The Norman
Bird Flyer

Volume 16, No. 1

Spring 1995

Paradise Lost?

he Norman Bird Sanctuary is truly one of the treasurers of Aquidneck Island. Few people are aware, however, that we are in danger of losing part of the Bird Sanctuary forever! Our staff offices and the Barn are actually a portion of a collection of buildings which were the seasonal home of George Norman and his daughter Mabel Norman Cerio. This complex sits within a six-acre parcel surrounded by Sanctuary land and was reserved for family use when the Sanctuary was created through Mrs. Cerio's bequest. It is this parcel of land (including the Paradise Farmhouse and Mable Norman Cerio's studio) which is in jeopardy.



Paradise Farmhouse circa 1785

Paradise Farm is held in a separate trust from the Sanctuary. The terms of the trust are such that the Sanctuary would eventually receive the parcel in perhaps 30 to 40 years. Unfortunately, due to lack of funds and upkeep, the farm buildings have fallen into a state of disrepair. The Friends of the Norman Bird Sanctuary has begun a dialogue with the Trustee and the Norman Family, to see how the buildings might be saved.

Preservation planner and architectural historian Richard C. Youngken of the Newport Collaborative has been hired to assist with developing planning strategies for the potential future uses of the Paradise Farm buildings. Dr. Daniel Snydacker, a member of our Properties Committee and Executive Director of the Newport Historical Society, has written that Paradise Farm is "a property of extraordinary significance". The buildings and their setting within open field and conservation lands provide one of the few remaining intact 18th century farms on Aquidneck Island. Protected from encroachment on all sides, the property shows the true character of 18th century farming as clearly as any other property in the state. The fact that the property was once a farm is important for our understanding of the wildlife habitat that exists here today. The fate of the farm buildings and the land on which they sit is, however, uncertain.

It has become clear to us that the Sanctuary should take an active role in determining the future of the farm buildings, not only to ensure that we have space for office and educational functions in the years to come, but to assess how the farmhouse and adjacent studio could be assets for the Sanctuary. One of the first steps in developing an action agenda for the property is documentation of the buildings and the site. Mr. Youngken is already collecting information on Paradise Farm including the historical relationship of the buildings to the

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Forster Peabody Maintenance Assistant entire property which once constituted the farm and is now the Norman Bird Sanctuary and property belonging to the Newport Water Department. George Norman was the principal developer of the City's water supply. His early impressions of the property represents significant historical periods in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. Particularly intriguing is the possible use of the property by earl and late 19th century painters who used the salt meadows and Hanging Rock to celebrate nature on canvas - a revolution similar in feeling to our own appreciation of the natural world today.

Further research will include an architectural survey to determine future potentials for reuse of buildings, identification of zoning and other regulatory controls, research on the feasibility of the site for water supply and sewage disposal, research on current and future development in the areas contemplated by the Town of Middletown's Comprehensive Plan and the development community. This material will help the Properties Committee take a comprehensive view of constraints and opportunities for the buildings in terms of future practical uses beneficial to the Sanctuary and its programs.



Paradise Barn, built circa 1860



1 to r - laundry house and studio

Director's Notes

This Spring season, as with many in the past, the Sanctuary will get a number of inquires regarding available plots in our Community Garden area. This year we have decided not to take on any new gardeners for the 1995 season while the Community Garden Program is under review. We need time to review where the program may be going in the future and don't wish to make any promises (explicit or implied) that we can't keep. We do know that the program will be different than the way it has been run for approximately the past fourteen years.

Starting about 1980, garden plots were assigned to those members who attended the annual garden meeting. Plots were first reassigned to returning gardeners and the remaining plots were divided among those new people who wished to participate. Under these rules, once you were lucky enough to get a plot, you could have your plot from year to year if you wished, so long as you followed a few guidelines.

Usually we would get quite a number of people who were interested in having a garden in the Spring, but come Summer, when the temperature soared and mosquitos were out, only a handful of people would show up to work their garden. As a result, most gardens would be "abandoned" and over-grown (but still full of fencing materials and gardening supplies). Many gardeners often left their fences, stakes and tools in their plot year round, whether they actively used the garden or not. In recent years lack of follow-through has been the rule rather than the exception, though people do not want to give up their plots (there is always "next year").

