

# New Jersey

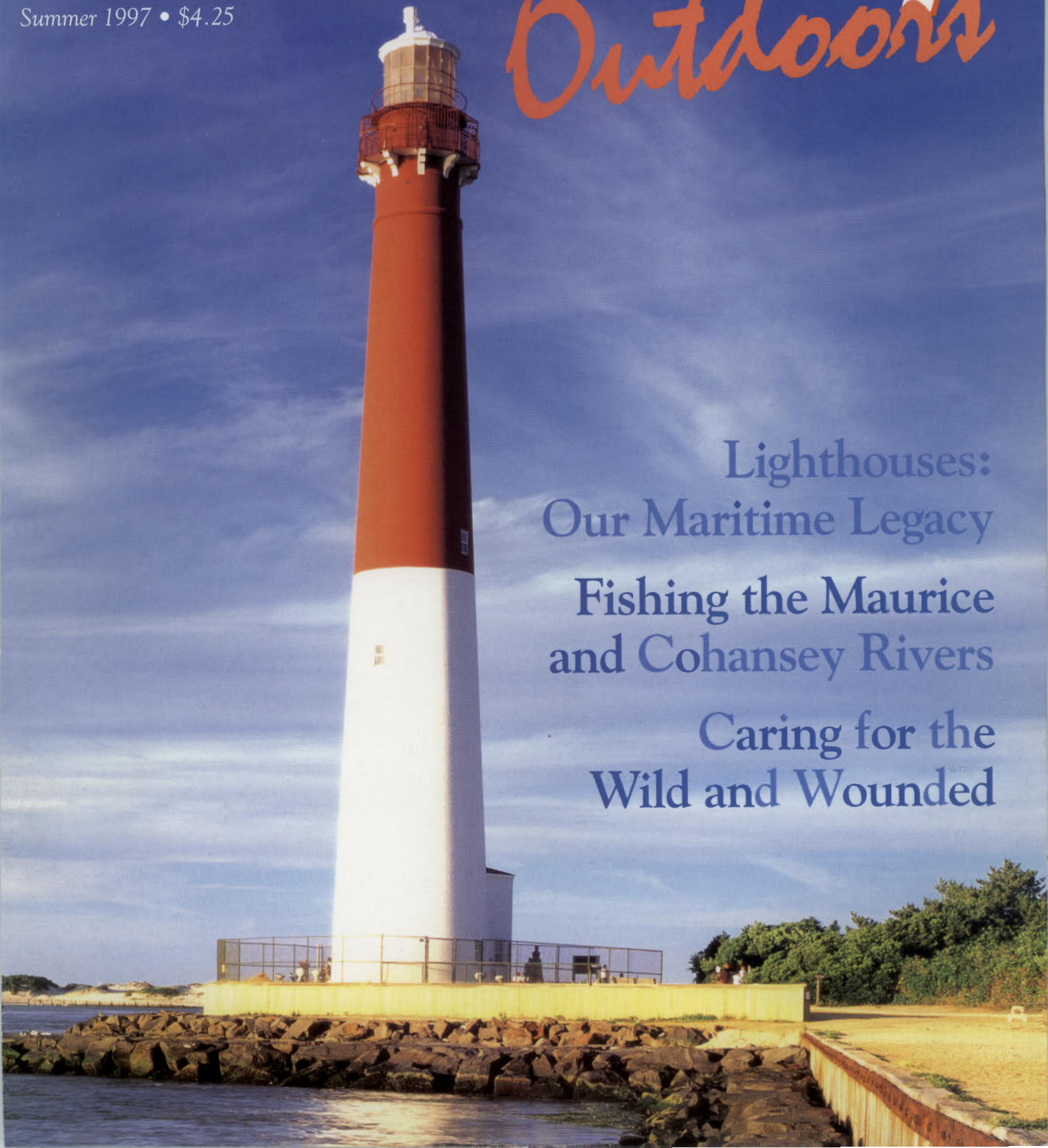
Summer 1997 • \$4.25

## Outdoors

Lighthouses:  
Our Maritime Legacy

Fishing the Maurice  
and Cohansey Rivers

Caring for the  
Wild and Wounded





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AUG 6, 1997

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Trenton, 1850 08608

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"Old Barney," probably the best known of all New Jersey lighthouses, fell dark in 1944, but still draws thousands of visitors. To learn more about these fascinating structures, read "Pointing the Way: New Jersey's Maritime Landmarks," on page 20. Photo © Jim Granelli

## Inside Front Cover

Hot-air balloons, drifting across the sky, seem almost magical. Find out more about them — and *The Magic of Alexandria* Balloon Festival — by reading "Enchantment in the Sky" on page 37. Photo courtesy of Brenda Rahmann

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Watercolor of American Oystercatcher by Beatrice Bork, a Whitehouse Station artist whose work has appeared in previous issues of *New Jersey Outdoors*.

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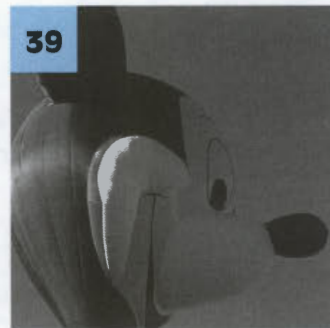
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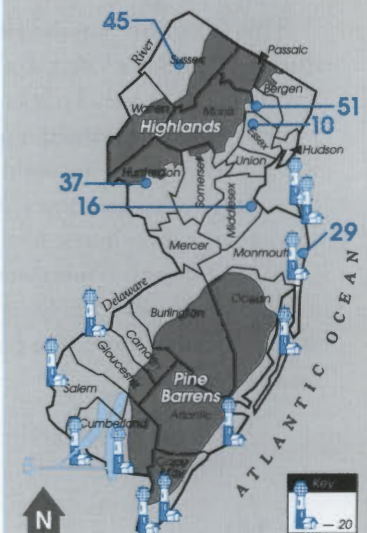
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# Mailbox

## A Conversational Challenge

This subscriber was delighted to discover "epizootic" on page 6 of the Spring (1997) issue. Thanks to *New Jersey Outdoors*, I learned a new word. But I'll tell you, it's almost impossible to work the conversation around so I can casually drop in the word.

I look forward to future enlightenments. Meanwhile, I'm lying in wait at the Scrabble board. Big points for epizootic!

Dereck Williamson  
Annandale

## A King by Any Other Name

I congratulate Bob Malone of Wilmington, Delaware, on his photograph of the king snake appearing on page 34 (Spring 1997).

Unfortunately, his king snake is not a king snake. It is a black rat snake, often known as a pilot black snake. It is a common inhabitant of New Jersey and is a first cousin of the red rat snake, commonly known as the corn snake, which is also a New Jersey resident.

Leigh W. Bauer  
Philadelphia, PA



## Lots of Links

What prompted me to write to *New Jersey Outdoors* was the box on page 2, **Spring Surfing**. The last sentence read: "If, in your cyber-travels, you find a great New Jersey outdoors related page, send us the address for future mention." It struck me as being odd that there was no address to send them to (snail mail or e-mail).

A few links of interest for New Jersey:

- **Gardens** <http://www.trine.com/GardenNet/GardensOnline/nj.htm>
- **A general index** [http://www.city.net/countries/united\\_states/new\\_jersey/](http://www.city.net/countries/united_states/new_jersey/)

Glad to see that you are making contact with the World Wide Web!

