



NBS Celebrates 50 Years of Summer Camp

SUMMER 2009

Behind the scenes the Norman Bird Sanctuary, education staff members are anxiously preparing for another fun-filled season of summer camp. But this season promises a little extra excitement, too: when the camp doors open on June 23, 2009, the Sanctuary will mark 50 years of summer camp programming.

"This is an exciting time for our education program," says Catherine Arning, the Sanctuary's Director of Education. "Nearly everyone that we meet has a story to share of their time as a NBS camper. They remember hikes to Hanging Rock, beach trips, crafts, and, of course, Friday Fiesta. We find generations of families who have been participated in Bird Sanctuary camp, and those stories and memories help us to feel especially connected to our community."

While many of these traditions – such as song circle and Friday Fiesta, a campus-wide celebration held at the end of every camp week – are still in practice, the Bird Sanctuary has added a number of new programs and activities over the years, and has added additional spots to accommodate its growing membership. In fact, in 2009, the camp expects to serve about 1000 campers, a significant increase from year's past. New themes and session options are offered for a variety of age groups, including the Ecology Adventures Travel Camp for Grades 8-12. The Sanctuary also recently received its American Camping Association (ACA) accreditation, an advanced level of certification that indicates quality programming and professional achievement.

"This summer, campers can choose from more activities than ever before," explains Catherine. "Our camp themes include fun offerings like Opposite Day Camp – where campers will learn about nocturnal animals and winter ecology in the middle of summer – or Wildlife Discovery Camp, a behind-the-scenes look at wildlife conservation. And for the first time, there's something for high school students, too. Our Ecology Adventures programs will take students entering grades 8-12 sailing, whale-watching, mountain climbing, and trekking all over New England."

To further mark its golden anniversary, the Sanctuary will hold a "50th Reunion" celebration on Thursday, July 16, from 6-9 pm. This event will feature dinner, music, and a skit night and sing-along led by current NBS campers and staff. Current and past campers and families are encouraged to attend; proceeds from the event will go towards the NBS Education Scholarship fund. To prepare for the reunion, campers and staff from year's past are asked to send their NBS stories and memories to the Sanctuary, or via e-mail at education@normanbirdsantuary.org. Stories will be collected into a special book of memories to mark the anniversary.

Families searching for summer camp opportunities can go to the NBS website, www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org. Scholarships, multiple child discounts, and payment plans are also available, and families are encouraged to apply.



Campers and staff take part in song circle during Summer Camp 2008.

NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY
BIRDBALL 2009

NIGHT OWLS
Dinner at the Disco!

SAVE THE DATE:
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2009

Tickets \$100 (\$125 at the door)
BRING YOUR FLOCK!
10 tickets purchased in advance: \$800

SUPPORT OUR MISSION OF:
PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
PROTECTING OPEN SPACE
PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

401.846.2577 or www.normanbirdsantuary.org

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Time for a Tick Check: *Preventing Tick-Borne Diseases This Summer*



As the temperatures rise and we make plans to head into the great outdoors, we wanted to take a moment to remind everyone of the simple precautions you can take to prevent tick-borne diseases this summer. The following guidelines apply to all NBS campers and visitors, but we also suggest that you use these

tips as you travel throughout parks, neighborhood yards, and the rest of the great outdoors this summer.

- **Wear appropriate clothing when outdoors.** Wear long sleeves, pants, and socks; light colored clothing makes the ticks easier to spot. We encourage visitors to roll up long socks or tuck pants into their socks to prevent ticks from reaching the skin. Ticks do not jump or fly and are most commonly picked up on your shoes and socks.
- **Stay on the trails.** Deer ticks prefer moist leaf litter and tall grasses and avoid mowed lawns and the center of trails. Visitors are not allowed to venture off the trails at NBS; we ask you and your family to set this same example on walks.
- **Stay off of the stone walls.** Despite their name, deer ticks can be found on many animals— including squirrels, some birds, and the mice that make their home in the region's stone walls. Climbing and sitting on stone walls is prohibited at NBS and should also be discouraged in other locations.
- **Tick checks!** We train our staff to integrate numerous tick checks into their daily teaching schedule. Checks should be conducted after hikes and before heading home. We also ask parents to check their children after camp and at bath time.
- **Repel ticks.** Use insect repellent on areas of your body and clothing that may come in contact with grass or brush. For maximum protection, treat your clothing with Permethrin, which kills ticks on contact. We recommend using a repellent with DEET on your skin and one with Permethrin on clothing (you can stock up on these products in the NBS gift shop.)
- **Stay calm.** If you find a tick, you should remove it as soon as possible with fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick firmly and do not use alcohol, nail polish remover, matches, or Vaseline. Remember that infected ticks must be attached for at least 24 hours before they can transmit Lyme disease.

