



Welcome!
Terry & Bill Bush, new members.

Remember, Refreshments First!
Social time and refreshments - 7:30pm.
Meeting and programs to begin - 8:00 pm.

October Meeting

On Monday, October 10, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. Audubon Wildlife Society will hold its monthly meeting at the Audubon Senior Center, Oak Street and Oakland Ave. This month's program will be a presentation on land preservation in Chatsworth by Chris Jage from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. Jean Gutsmuth and Patsy Kirchhoffer will be in charge of refreshments!

Message from our President, Pat Brundage

It is with regret and reluctance that I have accepted Augie Sexauer's resignation as Chairperson of the Ingersoll Fund Committee. Augie has been chairperson of the Ingersoll Fund Committee since its inception in the early 1990s when the bequest was made to AWS. He has been a driving force behind the club's conservation efforts and recognized where land acquisitions would protect the important flora and fauna of the area and region. Today Augie's efforts are no less. He has worked with Sarah Summerville, who is increasing the acreage of the Unexpected Refuge parcel by parcel. He will continue to support the club and the Ingersoll Fund Committee as he is able. We consider him a valuable resource and member. We wish him well. Thank you Augie.

Another person that I would like to recognize as a wonderful contributor to our club is Kathy Kellagher. Kathy served as our corresponding secretary and newsletter editor through our fiscal year 2005. She showed great patience with those of us who like to wait until the last minute to get our "piece" out to her. Thank you Kathy.
-Pat Brundage

Upcoming Field Trips

Absecon Inlet

On Sunday, October 9, 2005 - Audubon Wildlife Society will host a field trip to Absecon Inlet to view migrating waterfowl. The trip will be lead by Ed Bruder. The public is invited. For directions or additional information please contact Joan Ziegler at 856-428-1914.

Franklin Parker Preserve

On Saturday October 22, 2005 Chris Jage, will be leading a 2 mile hike on the 9,400 acre Franklin Parker Preserve in Chatsworth, NJ. It is advised that you bring water and tick repellent. We will meet at the Chatsworth Firehouse at the intersection of routes 563 and 532 at 9:00am.

Directions from Audubon are as follows:

Take 295 North to Route 70 East. Follow Route 70 East for about 13 miles to the 70/72 circle. Take Route 70 East for approximately 3.5 miles to CR 563 South. Take 563 south for 4 miles. The Firehouse will be on the right. Park behind the firehouse against the tree line.

The hike should last about 1.5-2 hours and afterwards we can visit Buzby's General store that has the best selection of pine barrens books, prints, and gifts anywhere!

For more information contact Chris Jage:
ph & fx: 856.767.2632
chris@njconservation.org



Cranberry bog & Red root

Field Trip Reports

Johnson Sod Farm

Many thanks to Ed Bruder for leading this field trip on Sunday September 4, 2005. The species sited were submitted by Ed Bruder.

American Golden Plover, 12-15, Johnson's Sod
Black Belly Plover, 2, Johnson's Sod
Buff Breasted Sandpiper, 6-8, Johnson's Sod
Horned Lark, 2, Johnson's Sod
Red Tailed Hawk, Johnson's Sod
Barn Swallows, Johnson's Sod
Tree Swallows, Johnson's Sod
Snow Geese, 2, Rt. 77 2miles below Pole Tavern
Adult Wild Turkey, 4, Watson's Canhouse Road
Young Wild Turkey, 4, Watson's Canhouse Road
Cattle Egret, 1, Route 40 West of Woodstown
Semi-Palmated Plover, 4, East Coast, Delea Sod
Pectoral Sandpipers, 2, East Coast, Delea Sod
American Golden Plover, 16-18, Featherbed Lane
Killdeer, 2, Featherbed Lane
Com. Moorain?, 5, Birch Creek Marsh
Wood Duck, 11, Birch Creek Marsh
Great Egret, 13, Birch Creek Marsh
Green Wing Teal, 10, Birch Creek Marsh

Saddler's Woods

Maggi Downham of Saddler's Woods Conservation Association followed up the September presentation with a Tree Tour of Saddler's Woods. The weather cooperated for the tour and 19 people came out for a walk in the shade of the woods. The tour included views of some of the old growth giants such as two Willow Oaks - 275 years, Chestnut Oak - 100 years, two Tulip Poplars - 200 years, White Oak - 400 years and the 300 year old American Beech known as the Emancipation Beech. Visitors were also shown restoration areas where volunteers remove non-native invasive species such as Garlic mustard, Japanese stilt grass, Japanese Knotweed, and Multiflora Rose. Visitors also got to see evidence of summer storms in the form of lightning licks on Tulip poplars and Black Locust trees. The lightning licks will create snags, a perfect place for woodpeckers!



