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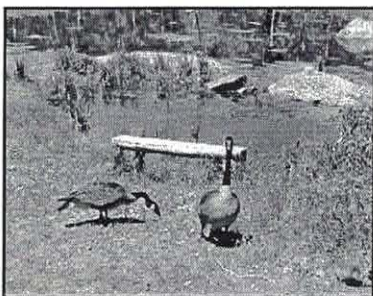
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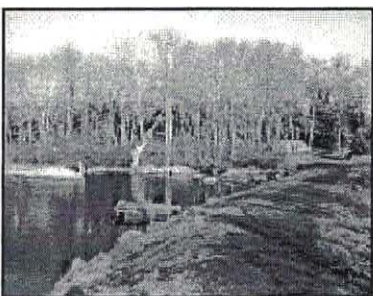
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Melissa Ellis photo



Melissa Ellis photo

# THE FLYER

*the norman bird sanctuary newsletter*

## *Cemeteries: Libraries in Stone*

*By Arliss Rya*

In a peaceful corner of the Norman Bird Sanctuary, lie eight graves in a modest plot. Designated Middletown Historical Cemetery No. 27, it is the burial site of the Gardiner family, prominent Aquidneck Island residents during the time of the American Revolution and beyond. The cemetery had become overgrown, however, and each time I passed it on a sanctuary walk, I grew more curious about the headstones hidden in the tall grass. So I volunteered to clear out the growth and bring the graves to light.

As a writer, I've always been fascinated by cemeteries. To me, they are libraries in stone, each headstone the title page of a book waiting for you to fill in the rest of the tale. So as each grave in turn emerged from the tangle of briars and grass, I studied the inscription and then let my imagination run wild.

Take the Hon. Benjamin Gardiner Esq. who departed this life in 1819. He was a model citizen-or so his tombstone proclaims. *Humane, charitable, and of an enlightened*



*The prettiest stone, topped by an angel face and with decorative borders, belongs to Benjamin's five-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, who died in 1786.*



*mind...his whole life was one continual scene of usefulness. Since he was repeatedly elected to the Important offices of Judge and Legislator, it seems his friends and neighbors did indeed hold him in high esteem. Yet I can't help picturing Benjamin with a few endear-*

ing human flaws. Did he perhaps stretch the buttons on his waistcoat through a love of pudding, or have a clumsy habit of spilling his inkwell?

Like most women of their time, Elizabeth and Amy Ann Gardiner got short shrift on their headstones. Their only claim to fame is that they were the wife of Benjamin Gardiner Esq. and the daughters, respectively, of Thomas Wickes and Daniel Coggeshall. Yet while Benjamin was busy earning his "Honorable," who was supervising the household, cooking, cleaning, doing the laundry, and raising the children? I hope they both gave Benjamin a good scolding every time he upset his inkwell on their clean table.

Sarah, the consort of Albert W. Gardiner, fares a little better. She is credited for her *Industry, Piety, and domestick Affections*. As the daughter of Capt. Job Howland, she may well have man-

*Continued on Page 2*



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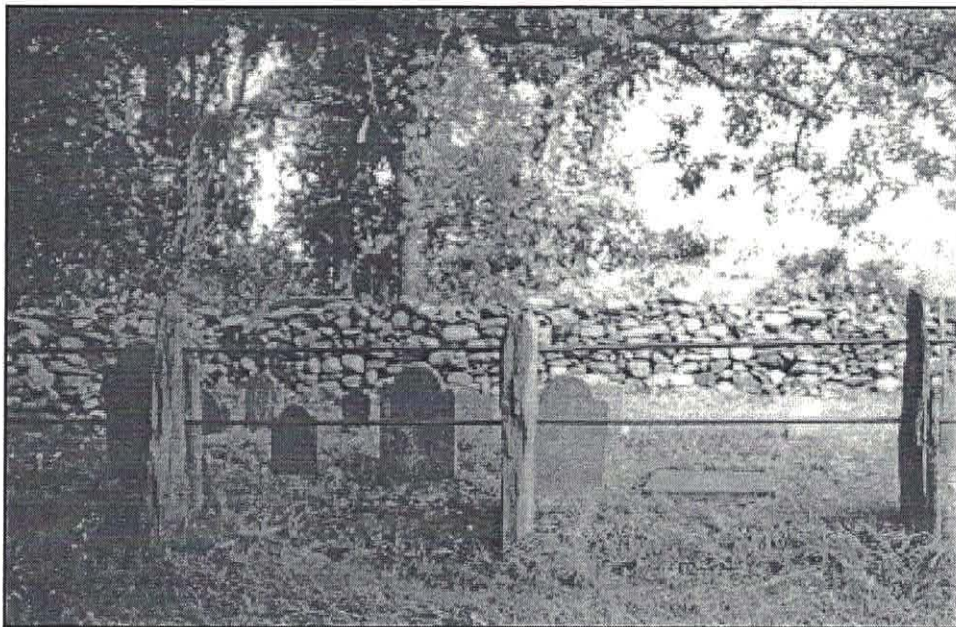
Suzanne Goulart  
OFFICE MANAGER



