

*Inside this Issue:*

**Black Bears.....pg.2**  
Dr. Lynn Rogers of the North American Bear Center, walks, lecture, slideshow & book signing.

**Guest Article.....pg.2**  
Seeds & Berries by Kevin Bongiovanni

**Director's Notes.....pg.3**  
Audubon Guide, Handicapped Accessibility, Preserving the Legacy and more.

**Educational Programs.....pg.5-8**  
Complete listing of programs for children and adults, pullout calendar.

**Naturalist's Notes.....pg.9**  
Fall Crafts & Activities.

**Volunteers & Events.....pg.10**  
The Clambake, Concert Series, Harvest Fair and Holly Days info.

**Trails & Tails.....pg.11**  
Rhode Island Reds, Chicken lore.

**Hurricane Photos**



Park Avenue in Island Park, Aquidneck Island after the 1938 hurricane.



Island Park after the 1938 storm.

# THE FLYER



*the norman bird sanctuary newsletter*

## Welcome to Hurricane Alley

By Tony Petrarca

As I write this, it is the 10th anniversary of hurricane Bob, August 1991. Of course Southern New England is no stranger when it comes to tropical cyclones. Since 1900, 41 storms have had some effect on our area. Twelve storms have made a direct impact on our coast. The most memorable include Bob 1991, Gloria 1985, Diane 1960, Carol 1954 and the most destructive, September 21st, 1938.

At that time, 1938 was considered one of the worst natural disasters in American history. Names were not given to storms until the 1950's.

Dangerous aspects of hurricanes include isolated tornadoes, wind damage and fresh water flooding from heavy rain. The mostly deadly element is called the "storm surge", a rapid rise and rush of sea water that piles up along the coastline, usually on the right hand side of an advancing storm. A minimal storm can create a surge of four to five feet above normal sea level, an extreme storm like 1938 can produce a massive surge of 18 feet or higher!

Storm strength is categorized on a scale

from one to five. Category One has winds between 74-95 mph, while a Category Five has winds over 155 mph. The shape of our coastline makes storm surges more pronounced. The funnel shape of both Buzzards and Narragansett Bays allows sea water to

*Dangerous aspects of hurricanes include isolated tornadoes, wind damage and fresh water flooding from heavy rain.*

rise rapidly. If our coast is struck by the eye of a hurricane passing to our west, powerful winds from the open Atlantic draw sea water onto the coast and up the bay. That surge of water was squeezed into Narragansett bay in 1938 and again in 1954, causing massive flooding in downtown Providence. As a result, hurricane barriers were built for both bays. If this surge occurs during the normal high tide cycle, the surge is worse — at low tide it's not as severe.

Timing is critical in forecasting where a storm will

strike...it takes at least 24 hours to do a massive evacuation of our coast line. A Hurricane Watch is issued if hurricane conditions are possible within 36 hours. A Hurricane Warning is issued if hurricane conditions are likely within 24 hours.

The hurricane season runs from June 1st to November 30th. The most active part of the season spans roughly August 15th to September 15th. Many elements are needed to create and maintain storms. One is warm ocean waters, of 82 degrees or higher. As storms move north into our cooler waters, they tend to weaken, but that weakening is not fast enough to spare us damage. This year's hurricane season is expected to be an above average one, with some scientists suggesting we are entering a decade of more numerous and powerful storms. In my opinion, it's not a matter of *if* we will be hit by a powerful storm, it's just a matter of *when*. Despite Hurricane Bob ten years ago, Carol back in 1954 was considered the last major storm to hit this us.

Tony Petrarca is the Chief Meteorologist at WPRI TV 12, Providence, R.I. He can be emailed at: [tpetrarca@wpri.com](mailto:tpetrarca@wpri.com)

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Please follow the guide to identify articles in  
the newsletter.



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## Seeds, Berries and Fun

*An Educational Adventure with Anne Wagner*

by Kevin Bongiovanni

For the past two years I have attended the wild plant walks led by amateur naturalist Anne Wagner. Anne is one of Aquidneck Island's premier plant enthusiasts, whose vast wildflower knowledge and contagious enthusiasm make for a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Aside from getting outside and enjoying some cool fall weather, these floral adventures have enriched both my lore and appreciation for native wildflowers, especially my understanding of how plants play such pivotal roles in the web of life.

From providing food and shelter for birds, insects and other animals as well as stability for the local environment, plants are an

essential component to a healthy ecosystem.

The usual agenda is for each walk to begin with a brief lecture, in which Anne reviews key concepts and specific features to observe (last year the focus was on seeds and berries), typically with specimens on hand. She also reviews some useful literature for both beginner and expert.

A leisurely stroll over the Sanctuary grounds then takes place, with many stops to observe, identify and test our new knowledge in the field. If you want to add a whole new dimension to your outdoor excursions, try a walk with Anne at NBS this fall. (See Education Program listings.)