For more information, please call (401) 846-2577 or stop by NBS. Best wishes for a safe and happy summer!

National AmeriCorps Program in the Spotlight

In April, President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, providing \$5 billion over 5 years to fund 250,000 volunteers in the fields of education, energy, environment, and health care. Rhode Island's congressional delegation worked on the bipartisan bill with Senators Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts and Orrin Hatch of Utah. The legislation will more than triple participation in AmeriCorps and other service programs.

The Norman Bird Sanctuary has participated in the AmeriCorps program since 2004, through a partnership known as the Ocean State Environmental



Education Collaborative (OSEEC). Together with Save the Bay and the Roger Williams Park Zoo, NBS hosts seasonal AmeriCorps members, who work to expand each organization's teaching capacity and reach underserved populations throughout Rhode Island.

This year, NBS has been thrilled to host six AmeriCorps members from February-August; an additional four members join our team in June. The current group—**Heather Bailey, Brenden DePrest, Bethany Ealy, Matt Gordon, Yvette Haughney, and Katrina McIsaac**—have been hard at work, already helping to teach over 3,000 students since their arrival in February. These dedicated members are an integral part of our education team and provide quality environmental education programs to youth across the state.



NBS birders check out new sightings during the spring migration day trip to Mt. Auburn Cemetery. Many other exciting ecotour trips are planned for summer and fall, including the return of our Maine Wilderness Weekend and an all-new trip to Georgia's barrier islands in the fall. Please visit our website for complete details.



Norman Bird Sanctuary Public Programs *June - August 2009*

Join us for outdoor exploration and discovery, hands-on animal presentations, music, art, and more!

Unless otherwise indicated, pre-registration is required. Please call (401) 846-2577 for more information or to register.

JUNE

Guided Bird Walks (Every other Sunday - June 14 and 28—8:00 A.M.): Jay Manning leads these popular guided walks. Open to beginners or experienced birders. Bring your binoculars, and meet in the NBS parking lot. *Program Cost: Free; registration not required.*

How to Use Your CSA Shares: Tips and Recipes (Meeting every other Wednesday, beginning Wednesday, June 17—6:30-7:45 P.M.): Join JoEllen Hockenbrough, Personal Chef and Owner of Ladle to Crave! Personal Chef Service, as she provides tips and recipes to make the most of your weekly CSA shares. During these hands-on classes, you will learn what will be in season and how to use it! Recipes and one to two cooking demonstrations will be featured, along with tips on how to store and keep your produce as fresh as possible. The last 15 minutes of the class will be used for participants to share their experience and how they are making the most of the harvest. Classes will run from June 17-September 23. *Program Cost: \$15 per class—or, pay in advance for all classes and the cost will be only \$10 per class.*

NBS 5K Walk/Run Race (Saturday, June 20): Our annual 5K attracts runners and nature enthusiasts from all over New England. Don't miss this scenic run for a good cause: proceeds benefit the Norman Bird Sanctuary. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., and the run starts at 9:00. A kids' run begins at 9:30 A.M. For more information, visit www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org, or register online at www.needtorace.com.

NBS Summer Camp Begins (Tuesday, June 23): Don't miss the excitement this summer, as NBS celebrates its 50th year of summer camp programming! Our age-appropriate camps for grades PreK-12 have something to offer every interest. Choose from Fledglings, Nature Day, Explorers, Field Explorers, Island Adventures, and Ecology Adventures, with ALL-NEW themes for all age groups. We've added extra slots to accommodate our growing membership—spaces are still open! Scholarships, multiple child discounts, and other offers are also available. NBS is an ACA-accredited camp. Camp season runs 6/23—8/21. Register on our website, www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org, or call 846-2577 for more information.

