



# The Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 57, Number 1, Spring 2007  
*Celebrating 94 Years of Conservation 1913-2007*

## Discovering Moths—The Jewels of the Night With Naturalist and Author John Himmelman

Wednesday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Road, Katonah



Moths are some of the most misunderstood creatures, always considered duller and less interesting than the colorful butterflies of the daytime. But, as you will learn from John Himmelman's lecture, the forms, colors, and habits of moths are as varied and fascinating as those of butterflies, and in many cases as astounding as the more celebrated birds that eat them! The speaker will introduce you to some of the more than 11,000 estimated species of moths in North America. He will cover topics such as moth identification, moth families, how to attract moths, places to see moths, moths through the seasons, and more.

**John Himmelman** has spent many years attracting, photographing, drawing, rearing, writing about and enjoying moths wherever they could be found. In 1994, he co-founded the Connecticut Butterfly Association. He is also an avid bird watcher and served for two years as president of the New Haven Bird Club. He is an authority on amphibians as well. Throughout the year he leads a number of nature walks for a variety of organizations in a variety of settings and habitats. He also brings small groups of people to South America to experience the rain and cloud forest, mountains, savannas, and the wildlife that inhabit them. He shares his moth photos on the website, *Moths in a Connecticut Yard*, <http://www.booksandnature.homestead.com/NewCTMoth.html>.

John Himmelman is the author and illustrator of more than 60 children's books and several adult books, including *Discovering Moths*, *Nighttime Jewels in Your Own Backyard*, and *A Luna Moth's Life*. He is currently working on a field guide to identifying and recognizing the songs of crickets and katydids of the Northeast. His books will be available for purchase and signing at the lecture.



### President's Message:

Spring is not yet here, but lots of activity is blossoming at Bedford Audubon. In this newsletter you will read about some of our most exciting new program initiatives, but allow me to amplify on what is behind these advances. Over the last three years the Board of Bedford Audubon has held several strategic planning sessions to ensure we make best use of our sanctuaries, our Bylane Farm property, and all the programmatic potential our area and our partner organizations provide us.

In March we hope to finalize this process and we expect a surge of great programmatic activity to follow. We expect to be able to do more conservation, science, and policy-based programming than we have ever done before.

The first sign of this will be the six-site BioBlitz planned for June of this year. Thanks to a generous grant from the Leon Levy Foundation, Bedford Audubon will be spearheading a joint effort to conduct a three-day BioBlitz at six strategic sanctuaries or preserves located in Northern Westchester. This effort will inventory approximately 2,000 acres and therefore be one of the largest BioBlitzes on record.

We hope to have several outcomes from our BioBlitz. One is that more people will learn about the wonderful biodiversity in our area and, hence, will want to work harder to preserve it. The second is that, working together with many of the other key conservation organizations in our area, we will find new and creative ways to partner and build on each other's skills and strengths. And finally, armed with a large portfolio of biodiversity inventories, we can assist town planning boards, open space committees, and other non-profits in further refining habitat management plans, land use choices, and other critical decisions that involve key properties in our communities.

Continued on page 3

## The Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter

Spring 2007, Volume 57, No. 1

The newsletter, USPS #61 is published quarterly by the  
Bedford Audubon Society, Inc.  
35 Todd Road, Katonah, NY 10536

### Board of Directors 2006-2007

John Hannan: *President*, 914-582-7210  
Tony Ianniello: *Vice President*, 914-556-8817  
Mark Patek: *Treasurer*, 914-763-8078  
Denise Carey: *Recording Sec'y*, 914-862-4474  
Richard Becker: 203-323-0233  
Linda Burke: 914-533-6343  
Stephen Carey: 914-862-4474  
Walter Fowler: 914-962-2177  
Carol Gracie: 914-763-5938  
Nannette Orr: 914-232-3334  
Helle Raheem: 914-962-4344