## Black Bears in Rhode Island

*Presented by: Dr. Lynn Rogers of the North American Bear Center and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Largess Forestry is sponsoring a free lecture and book signing for renowned black bear expert Dr. Lynn Rogers at 7:30 PM, October 30th at Norman Bird Sanctuary.

• There will also be two fundraising walks for the North American Bear Center (NABC) earlier in the day, the first at 10 AM to noon, the second at 1:00 to 3:00PM, on October 30th. Join us for these two-hour walks through the woods of western Rhode Island with Dr. Rogers, a leading authority on black bears.

Referred to as the "Man who walks with Bears," Dr. Rogers has spent more than 30 years studying the species. The walk will include discussions on black bears and environmental factors triggering their increased migration into Rhode Island.

• Dr. Rogers also will teach participants to identify bear signs, including scent markings, scat, as well



Dr. Lynn Rogers

as claw and bite marks. The fee for the walks is \$100, and profits go directly to the NABC.

Please reserve your space prior to September 17th. Participation for the walks is limited to 20.

If you are not able to make the walks, please attend the slide presentation and book signing that evening, where we'll learn more about the true nature of this temperate mammal. It is free and a wonderful opportunity to gain a better understanding of *Ursus Americanus*, the black bear.



## Director's Notes

### Dear Friends,

I hope you found useful the Audubon Guide For a Healthy Yard and Beyond I recently sent you. While I think every day about protecting the quality of the habitats at the Sanctuary, it is easy to forget about my own backyard. This flyer was produced by the Healthy Habitats Program of the National Audubon Society. The program provides the public with the information and resources to create healthier and more environmentally friendly backyards and community spaces. It seeks to "Build a culture of conservation-One yard at a time" by raising awareness of the importance of an environmental ethic in everyday life. Promoting responsible pesticide use, use of native plants in the landscape, and backyard habitat diversification are its goals.

We all want healthier backyards, but may not always know how to get started. The Guide's "Ten Commandments for a Healthy Yard" provide some important first steps. Share them with your friends and neighbors, and choose one or two as a starting point to make your own yard more welcoming to birds and butterflies. Consider converting part of your yard to another type of habitat- a wildflower pocket meadow, an urban island of native plants and shrubs. If you would like another copy of the Guide, give me a call at the Sanctuary. You can also download it at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/pdf/pesticideguide.pdf>.

As summer draws to a close, we are appreciating the new classroom our campers have enjoyed, and looking forward to welcoming school groups in this space during autumn field trips. For the first time in its history, the Sanctuary can offer handicapped accessible space to learners. We are working on plans for a handicapped accessible loop of trails. My thanks to Paul Choquette of PARI for his invaluable advice on the trail. At the same time, we are moving ahead with plans for the rehabilitation of the Barn and Ed Shed, as the heart of our Environmental Education Center and Environmental Learning Laboratory. During September and October, we will be further refining our ideas for exhibits and projects in these buildings, and working with our architects, Michele Foster and Mauricio Barreto on the details.

I'd like to acknowledge the generous support of four local businesses to our "Preserving the Legacy" Campaign for the continuing renovation of the Paradise Farm buildings. Our gratitude to Bank of Newport, Newport Federal Savings Bank, The Newport Daily News and Newport Tent Company for their leadership and commitment to our work in environmental education.

Looking forward to the crisp clear days of autumn, and to seeing you at the Harvest Fair!

Betsy de Leiris  
Executive Director

### **Bio-Blitz 2001: Friday, September 14 at 3:00 P.M. to Saturday, September 15 at 3:00 P.M.**

Calling all Scientists! Over two days naturalists will be descending on this corner of the island identifying all the plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, macroinvertebrates and more that they can find, working through the night. Come by to check out what has been discovered. Visit the educational exhibits from environmental organizations throughout the state, and check out the tally of species. I think we'll all be impressed by the richness of the area's biodiversity. Then come along on a guided hike at 12:00pm.

### **A New Face**

You may notice a new education specialist leading hikes, visiting classrooms, or doing other education programs around town. We were very excited this summer to welcome Heather Ford who comes to us with lots of new energy and experiences from Save the Bay, URI's Learning Landscape, and the MET School in Providence. She was a wonderful addition to the summer staff, and we are looking forward to her leading great winter school and community programs.



Sue Petregella photo.

### **The Rhode Island Dialogues:**

Middletown Public Library  
October 25, 4:00 - 6:00 PM.

The Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities is hosting an informal public conversation about the way we see our community. How do you define your sense of place? We think that the natural environment is an important element of what defines our community, and will be present for the dialogue. Please join us for an interesting afternoon.

### **A New Look**

Melissa Ellis has given the Flyer a wonderful new face. Let us know how you like it.