Management issues that need to be addressed are: leaving the grounds unsecured at night so the gardeners can come after hours, unauthorized vehicles driving down to the garden area, control of invasive/exotic plant species, setting aside a portion of the Sanctuary to benefit a handful of people, old fencing and other assorted "stuff" left in the plot year round as a result of a program which runs only 6 months at best.

Prior to 1980 the program was run a little differently. At the end of the season, gardeners

pulled up all stakes, and Sanctuary personnel took over management of the soil by putting in a cover crop or spreading manure. Each Spring, the garden area was divided up and assigned to interested people, probably on a rotating basis.

Due to the lack of participation and followthrough in recent years and the poor condition of the garden area, the Properties Committee has recommended that a clean up of the site is needed and that a gradual phase out of the program may be desirable. Before giving up on the program entirely, we are considering a couple of management options for the future. These include: Starting a Community Sustained Agriculture Program or "Veggie Co-op" similar to Casey Farm in Saunderstown, or to return the program to the way it was run before 1980.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the above, or any suggestions of your own, please write them down and forward them to my attention.

Best Wishes for the Spring season.

NBS Two-Time Award Winner

For the second year in a row, the Norman Bird Sanctuary has won the Model Volunteer Program Award from Volunteers in Action! The award is given to agencies which meet a set of strict criteria in the management of their volunteer programs, including recruitment, record-keeping and recognition.

Over the last several years, we have experienced a tremendous growth in our volunteer program. We have added people in all areas of Sanctuary operation. Volunteers have worked to keep the office running smoothly, our animals fed, trails cleared and patrolled and our store manned. They also helped to teach the many school groups which visit the Sanctuary each year and put in countless hours on our organizational committees. They accomplish everyday many hours of necessary work which our small staff would never be able to accomplish and have been instrumental in the growth of NBS and will continue to be so in years to come.

Just For Kids

Preschoolers with Parents

Dates: Wednesdays

Session #1: April 12, 19, 26 and May 3rd Session #2: May 10, 17, 24, and 31st

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Fee: \$25 Non-Members \$20 Members/Session
Pre-registration and pre-payment required
PLEASE SEE THEMES LISTED

PLEASE SEE THEMES LISTED UNDER FLEDGLINGS

Exploring nature's Spring themes with short walks, simple crafts, stories, and lots of silliness serve as a wonderful introduction to the Sanctuary. Adults are expected to join in the fun! Both participants should dress for the weather.

Fledglings

Dates: Thursdays

Session #1: April 13, 20, 27 and May 4th Session #2: May 11, 18, 25 and June 1st

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Fees: \$25.00 Non-member \$20.00 Member/Session

Pre-registration and pre-payment required

Hikes, crafts, stories and games are all a part of this 1 1/2 hour class designed to continue your child's introduction to nature and the Sanctuary. Each week offers a new theme (listed below) waiting to be explored. For children ages 4 & 5 who have previously participated in our Preschoolers with Parents Program.

Session 2

Week #1 Hippity Hop

Session 1

Week #1 Baa Baa White Sheep

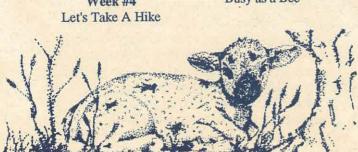
Week #2
The Grass is Always
Greener

Week #2 Mommy and Me

Week #3 We Love Bugs! Week #3 Robin Red Breast

Week #4

Week #4 Busy as a Bee



Spring Egg Hunt For Members Only

Date: Saturday, April 15th

Time: 1:00 pm

Fee: \$7.00 per child \$11 per family
Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

It is time once again to celebrate the return of Spring and warm weather! Come and join us for our annual Spring Egg Hunt. Search the Orchard, Barn and upper trails for chocolate eggs and other goodies. Special "Earth Eggs" will be filled with earth-friendly surprises. Children ages 3-10 may participate in this members-only Sanctuary event. Please bring your own collecting basket. Early registration is suggested for this event.