Fred Schimmel  
Gibbsboro

**Editor's Note:** Thanks for the links, Fred. A couple more, of particular interest to anglers and boaters, are:

- **The South Jersey Angler Magazine** <http://www.anglermag.com/about.html>
- **New Jersey Waterways** <http://www.by-the-sea.com/njww/index.html>

Those who appreciate — and want to conserve — nature will want to check out:

- **The Nature Conservancy** <http://www.tnc.org/index.html>

Those who enjoy living history should head for:

- **The Historic Cold Springs Village** <http://www.hvsc.org>

Readers may write to *New Jersey Outdoors* at NJDEP, NJO, P.O. Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625 or [njo@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:njo@dep.state.nj.us).

## Shrouded in Mystery

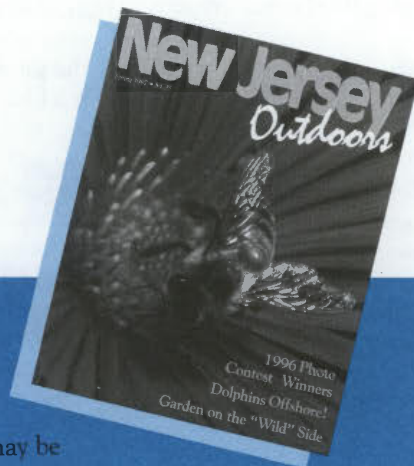
As I travel along Route 539 on my way to the shore, I've often wondered about a large rock that sits on the side of the road between routes 70 and 72. Every year, the rock has a new appearance. I always look forward to seeing what color it's been painted or what has been written on it.

Where did this rock come from? A friend once told me it fell from a truck on its way to a jetty being built along the shore. How long has the rock been there? Who paints it and why? Curiosity has gotten the best of me! If anyone can help me find out the story behind this roadside wonder, it's the people at *New Jersey Outdoors*.

Thomas R. Goehrig  
Allentown

**Editor's Note:**

We checked with the DEP Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, since the rock "resides" in Greenwood Forest Wildlife Management Area. The rock, intended to become part of a jetty, accidentally fell from a truck in 1963. The transporter chose not to reload it, so it became a landmark for those trekking to Long Beach Island and points south via Route 539. Division staff have not yet spotted anyone with paintbrush or spray can in hand, but suspect that students heading for sun and surf are responsible for the "decorations."



## Missing an Issue of New Jersey Outdoors?

Back issues of *New Jersey Outdoors*, when available, may be obtained at a discounted price of \$3. To order copies, call 800/645-0038.

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**New Jersey Outdoors**  
Summer 1997, Vol. 24, No. 3

This publication is dedicated to promoting and encouraging the wise management and conservation of our natural, cultural and recreational resources by fostering a greater appreciation of those resources, and providing our residents with the information necessary to help the Department protect, preserve and enhance them.

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## New Jersey Outdoors **People**

### SEEing the Environment in Black and White

Ross Lewis, a professional photographer from East Brunswick, has held a variety of positions throughout his career, including those of associate news director for WCBS-TV and still photographer for the National Football League. But, although exciting, perhaps none provided the satisfaction that he now enjoys through his work with the Special Eyes on the Environment program.

Lewis developed the program, known as **S.E.E.**, to allow physically and emotionally challenged individuals to express their inner feelings and appreciation of the environment through photography. The seed of the idea was planted nearly 20 years ago

when, while shooting a job in Manhattan, he noticed a group of disabled people in a camera club. The joy reflected on their faces inspired him.

He piloted the **S.E.E.** program several years ago with a group of outpatients at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. Since then, he has worked with students and young adults from Essex, Hudson, Middlesex and Monmouth counties.

Using cameras specially adapted for their multiple disabilities, **S.E.E.** participants record their perceptions of the environment, from the fragile beauty of a flower to the blemish of discarded tires. All of their work is done in black and white, and it makes a powerful statement, encouraging viewers to open their eyes to the world around them.

For more information on **S.E.E.**, call 908/828-2225.

### Preserving Nature Through Art

"Do you want to see the one I caught and released?" asked the angler, as he stretched out his arms. "It was *this big!*"

Stuffing and mounting that memorable catch used to be the only way to preserve it. Now, adherents of Catch and Release also may preserve their favorites — as artwork. A photo, or even a good description, of the prized fish can serve as the model for a signed, life-size painting that includes the angler's name, the fish specifications and location of the catch.

**John Cennimo** and **Bryan Peterzak**, founders of Angling Arts Studios in Mount Holly, are artists who promote conserving our fisheries through art. In addition to custom painting that catch you released, they will create a watercolor of your favorite stream or lake; simply

provide a photograph of your favorite fishing spot. Their offerings also include limited edition full color reproductions of a variety of fish, fly fishing scenes and flies, and hand tinted, printed pencil reproductions.



# CALL FOR ENTRIES

# New Jersey *Outdoors*

## 1997 Photo Contest

### Categories:

- (A) *Enjoying Our Natural Resources* — Images of people engaged in nature-based outdoor activities (e.g., fishing, hunting, hiking, boating, birding)
- (B) *Remembering Our Past* — Images of people, places and activities that bring the past to life (e.g., living history demonstrations, reenactments, preserved sites)
- (C) *Finding Humor in Nature* — Images of nature (or people enjoying it) that tickle your funny bone.

### Format:

- Color 35 mm slides, transparencies or unmatted, unframed prints, no larger than 8" x 10" (no entries can be returned so you might want to send duplicates)

### Rules:

- The contest is open to any New Jersey resident or visitor, except Department of Environmental Protection employees and their immediate families.
  - Only photos taken of New Jersey, including its territorial waters and air, are eligible.
  - Images must be crisp and in focus, except where depth of field applies.
  - Only two entries per subject (not per category) will be accepted from each entrant.
- Although you may enter several images in the same category, do not send more than two shots of the same activity, same historic site, etc. — enter only your best one or two images.
- Each image must be attached to a completed entry form. (The form below may be reproduced as needed.)
  - Entries must be received by January 31, 1998.
  - All entries become the property of the Department of Environmental Protection and may be published/used for any purpose, such as illustrating a story or advertising *NJO*. (Photographer credits will be given.)
  - **No entries will be returned**, so please do *not* send a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Category (circle one) A B C

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Where taken \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Names of any identifiable people\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* Note: A signed release is required when the subject is easily identifiable and a potential for litigation exists.

Please send entries to:  
New Jersey Outdoors  
P.O. Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402



Both the Maurice (pictured here) and the Cohansey originate in Salem County and flow through Cumberland County, offering abundant opportunities for saltwater and freshwater fishing, as well as for crabbing.

© ROBERT T. ZAPPALORTI



# Fishing the Cohansey & Maurice Rivers

New Jersey State Library

by Gary Gresh

Deep in South Jersey, emptying into the Delaware Bay, lie the Cohansey and Maurice rivers. While the region is best known for its saltwater angling on the Delaware Bay, don't overlook these two waterways when visiting the area for fishing, crabbing, birdwatching or whatever.

The Cohansey River begins in Alloway Township, Salem County, and flows through Cumberland County into the bay. It is home to a mixed bag of fresh and saltwater species and offers fine fishing year-round.