### Committee Leadership

*Executive*: John Hannan, 914-582-7210  
*Finance*: Mark Patek, 914-763-8078  
*Events*: Carol Gracie, 914-763-5938  
*Development/Membership*: Tony Ianniello, 914-556-8817  
*Facilities & Grounds*:  
*Co-chair*: Walter Fowler, 914-962-2177  
*Co-chair*: Nannette F. Orr, 914-232-3334  
*Communications*: Helle Raheem, 914-962-4344  
*Education*: Linda Burke, 914-533-6343  
*Science*: Denise Carey, 914-862-4474

### Committee Support

*Trip Registrar*: Milady Valdez, 914-962-5474,  
mailto:mvaldez@bedfordaudubon.org  
*Webmaster*: Richard Becker, 203-323-0233  
*Development*: Joan E. Becker, 914-232-4806  
*Great Swamp*: James Utter, 845-878-0081  
*Newsletter*: Tricia O'Donnell, 914-232-5911  
*Events*: John Askildsen, 914-232-1701  
*Hospitality*: Valerie Palen 914-248-7241

### Staff

*BioBlitz*: Brian Bielfelt, 914-232-1999  
*Property Manager*: Tait Johansson, 914-232-1999  
*Volunteer Office Mgr.*: Laura Jaffe, 914-232-5258

### Contact Information

Chapter Office 914-232-1999  
BAS Fax Number 914-232-5038  
BAS Website [www.BedfordAudubon.org](http://www.BedfordAudubon.org)  
Our E-Mail address is: [Info@BedfordAudubon.org](mailto:Info@BedfordAudubon.org)

### Our Mission

The mission of the Bedford Audubon Society is to promote conservation and protection of wildlife habitats in the northern Westchester and eastern Putnam region through education, advocacy, nature study, and birdwatching.



## BAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3/10	7:30 a.m.	Field Trip to Jones Beach
3/14	7:30 p.m.	Discovering Moths— The Jewels of the Night/Katonah Village Library
3/21	8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	An Early Spring Hike at Franklin-Fels Sanctuary, North Salem
3/25	9:00 a.m.	Audubon at Home Learning Tour: The Institute for Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY
3/27	9:15 a.m.	Early Spring at the Bronx Zoo
3/27	7:30 p.m.	How to Identify Trees in Winter/Katonah Village Library
4/4	7:30 p.m.	Tales of Woe, Deception, and Wonder: The Myriad Defenses of Caterpillars/Katonah Village Library
4/14	7:00 p.m.	Dance of the Woodcock at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation
4/20	7:30 p.m.	Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs — A Delicate Balance Overthrown /Bylane Farm
4/21	10 a.m.- 3 p.m.	The Town of Lewisboro's Third Annual Earth Day Fair
4/26	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Nature Hike at the William C lough Preserve
4/28	7:30-9:30 a.m.	Early Morning Bird Walk at Hunt-Parker Sanctuary
4/28	3:00 p.m.	Birding Optics at Bylane/Bylane Farm
5/1,10,22,31	7:30 a.m.	Early-Morning Bird Walks/Bylane Farm
5/3,8,17,19	7:30 a.m.	Early Morning Bird Walks/Maple Ave.
5/4	8:00 p.m.	My Very Big Backyard— The Adirondacks/Bylane Farm
5/4-5/6		Delmarvalous Birding!
5/6	8:00-10:00 a.m.	Birding by Ear— Morning Bird Walk
5/9	7:30 a.m.	Bird Walk in the Ramble, Central Park, NYC
5/9	7:30 p.m.	The Captivating Pitcher Plant and Other Carnivorous Plants of the Western Hemisphere/Katonah Village Library
5/15	7:30 a.m.	Early-Morning Bird Walk/North County Trailway
5/23	9:00 a.m.	Excursion to The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY
5/24	7:30 a.m.	Early-Morning Bird Walk/Angle Fly Preserve
6/5	7:30 p.m.	Summer And Fall Wildflowers/Katonah Village Library

Continued from page 1

But the BioBlitz is not the only project underway right now. We are currently conducting a three-month survey of winter roosting sites of Bald Eagles in Westchester County. Funding for this survey was provided by an Audubon NY chapter grant. Each week teams of volunteers are going out and collecting data at multiple eagle roost sites across Westchester to determine how many eagles in total are wintering with us, and what new roosts are being established. This data will help Audubon work with its partner organizations on suggested protocols for public interaction with eagles, how to protect roost sites, and evaluate how many eagles really are utilizing the lower Hudson Valley for winter roosting.