Bird Tales (Alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays - June 24, and 30—10:00-11:00 A.M.): Our nature storytime features animals, authors, and art! We'll read a story, meet an animal or go on a discovery hike, and complete a craft project. This hands-on program is perfect for the preschool child, or any parent-child pair. We'll meet in the Apple Orchard or under the tent in case of inclement weather. A complete reading schedule is posted on our website, www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org. *Program Cost: Suggested donation of \$2 per child (members), \$4 per child (non-members.) Adults free. Registration encouraged but not required.*

Preschoolers with Parents Summer Session A (5 Weeks: Wednesdays, June 24-July 15—9:30-11:30 A.M.): Explore the wonders of NBS with your young child! This interactive program introduces children ages 2-5 to the delights of nature, through songs, crafts, games, and trail walks. This popular annual series is led by Marilyn Lyell. *Program Cost: \$70 per child. One adult per child, please. Registration for the Preschoolers with Parents program is available on the NBS website, www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org (through our summer camp registration system).*

The Rhino With Glue on Shoes—A Presentation by Dr. Lucy Spelman (Thursday, June 25—7:00-8:30 P.M.): Our wildlife speaker series continues with a presentation on animal conservation by Dr. Lucy Spelman, DVM, of the Mountain Gorilla Vet Project in Rwanda, Africa. Dr. Spelman will give a presentation on her research and work with mountain gorillas and other species, followed by a book signing of *The Rhino with Glue-on Shoes*, a collection of short stories by wildlife veterinarians around the globe. *Program Cost: Free, though donations are appreciated to support the NBS animal care program.*



NBS Summer Programs



Rainbow Garden Kids Club (Saturday, June 27—10:00-12:00 A.M.) Hey, kids! Here's your chance to grow your very own garden, from start to finish! Best yet, you'll be helping to support a good cause—the NBS animal care program! The fruits and veggies we grow will go to feed our non-releasable wild animals. Don't miss this chance to get muddy and messy in the great outdoors! This club will meet every other week on Saturdays and is open to kids of all ages. Alternate dates may be available depending on student interest. *Program Cost: Free; please call for more information.*

Book Worms Environmental Book Club (Monday, June 29—6:30-8:30): Join us at Blithewold Mansion Gardens and Arboretum for this month's selection, *Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England*, by Tom Wessels. Bring a potluck dish to share. The book club meets monthly on the last Monday of every month, alternating sites between NBS and Blithewold. *Program Cost: Free to members of NBS and Blithewold.*

JULY

Wildflower Walk (Sunday, July 5—9:00-10:00 A.M.): - Join Sue Williams for her monthly wildflower walk along NBS trails. You'll learn to ID local species, hear how they support native wildlife, and learn more about their fascinating natural history. *Program Cost: Suggested donation of \$2 per person.*

Gentle Yoga (Mondays, July 6, 13, 20, and 27—6:00-7:30 P.M. See August for additional dates): Certified yoga teacher Clara Lasagni Morgan offers an energizing, gentle, and relaxing yoga session that can benefit people of any age. Beginners are welcome! *Program Cost (per session): Members - \$8; Non-members - \$10; Seniors (over 65) - \$5.*

Bird Tales (Alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays - July 8, 14, 22, and 28—10:00-11:00 A.M.): Our nature storytime features animals, authors, and art! We'll read a story, meet an animal or go on a discovery hike, and complete a craft project. This hands-on program is perfect for the preschool child, or any parent-child pair. We'll meet in the Apple Orchard or under the tent in case of inclement weather. A complete reading schedule is posted on our website, www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org. *Program Cost: Suggested donation of \$2 per child (members), \$4 per child (non-members.) Adults free. Registration encouraged but not required.*

Family Nature Night: The Real Ratatouille (Friday, July 10—7:00-8:30 P.M.) Meet the Sanctuary's real-life rats and other mammals, and learn about how they use their senses to survive in nature. Then, like the movie, we'll practice our own cooking skills as we make some yummy, kid-friendly treats to enjoy and take home. *Program Cost: Members- \$6 adults 13+, \$4 children 3-12; Non-members \$8 adults 13+, \$6 for children 3-12. One adult free per each paid child.*

