



Friends of the Taylor Wildlife Preserve

News --- # 13

7 Taylor's Lane, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077-1609

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July 2010

Welcome to the Taylor Organic Pick-Your-Own Farm –

The crops have been organically grown on the Taylor Farm since the late 1960's when Sylvia and Joseph Taylor stopped using chemical fertilizer and pesticide and started to use horse manure. As the woods and forests near the Farm have disappeared due to the building of the housing and shopping developments, the deer population on the Farm has been increasing. The ex-police chief of Cinnaminson township and his family and his friends have helped us to decrease the deer population by harvesting them through the years. We have been successfully using Liquid Fence (Deer and Rabbit Repellent: the main ingredients of which are garlic and rotten eggs) to protect tomatoes, peppers, lima beans, pumpkins, raspberries etc from being eaten by deer. We are growing tomatoes--such varieties as Celebrity, Romano, Brandywine and Cherokee Purple. The variety of green pepper is California Wonder. We have two varieties of eggplants: Japanese Ichiban and American Big Beauty. As for berries, we are growing blueberries, evergreen raspberries, thornless blackberries. We also are growing two varieties of pumpkins. In addition to vegetables and berries, we grow apples and pears. We are open from July to October. Please come to pick our organically grown tasty berries, fruits and vegetables.

Takashi Mizuno

Fresh, Organic produce - You'll KNOW it's fresh because you'll pick it yourself. Come park on the grass opposite the farm stand 9-6 Mon.-Sat. and blow your horn if you want service or have questions. Signs inside the stand tell you what's available and prices; here organic produce per pound is about like "regular" commercial produce at the supermarket. Self service isn't difficult, but we're happy to meet you in person if we're home. Fields are closed Sundays, even to self-service.

As you enter the farm from the public road, you'll notice garden plots that we rent at a modest price where dozens of people are growing their own produce from early Spring through Hallowe'en. For questions about these plots or about sales from the stand, contact Suzanne Day (856) 829-7034

Suzanne Day

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Volunteers are wanted for breaking beaver dams on a regular basis to properly drain the Wildlife Preserve.

Please call Takashi at (856) 786-0809

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"Pouring In"

Eighth Annual FTWP Bird Walk –

By Sandy Rea

The annual Friends of Taylor Wildlife Preserve birdwalk on Saturday morning May 1, 2010, was blessed with the good fortune of changing weather

systems. Storms midweek followed by warming, sunny days meant great conditions for thousands of birds to “pour in,” as our expert leader, Tom Bailey, termed it. [See below for bird radar web sites.] Through Thursday night and into Friday a.m. (April 29 & 30) all over the Northeast, one could see on the radar the progression of incoming birds. The clear skies and light, south winds were exactly the right conditions for the birds to arrive by Saturday morning.

Twelve hearty birders met at Taylor Preserve at 8am. We moved counterclockwise around the trail on the riverbank, past Tom Bujak’s bridge near the beaver dams, behind the wetlands, across the front gardens, and up the narrow driveway. Tom’s practiced ears and eyes were alert to the wide variety of species whether on the wing, perching, usually singing, sometimes fighting. The richness of the variety of habitat is always evident on these birdwalks as we pass meadow, woods, river, farm fields, wetlands, and “Yellow Warbler Heaven” -- the narrow driveway with Laurel shrubs where the Yellow Warblers nest.

Four Warbling Vireos were fighting for territory; such fights are not unusual in the early days after arrival here. Birds are seeking to establish their territory and nesting sites. A Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher was in its nest in a big sycamore tree but being attacked by a robin. The Gnatcatchers were previously rare here, but have gradually moved up the Delaware River. Changes in habitat such as that of the Gnatcatcher may be attributed to greater volume of the species or change in food source. A hawk that has increased greatly in numbers in the last thirty years is the Coopers Hawk. Coopers Hawks find the steady supply of food at winter feeders and of other birds through the summer very much to their liking. Across the same years, the numbers of Kestrels (Sparrow Hawk) have greatly diminished here at Taylor Farm and Preserve.

