



**Mark Your Calendar:**

**Field Trip: Pine Barrens in Bloom  
Saturday June 23, 2007 9:30am lead by  
Mary Belko. Rain or Shine.**

**Field Trip: Butterflies at Medford Leas  
Saturday, July 7, 2007 9:00am lead by Dave  
Amadio. Raindate July 14.**

**Pine Barrens in Bloom Field Trip**  
**Saturday June 23, 9:30am**

Join Mary Belko from the New Jersey Audubon Society, Rancocas Nature Center for a "Pine Barrens In Bloom" field trip on Saturday, June 23rd. It will be exciting to have this opportunity to introduce you to some of her favorite spots in the Pine Barrens. We will see some of the pine barrens specialties in bloom. We will meet at 9:30 A.M. at the parking area by the main office of the Brendan Byrne State Forest (formerly Lebanon State Forest), which is about one mile east of the intersection of Rt. 70 and 72. See the enclosed directions. The trip should end around 2:00 P.M.

Mary Belko will be wearing a New Jersey Audubon Society Polo-Shirt . We will be hiking and carpooling within the state forest for the morning and having lunch at Pakim Pond. There is a Wawa close to the park, but you may wish to bring your lunch packed in a cooler, since there will be no way to refrigerate it. If you tend to get hungry mid-morning, bring a snack so that tummy rumblings don't keep you from enjoying yourself. Please make sure to bring plenty of water, especially if it is hot. There are restrooms at our meeting area. We will head to

Webbs Mill Bog in the afternoon for orchids, sundews, and more!

This walk will take place rain or shine, (within reason) so please dress for the weather, wear sunscreen and



*Curlew Sandpiper is an uncommon  
yearly visitor from Europe.*  
-Photo by Chip Krilowicz

wear or bring bug spray. If the weather is questionable and you need to call me the morning of the trip, my cell # is 856-366-5296. I will have it on that morning, but call my office if you wish to speak to me before the 24th. I only use my cell for emergencies and such. Ticks are out now in full force, so take whatever precautions you see fit. You might want to wear light colored clothing, shirt tucked in, and socks tucked into your pant legs. That will make it easier to see the ticks and make it more difficult for them to find their way to open skin. Also, please wear comfortable walking shoes that can get dirty. Sandals are discouraged because of mud and insects. Contact me at the Rancocas Nature Center, 609-261-2495 if you have any questions. I look forward to a great trip.

- Mary Belko  
Program Director  
New Jersey Audubon Society  
Rancocas Nature Center  
Mary.belko@njudubon.org

**Directions:**

From the southwest ( From Route 295 or Route 73): Take Rt. 70 East to the Four Mile Circle (Rt. 70 and Rt. 72). Stay on Route 70 past the circle and turn right into the park entrance about 1 mile from the

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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

<http://www.audubonwildlifesociety.org>

circle (look for Smokey the Bear sign). Follow this road straight down till you see the office parking lot on the right.

From southeast: Take the Parkway to exit 63 (Rt. 72). Take Rt. 72 North to Brendan Byrne. You will pass two smaller entrances to the park before coming to the Smokey The Bear sign and Fire Tower. Make a right into the park and follow this road a short distance to the paved road on right before the stop sign (look for small sign with arrow and word "Office"). Make the right and the parking lot for the office is on your left.

You can visit the home page for Brendan Byrne to get MapQuest directions:

[www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/byrne.html](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/byrne.html)

### **Medford Leas Butterfly field trip** **July 7 9:00am (July 14 rain date)**

We will again be exploring Medford Leas for butterflies. This sight has been productive in the past. Last year we had 30 species. It will be interesting to see what effect gypsy moth spraying will have on butterfly diversity in the Medford area. **Starting time will be 9:00 a.m.** and we will go to about 1 or 2 p.m. depending on what is being seen. **Bring lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent and close focus binoculars if you have them.**

### **Directions:**

From Rt. 295 take 70 east for about 9 miles. Shortly after passing Medford Ford on your right look for a small jug handle also on your right with a sign for Medford Leas. Enter the property and follow Medford Leas way (slowly) until you reach the nature center on your left. Just past the nature center on your left you can park next to the tennis courts. We will meet there. Look forward to seeing you all!