South Jersey is not known for its great trout fishing but the Cohansey is usually stocked with more than 1,000 brook and rainbow trout above Bridgeton from the dam at Seeley's Lake down to the power line above Sunset Lake. There is some public access to this stretch of the river from Silver Lake Road



© PEGGY VARGAS

and smaller streets running east of Old Deerfield Pike (Route 606). Some real lunker trout are stocked here each year.

The section of the Cohansey within the Bridgeton City Park offers some angling opportunities as well. A 1.3-mile stretch is open to anglers. It averages 30 feet in width as it flows through the park. Instead of trout, anglers can expect fair action on largemouth bass and pickerel, with good action on channel cats and eels. There are some truly monstrous carp in the vicinity as well. Check the river just above and below the Route 49 bridge and you can see the behemoths swimming for yourself. Your family can enjoy a leisurely picnic in the park while they drown worms or corn.

### No License Needed Here

Below the Route 49 bridge is considered tidal water and no fishing license is required. (A license is necessary for fishing above the bridge.) Jumbo carp, big channel cats and white perch dominate much of this section. South Jersey carp seem partial to homemade and commercial dough baits or kernel corn. Just be sure to use stout tackle when you target the big ones.

An annual catfish tournament is held on the Cohansey, and the entrants launch at the ramp in Bridgeton, so you know this is a good stretch of the river. River cats will hit almost anything, including stink baits, chicken livers and guts, bloodworms, grass shrimp, minnows, squid and shedder crab.

Shad and herring run upriver in the spring and attract little attention. Use the standard darts, flutter spoons and shad streamers for the shad. Like everywhere else, the herring are suckers for small gold hooks. Striped bass inhabit the river and have attracted increasing angler pressure. Spring and fall offer the best rockfish action, but smaller fish might be caught all summer. This fishery has really exploded in the past few years. Top baits for the bigger stripers include bloodworms, live

The junction of the Maurice and Manumuskin rivers provides a nice seining opportunity (above).

Boaters (right) have excellent access to both rivers and increasingly targeted striped bass and shad.

Nice channel catfish roam the fresh and tidal water stretches of both the Cohansey and Maurice rivers (opposite page).

© GARY GRESH



herring and large plugs like Rebels and Rapalas. The smaller bass are partial to bloodies and grass shrimp.

In addition to carp and catfish, the tidal portion of the river offers outstanding white perch fishing, especially in the spring and fall. Spots, small croakers, snapper blues, weakfish and fluke might also travel far upstream from the Delaware Bay. You might even catch them all at the same time. Crabbing is excellent in the lower reaches of the river. You should have no trouble netting or trapping minnows or grass shrimp for bait, particularly in and around the numerous feeder streams emptying into the Cohansey.

Grass shrimp and bloodworms are among the top tidal water baits. Fresh grass shrimp, if you can get them, are the very best bait for perch. Frozen ones can be used but are not as effective. Shrimp and bloodworms will catch perch, spot, croakers and catfish. Most of the saltwater fish love them. Small minnows will catch nice perch and spots while larger models will entice nice catfish.

Shedder crab is a very effective tidewater bait. Catfish love shedder baits, even frozen ones. It is a favorite of weakfish and fluke. If you take the time to peel the shell off of ripe shedder crab legs, you will have great little baits for perch and spots.

Cut spot, of course, is a great bait in its own right. Scale and fillet small spots. Cut the fillets into strips for snapper blues, weaks, fluke and catfish. Cut the fillets into tiny pennants for perch, spot and croakers.

## Wild and Scenic and Full of Fish

If you think the Cohansey sounds good, another nearby waterway may offer even better action. Considered one of the cleanest rivers in the nation, the "Wild and Scenic" Maurice River offers outstanding public access.

It flows from Willow Grove Lake in Pittsgrove past Union Lake in Millville and empties into the Delaware Bay. In its course, it changes from fresh to tidal to salt water and consequently offers outstanding fishing throughout.

Perch are perhaps the most sought after denizens. The stretch from Bivalve to the Maurice River Bridge seems to attract the most attention. You don't need a boat to score, either. Many shoreline anglers do exceptionally well on these tasty panfish. The Matt's Landing area is one hot spot for boaters. Shore-based anglers should try the Port Norris Municipal Wharf, the pier at Mauricetown Park and the site of the old Maurice River drawbridge. Anglers in this stretch of the river say early morning is best for perch. Some anglers prefer the shoreline in Bivalve and Port Norris while the area around the Maurice River bridge attracts both boat and shore anglers. Spring and fall are the best times to fish but perch will bite year round.

From its mouth all the way up to Millville, the Maurice River will produce stripers. Most of the keepers are taken in

© GARY GRESH



the spring and fall on trolled large plugs or on live herring. Smaller bass may be taken anytime.

Matt's Landing and Mauricetown are two good areas for smaller striped bass. Mauricetown Park pier produces bass but landing them can be a problem. A very long handled or drop net is the best way to land fish from the pier. Try grass shrimp or minnows fished a couple of feet below a bobber. Bloodworms are another good bait. Many of these bass weigh up to several pounds and some anglers have had their reels stripped of line. They may well have been trophy bass.

Channel catfish inhabit most of the river and they can get mighty big, too. Mauricetown is again a hot spot. The north and south ends of the pier see the most action. The river here is filled with rubble, so bring plenty of hooks and sinkers with you.

Other catfish hot spots include the waters below Union

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If you think the Cohansey sounds good, another nearby waterway may offer even better action. Considered one of the cleanest rivers in the nation, the "Wild and Scenic" Maurice River offers outstanding public access.

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Lake Dam near the bridge over Sharp Street and the floating bridge just below the aforementioned bridge. Lots of decent size cats are taken in this area. Springsteadah Plaza, just below the Route 49 bridge in Millville, is another popular catfish hole. Top baits include chicken livers, minnows and bloodworms.

Other easy-to-catch species include plentiful populations of sunfish. They are common throughout the river. Immediately below the Union Lake Dam are schools of hungry perch and sunnies. Grass shrimp, bloodworms or wigglers will do the trick. There is a huge parking lot next to the dam. Right across the street is the floating pier and more parking.

Springsteadah Plaza is a good spot for sunnies, too. You can pick away steadily at them in this stretch. Parking and a crude ramp are available here. Boats also may be launched at the Fowser Street ramp by Maurice River Park in Millville.

## Go North, Young Angler

The northern section of the river is also home to many game fish. Trout are stocked in the northern part of the river during spring and fall. Pickerel fishing can be quite good. They just love a live minnow fished below a bobber. The minnows can be trapped or netted in any of the feeder streams that empty into the Maurice. Minnows from the tidal creeks are hardy and make great freshwater baits. You might also get some bass action in the northern section of the river. Northern pike have been stocked in the river in recent years and it is hoped they will add to the already hot fishing scene.

Visitors should not overlook the crabbing in the Maurice River. Crabs can be found almost all the way up the river to Millville. Heislerville Wildlife Management Area, Port Norris Municipal Wharf and Mauricetown Park offer good shore-based crabbing. The Matt's Landing area is another crabbing hot spot. Boaters can catch crabs almost anywhere in the lower river. Try the mouths of feeder streams or even the streams themselves if you have a shallow draft boat.

In the southern reaches of the river, you can also catch spot, weakfish, blues and summer flounder. Late summer and early fall are the best times for action on these species. East Point

Crabbing (right) remains popular along the tidal sections of both the Cohanse and Maurice rivers.

The Mauricetown Park Pier offers plenty of parking and public access (opposite page) to a stretch of the Maurice River known for its great fishing and crabbing.