Melissa Martin Ellis  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

# Libraries in Stone...

Continued from Page 1



The peaceful Revolutionary-era Gardiner family cemetery at the Sanctuary.

Arliiss Ryan photo

aged her household with strict military discipline.

The prettiest stone, topped by an angel face and with decorative borders, belongs to Benjamin's five-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, who died in 1786. I see her in a red dress with a white sash, brown ringlets bobbing. Maybe she had a puppy, brought home one day by Benjamin as a surprise for the apple of his eye. It's hard to look at the graves of children and not wish their short lives were happy ones.

Finally, there is mystery in the cemetery as well. Who was Mary Hopkins and what was her relationship to the Gardiners? All her headstone reveals is that she died in 1815, a worthy member of the Episcopal Church. Who was James Sayer Gardiner, whose toppled and cracked stone gives his death date as 1872, much later than the rest of the family? And who lies beneath the one blank headstone, its slate face broken off? Is he or she sorry to be unsung, or content to rest in anonymity?

Whatever their true stories, the Gardiner family has a beautiful

site for its final resting place. Sunlight falls between the sheltering trees and dapples the ground.

Birds visit in every season, full of gossip and song. People pause to read their headstones and wonder about their lives. I think the Hon. Benjamin Gardiner Esq. would be pleased to know that.



Arliiss Ryan photo

The headstone of Elizabeth Gardiner.





## Director's Notes

### Dear Friends,

As you probably heard, we have just received a grant from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and Transportation. This grant will allow us to upgrade two trails for handicapped accessibility. When our staff discussed the educational message for the interpretive signs on the trail, we realized that the improved and accessible Woodcock Trail was an incredibly important educational resource, and not just for handicapped visitors.

This trail will take learners through grasslands, along edges and through overgrown successional fields, through thicketed areas, into the woods, and by the pond. In passing the meadows, cemetery and stone walls, it will look at man's influence on the property. It is an exceptional resource for the occasional visitor or regular learner to explore the rich diversity of habitats, and a much more interesting route than the short straight hike down to the pond. We will be encouraging loitering along the trail. It will offer some wonderful spots to sit and watch the birds, enjoy the sights and sounds of the seasons, and learn firsthand about the importance of environmental preservation. We hope to complete the work and open the improved trail in the fall of 2002.

Our plans continue to shape up for the Environmental Education Center. We are working with staff, architects, an exhibit designer, and others to shape our dreams into reality. We will be incorporating a fascinating exhibit on renewable energy, centered on a solar power generation project we will be installing this summer. We look forward to showing you our plans. We are delighted to announce the award, from the Rhode Island Foundation, of a challenge grant in the amount of \$25,000. With this challenge grant we are opening the community phase of our "Preserving the Legacy" campaign. Please call me if you have questions about the campaign or the building plans, and would like to help us achieve our goal. If you have read the March Issue of Rhode Island Monthly, you are reminded anew of how exciting the Norman Bird Sanctuary really is.

I'd like to present another challenge to you. With the help of the Howell Family Foundation, we are establishing a designated fund for scholarships. Not only will this fund help with "camperships" for youngsters of limited means to attend our summer camp, but it will also help to cover the cost of after school and winter camp programs, and will be available to help subsidize school programs for schools unable to afford the full cost. We are hoping to raise a total of \$5,000, and have already received \$2,000. Help us to make this fund a reality, and to make an experience at the Norman Bird Sanctuary a reality for every Island child!

Best wishes for an early spring!

  
Betsy de Leiris  
Executive Director

### Whoo's New in the Barn Owl Shop:

Wonderful seed packets from **American Meadows** hold the promise of spring. Great gardens for your kids include ladybug, hummingbird and butterfly garden seeds. And for those of us who are a little older, there are some packets of seeds for butterfly and hummingbird gardens, songbird gardens, and wildflowers. Beautiful illustrations on the packets make these a great little gift for Mother's Day or Easter!

