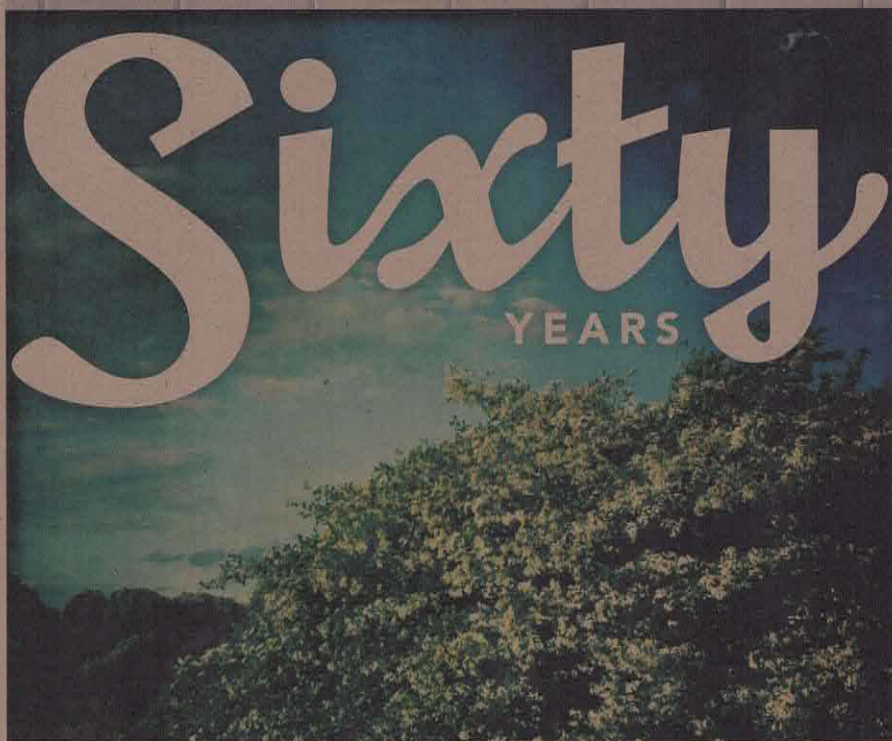




THE FLYER

NUMBER 60 • VOLUME 01

2010



Dear Friend of Norman Bird Sanctuary,

We are very pleased to present our new newsletter format. This publication will be sent to our members twice a year and will contain news about what's happening on the NBS property, updates on our programs and events as well as tidbits that we think you might find interesting or fun.

The biggest news here at the Norman Bird Sanctuary is that this year we are 60!

In 1950 the organization was created to honor the wishes of our founder, Mabel Norman. Mabel's gift has inspired many people and changed the landscape of Aquidneck Island. In the spirit of her vision we continue to utilize the property to inspire our community to connect with the environment and learn about the natural world. In our day to day work here at NBS we often ask ourselves and each other "What would Mabel do?". It's a good way to take a step back and consider where we came from and how to take the next step. The Norman Bird Sanctuary has grown significantly since Mabel's time and we take her vision and mission seriously.

You may have noticed the finishing touches on what many people remember as the "Third Beach Clubhouse". This year "The Coastal Education Center at Third Beach" will be completed which will give NBS the opportunity to expand our programs in marine biology. The facility will allow us to get a closer look at the plants and animals that live in our coastal habitats and continue to educate the next generation about the natural world. This project is the final step that began with the purchase of the 24 acre Third Beach property. This acquisition was accomplished with the support, rallying and cheerleading of an engaged and generous community.

This newsletter brings you the inside story from our Executive Director at that time, Betsy de Leiris. It is wonderful to hear from her and have her recollections. In 2010 we will also complete the second phase of renovations on the Paradise Farmhouse, bringing us that much closer to having a place where we can offer educational programs to people from all walks of life from near and far. The house is Mabel Norman's original home and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places along with 140 acres of NBS property. The completed Farmhouse will host multi-day programs for diverse participants including bird watchers, scientists, artists, youth groups and students. The Paradise Farmhouse will give us an opportunity to share Mabel's vision in more ways than ever before.


In the meantime our educational programs have grown to include over 13,000 participants per year and our volunteer numbers have grown to over 500 in 2009. It is an exciting time here at NBS and the staff and board of directors are carefully planning for the future of this very special place.

It is an honor to serve as Executive Director here. As I sit in my office listening to the sounds of the kids outside on their first day of camp so many memories come flooding back; my time as a camper running wild on the NBS trails, my summer after graduating from college teaching summer camp (the best summer of my life!) and the days that my own children came to camp here at NBS. This has been my favorite place for over 30 years and I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to do my part alongside the incredible team of staff, board members and volunteers.

It's hard to picture what the next 60 years will bring. The environment is under siege and the economy continues to be questionable... but the 325 acres of the Norman Bird Sanctuary are still as magical and amazing as ever. I have faith that Mabel Norman's gift of this breathtaking piece of property will continue to inspire.