Et Cetera

## Browsing at the Barn Owl Shop

Whoo's New at the Barn Owl Shop

### In the Book Corner:

For Kids

Did you have a chance to read Stephanie's article in the last Flyer about Fireflies? Early this summer, the field to the south of the Paradise Farmhouse was alive with shimmering lights in the evening. A charming story written and illustrated by Julie Brinklow, captures the magic of a summer evening lit by the fireflies' particular magic (Ages 5-7).

Recreate the beauty of butterflies with the *Butterfly Coloring Book*, which includes a butterfly identification guide- a great way to entertain



your little ones or to create your own works of art reminiscent of summer.

### For Adults

David Carroll, a naturalist writer and illustrator from New Hampshire, has given us *Swampwalker's Journal: A Wetlands Year*. His *The Year of the Turtle* gave great insights into the life of these fascinating creatures. Now, with *Swampwalker's Journal*, he captivates the reader with an intimate understanding of life in the vernal pools, marshes and ponds of New England.

*Owls Aren't Wise & Bats Aren't Blind*: With a subtitle like "A Naturalist Debunks Our Favorite Fallacies about Wildlife", how can you not want to read this? Lively, entertaining, hard to put down, and full of scientifically valid information, it's a great read!

### And looking up...

Check out the incredible kites and mobiles in the Barn Owl Shop! Macey Dunbar, a native Newport artist, is now living in Bali, and brought us some fabulous kites of raptors and butterflies, and colorful butterfly and fish mobiles destined to brighten the room of the littlest nature lover. The kites are made by artists and craftsmen in Tempak Siring Village. The Balinese take their kite-flying seriously. Bird kites are often used for dueling. The kites are fabulous fliers, just in time for the dry brisk winds of October. When not in flight, they'll look beautiful on your wall. The butterfly and fish mobiles are from the village of Tagalalank.

## Become A Member Today

Members enjoy free access to the trails, 10% discount in our store, a subscription to our newsletter and discounts on our programs.

Student \$15 • Individual \$25 • Family \$40 • Contributing \$50  
• Sustaining \$80 • Institution \$125 • Patron \$125  
• Supporting \$250 • Benefactor \$500 • Angel \$1000  
• Check • Visa/Mastercard # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the membership category of your choice and mail with a check or credit card information to:

**The Norman Bird Sanctuary, 583 Third Beach Rd., Middletown, RI 02842**



**NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY HARVEST FAIR**  
**HOME & GARDEN COMPETITION**  
**OCTOBER 13 - 14, 2001**

The spirit of competition: The Home and Garden Competition is open to amateur gardeners, growers, canners, cooks and bakers of all ages. Professional gardeners are invited to enter in the flower categories described below.

- ❖ Each entry must be grown, or cooked from scratch, solely by the contestant.
- ❖ Professional growers must enter their flowers under the professional categories only.
- ❖ Each contestant may enter a category only once.
- ❖ Entries must be registered at the Home & Garden Booth by 10 a.m. on the day of the judging, and must be removed between 5 & 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 14th.
- ❖ All entries should be labeled discreetly with the contestant's name, address, phone number and competition category.
- ❖ Young grower or baker contestants must be 14 years old or younger.
- ❖ After judging, all food entries will be sold at the Country Store. Proceeds benefit the Sanctuary.

**PRODUCE**

Saturday judging, 10:30 a.m.

Best Single Fruit  
Best Single Vegetable  
Best Collection  
Biggest Pumpkin  
Most Unusual Vegetable/Edible Plant  
Young Grower-Best Produce  
Jack-o'-lantern Contest

**FLOWERS**

Amateur and Professional categories

Saturday judging, 10:30 a.m.

Best Single Rose  
Best Single Dahlia  
Best Fresh Arrangement  
Best Dried Arrangement  
Best Sunflower  
Biggest Sunflower Face  
Young Grower-Best Arrangement

**SCARECROW CONTEST**

Sunday judging, 10:30 a.m.

Spook the crows with your original creation. Bring your entry, or make one at the Fair. Straw and a limited number of poles will be available on Saturday. A great group, class, or family activity!


**FOOD**

Saturday judging, 10:30 a.m.

Best Apple Pie  
Best Pesto  
Best Salsa  
Best Savory Relish/Preserves  
Best Jam/Jelly  
Best Quick Bread/Muffins  
Best Cookies/Dessert Bars  
Young Baker-Baked Goods

For more information, contact the Norman Bird Sanctuary  
583 Third Beach Road, Middletown, R.I. 401 846-2577



SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>NOVEMBER</b> 						
Be sure to register for programs: 846-2577 or <a href="http://www.normanbirdsanctuary.org">www.normanbirdsanctuary.org</a>						
				1	2	3
4 Guided Bird Walk	5 Kindermusic <sup>TM</sup>	6	7 Preschoolers w/Parents Session B	8	9	10 Winter Weeds & Wildflowers
11 Guided Bird Walk/ Storytelling	12 Kindermusic <sup>TM</sup> <i>Veteran's Day</i>	13	14 Preschoolers w/Parents Session B	15 Planned Giving Seminar	16	17
18 Guided Bird Walk	19	20	21	22 The Sanctuary is Closed Today <i>Thanksgiving</i>	23	24
25 Guided Bird Walk	26	27	28	29	30	