The timing of spring and fall migrations have slowly been altered by climate change: spring’s migrations occur earlier and fall’s later due to the warming climate. Cleaner river water has brought

an increase in species along the river, most noticeably the cormorants.

In the recent years we have had a nesting pair of Red Shouldered Hawks. The nest was in a sycamore tree on the southeast side of the wetland almost directly across from the Orchard Way spit and its bench. I observed that, by midwinter ’09-’10, that nest was gone probably due to the winds or one of the several heavy snows we had. A second possibility was that their nesting tree was being attacked by beavers. The good news is that there is a new nest on the preserve in the woods much closer to Dredge Harbor. The hawks are still here, crying their distinctive, descending-pitched whine as they move low through the woods.

The Yellow Rumped Warbler is here through the winter. It eats white cedar berries. It uses a whisper song in migration but a more normal song when nesting. The next week or two are the peak for Yellow Rumped Warbler migration.

Tom explained the differences between types of warbler migrants, trans-gulf and circum-gulf navigators. The Nashville Warbler, seen by the group on the far side of the wetlands near the township leaf mulch dump, is a circum-gulf navigator. Nashville Warblers fly around the Gulf of Mexico on their spring migrations north to North America. Trans-gulf navigators, such as the Prothonotary Warbler that nest in Northwest NJ, migrate across the Gulf of Mexico. It is such a long trip for the trans-gulf migrants that some don’t make it and die in the Gulf and some are exhausted by the time they reach land and are easy prey for gulls. The oil spill off the coast of Louisiana this spring will only make more challenges for the trans-gulf migrants not to mention so many other species of birds and wildlife.

PARTICIPANTS: Tom Bailey, leader. Suzanne Day, George Fisher, Jan Gordon, Peter Kinney, Bennett Landsman, Chuck Mattern, Kitty and Takashi Mizuno, Sandy Rea, Roy Seneca, Bonnie Smith, Mike Zickler.

Bird Species [seen or heard]
Warbling Vireo Yellow Warbler

Yellow Rumped Warbler	Nashville Warbler
Black Throated Green Warbler	
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher	Ovenbird
Brown Headed Cowbird	Towhee
Red Winged Blackbird	Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole	Song Sparrow
White Throated Sparrow	Kingbird
Red Bellied Woodpecker	Starling
Ruby Throated Hummingbird	
Grackle	Crow
Cardinal	Catbird
Mockingbird	Flicker
Rock Pigeon	Morning Dove
Bank Swallow	Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow	Mallard
Double Crested Cormorant	
Herring Gull	Canada Goose
Great Blue Heron	Common Loon
Wood Duck	Solitary Sandpiper
Common Egret	House Wren
Hermit Thrush	Common Yellowthroat
Carolina Chickadee	Goldfinch
Red Tailed Hawk	Green Heron
House (or English) Sparrow	

Two websites that track bird movement are:

www.rap.ucar.edu/weather/radar

showing volume of birds; for our area, click on DIX and

<http://www.woodcreeper.com/>

with more helpful interpretations of the radar and explanations of the observed movement. Each site is kept current for the day you log on.

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Clean Up Day (April 23, 2010) —

By Mike Zickler

The cleanup day sponsored by Friends of Taylor's Wildlife Refuge (FTWR) went off without a hitch as scheduled on Saturday April 23. The weather even cooperated, with temperature in the mid-60's and no rain.

Attendees included: Sandy Rea, Stephanie Judson, Suzanne Day, Bennett Landsman, Tom Bailey, Chick Mattern, Tom Bujak, Carolyn Bujak, Zoe Bujak, Patti Farley, Louisa Khanlian, Peter Kinney,

Jim Mann, Sam Carswell, Kathy Carswell, Jimmy Griffin, Kitty Taylor Mizuno, and Mike Zickler.