I like to think that Mabel would be pleased.

All the best,



Natasha Harrison
Executive Director



Mabel Norman Cerio

Norman Bird Sanctuary
583 Third Beach Road
Middletown, Rhode Island 02842

(401) 846-2577
www.normanbirdsantuary.org



"...for the propagation,
preservation and protection of
birds, and where birds and bird
life may be observed, studied,
taught, and enjoyed by lovers of
nature and by the public generally
so interested in a spirit of
humanity and mercy."

Staff

Natasha Harrison
Executive Director

Joseph McLaughlin
Director of Properties

Catherine Arning
Director of Education

Lesley Muir
Director of Development

Sarah de Leiris
Office Manager

Rachel Holbert
Weekend Teacher / Naturalist

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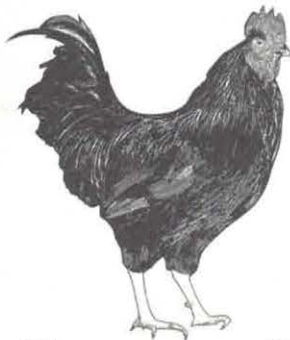


THE FLYER • NO 60 • VOL 01

I moved to Montana four years ago, and have found other organizations in my new home to which I can give my energy. But I look forward to those annual trips back to Rhode Island to once again hike the trails I love with the people I love, to once again share that sense of community that grew for me at the Sanctuary. I hope that it means as much to you. Send me a note at mtbound06@hotmail.com and let me know what your fondest memories are of your days at NBS, and let me know if I may pass them along to the Sanctuary staff as we celebrate from near and far the 60th birthday of this magical place.



Population 1,053,209



State Bird of Rhode Island
Rhode Island Red



Population 967,440



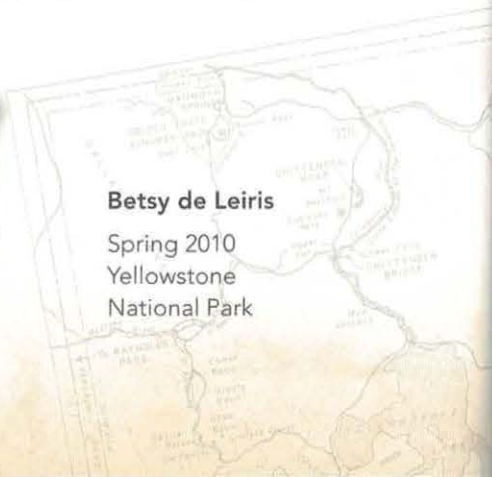
State Bird of Montana
Western Meadowlark

By the way, I did finally learn something about birds, starting under the tutelage of Nikki Hinds, former NBS Property Manager. Aside from the ten chickens roaming in my yard, I have the opportunity to bird in one of the world's other magnificent places. As I write, I am in *Yellowstone National Park*, spending the weekend birding with the Park's recently retired ornithologist (who would fit right in back on Aquidneck Island; he's also opening an Irish pub!) Hey, Jay Manning, how about bringing a group out here to discover the species of the west!



Betsy de Leiris

Spring 2010
Yellowstone
National Park



Catherine Arning
Director of Education

Education Outlook

Lately I've been thinking about my place in the world. Like many, I am devastated by the current environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The recent oil spill has prompted me to take a closer look at the choices I make – not just in my own life, but in my role as NBS Director of Education. Here at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, our educators teach the concept that every living thing has a niche, a unique role that it plays in the ecosystem. My niche is through environmental education – providing meaningful opportunities for children, families, and community groups to connect with their environment. But is this impact enough?

I am proud of the work our education team does here at NBS. We have a talented and dedicated staff of AmeriCorps educators, Teacher / Naturalists, and a new Camp Coordinator – all of us work every day to model responsible choices and teach learners about Rhode Island's unique wildlife and ecosystems. But on their own, these efforts are only a small piece of the solution. To truly make a difference, our learners have an important role to play, too.

Our ultimate goal is to empower students of all ages by providing them with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to make responsible individual choices. And that's where you come in. Take what you learn at the Sanctuary – whether it's an exciting new fact or simply a memorable experience in the great outdoors – and pass it on by teaching others. Get excited, passionate – even angry! Apply this to your own lives and use it to evaluate your daily decisions. By doing so, you will play a critical role in the conservation of our natural resources.

As part of my recent musings, I came across a document I wrote several years ago during a nature education workshop. This list – A *"Top Ten List" for Environmental Education* – reminded me why I am here, of my goals for our education department, and how strongly I believe in the power of EE. I'd like to share a portion of my list with you, and I encourage you to make your own. Take a few minutes to reflect on what the natural world means to you. What benefits do NBS summer and vacation camp, field trips, public programs, and trail walks give you and your family? What important role does the natural world play in your life?