Down to Earth Day

Date: Saturday, April 29th Time: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Fee: \$18.00 Non-members \$14.00 Members Pre-registration and pre-payment required

Have lunch in the mouth of Hanging Rock, explore our pond and stream and hike the Red Fox trail. Down to earth kids grades 2-5 are invited to spend a fun day enjoying and exploring the Sanctuary. A snack will be provided but participants will need to bring their own lunch. Please wear confortable shoes and clothes. Dress for the weather!

Spring Vacation Week for Public Schools

Date: Tuesday-Friday, April 18th - 21st Fee \$50 Non-member \$40 Member

Time: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

Spend a fun-filled vacation week at NBS. If you are in grade K-4, join us for crafts, games, songs and hikes. Come along as we explore the different trails and habitats during these special weeks. Classes fill up fast so don't delay!! Sign up now. Please dress for the weather. A mid-morning snack will be provided. Class size is limited to 15 children.

Roly Polys and Sowbugs

Date: Saturday, May20th

Time: 2:00 pm

Fee: \$6.00 Non-member \$4.00 Member
Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

Roly polys are those little creatures found under rocks and logs and when you try to catch them they roll up into a little ball. And did you know that roly polys are more closely related to crabs than to insects? Let's go on a Roly Poly hunt and learn about these fascinating creatures. We will supply the habitats and all the special equipment needed to study these most interesting creatures. Please dress for the weather. For children in grades K-4.

Spring Nature Club

Dates: Saturdays - See Information Below

Time: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Fee: \$48 (\$15 per secion) Non-member \$40 (\$12 per session) Member Pre-registration and pre-payment required

Spring is here! Time once again for Saturday morning Nature Club. Spring is an especially fun time of year at the Bird Sanctuary. Stories, crafts and hikes are a apart of our weekly program. A different nature theme will be explored each week. Join us for a single session or for all four! The Nature Club is open to grades K-4. Programs will be held rain or shine. Please dress for the weather.

May 20th

Feather your Nest (Nests and Nest Building)

May 27th

Rockin' around Hanging Rock (Rocks and Fossils)

June 3rd

Frogs in my pond (Amphibians and Ponds)

June 10th

Seashore extravaganza (A Trip to Crab Town)*

*Please wear a bathing suit and sunscreen and bring an extra pair of shoes that can get wet. Children will not be allowed in crab town with bare feet!

Birdwatching for Kids

Date: Saturday, May 27th Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Fee: \$10.00 Non-member \$8.00 Member
Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

This class is open to children in grades 5 - 8 who would like to learn about our local birds. We'll learn to use field guides for proper identification and how to use binoculars and spotting scopes. Emphasis will be on learning the many habitats each species uses for breeding and feeding. Ducks, hawks, sparrows, and even the familiar robin will be looked at. Please bring your lunch, daypack and binoculars (if you have a pair). Please be sure to dress for the weather.



Microscopic Exploration

Date: Saturday, June 10th

Time: 2:00 pm

Fee: \$6.00 Non-member \$4.00 Member
Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

There is more to be seen than with only the naked eye! Using microscopes, we'll look at the invisible world of microscopic organisms found within the pond, in the soil, leaves and any place else which might peak our curiosity. Be sure to dress for the weather.

Seashore Exploration

Date: Saturday, June 17th

Time: 5:45 pm

Fee: \$6.00 Non-member \$4.00 Members
Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

Treasures from the sea! Not exactly gold and jewels but we will find scallop shells, quahog shells, crab carapaces, whelks and may be we can get a peak at the elusive mole crab. Come join Susan Kevin, marine biology specialist, on this seashore science trip. We will explore Third Beach from the sandy shoreline to the rocky shores of Crab Town. Wear old shoes or sneakers and be sure to dress for the weather

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY 1995 with the Norman Bird Sanctuary





Earthfest 1995 Date: Sunday, April 30th

As a part of the Earth Day celebration, the Norman Bird Sanctuary will be participating in EARTHFEST '95 which will be held at the new Waterplace Park in downtown Providence, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. This event provides the public with an opportunity to learn more about what they can do as individuals to protect the environment. EARTHFEST will feature entertainment, food, games, workshops and presentations throughout the day. We hope to see you there!