Thinking about seeds and spring, there's no better classic for your child's library than *Miss Rumphius*. This classic by Barbara Cooney, with its detailed illustrations, is a great message for your young environmentalist for Earth Day, about leaving the earth a more beautiful place than you found.

*The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior* is a fascinating complement to David Sibley's earlier *Guide to Birds*. This volume looks at habitats, the threats to populations, the characteristic behaviors of the bird families, and the form and function of flight. It is highly readable, and punctuated by Sibley's superbly detailed illustrations. A great addition to your Birding Library!







## Trails & Tails

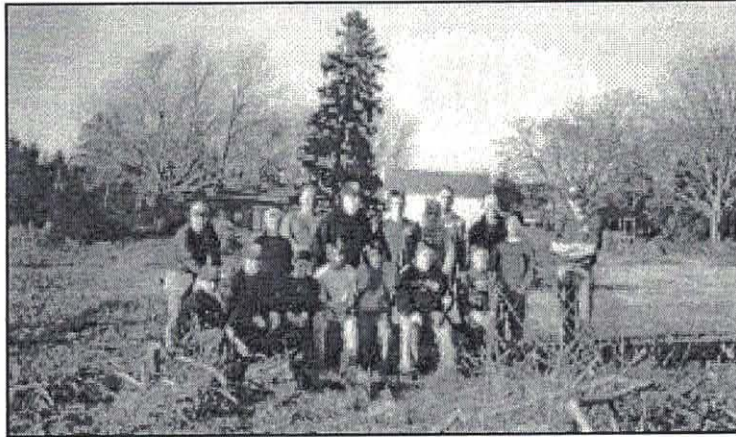
### ***Eagle Scout Projects and Grassland Restoration***

*By Veronica Hinds*

Grasslands have been an integral part of the landscape across northeastern North America for many hundreds of years. With the disappearance of native grasslands and the decline in agriculture, many species adapted to these open habitats have declined, and several endemic species, such as the Regal Fritillary butterfly and the Heath Hen, have become extirpated or extinct.

While it is clear that most open habitat resulted from colonial expansion, closer inspection reveals that some grassland habitats existed in this region hundreds of years prior to the arrival of the Mayflower in 1620. The presence of endemic grassland plants, insects, and birds, such as the Heath Hen, provides clear evidence that early succession habitats have existed for thousands of years. Thus, there is widespread concern that these ecosystems, and the specialized species found on them, are disappearing.

The Norman Bird Sanctuary manages approximately 50 acres of open fields. Some of these fields have been invaded with woody vegetation making them unsuitable for grassland nesting birds. Field edges, particularly those dividing fields, should be removed to control invasive woody plants and create larger grasslands. Removal of woody vegetation can be achieved by a variety of means: mechanically, chemically, or by burning. We have utilized a mechanical means



*Conor Tucker and his scout troop at the Sanctuary.*

of removal in the form of twelve to fifteen strong young men, an Eagle Scout Project.

An Eagle Scout is the highest rating of the Boy Scouts of America. It is achieved by a scout who has attained the rank of Life Scout, and is ready to master another set of skills. One of these skills is the demonstration of leadership through a project. Each potential Eagle Scout must plan, develop, and provide leadership during a project that benefits a non-profit, religious, or local community organization. This leadership service project is when the bird sanctuary comes in. The bird sanctuary has been the lucky recipient of a number of Eagle Scout projects over the years. Most recently we've been fortunate to have scouts interested in the grassland management projects needed at the bird sanctuary. Peter Bibeault organized the construction of 75 tree swallow nesting boxes. Conor Tucker, our latest Eagle Scout candidate, successfully removed a huge section of hedgerow that divided two fields. Currently working on projects are Nate Lindgren, he's making trail signs and a flag pole in memory of our past board member, Walter Kosinski. And Cory Collins who will be clearing brush

from a section of stone wall to enhance the open field look. The Eagle Scout project is a great resource to the Norman Bird Sanctuary. Without their help, a lot of these tasks would not get done. These

gentlemen are all a credit to the Eagle Scouts! Thank you.

### ***Trail Maintenance Training & Barbecue***

The Norman Bird Sanctuary in conjunction with the Appalachian Mountain Club is sponsoring a trail maintenance workshop on Friday, May 10th at 6:30 PM, through midday Saturday, May 11th.

Everyone is welcome to learn the simple skills and techniques required for trail maintenance, and in the process, help out the Sanctuary as well.