*One of the many residents
of Red Maple Pond.*

A "TOP 10 LIST" FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

10. Environmental education provides an authentic experience. The outdoor classroom brings science concepts to life and fully immersing students in the world around them.
9. It reduces fears and misconceptions. (Think snakes are slimy and scary? Students that take part in hands-on EE opportunities are less likely to harbor myths and phobias about animals.)
8. It utilizes a variety of learning styles, providing different activities for all the ways that learners explore and understand their world. Environmental education is also multidisciplinary, incorporating concepts in science, math, writing, history, and even art.
7. EE takes advantage of teachable moments, and advances at nature's pace. (You never know what you might discover in the great outdoors!)
6. It exposes learners to local ecosystems. Too often, we watch television programs featuring animals from around the globe, without discovering the amazing wildlife that's right here in our very own backyards!
5. Environmental education takes advantage of all five senses. For example, students visiting the shoreline can see the vulnerability of the sand dunes, taste the salty leaves of the sea pickle, feel the tough exoskeleton of a horseshoe crab, hear the seagulls squawking over the ocean, and smell the salty ocean air.
4. It creates an environmentally responsible citizenry, by inspiring and empowering students. Through EE, participants are equipped with the knowledge and skills to assume ownership of environmental problems, make responsible decisions, and take action for the causes in which they believe.
3. You're never too old to be a student of the natural world! Learners of all ages can take part in environmental programs, and use their knowledge to teach others.
2. Environmental education is good education! Studies show that EE in schools leads to better performance on standardized tests, increased self esteem, reduced discipline problems, increased enthusiasm for learning, and greater pride and ownership in accomplishments.
1. It preserves the "sense of wonder."

CATHERINE ARNING



Rachel Carson

(1907 – 1964)

Biologist, Writer,
Environmental Activist

If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unfailing antidote against the boredom and disenchantment of later years, the sterile preoccupation with things that are artificial, the alienation from the sources of our strengths...

Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life. Whatever the vexations or concerns of their personal lives, their thoughts can find paths that lead to inner contentment and to renewed excitement in living. Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is a symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of the birds, the ebb and flow of the tides, the folded bud ready for the spring. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after the night, and spring after winter.



HELP US CELEBRATE OUR 51ST YEAR OF SUMMER CAMP!

PROGRAMS FOR GRADES 3-12 • EIGHT WEEK SESSIONS BEGIN JUNE 28!

Looking for something fun and exciting to do this summer?

Check out NBS Summer Camp programs for grades 3-12!

Online registration is available through our website at www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org, and spaces are still available for all age groups. Register now for the best selection. Age-appropriate sessions include hands-on exploration of the outdoor world, animal presentations, crafts, experiments, and more!

Older campers can even take part in adventure trips throughout New England. Scholarships and multiple child discounts are available.



There's something for all ages at Summer Camp!

Preschoolers with Parents

Ages 2-5
with parent
or caregiver

Fledglings	Ages 3-5
Nature Day	Grades K-4
Explorers	Grades 4-6
Field Explorers	Grades 5-7
Island Adventures	Grades 6-8
Summer Challenge	Grades 6-8
Ecology Adventures	Grades 9-12



“

WHAT DO PARENTS SAY ABOUT OUR SUMMER CAMP?

”

"My child left camp every day with new songs, stories and facts to share. He couldn't wait to wake up every morning and go to camp!"

"As a teacher, I know how hard it can be to hit a 'home run,' but this was definitely a wonderful experience all around."

"A great program... NBS camp will be a part of our summer tradition for years to come."

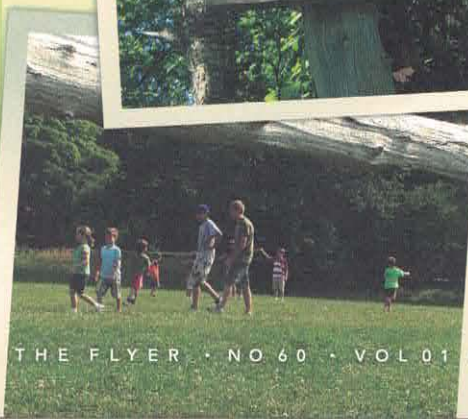
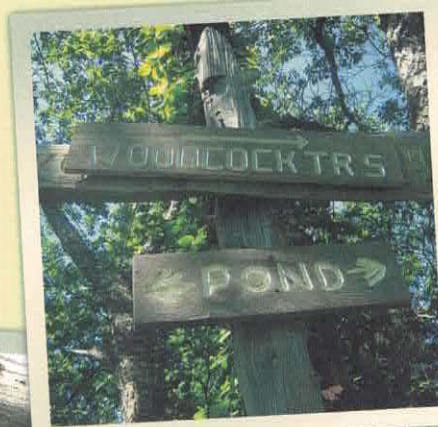
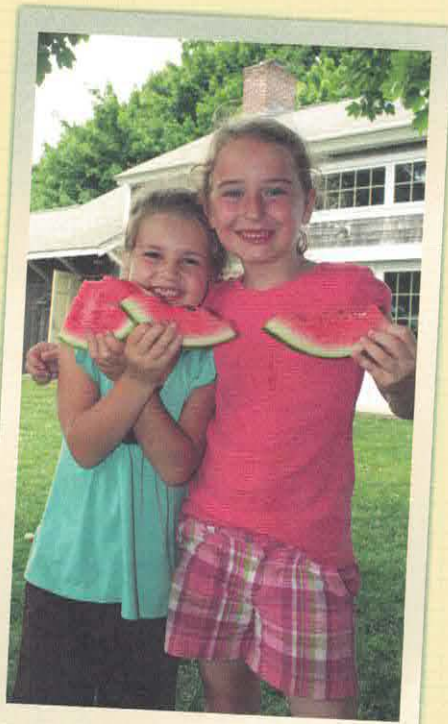
"The perfect blend of fun and learning."