Earthday Cleanup

Date: Saturday, April 22nd Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon Fee: None

FAMILY PROGRAM
Pre-registration required

What could be a better way to give respect to our Mother Earth than to help keep her clean. On Earth Day, we will organize to help cleanup the Sanctuary, Hanging Rock Road area and Third Beach. We neeed your help! Meet at the Sanctuary parking lot. Bring work gloves, tools such as rakes and shovels (clearly marked with your name). We will supply paper garbage bags and refreshments. Help keep our environment clean.

Down to Earth Day

Date: Saturday, April 29th
Time: 9:30 am to 2:00 pm
Fee: \$18 Non-member \$14 Member
Pre-registration and pre-payment required
FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES 2-5

Have lunch in the mouth of Hanging Rock, explore our pond and steam and hike the Red Fox trail. Down to Earth kids are invited to spend a fun day enjoying and exploring the Sanctuary. A snack will be provided but participants will need to bring their own lunch. Please wear comfortable shoes and clothes. Dress for the weather!

Earth Day 1995

Saturday, April 22nd FREE

In honor of Earth Day the Bird Sanctuary will offer free admission all day and two free guided Natural History walks at 10:00 am and at 1:00 pm.



Programs for Adults & Families



Signs of Spring

Date: Saturday, April 1st

Time: 2:00 pm

Fee:\$6.00 Non-member \$4.00 Member

FAMILY PROGRAM

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

Join us on an exploration of the Sanctuary's many habitats as we discover the awakening of the Earth from its long winter slumber. We will listen and look for insects, frogs, birds and wild flowers. This is the hike to refresh yourself from the long cold months we are leaving behind. Be sure to dress for the weather.

Sun, Moon and Star Walk

Date: Tuesday, May 9th (Rain/Cloud date May 10th)

Time: 7:00 pm

Fee: \$6.00 Non-member \$4.00 Member

ADULT PROGRAM

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

Please join us as we experience a Spring sunset on top of Hanging Rock overlooking Second Beach. On the hike back we'll search for the moon and early evening planets and constellations. Wear your hiking shoes and bring your binoculars (not a requirement) for this wonderous evening walk.

Garden Sunflower Planting

Date: Tuesday, June 6th Time: 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Fee: None

FAMILY PROGRAM

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

There is nothing quite so summery as a garden full of giant sunflowers. We need your help and expertise with the planting of our garden which, come Summer, will be filled with the glow of giant sunflowers for the attraction of wild birds. Sunflower is the main ingredient in most bird seed mixes. The flowers we plant will be a natural source of food for many birds and for many months. After you help with the planting, be sure to come back during the summer to check on the flowers' progress.

Pond Safari

Date: Saturday, May 13th Time: 10:00 - 11:30 am

Fee: \$6.00 Non-member \$4.00 Member

FAMILY PROGRAM

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

Sunlight glistens on the pond, insects flying all around.... Have you ever wondered where all those insects started out? In our pond of course! Many flying insects spend a great deal of their lives as aquatic creatures and play an important role in the food chain. In addition, these insects can be used as pollination indicators. The Norman Bird Sanctuary pond will be the sight for this fun mini field study. Be prepared to meet these minute wonders up close and personal, Easy to use field I.D. sheets will be provided. Please wear appropiate clothing.

Time for Turtles

Date: Saturday, June 3rd

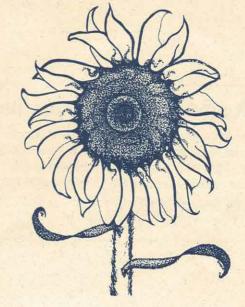
Time: 2:00 pm

Fee: \$6.00 Non-member \$4.00 Me

FAMILY PROGRAM

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

Everyone has seen or heard of turtles. Well, why not take the time and meet the Sanctuary's own famous Painted Turle, Eastern Box Turtle and our southern Florida Box Turtle. Learn about where they live in the wild and what they eat. Should they be pets? Should they stay wild? We'll answer some of these questions for you. Be faster than a turtle and signup now!