Both the BioBlitz and the eagle survey are being supervised by our new project coordinator Brian Bielfelt. Some of you know Brian from Audubon Greenwich where he was the Hawk Watch Coordinator last fall. Brian just arrived in Westchester and has already leapt into the fray, so stop by Bylane or e-mail him at [bioblitz@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:bioblitz@bedfordaudubon.org) if you want to get involved in either of these projects.

Spring is almost upon us, so if you have not been getting out in the field this winter, this is a great time to dust off your binoculars. Come join us for a bird walk, come listen to a speaker, get the facts, have some fun, and get involved. Next issue we shall be unveiling some great new plans and lots of exciting news so this is the time to really jump on board. I look forward to seeing you soon, and as always, thank you for supporting Bedford Audubon.



## About Birds – Eastern Screech-Owls

By Tait Johannsson

The Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) is one of our more common birds. This fact may come as a surprise, since, like most owls, this species is seldom seen without a special effort made to find it. Its nocturnal habits and reticent nature conceal it from a mostly diurnal, relatively unobservant species such as our own.

This is a small owl, slightly smaller than a Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*). It has two ear tufts, piercing yellow eyes, and a small, sharp bill. The plumage of most individuals in this area is basically gray on the upperparts and white on the underparts, heavily overlaid in both areas with vertical black streaking combined with very thin horizontal barring. There is also scattered white spotting on the back and near the bend of the wing. Some birds belong to the less common red color morph of this species, where the gray, and much of the black streaking and barring on the underparts is replaced by a fairly bright rufous color. These red morph birds are less cold-hardy than gray ones, and as a result gray birds are more common in northern parts of the bird's range such as southern New York.

Screech-Owls are more often heard than seen. There are two main calls, neither of which could fairly be described as a screech.

One is a soft, low, surging trill, given throughout the year. The other is similar in quality, but starts higher in pitch and ends lower, a sound rather reminiscent of a horse whinnying. This call is mostly given in the breeding season. Young birds begging for food from their parents give a raspy, descending “wshhhhh.” The primary prey is small mammals caught by swooping down from a perch, especially white-footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*) and voles (*Microtus*), but insects, birds, reptiles, and amphibians are also taken on occasion. In fact, the nestling stage in the development of the young seems timed to coincide with spring songbird migration, when smaller birds become a more important part of the diet.

These owls are permanent residents in our area and tend to prefer fairly open areas near water with larger deciduous trees: the edges of woods, open woods, and even suburban yards. They nest and roost in natural cavities in trees, old woodpecker nest or roost holes, and sometimes appropriately sized birdhouses. If the cavity is oriented the right way, these owls will often perch at the opening of the cavity and bask with closed eyes in the sun, especially at the colder times of the year.



## Bedford Audubon Receives Grant for BioBlitz

### A unique opportunity for “citizen scientists” and other interested parties to participate in a local diversity survey

Thanks to a very generous grant from the Leon Levy Foundation, Bedford Audubon Society will be conducting one of the largest **BioBlitzes** on record. We have set the ambitious goal of conducting biodiversity surveys at six locations across northern Westchester: the Leon Levy Preserve (South Salem), the Hunt-Parker Sanctuary (Katonah), the Angle Fly Preserve (Somers), the Guard Hill Preserve (Bedford), the Westchester Wilderness Walk (Pound Ridge), and Ward Pound Ridge Reservation (Cross River). Due to the number of preserves included in the survey, the event will take place over three days, from the afternoon of Friday, June 1, to the afternoon of Sunday, June 3.

The idea of cataloguing all living organisms in a given area within a 24-hour period goes back to 1996. Since then, BioBlitzes have been held in numerous locations all over the country as well as abroad.