"My teenager came home every day tired and happy."

"My husband and I appreciated the attention to detail and organization – thank you for making our first summer at NBS a smooth one."

"As a parent of a child with special needs, I felt that this camp was my son's ideal fit... he thrived with the professional and enthusiastic counselors."

"The staff really went the extra mile to make this summer a special one for our children."



The Norman Bird Sanctuary,
in conjunction with
PDQ Printing & Design,
is committed to sustaining
our natural resources
by printing with soy-based
inks on recycled,
FSC-certified paper.

To learn more about how
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*An independent, local family-owned
and operated business*

Celebrating 30 years 1980-2010





AMERICORPS CORNER

Jaclyn Hochreiter
NBS AmeriCorps Educator

Hello there – AmeriCorps here!

Some of you may know us as your son or daughter's fearless leaders for field trips, camp, home school, overnight or afterschool programs. Perhaps you learned interesting facts from us during an Animal Ambassador presentation at a Family Nature Night, Bird Tales or birthday party. Or maybe you simply recognize us as those girls with the fabulous AmeriCorps "A" pin shining in the sun when we cross paths on one of the Sanctuary's many hiking trails. Regardless of the occasion, we wanted to take a few moments to introduce ourselves, our program, and tell you a bit more about our time here at NBS.

At this point you might be asking yourself, "What is AmeriCorps?" Great question! AmeriCorps is a community service program where individuals contribute up to a year of service at thousands of organizations nationwide. In fewer words it can also be described as a "domestic Peace Corps." Here in Rhode Island, there are twelve different AmeriCorps programs. Our group is known as the *Ocean State Environmental Education Collaborative (OSEEC)*. OSEEC has members serving as environmental educators at Save the Bay, Roger Williams Park Zoo and the Norman Bird Sanctuary. As volunteers with a passion for the environment and education, we work hard to deliver hands-on, nature-based programs for students of all ages. NBS AmeriCorps members educate over 15,000 learners annually, at schools across the state and right here, in what we like to call our "outdoor classroom."

So where did we come from? Currently there are four members serving at NBS, and each one of us has a different story to tell. **Yvette Haughney** is originally from Long Island, New York. Yvette graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in Conservation Biology. **Katrina McIsaac** is originally from Lakeville, Massachusetts and attended Emerson College for a degree in Sports Journalism (she loves the Celtics... and Bruins!) **Sarah Jane Fischer** is a native Rhode Islander and grew up in East Greenwich. She left home to try out the west coast while studying Chemistry at Occidental College. My name is **Jaclyn Hochreiter** and while I traveled as military families often do, my home is in Corning, New York. I attended Binghamton University and received a degree in Music and Environmental Studies.

We are all very grateful for this opportunity, and I can speak for everyone when I say that we have come to love the Norman Bird Sanctuary (*how can you not?*). We will miss NBS dearly when our service year comes to an end in August. But before that time comes, we have a great summer camp season lined up!

Now that you know a little more about us, next time you find yourself around these parts this summer – please stop by to say hello!

NATURE NOTES

Rachel Holbert
Teacher / Naturalist

Two members of the NBS Green Team.



Spring mornings are often filled with birds. Sometimes the combination of curious minds, secretive birds and sunshine produces an unforgettable moment.

On this particular May morning, the NBS Green Team assembled. The Green Team program is attended by a core group of kids, ranging in age from fourth to seventh grade. The common ties shared by Green Team members include the desire to serve the community, learn about nature, and protect the environment. With binoculars, clipboards and pencils, we set off down Third Beach Road in pursuit of the *Piping Plover*.

As the road sloped gently southward, we heard the teasing call of *Catbirds* in the tangled trees beside us. *Tree Swallows*, competing for precious nest boxes, swooped over our heads. When we were so close to Third Beach that we could hear the waves and smell the seaweed, the Green Team members spied *Barn Swallows* drinking from a puddle in the road. Whole families of territorial singing *Mockingbirds* ushered us onto the sand.