-Dave Amadio

### **Controlling Invasives Species – It's Up to Us!**

I have been writing this series on introduced invasive species now for over a year. In some of the articles I have been quite specific on how a particular invasive changes the whole environment that it is in. In other articles I have concentrated more on how certain invasives became established here in NJ and the US and measures used to control them. This last article summarizes what I have written previously. Most of the harmful invasive species so far identified as such are plants. But this can be difficult to quantify as species are just being recognized as harmful now that were brought in up to 400 years ago! For

example, recall my article on worms. These are just beginning to be studied for their harmful effects on our soil. In fact, a recent issue of the National Geographic had an article on the long-term environmental consequences of the Jamestown colonists. It concentrated on the changes in the soil wrought by the plants they deliberately brought in and the worms that were accidentally released from being in the soil used as ballast for their ships.

I have done some more research on invasive species. The good news is that the numbers of newly introduced species is diminishing. The word is out on the dangers of foreign species and government agencies are starting to pass laws banning certain species. Warnings are going out on others to be careful in how they are used. We have a duty as individuals to be responsible in what we plant in our gardens. Internet sites abound in listing what is invasive in various areas of the country. We can also write and call our local Fish and Wildlife agencies expressing our concerns on invasives and their control. We can help out with invasive species control by volunteering for invasive removal events at local parks and preserves, or simply yanking out those you see as you walk helps too! For example, I know people who pull Garlic Mustard whenever they see it!

There are no easy answers to the invasive species problem. The best way is to watch what comes into this country. Hence this series of articles. Control is proving difficult, costly, and controversial in some regards. I hope this series of articles has raised our members' awareness of the problem and the role we each play in reversing the rise of invasive species. I hope that the knowledge of the issue will lead us all to an increased desire to help control the problem. It's up to us!

I have listed below some web links for those interested in further reading on this subject.

This link is a 112 page non-technical report from the state of NJ on the status of many invasive species and a general overview of what needs to be done in New Jersey to control the rise of invasive species. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/InvasiveReport.pdf>

This link is billed as "The Source for Information and Images of Invasive & Exotic Species" from the USDA among other agencies. <http://www.invasive.org/>

This link is to an article on what can happen when foreign insects are brought in to control other foreign insects. Unfortunately the second insect brought in is now a more harmful pest than the first. <http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlife/article.cfm?issueID=76&articleID=1096>

-Sandra Keller  
Barrington, NJ  
[sandrakeller@verizon.net](mailto:sandrakeller@verizon.net)

### **Garden Tour Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>**

Approximately 20 of our members took part in our tour this year. And all enjoyed it immensely. We want to thank Chris, Ellen, Steve and Tedi for sharing their gardens they were all uniquely different and we all learned of new plants and trees to experiment with in our own gardens. Listed below is a partial list of plants and trees that Steve has growing in his garden for your reference.

#### **Uncommon Ground Covers:**

Wild Ginger, Sweet Woodruff, Mazus, Ground Orchid, (Bletia), Petasitis, May Apple, Trillium, Marsh marigold (Caltha), Winter Jasmine.

**Daylilies:** Over 200 species!

**Shrubs:** Kolkwitzias (Beautybush), Witch-hazel – 5 species, Aucuba, Deutzias, Buddleia, Weigelas, Portugese Laurel. Fothergilla, Viburnums (5 species), Enkianthus, Rose Acacia, Lilacs (Persian Chinese and Cut-leaf), Tree peony, Azaleas, (over 150 varieties), Kerrias, Double flowered and single, Jetbeads, Principia, Wintersweet. Mexican Orange (Choisya), Itea.

**Trees :** Smoke trees, Purple leaved and American. Maples – Paper Bark, Ivy-leaf, Trident, Cut-leaf Japanese, Full-moon. Dogwoods- Flowering, Korean, Cornelian –cherry; Yellow-wood, China Fir, Hardy Rubber tree (Eucommia) Turkish Filbert, Igiri tree (Idesia, Chinese Elm, Golden Rain tree), Golden Chain tree, Poliothyrsis, American Styra, Sinojackia (very rare, Styra – like) Maackia, Redbuds, purple and white flowered, Amelanchiers, Mountain Ash, Pawpaw, Chaste tree,

Magnolias – Star, Yulan, and Evergreen, Silver-Bell (Halesia), Chinese Quince, Evergreen Oak (Quercus laurifolia) Fringe tree, Parrotia, Parosal tree (Firmiana simplex, supposedly only good to zone 9) Golden Larch, Evodia, Birch barked Cherry tree, Lace Barked Pine, Japanese Apricot, Seven sons tree, Katsura tree, Medlar, Toothache tree (Zanthoxylum), Umbrella Pine.

