

The Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 59, Number 1, Spring 2009
Celebrating 96 Years of Conservation 1913-2009

Reading the Forested Landscape With Terrestrial Ecologist Tom Wessels

Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.

Katonah Memorial House, 71 Bedford Road, Katonah



“It is wonderful to know nature through one-on-one encounters with other organisms, but it is perhaps more empowering to gain a fuller understanding of the patterns that have shaped its landscapes...Reading the landscape is not just about identifying landscape patterns; more importantly, it is an interactive narrative that involves humans and nature...” Tom Wessels (1997).

This program is based on Tom’s book, *Reading the Forested Landscape, A Natural History of New England*, introduces people to approaches used to interpret a forest’s history while wandering through it. Using evidence such as the shapes of trees, scars on their trunks, the pattern of decay in stumps, the construction of stone walls, and the lay of the land, it is possible to unravel complex stories etched into our forested landscape.

This process could easily be called “forest forensics” since it is quite similar to interpreting a crime scene.

Tom Wessels is a terrestrial ecologist and founding director of the master’s degree program in Conservation Biology at Antioch University New England in Keene, New Hampshire. He serves as an ecological consultant to the Rainforest Alliance’s SmartWood Green Certification Program and, in that capacity, helped draft green certification assessment guidelines for forest operations in the northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. Tom has conducted landscape level workshops throughout the United States for over 30 years. His books include *Reading the Forested Landscape*, *The Granite Landscape*, *Untamed Vermont*, and *The Myth of Progress: Toward a Sustainable Future*. Tom will have copies of *Reading the Forested Landscape* available for sale and signing.

This program is free and open to the public. Katonah Memorial House is wheelchair accessible. Please do not block the Fire Department access. Park alongside the meeting house side of the driveway.

Bedford Audubon Society is grateful to MasterCard and a few private donors for their support of this program.



Henry Morgenthau Preserve Joins Bedford Audubon Society

We are pleased to announce that in February, the Henry Morgenthau Preserve became part of the Bedford Audubon Society. The preserve, located in Pound Ridge, New York, is set along the shoreline of Blue Heron Lake and includes within its boundaries a portion of the lake, a small offshore island, a number of wetland areas, a small pond, vernal pools, and several small streams.

The character of the Preserve lies in the diversity of habitats and natural features within a small area. The field, the dense shrub thickets, the woodlands, the swampy areas, the stream, and the lake and its shores are some of the most interesting communities. These areas offer excellent food and habitat for a variety of wildlife.



Photo by Richard Becker

Outcrops of bedrock and a large erratic perched on a ridge provide geological interest and prominent proof of prior glacial activity. The network of stone walls attest to the prior agricultural use of the land, as well as the difficulties the early settlers faced in clearing the stony land. A variety of vegetation and wildlife are present on the Preserve, which can be studied for their scientific interest or enjoyed for their aesthetic qualities.

Several trails traverse the property, enabling one to have a good view of the land and the wildlife without disturbing it. The Great Blue Heron can be seen at the water’s edge. Hawks patrol the field. The rattling cry of the Belted Kingfisher, the whistling wings of the Wood Duck and the distinctive drumming of the Pileated Woodpecker can be heard. The domed nest of the Ovenbird lies hidden under a tangle of vines on the forest floor.

A few chestnut sprouts are scattered throughout the forest, a reminder of a changing ecosystem. The Preserve boasts several “wolf” trees, the