We'll have a barbecue Friday night, followed by a talk on the techniques of trail maintenance and the Appalachian Trail.

That evening, you can camp out under the stars in your tent, or if you prefer, in our barn. If you spend the night, be prepared to use your newly acquired skills.

We'll rise early to a delicious breakfast of coffee and bagels, then head out to the trails for a day of trail maintenance and construction. We hope to see you there. Please call 846-2577 to register.

# MAY 2002



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Preschoolers w/Parents Session 1			
Guided Bird Walk			Preschoolers w/Parents Session 1		Trail Maintenance	Discover the Sanctuary Day * Mother's Day Campout
Guided Bird Walk Mother's Day Campout			Preschoolers w/Parents Session 1			Photo Guild Exhibit Opens
Birds & Break- fast & Guided Bird Walks			Preschoolers w/Parents Session 2			
Guided Bird Walk	Memorial Day		Preschoolers w/Parents Session 2			

\*Trail  
Maintenance

# JUNE 2002



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Guided Bird Walk			Preschoolers w/Parents Session 2			
Guided Bird Walk		Annual Meeting	Preschoolers w/Parents Session 2		Flag Day	Father's Day Campout
Guided Bird Walk Father's Day Campout					The Pollinators Summer Solstice	
Guided Bird Walk						
Guided Bird Walk						

30 Guided  
Bird Walk





## Educational Programs

### Woodcock Walk

**Dates:** Friday, March 15  
**Time:** 5:30 - 7:00 PM  
**Fee:** Adult \$8.00 NM \$6.00 M  
 Child: \$6 NM \$4M  
**FAMILY PROGRAM**

During the early spring, male woodcocks exhibit a behavior that includes a bizarre and amazing courtship flight. Dusk is a wonderful time at NBS, with activity from deer nibbling on new sprigs of growth, crickets awakening from their winter sleep, and of course, the amorous woodcocks with whistling wings. Join us for a delightful evening, sipping hot cocoa in a field surrounded by the wildlife that shares this island. **Maximum 20.**

### Private School Camp

**Ages:** K - 4th grade  
**Dates:** Tuesday - Friday, March 19 - 22  
**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
**Fee:** \$125 NM  
 \$115 M

#### CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

"Winter Marine Life" is our theme for the week. Be sure to bring your lunch, snack, and water bottle every day! Dress for the weather, too. **Maximum 10.**

### Teacher and Youth Group Leader Workshop

**Date:** Saturday, April 6  
**Time:** 8:00AM - 1:00PM  
**Fee:** \$8.00  
**ADULT PROGRAM**

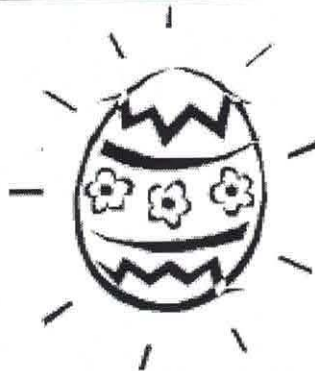
Do you want to meet higher standards or promote citizenship within your youth group? Caroline Alston, Project Learning Tree Associate Director of Community Programs, is going to be leading a workshop on how to get your student or youth group involved in a service-learning project. The workshop provides a

service-learning model and step-by-step methods for implementing this program with your students or youth group. Please call for more information about the workshop and service learning. *Professional Development credits available for teachers. Maximum 30.*

### Spring Egg Hunt & Animal Awareness

*(For Members Only)*

**Ages:** 3 - 10 years old  
**Date:** Saturday, April 6  
**Time:** 1:00 - 2:00PM  
**Fee:** \$8 M  
**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**



Our annual Spring Egg Hunt is always barrels of fun, as we search the orchard, barn and upper trails for chocolate eggs and other goodies. This year, we are including an animal care and awareness portion to learn more about domestic and wild animals, like dogs, cats, turtles, birds, fish and more. NBS educator, Heather Ford, will introduce program participants to the NBS resident animals and explain what to do if you find an injured wild animal. Please bring your own collecting basket. **Maximum 35**

### Nature Guide Training

**Dates:** Mondays & Thursdays  
 April 8, 11, 15, 18  
**Time:** 9:00AM - 11:00AM  
**ADULT PROGRAM**

If you have any interest in volunteering at NBS, but are not sure what to do, you might be interested in being a nature guide. If you have any experience teaching (does not have to be in a school), science education, or a general knowledge of the outdoors you can be a nature guide. As a nature guide, you will work with groups of 10 to 16 school children, leading them on two hour hikes through the property and visiting the various habitats. Sharing nature with children is a very rewarding experience, and if this sparks your fancy, please contact us to sign up for the training session this Spring.

