

NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

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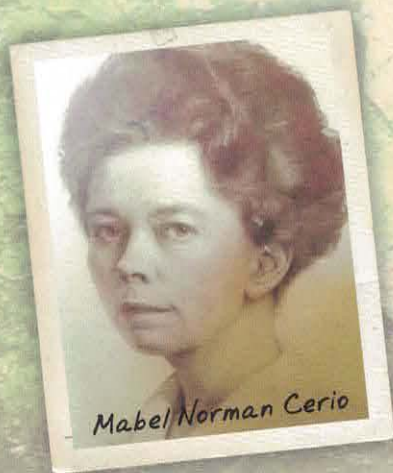
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DISCOVER.
PRESERVE.
TEACH.
INSPIRE.





The **Norman Bird Sanctuary** was established in 1949 at the bequest of Mabel Norman Cerio. Its mission, under the charge of her will, was to maintain 235 acres of land "for the propagation, preservation, and protection of birds, and where birds and bird life may be observed, studied, taught, and enjoyed by lovers of nature and by the public generally so interested in a spirit of humanity and mercy."

Over the years, NBS has grown to include more than 325 acres of diverse habitats, and its mission remains true to Mabel Norman Cerio's original vision. Today, the mission of the Norman Bird Sanctuary is to preserve and protect its habitats and resources for the benefit of birds and other wildlife, and for people's education and enjoyment.

Norman Bird Sanctuary
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(401) 846-2577
www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org

Cover photo: Matt Schenck

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Capri in the early 1900s

MABEL NORMAN'S LIFE IN CAPRI

Natasha Harrison, *Executive Director*

Many people know that Mabel Norman Cerio created the Norman Bird Sanctuary through her will when she passed away in 1949. What an incredible legacy! Now, I've come to learn that Mabel's life was equally inspiring. Following her father's death, Mabel bought the family property, then called Paradise Farm, and in 1910 came to live alone on the farm. In 1915 Mabel went on a trip, with her mother Abbie, to Italy. There she met and married George Cerio, an English-speaking Italian doctor from the Isle of Capri, Italy.

Mabel and George shared a love of the natural world, and they divided their time between Paradise Farm in Middletown, RI and Capri, where they had several properties with gorgeous views of the sea and beautiful gardens.

George's father, Doctor Ignazio Cerio, was a physician and an avid collector of over 20,000 naturalistic and archaeological finds gathered mainly on the Isle of Capri. His collection spans millions of years of history, including a herbarium, a zoological collection, geological specimens, and paleontological material which includes a carboniferous plant collection. Mabel Norman Cerio and George's brother Edwin Cerio co-founded Centro Caprense Ignazio Cerio in Capri, which houses the entire collection to this day.



Mabel's Artist Studio Door



Part of the Centro's Collection, Birds & Butterflies



View of Capri today

Thanks to a generous invitation from Mabel's family, I had the opportunity to visit Capri last October and see firsthand where Mabel painted, gardened and lived. I toured the Centro's collection of artifacts and natural history and was able to meet the Board of Directors of the organization that runs the museum and hear about their plans for the future.

It was such a joy to get a glimpse into Mabel's life in Capri and to learn more about who she was. I have always imagined that Mabel was a kind and

generous person, but after meeting her family, seeing her legacy in Capri, and hearing the stories of what Mabel did in her time there I am even more clear that her legacy and memory is something that is an honor to help steward and preserve.

I am very grateful to Fernando, Mary Margaret and Federico Alvarez De Toledo, the descendants of Edwin Cerio, for allowing me into the Cerio world and sharing all that they know about Mabel Norman Cerio and her fascinating life.

TOP 5 REASONS KIDS SHOULD GO TO SUMMER CAMP

Summer camps have been around for more than 120 years. Here are the top 5 reasons summer camp experiences are great for kids:



5

Gets kids moving:

Physical activity promotes healthy lifestyle habits, helps reduce anxiety and stress, and increases self-esteem. Active play is an integral part of camp experiences.



4

Keeps learning going:

Camp sustains learning between school years. Over 100 years of research shows that children experience a learning loss over the summer. Children who attend summer camps retain more of the prior year's learning and are better prepared for the next school year.



3

Develops social skills & friendships:

Summer camp provides a fun and supportive atmosphere that helps children form new friendships, work collaboratively, gain independence, cultivate leadership skills, and develop a sense of community.



2

Builds self-esteem:

Children can make choices and experience success while also being surrounded by a strong community of peers and mentors. These factors combine to make camp a place that helps kids feel good about themselves and their accomplishments.



1

Camp is fun!

It's no coincidence that kids love camp. Camp programs incorporate games and unstructured time in nature, so kids can relax, laugh, and experience the joys of summer.

Newport Life Magazine just awarded NBS **Best Summer Camp**. With 56 years of history, what makes Summer Camp at NBS so special?