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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	6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Amphibian Monitoring Training
3/11	7:30 p.m.	Reading Forested Landscape / Katonah Memorial House
3/18	10 a.m. - Noon	"Walk for Drew" Nature Hike at Franklin-Pels Sanctuary
3/24	9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Trip to the Bronx Zoo
3/28	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Field Trip to Jones Beach
4/2	9:30 a.m.	The Old Croton Aqueduct— Tour and Trail Walk
4/14	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	The Leatherman— A Hike at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation
4/15	7:30 p.m.	Native Bees of the Northeast / Katonah Memorial House
4/18	7:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Dance of the Woodcock at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation
4/23	8:15 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Field Trip to the Ice Pond in Putnam County
4/25	8 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Early Spring Bird Walk at Muscoot Farm
4/25	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Water Monitoring Training
4/28	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Field Trip to Bull's Bridge, Kent, CT
5/2	7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Trip to Marshlands Conservancy and Rye Nature Center
5/5	7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Early Morning Bird Walk at Maple Avenue
5/7	7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Early Morning Bird Walk at Bylane
5/9	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.	Spring Bird Walk at Muscoot Farm
5/12	7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Early Morning Bird Walk at Maple Avenue
5/13	7:30 p.m.	Listening to the Landscape / Katonah Memorial House
5/14	7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Bird Walk in the Ramble, Central Park, NYC
5/15	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Excursion to Bartholomew's Cobble
5/16	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Water Monitoring Training
5/16		Wetland Buffer Planting
5/16-17		BAS Annual Birdathon
5/19	7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Early Morning Bird Walk at North County Trailway
5/19	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Excursion to Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center, House Tour and Hike
5/20		Wetland Buffer Planting
5/21	7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Early Morning Bird Walk at Bylane
5/26	7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Early Morning Bird Walk at Angle Fly Preserve
5/28	7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Early Morning Bird Walk at Bylane
6/1		Bird Banding at Bylane
6/10	7:30 p.m.	The Humble Dung Beetle / Katonah Memorial House

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oldest and finest of which is a 400+ year-old white oak with massive limbs and a huge diameter. Pink lady's-slippers are found under a grove of stately pines, fenced to protect them from deer predation. Rattlesnake Plantain, a rare ground cover, is also protected in the deer enclosure.

This preserve consists of twenty acres that were donated in 1972 by Mrs. Ruth M. Knight in memory of her father, Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. An additional 12 acres were purchased from Dr. Polly Raizen in 1973 and an adjacent 4-acre parcel was donated by Mr. Sid Thompson in 1994. The entrance to the preserve is located on the south side of Pound Ridge Road (Route 172) near Tatomuck Road. Several well marked trails can be accessed from the small parking area.

After the transfer of this preserve from the Nature Conservancy to Bedford Audubon, local guidance will continue to be provided by the Morgenthau Preserve Committee.



Bedford Audubon's Citizen Science Programs

Concerned about biodiversity loss and water pollution in Westchester and Putnam Counties and wondering what you can do about it? Then please consider helping BAS in these exciting citizen-scientist projects:

March 10: Amphibian monitoring, Teatown Reservation; Bedford Audubon volunteers will learn to recognize amphibian calls in order to monitor populations this spring in the Bedford area as part of NY DEC's NAAMP (North American Amphibian Monitoring Program).

April 25: Water monitoring training, Hilltop Hanover and May 16: Ward Pound Ridge Reservation; Since 2004 BAS volunteers have been testing area streams for pollution as part of Westchester County's Citizen Volunteer Monitoring program. Training in water collection procedures is required, testing takes place weekly from May to October.

May 16 and May 20: Wetland buffer planting, Bylane Farm; Shrub and grass plantings around Bylane ponds will absorb stormwater and demonstrate to homeowners how to revegetate ponds and streams in their backyards. Join us and NY DEC for a workshop and help us plant this demonstration site.

June 1: Bird banding, Bylane Farm; Bedford Audubon's Tait Johanson will catch and band birds as part of the continent-wide MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) project. Banding takes place once a day at the beginning of each month through the breeding season.

The Marty McGuire Scholarship*



The Bedford Audubon Society is pleased to announce the availability of scholarship funds to students in the school districts served by the organization. The funds may be used to either promote student study or to underwrite part of a student project that will enhance student awareness and commitment to field-oriented environmental studies. The scholarship funds of up to \$1,000.00 may be used for course registration, materials or other project-related expenses.

Eligible students must meet the first criterion and at least one of the remaining three:

- They are high school students ages 14-18 years of age, living within the Bedford Audubon chapter region (Northern Westchester and Eastern Putnam counties)
- They plan to study environmental sciences at the college level
- They are engaged or have been engaged in research in environmental studies
- They have participated in environmental and/or conservation community service activities.

The application can be found on the BAS website. Students must submit the application form, typed and double spaced, with all required supporting documents, no later than **April 15, 2009** to:

Dr. Linda Rachele Burke
Bedford Audubon Society
35 Todd Road,
Katonah, NY 10536

Applicants will be notified by May 1, 2009 of the success of their application.

*This scholarship is named after Marty Maguire of Putnam County, NY, who died in a car accident in August of 2007. He was an active and enthusiastic young birder and naturalist filled with a love of nature.