### April Vacation Week

**Date:** Tuesday - Friday, April 16-19  
**Time:** 9:00AM - 3:00PM  
**Ages:** K - 4  
**Fee:** \$125 NM \$115 M  
**CHILD PROGRAM**

Our Nature Day Camp is crammed with indoor and outdoor hands-on activities. Whether romping through forested trails, investigating pond life, or exploring colonial gravesites, this will be a great week. Call for more info. **Maximum 12.**

### Frogs, Toads, and Salamanders

**Date:** Thursday, April 18  
**6:00 - 7:30**  
**Fee:** Adults: \$8 NM \$6 M  
 Child: \$6 NM \$4 M

#### FAMILY PROGRAM

We have some great amphibians that visit our vernal pools here at NBS and springtime is their mating season. Join us for a slide/sound presentation and an evening walk. Listen, learn, and experience the amphibious sounds of spring and maybe hear some woodcocks, too. \*This program is also appropriate for middle- and high school students.





## Educational Programs

### Earth Day Clean-up

**Date:** Saturday, April 20  
**Time:** 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
**FAMILY PROGRAM**

Every year, residents of this lovely island help ensure that it stays that way, by participating in our Earth Day Cleanup. We pick up litter and trash at NBS, Third Beach Road, Hanging Rock and Second and Third Beaches. Volunteers are urged to wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants, as well as gloves. We will supply the trash bags and refreshments. Please call the Sanctuary at 846-2577 to confirm your participation.

### Preschoolers with Parents

**Ages** 3 - 5 years  
**Teacher:** Marilyn Lyell  
**Days:** Wednesdays  
**Session 1:** April 24, May 1, 8, 15  
**Session 2:** May 22, 29, June 5, 12,  
**Time:** 1:00-2:00PM  
**Fee:** \$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 once a week for four weeks. Please dress for the weather too. Choose your Session(s) from dates provided.

### Arbor Day Hike

**Date:** Friday, April 26  
**5:30PM - 7:30PM**  
**Fee:** \$8 NM \$6 M  
**ADULT PROGRAM**

Join us on Arbor Day for a tree planting, with arborist Matt Largess. Matt will then lead a hike through the Sanctuary trails amongst some of our oldest trees. Learn new skills, such as: how to identify trees from their bark, how to differentiate whether a species is native or has been introduced, and other fascinating facts about early spring plants. Matt is an engaging and enthusiastic walk leader, who makes everyone excited about New England forests. **Maximum 20.**

### Mother's Day/Father's Day Camp-out

**Dates:** Friday -Saturday  
**May 11 - 12 or June 15 -16**  
**Fee: Adults:** \$19 NM \$16 M  
**Child:** \$16 NM \$13 M  
**FAMILY PROGRAM**

We'll meet at 5:00 PM to set up camp, then everyone can get acquainted with their fellow campers and staff. Please bring your own tent, we have only a few available for rental. We'll cook dinner over the fire, with s'mores for dessert, then go on a night hike and stargaze with our staff. After the hike, we'll regroup around the campfire for songs and non-



scary stories. Finally, it will be time to snuggle down for the night in sleeping bags under the starry sky. Call for more details. **Maximum: 14**

### Discover the Sanctuary Day

**Date:** Saturday, May 11  
**Fee:** Free

Welcome spring by spending a day at the Sanctuary. You may choose to stroll along on one of our guided hikes, enjoy some refreshments under an apple tree, or just find a nice quiet spot to enjoy looking out toward the ocean. Enjoy all the benefits of membership, including free admission and a 10% discount in our gift store the Barn Owl Shop. Guided walks start at 11:00am and 1:00pm.

### Annual Meeting

Please join us on Tuesday, June 11, 2002, for this important annual event.

### Photographers' Guild Exhibit

**Date:** Saturday, May 18  
**Time:** 3:30 -5:30 PM  
**Fee:** Free

Come to the opening of the Guild Exhibit "Flora & Fantasy" to chat with the exhibiting photographers and enjoy light refreshments and soft drinks. The exhibit in the old barn will run through June 17th, and is a family-oriented show with a nature and family theme, by some of the area's top photographers. A portion of the proceeds from picture sales will go to benefit the Sanctuary.

