



The Osprey

Our 45th Year!

Newsletter of the Monmouth County

Audubon Society

Volume 46, Issue 1

August / September 2010

Message from the President

by Bob Henschel

The Bucket List

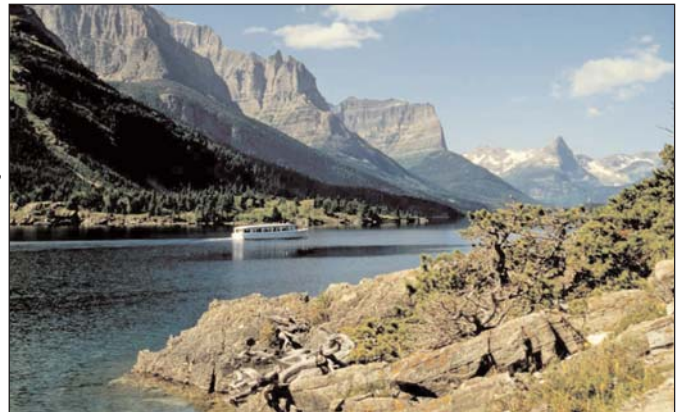
Long before the 2007 Jack Nicholson-Morgan Freeman movie made its title a conversation topic, I had a "Bucket List." Of course, I didn't call it that back then. At age ten I was just beginning to discover all the opportunities that lie ahead, and there was no end in sight; so for me, this inaugural collection of places to go and things to do became my "Adventure List." In all honesty, however, I didn't exactly come up with the inspiration on my own. For that, I must credit the U.S. Postal Service.

During those halcyon days of the 1950s I collected stamps, primarily American ones. Many I confiscated from older relatives and friends who let me clip the corners of pre-war envelopes squirreled away in musty file boxes. A lot of stamps in routine circulation at the time featured paintings of "old guys" which I tried, unsuccessfully, to convince myself were interesting. Infinitely more intriguing were ships, airplanes, cowboys or better yet, dirigibles. A Graf Zeppelin stamp - any one of the three denominations - would have been the ultimate addition to my collection. Unfortunately they were "air mail" stamps, which none of my 1930-era, frugality-first relatives would have ever dreamt of using. To buy them for my collection was well beyond my means, and best guess, probably still is.

On the other hand, a special group of affordable "commemoratives" had

also captured my imagination. And even though they were printed in 1934, some were still findable on my grandparent's old letters. Now, had I elected to take the easy way, I could have saved up some money, convinced my Dad to drive me to Red Bank, plunk down \$1.80 on the counter of the Monmouth Stamp and Coin Shop and head back to Middletown with the complete set of 10 in my pocket. But I decided to pursue a more challenging and ultimately more satisfying route; which was not only to find these stamps but eventually to visit all of the places featured on those miniature monochromatic "invitations."

The first I found was also the most exotic and mysterious of them all, picturing a towering column of water spouting from the ground. "Yellowstone National Park" was the caption. I remember imagining how thrilling or even dangerous an experience it could be. But for the moment, national parks would remain "faraway places with strange sounding names." Families back then didn't travel that far very often, so my Adventure List wouldn't extend beyond my stamp album for several more years.



Above: Glacier National Park, the last stop on President Bob's "Adventure List." (National Park Service photo)

In 1959 friends invited our family to visit them in South Carolina. Amazingly, I didn't even need to ask; my parents already had planned to stop at a special place along the way. So, on a hot hazy August day, I got to meet my first park ranger, talk to a real Cherokee American person, and see and feel why the land pictured on that little ten-cent stamp was so amazing. My list finally had a check mark - Great Smoky Mountains National Park. One down, nine to go.

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The Osprey is published bi-monthly by the Monmouth County Audubon Society, local chapter of the National Audubon Society. Our mission is to promote the awareness, appreciation and conservation of natural resources through activism and educational outreach, and by representing the National Audubon Society in Monmouth County. Inquiries concerning the organization, the newsletter, letters to the editor or material submitted for consideration are encouraged and may be sent to:

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(732) USA-BIRD
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2010 - 2011 MCAS Programs

We proudly announce our program schedule for the upcoming program year and invite you to attend. It's free, there's food, and maybe you'll even learn something!

- Wednesday, September 8:8:00 pm
"Birds on the Rocks" with Jeffrey Hall
- Wednesday, October 13:8:00 pm
"Protecting and Restoring the Raritan Estuary,"
Deborah Mans, NY/NJ Baykeeper
- Wednesday, November 10:8:00 pm
"Beautiful Birds" with photographer Douglas Goodell
- Wednesday, December 8:8:00 pm
"Grassland Birds of New Jersey" with Mackenzie Hall,
Conserve Wildlife Foundation
- Wednesday, January 12:8:00 pm
"Orchids of New Jersey" with Rick Radis
- Wednesday, February 9:8:00 pm
"Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles,"
Halley Martinez, Marine Mammal Stranding Center
- Wednesday, March 9:7:00 pm (note early start time)
Family Night: "Penguin Pointers," Jenkinson's Aquarium
- Wednesday, April 13:8:00 pm
"NJ Osprey Project," Ben Wurst, Conserve Wildlife Foundation
- Wednesday, May 11:8:00 pm
"Wetlands: What Good Are They, Anyway?"
with photographer George Aronson

Special Thanks

We have several generous people to thank in this issue of *The Osprey*. First, we would like to thank Deb Walther of Wild Bird Seeds & Such in Brielle for the lovely gift basket she donated. The basket was raffled off at our May meeting, raising needed funds and making one MCAS member very happy!