Celebrate Your Favorite Natural Space

Sense of Place Essay Contest

What is a Sense of Place?

Sense of place occurs when our environment becomes infused with our local identity. A sense of place is recognizing and celebrating the beauty and uniqueness that make up a particular place. If you have a favorite place in the natural world that you feel connected to, you have a sense of place. BAS is sponsoring a "Sense of Place" essay about a place within the borders of the Bedford Audubon Society. See www.bedfordaudubon.org/place for details and entry form.



Hog Island

By Scott Wieman

Last summer, I had the great fortune to receive the Bedford Audubon's Marty McGuire scholarship. This money allowed me to attend Maine Audubon's ornithology program at their Hog Island center in mid-coastal Maine. This program is a week in duration and focuses on birding and learning about birds and nature as a whole. This was my third visit to Hog Island, though only my second time to the ornithology program. The island itself is an amazing place, set apart from the rest of the world and moving at a much slower pace than here in Westchester. This is not the only amazing part of the island, however. Near the dock where we are dropped off, there is an old yet small Dawn Redwood tree, its slim green needles spreading peacefully in front of the dining hall. There is a lab near the docks as well, with a touch tank full of coastal marine life.

Though the serenity and surroundings alone are each easily enough reason to attend the camp, the main draw of it for me was the instructors, people, and field trips. The instructors at the session are all notable ornithologists such as Kenn Kaufman and Scott Weidensaul. Birding with them is amazing, and seeing how much they know is even more impressive. As for the people, it may be sufficient to say that the friends I made there I still talk to. Just last October, I was invited by a friend to fly out to San Francisco and go the Western Field Ornithologists' conference. The field trips with the program are all local and include a boat trip out to Eastern Egg Rock as well as a drive up to Acadia National Park. For the entire week, we would spend the days doing field trips and the evenings attending lectures in the "Fish House," a hall of sorts. These lectures included anything from explanations of bird banding to stories about Project Puffin by the man behind it, Puffin Pete Salmansohn.

I took many grand memories away from Hog Island and learned how to be a better birder, but I think the biggest thing I learned is that the peace I found in the nature of the island is hugely important and needs to be preserved for later generations.

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Note: Scott Wieman, is a member of BAS and is a senior at Rye Country Day. He is active in their Science Research program. His mentor in ornithology is Andrew Farnsworth of Cornell. We note with regret that Maine Audubon is no longer offering programs for youth and adults at Hog Island.

President's Letter



I mentioned in the last newsletter that we were in the process of hiring our first executive director to run our day-to-day operations. The board felt that the organization had grown to a point where an all-volunteer crew just could not effectively manage our rapidly growing agenda. Our search committee found the ideal candidate in Jim Nordgren. Jim had been commuting to Boston for his job at a land trust organization and wanted to return to Westchester where he and his wife, Peggy and two daughters have made their home in South Salem for many years. Jim comes to us with an impressive resume and a background in local government, conservation, and finance. You may remember him as the former Supervisor of Lewisboro, a position he assumed after a long career as a financial professional in New York City. Always interested and involved in environmental issues in the community, Jim completed his Master's Degree in Forestry and Environmental Science at Yale in 2007. His experience will serve us well, and I encourage everyone to stop by Bylane, say hello, and welcome Jim to our family! Under his expert leadership, several maintenance projects have already been started at Bylane, and elsewhere in this newsletter you can see a number of exciting citizen science initiatives that will be implemented this spring.

Another development has taken place since the last President's Letter. For some time, we have been in negotiations with the Henry Morgenthau Preserve Committee about the possibility of the preserve being added to Bedford Audubon's sanctuaries. In early February we saw the successful conclusion of these negotiations. See the separate article on the front page of this newsletter.

Bedford Audubon has reached a turning point in its 96-year existence with a new Executive Director and a new preserve. We are convinced that 2009 will turn out to be a year full of growth and outreach. We look forward to seeing you at our events at Bylane and elsewhere in the community.

Tony Ianniello, Board President



Winter Birding in Nantucket

Article and Photo by Nannette Orr



A Bohemian Waxwing with a flock of robins on the Wauwinet Road was a life bird for most in the group.

This past January a group of BAS birders visited Nantucket, guided by our naturalist Tait Johansson. Well known as a summer resort, Nantucket is a Mecca for winter birding.

