

The Flyer

THE NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2004

VOLUME 27 • ISSUE 1

The Bird Ball -

Norman Bird Sanctuary Kicks off Inaugural Event in Style!

Despite heavy rain and some mud, nearly 300 guests arrived at the Sanctuary's Paradise Farm on August 21st to partake in the festivities of our first Bird Ball. Although the weather was not perfect, the evening certainly was! Guests arrived in their best rain gear and festive feathers and were greeted by Honorary Co-Chairs, Mary & Michael Hays in the front room of our old 18th century farmhouse. One half of the room was painted and furnished to illustrate the tremendous potential of this building once rehabilitated. In

the coming months we will begin to work with historical architects to develop rehabilitation plans.

our natural environment was echoed in all aspects of this spectacular evening.

Blackstone Caterers provided sumptuous food and drink for the evening, including creative hors d'oeuvres, signature martinis, Asian noodles served to-go and grilled seafood served at the "beach". Eight to the Bar kept everyone dancing all night long with their ever-popular swing and Motown music.



Michael Hays Greets Guest in the Farm House

Guests then entered a maze of tents with décor designed by Richard Carbotti of Perfect Surrounding, Inc. The beauty of

A silent auction of over fifty items, including a plasma television, terrific vacation get-aways, and beautiful artwork

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It's Harvest Fair Time!
Oct. 2nd & 3rd



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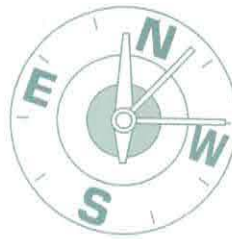
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From the Director

I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer! Summer 2004 at the Norman Bird Sanctuary has been as busy and as fun as ever. Our summer day camps finished on August 20th. With the help of our talented and determined crew of camp staff we served more than 400 campers over the course of nine weeks.

Summer camp at the Norman Bird Sanctuary remains one of the quintessential childhood experiences on Aquidneck Island. So many people I meet tell me how important NBS camp was to them growing up, and how happy they are that their children are able to share some of those very same experiences. For us here at the Sanctuary, summer camp continues to be one of the most enjoyable and challenging programs offered through our environmental education department. Lauren Parmelee describes our summer camp experience in greater detail in this month's newsletter.

As I write this letter we approach the grand opening of the "Ed Shed" classrooms. We have spent the better part of the past five months working to complete the transformation of our beloved "Ed Shed". By the time school programs commence in September, we will have a new space for our students to enjoy. The Norman Bird Sanctuary remains committed to teaching innovative education programs that provide hands-on opportunities for students to learn about the natural world through first-hand experience. The indoor space allows our educators to better prepare classes for their programs as well as to provide students and teachers a comfortable space to transition from the school experience to the Norman Bird Sanctuary experience.

And finally, I'd like to say a few words about the Bird Ball. What a fantastic party! My hat is off to all the people who put forth such an amazing effort and made the Bird Ball event the special evening it was. I was overwhelmed by the support of our friends and so happy to see so many wonderful guests having the time of their lives.

Rob Cardeiro

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The Bird Ball...continued

from local artists, was definitely a high point of the evening and raised over \$12,000.

Mother Nature may not have cooperated, but in the end it didn't dampen this picture-perfect evening! All proceeds from this enchanting evening support our continued efforts in environmental education, habitat conservation and the preservation of open space on Aquidneck Island.

Guest admire the surroundings outside and inside the tranquility garden



Special Thanks to Our Friends and Sponsors

Party Plovers

*Blackstone Catering
Newport Tent Company
Perfect Surroundings, Inc.*

Cha Cha Chickadees \$1,000

*Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Allen
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And More Thanks to...

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Bill Corcoran & Newport Tent
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Feature Article

Norman Bird Sanctuary Summer Camp! Celebrating Success and Planning Ahead.