Tour of Saddler's Woods

For those who missed the guided tour, you may wish to explore the woods on your own using the recently installed self-guided tour system. There are 15 numbered stops in the woods and a brochure/map dispenser on the trail across from the Middle School Driveway on MacArthur Boulevard. Saddler's Woods Conservation Association is extremely grateful to Bill Bush and John Barry, new AWS members who were on the tour and responded to our call for help to install the posts. They came back out Sunday afternoon and boy did they work hard! We couldn't have done it without you!

-Janet Goehner-Jacobs

Field Notes from Bear Swamp 2005 **by Augie Sexaur**

This spring was rather cool and wet, not warming up until the first part of April. Except for one day, February 15th, and one day only, the temperature did rise and my thoughts turned to Woodcock. On the spur of the moment I visited the power line cut where it crosses Hawkins Road. As I waited at dusk a Hermit Thrust disturbed by my presence scolded me with a low "tuk-tuk" note, then a Screech Owl joined in with a descending "whinny" from the forest edge, both sounds fitting in beautifully with the gathering darkness.

Soon I heard the "beezp-beezp" notes of the Woodcock on the ground followed by the trill made by the winds as the bird ascended to his aerial display high overhead. I felt privileged to witness three different males displaying that evening.

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On April 14th as Emily, Sue, and I checked the condition of the nest boxes before the arrival of the Prothonotary Warblers, we found the first migrants had already arrived; Louisiana Waterthrush, black and White Warbler and Blue Grey Gnatcatcher. Our first sighting of a Prothonotary Warbler occurred on April 21st.

On April 26th a Barred Owl called from south of Hawkins Road on private land. I am happy to report this 708-acre cranberry farm bordering Hawkins Road on the south is to be protected from development as farmland preservation.

On May 10th Don Jones and I watched as two Red Shouldered Hawks circled high in the air in what appeared to be a pair bonding display. Both Barred Owls and Red Shouldered Hawks are endangered species in New Jersey. This is but one example of what makes Bear Swamp a unique natural area.

As we checked the nest boxes each week, we enjoyed the beautiful sights and sounds of many other species; Hooded Warblers, Blue Winged Warblers, Worm Eating Warblers, Acadian Flycatchers and Yellow Billed Cuckoos to name a few. According to a list compiled by Ward Dasey, there are approximately 73 breeders in Bear Swamp. This year's totals are equal to last year with 10 nest starts, 43 eggs laid, and 29 young fledged. Again I want to thank Sue Slim and Emily Kingsbury for their help and support this year. One final note, Hawkins Road is due to be paved sometime this year. Be careful where you park, as the road may become a speedway after paving.

-Augie Sexaur

Upcoming Fundraising Events

Saturday Oct. 1st Collingswood Farmers Market

AWS will host a table at the Collingswood Farmers market from 8am – 12pm. We will sell plants, trees, and seeds. Stop by and see us! The Farmer's Market is located under the PATCO tracks between Collings and Irvin Aves.

The BIG SIT Saturday October 15, Raindate October 16

This is a reminder that the Big Sit is a great opportunity for AWS to raise money. The object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within a 24-hour period. You can collect pledges for each species you see. Pledge forms and information will be forwarded to AWS members.

To volunteer or make a pledge for the Big Sit contact: Merilee Heffron at (856) 854-0173.

Visit the Bird Watcher's Digest website:

<http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/funbirds/bigsit/bigsit.aspx>

Botanizing In The Pines-by John Maret

On Saturday, September 17, several members of AWS joined a group from the Burlington County Natural Sciences Club for a trip to the Pine Barrens with Father Nature, a/k/a, Howard Boyd. We met Howard at the town hall in Tabernacle where he gathered everyone and laid out our itinerary. Then we had to floor it as our 91 year-old leader blazed down the Carranza Highway towards our first stop, Hampton Gate (the "Gate" refers to the entrance to a former iron furnace; neither gate nor furnace exist today). Along the roadside at this unmarked spot with the grandiose name we found the small white flower sprays of Joint Weed, the purple spikes of Blazing Star and the elusive and beautiful blue Pine-Barren Gentian. Earlier season celebrities such as Sweet Pepper-Bush and the ground-hugging Trailing Arbutus were also pointed out. One had to feel sorry for the occupants of the occasional passing car who were presumably ignorant of the beauties we were beholding but if it weren't for Howard we would have been sailing by also. Amazingly, Howard knows the man responsible for mowing that stretch of road shoulder and the two of them collaborate on when to cut and when not to, the type of joint stewardship between conservationists and governments/owners that's needed at all levels.