Lighthouse, at the mouth of the river, sees surf fishing success every year, including a 55-pound striper a few years back.

Below Millville, the river may be crossed only by the Mauricetown Bridge. Keep this in mind when trying to reach public access points. It will help you avoid a long ride to your destination.

As a bonus, much of the lower river is considered tidal water. No fishing license is required south of the Manumuskin Creek in Port Elizabeth.

So whatever brings you to Cumberland County — history, antiques, seafood, etc. — don't forget the fishing gear. And experience for yourself why some of these waterways are still considered "scenic and wild."

*Gary Gresh, a periodic contributor to New Jersey Outdoors, is a freelance outdoors writer who lives in Fort Washington, PA.*



© GARY GRESH

# River Legends and Lore

The Cohansey and Maurice rivers are steeped in area history. In December 1774, Cumberland County had its first local newspaper, *The Plain Dealer*, published by posting it on the walls of Potter's Tavern in Cohansey Bridge (Bridgeton). The pa-

per demanded separation from English rule, and tavern keeper Matthew Potter risked a charge of treason in posting the publication.

Greenwich even had its own "tea party." On the night of December 22, 1774, a group of youths dressed as Indians smeared paint on their faces and went on horseback to the home of Tory Daniel Bowen, where a cargo of tea, destined for Philadelphia, was stored. They broke open the cellar

door and tossed out boxes of tea that were carried to the Market Square. The tea was burned in a bonfire in front of a cheering crowd. Like Bridgeton, many of Greenwich's historic buildings remain standing today.

On July 7, 1776, Cumberland County's own Liberty Bell summoned the people of Cohansey Bridge to a formal reading of the Declaration of Independence advocated by the colonial representatives in Philadelphia.

According to legend, the Maurice River takes its name from an unfriendly encounter with Native Americans. According to local tradition, a half mile below Mauricetown, a band of roving Indians attacked and sunk the Dutch sailing vessel *Prince Maurice*, after which early settlers began referring to the stream as Maurice. Of course, a somewhat less exciting tale has the vessel foundering on its own accord.

## Public Access to the Cohansey and Maurice Rivers

Aside from Bridgeton City Park, public access to the Cohansey is somewhat limited. Boaters may use the free public boat ramp adjacent to the Broad Street Bridge (Route 49). It is accessed from Laurel Street. Most boaters launch here to fish the wider, deeper stretches below the bridge.

Anglers might also want to rent a canoe for use on the upper stretches of the Cohansey. They may be rented along Mayor Aitken Drive in Bridgeton City Park itself and at North Laurel Street. Those rented at North Laurel Street may be used from the raceway to Seeley Lake. Farther down the river, boats may be launched at two full service marinas in Greenwich.

Shore based anglers may find some access from the many side roads that dead-end



© CARY CRESH

along the Cohansey. Look for side roads coming off of routes 642, 642, 607, 650 and 601 (Black Neck Road) in Fairfield, Hopewell and Greenwich townships. Look for other anglers and crabbers.

The Maurice has considerable public access. Bank fishermen can find access at the Union Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA), a small section of Edward G. Bevan WMA, Waltman Park, Springsteadah Plaza and Maurice River Park in

Millville, Mauricetown Park, Maurice River bridge, Port Norris Municipal Wharf, Heislerville WMA and East Point Lighthouse.

Boaters can launch at Matt's Landing, Bivalve, Port Norris, Heislerville and the Fowser Street Ramp in Millville. Small boats can also be launched from below the Maurice River bridge. A Cumberland County map will be a big help in finding your way around the Cohansey and Maurice rivers.

# THE GREAT OUTDOORS: RX FOR MENTAL HEALTH

BY JOHN T. CUNNINGHAM

Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone and John Burroughs, some of the nation's leading early 20th century minds, were nearly as much legend as fact by 1915. If persistent reports could be believed, they had no time for relaxation, much less for frivolity and play.

Constantly repeated newspaper tales declared Edison took only catnaps between inventions in his West Orange laboratory; Ford worked round-the-clock in his Detroit factory, making Model T cars for the masses; Firestone eschewed vacations in dogged determination to make automobile tires for all the tin lizzies; and Burroughs, naturalist and writer, toiled incessantly on essays imploring sophisticated readers to replace work with relaxation in the great outdoors.

If asked, the public likely would have declared the world would collapse if any one of the four left his desk for a considerable length of time. Then, in 1916, an astounded populace read that Edison, Ford and Burroughs would be camping in the New England woods — sleeping in tents, cooking food over campfires, shivering in morning dews and damps.

## INVENTOR AS INSTIGATOR

Edison was both the ringleader and the glue. He enlisted Burroughs to plan a route through the Adirondacks and New England. After voicing some reservations about camping at age 79, Burroughs expressed satisfaction when Edison told him there would be electric lights in the tents, reasonably comfortable cots, “stores of good things to eat” and “four husky young men to take care of us.” In a letter to Edison on August 12, 1916, Burroughs viewed the camping proposal enthusiastically: The invitation to go a gypsying with Mr. Edison and Mr. Ford appeals to me. I have a pure strain of the vagabond in me. We'll be a real gypsy troupe. Mr. Edison can play the magician and Mr. Ford the watchmaker and clock tinker. Mr. Firestone? Maybe he could pass as an umbrella maker or herb doctor.

The *New York Times* described Edison's departure from his laboratory on August 28, accompanied by Firestone. Edison would say only that the four greats would camp “somewhere in the Adirondacks,” where they anticipated “a rattling good time.” According to the *Times*:

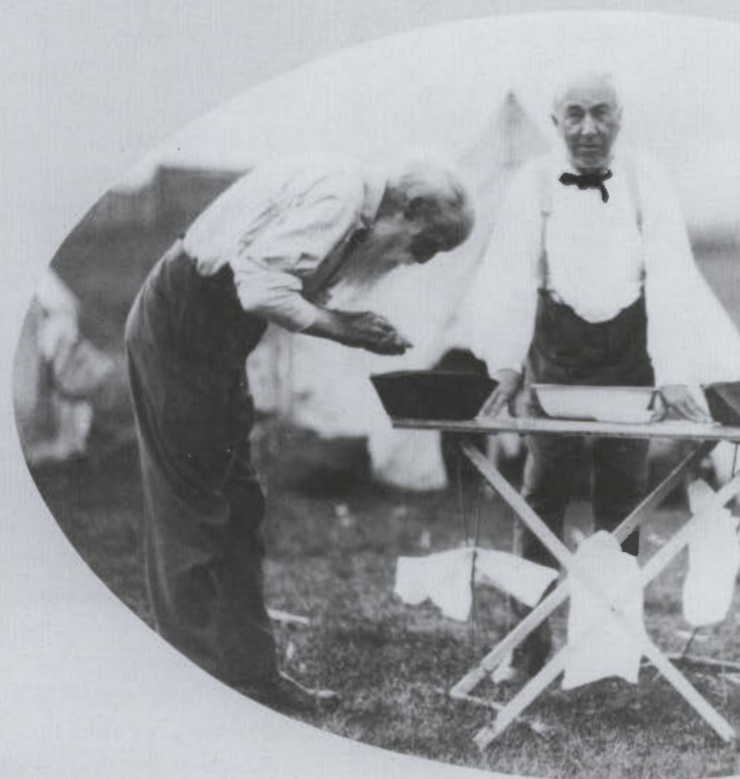
The 6,500 employees of the factory quit work long enough to give Mr. Edison a noisy sendoff. A large auto truck filled with camping equipment and plenty of foodstuff followed Mr.