I reminded my group that *Piping Plovers* had not yet been observed at Third Beach this spring, although the NBS staff had already strung rope around their favorite nesting area in hopes that they would return. One Green Team girl said brightly, "That's ok! I've already seen so many birds today!" We scoured the expanse of sand for crisscrossed *Piping Plover* tracks.

As we approached the Maidford River, a pale shorebird was startled and quickly flew toward the roped-off area reserved for nesting **Piping Plovers**. The entire *Green Team* excitedly pointed their binoculars in the direction that the small bird had flown. I explained that the protected **Plover** had adapted to a life spent on the shore with coloration that blended in perfectly with the sand and smooth stones. We carefully noted a few field marks once we located the bird again, and confirmed that it was indeed the first **Piping Plover** of the year!

Before heading back, we decided to check out the nesting area to see if we could find another bird. The *Green Team* patiently squinted at the wide, sandy space. Eventually, the bird we had first seen quietly tiptoed through the field of smooth stones, past some tufts of beach grass, and was greeted by a second **Piping Plover** who had been hunkered down in the sand. I congratulated the *Green Team*; they were already enjoying the satisfaction of volunteering to help protect the **Piping Plover**.

To learn more about joining this environmental club for kids, please visit www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org.



DIG DEEPER

You too can help protect the Piping Plover this beach season! Learn to identify this little bird, and help to educate others. The species is considered threatened locally, but some breeding populations are endangered throughout their range.

- Who:** Piping Plovers are small (only about 6-7 inches long), pale tan, with a faint black "collar" that doesn't quite meet in the front of its neck.
- When:** Arrives in early May, departs in late August.
- Where:** A sandy beach near you! Piping Plovers like to build nests well above the water line, where the sand is full of pebbles and smooth stones, in front of the dune line.
- Why:** Piping Plovers lose precious nesting habitat when humans gather at the beach during the summer. Unintentional harassment by dogs can be prevented by following local ordinances and keeping dogs away from Piping Plover inhabited beaches during the warmer months.

If you wish to observe the Piping Plover in its natural habitat, distance is key. Bring binoculars, and do not enter roped-off nesting areas. Piping Plovers dig shallow "scrapes" in the sand, where they lay about four eggs. The eggs and young chicks are so well-camouflaged that it is possible to accidentally step on them. Piping Plovers can fledge two clutches of young in one summer, though natural threats like predation and coastal storms greatly reduce the survival rate of chicks.

Meet Mufasa

Katrina McIsaac
NBS AmeriCorps Educator

Hi, my name is **Mufasa**, and I'm a **Lionhead Rabbit**. I took a long road to get to the Norman Bird Sanctuary, and boy am I glad I'm here! Some mean person left me and my friend in a box by the side of the road when they decided they didn't want me anymore. Fortunately, we were rescued and brought to the Bird Sanctuary. Here I began my transformation into a NBS "Animal Ambassador."



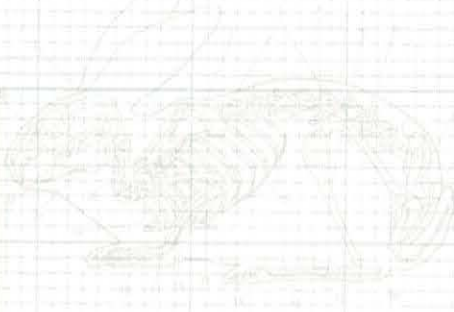
What's an animal ambassador, you might say? Basically, us AAs represent our species by helping to teach the children that come to NBS on field trips and family programs. We also go on car rides and visit classrooms, sharing our stories with students all around the state.

A lot of people don't even know I'm a rabbit when they see me, because of my giant brown mane. That mane is where the name **Lionhead** comes from. This fur is a lot of hard work for me to clean, and sometimes I need some help from my animal care friends, who help me to look so handsome! Come visit me at the Norman Bird Sanctuary this summer, and learn the rest of my story. I can't wait to meet you!

DID YOU KNOW...?



Rabbits have extra large hind legs – these help them to escape danger and deliver powerful kicks in self defense. The record for longest "rabbit jump" for a domesticated animal is more than three meters. That's over nine feet! *How far can you jump?*



Mufasa, the NBS Lionhead Rabbit, likes to eat greens, vegetables and fruit. Pet rabbits should always have an ample supply of hay – this helps with their digestion and prevents fur balls.

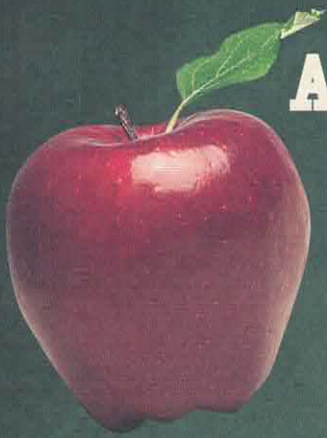


FUR BALL
[bad]



VEGETABLES
[good]

EDUCATOR APPRECIATION MONTH



Teachers and Administrators, mark your calendars! August is Educator Appreciation Month at the Norman Bird Sanctuary! Rhode Island and Massachusetts educators will receive **free admission for their entire family all month long**, and can also stop by to receive a **free family membership for the 2010-11 School Year**. Best yet, if you book a field trip or outreach program for your class before September 10, you'll receive discounted rates, coupons and other exclusive promotions.

