



**Mark Your Calendar:**

**Saturday, March 10, 2007 9:00am**

Salem County Field trip lead by Chris Herz and Jean Gutschuth. Meet at Richman's ice cream.

**Monday, March 12, 2007 7:30pm**

Meeting & Program, "Butterfly Gardening" by AWS member Chris Herz.

**March Meeting**

Our next meeting will be on Monday March 12, 2007 7:30pm at the Audubon Senior Center, Oak and Oakland Avenues in Audubon, NJ. The meeting will feature a program on Butterfly Gardening by AWS member, Chris Herz. Our refreshment volunteers are David and Janet Goehner-Jacobs.

**Butterfly Gardening Program**

A butterfly garden is not only great for butterflies but can also be beautiful and fairly easy to maintain. Combining the right nectar plants for our area with selected host plants will dramatically increase the diversity of species and number of butterflies visiting your garden. Learn about which plants will attract which species. Chris Herz, AWS club member, is an avid gardener and looks for butterflies both locally and in the field.



*Viceroy, Photo by Chris Herz.*

**President's Message**

The "house on the river" is done and the furniture that I have accumulated has been moved. But that means 'the project' that consumed so much of my time and energy over the last two plus years has ended! Am I glad or sad?

As we go about the day to day stuff, we accomplish what we have to and put off what we hope to accomplish. This accomplishment happened because it became something I had to do. It was a major restoration/rehab! A 140 year old Second Empire style house on the Delaware River that had to be restored on the exterior and rehabbed on the interior was my 'project'.

I am glad it's done. It is beautiful. And now I can start a different project. This taught me a great deal about how to attack the big items to on my daily "To Do" list. I label them as 'projects'! My next "project" will be to see you on an upcoming field trip! Happy March!

Pat Brundage

**Salem County Field Trip Sat. March 10, 2007**

Meet at 9:00am at Richman's Ice Cream on Route 40 and Old King's Highway. We will carpool to various spots in Salem County looking for waterfowl, meadowlark, snow geese, and white-crowned sparrows. Restrooms are available in Richman's and we will stop back close to lunch time. Dress warmly and bring binoculars, lunch, and a scope if you have one. Trip will be co-lead by Jean Gutschuth and Chris Herz. Questions: call Chris 856-546-5471 or Jean 856-546-9170

**Directions Salem County field trip:**

Take 295 South to Exit 4 (Route 48). Continue east on Route 48 until it joins Route 40. Continue east on Route 40, past Cowtown Rodeo (on right) to Sharptown (approximately 3 miles). There is a traffic light with a gas station and RICHMAN'S on the left side. We will meet at Richman's at 9 AM.

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Please send news items to Janet Goehner-Jacobs at [awspublicity@aol.com](mailto:awspublicity@aol.com)

<http://www.audubonwildlifesociety.org>

\*Note: To read the February Field trip report by John Courtney go to:  
<http://www.audubonwildlifesociety.org>

### **Call for Officers**

It's time to start gearing up for our upcoming year! We are seeking volunteers to serve as officers of the club. In particular, we are in need of a First Vice President. The First Vice President is responsible for scheduling the programs for each meeting. The club has a working file with many contacts to get a willing volunteer started. To volunteer for this or another board position please contact Jean at [jeangutsmuth@yahoo.com](mailto:jeangutsmuth@yahoo.com) or 856-546-9170.

### **ATTENTION: April Field Trip Change**

There is a new date for our April field trip to Sandy hook. It has been changed to Saturday April 28, 2007 (instead of April 29<sup>th</sup>). In our next newsletter we will be giving directions and the meeting time.

### **May Garden Tour**

Once again, by popular demand, we will be holding a tour of our gardens on Saturday May 19, 2007. All members are invited to show off their gardens to us. We welcome last year's participants to see what has transpired in their gardens for the past year, and all other members, friends, neighbors and relatives who want to share their gardens with us. As last year, we will travel from home to home in a caravan. Everyone really enjoyed this outing last year and it's always fun and informative to see what other gardeners have created. Please call Joan Ziegler at 856 428 -1914 in the evenings if you are interested in participating. Remember we are also welcoming your friends, relatives and neighbors.



