



Message from the President

by Bob Henschel

Last year I discovered several internet websites featuring collections of environmental quotations. Not having enough room for all the first time around, here are a few more. Some are enlightening, or inspiring; a few are amusing; and others are particularly interesting just because of their source.

- “The ultimate test of man’s conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.”
Gaylord Nelson, former governor of Wisconsin, co-founder of Earth Day
- “The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: ‘What good is it?’”
Aldo Leopold (1886-1948), Round River, 1993
- “I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being.”
A. Lincoln (1809-1865), attributed
- “Anyone who has accustomed himself to regard the life of any living creature as worthless is in danger of arriving also at the idea of worthless human lives.”
Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)
- “The fragile balance of plants and animals that share the Earth took millions of years to develop. Some life-forms have persisted in nearly their original state, surviving episodes of mass extinction. The ones that perished will not return... If we continue reducing Earth’s biodi-

versity, the consequences will be profound. The web of life connects the smallest bacterium to the giant redwood and the whale. When we put that web in peril, we become agents of calamity.”

from the Biodiversity insert in National Geographic, February, 1999, Vol. 195, No. 2

- “Over the past half-billion years, the planet lost perhaps one species per million species each year, including everything from mammals to plants. Today, the annual rate of extinction is 1,000 to 10,000 times faster. If nothing more is done, one-fifth of all the plant and animal species now on earth could be gone or on the road to extinction by 2030. Being distracted and self-absorbed, as is our nature, we have not yet fully understood what we are doing. But future generations, with endless time to reflect, will understand it all and in painful detail. As awareness grows, so will their sense of loss.”
Edward O. Wilson, “What Is Nature Worth?” The Wilson Quarterly, Winter 2002
- “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948)
- “Fall is my favorite season in Los Angeles, watching the birds change color and fall from the trees.”
David Letterman

- “The only two herbicides we recommend are cultivation and mulching.”
Organic Gardening magazine
- “First, there is the power of the wind, constantly exerted over the globe.... Here is an almost incalculable power at our disposal, yet how trifling the use we make of it! What a poor compliment do we pay to our indefatigable and energetic servant!”
Henry David Thoreau, from Paradise (to be) Regained [1843]
- “You hear headlines from time to time about the Amazon [rainforest] disappearing at a greater or lesser rate.... The real story is that over time the rate has stayed just the same. Year after year, decade after decade, we have failed to stop - or really even decrease - deforestation.”
Patrick Symmes, Outside Magazine, interviewed on Living on Earth
- “A weed is a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Monmouth County Audubon Society
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2009-2010 Field Trips

Saturday, Sept. 12

9:00 am - noon

Exploring the **Rocky Point area of Hartshorne Woods Park** with Bob Henschel; meet in Rocky Point parking lot



Sunrise at Manasquan Reservoir

Saturday, Oct. 17

10:00 am - noon

Sandy Hook Bird Walk with Linda Mack; meet in Visitor Center parking lot

Saturday, Nov. 14

9:00 am - noon

Bluebirds, Buffleheads and Bikes (birding by bike around Manasquan Reservoir) with Harden Fowler; meet in parking lot by Environmental Center. Bring your own bike, water, binoculars, etc.

Saturday, Dec. 12

10:00 am - noon

Sandy Hook Bird Walk with Stuart Malmid; meet in Visitor Center parking lot

Sat., Jan. date to be announced

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Barnegat Inlet / Bridge to Nowhere with Michael Casper & Dena Temple.

Part 1: Barnegat Inlet; meet in parking lot for Barnegat Light State Park, 1:00 pm

Part 2: "Bridge to Nowhere;" meet at Dunkin Donuts, Route 9 North, Manahawkin, 3:45 pm

Saturday, Feb. 20

10:00 am - noon

Sandy Hook Bird Walk with Linda Mack; meet in Visitor Center parking lot



Bufflehead, scottelowitzphotography.com

Saturday, March 28

8:30 am - noon

Bird Walk at Monmouth Battlefield State Park with Nano Mardones; meet in main parking area

Saturday, April 17

9:00 am - noon

Sandy Hook Bird Walk with Linda Mack; meet in Visitor Center parking lot

Saturday, May 8

8:15 am - noon

Spring Migration at Allaire State Park with Michael Casper and Dena Temple; meet in parking lot by historic village (main entrance)

Special Thanks

We would like to take a moment to thank these special sponsors.