Edison's touring car . . . The inventor was not to be disturbed unless some emergency arose.

## THE INITIAL TREK

Burroughs joined Edison and Firestone when they bivouacked near the poet-naturalist's home in the Catskill Mountains on their way to the Adirondacks. The fact that the caravan was far from gypsy-like did not faze the ebullient Burroughs. As the cars wandered northward from campsite to campsite, he made sure his distinguished companions spent time in the field, identifying bugs, gazing at the dew on cobwebs, checking the cleanliness of streams and in general becoming attuned to nature.

Ford provided the only disappointment — business kept him in Detroit. The remaining trio lived in the woods until September 11, seeking as much “rough” life as possible. The omnipresent press reported that Edison, “as brown and healthy as an Indian, refuses to discuss anything which does not pertain to the woods, camping, fishing or atmospheric conditions.”





Burroughs, Edison and Firestone (left) prepare for another day in the great outdoors on their 1918 camping trip.

The caravan is ferried across Virginia's Jackson River on the 1918 camping trip (above).

Edison went home, kissed his wife, donned his laboratory clothes and went to his downtown workbench to resume work on several experiments that had occurred to him on his trip. Ford watched the Fords go by, promising that he would never again miss a camping trip. Firestone went to Akron, saying little (just as he had kept mum during the camping trip).

Burroughs wrote short poems, sketched illustrations and produced a unique little book that extolled the virtues of everything from the trip's fresh air to the hours spent following his own tips on life in the wild. The book had a short press run, going only to those who made the trip or people close to the campers.

America's entry into World War I put a damper on tenting, except for the hundreds of thousands of young men called to live involuntarily under U.S. Army canvas. The nation's public would have considered the thought of great minds sleeping in tents unpatriotic and a waste of talent.

## THE CARAVAN GROWS

Apparently believing by the autumn of 1918 the world was safe for democracy, Edison asked Ford, Firestone and Burroughs to relive a journey the inventor had taken in 1906 through Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and North Carolina's Smokey Mountains. Edward Hurley, a high official in President Woodrow Wilson's administration with whom Edison became friendly as a result of their wartime roles (Edison served as head of the Navy Consulting Board, while Hurley chaired the U.S. Shipping Board), agreed to join the quartet.

The five met in Pittsburgh, along with enough hired hands to do the work so the industrial potentates could lead the simple life of their boyhoods. A Japanese cook headed a kitchen staff that could provide sumptuous meals under the trees, all served on white linen and eaten with solid silver utensils.

The travelers, dubbed by the press "Five Wizards in the Wilds," rode in three large touring cars. Behind trailed three big trucks for the equipment, plus a long string of smaller automobiles carrying the help and the reporters and newsreel men. If any wizard dropped a brilliant word, the world must know of it.

Given the rare chance to see the assembled brain trust, crowds

of people lined the streets in nearly every town and village as the troupe moved ahead. Half the population surrounding Parsons, West Virginia, gathered to see the wizards of the North. In Johnson City, Tennessee, it was written that "a huge crowd greeted them as if they were the wise men magically appearing out of the East."

The press politely stayed outside the defined campgrounds but at every opportunity peppered Edison, Ford, Firestone and Burroughs with questions. They received quips and barbs in answer but went along with the spirit of "boyhood revisited" that the aging industrialists sought.

In 1918, their combined ages totaled 257 years.

In 1919, the group enjoyed "the trail of the Minute Men in Historic Old New England," perhaps envisioning themselves as pilgrims while they settled into the routines of an upscale camping life. A year later, some wives of the famous men joined in a trip to the Catskills.

## A PRESIDENTIAL PRESENCE

All pretensions of an uncomplicated holiday in the open disappeared in 1921, when Firestone invited President Warren G. Harding to join the group. Surprisingly, he accepted — but

Thomas Edison rests at Camp Tazewell on his 1918 camping trip (left).

The caravan wends its way through the countryside en route to camp in 1921 (below).





President Warren G. Harding (seated, center) is pictured with fellow campers on their 1921 camping trip (left).

Roughing it during the group's first expedition in 1916 wasn't all that hard, as they dined in style beneath the trees (below).

Clad a bit more formally than today's campers, Edison, Burroughs, Ford and Firestone pause at a mill wheel on their 1918 camping trip (bottom).

## For Reference

Not to be taken

from this library

only for a weekend "somewhere near Hagerstown, Maryland." The recently-deceased John Burroughs would have disliked the idea of mob scenes certain to ensue with the President in camp.

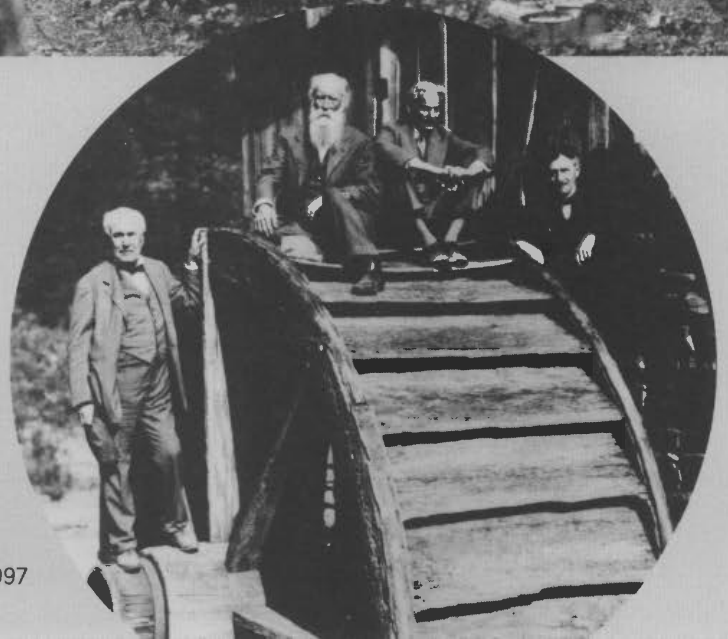
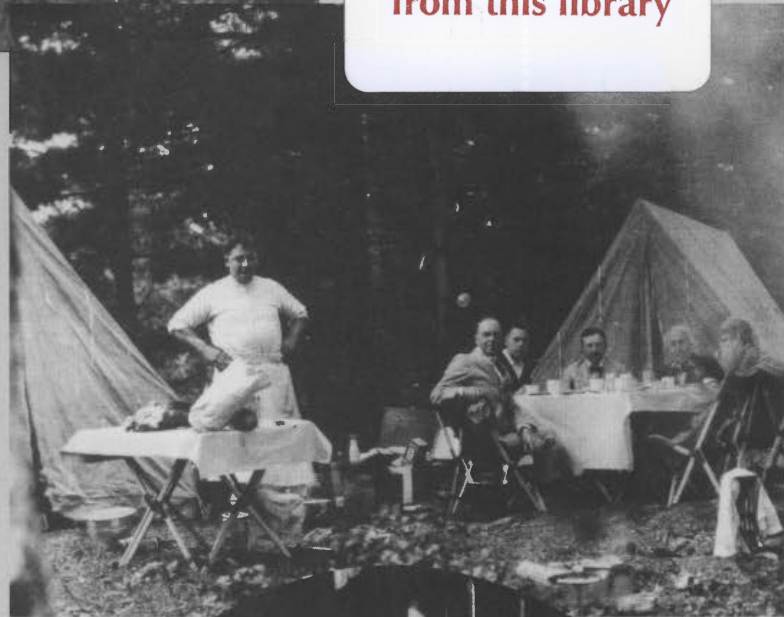
Harding's presence presented numerous problems: how to get him to the nearest railroad depot in case of a national emergency, how to provide constant communication with Washington, what kind of bed would a president need, what would be the camp dress and questions of protocol.