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>DECEMBER</b> 						1
2 Guided Bird Walk	3	4	5	6	7	8 Holly Days Winter Celebration
9 Guided Bird Walk  <i>First Day of Hanukkah</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Guided Bird Walk	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Guided Bird Walk	24	25 The Sanctuary is Closed Today <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 <i>Kwanzaa Begins</i>	27	28	29
30 Guided Bird Walk	31					



## Educational Programs

### Coastal Clean-up

Saturday, September 15

This is a great opportunity to help the local environment and participate in a worldwide event. Keeping our beautiful coastlines clean and free of debris and litter is the responsibility of everyone, and most especially for those who feel a special connection to it. If you'd like to help, please call for more information about how you can be a part of this day.

### Bio-Blitz

Saturday, September 15

All day

Calling all Scientists! Calling all Scientists! Over two days naturalists will be descending on this corner of the island identifying as many plants, animals and otherwise they can find. That is correct, an inventory of wildlife is going on and you can witness this activity all day. Come on by and check out what has been discovered and then go on a guided hike of your own at 12:00 PM.

### Discover The Sanctuary Day

Saturday, September 22

All day

Welcome the Fall by spending a day at the Sanctuary. You may choose to stroll along with one of the guided hikes, enjoy some refreshments under an apple tree, or find a nice quiet spot looking out toward the ocean. Try the benefits of membership for a day, and enjoy the members discount in the Barn Owl Shop. Guided walks start at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM.

### Mushroom Walk

Saturday, Sept. 22, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
\$ 8 NM \$ 6 M

FAMILY PROGRAM

Mushroom identification can be fun, but it can also be quite confusing. Dr. Roger Goos, URI mycologist and longtime mushroom walk guide, shares his knowledge of mushroom lore, while helping us learn to identify the many types found locally. We'll also learn about the important role mushrooms

play in our ecosystem. **Maximum: 20**

### Walkabout Trail

September 22, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Hiking distance: 7.5 miles

Hiking time: 3.5 - 4 hours

\$8 NM \$ 6 M

Come hike with us through the George Washington Management Area, which boasts impressive hemlock groves, dense woodlands, and lovely marshes and ponds. This area is substantially different from anything on the island or coast, and a walk here is always interesting and fun. **Maximum 14.**

### Nature Guide Training

Sept. 24th, 9:00PM - 11:00PM

Sept. 26th, 9:00PM - 11:00PM

If you have any interest in volunteering at NBS, but are not sure in what capacity, you might be interested in being a nature guide. If you have any



experience teaching (not necessarily in a school), a science background, or general knowledge of the outdoors, you can be a nature guide. As a nature guide you will work with a group of 10 to 16 school children, leading them on a two hour hike through the property, visiting various habitats. Sharing nature with children is a very rewarding experience, so if this sparks your fancy, contact us to sign up for the training session this fall.

### Preschoolers with Parents

Ages 3 - 5 years

Wednesdays

Session A Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17

Session B Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14,  
1:00-2:00PM

\$35 NM \$30 M

Explore nature with short walks,

simple nature crafts, stories, songs and lots of joy and silliness. Parents are guaranteed to have fun too. These are one hour programs, held once a week for four weeks. Please dress for the weather, too. Choose your session(s) from dates provided. **Maximum 10.**

### Bringing Birds to Your Backyard

#### Part I: The Natural Environment

At Blithewold Gardens & Arboretum

Thurs., September 27, 4:30-6:00 PM

\$8 NM \$ 6 M

While the birds are cruising through your neighbors' backyards, why not invite them into yours, too? Join us as we stroll the grounds of Blithewold Mansion in Bristol. We'll discuss a variety of plants, habitats, and strategies which can be used in your own landscape design. When you provide the proper food, shelter and nesting spaces, it's easy to get our feather friends to linger. **Maximum 25.**

#### Part II: Feeders & More

Thursday, October 11, 4:30 - 6:00 PM

\$8 NM \$ 6 M

Fall weather signals the time to put out food for our feathered friends. This session discusses various feeders, food, water sources, shelter boxes, and other ways to attract and protect birds. You will also learn a little about the natural history of a variety of songbirds and birds of prey. **Maximum 25.**

### Fall Birding Challenge

Saturday & Sunday, October 6 - 7

ADULT & FAMILY PROGRAM

Mark your calendars for our second annual birding challenge. This program is open to individual teams, as well as families willing to participate in a fun, outdoor event. Birdwalks for beginners, including fun activities, will be led at 8 am and 2 pm. Please call 846-2577 for more information about how you can be a part of this day.