Before breakfast on Friday morning, we counted 29 species within a

mile of our house in Sconset. Redhead, Canvasback, and Northern Shoveler as well as Yellow Rail at dusk were among the species added during that first day. On Saturday we trekked to the barrier beach on the northernmost tip of the island and climbed the Great Point Lighthouse. By Saturday evening our count had climbed to 77, highlighted by three Snowy Owls and a Bohemian Waxwing. By Sunday evening we had 88 species, including thousands of Common Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks, numerous Lesser Black-backed, Bonaparte's, and Iceland Gulls, Northern Saw-whet Owl as well as Harlequin Duck. By Monday, our last morning, a Virginia Rail and Barn Owl brought the final count to an impressive 90 species.

This was BAS's first organized trip to Nantucket and was held as an event to model future trips as a fundraiser. Participants agreed it was such a tremendous success that we are now planning a second Nantucket trip for this fall. If you are interested in joining us, or if you have any other suggestions for future birding trips, please contact Jim Nordgren at 914-232-1999. We hope you can join us!



Hudson River Eaglefest



Photo by Nannette Orr

Eagle watchers on Croton Dam Plaza

On Saturday, February 7, just shy of 4,000 people attended the Hudson River Eaglefest along the lower Hudson River Valley. This event is sponsored by a broad number of organizations that unite with the common goal of educating the public and promoting the appreciation of an environmentally healthy region and to enjoy the wintering Bald Eagles as they roost along the Hudson.

Bedford Audubon Society and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection sponsored one of the viewing sites at the Croton Dam Plaza. Five hundred people traveled through to see eagles, ravens, hawks, shorebirds and a few deer that wandered onto the frozen ice beyond the dam. It was a fabulous day for all.



The 2008-2009 Peekskill Christmas Bird Count

By John Askildsen and Michael Newhouse, Count Compilers

The Peekskill Christmas Bird Count was conducted on Saturday, December 20, under a blanket of freshly fallen snow. While the 8-10 inches of snowfall provided a "Currier & Ives" backdrop, the count's participants had a rough time getting around to count all the birds.

Nevertheless, 91 species in total were tallied, which is about average. Highlights included almost 5,000 Canada Geese, and 16 species of waterfowl, 40 Wild Turkeys, 14 species of raptors including 19 Bald Eagles, one Northern Goshawk, one Rough-legged Hawk, and three species of owls. There was one Red-breasted Nuthatch, 239 American Robins, 10 Hermit Thrushes, 204 Northern Cardinals, 23 Rusty Blackbirds, and three White-winged Crossbills. The Crossbill is a species of the boreal forests, which rarely reaches the Mid-Atlantic region.

“Lowlights” included low numbers in general of most waterfowl species, the continued absence of Ruffed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasant, and no Great Horned Owls. Waterfowl were down due to mostly frozen waters and heavy snow. The grouse and pheasant are gone because of the almost complete loss of proper habitat. Bad weather kept birders inside the night before the count with the result that no Great Horned Owls were counted. Great Horned Owl is a common species in our area.

More than 30 people participated in the count, and they are all to be commended for their efforts this year, considering the previous day’s snowfall, which made getting around difficult. Teatown Lake Reservation provided a warm and friendly location for the evening’s compilation of birds and a delicious dinner in the old coach house with its large stone hearth and blazing fire! Charles Roberto hosted the dinner and once again did a fantastic job! Mike Newhouse of Ossining provided a PowerPoint program with statistical data over the 54 years of the count. Ponie Sheehan of Ossining, took responsibility for collecting and accounting for all fees and other monies. How can these volunteers possibly be thanked enough? They are priceless. We look forward to seeing everyone next year on the count! For the complete count results see www.bedfordaudubon.org/cbc-01.html.



BENEDEK & TICEHURST
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS & SITE PLANNERS, P.C.

Bedford Audubon would like to express our appreciation to our friends at Benedek & Ticehurst in Bedford Village for donating their time and expertise to Bylane’s native plant garden.

The Scarlet Tanager

By Tait Johansson



Audubon’s print of Louisiana (now called Western) Tanager (top 2 birds) and male and female Scarlet Tanagers.

The male Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea* is a stunning bird in spring and summer. The incandescent red feathers covering most of its body contrast sharply with the glossy black of its wings and tail. Although this bird is a fairly common species in deciduous forests in our region, many people have never seen one. This may be thought surprising given the “black-winged red bird’s bright colors, but its habit of staying in the forest canopy for most of the summer tends to conceal it from view. Females have olive-green plumage in place of the male’s red, making them still harder to see. But the males—did I mention

how bright they are? If you think a cardinal is bright red, think again. In certain kinds of light, male Scarlet Tanagers look positively luminous, as if lit from within.

