



THE NORMAN BIRD FLYER

Volume 20, No. 3

Summer 1999

Join Us All Summer Long June 28th - August 27th

Discover Something New Each Time You Come!

Sanctuary Walks

Every Tuesday

10:00 to 11:30 am

Learn the history of the Sanctuary and plans for the future. Included in this walk are visits to some of the old farm buildings and some of the staff's favorite spots in the Sanctuary. The fee is \$5.00/adult and \$3.00/child for non-members and \$1.00 off for members.

Family Walk

Every Friday

10:00 to 11:30 am

Come along for a natural history walk discovering caterpillars munching on leaves, the history of Hanging Rock, the tranquility of Shady Glade and much more. The fee is \$5.00/adult and \$3.00/child for non-members and \$1.00 off for members.

Birding For Beginners

Every Saturday

9:00 to 10:30 am

Learn the basics of birding from binocular use to how to identify birds while flying, by field markings and songs. If you have binoculars and field guides bring them along. The fee is \$5.00/adult and \$3.00/child for non-members and \$1.00 off for members.

Seashore Ramble or Sunset Walk

Every Wednesday

6:00 to 7:00 pm

Enjoy evenings exploring sea life along the shores of Third Beach (July 14, 28, Aug. 11 & 25) or a stroll along Hanging Rock Ridge as the sun sets (July 7, 21, Aug. 4 & 8). This is a free walk for members, non-members are \$5.00/adult and \$3.00/child

Guided Birdwalks

Every Sunday

8:00 - 9:00 am

Join expert birder, Jay Manning or NBS Property Manager, Veronica Hinds for a guided birdwalk each Sunday morning. Whether you are just a beginner or more advanced, this is a great way to sharpen your skills. This walk is free for members and non-members.



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***Thank You Also To
Crystal Spring Water Agway for their
generous in-kind donations!***

Environmental Education Programs

Kayaking

Day: Thursday
Dates: August 5th
Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Fee: \$ 31 non-member
\$ 28 NBS member

ADULT PROGRAM

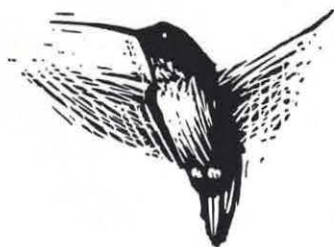
Have you ever been kayaking before? This is a great opportunity to try this (easy to learn) growing sport out on a safe and beautiful flat water river. These boats are great vehicles for exploring wildlife, for example, we will be able to paddle within 20 meters of a giant osprey nest. Pack your own lunch or eat at the cafe next door to the kayak outfitter. (16 or older - no experience necessary).

Birding at the Vineyard

Day: Saturday
Date: September 18th
Time: 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Fee: FREE

ADULT PROGRAM

Join Jay Manning, NBS bird walk leader and board member, for a morning at the Newport Vineyard. This bird walk is part of a series of visits to local open space regions along the Aquidneck Island Greenways.



Meditation, Art, and Nature

Day: Saturday
Dates: August 7th
Time: 10:00am - 11:00pm
Fee: \$ 15 non-member
\$ 12 NBS member

ADULT PROGRAM

The conditions of modern life often cause us to feel separate from the natural world. Katherine Spiratos, a dancer and artist from New York, leads this workshop with poetry readings, meditative movements, inner reflection and hands-on artistry. Go home with a renewed spark of creativity, a heightened awareness and a refreshed connection to the natural world.

Birding with Audubon

Day: Thursday
Dates: August 26th
Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Fee: \$ 8 non-member
\$ 6 NBS member

FAMILY PROGRAM

Join Larry Taft, RI Audubon's Properties Director for a day of birdwatching at some of Rhode Island's most pristine wildlife habitats. Hawk migration (the front end) and shore migration should make this an exciting adventure for everyone. Please bring binoculars, a bag lunch and something to drink. Wear comfortable hiking shoes and please dress for the weather.

Guido Family Singers

Day: Saturday
Dates: August 21
Time: 6:00 - 8:30 pm
Fee: \$ 8 non-member
\$ 6 NBS member

FAMILY PROGRAM

Last year was great and we are doing it again. Join NBS staff member M.R. Guido and her talented brothers for a wonderfully musical evening. The Guido family has performed in Greenwich Village, NY and have made a music video and CD. This performance is a wonderful opportunity to spend a relaxed evening listening to great music in a natural setting on the lawn of Paradise Farm. We will supply the setting, entertainment and hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages--you bring chairs or blankets and a potluck dish to share.

Environmental Education Conference

Day: Monday
Date: October 18
Time: TBA
Fee: TBA

ADULT PROGRAM

The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association is hosting this annual conference at Roger Williams Park and Zoo. This year's theme is *Habitats*. Educators including forest rangers, biologists and teachers from around the state are presenting their most effective environmental lessons plans and field trips. Rocky shores, farmlands, wetlands, and rolling woodlands are workshop topics for this great conference. Call NBS for more information, 846-2577.