## Educational Programs

### **Kindermusik™ Adventures "Creatures at the Ocean"**

Monday, October 15th, 22nd, 29th,  
November 5th, 12th  
9:15AM - 10:15AM

Ages: 18 months to 3 years with parent or caregiver

Materials: Home CD, 5 Picture Folders,  
10 story cards, and two SeaShell Hand  
Castanets

Tuition: \$90 NM \$80 M

Preregistration and prepayment required.

#### **CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**

*Session Themes: Ahoy There, Coastal  
Waters, My Beach Blanket, Riding the  
Waves, In the Deep Blue Sea.*

NBS in conjunction with Kinder-  
musik of Aquidneck Island is pleased to  
announce this exciting new program,  
Kindermusik Adventures™, Creatures at  
the Ocean. Come join us for singing,  
musical games, story time, movement,  
musical exploration, instrument play and  
snacks as we discover all the wonders  
around us. Get ready for a seaside  
adventure with creatures from the sea and  
ocean play. Meet our whimsical water-  
front friends, including the seagull, crab,  
dolphin, octopus, and whale. Beach fun  
is the focus with beachball play, pretend  
kite play, sand play, and sheet - simu-  
lated waves! Let's sing, dance, explore  
and join our friends at the beach! For  
more information call Maria Anthon 683-  
4483. **Maximum 12.**

### **Autumn Night Hike with the Newport Children's Theatre**

Grades K-5

October 19, 20, 26, 27

Fridays & Saturdays, 7:00 - 8:30PM

\$8NM \$6M One parent free

Come join the Sanctuary staff and the  
wonderfully talented actors of the  
Newport Children's Theatre (NCT) for a  
magical hike through the forest on an  
October night. The NCT will cleverly  
interpret the forest animals, and in doing  
so, will bring to life the nature of the  
night. Please dress warmly, and wear

comfortable shoes. If you bring a  
flashlight, please have a red filter  
covering. See you there! **Maximum 35.**

### **RIEEA Conference**

Sat., October 27, 8:30AM - 2:30PM

Bridging coastal and inland habitats  
is the theme for this annual environmen-  
tal education conference. Open to  
educators for all ages, this conference  
offers work-shops in ecology, reading  
the landscape, intertidal zones and much  
more. If you are a teacher, you can pick  
up some great teaching tips in the  
outdoors, while adding more activities to  
your curriculum. This is also a great  
opportunity for scout leaders. For more  
information and to register, please  
contact NBS at 846-2577.

### **Black Bear Talk**

Tuesday, October 30, 7:30PM

Free

#### **FAMILY PROGRAM**

Yes, you may be surprised to learn that  
there *are* black bears in Rhode Island.  
Join Lynn Rogers from the North Ameri-  
can Center for an informative slide  
presentation and book signing. See page  
two for more information.



### **Winter Weeds & Wildflowers**

Saturday, Nov. 10, 10:00AM-12:00PM

\$8 NM \$6 M

Don't be daunted at the prospect of a  
brisk winter walk at the Sanctuary. There  
are many plants on the trails easily iden-  
tified by their fruits and seeds. There are  
others laying dormant, which have clear  
markings, such as the hairy vine of the  
poison ivy plant. Join Anne Wagner, a  
local naturalist with the Rhode Island  
Wild Plant Society, as she leads this  
winter botany walk. **Maximum 20.**

### **Story Telling Festival**

Sunday, November 11

2:00PM

\$5 NM \$4 M

In our new cozy education space, come  
and listen to local storytellers Claire  
Vadeboncoeur, Christopher Carbone,  
Peg Donovan, Linda Hull, John Tierney  
and Anne Marie Forer tell their tales.

### **Holly Days Winter Celebration**

Dec. 8th, Saturday, 12:00 - 7:00PM

\$5 Adult \$3 Child

Come out and enjoy a variety of  
activities to kick off the holiday season.  
Follow clues on a scavenger hunt down  
the trails, relax with storytelling and  
craftmaking activities for both adults and  
children, enjoy festive craft demonstra-  
tions, join neighbors for a tree lighting  
ceremony, and go on an evening walk  
through the Sanctuary, returning to roast  
marshmallows at our roaring bonfire.

### **Owl Prowl**

Adults Only Owl Prowl - Thursday

January 24

Family Owl Prowl - Friday, January 25

6:00 - 7:30 PM

\$8 NM \$6 M

#### **FAMILY & ADULT PROGRAM**

Winter is the time of the year when  
many owls are actively building nests  
and laying eggs for this year's clutch.  
Moreover, they are aggressively staking  
out territory with hoots, screeches, and  
deep-sounding warbles. In addition to  
an evening out in search of owls, we will  
begin the evening program with a slide  
show of our nighttime residents, and if  
there is time, examine owl pellets.  
Following the owl prowl, we will check  
out our stuffed specimens while sipping  
hot cider or cocoa. **Maximum 15.**


### **Guided Bird Walks**

Sundays, 8:00AM

You're invited to join us every Sunday  
morning, even beyond the summer, as  
we walk the forest trails, listening for  
their distinctive songs, and looking for a  
flash of color or identifying markings.  
Free and open to Birders of all levels.