A **BioBlitz** has the dual aims of establishing the degree of biodiversity in an area and popularizing science. Bedford Audubon Society will invite top scientists to participate in the survey, and we are excited about this opportunity to contribute to an inventory of all species in these sanctuaries and provide valuable scientific data for planning boards, conservation committees, and the general public.

Our objective is to expand on the knowledge of the area's biodiversity while enabling conservationists to expand and refine habitat management plans to best reflect and support the species the area is responsible for preserving.

Continued on page 4

**But scientists cannot do this alone!**

Bedford Audubon Society needs dedicated volunteers, and we urge all interested parties to sign up for this unique opportunity to get hands-on experience identifying species of plants and animals and working with nationally renowned zoologists, ornithologists, botanists, mycologists, entomologists, etc. We will also need help with clerical work, food logistics, and much more. The **BioBlitz** will be conducted in close cooperation with the Westchester Land Trust, Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and Somers Land Trust along with several other partner organizations that either manage or contribute to the preservation of the above-mentioned preserves.

We look forward to hearing from you. Send us an e-mail at [bioblitz@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:bioblitz@bedfordaudubon.org) or call us at 914-232-1999 and indicate your interest in being part of this exciting event. Please follow new developments on our website: [www.bedfordaudubon.org](http://www.bedfordaudubon.org).

We are very appreciative of the support of the Leon Levy Foundation. The Foundation, founded in 2004, is a private, not-for-profit foundation created from the estate of Leon Levy, a legendary investor with a long-standing commitment to philanthropy. The Foundation's overarching goal is to continue the tradition of humanism characteristic of Mr. Levy by supporting scholarship at the highest level.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
EARLY SPRING 2007**

HELP US PLANT BAYBERRY SEEDLINGS  
IN OUR FIELDS AT BYLANE

Tait at 914-232-1999 or Nannette at 914-232-3334

**Hepatica, the Other First Flower of Spring**

By Carol Gracie

In the Spring 2006 issue of the *Newsletter*, I wrote about the first wildflower to bloom in our region – skunk cabbage. However, to many people skunk cabbage just doesn't fit their concept of what a wildflower should look like – it's not small, delicate, or pastel colored. The first flower to bloom here that conforms to the more typical image of a spring wildflower is hepatica, usually flowering in early April. Many native woodland wildflowers bloom before the trees leaf out. This strategy allows the plants to utilize the sun's energy to photosynthesize, making carbohydrate while the sun's rays can still penetrate to the forest floor. In some species (e.g. Dutchman's breeches), the plants are truly ephemeral. They complete the production of leaves, flowers, and fruits within a short time and then disappear until the following spring. In the case of hepatica, the leaves produced in the spring remain on the plant into the next spring's blooming period. They are ready to begin full photosynthesis before the leaves of other plants have even appeared. This enables hepatica to produce its flowers earlier than other wildflower species.

Until recently it was thought that there were two species of hepatica in the Northeast, one having leaves with rounded lobes, found in our local woodlands, and one with pointed lobes, found more frequently in mountainous regions. It has now been determined that the formerly separate species are actually varieties of *Hepatica nobilis*, a species that occurs in Europe. Both varieties of hepatica prefer a limier soil than is common in our area, though the round-lobed hepatica is more tolerant of a range of soil types. To find hepatica, it's best to look in places underlain by limestone or marble.



It's from the leaves that both the scientific name, *Hepatica*, and the common name, liver-leaf, originated. The leaves are lobed and typically a burgundy color as they age, attributes that reminded people of the shape and color of a liver. Early herbalists often looked to a plant to give some sign of what it might be used for, a belief called the Doctrine of Signatures. The resemblance of the leaves to a human liver indicated that hepatica should be efficacious in treating liver

disease. In the late 1800s, hundreds of tons of leaves were gathered for use in patent medicines. Analysis of the chemical constituents of the plants has not found any components with documented medicinal value.