On we went to other roadside places, one of which gave us an open view of a cedar bog. There with Howard's guidance we found and admired the

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beautiful, white, three-petaled flower of Arrow-Head which, we will never forget, has very long, narrow leaves reminiscent of arrow points.



Least Skipper Butterfly

Tiny orange Least Skippers flitted from flower to flower and native loosestrife was also spotted in the clutter of vegetation. After navigating a dusty dirt road, we stopped at a white cedar swamp. Howard wanted us to have the experience of walking into one and, he joked, was “afraid to go in there alone”. We bravely took the challenge and followed him onto the soft sphagnum moss that covered the ground, moving quietly among the branchless trunks of the cedars. Maybe he wasn’t joking – it was a bit spooky in there. We next stopped at a “plains” area to see Sand Myrtle and Conrad’s Broom-Crowberry, the latter a disjunct or isolated population brought to the Barrens during the ice age. The nearest place it’s known to appear is in the Shawangunk mountains of southern New York and it has put down roots sporadically northwards to Maine.

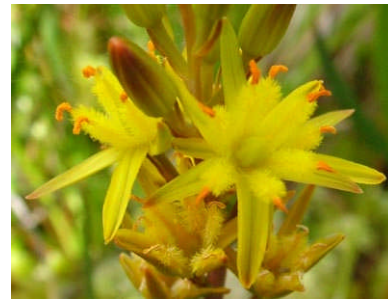
Plant names flew at each stop – Orange Milkwort, Flat-topped Goldenrod, Nuttall’s Lobelia, Turkey Beard – as we worked our way to our ultimate destination, Webb’s Bog. This is a preserved area along a busy highway and we moved down a narrow path from the road shoulder to the beginning of a boardwalk. I was surprised by how small the area was – the boardwalk just circles out and back and we could see the whole show from where we stood – but it was rich indeed. Pitcher plants were everywhere. Rose Pogonia and Bog Asphodel, both past blooming, were pointed out. Bog Asphodel is a Federally listed species in NJ and the Pines are a great place to see it. It’s still a beautiful plant at this time of year with striking, upright seed heads and I’m sure its yellow blooms are gorgeous to see. Before

we’d completed our slow march around the walk we’d found numerous other species, among them Bog Aster, Golden Club, Thread-leaved Sundew and the impossibly small Curly-grass Fern picked out by the impossibly sharp-eyed Jean Gutsmuth. One of our troop mentioned that the bog is an excellent place to hear the calls of the gem-like Pine Barrens Tree Frog.

It was a long trip and at the end I was a little wilted by the heat. I was happy to have seen many new plants but most of all I was grateful for people like Howard Boyd.

Think of the best teachers you’ve ever had. Each may have shown a different style but they all shared a great love and enthusiasm for their subject, a trait that Howard exhibits to a high degree. And he took good care of us. Each time before the caravan rolled, he’d appear to our left, looking down the line of cars to make sure everyone was there while exposing his thin frame to a possible errant pick-up or ATV coming the other way. He paused at turns in the road to allow the less speedy to catch up and he asked for a vote on lunch (lunch was defeated in preference to finding more plants). After each stop he summarized the plants we had seen. We as a group are very fortunate to have access to those like Howard who are willing and able to share some portion of the huge knowledge they’ve acquired and who still whoop at the sight of something like a Bog Asphodel.