We have many new programs in store this school year, and we can't wait to work with you and your students! The new Education Center at Third Beach will be open in time for fall programming. This hands-on learning classroom will feature touch tanks and aquaria, marine animals, interpretive exhibits and microscope labs. We will also continue to offer scholarship assistance and a transportation fund program. Our schedule fills quickly, so early registration is encouraged for the best selection.

Don't miss all the fun and excitement the Norman Bird Sanctuary has to offer! Age-appropriate and standards-based field trip, outreach and afterschool programs are available for grades PreK-12. For more information, please call (401) 846-2577 or visit www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org.





Joseph McLaughlin, Director of Properties
with our AmeriCorps members.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Karen Benson / Joseph McLaughlin

The NBS strategic plan defines two key goals for our properties. First, is to have well-managed and diverse habitats for all wildlife, with a focus on birds. Second, is to have well-managed buildings to support NBS programs and operations.

Joseph McLaughlin, Director of Properties for the Norman Bird Sanctuary, has an enviable job. As Director of Properties for the past five and a half years Joseph has seen many changes to the NBS facility. He highlighted a few of those accomplishments during a hike around the property earlier this month.

First we headed to the fields just north of the parking area. The 82 wooden nesting boxes are hard to miss. These boxes have been installed each year for 16 years by volunteers to attract Tree Swallows. Unfortunately, this year 35% of the boxes have been taken over by more common, sometimes aggressive, non-native birds the House Sparrow. Nevertheless, the effort to encourage the Tree Swallow to nest continues. Next season fewer boxes will be located in this field and more will be installed in a field just south of the farmhouse.



Tree Swallows



House Sparrow

Our walk continued into an area that is part of the ongoing effort to increase grassland habitat. In a field that was once used to grow corn, we now see a diverse plant community of native warm season grasses. This habitat is ideal for grassland generalist species, such as Bobolink, American Goldfinch, Red-Winged Black Bird, Tree Swallow, House Sparrow and Blue Bird to name a few. Open pastures and fields are critically important habitat for many species to forage and nest. In total, over the past five years, NBS has increased its grassland habitat by more than 40 acres. Much of this labor intensive conversion from woodland or scrubland to grassland ecosystem has been possible because of the enthusiastic support of our members and volunteers and funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).





Another exciting development for the property manager is the Third Beach Education Center, also fondly known as Third Beach Club (3BC). The Education Center, constructed largely by Lance Construction, is expected to open next month. It will be used for many types of education programs, including school programs, public programs, and the summer camp. More than just an education center, it is anticipated that a portion of the land may be Eastern Cottontail habitat. This native species of rabbit has suffered a decline in population as a result of loss of habitat and other environmental pressures. Joseph McLaughlin is in the process of applying for funding from NRCS to manage a 4-5 acre plot at the rear of the 3BC property as Eastern Cottontail habitat.

Nearby at Third Beach proper we observed a fine example of the benefits of setting aside habitat, particularly for birds. We sited the first of the season Piping Plovers. The nesting site for these endangered shorebirds is delineated by Piping Plover Nesting signs and yellow line. Please respect the boundary while enjoying these migratory visitors. If you would like to be a volunteer Piping Plover monitor contact NBS, all ages welcome, one hour commitment. Additionally, all parking will continue to be in the NBS main lot, as there is NO parking available at 3BC.



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Joe McLaughlin going to town.

Upcoming property plans include restoration of the field south of the farmhouse which begins with plowing the earth, harrowing, manually removing the highly invasive exotic plant *Rosa Multiflora*, seeding the bare soil with native cool season grasses, (i.e. Timothy, Red Clover, Orchard and Rye grasses) rolling the field smooth and awaiting the rain.

In addition this is the sixth year of the Early Successional bird and vegetation monitoring of the 44 acres of restored grasslands. The data is used to track the progress of the restoration, how it affects the nesting birds primarily and the impact on the control of invasive plants. With the help of NBS Property Committee chair, Jay Manning along with past Property Manager Veronica Hinds we will have three surveys completed for the season. On Sunday, May 16th, during the *Birds and Breakfast* event, 38 different species of birds were spotted on NBS property.