Mike Zickler was busy with chain saw work on a half dead wild cherry tree leaning precariously in front of the barn. It will produce plenty of good firewood, and maybe a turned bowl or two from the largest diameter trunk section. Tom Bujak did a lot of trail clearing with the weed whacker-- along the original trail from its entrance at the parking lot near Wright's cove around the river bank to the bridge and back on the short-cut to the parking lot again.

Chuck Mattern, Bennett Landsman and Kitty Mizuno took an inventory of the original trail signs that need replacing (9 out of the 10), cut some posts to put them on and replaced one of them. Chuck says he will be working on replacing the rest of them in the near future. Tom Bailey, assisted by Peter Kinney, cut a lot of invasive Ailanthus trees, saplings and other invasive plants in the garden area, and then around the new trail area on the McCarter tract. Tom says this makes the open area there attractive to some species of birds, butterflies and other animals.

Carolyn and Zoe Bujak picked up all sorts of trash (bottles to barbed wire) all along the narrow lane, throughout the community garden area, in front of the pine trees that line River Road, down the wide lane, and along the River trail from Wright's Cove to the River House.

Louisa Khanlian and Suzanne Day loaded tree branches from near the farm sign at River Road until the pick-up truck wouldn't hold any more, and drove that to the farm's wood composting site. Then they stopped along the lane between house #18 and the pond for junk that had been thrown there recently. Jim Mann (and German Shepherd) came by to offer help after he'd picked up numerous cast-off tires from around the rental gardens. Jim brought trash cans from the barn since the broken glass was tearing the plastic bags. Soon Sam and Kathy Carswell joined the crew, and before long at least 5 areas of trash had been cleared and taken to the end of the garden plots for Public Works pickup.

Sandy Rea walked the loop counterclockwise with a trash bag and picked up trash. He also had pruning clippers in his pocket and did a little brush clearing and then on the narrow driveway, cut holes in the hedges for bird watching into the wet areas.

The day ended successfully with refreshments and socializing in front of Kitty and Taskashi's house. Thanks to all for a job well done.

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N.J. Audubon Society—

Update by Tom Bailey

On April 4, 2009, Tom Bailey met with Tony Geiger of the New Jersey Audubon Society at the Taylor's Refuge to consider possible inclusion of the preserve in the popular "Birding & Wildlife Trails" guides. Tony thoroughly enjoyed the walk, and the preserve and the refuge will be included in the next series of trail guides - "NJ Birding & Wildlife Trails, Pine Barrens and Beyond". Tony wrote the description of the site and Tom and Kitty Taylor Mizuno edited it.

As of mid-March, 2010, Tony e-mailed Tom with an update - "The NJ Birding and Wildlife Trails, Pine Barrens and Beyond" guides will be three brochures - one for Burlington County, one for Atlantic County, and one for Camden/Gloucester Counties. If we stay on track with everything, the latest we'll have them printed and available at our office is June 1. We'll be happy to mail you some.

Tom Bailey will contact Tony during the summer and have him mail some brochures to us. We look forward to seeing them (and using them!) and having them available to the public at the preserve. For more information on the "Birding and Wildlife Trails" guides visit the following website - <http://www.njwildlifetrails.org/>

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Minutes (draft) FTWP 2010 Annual Meeting— March 14, 2010

Attendees:

Kitty Taylor Mizuno, (Chair) Suzanne Day,
Nick Kakaroukas, Sandy Rea, Patti Farley,
Tom Bailey, Stephanie Judson, Louisa

Khanlian, Bennett Landsman, Catherine Landsman, Takashi Mizuno, Samuel Snipes, Marion Snipes, Dot French, Michael Robinson, Mike Zickler, Chris Cordea, Chuck Mattern (Recorder)

Kitty Taylor Mizuno, Chair of Friends of Taylor Wildlife Preserve (FTWP), opened the meeting and presented the tentative agenda for review.

Introductions of attendees

Dot French introduced herself as a new member.

Agenda Review

The following additions to the agenda were suggested.