Contributors to the Sandy Hook Bird Blind project

Scott Elowitz, Bette Spero, Barbara Potter, Robert Huff, Robert Weigand and Anonymous

World Series of Birding

Stuart and Wendy Malmid participated in the 2009 World Series of Birding on behalf of MCAS and raised \$166. We appreciate the effort and hope you had a great day!

Other Donations

Other donations received over the summer months included gifts from the Garden Club of Fair Haven and donations from Barbara Potter and Katharine McCleary. We appreciate your donations and support.

by Harden Fowler

Shorebird Monitors

For the Monmouth County Park System volunteers, the Seven Presidents Park Shorebird Monitor Program began in mid-April, but for Principal Ranger Mary Mautner and Coordinator of Volunteers Karen Livingstone, the work began before the spring. Mary and Karen set up the program within the park system. They contacted Todd Pover at NJ Fish & Wildlife (NJF&W) to train the volunteers about the shorebird program and the importance of informing beach users about the endangered shorebirds that nest on the beach, Piping Plover and Least Tern. The enthusiasm for the program that Todd displayed in his presentation was contagious, so the volunteers were ready to “hit the beach” and protect the nesting birds.



Piping Plover, scottelowitzphotography.com

The fencing and signs were put up; the nests were established. Volunteers were joined by Kelly Pniewski of NJF&W and several interns as they made their daily check of the nesting sites along the beach. Seven Presidents Park had two nesting sites, one at the north end and one at the south end of the park. At the north end a pair of Piping Plover established a nest with four eggs. The pair’s second clutch in July was flooded out just days before the hatch date. At the south end, another pair of Piping Plover set up a nest, also with four eggs. Kelly, Mary and the interns put up enclosures around both nests to protect the nest sitters and eggs from predators (gulls, crows, dogs, cats... and people). Although Piping Plover are solo nesters, at the south end the pair was joined by fifty Least Terns, which are colony nesters. Kelly and Mary shared their knowledge with the volunteers and beach users as we awaited the hatch date, less than a month after the eggs were laid. In June the Plover eggs hatched, three at the north nest and four at the south, followed by about two dozen tern eggs hatching over the next couple of weeks. The volunteers acted as an “educational buffer” to protect the chicks as they moved around the dunes and down to the surf.

The rate at which the chicks mature is amazing, because growing up fast gives them the best chance of survival. Within a month they grow from tiny fluff-balls to a mirror-image of the adults and are able to fly. The Plover parents had been sitting on the eggs day and night for a month, but once hatched, the chicks must fend for themselves. They feed on their own and find shelter in the dunes as they slowly separate from their parents. The tern parents also had been sitting on nests for a month, but when their chicks hatch they feed them for the first month with small fish from the surf.

For anyone interested in birding, a chance to study the behavior of these endangered shorebirds is a very rewarding experience. In total, the volunteers spent several hundred hours at the nesting sites. Of the chicks that hatched a total of four Piping Plover and a dozen Least Terns fledged. This is better than the average fledge rate, and as Mary told the volunteers, “good monitoring played a large part in our success at Seven Presidents.” MCAS hopes that more of our members join the shorebird monitors next year.

President’s Message, continued

- “Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed.”
Mahatma Gandhi
- “We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.”
Thomas Fuller
- “Humans merely share the Earth. We can only protect the land, not own it.”
Chief Seattle
- “Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.”
Rachel Carson
- “The insufferable arrogance of human beings to think that Nature was made solely for their benefit, as if it was conceivable that the sun had been set afire merely to ripen men’s apples and head their cabbages.”
Savinien de Cyrano de Bergerac, États et empires de la lune, 1656
- “Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”
Albert Einstein
- “It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.”
Ansel Adams



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 _____

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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., Oct. 14 8:00 - 9:30 pm
“Chimney Swift Conservation,”
 Giselle Chatzotte Smisko

Sat., Oct. 17 10:00 am - noon
Bird Walk: Sandy Hook, meet in parking lot at Visitor Center

Wed., Nov. 11 8:00 - 9:30 pm
“Bird Photography Techniques, Tips and Equipment,”
 Art Peslak

Sat., Nov. 14 9:00 am - noon
“Bluebirds, Buffleheads and Bikes”
 (birding by bike around Manasquan Reservoir), meet at Environmental Center

(All ending times are approximate.)

* Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month Sept.- May at Trinity Episcopal Church, White Street, Red Bank. Meetings are open to the public, and refreshments are served.

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