5

Live animal encounters:

Meeting wild deer on the trail, getting up close and personal with sea creatures, and learning from NBS' resident education animal ambassadors—campers have unique opportunities to learn from a fascinating array of live native animals.



4

Curriculum and programs for every stage of childhood:

Children aged 3-1/2 to 15 enjoy 8 different age-appropriate programs. High school students benefit from rewarding volunteer opportunities. Professional educators and experienced naturalists thoughtfully develop and design camp experiences that are specific to each age group.



3

Beaches & marine life:

Beach time is built into every camp program at NBS. Through hands-on activities such as seining at Crab Town, campers learn about wildlife, marine life and plants along our coastline.



2

Site-specific snack time:

Learning doesn't stop at snack time. Puddingstone, the unique geologic formation that makes up Hanging Rock, has an interesting story that is remarkably well-illustrated through the making of our delicious iconic camp snack, not surprisingly called "puddingstone."



1

325 acres of open space and fresh air!

A 325-acre oceanfront Nature Preserve on Aquidneck Island offers 600+ summer campers the perfect outdoor classroom. A wonderful antidote to "nature deficit disorder." Whether kayaking at Summer Challenge, creating nature crafts with the Chickadees, or hiking to Hanging Rock, kids unplug from technology, and enjoy outdoor experiences that enrich their perception of the world.



Invasive Oriental Bittersweet

CONTROLLING INVASIVE PLANTS

New Invasive Species Management Plan Protects Habitat for the Long Term

Strategic planning, rigorous study, best management practice, and funding—each is essential to protecting the magnificent 325 acres that make up the Norman Bird Sanctuary.

Thanks to a comprehensive properties Master Plan, an exhaustive plant inventory and expert consulting by Horsley Witten, and generous funding from the van Beuren Charitable Foundation and the George M. and Barbara H. Sage Fund of the Rhode Island Foundation: a comprehensive Invasive Species Management Plan now guides the stewardship of the diverse plant communities at Norman Bird Sanctuary.

While the plan characterizes the vast majority of the property's current plant communities as High or Medium quality, field studies document 150 separate areas that contain invasive plants. These areas range in size from a few individual plants to upwards of 12 acres. Most areas are half an acre or less.

A total of 11 primary invasive species are common on the NBS property. Another 11 secondary species can be found with less frequency.

Technology tools guide much of the management of these aggressive invaders. iPads in the field use custom Geographic Information System (GIS) applications to tag locations of plant populations, track photo documentation, and monitor management progress. New mapping systems provide property-wide Plant Community maps, Invasives Location maps for dominant species, and a Plant Community Quality Index.

Yet implementation is decidedly low-tech. Invasive management depends on thousands of hours of painstaking NBS staff and volunteer labor, using only manual and mechanical control methods: handsaws, loppers, even machetes—but almost no noisy power equipment, and no chemicals that could harm wildlife.

Top priorities include areas with threatened rare plants or animals, heavily infested areas near high quality habitat, areas with recent small invasions, or locations like stream banks and trail edges, where invasives are likely to spread quickly.

The new *Invasive Species Management Plan* is a significant step forward in fulfilling Mabel Norman's legacy and enhancing this rich habitat for native wildlife.

HOSTILE TAKEOVER

Invasive Plants Threaten Native Plants and Wildlife

For more than a century Americans have imported non-native plant species from other parts of the world.

Without the insects, diseases, and animals that keep them from spreading aggressively in their native locations, non-native plants can crowd out native vegetation.

Once invasive plants take over a landscape, wildlife and biodiversity suffer. Native animals no longer have the food sources and vegetative cover they've adapted to over tens of thousands of years. Invasive plants also can disrupt pollinators from pollinating native plants.



Invasive: Japanese Knotweed



Invasive: Honeysuckle



Invasive: Privet

LEAVE A LEGACY



"As a volunteer, I've seen firsthand that every contribution makes a difference. That's why I decided to include the Norman Bird Sanctuary in my will."

-Pat Galuska, Member and Volunteer

Please consider adding some simple bequest language to your will, or make Norman Bird Sanctuary a beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan.

For more information contact Maureen Coleman at (401) 846-2577 or mcoleman@normanbirdsanctuary.org



TEEN GREEN

Nicole Souza, *Director of Curriculum Design*

Thanks to the Frederick Henry Prince Memorial Fund, Norman Bird Sanctuary is excited to announce the continuation of the Teen Green Hiking, Teen Green Trail Guide and EcoExplorer Programs! These fun and engaging programs encourage young children, teens and their families to get outside, be active and explore nature together.

Teen Green Trail Guide Program: This summer, experienced NBS naturalists will work with teens to develop their naturalist, trail safety and leadership skills. These trainings are fun, active, and engaging. They focus on helping teens build healthy relationships with the environment, exercise, and fellow Trail Guides. In the fall, Trail Guides put their skills to the test and co-lead a series of free, guided naturalist hikes for families. Do you know a teen who might be interested? Applications are available online or at the Welcome Center.