### Birds and Breakfast

**Date:** Sunday, May 19  
**Breakfast Seatings - 7:30, 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30AM**  
**Birdwalks - 6:30 - 11:00 AM**  
**Tickets:** \$10 in advance, \$12 at door  
**\$5 per child, age 4 - 12**  
**Children age 3 and under - free**  
**For reservations, call: 846-2577**

Join us for a spring morning of guided birdwalks, followed by a delicious country breakfast buffet.

### The Pollinators

**Date:** Friday, June 21  
**10:00AM - 12:00PM**  
**Fee:** \$ 8 NM \$ 6 M  
**ADULT PROGRAM**

A wide variety of wild plants abound here at the Sanctuary during spring and early summer. Moreover, the local pollinators can't resist the sweet floral nectar, surrounded by rich colors, smells, and textures. Join Amy Wright, local scientific illustrator, naturalist and gardener, as she seeks out the insects that turns flowers into fruit. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. **Maximum 20.**

**Join us for our  
 Sunday Morning Bird Walks  
 March 31 - Nov. 10, 8:00AM  
 • Check us out on the Web!  
[www.normanbirdsantuary.org](http://www.normanbirdsantuary.org)**

# MARCH 2002



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Guided Bird Walk	4	5	6 Preschoolers w/Parents Session 1	7	8 Archeology in RI's Cemeteries	9
10	11	12	13 Preschoolers w/Parents Session 2	14	15 Woodcock Walk	16
17 Guided Bird Walk <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 Private School Camp	20 Preschoolers w/Parents Session 2 <i>Vernal Equinox</i>	21	22 Private School Camp	23
24	25	26	27 Preschoolers w/Parents Session 2	28 <i>Passover Begins</i>	29 <i>Good Friday</i>	30
31 <i>Easter</i>						

# APRIL 2002



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Preschoolers w/Parents Session 2	4	5	6 Teacher Workshop  Spring Egg Hunt
7 Guided Bird Walk <i>Daylight Savings time begins</i>	8 Nature Guide Training	9	10	11 Nature Guide Training	12	13
14 Guided Bird Walk	15 Nature Guide Training	16 April Vacation Week	17	18 Nature Guide Training Frogs, Toads & Salamanders	19 April Vacation Week	20 Earth Day Cleanup
21 Guided Bird Walk	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23	24 Preschoolers w/Parents Session 1	25	26 Arbor Day Hike <i>Arbor Day</i>	27
28 Guided Bird Walk	29	30				





## Naturalist's Notes

### Spring's Wake-up Call

by Stephanie Bongiovanni

It's time to welcome spring, with its warm air and sunny days, blooming trees and flowers, and birds returning from their winter feeding grounds. Nature is waking up, in some cases literally - animals that have been hibernating are now active after their long winter naps.

What must life be like for an animal that has not seen the world outside its winter home for four to six months? Imagine going underground, fattened up from fall foraging, when the air is crisp and cold and days are shorter. A few months later, you emerge into a world renewed by warm, moist air and bright sunshine. Although you entered your winter nest alone, now that it is the breeding season, you will temporarily forsake your solitary lifestyle.

Some of the most common wildlife species that we see in our backyards or local natural areas hibernate. This page highlights some of the survival strategies of bumblebees, American toads, and groundhogs. It answers such questions such as "where have these animals been all winter?" and "what will they do now that it is spring?"

#### Bumblebee (genus *Bombus*)

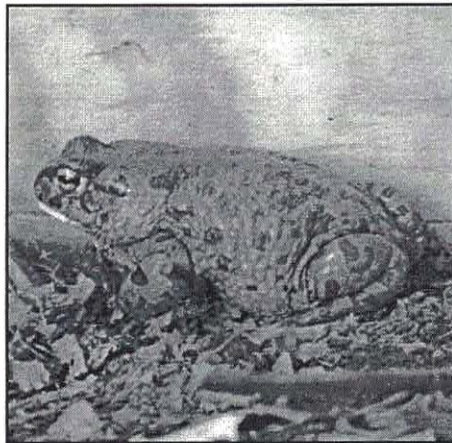
A familiar pollinator who frequents early spring flowers, the bumblebee queen is the only member of the hive to overwinter, or hibernate. When the queen wakes up in the spring, she buzzes loudly while flying low over the ground to find a nest. She will choose an existing underground cavity, sometimes an abandoned mouse nest.

After lining the nest with grass, leaves, and moss, the queen, fertilized the previous fall, lays her eggs in pollen-filled wax cups. The larvae that hatch feed on the pollen, make cocoons, and then emerge as sterile females, who will tend to subsequent broods. In late summer, the queen lays eggs that develop into fertile males and females. Once they have mated, only the queens will descend underground to survive through the winter.