Special Free Event for Stargazers!

Date: Saturday, April 1st (Rain/Cloud date April 2nd)

Time: 7 pm Fee: None

FAMILY PROGRAM
Pre-registration required

The Norman Bird Sanctuary is teaming up with the Astronomical Society of Southern New England for an evening of moons, stars and galaxies. Astronomical Society members will be on hand with their telescopes and advice on viewing near and deep space objects. The members of the A.S.S.N.E. are friendly people who enjoy the hobby of astronomy in many ways, and will take the time to help anyone interested or those just starting out.

Southeastern New England Marine Education Showcase

The Rocky Hill School, East Greenwich, RI Date: Saturday, May 6th Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

This year the Norman Bird Sanctuary will be participating in the second annual Marine Education Showcase. This showcase is designed to give Rhode Islanders and Southern New Englanders a good picture of all the exciting things happening in marine education. There will be exhibits, creative displays and indoor and outdoor activities. We hope you will come and visit us at this fun and informative showcase.



Sanctuary's Executive Director, Larry Taft will lead these early morning hour-long walks to see the last of the rafts of sea ducks and the first of the flocks of shorebirds, robins, and swallows as they make their way north. Wear sturdy shoes and bring binoculars and a field guide. Walks are canceled if the weather is inclement. Pre-registration is **not** required.

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). Fees will be refunded in full if a program is cancelled due to weather or poor registration. Personal cancellations 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 someone from a wait list. Please use the registration form on page 10 if registering by mail.



Sunday May 21st

A spring morning of guided walks, bird exhibits and educational activities for the whole family, followed by a scrumptious breakfast buffet.

Walks will leave the barn starting at 7:00 am.

Breakfast seatings at 8:00 , 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 am

Reservations Suggested

Tickets may be purchased in advance by using the form below or by reserving them over the phone with your credit card

> Norman Bird Sanctaury 583 Third Beach Road Middletown, RI 02842

Name:				10 15 1
Address:			1 2 2 1	
Phone:	7			
, ,,,,,,,				

Seating Time: 8:00 9:00 10:00 11:00

Total Number of Tickets _____

Advance Ticket Price Adults: \$8.00

Children: \$4.00 (under 3 free)

Tickets Purchased at Door

Adults: \$10.00

Children: \$4.00 (under 3 free)

ALL PAID TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR

REGISTRATION FORM

We can now accept payment for programs and membership by cash, check or MASTERCARD/

Please complete and return with payment for program registration. If you need more space for additional registrants, please copy this form .

Name : Address:		Age : (if child)		
Town:	Phone: Home :	Work :		
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VOLUNTEER NEWS

We welcomed almost 20 new volunteers during our March orientation, but we are still in need of people in several areas including:

Teacher Naturalist Assistant -Teens are needed to assist our Teacher Naturalists during our Summer Camp program. Three separate sessions are available (3 weeks each) with hours running from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Store Receptionist - We are in desparate need of volunteers to man our store on Saturdays. Duties include greeting visitors, making store sales, as well as putting out new merchandise.

Rangers - We can still use more people as Trail Rangers, patrolling our trails, and assisting visitors. If you have a few hours a month to give and enjoy walking through NBS, this is a great opportunity.

Historical/Landuse Researcher - A volunteer is needed to assist Richard Youngken research town records and/or archives to find out more about the history of Paradise Farm. Good writing skills are essential. Please call the NBS office for more details and a job description.

Specimen Restoration Completed

Many thanks to our dedicated volunteer team of museum specimen conservators Kurt Carlson, Susan Kieronski, Ruth Lowndes and Kim Duffy who have completed the inventory and restoration of the historic study skin collection of Edward Sturtevant. The job included the tedious work of cleaning, identifying and labeling of more than 450 specimens. The volunteer team was trained by Michael Gardner of the Roger Williams Park Museum of Natural History. Our newly restored specimens will be housed in new state-of-theart storage cases. The project was funded by a grant from the Champlin Foundation and a gift from Mrs. Theodore S. Sturtevant.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Receptionist