Teen Green teaches Naturalist & Leadership Skills

Teen Green Hiking Program: This exciting program offers teens the opportunity to hike our trails for free, track their progress in a trail journal and turn in the completed journal. All teens who register for the program and hike at least three trails receive a free family membership, water bottle, compass and backpack. Teens who hike all 10 trails are entered to win a cash prize drawing. Do you know a teen that might be interested? Register online and come into the Welcome Center to pick up your Trail Journal.

EcoExplorers Program: Playing outside helps build curious minds, strong bodies and joyful hearts. The EcoExplorer Program guides children ages 6-12 through fun activities that offer intellectual and emotional connections to nature. Kids completing the program will be honored with a certificate, badge and short ceremony. Do you know a young naturalist who enjoys hiking, exploration and making discoveries? Come to the Welcome Center and pick up your EcoExplorers Outdoor Discovery Guide today!

THANK YOU, MEMBERS!

Your membership provides much-needed funding for our education and conservation work, and we are grateful for your support. We're pleased to offer these membership benefits:

- ✓ Free Trail Access each time you visit
- ✓ Discounts on NBS' dynamic education and public programs, including Camp
- ✓ 10% Discount on purchases in The Owl Shop
- ✓ Major Discounts on Birthday Party Bookings
- ✓ Receive the Bi-Annual Newsletter, *The Flyer*
- ✓ Exclusive Discounts with our *Birds of a Feather* Partner Businesses
- ✓ Invitations to Special Events
- ✓ Rent NBS venues: Paradise Farmhouse, Mabel's Studio & Lawn, and Mabel's Garden
- ✓ ~~Free Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA) Membership~~
- ✓ Membership Card to swipe for Convenient Check-In

BIRDS OF A FEATHER BUSINESS PARTNERS

Enjoy special discounts at the following businesses as a benefit of your membership:

Audubon Society of RI ■ Farmaesthetics
■ Healing Arts Professionals ■ Innerlight
Center for Yoga ■ Island Retreat: A Medical
Spa ■ Life is Good Newport ■ Natural
Creations, LLC ■ newportFILM ■ Pour
Judgement ■ Kim Fuller Photography ■
Saluté Spirits ■ Salvation Café ■ Spa Fjör
at the Hotel Viking ■ Train with Jane
Athletics, Pilates & More

Visit www.normanbirdsantuary.org for details and new *Birds of a Feather* offers.



PLAN YOUR NEXT RETREAT IN PARADISE

Give your next family or corporate gathering a breathtaking backdrop. Plan a nature retreat for up to 16 guests at the beautifully-restored Paradise Farmhouse, or host your event at Mabel's Studio and Lawn, with sweeping views of meadow and ocean.

Contact:

Jeannie Santos, Site Rental & Guest Services Manager
P 401.846.2577 x18



Join Us for the 42nd Harvest Fair Saturday & Sunday, October 1st & 2nd

An autumn ritual for generations of families, this beloved old-fashioned fair offers something for everyone. The "Mabel Express" Barrel Train, Monkey Bridge, Mud Pit, Midway games and children's crafts tent invites kids of all ages to join in the fun.

Talented crafters and artisans sell their beautifully created items, enticing fair-goers to get a jump on holiday shopping. Local food and beer vendors offer an array of appetizing selections, while an impressive lineup of musicians round out the festive atmosphere. Let this be the year that you create fond family memories of your own by putting October 1st & 2nd on your calendar!

For details visit www.normanbirdsantuary.org



Stay connected to NBS through social media!



NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

Moonlight Over Paradise

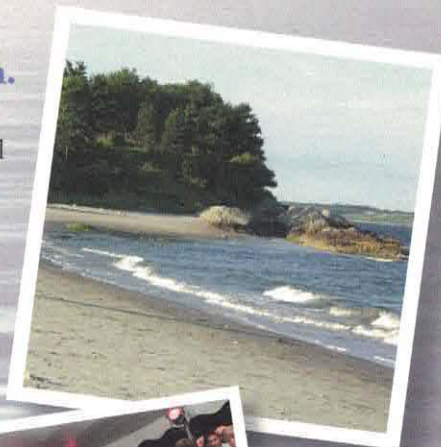
THE 2016 BIRD BALL
SOARS TO THE SHORE

11th Anniversary Bird Ball Saturday, August 20th 7 p.m.

On the sand, under the stars & lit by the glow of the full moon - this year's Bird Ball leaves the field and soars to the shore! This fabulous affair has earned Newport Life Magazine's "Best Gala Fundraiser" award.

Don't miss a great night of cocktails, dining and dancing on the sanctuary's beautiful beach.

For details visit
www.normanbirdsanctuary.org





Discover. Preserve. Teach. Inspire

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