Edison foresaw no trouble. Harding was "all right" (an Edison accolade), mainly because he preferred to chew tobacco "like a man," rather than smoke cigars "like a weakling." (Edison forgot temporarily that he liked a good cigar himself.)

Harding knew how to exploit photo opportunities. When he first arrived in camp near a tiny settlement called Pectonville, Maryland, he shook hands, stripped off his coat and vest, chopped wood, drank water from a long-handled dipper, and hastened to the chow line when lunch was announced.

After lunch, according to the *New York Times*, "The President did not want to read a newspaper like Mr. Edison, or wander around the camp like Mr. Firestone. He wanted to sleep." Photographers liked that. Nearby, Ford cheerfully followed reporters' pleas that he crank a brand-new Ford car, despite his assertion that the car had a self-starter and did not need cranking to get it started.

Nearby, amidst all the activity and inactivity, the wives of the celebrities talked and knitted. Photographers preferred a sleeping Harding to any industrious, knitting, thoughtful wife.



# EDISON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The complex Thomas Edison built in 1887 at West Orange serves as the Edison National Historic Site. The great inventor thought of this facility as the ultimate research lab, a place devoted to the “rapid and cheap development of inventions” so that everyone could afford to buy these new wonders.

More than half of Edison’s 1,093 U.S. patents were for inventions developed at the West Orange complex, which became the model for modern industrial labs. From here came the movie camera, kinoscopes (used to view films), improved phonographs, a fluoroscope used in the first x-ray operation in America, improved storage batteries, and rubber from the goldenrod plant, among other creations.

Visitors to the Edison National Historic Site will be able to see, in addition to the complex’s gatehouse and wa-

ter tower, the former:

- Physics laboratory, which now contains display rooms and park offices;
- Chemistry laboratory, which has changed little since Edison’s death in 1931;
- Chemical storage and pattern shop, which now contains visitor restrooms and storage;
- Metallurgical laboratory, which currently serves as curatorial work space and storage;
- Main laboratory building, which still contains 1887 machine shops, stock rooms, offices and Edison’s double-tiered library/office;
- Laboratory complex powerhouse, which now houses the museum and visitor center;
- Main storage vault, which holds most of the Edison archives and artifact collection; and
- The Black Maria, which is a 1954 replica of the world’s first structure specifically built as a motion picture studio.

Also an integral part of the national historic site, although located several blocks away, is Glenmont — Edison’s “country home in the city.”

The site’s visitor center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Hour-long tours of Edison’s laboratory are conducted each day from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., while tours of his home, Glenmont, are conducted Wednesday through Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Glenmont tour tickets are available at the visitor center on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, including group reservations, call 201/736-0550 (TDD: 201/243-9122).

Located on Main Street and Lakeside Avenue in West Orange, the site is 2 miles west of the Garden State Parkway (exit 145) and 1 mile north of Interstate Route 280. The complex is open daily, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day. The entrance fee is \$2 per person for visitors ages 17 and over.



The laboratory complex at Edison National Historic Site in West Orange (above) is a fascinating place to tour.

Edison’s home, Glenmont, (opposite page) is located only a short distance from the lab complex.

## THE “TRAVELING CIRCUS” FOLDS UP ITS TENTS

The trips continued into the mid 1920s, when Firestone sadly expressed the belief that they had degenerated into “a kind of traveling circus.” The boys were getting old; by 1923, Ford was 60, Firestone was 55 and Edison was 76.

The memories and photographs remained but the adventures of the vagabonding wizards faded from the newspapers and from public thought. Of them all, Edison was remembered by his camp mates as the most resolute of campers.

Burroughs wrote that Edison was “the center” of the expeditions. He wrote an affectionate study of the inventor-turned-wilderness-man, “crude and uncultured . . . a big-brained man & genial & good-natured (with) a big fund of all kinds of stories, humorous or nasty.”

The naturalist, an unabashed admirer of Edison, nevertheless noted in his journal: Oh consistency, thy name is not Edison; 10 a.m., Edison not up yet — the man of little sleep. He inveighs against cane sugar, yet puts two heaping teaspoonsful into each cup of coffee. He eats more than I do, yet calls me a gourmand. He eats pie by the yard and bolts his food.

Even in the roughest weather, when his companions abandoned the joys of nature for a warm, dry hotel, Edison stayed in camp, hair unbrushed and clothes wrinkled. For companions in warm beds, enjoying indoor bathtubs and flush toilets, Edison had a rancorous and fully-intended phrase: “dudes and tenderfoots.”

*John T. Cunningham, an author of 34 books and frequent contributor to New Jersey Outdoors, lives in Florham Park.*



## THE THOMAS A. EDISON SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Edison National Historic Site has been sponsoring a year-long series of films, lectures, concerts and other special events to mark the 150th anniversary of the inventor's birth. Upcoming are:

■ **July 24** *Environmental Insights* — A screening of recent films about nature and the environment. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the site.

■ **August 20** *Phonographic Rarities* — A sharing of information by the staff of the Edison National Historic Site. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the site.

■ **August 23** *The Allentown Band* — This concert, part of the series sponsored in recog-

nition of Edison's favorite invention, the phonograph, features America's oldest civilian concert band, known nationally for its authentic interpretation of John Philip Sousa's music. The concert begins at 6 p.m. at Glenmont.

■ **September 13** *Theresa Santiago* — This concert features a young American soprano whose repertoire ranges from Monteverdi to Barber and who won first prize in the prestigious 1994 Naumburg Competition. It will be held at Glenmont, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

■ **September 17** *Edison and X-rays* — A sharing of information by the staff of the Edison National Historic

Site. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the site.

■ **September 27** *Garden State Concert Band* — Formed in 1979, the band performs a wide variety of music, from light classical pieces to big band and popular selections. The concert will be held at Glenmont, beginning at 4 p.m.

■ **October 15** *Saying Goodbye to the Wizard* — A sharing of information by the staff of the Edison National Historic Site. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the site.

■ **November 19** *Editing Edison* — A sharing of information by the staff of the Edison National Historic Site. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the site.

■ **November 28 through January 4** *An Edison Family Christmas* — Visit the home of Thomas and Mina Edison (during regular Glenmont tour hours) and see how they celebrated the holidays with their family. A special exhibit of family ornaments and Christmas gifts will be on display in the conservatory.

■ **December 17** *At Home with the Edisons* — A sharing of information by the staff of the Edison National Historic Site. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the site.

For more information, including group reservations, call 201/736-0550, extension 97 (TDD: 201/243-9122).

# Bottle Diggers' Paradise

© GLENN HARBOUR

Glenn Vogel hits the first pre-1900 strata, about 12 feet deep, at the South Amboy site.

by Glenn Harbour

Since the emergence of bottle collecting some 40 years ago, New Jersey has been considered by many to be the best state in the country in which to seek hollow ware. The history of New Jersey and early glass are forever intertwined.