SUMMER 2004 was another fabulous season of outdoor adventures at the Norman Bird Sanctuary. Over the course of nine weeks, 420 children participated in one or more Pre-schoolers with Parents, Fledglings, Nature Day, Explorers, Island Investigators or Summer

to 10:1and at the same time provide programs for local organizations. More Explorer sessions were added to the schedule for middle schoolers, as well as a new science camp entitled Island Investigators. In addition, we hired a fantastic Summer Camp Coordinator, Jill

the week – "Fiesta Friday" where they show off their talents, artistic works, and accomplishments. Hooray to our Teacher Naturalists Megan Bradley, David Collins, Mary Dolan, Andy Dutra, Linn Lydon, Marilyn Lyell, Robby MacBain, and our AmeriCorps



Challenge camps. 400 more children participated in Story Time for Young Children or guided explorations with area organizations, such as the Martin Luther King Center, Ballard Park, Lucy's Hearth and Newport County YMCA. We wish we could say we served every family that wanted their children to attend camp, but our members have made us so very popular that we still had waiting lists for all sessions.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the NBS Camp Scholarship Fund. Eighteen children came to camp this summer on scholarships.

Every year, the Sanctuary staff strives to maintain and improve the quality of the Sanctuary's summer program. This year our AmeriCorps members took turns teaching camp, so that we could lower the overall ratio of children per educator

Pierce, to ensure that the day to day running of the camp went safely and smoothly.

Our new Office Manager, Megan Bradley, deserves special recognition for sorting through the complex puzzle of summer camp registration and helping parents with questions and requests.

Without a doubt, according to parents and campers, the quality of our teaching and volunteer staff is the camp's greatest strength. The educators' ideas, enthusiasm, creativity, individual talents, and commitment are what make this camp one of the best in Rhode Island. The teacher naturalists and assistant naturalists ensure that campers have a wide variety of experiences throughout their week, including science investigations, hikes, arts and crafts, games, songs, and a new special celebration at the end of

members Jessica McCauley, Cat Rosario, and Jeanne Tierney. Hip hip hooray to our Supervising Assistants (Super Ants!) Shaina Hoffman and Megan MacDonald. A huge thank you for a job well done to Amanda Sorenson, our calm creative After-Care Specialist. We could not do this camp without the assistance of our volunteer youth assistants, better known as ANTs - so THANK YOU to all the youth who went above and beyond this summer: Casey Baechtold, Kathryn Bauchspies, Tim Bauchspies, Lauren Bissonnette, Katie Brockway, Sam Donahue, Deanie Doucette, Ferrin Gilcrest, Sarah Hirsch, Emily Holtman, David Janiesch, Elena Kasparian, Jamie Kirschner, Taylor Maguire, Jason Foley-Marsello, Alison Moe, Megan Perry, Amber Ramey, and Greg Shaull.



SUMMER CAMP 2005

We are already preparing for next year's camp. There will be some significant changes made in order to improve the registration process, serve more children of member families, provide more scholarships, and continue to ensure that NBS camp is of the highest quality that it can be. We have consulted with other camps before making these changes. If your children attend camp please read the following because the changes will affect your planning.

- Each camper will be limited to two weeks of camp so that we can serve more children throughout the summer.
- There will be a June 1 deadline for cancellations with refunds. The fee for changes and cancellations from March 1 - June 1 will be \$35. This is due to the extremely time consuming and costly process of administering individual changes.
- Summer Challenge participants will be chosen by lottery at noon on March 1. All camper names submitted on registration forms for Summer Challenge received before noon on March 1 will be placed in container and randomly chosen. One space will have been auctioned off at the Bird Ball this summer to raise money for scholarships. Parents may be present at the drawing if they wish. No special requests are taken for this camp.
- We have a new computer system and database that will help us streamline the registration process. Thanks to Ball Microsystems for their help with this project!
- As always, members will receive their summer camp brochure in mid-February 2005. The information will also be available on our web site at that time. Tuesday, March 1 2005 will be the first day of registration.
- You must update your membership through the camp season in order to begin registering on Tuesday, March 1, 2005. You can do that directly on the camp registration form. However, if you are unsure of whether your status will be current through camp, please check your card or call us before March to find out.
- If you move, you must let us know, as bulk mail is not forwarded. As always, out of state members will be sent a registration brochure via first class mail.
- The week of July 4, 2005 will be a four day camp week and the camp fee will be pro-rated for that session.

