloves to clear trails and make the nature center a safer and more enjoyable place for all. Thank you to all who participated in these events that are vital to the health and safety of the nature center.

A special shout-out!

On Nov. 15th, a huge cottonwood tree fell on our main red trail not too far from the bulletin board. Our board member Ray Slaman, a Certified Arborist, single handedly sectioned it to reopen the trail. Thank you, Ray.



WINTER BIRD COUNT

On December 16th, DNC members participated in the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. We identified 175 birds from 22 different species while enjoying a beautiful day together.

BIRDS SEEN AT THE DEMAREST NATURE CENTER

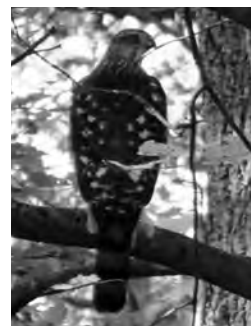


From Left to right: Cedar Waxwing, Red-tailed Hawk, and the DNC mascot Blue Heron. Photos by Jeff Shaari

FALL BIRDWATCHING WALK on October 15th

We had beautiful weather for a great day of bird sighting. Don Torino of Bergen County Audubon Society again led us on a wonderful day of birdwatching, one of his "best (bird sightings) in months" right here at our Demarest Nature Center! All levels are welcome to join us for the next spring Birdwatching in April/May. Follow us on Instagram & Facebook or check the DNC website for the date.

Coopers Hawk
Photographed by Kevin Avery
of Bergen County Audubon Society
from our Fall Birdwatching Walk



Another special shout-out to our Demarest DPW!

Once again, the Borough DPW came to the rescue. A logjam in the Tenakill Brook near the Closter border was causing a chokepoint and back up of garbage. Jason Gangi of DPW and staff cleared the large box on the western bank and tree debris from the brook to let the water flow again. Thank you, Jason and DPW. We also plan on purchasing additional waders to help volunteers clean out garbage and debris from the brook.

After a recent storm on Dec 17th, we have some more cleaning-up to do! Anyone interested in rolling up their sleeves, putting on some gloves, and helping us clean up our trails, please contact our Trails Committee Chairperson Jeff Shaari at info@demarestnaturecenter.org.

DEMAREST NATURE CENTER RECAP

DNC BOARD MEMBER PICNIC

The volunteer board members met and enjoyed an outdoor picnic at the nature center. It was a nice break to chat and get to know one another better, rather than just busily planning and running our programs. We also brainstormed for more ideas of programs to institute next year. Keep your eyes and ears out for new and exciting programs at DNC.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

Demarest Nature Center participated in the Halloween parade. Many children in adorable costumes received wildflower seed packets and sweet candies. Thank you to all who visited our table.

DEMAREST DAY

The Demarest Nature Center participated in Demarest Day on November 4th. We debuted our photo stand, demonstrated here with by our Master Arborist Ray Slaman and the former mayor of Demarest Ray Cywinski. Guess which Ray is where?



Photo by Jin Kupperman



Photo of Joshua
by Stacey Braff

There were many people who took a chance at guessing how many acorns were in the jar. Congratulations to Joshua Kim for the correct guess and winning our Demarest Nature Center T-shirt! Unfortunately, we were not able to notify the winner of the Tree Ring guess contest; the entry was illegible. Please write your contact information clearly so we can find you.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 20 OF DEMAREST

The Demarest Nature Center is proud to be the sponsor charter organization for Boy Scout Troop 20 of Demarest. We look forward to partnering with them to maintain the beauty of the DNC. The Boy Scouts are having an information session on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, from 5:30PM-7:30PM at the Demarest Train Station. For more information, please contact them at dnc.troop.20.demarest@gmail.com.

COUNTING TREE RINGS

Many know how to tell how old a tree is by counting the rings, but what exactly do those "rings" represent? And what else can they tell us?

All trees go through phases of growth each year followed by periods of relative dormancy. Typically, trees rapidly add new wood to the trunk and branches just beneath the bark in the spring; this wood is known as earlywood, or springwood. As the vigorous growing season slows down, the tree adds latewood, also called summerwood. During fall, trees go relatively dormant, and no new wood is added until the cycle begins again the following spring. This transition from the previous season's latewood to the next season's earlywood is what demarcates an annual ring. In some species, such as oaks and ash, the difference between early- and latewood is dramatic and can be seen with the naked eye. Therefore, the transition from one year's growth ring to the next is quite obvious. Other trees, such as maples and cherries, have more uniform early- and latewood, and the distinction between years is subtle and harder to identify, but still present if you look closely. When a tree is cut down, the saw marks can obscure the rings, sometimes making it difficult to identify individual rings in certain species.

Growth ring width can also vary from season to season and can give clues as to the weather for a given year. Wide rings can signify a season of vigorous growth (such as with heavy rainfall), while periods of drought can lead to slow growth and therefore narrow annual rings.

Keep an eye out for fallen and sawn tree trunks in the nature center and see if you can determine how old they are!

--- CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA! ---



[facebook.com/people/Demarest-Nature-Center/100091316019265/](https://www.facebook.com/people/Demarest-Nature-Center/100091316019265/)



[instagram.com/demarestnaturectr/](https://www.instagram.com/demarestnaturectr/)

www.demarestnaturecenter.org

email: info@demarestnaturecenter.org

Newsletter articles by Jeff Shaari & Jin Kupperman
Edited by Jin Kupperman, Laura Nelson, & Peter Coy

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Jin Kupperman, *Vice President*

Laura Nelson, *Secretary*

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DEMAREST NATURE CENTER ASSN.

Borough of Demarest

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UPCOMING 2024 WINTER & SPRING EVENTS AT DNC

January 6th – Community Trail Walk at 10am. “Trees, flora and fauna that are alive in the winter months at DNC” led by master arborist Ray Slaman

February 3rd – Community Trail Walk at 10am. Topic: “The Structure of Wood - the Magic Beneath the Bark.”

February 10th – Maple Syrup Day. 10:00AM – 12:00PM (Noon). Details to follow.

March 2nd – Community Trail walk and Spring Volunteer Clean Up at 10am.

March 31st – The John Goodwin Photo Contest Entries are due. Please email your digital photographs to info@demarestnaturecenter.org.

April 6th – Community Trail Walk at 10am.

April 14th – Spring Birdwatching Walk led by Don Torino with Bergen County Audubon Society - 10am..

April Date TBD – Spring Canoe rides and Birdfeeder workshop. Beekeeper visit.

April 27th – Celebrate Earth and Arbor Day at Demarest Nature Center

May 4th – Community Trail Walk with a mushroom forager from 1-4pm. A mushroom forager, the Wildman Steve Brill is coming to Demarest on May 4th from 1-4pm. In a co-sponsored event with Demarest Library, Steve will discuss wild mushrooms from 1-2pm, then lead a walk from 2-4pm to find mushrooms that grow in our nature center. Come and learn about the mushrooms that are growing in May at the nature center! Some of the mushrooms that are seen at DNC during the year are photographed here.



Photos by Jin Kupperman

You can read ahead to learn the basics about Mushrooms.

- Mushroom Foraging – Gathering your own wild mushrooms. <https://www.incrediblemushrooms.com/wild-mushroom-foraging.html>
- Mushroom Mycelium – The underground network that connects & supports all life. <https://www.incrediblemushrooms.com/mycelium.html>
- North American Mycological Association – <https://namyco.org/>

May 31st – Applications for Environmental Science Scholarship for High School Students due.

June 1st – National Trails Day at Demarest Nature Center. Details to follow.

July Date TBD – Demarest Summer Rec Camp visit to DNC

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

We now have four Lifetime members! Welcome Dave T. Robertson, our latest DNC lifetime member. Thank you very much to all those who joined our membership and donated to support Demarest Nature Center in 2023. Memberships and donations allow us to continue to provide quality programs for our community and stewardship of our nature center. If you are interested in donating a picnic table or bench in honor or memory of a loved one(s), please reach out to Jin Kupperman at info@demarestnaturecenter.org. Current members and supporters of DNC.

TRAIL WALKER

David Aboudi
Paul Abrams
Teddy Alevrontas
Cynthia Allen
Roz & Stuart Alpert
Mark Cetta
Siu Chan
William Christian
Eileen & Robert Corrado
Sue DeSimone
David Emerson
Robert Helder
Shelby Hyde
Bill & Frances Khani
Marybeth Kunsch
George & Iriani, Anna Lilikas
James Macaluso

Kevin & Ann McDermott
Elizabeth & Carlos Molina
Richard Motta
Julia & Jack Oconnor
Rinat & Gad Shachar
Faye Sloan
Joan & Walter Stein
Jean Strickholm
Gozen & Sadettin Tuysuzoglu
Richard & Clair Van Buren
Peter & Patricia Zampieri
Robert Zenorini

TRAIL HIKER

Youngmi and Brian Bailey
Nancy Coppola
Roy Eisemann
Naomi & Alan Epstein

Donna Giannetti
Steven Glassman
Edward & Olga Greenwald
Susan & Hershey Groff
Joel & Mary Hamilton
Masaaki & Kumiko Ishikura
Rosemarie Ivaldi
Chris Jones
Sindy & Mike Kang
Elise Kenn
Ammu & Ajay Kirtane
Scott & Johanna Lasky Family
Teddy Lourbas
Karen Maloof
Amy Mazer
Linda Nikiti
Zamira Pirie
Lisa Schmid

Jeff Shaari
Alison Sheeley
Jeffrey Shelton
Judy - Howard Simon
Cynthia Soroka
Judith Stavits
Cornelia Kathe Whitney
Mia Koonja Woo
Andrew Zimmerman

TRAIL RANGER

Wilson & Gloria Aboudi
Richard Bower
Stacy Braff
Peter Coy
William & Susan Feil
Ruthellen Fried
Charles Garbaccio

Jutta Greweldinger
Mei Li Han
Michael Hubschman
Rosemary Hunt
Warren & Barbara Johnson
Peggy Kabakow
Tae Eung Kim
Deborah King
Max & Ellen Leimgruber
Theodore & Marianne Martens
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Kretschmer
Krishna Kumar

LIFETIME

Steve Chen
Patricia Chen
Jin & David Kupperman
Dave Robertson

Membership & donor database by Steve Chen

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.