Whale Watches with the Dolphin Fleet

Day: Thursday
Dates: July 22nd or August 19th
Time: 7:45 am - 8:45 pm
Fee: Member: \$43 adult \$38 child/seniors
Non-Member: \$48 adult \$43 child/seniors

FAMILY PROGRAM

Search for the Humpback, Minke, Finback, Blue and Right Whale on a research vessel with the Center for Coastal Studies out of Provincetown, MA. During this four hour boat trip, whales will be spotted on their northern feeding grounds. Numerous seabirds will be seen as well. A Sanctuary staff member will accompany the group and drive everyone out to the cape. We will leave the Sanctuary at 8:00am so please arrive a little early. Our plan is to arrive early in Provincetown for a bite to eat before we load the boat. Our boarding time will be 1:15 and the boat will return to port about 5:30pm. For the return trip, the Sanctuary will provide snacks and refreshments. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather and we suggest bringing binoculars, cameras, field guides, and sunscreen.



Bay Sampling

Day: Thursday
Date: July 8
Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Fee: Member: \$17 adult \$14 child
Non-member: \$20 adult \$17 child

FAMILY PROGRAM

Secrets of the salt pond are explored on the *Night Heron* eco-excursion vessel. Passengers of all ages get a thrill when green crabs scatter in all directions as a crab trap is opened on the "touch table." This field trip offers a hands-on experience observing of various crustaceans (lobsters and crabs), fish, and seaweeds.

Looking Ahead to Fall

Mark These Dates On Your Calender Now
(full details will be available in our fall newsletter)

Preschoolers with Parents

Session #1 - October 6, 12, 20 and 27
Session #2 - Nov. 3, 10, 17, & Dec. 1

Mushroom Walk

Saturday, October 9th

Seeds & Berries Walk

Saturday, October 9th

Autumn Night Hikes with

Newport Children's Theatre
October 15, 16, 22 and 23

and of course don't forget the 1999

~ HARVEST FAIR ~

October 2nd & 3rd

Snorkeling and Sampling

Day: Thursday
Date: July 29th
Time: 11:30 am - 3:45 pm
Fee: Member: \$29 adult \$26 child (4-11)
Non-member: \$34 adult \$29 child (4-11)

FAMILY PROGRAM

Strap on the snorkel gear and seek out under water seascapes. After an hour of swimming with a fish-eye view, scramble back into the boat. The next half hour is spent taking a closer look at critters on the "touch" table. This trip also takes place on the *Night Heron* eco-excursion vessel (all equipment is included). Please wear appropriate swimming attire.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Unless stated otherwise, pre-registration is required for programs. Fees for programs requiring registration must be paid in advance by cash, check or Mastercard/Visa. Registration can be made by mail or by phone (with credit card payments) or now at our web site: www.normanbirds sanctuary.org. Fees will be refunded in full up to five days before the program. With less than five days notice, fees will be refunded only if you can be replaced with a person from the waiting list. Please use the registration form if registering by mail.

Cows Don't Go To School!

by David P. Leach, Executive Director

Aquidneck Island Land Trust

Many people think that residential development will lower property taxes in their community by increasing the town's tax base. In reality, residential development actually costs communities an average of \$1.14 in services for every dollar of revenue raised. Conversely, farms and open space cost an average of only 42 cents in public services.¹ The bottom line is that residential development not only reduces open space, it also increases Aquidneck Island's tax burden.

The Aquidneck Island Land Trust (AILT) is dedicated to preserving Aquidneck Island's open spaces for the benefit of the community.

urgency behind this mis-
for single family build-
was the greatest of any
Island in 1997. Over
Island's farms and other
converted to residential sub-
this rate, we predict that
fully developed within 28 years

There are alternatives to this
ment. The so-called "smart growth"
rapidly across the country emphasizes
protected open space and residential devel-
lower taxes, or at least taxes that rise
"dumb growth" we have currently.
such as Middletown and Portsmouth
regulations favorable to protecting open space rather than promoting residential subdivisions, are actually
improving their fiscal stability.

To demonstrate the economic benefits of retaining open space, AILT commissioned a 1998 study of the Perry Farm property on East Main Road. Protected in perpetuity by the land trust, this 82 acre property is home to the Newport Winery and Vineyards and the proposed Newport International Golf Course. However, the property could have been developed as a 49 unit residential subdivision under Middletown's current zoning and subdivision regulations. The study shows that if the subdivision had been built, it would have cost each Middletown household about \$24.00 per year for the next 30 years in increased taxes. This would have resulted in the addition of approximately two million dollars to Middletown's tax bill.⁴

Given the potential for other similar residential developments on the island and the astonishing increase in building permits over the last few years, then it is obvious that protecting Aquidneck Island's open space makes sound economic sense. As the American Farmland Trust tag line puts it--"Cows don't go to school!"