NBS Paddle Party and Third Beach Family Night (Saturday, July 11—5:00-9:00 P.M.): Celebrate the paddlers who made it around Aquidneck Island and the renovation of the Sanctuary's Third Beach Club into a hands-on marine education center! Join us for a scrumptious dinner provided by Blackstone Caterers, s'mores around the beach campfire, and much more. Family activities will include beach and salt marsh ecology walks, seashore craft and activity stations, a "jellyfish" eating contest, fish dissection, and even a beach night hike under the stars. Don't miss this exciting evening! *Program Cost: In advance— Individual cost of \$15 per adult and \$5 per child. Family Discount—\$40 for a family of two adults and up to 4 kids. Tickets are available on our website. Adults are \$20 each at the door.*

Rainbow Garden Kids Club (Every Other Saturday, July 11 and 25—10:00-12:00 A.M.) Hey, kids! Here's your chance to grow your very own garden, from start to finish! Best yet, you'll be helping to support a good cause—the NBS animal care program! The fruits and veggies we grow will go to feed our non-releasable wild animals. Don't miss this chance to get muddy and messy in the great outdoors! This club will meet every other week on Saturdays and is open to kids of all ages. Alternate dates may be available depending on student interest. *Program Cost: Free; please call for more information.*

Guided Bird Walks (Every other Sunday - July 12 and 26—8:00 A.M.): Jay Manning leads these popular guided walks. Open to beginner or experienced birders. Bring your binoculars, and meet in the NBS parking lot. *Program Cost: Free; registration not required.*

(401) 846-2577

June—August 2009



NBS Summer Camp 50th Reunion Celebration (Thursday, July 16—6:00-9:00 P.M.): Calling all past, present, and future NBS campers and staff: take a walk down memory lane with us as we celebrate our 50th year in style! This exciting program will feature a catered meal, silent auction, and a skit night and sing along led by current NBS staff members. The evening will include family games, a slideshow, and other fun activities not to be missed! All proceeds will go to benefit the NBS education scholarship program. *To register or for more information, please visit our website, www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org.*

Rhode Island Families in Nature Guided Hike (Saturday, July 18—10:00-11:00 A.M.): Get outside and soak up the summer sun as you join families from across the state for this free guided hike to the NBS pond! *Program Cost: Free.*

Harry Potter Nature Night Out (Saturday, July 18—6:00-10:00 P.M.): Kids, leave the parents at home and come join us for a nature night in at NBS! In celebration of the new Harry Potter movie, we'll watch Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (Book 5) on the big screen, and meet real-life spiders, snakes, and birds of prey. Pizza, ice cream, and homemade "butterbeer" will also be provided. Ages 5+. *Program Cost: Members- \$10 per child; Non-members \$15 per child.*

Preschoolers with Parents Summer Session B (5 Weeks: Wednesdays, July 22 – August 12—9:30-11:30 A.M.): Explore the wonders of NBS with your young child! This interactive program introduces children ages 2-5 to the delights of nature, through songs, crafts, games, and trail walks. This popular annual series is led by Marilyn Lyell. *Program Cost: \$70 per child. One adult per child, please. Registration for the Preschoolers with Parents program is available on the NBS website, www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org (through our summer camp registration system).*

Family Sunset Hike and Campfire Singalong (Saturday, July 25—7:00-9:00 P.M.): This popular family night features a family nature discovery hike, followed by a campfire and singalong. We'll roast s'mores and sing our favorite campfire songs as we watch the water views and sunset. *Program Cost: Suggested donation of \$2 per person (members) or \$4 per person (non-members).*

Book Worms Environmental Book Club (Monday, July 27—6:30-8:30 P.M.): Join us at the Norman Bird Sanctuary for this month's selection of essays (please call for titles). Bring a potluck dish to share. The book club meets monthly on the last Monday of every month, alternating sites between NBS and Blithewold. *Program Cost: Free to members of NBS and Blithewold.*

Singles Sunset Hike and Campfire (Friday, July 31—7:30-9:30 P.M.): New to the area, or just looking for a chance to network with other outdoor enthusiasts? Grab your hiking boots and head to the Norman Bird Sanctuary for a fun chance to meet new friends. We'll observe the local flora and fauna as we hike to Hanging Rock and munch on light hors d'oeuvres as we check out the sunset and scenic water views. This hike is open to all adults 18+ with any hiking ability/level. *Program Cost: Members- \$4 per person; Non-members \$6 per person.*

AUGUST

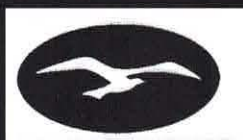
Educator Appreciation Month: Teachers and administrators, make the most of your summer vacation, with our Educator Appreciation days! During the month of August, trail admission for Rhode Island educators and their families is free. Stop by to receive a packet of information about NBS school programs, along with exclusive coupons and other special discounts. And, if you book a school program for the 2009-2010 school year before August 31, you'll receive 10% of the total program cost!