# C A L E N D A R o f E V E N T S

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> 						1
Guided Bird Walk 2	Labor Day 3	4	5	6	7	8
Guided Bird Walk 9	10	11	12	13	14	Coastal Clean-Up Bio-Blitz 15
Guided Bird Walk 16	Rosh Hashana 17	18	19	20	21	Mushroom Walk/ Walkabout Trail/ Discovery the Sanctuary Day 22
Guided Bird Walk/ 23	Nature Guide Training 24	25	Preschoolers w/Parents Session A/ Nature Guide Training Yom Kippur 26	Bringing Birds to Your Backyard: Part I- Blithewold 27	Fall Campout 28	
Guided Bird Walk 30			Preschoolers w/Parents Session A			

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>OCTOBER</b> 						
Guided Bird Walk	1	2	Preschoolers w/Parents Session A 3	4	5	Fall Birding Challenge 6
Guided Bird Walk/ Fall Birding Challenge 7	8	9	Preschoolers w/Parents Session A 10	Bringing Birds to Your Backyard: Part II 11	12	Harvest Fair 13
Harvest Fair 14	Kindermusik <sup>TM</sup> Adventures 15	16	Preschoolers w/Parents Session A 17	18	Autumn Night Hike w/the Newport Children's Theatre 19	
Guided Bird Walk 21	Kindermusik <sup>TM</sup> Adventures 22	23	Preschoolers w/Parents Session B 24	The RI Dialogues 25	Autumn Night Hike w/the Newport Children's Theatre 26	
Guided Bird Walk 28	Kindermusik <sup>TM</sup> Adventures 29	Black Bear Talk 30	Preschoolers w/Parents Session B 31			The RI Educational Assoc.Conf.

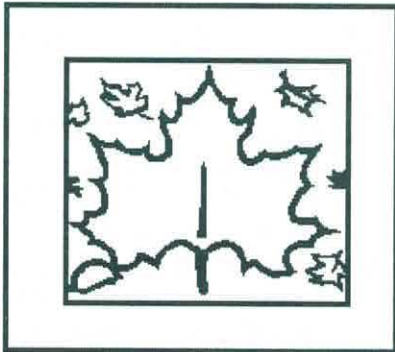


## Naturalist's Notes

# Fall Into Autumn

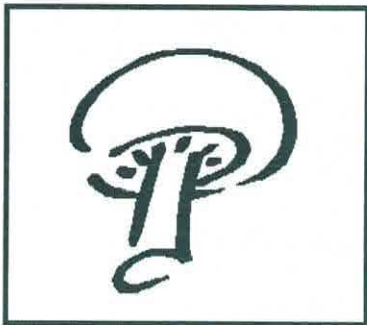
Here are some fun fall activities to help the kids while away the autumn hours:

## Autumn Leaf Placemat or Bookmark



Collect some colorful fall leaves and place them between sheets of adhesive-backed clear plastic. The fall colors will last for years.

## Mushroom Spore Prints



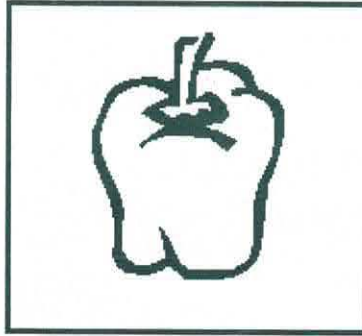
Pick a mushroom and remove the stem. Place the mushroom cap gill-side down onto a sheet of white paper.

Cover the cap with a drinking glass to protect the mushroom and let it sit for four hours. The spores (the "seeds" of a mushroom) will leave a design. Remember to wash your hands after handling mushrooms.

There are many different spore colors, so pick different kinds of mushrooms and use various paper colors.

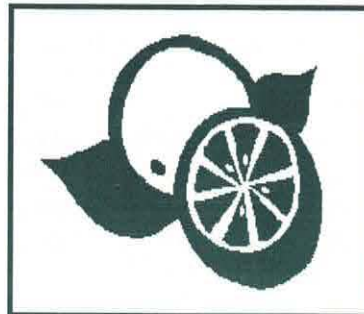
Preserve your spore prints by spraying them with hairspray. Dispose of the mushrooms when you are finished.

## Veggie and Fruit Printing

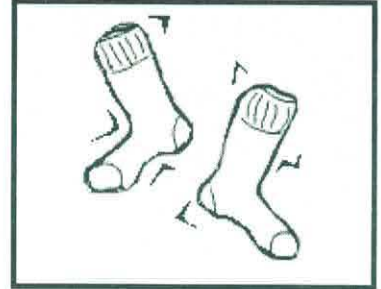


Make your own pictures or stationary from nature's bounty. Slice apples or oranges in half, crosswise. (Let oranges dry for 2-5 days.) Brush on ink or acrylic paint and press onto the paper. Experiment using slices of mushrooms, broccoli, cauliflower, and green peppers, too. It's amazing to see all patterns you can produce.