Hepatica flower stalks emerge clothed in a protective "fur coat" to insulate them from the cool temperatures of early April. The young leaves at their base are also covered in these downy hairs. The flowers are usually produced before the new leaves expand. The colorful parts of the flower are not petals but, rather, sepals. What appear to be three sepals just beneath the flower are actually modified leaves called bracts. By looking carefully, one can see that the bracts are not attached immediately beneath the colorful flower parts as they would be if they were sepals. This is one character used to separate the genus *Hepatica* from the closely related *Anemone*. Both hepatica varieties may be found in a range of colors from white to deep lavender. The flowers close on cloudy days to protect their pollen when pollinators are not apt to be flying. However, the cold temperatures of early April mean that there are not many pollinators flying about anyway. Fortunately, hepatica has the ability to self-pollinate and produce seed without the aid of insects.

As in many spring wildflowers, the seeds of hepatica have a small, fleshy appendage called an elaisome. Ants collect and carry the seeds back to their nests where they consume the lipid-rich elaisomes and then discard the seeds. The seeds are carried some distance from the parent plants and usually discarded in the nutrient-rich refuse heap of the ant colony. Rodents that dine on the seeds are less likely to find all of them if they are removed from the proximity of the mother plants, thus the ants perform a service for the plants by ensuring the survival of some of the seeds.



## FIELD TRIPS

**Registration:** Please register for all field trips (except where noted) with trip registrar, Milady Valdez, (914) 962-5474 or [mvaldez@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:mvaldez@bedfordaudubon.org)

### **Field Trip to Jones Beach With Joan and Richard Becker Saturday, March 10, 7:30 a.m.**

Expect to leave the greater Katonah area by 7:30 a.m. to meet Joan and Richard Becker at Jones Beach's Marina/Coast Guard Station at 8:30 a.m. Jones Beach is a fantastic place to watch birds off season. It is not uncommon to find many of the northern species of ducks, sandpipers, and owls spending the winter here. Since the Beach is on the Atlantic Flyway, we hope to see some early migrants. You may want to pack a morning snack plus lunch.

### **An Early Spring Hike at Franklin-Fels Sanctuary, North Salem With Tait Johansson**

**Wednesday, March 21, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Meet at Bylane Farm for carpooling to the site.**

Join Bedford Audubon naturalist Tait Johansson for a walk in this lesser known 204-acre Bedford Audubon sanctuary and see the first signs of spring in the woods and wetlands. The preserve provides for easy walking with few steep inclines. Bring binoculars.

### **Audubon At Home Learning Tour: The Institute for Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY With John Askildsen and Carol Gracie**

**Sunday, March 25, 2007, 9 a.m. Departure (carpool) from Bylane.**

One of the most vexing problems that homeowners have to deal with today is how to protect garden plantings from being ravaged by deer browsing. BAS is arranging a visit to the internationally recognized Institute for Ecosystem Studies in Dutchess County, where Brad Roeller, IES's resident expert on the topic of the deer population problem, will give a tour and discuss how to protect garden plants from deer devastation. Lunch at the Millbrook Café. There is a \$10.00 charge for the tour. Make your reservation early. Space is limited.

### **Early Spring at the Bronx Zoo With Joan and Peter Becker Tuesday, March 27, 2007. Departure (carpool) from Bylane Farm 9:15 a.m.**

Join long-term Bedford Audubon members and bird enthusiasts, Joan and Peter Becker, on a trip to one of the Tri-state's premier attractions. A specially arranged 60-90-minute tour of the World of Birds, directed by a Zoo docent, is included. Bring binoculars and lunch (unless you want to purchase lunch at the Zoo). Admission fee applies. Return to Bylane by 4:30 p.m.

### **Dance of the Woodcock at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation With Naturalist, Beth Herr**

**Saturday, April 14, 7 p.m.**

**Meet at the Trailside Museum, Routes 35 and 121, Cross River.**

Observe the American Woodcock's energetic love antics, as he "peents," struts, and hurls himself into the sky and glides acrobatically down again, all to attract a mate.

This program is co-sponsored with Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. Call the Trailside Nature Museum at (914) 864-7322, or visit their website: [www.trailsidemuseum.org](http://www.trailsidemuseum.org) for additional information and directions.

### **The Town of Lewisboro's Third Annual Earth Day Fair Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**John Jay High School Route 121, Cross River**

Vendors, entertainment, guest speakers.