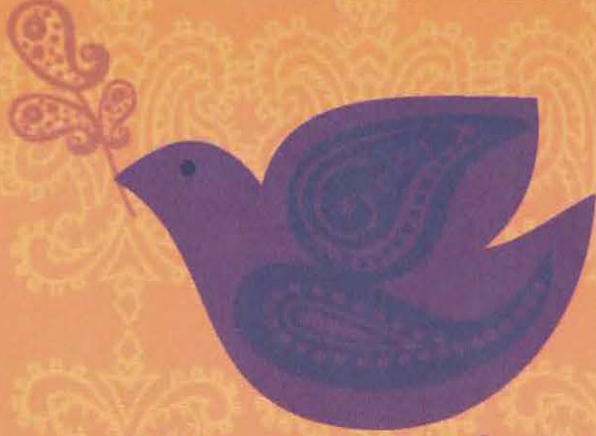


The property manager
is always looking for
assistance, so if you have
skills or are interested
in learning more about
how you can help to
ensure that NBS is the
most diverse, visitor
friendly 325 acres of
wildlife habitat...

Please contact Joseph at
(401) 846-2577 ext. 12.

Or for more information,
please go to
normanbirds sanctuary.org





Free Bird

peace, love & good times

NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY BIRD BALL 2010

Join us as we slide into the psychedelic, sock-it-to-me 60's
at the **7th Annual Bird Ball**
Saturday August 21st at 7pm
Dinner, Drink, Music and Silent Auction under the stars
at the Sanctuary overlooking the fields & ocean!



Tickets \$125 (\$150 at the door)
Get your friends together & purchase a "Flock"
(10 tickets for \$900)
www.normanbirdsanctuary.org

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GNARLY GNATCATCHER (\$2500)

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Jay & Natalie Manning
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Elizabeth Gibbs & Eliot Raymond

GROOVY GROSBEAK (\$250)

William & Gail Crimmins

FREE LOVIN' LOON (\$100)

Fractal Management - Heather Bailey



Saturday, October 2nd & Sunday, October 3rd

10am – 5pm

\$6 Adults • \$3 Children (3-12)

Hay & Pony Rides

Children's Games

Artisan Marketplace

Food • Field Games

Home & Garden Growers Competition

Antique Tractors

Mud Pit • Monkey Bridge

The "Mabel Express" Barrel Train

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT





2010
ANNUAL MEETING
AND
APPRECIATION PARTY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23RD
4 – 6pm
at the Sanctuary

**All Members, Volunteers,
Sponsors and Supporters are Invited**

Dinner Sponsored by



Artist in Residence

Aaron Phaneuf



Art and Artists have enjoyed a long and storied history at the Norman Bird Sanctuary. Our most lovely and adored namesake used her painting studio to express her affection of this land and its inhabitants. To this day, her creations grace our buildings and her spirit continues to guide our thinking and actions. Such notable figures as John Lafarge, Winslow Homer, and more recently Sue McNally, have wandered our paths looking for inspiration and the right moment to capture it. Many – both inside and out of our community – consider the art that has been inspired by and created at the Sanctuary, to be our finest asset.

The Sanctuary is pleased to announce the creation of an Artist-in-Residence Program. As the first individual to wear this hat, it is my distinct pleasure to communicate our hopes, desires and plans for the incorporation of art into life at the Sanctuary.

Soon, you will find a link on our website, drawing your attention to the various art related programs offered at the Sanctuary and the many ways you can become more involved. We are the midst of planning exhibitions highlighting the work of several local established artists, as well as events for the broader community to share their passion and art with our members. We want to create a space where both experts and new comers feel comfortable and welcome.

Along with information and details on our website, we will also be active contributors at other locations on the web, namely Facebook and Flickr. If you have not done so already, please friend us on Facebook and join our newly created Flickr group. We realize that many of you have long been creating wonderful pieces of art, be they poems, photographs, songs or sculptures. We look forward to creating the spaces and opportunities for you to share those passions and found inspiration.

Once the Paradise Farmhouse is finished, we hope to welcome artists of all stripes to come and create in our beloved space. You can expect programs geared for expert craftspeople and novice alike. In a few years time you might find a painter, scientist and social activist, all sharing a conversation on the porch as they watch the sun wash over Third Beach.

Our desire is to create open, inclusive events that engage the entire community. Art is universal and universally binding. It has the ability to connect us to each other, to a place, to an idea, like nearly nothing else can. We are fortunate to have Mabel's kindness all around us in nearly the same way she enjoyed it herself. We wish to honor her artistic spirit by creating this program, and encouraging the art's deep connection to the Sanctuary.



POEM INSPIRED BY THE
NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

Sanctuary as Entry

*Much in this world is far too broad
and often too deep to allow
comprehension's full gaze to fall
on our pressed shoulders.*

*So we search for an entry point
a place we might gain access
to a room built from knowing.*

*My eyes blink on a field, ripe
with the anticipation of summer
long afternoons when birds
stroke the sky with their wings
and sing to one another
content in their knowing.*

*I'm wandering now along a thin path
lined with green pinned back
by a wooded shadow
leading me to a pond
where ducks and swans glide easily
and geese hiss at my footfalls.*

*Dusk is ushering us home
calling for our return to the warmth
of a room lit by candles, smelling of
dinner and old stolen library books.*

*Entry points are hard to find
they are elusive by nature
with their cunning and mystery and
absence of dotted lines between points.*

*Let's go then again tomorrow
and search a different field
find a quiet tree and whisper nicely
in its ear, hoping it might tell us
where the knowing is hiding.*

AARON PHANEUF
MAY 2010

VOLUNTEERS

LOOKING TO BECOME INVOLVED?
NEED COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS?