Put on long wool socks or wool pants (don't forget good walking



## Wool Sock Walk



shoes) and go to a field or forest where there are lots of wild plants. As you walk, brush up against as many plants as possible. After your walk, examine the various seeds, burrs, and bristles that have collected on your pants or socks. Can you tell which ones are seeds and which ones are seed pods? Once you have looked at everything, you can make a picture with your seeds by gluing them onto construction paper.

## Animal Activity to Look For:

\* Migrating birds (look for the V formation of Canada geese and the soaring flight of diurnal raptors (hawks, falcons, and vultures) as they soar on thermals (warm bubbles of air) or updrafts.

\* Squirrels readying for winter by gathering and burying nuts.

\* Migrating monarch butterflies. They go to Mexico and can cover up to 80 miles per day at a speed of 11 mph.

\* Woolly bear caterpillars on the move to find a winter burrow, where they will stay until spring, when they will emerge as Isabella tiger moths.

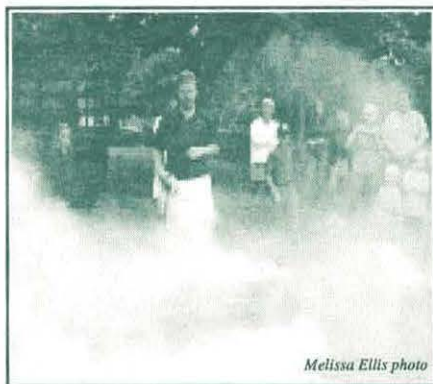
For more nature activities, check out:

- *Puddles & Wings & Grapevine Swings*, 1982, Forte, I. & M. Frank
- *The Kids' Nature Book*, 1989, S. Milord



## Volunteers & Events

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Clambake



Melissa Ellis photo

After parades, but before fireworks, the Norman Bird Sanctuary once again offered folks a relaxing 4<sup>th</sup> of July afternoon with an old fashioned clambake. Third generation Bakemaster T.R. McGrath prepared the bake, using the tradi-

tional cooking process of early colonists. The crowd looked on with great interest as McGrath and crew built a bonfire bordered by large rocks. Later, racks of clams, lobster, potatoes, mussels, sausage, onion and corn were laid upon the coals and covered with mounds of rockweed, followed by canvas. While the clambake cooked, guests had fun playing croquet and relaxing on the Paradise Farm's lawn.

"The ringing of the bell" announced the unveiling of the clambake for all to enjoy. Special thanks to Tom McGrath Clambakes for their fabulous cooking skills and the Newport Tent Company for providing tables, chairs and a tent for the occasion.

### Summer Concert Series – Del's Delights Us Again!

The Sanctuary's 2nd Annual Summer Concert Series was enjoyed by music lovers of all ages. Blessed with great weather, audiences relaxed on the Paradise Farm lawn and listened to such popular groups as the Top Brass Quintet, the Navy Band Northeast's Showband and Compass Rose's Dave Peloquin and Everett Brown with old-time Sea Chanties. Thanks to all of you who joined us for the afternoon concerts and special thanks to Bruce Long



Lori Cochran photo

and Del's Lemonade, for making the concert series possible again this year.

### Nature Guide Training

No formal teaching experience is necessary. We have one to two hour programs that need volunteer nature guides leading school children from preschool to middle school. We

provide training for natural history background and outdoor teaching skills. Please call for more information and to sign up for the training sessions.

### Join in the Fun of the Harvest Fair - Volunteer!

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Fair will be held on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 5:00pm. This old-fashioned celebration of fall has become a local tradition and each year's success is due to the many wonderful volunteers that donate their time to this event.

We are looking for volunteers to help with such varied areas of the Fair as ticket taking, adult and children's games, manning the ever-popular mud pit and greased pole events, handing out prizes, selling food and drinks, baking, produce judging, parking, clean up, etc. NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY! We have a committee of talented organizers to help get you started.

As a Harvest Fair volunteer, you will receive free entry to the Fair. This is a great opportunity to become part of a team of individuals that love their community and the Norman Bird Sanctuary. We could truly use your help, whether it is for two or more hours on either day. To volunteer, or for more information, please call us at the Sanctuary 846-2577 or email:

[loric@normanbirdsanctuary.org](mailto:loric@normanbirdsanctuary.org).

### Holly Days – Save the Date

Our *Holly Days* winter celebration will be held on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from Noon – 7:00pm. Join us in our decorated 19<sup>th</sup> Century barn as we create festive crafts, follow clues to an enchanted tree in the woods, and sample holiday treats. Cozy up to a warm fire and listen to winter stories and strolling carolers. Adults \$5 and Children \$3.