*"Eurasian Wigeon was a good find at the North Shore." Photo by Chip Krilowicz.*

### **A Peaceful Scene**

I changed jobs early last November. At the edge of the corporate park I now work in is a retaining pond shaped somewhat like the hind foot of a beaver. It's bordered on its east and south sides by part of the network of roads that laces the park. I approach the pond in the morning from the heel of the foot and make a right turn at the toes. Sunk in the grass on the pond bank is a sign proclaiming the avian preferences of the park management company. It displays the image of a readily-identifiable, large bird bisected by a wide, red bend dexter. Below are the words, "No Geese". Indeed, there are none.

Helping to maintain the status quo during my first couple of months was a pair of large mute swans. I've no idea how long they'd been there, only that they arrived no later than my first day on the job. For all I know they might be on the payroll of the management company: years ago, the CEO of a major oil company had swans installed in the ponds of his outfit's huge campus to keep the hated Canadas away. The swans in my park had no competition from the goose team but most mornings they were joined by a Great Blue Heron who stood on the thick stone collar of an inlet pipe looking rather ruffled. It was very late in the year, after all, and he seemed to be afflicted by a sense of dread. The one time I saw him in motion he was zig-zagging over the water trying to evade a pesky Ring-billed Gull. The swans were far too sophisticated and reserved to ever seem hurried or agitated. They were either resting on the shore or calmly plumbing the water with their long necks as they harvested vegetable matter from the pond bottom.

The adjective "serene" is often used to describe these birds and it is most apt. Remember that the weather in late fall and early winter was very mild and there were few blustery days. As the pond came into view from the road I'd see the pair gliding peacefully on the smooth surface. Occasionally, they'd be floating next to each other with heads tucked under their wings like two giant origami figures. Other times they'd be standing in the shallows near the same inlet pipe favored by the Blue Heron (conspicuously absent on such occasions) preening or asleep side by side on the shore. Once, not seeing them in any of their accustomed spots, I turned my head to the right and saw a large, disheveled white pile under a tree. My first thought was that coyotes had intruded upon the birds' idyll. Even though I had a pressing appointment, I turned around as soon as I could, came back and drove into a parking lot to get a better

look - just a large, discarded plastic bag. I felt a bit foolish having thought a mere coyote could have prevailed against that huge, hissing palisade of white feathers that is an annoyed Mute Swan.

Finally, colder weather arrived and one morning the pond was covered by a thin skim of opaque ice reflecting a pewter-colored sky. Undaunted, the pair was out foraging, leaving a trail of geometric shards behind them, just like the ice breakers I had seen once on the Hudson River. The cold continued and the ice thickened. The birds were able to keep a pool open near the inlet pipe which presumably provided access to enough food. They seemed as comfortable and unconcerned there as they did when they had the run of the entire pond. A light snow fell and the wind blew it against the edges where the ice had heaved, dividing the pond into lateral sections. The pool near the inlet pipe shrunk. One morning it was gone and so were the swans.

John Maret  
March, 2007

**Renew State Preservation Trust**

The future of the Garden State Preservation Trust, New Jersey's funding mechanism for open space, farmland and historic site preservation, is uncertain.

The trust will run out of money this year, and matching funds for grants to local governments have already been exhausted. Nevertheless, the governor has failed to fund this critical program in his proposed budget despite his repeated public acknowledgements of the program's importance. Most recently, the governor lauded the program during the State of the State address. New Jersey Audubon Society and our coalition partners recognize these difficult budget times. However, the state cannot afford to wait to invest in open space, farmland and historic site preservation.