There is something for everyone!

Here at NBS there are event based volunteer opportunities as well as on-going year-round needs. Unless specified, please contact **Suzanne Garvin** at (401) 846-2577 ext. 16 or sgarvin@normanbirds sanctuary.org if interested.

36th Annual Harvest Fair

Saturday and Sunday, October 2nd and 3rd 2010

350 volunteers are needed in all areas – this is the only event with online registration which begins mid-August.

On-going Year-round Opportunities

General Maintenance - with 325 acres, we are always in need of help with trail maintenance, stone wall repair, weeding, raking, etc.
Contact **Joseph McLaughlin**, Properties Manager at (401) 846-2577 ext. 12

Mabel's Gardeners are a group of volunteers who maintain the walled garden by Paradise Farmhouse (home to our benefactor, Mabel Norman). Like to get your hands dirty? *This is the job for you!*

Interested in working with Animals? Join the Norman Bird Sanctuary to become an animal care volunteer! We need dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers to help us care for a variety of education animals, including reptiles, mammals and birds of prey. No prior experience is necessary. Please contact **Catherine Arning**, Director of Education at carning@normanbirds sanctuary.org

Schedules and assignments are flexible, though volunteers are asked to commit to a weekly or biweekly schedule. Volunteers must be 14 or older. Training is provided.

MEMBERSHIP

NOT A MEMBER YET?

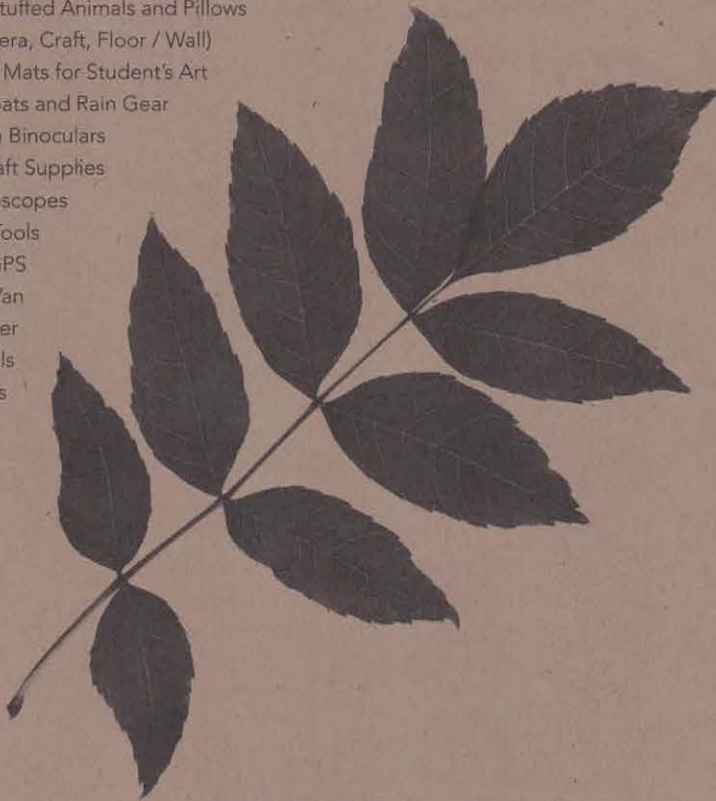
Join the Norman Bird Sanctuary and become our partner in conservation and education. We are supported entirely by our own resources. Your annual membership dues directly fund our year-round efforts to provide innovative environmental education programs and promote environmental stewardship across the state.

Sign up today at www.normanbirds sanctuary.org!

OUR WISH LIST

(New or Gently Used)

Picks
Vacuum
Shovels
Loppers
Leaf Rakes
New Hoses
Children's Tables, Shelves, etc.
Sensory Tables (i.e., Water Tables)
Children's Toys, Blocks and Games
Children's Storybooks or Nature Books
Children's Framed Prints and Artwork for Classroom Walls
CD Player and CDs - Children's Music, Nature Songs or Classical Music
Gift Certificates to Acorn Naturalist, Amazon or Environments, Inc.
Gift cards to Staples, BJ's, Petco, Shaws, Michaels
Subscription to Green Teacher Magazine
Oversized Stuffed Animals and Pillows
Paint (Tempera, Craft, Floor / Wall)
Frames and Mats for Student's Art
Kids' Raincoats and Rain Gear
Night Vision Binoculars
Arts and Craft Supplies
Video Microscopes
Dissection Tools
Handheld GPS
Passenger Van
Double Boiler
Beach Towels
Microscopes
Hot Plate
Puppets
Cameras





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