We also would like to acknowledge the contribution made over the years by Executive Committee member, Jane Headley. Jane, a member for over 45 years, recently moved to Virginia. While with MCAS she wrote articles for the newsletter, helped with the Great Backyard Bird Count at Huber Woods, and attended many of our field trips. Jane, you will certainly be missed!

We would also like to acknowledge cash donations from the Garden Club of Fair Haven, Barbara Potter, John Luthin and Katharine McCleary.

Finally, we would like to thank Wendy & Stuart Malmid and Dr. Joan Ann Sahul for their fundraising efforts on our behalf in this year's World Series of Birding.



by Harden Fowler

Kristine E. Harjes and Jeremy E. Lessing each awarded 2010 Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarships

The Monmouth County Audubon Society is delighted to announce that two Monmouth County high school graduates were awarded the Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarship this June. The scholarship was offered to high school graduates who will be continuing their education at college, studying conservation. Each applicant submitted their school transcript and wrote an essay entitled, "Why I am majoring in the field of conservation." This ongoing scholarship in the memory of Ted is an excellent way for MCAS to carry out our mission, "to promote the awareness, appreciation and conservation of natural resources through activism and educational outreach."

Our Scholarship Committee reviewed the applications and chose two highly qualified students who demonstrate a commitment to conservation through their involvement and academic excellence. MCAS congratulates Kristine E. Harjes from Rumson and Jeremy Kyle Lessing from Holmdel.

Kristine graduated from Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School and will be majoring in environmental sciences this fall at McDaniel College. Her essay states that she has a passion for the environment, proven by her leadership in a habitat restoration project at Riverside Park in Rumson. She plans to use her degree in environmental sciences to work in conservation and spread awareness about environmental responsibility.

Jeremy graduated from The Ranney School and will be majoring in environmental studies this fall at Middlebury College. His essay states that he developed an early appreciation for the environment as a Boy Scout. It was strengthened while attending the New Jersey Governors School on the Environment. He plans to major in environmental studies because it excites him and he cannot stand injustices being done to the environment.

The academic excellence and conservation leadership displayed by Kristine and Jeremy make them very worthy of the 2010 Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarship. Each has received a certificate and a \$1,500 check from MCAS to be used toward their education in conservation. MCAS hopes the enthusiasm of these two students along with the knowledge they gain will aid conservation and protect our environment in the years to come.

After the BP disaster...

As we all watch in horror the destruction of the ecosystem in the Gulf of Mexico, we can only hope it will be a wake-up call. We are all guilty to a point in our use of fossil fuel and dragging our feet on the necessity of developing clean, renewable energy. Big Oil has pushed their agenda on citizens, politicians and the government in spite of decades of warnings from environmentalists. The visible damage to the environment in the Gulf and beyond may be "cleaned up" in a year or so, but the unseen and unknown damage to the wetlands, beaches and deep sea, and the wildlife that lives there may linger for decades or beyond. Perhaps from this disaster we will act on a clean energy policy; enforce corporate responsibility; establish safeguards in exploration; and support true government regulation of industry. Let your elected officials know that you support clean energy and government oversight, and we can only hope...

(President's Message, from Page 1)

The summer of 1963 provided the mother-lode of national park experiences - Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Mount Rainier, Crater Lake, Zion - and best of all, Yellowstone, where Old Faithful seemed even more awesome than I had imagined. In 1971 I added Acadia; in '92 Mesa Verde. So as I write this, it's nine down, one to go. Glacier National Park, the orange 9-cent stamp, still awaits a checkmark beside it. I'm aiming for 2012. But then again, what's the hurry? The half-century expedition itself has provided so much satisfaction that I'm not looking forward to it ending.

Speaking of (almost) half-centuries, since 1964, guest speakers at our Wednesday evening programs have described some fascinating and inspiring journeys of their own. This season, you'll discover more about marine mammals, sea turtles, grassland birds and wetlands. Rick Radis will introduce us to "Orchids of New Jersey." With Jeffrey Hall we'll take a hard look at "Birds on the Rocks." And in March, you'll have an opportunity to meet a penguin, up-close and personal. Perhaps along the way you'll even discover destinations to add to your own "Adventure List."

Please join us in Fair Haven in September for the start of another wonderful season.



Join the MCAS eGroup!

An eGroup is a bulletin board just for MCAS members. You will receive information on upcoming trips, local conservation news, bird sightings, etc. We also use this system to announce the availability of the newsletter online.

To subscribe, send an e-mail to mcas_newslet-subscribe@yahoo.com.



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Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the Monmouth County Audubon Society (Q04) and/or the National Audubon Society. My check is enclosed for:

- \$10 **Regular** Chapter member
- \$20 Chapter **Sustaining** member - all funds stay in our area, helping us to support local efforts and provide services here in Monmouth County.
- \$20 **National Audubon Society** member - includes Chapter membership (rate for new members only; renewable at \$35)
- Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities.
- Do not add my name to the mailing list; I will read the newsletter online.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to MCAS and return along with application to:
 Monmouth County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 542, Red Bank, NJ 07701.

Membership questions? Call us at 732-USA-BIRD.

C9ZQ040Z

coming up

Wed., Sept. 8 8:00 - 9:30 pm
"Birds on the Rocks," Jeffrey Hall

Sat., Sept. 11 9:00 am - noon
Colliers Mills WMA; meet at parking area at the end of the paved section of Collier's Mill Rd., New Egypt (off 539)

(All ending times are approximate.)

* Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month Sept.- May at Church of the Nativity, Ridge Road, Fair Haven. Meetings are open to the public, and refreshments are served.

Check our website or call (732) USA-BIRD for more details on field trips, activities or cancellations due to weather. This is a 24-hour message line.