Given its habit of staying out of sight in the tops of trees, this bird’s vocalizations are especially useful in helping one to get a look at it. A singing Scarlet Tanager typically gives a series of 3-5 phrases quite similar in pitch and pattern to a robin’s song, but uttered with a distinctive burry quality “like a robin with a sore throat.” The call note is a quiet, usually two-part sound, with the first note higher in pitch and shorter than the second, often rendered as “chick-burr.” Sometimes only the first “chick” note is given.

Scarlet Tanagers need fairly large, unfragmented blocks of deciduous forest to nest in, and the creation of openings in these forests (in our

area largely caused by development) has been linked to population declines in this and other interior-forest bird species. Another threat to this species is deforestation on its wintering grounds in northern and western South America.

In fall, as they get ready to migrate far to our south for the winter, males molt into an olive-green and black plumage very similar to that of the females. When they are only part way through this process, the remaining red feathers are interspersed with the new green ones, creating a chaotic-looking but striking patchwork of premature Christmas colors.



FIELD TRIPS

Unless otherwise indicated, please register with Joan Becker: jebecker@bedfordaudubon.org or 914-232-4806

Many trips meet at or leave by carpool from Bylane Farm, 35 Todd Road, Katonah. (From Route 35, take Route 22 north. Go 1/2 mile and turn right on to Todd Road. Follow to #35.) For these carpool trips, we give the departure from and estimated return to Bylane times.

Note: Each trip is given one of three levels of difficulty: **E** (easy), **M** (moderate) or **S** (strenuous). Please discuss your level of mobility with the registrar to ensure that the field trip is appropriate for you.

The Second Annual “Walk for Drew” Nature Hike at Franklin-Fels Sanctuary With Naturalist Tait Johansson Wednesday March 18, 10:00 a.m.-Noon

Join naturalist Tait Johansson for a walk through Bedford Audubon’s lesser known sanctuary in North Salem. The preserve has a few steep inclines, but generally provides for easy walking. This walk is in memory of Andrew “Drew” Reynolds who died suddenly on February 7, 2008. The inaugural walk was held on March 18, 2008. Drew was a long-time friend, member and supporter of Bedford Audubon. Since one of Drew’s main contributions to BAS was surveying and marking the trail system in the Franklin-Fels Sanctuary, we feel it appropriate to honor him with an annual walk there. Bedford Audubon President Tony Ianniello will give a short memorial speech about Drew. **(E-M)**

Spring at the Bronx Zoo With Joan and Peter Becker Tuesday, March 24, 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Departure (carpool) from Bylane Farm.

Experience one of the Tri-state area’s premier attractions with BAS members and bird enthusiasts Joan and Peter Becker. Come face-to-face with Laughing Kookaburras, Pink-cheeked Cockatoos, Andean Condors, Tufted Puffins, High-flying Hornbills, and Helmeted Curassows, to name but a few of the species you will see in the Zoo’s world famous aviaries. What zoo trip would be complete without visiting Madagascan lemurs, great bears, snow leopards, tigers, and lively lowland gorillas. Bring binoculars and lunch (or you can purchase lunch at the Zoo). Admission fee applies. **(E-M)**

Field Trip to Jones Beach With Joan and Richard Becker Saturday, March 28. Expect to leave the greater Katonah area by 7:30 a.m. to meet at Jones Beach’s Marina/Coast Guard Station at 8:30 a.m. Return to Katonah area at about 4:30 p.m.