COMMON SUMMER CAMP QUESTIONS

If NBS Camp is so popular, why don't we simply hire more Teacher Naturalists and serve more children?

- Currently, we have 100 children here at the Sanctuary on an average day plus an additional 30 staff and volunteers. We believe that we are at a maximum number of children per week for which we can ensure high quality programming in a safe atmosphere.
- We have one 15 passenger van to transport Summer Challenge and Island Investigator participants on field trips, so we are limited to one traveling group per week.

Why don't long-time members or significant donors receive preferential treatment when it comes to enrolling their child in camp?

- One goal of the Norman Bird Sanctuary is to provide environmental education programs to a diverse audience of learners of all ages, cultures, and abilities on our site and in the community at large.
- We try very hard to keep camp fees at a reasonable level and provide scholarships so that we are able to serve a broad audience.
- While we need and appreciate our loyal members and our donors, we cannot rank the value of a camper based on how much money or time the parents have given to NBS.
- We enroll member children based on a first come, first served basis with walk-ins on March 1 being served as they arrive and mail-ins/faxes already submitted all treated as if they arrived that morning. This coming March, Summer Challenge camp slots will be chosen by lottery.
- This year at our new summer event "The Bird Ball" we auctioned off one space in Summer Challenge camp. The proceeds will be used to fund camp scholarships.

Can my child be in the same group as his best friend/cousin/sibling?

- We do our best to honor special requests that involve children of the same age. We cannot put children of different ages together because our activities are age specific. If you want to make a request, please check with the other parents to be sure you are in agreement.





Educational Programs

Early Morning Birdwalks

Other Sunday at 8:00 AM
 October 26, October 10, 24 November
 December 5, 19
 the public.

migration! The birds are flocking
 feeding up for journeys southward,
 ing to spend the winter here on
 nd. Join us for a guided bird walk
 other Sunday. Dress appropriately
 weather and for hiking on rough
 Bring binoculars and meet us in
 ctuary parking lot at 8:00 AM for
 le of hours of birding around the
 rea.

Talk, Tree Walk

ay, September 18
 5:00 PM
 r Members, \$5 for Non-members
 ation required
 ost of New England, the Sanctuary
 y was cleared of its original forest
 in the 17th century when it was
 by European colonists. Second
 forest has now reclaimed much of
 as once hay meadows, tilled farm-
 r pastureland. Join naturalist Garry
 tt on a stroll around the property
 tify trees and speculate on what
 ll us of the land and its history.

Tai Chi in Nature

ays & Fridays, 7:30 - 8:30 AM
 n B: August 31, September 3, 7,
 17, 21, 24, 28, October 1
 n C: October 5, 8, 12, 15, 19,
 29 November 2, 5
 \$8 per class for Members, \$10
 ss for Non-members
 pants are welcome to start at any
 nd pay for multiple classes.
 e continuing our workshop in Tai
 a natural setting with Ty Romijn.
 erving the way nature grows and
 ts, the ancient Tai Chi practitioners
 to emulate what they saw. During
 ss we learn together one of the
 forms that came out of that study.
 o this in the beautiful setting of the
 ary over looking the water with
 abounding. Beginners are more
 welcome. Minimum: 6 participants.