Teaming with Nature—Summer Sensations (Saturday, August 1—10:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.): Our monthly program for preschoolers and parents celebrates the summer season, with crafts, songs, and more. We'll go in search of special summery treats along the trail, too! *Program Cost: Members - \$4 per child; Non-members - \$6. Adults free.*

Gentle Yoga (Mondays, August 3, 17, 24, and 31—6:00-7:30 P.M. See June-July for additional dates): Certified yoga teacher Clara Lasagni Morgan offers an energizing, gentle, and relaxing yoga session that can benefit people of any age. Beginners are welcome! Wednesday yoga and Yoga for Young People will resume in the fall session. *Program Cost (per session): Members - \$8; Non-members - \$10; Seniors (over 65) - \$5.*

Wildflower Walks (Sunday, August 2 and 30—9:00-10:00 A.M.): - Join Sue Williams for her monthly wildflower walk along NBS trails. You'll learn to ID local species, hear how they support native wildlife, and discover their fascinating natural

Mark your calendars!
Special Series at NBS



Weekend Craft Station: Every weekend from June-August will feature our *weekend craft station*. Free with paid entrance to NBS. We will also hold guided hikes and Amazing Animals presentations on select Saturdays—check the website for weekly happenings!

Book Worms Environmental Book Club

Bring a potluck dish to share and join in the discussion. The club meets the last Monday of every month at 6:30 P.M., with sites alternating between NBS and Blithewold Mansion and Gardens.

Bird Tales

Join us for our fun-filled nature storytime on alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:00 A.M. Please see website for book selection.

Wildlife Speaker Series

Highlighting local ecology and conservation issues, every 3rd Thursday night at 7:00 P.M.

Family Nature Nights

Fun for the entire family! Join us on the first Friday night of every month at 7:00 P.M.

Bird Walks with Jay Manning

Meet at NBS every other Sunday for free guided bird walks. Summer dates are 6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, and 8/23.

Wildflower Walks with Sue Williams

Meet at NBS for guided wildflower walks along the NBS trails. Summer dates are 6/7, 7/5, 8/2, and 8/30

Family Nature Night: Beach Night Hike (Friday, August 7—7:00 P.M.): See the beach in a whole new "light!" We'll investigate the mysterious animals that visit the seashore when we're fast asleep and even learn how humans use their own night vision. You'll also discover the undersea critters that make their own light, learn about the fascinating ecology of deep sea fishes, and investigate the sea turtles and birds that nest along the Atlantic shoreline. Program Cost: Members - \$6 adults 13+, \$4 children 12; Non-members - \$8 adults 13+, \$6 children 3-12. One adult free per each paid child.

Rainbow Garden Kids Club (Every Other Saturday, August 8 and 22—10:00-12:00 A.M.) Hey, kids! Here's your chance to grow your very own garden, from start to finish! Best yet, you'll be helping to support a good cause—the NBS animal care program! The fruits and veggies we grow will go to feed our non-releasable wild animals. Don't miss this chance to get muddy and messy in the great outdoors! This club will meet every other week on Saturdays and is open to kids of all ages. Alternate dates may be available depending on student interest. Program Cost: Free; please call for more information.

Guided Bird Walks (Every other Sunday - August 9 and 23—8:00 A.M.): Jay Manning leads these popular guided walks. Open to beginners or experienced birders. Bring your binoculars, and meet in the NBS parking lot. Program Cost: Free; registration not required.

6th Annual Bird Ball (Saturday, August 15—7:00 P.M.): Don't miss this year's theme—Night Owls! Join NBS for our annual fundraiser and party, with dinner, dancing, a silent auction, and much, much more! Tickets: \$100 per person (\$125 at the door).