Year 'round part-time position averaging approximately 20 hours per week. Major responsibilities will include visitor reception, answering telephone, store sales and assisting with membership list maintenance. Excellent interpersonal skills and typing essential. Experience with Macintosh computers and database management preferred, retail experience helpful. Please forward resume and cover letter by April 15th to:

Susan VanDerhoof Norman Bird Sanctuary 583 Third Beach Road Middletown, RI 02842

Trail Crew

Teens are needed to work with a supervisor on trail maintenance and wildlife conservation projects for four weeks during the summer. Applicants must be at least 14 years old, have an interest in natural history and be able to perform vigorous outdoor work. Application deadline is: May 20th. Pay: Minimum Wage. If interested stop by the NBS office or call to receive an application and job description.



Our Mission: To preserve the 450 acre Norman Bird Sanctuary for the protection of animals and birds and for the enjoyment of the public; to assist the Trustee in the overall management and development of the Sanctuary; to conduct programs for children and adults in environmental education and natural sciences; to work with individuals and groups in the region in the preservation of natural habitats and open space

For more information call 846-2577

The Norman Bird Flyer is published quarterly by the Friends of the Norman Bird Sanctuary, a non-profit corporation organized to support the mission of the trusts established under the Will of Mable Norman Cerio.

Newsletter Editor
Susan VanDerhoof
Graphics:
Lucia deLeiris
Susan Olson Higgins
UMD Illustration Students

SPRING HOURS

OPEN TUESDAY - SUNDAY 9 am to 5 pm

MEMORIAL DAY to LABOR DAY OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 9 am to 5 pm

*Closed Easter Sunday, April 16th

NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY 583 Third Beach Road Middletown, RI 02842

Non-Profit
Organization
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Newport, RI 02840
Permit No. 43



To Current Resident or

FROM BIRDS TO SEA LIFE

Join the NBS staff and guest naturalists each Wednesday evening as you discover the wonders the Sanctuary has to offer.



TIME 7:00 pm

FEE:

\$4.00 Non-members Free for NBS Members

WEDNESDAYS IN

July 5th Seashore Walk

July 12th

Pond Exploration

July 19th
Scoop on Poop
(identifying wildlife by scat)

July 26th Bird Walk

WEDNESDAYS IN AUGUST

August 2nd Seashore Walk

August 9th

Medicinal/Edible Plant Walk

August 16th Seashore Walk

August 23rd Star Gazing

STARGAZE WITH THE

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

FEE: FREE TIME: 8:45 pm

DATES

Fridays - July 28th, August 25th, September 29th

One Friday each month, the Astronomical Society of Southern New England will use the NBS field for their monthly meeting. Each ASSNE member comes with a telescope and knowledge to share. NBS members are invited to join them (with or without telescopes). Pre-registration is not necessary and the programs are FREE.

PLEASE JOIN US! NBS Membership Form

	NBS Member	ship Form	
Rue de la companya d	Student (\$10)	☐ Patron (\$100)	
	Individual (\$20)	Business/Institution (\$100)	
	☐ Family (\$30)	Supporting (\$250)	
	Sustaining (\$50)	Benefactor (\$500)	
Address:		Town/City:	-
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Newport, RI 02842
Permit No. 43

Norman Bird Sanctuary 583 Third Beach Road Middletown, RI 02842



ARE YOU CRAFTY?

The Norman Bird Sanctuary is looking for a well-organized person, interested in arts and crafts to take over as Chairperson of the crafts tent for our annual Harvest Fair. Duties include soliciting, judging and corresponding with crafters as well as being responsible for aying out the crafts tent. If interested or for more information, please call the NBS office at 846-2577

SUMMER HOURS

OPEN

7 days a week
9 am to 5 pm
&
Wednesday Evenings
until dusk

JOIN US

Each Sunday morning at 8 am for a free guided birdwalk

SPONSOR A CHILD

For a donation of \$100, you could help a child in need foster an appreciation of nature and our environment.

We have received several generous donations to sponsor a child for our Nature Day Camp. Each summer, however, our request s for scholarships exceed the supply. Please send donations to NBS office.