Preschoolers with Parents

Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:00 PM
 Session B October 6, 13, 20, 27
 Ages 3 - 5 years
 \$30 Members, \$35 Non-members
 This series of four one-hour programs is
 an engaging and hands-on way to intro-
 duce your pre-school age child to the
 wonders of nature. We'll explore the
 outdoors using our five senses, songs,
 crafts, and explorations of the plants and
 animals of the Sanctuary. Parents will
 have fun too! Maximum 10



Fall Migration Road Trip

Saturday, September 25
 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
 \$25 Members, \$30 Non-members
 Adult Program
 Sit on the dunes of Napatree Point and
 watch migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks,
 Cooper's Hawks, and Peregrine Falcons
 fly overhead or, if the conditions aren't
 favorable for hawk migration, explore
 the varied habitats of Bluff Point State
 Park in Groton, CT searching for migrat-
 ing songbirds and shorebirds. Bring
 binoculars, a bag lunch and clothes suit-
 able for changeable weather conditions.
 Maximum 10 adults.

Harvest Fair

Saturday and Sunday, October 2 & 3
 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 \$5 Adults, \$2 Children ages 4 - 12 years
 Family Program

Celebrate the season with our 30th
 annual Harvest Fair event. Field games,
 pony rides, craft vendors, food, and chil-
 dren's entertainment. Home and garden
 competitions, antique tractors, and pet-
 ting zoo too! A whole lot of fun for
 every member of the family, and a great
 way to support the education programs
 of the Norman Bird Sanctuary. See you
 there!

Mushroom Walk

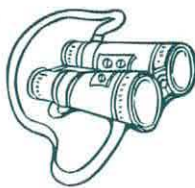
Saturday, October 9
 2:00 - 4:00 PM
 \$5 Members, \$7 for Non-members
 Registration required
 Adult Program
 Mushroom identification is intriguing
 and challenging. Join Dr. Roger Goos,
 URI mycologist and long time Mushroom
 Walk guide, to learn how to identify the
 many different types of mushrooms and
 fungi found at the Sanctuary. Discover
 the important role these diverse organ-
 isms play in our ecosystem. Dress for
 the weather and wear sturdy walking
 shoes. Maximum 20

Autumn Night Hikes with the Newport Children's Theater

Fridays October, 15 & 22
 Saturdays October, 16 & 23
 7:00 - 8:30 PM
 \$5 Members, \$7 Non-members
 One parent free with each family
 Family Program
 The Sanctuary staff and talented actors of
 the Newport Children's Theater will
 once again take you on a magical night
 hike through the forest. Enjoy short per-
 formances along the trail and explore
 the sights and sound of the woods at
 night. Dress warmly.

RI Environmental Education Association Annual Conference

Saturday, October 30
 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
 Roger Williams Park, Providence, RI
 \$40 Standard \$30 Students
 "Environmental Education is a Walk in
 the Park."



Educational Programs

Hands-on workshops for educators will take place at the Zoo, Museum of Natural History, Botanical Gardens and throughout the Park's 435 acres of urban green space. Spend the day networking with your peers- teachers, environmental educators, pre-service teachers and scout leaders! Professional Development Credits are available. For more information or to register for the conference, please contact Tara Padula at (401) 785-3510 ext. 352 or tpadula@rwpzoo.org

Herbs for Women's Health

Saturday, November 6

2:00 - 5:00 PM

\$35 for Members, \$40 for non-members
Community herbalist, Clara Morgan, will introduce the use of herbs that promote women's energy, health, and well being. The medicinal plants and healthy lifestyles that support the childbearing years and those that can ease the transition into menopause will be addressed. You will discover how to prepare your own decoctions, infusions and herbal tinctures thus connecting you with a wise healing tradition that has existed for centuries. Minimum 7.

Rhode Island Storytelling Festival

Sunday November 7, 2:00 PM

Individuals \$5, Families \$15

NBS Members receive \$1 discount

Once again, the Rhode Island Storytelling Festival will conclude with a day of stories on nature themes at the Norman Bird Sanctuary. Storytellers will be spinning their magic in the newly completed Ed Shed classroom. Enchanting for all ages! For more information, call Cindy at 847-5148.