### **Birdathon, 2007**

It was like old times. Entering the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area in Upper Freehold Township about 6:15 am on May 12 we walked up the low mound of a power company right-of-way and saw in front of us a solitary oak rooted in a grassy wetland. The sun was up but screened by the tall trees that grow along Assunpink Creek. The oak was alive with birds and the four of us began to call them out: Magnolia! Canada! Black-throated Green! Redstart! Black-throated Blue! Yellow-rumped! Black and White! Yes, it was an old-fashioned warbler tree, its ornaments comprised of seven species of the tiny gems. At one point most of them took flight towards the rising sun but a minute later came back: this was one attractive tree! We watched for half an hour.

A couple of years ago, my group decided to limit our Birdathon counting to the Assunpink reserve and the roads leading to it. This has cut more than 175 miles from our travels and between 30 and 40 species from our list but the result is a much more Earth-friendly and relaxed day, most of which is spent on foot.

We continued through mature woods, picking up a Phoebe along the creek. The weather was perfect: intermittent thin cloud cover, light, variable breezes, not overly warm. It became obvious that there had been a tremendous fall-out of birds and by 10:00 we had more than 70 species including three Dunlin, not quite in breeding plumage, probing a mud flat below the Assunpink Lake dam. Of note was the huge number of Black-throated Blue warblers which were more common than Catbirds. (A reliable counter estimated he had seen fifty of them the same day in Princeton's Institute Woods). Cutting back over the creek via an old bridge we found a Northern Waterthrush. A few minutes later an agitated, scolding bird appeared in a bush at the water's edge. One of my colleagues and I were perfectly positioned and we had about ten minutes to examine it at close range. Every field mark pointed to Louisiana Waterthrush but our roving partners, who returned from chasing warblers a tad too late to see our bird, were skeptical and we didn't add it to our tally. I don't have much experience with the species but I still think we were right.

Our party of four was reduced to two around 1:00 and after lunch my partner and I did a little driving. Less than a week before I'd spotted a cluster of White-crowned Sparrows foraging on an unpaved track and wanted badly to add this new species to our list but half a dozen drive-bys failed to produce the birds. We

did, however, manage to add a Killdeer that was sitting forlornly in a horse paddock 300 yards back from the road.

By 3:00, I was alone. New birds were coming very slowly. True, we had a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, both cuckoos and a good variety of warblers but I was thinking about the normally dependable characters that had gone unrecorded: Northern Flicker, Cooper's Hawk, Carolina Wren. As I walked immersed in my thoughts, I almost failed to register the Carolina singing around 4:00 pm. Two hours later the loud notes of a Kentucky Warbler took about thirty seconds to penetrate my stupor as I stood, tired, at the top of the Stone Tavern Lake dam. Somewhat revived by the cheery song, I walked over the huge, grassy hill that forms the highest point in the reserve, stopping to pick and eat a few stalks of asparagus from a long-abandoned bed. Three Black Vultures wheeled into view; farther on a Savannah Sparrow obligingly perched on a tall stem. Taking a last look at Assunpink Lake around 7:00 I stood on a muddy point and stretched far forward to see past a leafy branch. In the marsh at the far end was a Great Egret in a similar pose. When I drove off, my list had 91 species including 16 varieties of warbler. It had been a very good day at Assunpink.

-John Maret  
June, 2007

**07-08 Officers**

Following slate of officers was elected for the 2007-08 year in the May meeting.

**President:** Pat Brundage

**1st Vice President:** Dan Alexander

**2nd Vice President:** Joan Ziegler

**Recording Secretary:** Jean Gutschuth

**Corresponding Secretary:** Janet Goehner-Jacobs

**Treasurer:** Shirley Shannon

**Trustee (2010):** Chris Herz

**Photos: Field trip to Scotland Run Park**

These photos were taken by Sandra Keller on the dragonfly field trip to Scotland Run Park, lead by Chip Krilowicz. Neat!



*Female Eastern Pondhawk*



*Feeding tadpoles*



*Lancet Clubtails mating*