#### American Toad (*Bufo americanus*)

This plump amphibian is a favorite backyard inhabitant who survives the winter by hibernating. The cold-blooded toad will burrow down at least one foot under logs, rocks, or within mounds of vegetation, to escape winter's extreme temperatures. A substance in its cells called glycerol, a natural antifreeze, protects the toad further.

After emerging in the spring, it too has reproduction in mind. Although adult American toads spend most of their time on land, they must breed in ponds. On warm evenings the male inflates the skin around his throat, the vocal sac, to increase the volume of his mating call. The female is enticed to the pond, and mating



Stephanie Bongiovanni photo

*This American toad now resides in the Sanctuary barn with our two box turtles.*

follows. Two tangled strings of eggs are left amongst the pond vegetation, where they will hatch into tadpoles. The parents do not care for their offspring, but will instead return to the backyard to voraciously feed on various plant pests. Toads will pass the summer and early fall in this manner, until the shortening days alert them that it is time to burrow underground for the winter once again.

#### Groundhog (*Marmota monax*)

Often the nemesis of backyard gardeners, the groundhog or woodchuck leads a fascinating life. Since fall, amazing changes in the animal's metabolism have taken place as it hibernates in its under-

ground burrow.

Whereas it usually has a body temperature of 100° F and a heart rate of 90 beats per minute, the hibernating groundhog's temperature may be anywhere from 37°-57° F, its heart beating only 6 times per minute. While in its state of deep winter sleep, it will only take 10 breaths per hour, rather than its usual 2000 breaths per hour. The groundhog is considered a deep or "true" hibernator, because it is not easily aroused from its dormant state. Nonetheless, if its body temperature gets too near the freezing point, the groundhog will awaken, as stirring slightly will bring its temperature back to a safe level.

Usually sometime in February, the groundhog begins to wake from its slumber (not all of them will wake up in time to celebrate Groundhog Day on February 2). The groundhog slowly becomes a bundle of activity, returning to its normal metabolic rate as the heart rate and respiration speed up and the circulation increases in the rest of its body.

The male emerges from his burrow and visits females' burrows looking for a mate. With the exception of a mother with young, spring courtship is the only time that groundhogs share a burrow. But once the female is pregnant, she sends the male on his way and he will seek out another mate.

As summer merges into fall, shortening days are a signal to groundhogs to gorge themselves on alfalfa, clover, and grass, and even the vegetables in our gardens! It is not unusual for groundhogs to eat one third of their body weight in a single day. The extra fat will provide the energy necessary for winter's approaching slumber.

So if you see one of these animals this spring and summer, remember the instincts that drive their activities - producing offspring, eating from nature's abundance, and preparing a home before drifting off into a long winter's sleep, until they partake of spring's renewal once again.





## Volunteers & Events



### Welcome Aboard - New Office Manager



Francis Goulart photo

After months of searching for just the right person to fill the Sanctuary's Office Manager position, we were lucky enough to be introduced to Suzanne Goulart. Suzanne began working at the Sanctuary in November last year and we are delighted to have her join our team.

Suzanne grew up in Natick, Massachusetts and graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1987 with a degree in Hotel, Restaurant and Travel Administration. Following graduation she was employed with Transnational Travel in Boston as a Travel Coordinator, specializing in travel to St. Martin, Jamaica and London. Suzanne's passion for arts and travel has led her to many destinations, two of her favorites being Italy and Greece, where she captured the scenic beauty of the area through photography.

Having grown up in Massachusetts, Suzanne came to spend a summer in Newport and has never left, finding she loved the city. For the past ten years, Suzanne worked as a waiter for Tom and Roxanne Callahan at Café Zelda.

A true animal lover, Suzanne is a frequent dog sitter and has quickly bonded with all of the Sanctuary's resident educational animals.

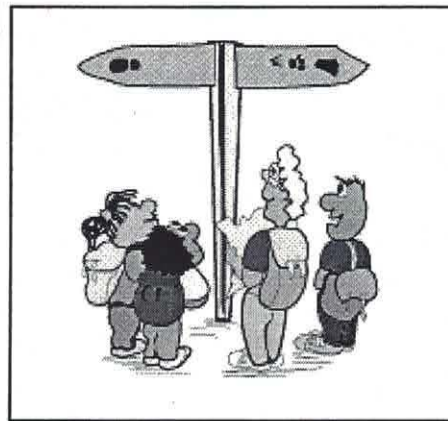
Please stop in and join us in welcoming Suzanne during your next trip to the Sanctuary.