Holiday Owl Prowl

Friday, December 10

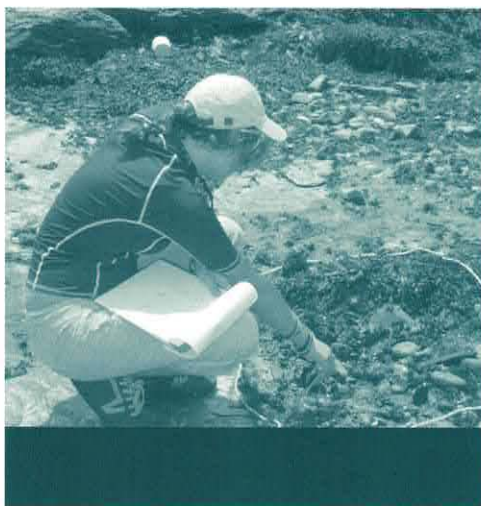
6:00 - 8:00 PM

\$6 Members, \$8 Non-members,

\$24 maximum fee for member families
December is a busy month for owls and people. During early winter evenings, owls are hooting and screeching as they choose their mates, set up their territo-

ries, and build their nests. People are planning and celebrating holidays. The Sanctuary has decided to blend the two, by presenting an evening of owl prowls, children's stories and activities, and holiday spirit! Owl walks leave every 30 minutes. Our Barn Owl Gift Shop, filled with tried and true children's toys, books, and activities, will be open for holiday shopping.

Save the Date: NBS Holiday Day Camp



Tuesday - Friday December 28 - 31

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM each day

Children's Program for Kindergarten - 4th grade

\$135 Members, \$165 Non-Members
Maximum 12 campers

New England Grasslands & the NBS Restoration Project *A Joint Program with the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society & NBS*

Thursday, January 27,

7:00 PM

NBS & RIWPS Members Free, Non-members \$5 donation

Garry Plunkett, Rhode Island Wild Plant Society Naturalist
Veronica Hinds, Property Manager,
Norman Bird Sanctuary

Registration & Cancellation Policies

- Please come by the Sanctuary or call 846-2577 to register for programs that require a fee and/or have a maximum number of participants. Payment is required at the time of registration via cash, check, or Visa/MC.
- Free programs that have no maximum number of participants such as the Sunday Morning Birdwalk do not require prior registration.
- If you must cancel your registration, please call and let us know. Refunds will only be provided if you call at least 7 days in advance of the event. A check will be mailed to you within two weeks of cancellation.
- Programs that do not have a minimum number of registrants will be cancelled five working days before the event. (The minimum number is determined by Sanctuary staff and is usually based on the program's expenses.) In the case of program cancellation, your fee will be returned in full. In some cases, we will offer you the option of another date or a program credit.
- The Norman Bird Sanctuary Summer Camp has different registration and cancellation policies. Please refer to the Summer Camp brochure for that information.





Norman's Activity Page

Stories of the Sanctuary

Sanctuary Educators love to incorporate stories, poems, and songs into their programs. Teacher Naturalists and Youth Volunteers often read stories to their summer campers related to the theme of the week or just for fun. This summer, the AmeriCorps Members also presented a series of eight "Stories & Science" programs to children from the Martin Luther King Center, and conducted nine "Story Times for Young Children" for the public.



The musical hit of the summer was the "Bird Rap" written by the AmeriCorps team.

A sample verse:

Let's hear it for Black Capped Chickadee
He's first to sing and dance
He's a bit shy but he's a nice guy
So let's be patient give him a chance

Norman hey look at me, I may be small
but that's fine with me
Listen and sing along
We'll have a good time rapping to my song
Chick a dee dee dee
Fee bee fee bee



The following is a short list of favorite children's stories arranged loosely by topic.