Bedford Audubon Society will exhibit at this event. For more information, contact Liz Fryer at [efryer@optonline.net](mailto:efryer@optonline.net)

### **Nature Hike at the William Clough Preserve, Great Swamp, Patterson, NY**

**With Tait Johansson**

**Thursday, April 26, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

**Departure (carpooling) from Bylane at 8:15 a.m.**

Join Bedford Audubon naturalist Tait Johansson on an excursion to this 58-acre sanctuary, which is part of the Great Swamp. A recent inventory identified 180 species of birds using the Great Swamp as a migratory flyway and 100 nesting species in the wetland and adjacent upland areas. Bring binoculars. Registration is required and limited to 16 people.

### **Early-Morning Bird Walk at Hunt-Parker Sanctuary With Tait Johansson**

**Saturday, April 28, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.**

**Meet at Bylane Farm, 35 Todd Road, Katonah**

Start the day with a nature hike with Bedford Audubon naturalist, Tait Johansson. Come back for refreshments and the "Birding Optics at Bylane" show. Bring binoculars.

### **Early-Morning Bird Walks in May With Tait Johansson Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m.**

**THESE WALKS ORIGINATE FROM DIFFERENT LOCATIONS. PLEASE NOTE THE DATES & PLACES!!**

**May 1, 10, 22, and 31:** Bylane, 35 Todd Road., Katonah;

**May 3, 8, 17, and 29:** Maple Avenue, Katonah (intersection of Reservoir Road, off Route 22);

**May 15:** North County Trailway, Yorktown (intersection on Route 129) (Tait Johansson will be joined by Walter Fowler);

**May 24:** Angle Fly Preserve (Off Route 139, Somers).

**Rain will cancel the walks. No registration necessary.**

### **Birding By Ear - Morning Bird Walk With Naturalist Jeanne Wafu Sponsored by Friends of Muscoot Farm.**

**Sunday, May 6, 8-10 a.m.**

**Muscoot Farm, Route 100, Somers.**

Meet at the picnic tables between the Reception Center and the Concession Stand. Bring binoculars, if possible. Suitable for experts and beginners alike. Jeanne will lead us on a leisurely two-hour walk to hear and see the newly arrived songbirds of the preserve. Information (914) 864-7282.

**Continued on page 6**

Visit our website at [www.bedfordaudubon.org](http://www.bedfordaudubon.org)

Continued from page 5

**Delmarvalous Birding! With John Askildsen  
May 4-6, 2007**

The Delmarva Peninsula's hardwood swamps, tidal marshes, bays and coastal dunes separate the ecologically rich Delaware and Chesapeake Bay estuaries and host a wide variety of birds due to the varied habitats. On our three-day trip we will visit some of the best inland swamps in Maryland and Delaware as well as a few of the best-known National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) and state Wildlife Management Areas along the Atlantic coast. There will be an option of returning on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, with birding time in Cape May and Edwin B. Forsythe (Brigantine) NWR.

A number of rooms will be reserved at a comfortable hotel in the area.

**Bird Walk in the Ramble, Central Park, New York City  
With Peter Becker and Bill Wallace  
Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 a.m. (Car pooling available, leaving Bylane at 6:30 a.m.)**

Bedford Audubon members and expert birders Peter Becker and Bill Wallace will lead a morning walk through one of the top ten birding spots in America. More than 200 species pass through Central Park each spring and fall. Bring lunch. Return to Bylane approx. 3 p.m.

**Excursion to The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY  
An Insider's Tour - With Botanist and Photographer Carol Gracie  
Wednesday, May 23. Departure (carpool) from Bylane Farm, 9 a.m.**

Join Bedford Audubon Director and New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) Research Assistant Carol Gracie on a tour of this spectacular urban oasis. A per-car parking fee applies except for members of NYBG. Admission is free; however, there is a charge for the Conservatory and the Rock and Native Plant Gardens for non-members of NYBG. A highlight of the tour will be a Caribbean Flora exhibit in the Conservatory. Registration is strictly required and limited to a maximum of 10. Return to Bylane by 4 p.m. Please sign up early for this popular field trip.