The Pine Barrens region in South Jersey possesses some of the highest quality sand in the world for bottle making. This gave rise to the first successful glass house in the United States — one started in 1739 near Alloway, in Salem County, by Caspar Wistar — and the “South Jersey Tradition” of glass blowing, which was legendary even in its own day.

Bottle digging became popular in the 1960s and 1970s. With most old dumping grounds untouched, artifacts were easily uncovered and hundreds of diggers got on the bandwagon. The hobby began experiencing a period of decline in the early 1980s, as easy finds became fewer and collectors turned to flea

markets, garage sales or one of the hundreds of annual bottle shows held nationwide to discover new acquisitions.

But although the rank and file have thinned out considerably, discouraged by construction, private property, ticks and slim pickings, the 1990s have seen the revival of the digger. For those determined few left, there are hurdles but many rewards. In New Jersey, there are added incentives. For it is in the Garden State that — with a little luck, a lot of hard work and as much determination on the digger's part — antique bottles are readily available.

At one time, New Jersey probably produced more glass than anywhere in the United States. A large population meant both more consumers of bottled products and more dumping areas. Although New Jersey seems to be in a constant state of flux, many of these early disposal spots have not yet felt the shovel blade of progress. And in those that have, heavy equipment often exposes treasures that otherwise might never have been discovered. Also, as we approach the 21st century, many later



© GLENN VOGEL

Master inks once were sold in colorful amber, green and blue bottles (above). Pictured below is a group of local beer and soda bottles found at the South Amboy site.



© GLENN VOGEL



© GLENN VOGEL

This group of large patent medicine bottles includes (above, from left): Wishart's Pine Tree Cordial, Udolpho Wolfe's Aromatic Schnapps, Warner's Safe Kidney & Liver Cure, and Dr. J. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. The bottles below once contained hair care products.



© GLENN VOGEL

sites will be considered old enough to dig.

In the cities you'll find backyard outhouse pits (which were used for dumping prior to trash collecting), while in the country large farm dumps often contain decades of continuous dumping. If you are lucky enough to discover an undisturbed site, it can provide months — even years — of steady digging. Medium sized villages often collectively wagoned their garbage to a town fill area. These can be an acre in diameter and up to 25 feet deep.

### *Amateur Archeologists*

I first dug bottles as a teen in the mid 1970s. As an adult, in the early 1990s, my interest was reawakened. The second time around I was lucky enough to read a newspaper article about Glenn Vogel, a shore area digger. He introduced me to the Jersey Shore Bottle Club of Belmar, which was founded in 1970, and its 50 plus members. Every member is an expert in a specific field of local history; the knowledge I began to absorb seemed boundless.

### *Types of Bottles to Be Found*

- Patent medicines
- Prescription medicines (local)
- Whiskeys and wines
- Beer and sodas (usually local)
- Carboys (up to 5 gallons for spirits, water and chemicals)
- Food
- Eyewashes
- Chemical
- Milks (usually local)
- Cosmetics and perfumes
- Mineral waters
- Poisons
- Inks and master inks
- Stoneware and earthenware vessels
- Hair products



© GLENN VOGEL

The blue umbrella ink in the center of this group of colored ink wells (left) is a rare find.

Treasures other than bottles can be unearthed in dumps. These artifacts from the South Amboy site include (opposite page, clockwise from upper right) a mug, marble, clay pipe, rare Rockingham pen holder, pot lid, more marbles, another clay pipe, a soap dish, yellowware pudding mold and stoneware bottle.

What a find! Glen Vogel (opposite page) holds a rare DP & Co. coffin-shaped poison he unearthed in 1994. With only about three of these 7-inch poisons known to exist, they are much desired by poison collectors.

Fewer than 10 members of the group are active diggers, but through the club I fell into league with them and other diggers around the state. I began to trade site locations and dig with many of these amateur archeologists as I entered a fraternity of treasure hunters, a brotherhood of local preservationists.

One quickly learns, though, that digging has its down side. The biggest is disappointment. There are moments of great excitement, but many more broken bottles, empty holes and bad tips. The winter brings frigid feet and frozen ground; the summer, intense heat and incessant bugs. Diggers are very territorial, and many partnerships sink under the weight of envy and that hard-to-define set of rules called “digger’s etiquette.”

In the end, though, a desire to explore the ground and discover what lies under the surface will keep one in the field. It’s that simple.

Seasoned diggers, like professional athletes, face constant tests of strength and endurance. They hike for miles through harsh conditions looking for needles in haystacks. They pick through many layers of construction fill to get to thin trash pockets. They risk injury while carefully prying ancient treasures from under tons of earth. But they don’t give up and rarely become victims of their efforts. I’ve never known anyone seriously hurt in the field, because most diggers use necessary precautions.

If you’re new to digging, it is important either to ally yourself with a digging veteran or to join a local club until you gain experience and make connections. Dig in the spring or fall (when conditions are ideal), bring plenty of water and protect yourself against ticks and poison ivy. New diggers should never dig alone or, more importantly, never dig over head height. Tunneling also should be avoided by inexperienced diggers.

Joining a club is not the only way to obtain information leading to a dig. Others include: library research, old maps, talking to seniors, investigating old properties and hiking the woods around early farms. When searching on private property, be sure to get permission first.

## *A Prolific Site*

In 1993, I was introduced to a large dump in South Amboy (Middlesex County). Glenn Vogel and I were brought to the site by a fellow club member, who eventually got bogged down by work and had to stop digging with us. Glenn and I continued to excavate this very productive site for three years.

South Amboy was a wide, deep — 20 feet at its center — town dump, covering at least half an acre. The fill site had originally been a depression, or sink, with a spring located at the bottom. By the late 1870s, the sink was being dumped in, with sand being deposited between garbage layers.

The trash continued about every three feet, with each successive stratum containing slightly newer material. The final bed, covered by a few feet of construction fill, was from the Depression era. The cap (or top) was very hard to penetrate and nearly impossible to open when frozen.

## *New Jersey Bottle Clubs*

- **North Jersey Antique Bottle Collectors Association**  
36 William Street, Lincoln Park, NJ 07035
- **Central Jersey Bottle Club**  
92 North Main Street, New Egypt, NJ 08533
- **Jersey Shore Bottle Club**  
P.O. Box 995, Toms River, NJ 08754
- **South Jersey Heritage Bottle and Glass Collectors**  
P.O. Box #122, Glassboro, NJ 08028
- **New Jersey Antique Bottle Club**  
376 Highland Street, South Amboy, NJ 08879



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© BARRY KENNER

From the mid 1800s until the early 20th century, South Amboy was home to several potteries, mostly located within shouting distance from our dig. The factories were known for their salt glazed stoneware and Rockingham earthenware with its fancy yellow-brown glaze. These potters used our dump for decades and several fine pieces were uncovered.

Winter of 1993-94 brought many frigid days and just as many inches of frozen ground to the South Amboy crew. Although you should not, as a rule, dig down and then tunnel horizontally, the winter of 1994 was a cold exception. With the earth being locked up to a depth of two feet, a shaft was not only safe, it was the *only* way to dig. We worked our bottle mine for almost three weeks, harvesting a rich crop of glass, stoneware, pottery, clay pipes, porcelain doll heads, coins and more.