- d. -e-mail list update.
- e. -roads report.
- f. -reorienting Hal Taylor's memorial marker. (M. Zickler)
- g. -beavers and ground hogs report.

Approval of 2009 Annual Meeting minutes

The minutes were approved, with minor typographical corrections.

- Mike Zickler requests draft minutes emailed sooner.
- Louisa, passed email list for proofreading by group. The newsletter will be emailed to email list. We will only use mail to the non-email holding members.

Treasurer's report by Sandy Rea

-Funds were contributed for the spreading of new gravel on the lower lane and south end parking area.

-The EZ tax form is due November 15 of the calendar year.

-The small CD was redeemed.

-There was discussion of CD investments.

Sandy asked if anyone knew of a place to invest for a rate better than .5%, perhaps breaking the funds into smaller amounts.

\$30,000.00 high rate. \$7,000.00 available, 6 month.

No interest on handling account. Suzanne will assist Sandy.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Nominating Committee report by Stephanie Judson

Executive Board Officers:
Takashi Mizuno
Suzanne Day
Patti Farley
Stephanie Judson
Michael Zickler
Sandy Rea

Ruth Tatum approved as new Treasurer for 2 years, from March 14th.
She will be an ex-officio board member.

Last Year's Activities

- a. Annual Meeting held Feb. 21, 2009
- b. Bird and butterfly walk with Frank Windfelder held May 23, 2009
- c. Cleanup day held March 14, 2009
- d. Cooperation with New Jersey Audubon Society about including a description of our site in their new trails guide.
- e. New trail signs: 7 of the 8 new signs have been put up on the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust land on the McCarter Tract
- f. 10 replacement signs with minor revisions are ready to put up.
- g. FTWP website: New photos have been collected, and photographers for each identified. These are ready to be posted.

One addition was suggested:

- h. Parking lot: The parking lot at the entrance to the original trail has been improved by adding gravel.

Update of Ongoing Activities

- a. Trail signs: Putting up one more new sign, and replacing 10 original signs
- b. Progress report to the State on the trails grant
- a.+ b. Kitty Mizuno will make corrections and send in to Larry Miller.
- c. FTWP web site--
Website, \$143.00 for 3 years web hosting.
One update per yr. \$143.00.
Tom Bailey to check with Chris about website management to take over. Patti has CD with photos.
- d. lkhalian@msn.com is Louisa's email.

- e. Roads report to DEP, Kitty Mizuno calling American Water Co.
- f. Hal Taylor's memorial
- g. Beaver trapping mid December to mid January, new beavers, ask NJ Fish and Wildlife about an extended season. Deer, applied for a year round farm permit, Cinnaminson Police members are hunting. (Deer, only current natural enemy = auto.)

Clean Up Day

C. Bujak to outreach Boy Scouts for cleanup day, High School students, Cinnaminson High School "Impact" to coordinate with future Earth Day events. (April 24, 1-4PM, rain April 25).

Bird Walk with Tom Bailey

Suggested date: Sat., 5/1, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Rain date: Same time Sunday, 5/2.

Report on the new Audubon book on trails in this area, including our own.

Tom Bailey passed around samples in the simple brochure which they will be using instead of a book.

Newsletter

Newsletter, Patti Farley agreed to do it.

- Sandy Rea will write about Bird walk day.
- Mike Zickler will write about Clean-up Day.
- Mike Zickler will write about Trail Signs.
- Tom Bailey will write about the NJ Audubon Society "Birding and Wildlife Trails" guide
- Takashi Mizuno and Suzanne Day will write about the farm

Mike Zickler, grant belongs to the state and his son, Ethan, proposed sketch of a kiosk, welcome sign, signs and a split rail fence.

Kitty Mizuno to contact Martin Rapp re. Delran site, 3 acres of upland and 3 acres of wetland.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Kitty Taylor Mizuno.

Chuck Mattern

FTWP is a tax exempt organization under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions may be deducted as provided by law.

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