**PROGRAMS**

**How to Identify Trees in Winter With Arborist and Horticulturist, Wayne Cahilly  
Tuesday, March 27, 7:30 p.m. (RESCHEDULED FROM FEBRUARY 14)**



**Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Road, Katonah, NY**

When walking through the winter woods, have you often wished you knew the names of trees that stand there, leafless, and seemingly impossible to identify? Now, here is your chance to learn! Wayne Cahilly will present an illus-

trated lecture on the identification of common Northeastern trees in their winter condition.

**Tales of Woe, Deception, and Wonder: The Myriad Defenses of Caterpillars With Entomologist Dr. David L. Wagner  
Wednesday, Apr. 4, 7:30 p.m.**

**Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Road, Katonah**  
Juicy young caterpillars make fine fuel for warblers and other birds returning north with the change of season. But the caterpillars are not defenseless either. In his presentation, Dr. Wagner will show the wonderfully deceitful ploys that caterpillars use to dupe birds and other would-be predators. His talk will feature a host of bizarre and beautiful creatures, many featured in his newly published book.



**David L. Wagner** is an Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut and is generally regarded as one of the nation's foremost authorities on caterpillars, and his most recent book, published by Princeton University Press in July of 2005, *Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Guide to Identification and Natural History*,

is viewed as the most comprehensive caterpillar field guide ever. Ten percent of the caterpillars in his book had never before been studied through their entire life cycles. Dr. Wagner is currently Vice-chair of the National Park Service's All Taxa Biodiversity survey in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. On August 8, 2006, he was featured in *The New York Times'* Science section with an article "Quick Before it Molts." He will be selling and autographing copies of his most recent book after his presentation.

**Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs – A Delicate Balance Overthrown With Larry Niles, Ph.D.  
Chief Biologist of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ  
Friday, April 20, 7:30 p.m., Bylane Farm, 35 Todd Road, Katonah**

For millennia, the Red Knot has traveled from its wintering grounds on the southern tip of Patagonia, Chile, to its breeding destination in the high Arctic of Canada, an annual one-way trip estimated at 10,000 miles. The success of this journey depends critically on one food resource: the horseshoe crab eggs of the Delaware Bay, the only stopover on the northward journey. Dr. Niles' lecture will focus on the current plight of the Red Knot due to commercial fisheries' excessive harvesting of horseshoe crab, and he will outline his decades-long work to protect this bird and its habitats.



After 26 years of service, **Dr. Niles** - considered one of the foremost authorities on Red Knots and other threatened shorebirds - retired in September 2006 from his position as Chief of the Endangered Species Program of New Jersey's Division of Fish and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program. In his new position he will be leading a team conducting studies on the Delaware Bay and expeditions to the Arctic and Tierra del Fuego. He will also be finishing the status assessment and conservation plan for Red Knots.

### **Birding Optics at Bylane**

**Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Bylane Farm, 35 Todd Road, Katonah**

Again this year, Jerry Connolly, owner of the Audubon Shop, Madison, CT, will display an assortment of binoculars, scopes, accessories and books. Whether you are a beginner looking for a decent pair of binoculars or a serious birder looking for the ultimate scope, Jerry can guide you along. He is an optics expert and the only retail member of the Swarovski Optik Advisory Board. He'll demonstrate the equipment and answer any questions. Products will be available for sale, so please be prepared with cash, checks, or credit cards.

### **My Very Big Backyard — The Adirondacks With Naturalist, Author, and Photographer Edward Kanze**

**Friday, May 4, 8:00 p.m.**

**Bylane Farm, 35 Todd Road, Katonah**

Ed Kanze's lecture and slide presentation will focus on the biological survey he is conducting on his beautiful and biologically diverse property in the Adirondacks. He has recorded well over 100 birds, including confirmed breeding of the Gray Jay and the Black-backed Woodpecker in addition to sightings of bears, American marten, river otter, bobcat, and moose.