-John Maret, October, 2005



Bog Asphodel

Day of Gold -by John Maret

September began as a rebuke to a week of ugly and stifling weather. The sky was scrubbed clean of clouds, the humidity dropped and the air became buoyant. All of Nature rejoiced including the creature whose name appears below. On the Saturday of

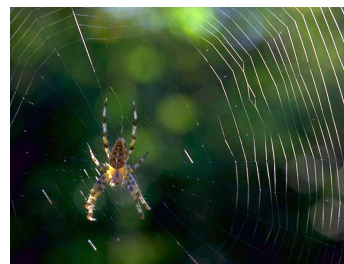
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Labor Day weekend I took a morning walk to the top of Beacon Hill on the Assunpink WMA. The hill is kept in meadow and provides a panoramic view. A northwest breeze made the long, pale grasses kowtow as I walked up the gentle slope. The path, as wide as a horse cart, was soft and sandy. Grasshoppers the color of the earth shot from under my feet like sparks from a fire. Many of the trees around the base of the hill are mature wild cherry and the ripe fruit had attracted large flocks of Starlings and Cedar Waxwings. When I had climbed to about tree-top level, I turned to watch the birds through my binoculars. Several times I saw groups of waxwings suddenly explode from the canopy. There were no hawks and I concluded that overcrowding was responsible for this irrational behavior (Homo sapiens, take note). Like other exquisite birds such as the Northern Flicker, waxwings can be pretty nondescript in flight but this morning the magnificent light showed their soft yellow breasts as they flew madly in large ellipses before lighting again on the cherry branches. When I turned back to my walk, I saw Clouded Sulfur butterflies bobbing over the tall weeds. A few landed on the path ahead of me. Their beautiful yellow wings seemed celebratory, like banners at a tournament.

The visibility from the top of the hill was extraordinary and the horizon was crisp in all directions. Just as I was getting used to the idea of having this huge space all to myself, a head wearing a black riding hat appeared a couple of hundred yards off. A mounted figure materialized on the crest of the hill, then another close behind, then two more further back. The riders turned out to be a British family, parents in front, teenaged children to the rear and between them a good-sized pack of black and tan foxhounds which they took care to steer down a spur of the trail away from me. They were in pursuit of nothing more than a beautiful morning together. I watched them amble leisurely away, the dogs with their noses to the ground and their tails curving forward over their backs. I thought of a previous trip here when I had spotted a red fox sitting on its haunches curiously watching my explorations. There wasn't much around this time: the fox was absent and it was apparently too late in the season for the Yellow-breasted Chats and Blue Grosbeaks. But a large praying mantis went spectacularly airborne for a few seconds, and the wonderful air carried warm, grassy scents. That was enough.

Not wanting to lose my peaceful mood, I purposely took a long time to cover the hill but eventually chores and errands had to be faced and I went home. The rest of the day raced by in a frenzy of activity until twilight when I had the chance to sit on my front step and relax again. The last rays of light were slanting under the maple leaves. Looking up, I saw a large spider playing music composed by the sun on the golden harp he had strung among the branches.
-John Maret, October, 2005



Golden Silk Spider

Other Club Events

Program: Burlington County Natural Sciences Club, BCNSC presents, "World Series of Birding-A Big Day" by Joe Constanza and Cliff Jones. October 12, 2005. BCNSC meets the second Wednesday of the month, September through May at 7:45pm in Medford Twp. Safety Building, Court Room Union and Jones Sts. (off Rt. 70) Medford, NJ

For more information on BCNSC go visit:
<http://oldsquaw.tripod.com/index.html>

Top Nature programs on TV:

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**National Geographic Channel:
Totally Wild**

Catch wildlife's deadly, terrifying, and beautiful moments and learn about Mother Nature's most mysterious creatures—and their shocking habits. It's all *Totally Wild*.



**National Geographic Channel:
Be the Creature**

Brothers and award-winning filmmakers Chris and Martin Kratt travel from the Serengeti plains to the Galapagos Islands, gaining astonishing proximity to nature's most extraordinary creatures. Join them as they delve into the animals' world by walking in their tracks, swimming in their seas and sleeping under their sky.



*NOTE: Airtime may vary between Satellite and Cable services. Check your providers listing for accuracy.

To view the National Geographic Channel's TV schedule go to:

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/ET/daily/daily.html>

**PBS Channel:
Nature**

Tune into Nature, on PBS stations and learn about earth's creatures and their habitats in this weekly natural history series. Airtime: 8:00pm Sundays in most areas. Check Local Listings.

October's Programming is as follows:

- October 2, Deep Jungle: The Beast Within
- October 9, Violent Hawaii
- October 16, Shark Mountain
- October 23, Cuba, Wild Island of the Caribbean



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