Jones Beach is usually associated with leisurely summer days. But the deserted winter and early spring beach attracts an impressive number of birds. The shoreline will likely reveal many northern species of ducks and sandpipers and wintering sparrows. We should see some early migrants. We may stop across Jones Inlet at Point Lookout and also look for owls at Pelham Park in the Bronx. You may want to pack a morning snack plus lunch. **(E-M)**

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**The Old Croton Aqueduct—Tour and Trail Walk
Thursday, April 2, 9:30 a.m.–Noon. Departure (carpool) from
Bylane Farm 8:45 a.m. or meet at the Ossining Community Center,
95 Broadway, Ossining, at 9:30 a.m.**

The Croton Aqueduct is one of the great engineering achievements of the 19th century—a gravity-fed, masonry tunnel that brought New York City its first clean, plentiful water supply. Jean Horkans, our guide from the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, will introduce us to the wonders of this National Historic Landmark with a short video and talk followed by a private tour of the double-arch pathway, tunnels and weir. Then enjoy the fauna and flora of a spring walk along the Aqueduct with Bedford Audubon naturalists. **(E-M)**

**The Leatherman—A Hike With Master Storyteller Jonathan Kruk
at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation
Tuesday April 14, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Meet at the end of Michigan Road
at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation.**

Join BAS and Jonathan Kruk on a private hike to one of the Leatherman's caves at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. Few local people capture the imagination like the Leatherman. A wandering hermit for over thirty years, he lived in local caves, never worked, rarely spoke, nor caused trouble. Clad in sixty pounds of hand-sewn leather, he walked a 360-mile circuit every month. To this day, the Leatherman is surrounded by an aura of mystery and curiosity. Master Storyteller and Leatherman expert Jonathan Kruk will lead the hike, pausing along the way to engage the group with stories of this legendary itinerant hermit.

Jonathan Kruk is a full-time storyteller, who grew up in Katonah. Performing at local schools, parks, and libraries, he has been called by *The New York Times* “Westchester’s intrepid storyteller” and *Hudson Valley Magazine* recently named him “Best Storyteller in the Hudson Valley.” His CD, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow — a Dramatic Reading*, was given the National Association of Parenting Publications Honors Award. There is a \$20 charge for this hike. It is strictly limited to 20 people, so make sure you make your reservation early. **(E-M)**

**Dance of the Woodcock at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation With
John Askildsen
Saturday, April 18, 7:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Routes 35 and 121, Cross
River (Meet at the parking area just before the toll both inside the
Reservation).**

Bedford Audubon director John Askildsen will guide the group across the fields to observe this annual ritual, a spectacular sight, where the American Woodcock, in his energetic love antics “peents,” struts, and hurls himself into the evening sky and glides acrobatically down again, all to attract a mate. The event is strictly limited to 20 people, so make sure to make your reservation early. **(E-M)**

**Field Trip to the Ice Pond in Putnam County With Tait Johansson
Thursday, April 23, 8:15 a.m.–11 a.m. Carpool from Bylane Farm.**
Join naturalist Tait Johansson on a trip to this 33-acre preserve adjoining the Patterson's Clough Preserve and the Great Swamp Important Bird Area, a refuge for migratory songbirds and Neotropical migrants. The preserve provides for easy walking along the marsh trail. **(E)**

**Early Spring Bird Walk With Naturalist Jeanne Waful,
Sponsored by Friends of Muscoot Farm
Saturday, April 25, 8 a.m.–10 a.m. Muscoot Farm, Route 100,
Somers**

Meet at the picnic tables between the Reception Center and the Concession Stand. Naturalist Jeanne Waful will lead this bird walk to see the returning resident birds and those just passing through on their spring migration. We will visit various habitats and talk about how the birds

interact with the various plants at Muscoot Farm. Suitable for experts and beginners alike. Information and registration 914-864-7282.

**Field Trip to Bull's Bridge, Kent, CT With Carol Gracie
Tuesday, April 28, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Carpool from Bylane.**
Come join Bedford Audubon and its director and expert botanist Carol Gracie on a lovely hike along the Housatonic River. At this point, a covered bridge crosses the river, which at this time of year is usually roaring. We will also hike part of the Appalachian Trail, enjoying views of the river. We should see hepaticas in all colors as well as some other early spring wildflowers. The trip is restricted to 10 people. Bring lunch and hiking boots. **(M)**

**Trip to Marshlands Conservancy and Rye Nature Center With
BAS Naturalist Tait Johansson
Saturday May 2, 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Departure (carpool) from
Bylane Farm.**

Marshlands Conservancy in Rye is located on the migratory flyway. This 173-acre wildlife sanctuary is composed of a diversity of habitats—forest, meadow, salt marsh, and seashore. The preserve has three miles of trails and one-half mile of shoreline along the Long Island Sound.