Already the most densely populated state, New Jersey loses 40 acres of land to development each day. At that rate, it will be fully built up within 25 years. Protecting open spaces stabilizes local property taxes. The acquisition of open space, unlike new development, does not put many demands on municipal taxes. These areas quickly pay for themselves, and then provide long-term savings and substantial environmental and economic benefits to communities. Urban parks, natural areas and historic sites are also vital components of any urban revitalization strategy. These areas create a high

quality of life that attracts taxpaying businesses and residents and redirects growth back into urban areas. They also support the growth of our state and local economies by increasing retail and tourism activity and attracting new industries and skilled workers to New Jersey communities.

Open space also safeguards air and drinking water quality, affecting public health, health care costs and drinking water treatment. It provides important habitat for wildlife and opportunities for hiking, jogging and other physical activity, which increase fitness and contribute to reducing obesity.

In addition, the Garden State Preservation Trust provides a vital match for the dedicated local open space taxes collected annually by all 21 counties and more than 225 municipalities. For municipalities and counties to continue receiving Green Acres and State Agriculture Development Committee grants, GSPT must be replenished this year. We must also include funds to operate and maintain open space and historic sites. For decades, we have been unable to provide sufficient funding to properly take care of existing and newly acquired areas. As a result, these areas are often poorly maintained, inaccessible and unsafe; they also lack basic services and facilities.

Not only do New Jersey's citizens deserve a first-class system of public lands, but not caring for our land now is an irresponsible way to manage state investments and will cost us money in the long run. We cannot afford to wait to replenish the trust. We urge the governor to fulfill his commitment to renew and strengthen the GSPT this year as a critical investment in all New Jersey's communities, and we commend the state Legislature for taking a lead on this issue by recently introducing legislation to renew the trust.

Thomas J. Gilmore

*Thomas J. Gilmore, the president of New Jersey Audubon Society, submitted this article for the Keep It Green Campaign, a coalition of environmental, sportsmen, urban park advocacy, historic preservation and faith-based organizations in New Jersey.*

**Other Club's Events:**

**Burlington County Natural Sciences Club**, BCNSC presents, "PSE&G Wetlands Reclamation Projects and Estuary Enhancement" by Mark Strickland on Wednesday March 14, 2007. BCNSC Meets the second Wednesday of the month, September through May at 7:45pm in Lumberton Leas Meeting Room, Lumberton, NJ. For more information on BCNSC go visit: <http://oldsquaw.tripod.com/index.html>



*Rarely seen in New Jersey, this Evening Grosbeak was spotted in Algonquin Park, Ontario, Canada on 2-17-07. Photo by Sandra Keller.*

**Saddler's Woods Tree Plantings**

Saddler's Woods Conservation Association will be planting trees in Saddler's Woods on Thursday, April 19, 2007 starting at 1:00pm and also on Monday April 23, 2007 starting at 2:30pm. For both events we will meet by the pump buildings on MacArthur Boulevard across from the Haddonview high rise apartments. To sign up contact Janet at (856) 869-7372 or [janet@saddlerswoods.org](mailto:janet@saddlerswoods.org).

**Saddler's Woods: Birding with Michael Hogan**

On Saturday May 5, 2007 at 10:00am renowned photographer and NJ naturalist, Michael Hogan, will lead a birding walk through Saddler's Woods. We will meet by the pump buildings on MacArthur Boulevard across from the Haddonview high rise apartments. To sign up contact Janet at (856) 869-7372 or [janet@saddlerswoods.org](mailto:janet@saddlerswoods.org).

**Nature Programs on DVD:**

If you haven't had a chance to see **An Inconvenient Truth**, it is now out on DVD. Al Gore's Oscar winning documentary chronicles the plight of global warming and what we can do to reduce our own impact. Rent it today!

**Nature Programs on TV:**

**Nature: Ireland**

Airs on WHYY Sunday, March, 11 at 8:00pm. Although green is its emblematic color, Ireland's verdant fields are not the nation's only extraordinary natural feature. Sculpted millions of years ago by the advance and retreat of vast shields of ice, the Emerald Isle harbors a wealth of wildlife among its craggy mountains, fog-shrouded coastlines, steep gorges and vast networks of inland waterways. This program illustrates the modern-day legacy of Ireland's ice-bound past.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/preview.html>