Animals and Habitats

Turtle Spring - Deborah Turney Zagwyn
Seven Blind Mice - Ed Young
Salamander Room - Anne Mazer
A Porcupine Named Fluffy - Helen Lester
Imogene's Antlers - David Small
The Story of Jumping Mouse - John Steptoe
The Diary of a Worm - Doreen Cronin
Verdi - Jannell Cannon
The Lorax - Dr. Seuss
The Mole Sisters Series - Roslyn Schwartz

Insects & other tiny critters

The Very Hungry Caterpillar-- Eric Carle
The Bugliest Bug -- Carol Diggory Shields
Miss Spider's Wedding - David Kirk

Birds

Rainbow Crow - Nancy van Laan
The Mountain that Loved a Bird -- Alice McLerran
Bird Watchers -- Simon James

Forts and villages

Roxaboxen - Alice McLerran
Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig - Eugene Trivizas
and Helen Oxenbury

Beach Exploration

House for Hermit Crab -- Eric Carle
Hamlet and the Magnificent Sandcastle - Brian Lies

Water

Pond -- Gordon Morrison
In the Small, Small Pond - Denise Fleming

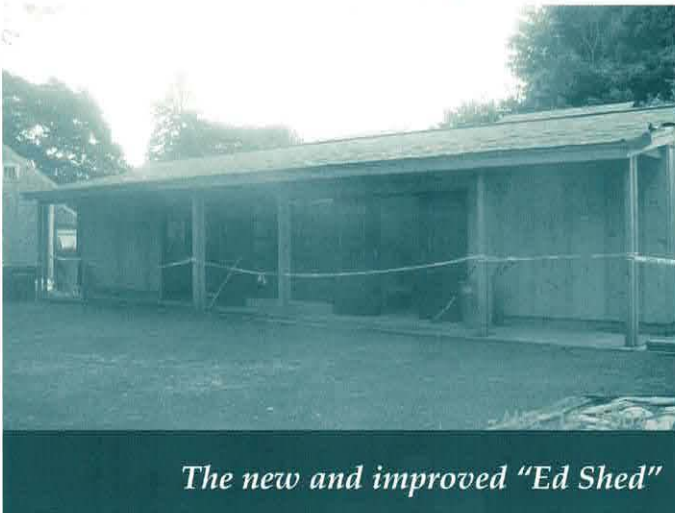




Trails and Tails

We Have Been *Incredibly* Busy This Summer!

As I write this our new education building is in the final stages of construction. When you read this the new and improved "Ed Shed" will be open for business! The building looks great!



The new and improved "Ed Shed"

In conjunction with the "Ed Shed" project we enhanced our parking lot. We now can accommodate at least 40 cars. All our summer camp parents took advantage of the new lot. With the added space and being pot hole free pick up and drop off seemed to go very smoothly. Special thanks to our contractor Advanced Building Concepts for being very accommodating during this extremely busy time of year for us!



The new welcome sign on Third Beach Rd.

We have a wonderful new welcome sign up on Third Beach Rd. Our main sign has been updated, relocated and enhanced.

We've aggressively attacked problems with the farmhouse this summer. In order to preserve the house from further deterioration we hired a structural engineer. David Odeh and associates are evaluating the structural integrity of the house. With the help of Lance Construction we have done a lot of interior work, exposed the framing of the house for analysis, and have started to waterproof the envelope of the house.

Our grassland restoration project is in full swing. We will be doing a fall seeding and look forward to having 12 acres in native grasses in full bloom by next summer!



Analysis in progress at the Farm House

The Universally Accessible Trail is in the process of being constructed. The Appalachian Mountain Club was honored at our Annual Meeting for their hard work on the board walk section. We are currently working on the signage for the trail as well as the remainder of the walkway. We're hoping the trail will be open by next summer.





**NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY 30TH ANNUAL HARVEST FAIR
HOME & GARDEN COMPETITION
OCTOBER 2 & 3, 2004**

The Spirit of Competition

The Home & Garden Competition is open to amateur and professional gardeners, growers, canners cooks and bakers of all ages.