**Early-Morning Bird Walks in May With Tait Johansson
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
THESE WALKS ORIGINATE FROM DIFFERENT LOCATIONS
ON DIFFERENT DAYS. PLEASE NOTE THE DATES!**

Starting at Bylane, 35 Todd Road, Katonah: **May 7, 21, 28**
Starting at Maple Avenue, Katonah (intersection of Reservoir Road, off Route 22): **May 5, 12**
Starting at the North County Trailway, Yorktown (intersection on Route 118): **May 19**
Starting at Angle Fly Preserve (off Route 139, Somers): **May 26**
Rain will cancel the walks. (E)

**Spring Bird Walk With Naturalist Jeanne Waful, Sponsored by
Friends of Muscoot Farm**

Saturday, May 9, 7 a.m.–9 a.m. Muscoot Farm, Route 100, Somers
Meet at the picnic tables between the Reception Center and the Concession Stand. Suitable for experts and beginners alike. We'll talk about migration and look and listen to the Neotropical migrants that are returning to breed. Information and registration (914) 864-7282.

**Bird Walk in the Ramble, Central Park, New York City With
Peter Becker and Tait Johansson
Thursday, May 14, 7:00 a.m. -3:30 p.m.**

Meet at the entrance (northeast corner) at 72nd St. and Central Park West at 8:00 a.m. or meet at Bylane at 6:45 a.m. for car pooling. Bedford Audubon member and avid birder Peter Becker and BAS naturalist Tait Johansson will lead a morning walk through one of the top ten birding spots in America. More than 200 species pass through Central Park on their migratory routes each spring and fall, close to one third of the bird species found in the United States. Bring a bag lunch or buy lunch at the Boathouse Cafe. **(E)**

**Excursion to Bartholomew's Cobble With BAS Director,
Botanist Carol Gracie
Friday, May 15, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Carpool from Bylane.**

The Cobble is a beautiful reserve of about 200 acres along the scenic Housatonic River in the southwest corner of Massachusetts (Berkshire County.). The Reserve is known for its profusion of wildflowers and ferns. The soil is underlain by marble, so species that we don't often see in Westchester are common there—among them maidenhair spleenwort, walking fern, hepatica, and columbine. Bartholomew's Cobble is a Na-

tional Natural Landmark. The trip is restricted to 10 people. Bring lunch and hiking boots. (M)

BAS Annual Birdathon

Saturday, May 16, 5:00 p.m. - Sunday, May 17, 5:00 p.m.

The Bedford Audubon Society is gearing up for its annual Birdathon. Teams will be covering diverse areas from Long Island to Westmoreland Sanctuary, to the Great Swamp in Patterson, NY. The object is to count as many different bird species as possible while raising funds for Bedford Audubon's Scholarship Fund, science and education projects, and membership programs. Please sponsor one of our participants or, even better, join us and get others to sponsor you! Visit our website www.bedfordaudubon.org for more details, a printable sponsor form, and a list of participants you can sponsor.

Excursion to Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center. House Tour and Hike With BAS Director Carol Gracie.

Tuesday, May 19, 10:00 a.m.–5 p.m. Departure (carpool) from Bylane Farm.

Route 9D, Garrison, NY

In the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, Russel Wright was an acclaimed sculptor and designer of furniture, dinnerware, glassware, and more. He established his home in Garrison and named it Manitoga, which in Algonquin means Place of the Great Spirit. Manitoga is the only 20th century modern home site open to the public in New York State.

Over three decades, until his death in 1976, Wright carefully redesigned and re-sculpted Manitoga's 75 acres using native plants, his training as a theater designer and sculptor, and his innovative design ideas. Though the landscape appears natural, it is actually a careful design of native trees, rocks, ferns, mosses, and wildflowers, with over four miles of paths that wind over creeks, into woods, among boulders, and through ferns and mountain laurel. After a tour of the Wright home and studio, we will explore the trails for spring wildflowers. There is a \$15 entrance fee for adults; (\$13 for seniors). Bring lunch and solid hiking boots. Registration is strictly required and limited to 9 people. (M-S)



PROGRAMS

All programs are free and open to the public.

PLEASE NOTE: Until further notice, the monthly lectures will be held at the Katonah Memorial House.

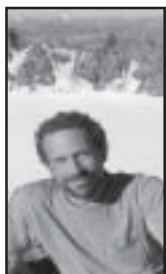
Katonah Memorial House is wheelchair accessible.

Please do not block the Fire Department access.

Park alongside the meeting house side of the driveway.