**Edward Kanze**, former naturalist at Teatown Reservation and curator at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, is one of the most prolific nature writers in the Adirondacks. His new book, *Over the Mountain and Home Again*, a collection of essays about life in the Adirondacks, has received high critical acclaim. The story about the now extinct Passenger Pigeon, "In Search of Something Lost," won him the 2005 John Burroughs Award, widely considered the "Oscar" among nature writing awards. Ed's writing has been compared to that of Henry Thoreau, John Burroughs, and Rachel Carson. The book will be for sale at the lecture.

Ed's writing has been compared to that of Henry Thoreau, John Burroughs, and Rachel Carson. The book will be for sale at the lecture.

### **Bedford Audubon Society Annual Meeting Followed by Lecture: The Captivating Pitcher Plant and Other Carnivorous Plants of the Western Hemisphere With Dr. Rob Naczi**

**Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.**

**Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Road, Katonah**

Carnivorous plants are curiosities of the plant kingdom that have fascinated naturalists, botanists, and ecologists for centuries. They comprise a diverse array of flowering plants that attract, trap, digest, and absorb nutrients from prey. This lecture will consider the various adaptations for carnivory that certain plant species possess, the habitats in which these plants grow, the geographic regions where they occur, and the threats to their survival in the wild.

**Dr. Rob Naczi** is Curator at the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium, a botanical resource center located at Delaware State University in Dover, Delaware. The Herbarium houses an extensive collection of pressed and dried plant specimens, and also functions as an active center for education and research on the world's botanical diversity. Dr. Naczi's research takes him regularly to Belize where he also trains students in tropical agriculture, ecosystems and conservation. In addition to carnivorous plants, his research includes the systematics, biogeography, and ecology of sedges.



### **Summer and Fall Wildflowers With Botanist, Photographer, and Bedford Audubon Director Carol Gracie**

**Tuesday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.**

**Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Road, Katonah**

The lecture and slide presentation, a follow-up to Carol's program on spring wildflowers for Bedford Audubon last year, will focus on the wildflowers found in the fields and forests of the northeastern United States during the summer months and those that flower into the autumn. Carol will discuss the wildflowers in terms of their interactions with their insect visitors and the uses of some of them by people.



**Carol Gracie** organizes and leads international natural history tours for The New York Botanical Garden. Destinations include the Amazon, the Galapagos, and European sites known for their scenic beauty and profusion of wildflowers. She is a co-author of the two-volume *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Central French Guiana* and contributed the majority of the photographs for the recently

published *Flowering Plants of the Neotropics*. Carol's most recent project, *Wildflowers in the Field and Forest: the Northeast*, co-authored with Steve Clemants, was published by Oxford University Press in April 2006 and will be for sale at the lecture. A selection of her exquisite photos can be found on our website, [www.bedfordaudubon.org](http://www.bedfordaudubon.org).



## Bedford Audubon Membership

Yes, I would like to join the Bedford Audubon Society. My local chapter membership will help support local conservation efforts, programs, and sanctuaries. (Send this form with a check made out to **Bedford Audubon Society** or **fill in the MC/VISA credit card information below.**)

### **Please check your membership category.**

- New Member or Renewal \$30     Supporter \$50  
 Gift Membership \$30     Contributor \$100  
 Student \$15     Patron \$500

I wish to make an additional donation of \_\_\_\_\_  
 I do not wish to have my name or contact information shared with outside organizations.

Please see if your company has a matching gifts program!

Your information or gift recipient's information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### **Credit card Information**

MasterCard      
VISA

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Account# \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Security code (3 or 4 digit# from rear of card in signature area) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Bedford Audubon Society, 35 Todd Road, Katonah, NY 10536

**Enter your e-mail address here** and we will add you to our e-mail list for alerts on programs, field trips, and other items of local interest.

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

Bedford Audubon Society, Inc.  
35 Todd Road  
Katonah, NY 10536

Postmaster: Address Correction Requested

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WHITE PLAINS,  
NY  
PERMIT NO. 4961

*Serving Communities in Northern Westchester and Eastern Putnam Since 1913*

Printed on 30% recycled paper