### Looking for Something Fun to Do This Summer?

The Norman Bird Sanctuary is currently accepting applications for its *volunteer Assistant Naturalist (ANt)* positions with our summer camp. ANts will be assisting Norman Bird Sanctuary Teacher Naturalists in supervising children entering grades K-7 for Nature Day Camp and Explorers Camp.

#### What does an ANt do?

Responsibilities will include assisting the Teacher Naturalists in the preparation of the day's activities,



participating in games, songs, hiking, swimming and making crafts with the camp children. The ANt will also be responsible for helping to organize camp materials, clean up and safety supervision with the Teacher Naturalist.

#### Who can apply?

Applicants should have some experience working with children, an interest in nature and an ability to work independently part of the time. Applicants should be at least 13

years of age.

#### When are ANts needed?

There are three, three-week sessions. Choose which session works for you:

##### Session 1

June 24 – July 12

##### Session 2

July 15 – Aug 2

##### Session 3

Aug 5- Aug 23

#### How do I apply?

If you are interested, please contact Fred Orwiler at 846-2577 or stop by the Norman Bird Sanctuary to pick up an application. Interviews will begin May 15, 2002 after school and on weekends.

### Birds and Breakfast Needs You

With spring just around the corner, it's time to start planning this year's Birds & Breakfast, scheduled for Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. One of our most popular events, Birds & Breakfast offers guided bird walks, followed by a delicious country breakfast buffet. **Volunteers are urgently needed to help us plan this festive morning!**

We will need volunteers to join the Birds & Breakfast Committee, which will meet three to four times before May 19<sup>th</sup>. Most of the planning involves making phone calls, which can be done from your home, at your convenience. In addition, we will need some folks to lend a hand on the day, leading morning bird walks, flipping pancakes, serving casseroles and baked goods, or helping to clean up afterwards.

**Please call the Sanctuary to help make this year's Birds & Breakfast the best ever. (401) 846-2577**







## Volunteers & Events

### Stephanie Farewell

We will sorely miss Stephanie Bongiovanni, a devoted, hard-working and passionate teacher. She has been critical in developing new programs for low-income communities, as well as refining our existing programs. This space is not adequate to express the void created in our education department. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors.



Frederick Orwiler photo

Stephanie captivating young minds.

### Wish List

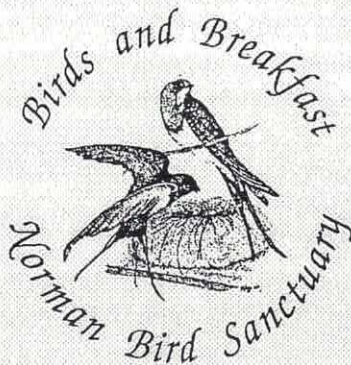
#### The Norman Bird Sanctuary is Wishing For...

The PEOPLE to fill the following volunteer positions:

- **Library Docent** – To help us label books and set up a periodical system in our new Library.
- **Nature Guides** – To lead hikes with students and assist with environmental education.
- **Photograph & Slide Cataloguer**.
- **Mailing Assistants** – To help us from time to time fold, stuff and seal envelopes.
- **Monday Visitors' Center Docent** – To greet visitors and help out in the Barn Owl Gift Shop.
- **Ranger Rick's Magazine Cataloguer**.
- **Amateur Geologist** – To help us catalogue rocks.
- **Photographers** – To help us in building our library of wonderful Sanctuary photographs.

...and the following items of EQUIPMENT:

- **Zoom Lens** – for a Kodak 5400 slide projector.
- **Scanner** – Compatible with Macintosh Computers and having OCR capability.
- **Color Printer.**
- **Laser Pointer.**
- **Light Meters.**
- **Soil Thermometers.**
- **Digital Thermometer.**
- **Global Positioning System (GPS).**



Join us for a spring morning of guided birdwalks, followed by a delicious country breakfast buffet.

### Sunday, May 19th

Bird walks ~ 6:30am -11:00 am

Breakfast Seatings ~ 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, & 10:30 am

~ **Tickets** ~

\$ 10 in advance, \$12 at door

\$5 per child, age 4 - 12

children age 3 and under - free

For reservations, call:

**(401) 846-2577**

or visit us on the world wide web at:

[www.normanbirdsanctuary.org](http://www.normanbirdsanctuary.org)



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

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- Supporting \$250   • Benefactor \$500   • Angel \$1000
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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**

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