Native Bees of the Northeast: Ecology and Conservation With Tristram Seidler, Ph.D. of The New England Wild Flower Society. Wednesday April 15, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Katonah Memorial House, 71 Bedford Road, Katonah.



North America is home to more than 4,000 species of native bees with a myriad of fascinating lifestyles. One thing all native bees have in common is their exclusive diet of nectar and pollen, making them the premier pollinators of native plants. Dr. Seidler's lecture will focus on the importance of native bees as alternative pollinators considering the colony collapse disorder in honeybees. In fact, native bees are more efficient pollinators than honeybees. He will present practical approaches to native bee conservation and easy measures to increase the native bees in your garden or orchard.

Tristram Seidler grew up exploring the plant and animal life of ponds, streams, and meadows of the Midwest and Europe. He graduated from

the University of California at Santa Cruz with a bachelor's degree in biology and completed his Ph.D. at Harvard. He researched invasive plants of the Flooding Pampas in Argentina for Imperial College of London. He joined New England Wild Flower Society's Conservation Department in 2006. He currently curates the Society's Seed Bank of rare and endangered plants and collects seeds of native plants for the Millennium Seed Bank Project (Royal Kew Botanical Gardens, UK). He also works on habitat restoration projects around New England. He is also surveying the native bee fauna of the Society's botanical garden, Garden in the Woods, in Framingham MA.

Bedford Audubon Society Annual Meeting Followed by Lecture: Listening to the Landscape: Using Nature's Clues to Design a Garden That Works With Scott LaFleur, Ph.D., New England Wild Flower Society

Wednesday, May 13, at 7:30 p.m.

The BAS annual meeting and election of BAS Directors will be held prior to this evening's lecture.

Scott LaFleur will offer helpful hints on how to design a native plant garden that attracts birds, bees, butterflies, and other critters beneficial to the environment. He will demonstrate how natural ecosystems provide us with a host of information about native plants and their conditions for growth. Studying the symbiotic relationships between plants and ecosystems can guide us in the choices we make when designing sustainable landscapes. Choosing native plants that provide food and forage for wildlife is a great way to keep a diversity of life healthy and abundant in your landscape. Invasive plants, on the other hand, can disrupt the delicate balance of life and should be avoided at all costs.



Scott LaFleur is the Horticulture & Botanic Garden Director of the New England Wild Flower Society, the oldest plant conservation organization in the United States, and the Garden in the Woods, its living museum on 45 acres in Framingham, MA. He curates and manages an extensive public collection of 1,500 native plant species, including 200 rare and endangered species. He received his horticultural training at the University of New Hampshire.

The Invaluable Ecosystem Services of the Humble Dung Beetle With Elizabeth Nichols of the American Museum of Natural History Wednesday, June 10, 7:30 p.m.

Katonah Memorial House, 71 Bedford Road, Katonah.



"Dung beetles don't get no respect!" Yet these often overlooked, humble creatures play an important role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Both the larvae and the adults of the nearly 6000 species of scarab beetles have the unusual habit of consuming dung; for some it is their exclusive food. Among the important ecosystem services performed by dung beetles are dispersal of seeds of tropical trees, recycling of soil nutrients, and serving as a biological pest control. The American Institute of Biological Sciences reports that dung beetles save the U.S. cattle industry an estimated \$380,000,000 annually through burying aboveground livestock waste.

Liz Nichols's current field research focuses on the functional consequences of dung beetle decline in the western Brazilian Amazon. She is an Invertebrate Biodiversity Specialist at the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History, and a PhD candidate at the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology of Columbia University.



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 **MasterCard/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 _____

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Credit Card Information

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Expiration date _____ Phone _____

Security code (3 digit number on back 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 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

Membership Matters

Spring is in the air and that means it is time for you show your support for Bedford Audubon by joining us with a chapter-only membership or renewing your existing membership. We will be sending out a membership mailer to all members in March with a brand new membership card. We hope everyone will respond as soon as possible! Please remember, when making out your yearly membership dues payment, that BAS brings you terrific programs and field trips throughout the year, preserves more than 600 acres of land, and does much, much more with little financial support from National Audubon. This is why I am asking you to show your support for the incredible array of local projects we do—projects that exemplify the goals we all believe in. Let's take this moment to celebrate all that we have achieved, and all we can achieve in the future. So please show your support by joining us.

Thank you,
John Askildsen, Membership Chair

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