Family Camp (Monday-Friday, August 17-21—9:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M.): Bring the entire family to NBS for this special session of camp! These engaging 2.5 hour classes are perfect for all ages, with animals, hiking, and outdoor exploration. We'll feature all the favorite camp traditions too, with songs, games, and, of course, puddingstone! Themes differ each day (see list online), so participants can sign up for a single session or a full week of programs. Program Cost: Single Day - \$18 for a family of 2; \$7 per each additional family member; Full Week - \$85 for a family of 2; \$30 per each additional family member.

Wildlife Lecture Series: Crash—A Tale of Two Species (Thursday, August 20—7:00 P.M.): With its armored shell, ancient anatomy, and 350-million-year lineage, the horseshoe crab almost seems too inconspicuous to stir up controversy. Yet this humble creature is at the very center of a collision between three completely different species. Horseshoe crab numbers have declined significantly since the early 1990's. This is especially important to a small shorebird that is a global traveler of the most impressive kind. The red knot makes one of the longest migrations of any animal — a journey that takes it from one end of the earth to the other. To accomplish this feat, it relies on the eggs of the horseshoe crab. Without these eggs, the red knot is in danger. This film tells the story of nature's amazing ability to create fragile connections among the most unexpected creatures, and of our potential as humans to destroy those connections — or restore them. Program Cost: Free, though donations are appreciated to support our animal care program.

Multi-Arts Nature Adventure Camp (Monday-Friday, August 24-28—9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.): Join Clara Morgan and Paul Zasada for this exciting camp for grades K-6. Campers will explore nature through many art forms, including painting, sculpting, and more. Other activities will include yoga, visual arts, and fun games. For more information, please call (401) 457-7160. Program Cost: \$95 per student.

Maine Wilderness Weekend (Friday-Sunday, August 28-30): Spend a late summer weekend at Claybrook Mountain Lodge in Maine's beautiful western mountain region near Bigelow Mountain, Flagstaff Lake, and the Dead River. Explore a variety of habitats, and search for the spruce grouse, boreal chickadee, black-backed woodpecker, moose, and other wildlife. Besides your hiking boots, make sure you bring your swimsuit because a dip in a mountain lake or a babbling brook are a possibility. Fees including lodging, fully guided tours, and all meals from Friday dinner—Sunday lunch. Each participant must provide their own transportation to and from the lodge. Don't miss this special weekend getaway! Program Cost: Members - \$295 per person; Non-members \$310 per person.

Book Worms Environmental Book Club (Monday, August 31—6:30-8:30 P.M.) Meet at Blithewold for our monthly book club. Program Cost: Free to members of NBS and Blithewold.

To register or for more information about any NBS program, please call (401) 846-2577.

What's Happening at Third Beach: Birds, Buildings and Beach Grass



BIRDS

Since NBS acquired the Third Beach parcel, we have consistently and vigilantly monitored the property. And each year since 2004, we have been fortunate to find piping plovers nesting on Third Beach. We collaborate with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor these birds because they are endangered. Having the plovers nest on Third Beach brings the community together in a unique fashion because of the intersection between the people like to use the beach and the way plovers need to use the beach.

Piping plovers again nested and recently hatched at the site of the former Navy Beach Club. The adults and two chicks are actively feeding and walking up and down the beach from the boat ramp to Peabody's beach. Keep your eyes open and your dogs on leash as the chicks grow and learn to fly. Once the chicks learn to fly, around July 4th, they are better able to protect themselves and keep out of harm's way.

BUILDINGS

Third Beach Clubhouse project has taken a major step forward. Over the course of 2008, NBS planned for the adaptive reuse of the clubhouse into classrooms. We now teach about 10,000 children and adults through our education programs every year and that number continues to grow. This spring we find our existing classrooms filled to capacity during most weekdays and we are literally running out of covered teaching spaces. Classroom space down at Third Beach will provide us and our teachers and students with greater flexibility during the school year as well as in the summer.

In April, NBS contracted with Lance Construction to rehabilitate the building. Over the next two months we will pour new piers for the building, repair and replace rotted woodwork, and repaint the exterior of the building. We anticipate opening the building for use this summer. The end result will be a building suited for teaching people about the beach, dune and marsh habitats.