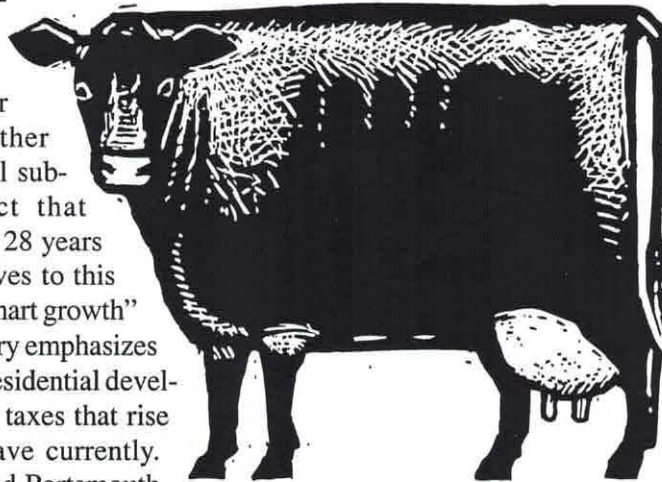
¹ Southern New England Forests Consortium. Cost of Community Services in Southern New England. (1996)

² Hutchinson, Mary F. Aquidneck Island: A Decade of Change. An Analysis of Development on Aquidneck island: 1985-1997 Technical Report. Aquidneck Island Partnership/Aquidneck

Island land Trust. (1998)

³ *ibid*

⁴ Johnston, Robert J. Fiscal Impact of a Subdivision on Perry Farm. The Tax benefits of Open Space Preservation v. Residential Development. Aquidneck Island Partnership/URI (1998)



There is considerable
sion. The rate of increase
ing permits in Middletown
municipality in Rhode
1,400 acres of Aquidneck
open spaces have been
divisions since 1985.² At
Aquidneck Island could be
in the year 2025.³ At
indiscriminate develop-
philosophy spreading
the combination of prop-
opment. This results in
more slowly, than the
Therefore, communities
that implement policies and

~ Join Us ~
September 22, 1999
7:00 pm for
"A Decade of Change"

*The Aquidneck Island Land Trust
will present "A Decade of Change", a
presentation which highlights the critical
importance of preserving and protecting
open space. This is a free program for
members and \$2.00 for non-members*

Volunteers Honored

At the Norman Bird Sanctuary's Annual Meeting last month, several volunteers were honored for their outstanding service.

Fran Holmes was presented with a bouquet of flowers and recognized once again for many years of volunteer service to the Norman Bird Sanctuary. Fran was honored several years ago as our first Volunteer of the Year and has continued to help out weekends in our Visitor's Center. Sadly, Fran is officially retiring from her tenure here. We will certainly miss her and hope she will not become a stranger.

Andrew Dutra was honored as this year's Outstanding Teacher Naturalist Assistant for his work during Nature Day Camp 1998. Throughout his volunteer time here, Andy has proven to be invaluable in helping the Teacher Naturalists with everything from holding camper's hands to leading games. His enthusiasm and energy has proven to be contagious for everyone involved in camp.

This year's Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to **MaryAnn Amrose**. MaryAnn has been involved in varying capacities with the Sanctuary for the last 10 years. From assisting in the crafts tent at the Harvest Fair to leading birdwalks and greeting visitors in the Barn Owl Shop, MaryAnn has become indispensable.

Many thanks to Fran, Andy & MaryAnn for all they have given to the Norman Bird Sanctuary. We couldn't accomplish all that we do without them and all the others that give so generously of their time and talents!



This masked member of the Newport Children's Theatre was only one of the many people who helped to make the 1999 Birds and Breakfast a great success. The Children's Theatre presented a performance which brought some wonderful birds and animals to life. Other highlights included a delicious breakfast buffet, music by Peter Piltz and guided birdwalks by our team of expert birders.

PLANT THE SEED NOW!



We are planting the seed in your mind now... grow for the NBS Harvest Fair's Home & Garden competi`tion in October. We're looking for the best and biggest, including entries in the new Sunflower category! Call the Sanctuary office at 846-2577 for more information.

REGISTRATION/MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE JOIN US! NBS Membership Form

☐ INDIVIDUAL (\$20)

☐ FAMILY (\$30)

☐ SUSTAINING (\$50)

☐ PATRON/BUSINESS (\$100)

☐ SUPPORTING (\$250)

☐ BENEFACTOR (\$500)

ADDRESS & PAYMENT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Form of Payment: CHECK VISA MASTERCARD

Card # _____ Exp. _____

Signature: _____

Please Make Check Payable to: Norman Bird Sanctuary
583 Third Beach Road, Middletown, RI 02842

Program Fees	\$ _____
Membership	\$ _____
Birds & Breakfast	
Adult Tickets @\$8	\$ _____
Children Tickets @\$4	\$ _____
TOTAL DUE	\$ _____

Please Register the Following:

Name	Age & Grade (if under 18)	Program	Fee

Norman Bird Sanctuary
583 Third Beach Road
Middletown, RI 02842

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Newport, RI 02840
Permit No. 43

TO CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

The Barn Owl Shop

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The Norman Bird Sanctuary
583 Third Beach Road
Middletown, RI
(401) 846-2577

*Open 7 days a week
Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm
and Wednesday evenings until dusk*

*All sales benefit the Norman Bird Sanctuary
Members receive a 10% Discount*



Find Us on the Web!
www.normanbirdsanctuary.org