- ❖ Each entry must be grown or cooked from scratch solely by the contestant.
- ❖ Professional growers & bakers must enter their items under the professional categories only.
- ❖ Each contestant may enter a category only once.
- ❖ Entries must be registered at the Home & Garden Booth by 11am on the day of judging (except scarecrows, which must be registered by 2pm on Sunday, October 3rd).
- ❖ All entries should be labeled discreetly with the contestant's name, address, phone number and competition category.
- ❖ Young growers or bakers must be 14 years old or younger.
- ❖ Amateur categories will be judged on Saturday, October 3rd at 11:30am.
- ❖ Professional categories will be judged on Sunday, October 5th at 11:30am.
- ❖ After judging, all food entries will be sold with proceeds benefiting the Norman Bird Sanctuary.

PRODUCE

Best Single Fruit
Best Single Vegetable
Best Collection
Biggest Pumpkin
Most Unusual Vegetable/Edible Plant
Young Grower-Best Produce
Jack-o'-lantern Contest
(Judged on Sunday with Scarecrows)

FLOWERS

Best Single Rose
Best Single Dahlia
Best Fresh Arrangement
Best Dried Arrangement
Best Sunflower
Biggest Sunflower Face
Young Growers – Best Arrangement

SCARECROW CONTEST

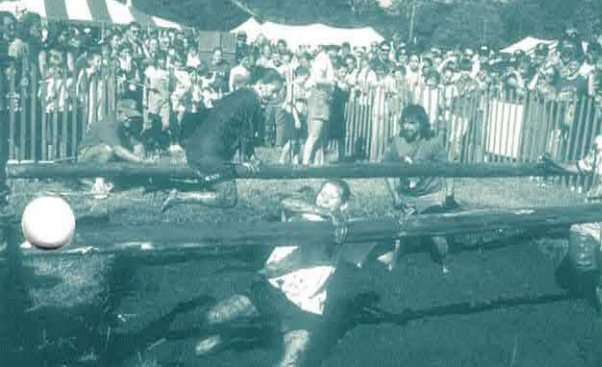
Sunday Judging, 3:00 p.m.

Spook the crows with your original creation. Bring your entry, or make one at the Fair. Straw and a limited number of poles will be available at the fair. Great for a group, class or family activity!

FOOD

Best Apple Pie
Best Pesto
Best Salsa
Best Savory Relish/Preserves
Best Jam/Jelly
Best Quick Bread/Muffins
Best Cookies/Dessert Bars
Young Baker – Baked Goods

For more information, contact the Norman Bird Sanctuary office
at 401-846-2577 or info@normanbirdsantuary.org



OCTOBER 2ND & 3RD



Harvest Fair Volunteer Opportunities

The Annual Harvest Fair will soon be here... Be a part of this annual community event and volunteer your time on October 2nd & 3rd to help make this year's celebration a wonderful success! As always, we need many volunteers to run this special two day event. And our plans this year are bigger than ever as we mark our 30th year! We are looking for volunteers to assist in a number of areas, including: gates, tickets, prize booth, parking, etc. Absolutely no experience is necessary! So, come out and join the fun; whether it's for just a few hours or an entire day-long shift, we need your support in running this two-day fair. Harvest fair volunteers receive free admission to the Fair and the opportunity to be part of the excitement!

Bakers Wanted

If you love to cook or bake, we have a job for you! The Sanctuary would LOVE to have donations of baked goods for sale during the Harvest Fair. Or, try your luck and enter your BEST recipe in our Home and Garden competition (please see page 10 for further details).

If you are interested in volunteering or donating baked goods, please contact Stacy Couto, Director of Development, at 846-2577 or scouto@normanbirds sanctuary.org to volunteer your talents!



583 Third Beach Rd.
Middletown, RI 02842

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Newport, RI 02840
Permit No. 43

TO CURRENT RESIDENT OR:



NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY
30TH ANNUAL HARVEST FAIR

Special Member Offer
\$1.00 OFF ADMISSION

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2ND & 3RD
10AM - 5PM • RAIN OR SHINE
\$5 ADULTS • \$2 CHILDREN