NBS has planned this project for several years. From the very beginning the Board of Directors took steps to ensure that we would have the funding in place to rehabilitate the clubhouse without launching a capital campaign. This thoughtful course of action allows NBS to move forward with construction without interrupting our stewardship and education programs or our Farmhouse project.

This year, NBS formed a committee to develop a plan for the building based on the current and future needs of the organization. As we developed our plan we sought input from outside groups related to the safety of the building and the feasibility of rehabilitating the existing structure. We consulted with structural engineers to determine the building's condition and we hired Lead Safe to test the structure for lead. The engineers gave us the green light to repair the existing structure and the testing company did not find lead on the building or in the soil.

BEACH GRASS

As if plovers and construction were not enough to keep us occupied at Third Beach, NBS continues to make progress on our dune restoration project. NBS received funding from the Rhode Island Foundation's Animal Welfare Program and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to restore the dunes at Third Beach. Since 2005, hundreds of NBS volunteers have planted beach grass plugs to protect the primary dunes from erosion. We have planted more than 12,000 plugs over the past four years. The beach grass has filled in nicely.

Keep Wild Animals in Nature as Summer Approaches

With summer's arrival, come Rhode Island's newest residents: fledgling birds, turtle hatchlings, snakes, rabbits, and other young creatures are readily visible throughout the Sanctuary and in many "wild" areas across the state. While these animals may look cute and cuddly now, they have extremely long life spans and require specialized care. Many well-intentioned animal enthusiasts have the best of intentions when taking one of these creatures home as pets - but are unable to care for their charges in the long term.

Turtles, for example, can develop life-threatening shell diseases if they do not have appropriate lighting and water quality. Proper lighting, filtration, and aquaria are required, along with balanced, species-specific diets. Keep in mind that many of these wild animals are also protected by state and federal laws: permits are often permitted to keep them as pets (at NBS, plants and animals are protected and should not be disturbed.) Whenever possible, the best strategy is to observe *all* wild animals in their native habitats.

Finally, it is also important to remember that exotic pets should never be released into the wild, even if similar species reside in Rhode Island. Once-captive animals would be ill-equipped to take care of themselves and could negatively impact other native species' survival.





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

Non-Profit
Organization
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02842

Our Wish List!

- Tanks, aquariums, and cages
- Plastic storage bins
- Hand towels and blankets
- Microscopes
- Children's games, puzzles, and toys
- Children's storybooks
- Puppets
- Area rugs for classrooms
- Craft and art materials
- Gift cards to PetCo, Acorn Naturalists, or Amazon.com
- Blender, food processor, hot plate



Volunteer Venue

Spring arrived, and with it, brought new life to the Sanctuary. As in years' past, more than one hundred bird boxes needed to be installed in our fields. Volunteers answered the call in time for tree swallows, who migrated north from Mexico, to take up residence, building nests.

Last year, volunteers refurbished half of our large aviary so that we could move our resident red tailed hawk from the smaller aviary into the larger one and accommodate a second red tailed hawk. "Hawk" and "Hunter" are now enjoying each other's company! During the last couple of months, volunteers completed the aviary. In the next few weeks we are expecting to welcome a screech and barred owl and a red-shouldered hawk, adding to our family of animal ambassadors.

The first floor of the barn has been undergoing a transformation in the form of murals created by talented volunteers from the Rhode Island School for the Deaf and several students from David Barnes art class at Bristol Community College. Each mural depicts a habitat at NBS, covering the floor, walls, and posts with forest animals, pond life, and beach creatures.

On May 17th, 30 volunteers served, among other delectable items, eggs with salmon, guided birding enthusiasts of all ages, organized a plant sale of organic herbs and flowers, and introduced children to the world of nature through hands on exhibits at the 27th annual Birds & Breakfast.

Voted as one of the *10 Best Places to Volunteer* by Serve RI, we are continually looking for enthusiastic people of all ages to assist Joseph McLaughlin, our Properties Director, in the maintenance of our 325 acres, and to help with education programs and animal care. Events always call for extra hands. In the coming months we will be looking for volunteers to help at the Bird Ball and Harvest Fair. Over 300 volunteers are needed for Harvest Fair alone! Look online for postings. *Volunteer while enjoying the very special place that is the Norman Bird Sanctuary.* For information, please contact Lesley Muir at lmuir@normanbirdsanctuary.org.