## Trails & Tails

### New Tails at the Sanctuary

by Veronica Hinds

The Sanctuary has been a-hopping! Literally and figuratively. We are the new owners of a small flock of Rhode Island Red chickens. Not only is the Rhode Island Red our state bird, but it is also one of the best dual-purpose birds, which means it is a good bird to use for both egg and meat production. The Red also makes a great pet. Our new pets arrived on their second day of life, July 20th via the U.S. Postal Service. They stood about 3" tall and were balls of red fluff. Today they are about 8" tall and starting to get their adult feathers. The chicks roam free during the day, and spend the nights protected in a coop. Stop by for a peek, anticipate a peck!

All the various breeds, varieties, and strains of chicken had a single origin — the wild red jungle fowl of Southeast Asia, probably the species known as *Gallus bankiva*. Over tens of thousands of years, chicken keepers selectively bred their flocks to favor different combinations of characteristics, some related to economics, some to esthetics.

There is little information pertaining to the status of poultry prior to the middle of the last century. However, there is evidence that all of our domestic poultry, with the exception of the turkey, was brought from the old world by Columbus on his second voyage in 1493. In the 1840's and 1850's poultry began to be imported on a regular basis. After a century of random and local breeding, regular breeds were developed, refined and shown.

In 1868, Charles Darwin published an inventory of chicken breeds

existing at the time — all 13 of them. Most of the breeds we know today have developed since then.

Breeds and varieties proliferated in the United States between 1875 and 1925, fueled by interests in both unusual exhibition birds and dual-purpose backyard flocks. The national value of poultry was estimated at more than \$25 million in 1875. A decline began in the 1930's when new zoning ordinances prohibited chicken flocks in many backyards, and emphasis shifted to commercial production.

In the mid-80's, The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) conducted a survey to identify the most endangered old-time



production breeds. After publishing its first *Poultry Census and Source book* in 1987, the ALBC established the Rare Breed Poultry Conservation Project, which offers assistance to anyone willing to make a long-term commitment to one of its target breeds.

The Rhode Island Red is listed as a WATCH breed by the conservancy. WATCH means that there are fewer than 2,500 North American registrations annually, and an estimated fewer than 5,000 globally. The Reds, along with many other "heritage" breeds of poultry are disappearing. As agricultural practices change

to meet the needs of the future, it is vitally important that we preserve the genetic diversity and hardiness of these older breeds.

The ALBC believes that all classic production breeds are in jeopardy, but focuses its efforts on twelve varieties having historic, economic, and/or cultural significance: Ancona, Australorp, Delaware, Dominique, Jersey Giant, Leghorn, Minorca, New Hampshire, Plymouth Rock, Rhode Island Red, and Wyandotte.

Rhode Island Reds were originally developed in Massachusetts and Rhode Island in the 1880's. The ancestors of this chicken include the Malay, Shanghai, Java and Brown Leghorn. It is from the Malay bird that the Rhode Island Red gets its deep color, strong constitution and relatively hard feathers.

Rhode Island Reds are a good choice for the small flock owner. Relatively hardy, they are probably the best egg layers of the dual purpose breeds. Reds handle marginal diets and poor housing conditions better than other breeds (which make them great birds for the beginner caretaker). They are known for their ability to produce eggs even in these marginal conditions. Reds can produce 200 to 300 eggs per bird in a twelve-month laying period and begin laying as early as six months of age.

If you're looking for fresh eggs, stop by the Sanctuary this spring, we've got 12 birds, that's 2400-3600 eggs per year. Sounds like we'll have plenty.

Americans haven't lost what novelist Theodore Dreiser called our "chicken raising mentality", the great American desire to settle in the country and raise a few chickens. The urge is as strong today as it was in Dreiser's time, nearly a century ago. And rightly so.

***Norman Bird Sanctuary***  
***583 Third Beach Road***  
***Middletown, RI 02842***

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## **PLANNED GIVING SEMINAR**

***November 15, 2001, 7:30pm***  
***Refreshments will be served.***

Join us in our library for a fireside discussion of Planned Giving. This will be an informative meeting on how you and your family can benefit from recent changes in the tax law, in the area of Planned Giving. Hosted by the Norman Bird Sanctuary, the evening's special guest speakers will be:

**Kenneth R. Dolbashian, Esq.**  
***and***  
**Athol D. Cochrane, CLU**  
**CHFC – Financial Planner**

*Seating is limited, please call the Sanctuary office at 846-2577 to reserve your place before November 1<sup>st</sup>*

## **Coming October 6th & 7th A Bird Count to Remember!**



**To enter, or for complete details call 846-2577, or visit our website at:**  
**[www.normanbirdsantuary.org](http://www.normanbirdsantuary.org)**

**Adults • Children • Alone • In Teams**

**Aquidneck Island • All Rhode Island**

**Sponsored by Leica & Bird Watcher's Nature View**

**To Benefit the Norman Bird Sanctuary • 583 Third Beach Rd. • Middletown, RI**