A couple of weeks passed before I was able to poke an animal-sized hole through the still frozen ground to dig in another location. By the beginning of April I had a seven-foot deep pit constructed but my efforts were mostly in vain. The pit yielded little, but I persevered. By mid month, Glenn was able to take a breather from work and rejoin me.

The day of our fateful find began as a comedy of errors. Glenn arrived at my house late and tired. I was likewise exhausted from a long week. To add to our woes, Route 35 was detoured above Cliffwood Beach. Glenn almost went home but we jumped on the Parkway instead, finally arriving at the site unenthusiastic and limp.

I had planned on widening our hole as it was a little tight for two people but our hearts just weren't in it. After an hour of uneventful digging, Glenn looked at me blankly and announced that he was climbing out. He sat down on the upper lip (used for getting up and down and for a ladder when needed) and casually began to paw at the higher level with a small tool. I chuckled to myself as Glenn pulled out one junky machine made bottle after another. At least down in the hole I had a chance — or so I thought!

## Poison!

Soon he exposed the base of a large cobalt blue bottle and carefully began to peel dirt away from the piece. It looked good from where I stood, so I quickly crawled up to get a better view. Like a surgeon, he cradled his hand into the pocket formed beneath the glass. He looked up with glee — “hobnailing!” This meant it had to be a poison (a bottle that was originally filled with a toxic substance). The points of glass alerted holders to the bottle's dangerous contents.

Slowly, he wrenched the antique from its long rest. It was a poison — and what a poison! The treasure was a coffin figural (or a bottle in the shape of a coffin) with hobnails skirting both edges where the word “poison” was prominently displayed. On the bottle's face, a large, haunting, skull and crossbones stared at us from across the years. Below this were raised glass letters: a “D” laced with a “P” and intertwined with “Co.” This was the company's monogram. The poison was mold blown, 7 inches tall, about 90 years old and in mint condition.

Glenn sold the piece for a cool \$3,000 within a week. It later was resold for much more than that. It turned out to be one of only three poisons of this type known in this size — one of the finds of the century.

Glenn and I are still digging bottles, although every year it seems to get tougher to find the time. Glenn once told me that guys like us have molten glass, rather than blood, running through their veins — I think he's right! I've been an amateur archeologist for six years and can't imagine going through my week without digging. If you get the bug and dig the glass, you'll find old bottles and your life will be enriched.

*Glenn Harbour, a folk artist and antique bottle digger, lives in Middletown.*

*Editor's Note: For a historical perspective on New Jersey glass, see pages 25-30 of New Jersey Outdoors' Spring 1996 issue.*

Today, the Cape May Lighthouse is one of only three land base towers in New Jersey that remain active.





# Pointing the Way: New Jersey's Maritime Landmarks

by Tom Laverty

Encountering a lighthouse, whether by choice or accident, is a moment of excitement. Having worked for the last 12 years at the Navesink Twin Lights, I often take the building for granted and forget how fascinating a place it can be. It takes the excited conversation of visitors describing the spectacular view of the New York skyline, or the bustle of children who cannot wait to climb the castle-like tower, to remind me.

It is amazing that people will drive miles out of their way to find a lighthouse, or stand in a line to climb the stairs to the top of one. Recently, I attended a celebration at a 140-year-old lighthouse, standing in the freezing cold on a January afternoon with politicians, school children and other enthusiasts to witness the relighting of the tower. Perhaps you think that this behavior is a bit bizarre, but have you ever taken the time to visit one? As a historic attraction, it is not uncommon for a single lighthouse to draw 80,000 to 100,000 people annually. And if the proliferation of lighthouse collectibles, books and memorabilia is any indication, Americans *love* lighthouses.

New Jersey at one time had about 39 lighthouses, light ships, and range lights that guarded the state's shoreline. A century ago, all of these navigational aides were needed to guide mariners' vessels past dangerous obstructions. Today's sophisticated technology has, for the most part, rendered these stately structures obsolete. Still, the architecture, history, and beauty of lighthouses draw people and have inspired many to form groups to preserve them for the future.

## Legacy of the Ancients

Lighthouses are a rich part of our maritime history. The Egyptians built the first known light tower on the former island of Pharos around the year 300 B.C. It guided vessels in and out of the port of Alexandria until the 13th century. Present day archeologists, working to document another underwater site in the harbor there, have uncovered what they believe to be remnants of this early structure. These researchers are attempting to record and document their findings so maritime historians will have a better understanding of the importance the tower once had to early maritime trade.

In America, the first lighthouse was built in 1716 on Little Brewster Island in Boston Harbor. It lasted until the Revolutionary War, when the British military blew up the top of the tower to prevent American vessels from using the beacon for navigation. The lighthouse was not rebuilt until after the war.

Ten other colonial lights were built in America, but most of these have disappeared.

© MICHAEL S. MILLER

Currently undergoing restoration, the Absecon Lighthouse (below) will be painted orange and black, the colors it sported from 1925 until its decommissioning in 1933.

In 1898, New Jersey's only double light towers, Navesink Twin Lights (opposite page), became the first lighthouse in the country to use electricity.



The Sandy Hook lighthouse, in New Jersey, is the only one of those early beacons that has survived into the 20th century. It is now the oldest operating light in the country.

These early lighthouses were built with money raised through lotteries or levies on cargo brought into port and collected by the local customs collector. The individual states had control of their lighthouses — although in the case of Sandy Hook, New York owned the building on New Jersey land.

## Washington (D.C.) Steps In

Navigational aids were placed under the control of the federal government in 1789. Although President Washington was involved in making decisions about hiring keepers and even purchasing a piece of chain for the Cape Henry Light, direct management responsibility belonged to Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton. As government grew, the duties of administration had to be delegated and, by 1820, the fifth auditor of the Treasury Department, Stephen Pleasonton, was in charge.

During Pleasonton's tenure only a few lighthouses were constructed in New Jersey. The first of three Cape May towers was built in 1823, but had to be replaced 24 years later, because the first structure fell into the advancing ocean. The first Navesink Twin Lights and first Barnegat towers were built in 1828 and 1835, respectively.

## A Boom Time Begins

In 1852, the Lighthouse Board, formed by Congress to inspect and report on the condition of all navigational aids in the country, took over the administration of the Lighthouse Service. Thus began one of the most active and ambitious periods of lighthouse construction in the nation's history.

A majority of the surviving New Jersey towers — East Point, Absecon, Barnegat, Cape May, Navesink Twin Lights, Hereford Inlet, Sea Girt and Finns Point — were built or reconstructed between 1855 and 1896. Many of the offshore towers and range lights also were established.

In the early 20th century, Congress became concerned that the Lighthouse Board was too cumbersome to manage the now enormous system. It appointed a Commissioner of Lighthouses in the Department of Commerce to take the helm. Finally, in 1939, the Lighthouse Service was merged with the United States Coast Guard.

By this time, the age of electronics had dawned and it became cheaper and more efficient to use unmanned automated lights in many places. One by one the lighthouses fell dark — Absecon in 1933, Barnegat in 1944, Navesink in 1949 — until today only Sandy Hook, Cape May and the Tinticum Rear Range Light (Billingsport) remain as active land base towers. Many offshore lights still operate, but even they are being replaced by less expensive and more efficient navigational aids. There are no longer any manned lighthouses in New Jersey; in fact, only one United States light, at Boston, has a keeper.

## Partnerships for Preservation

Fortunately for those who enjoy lighthouses, many of New Jersey's have been preserved and restored. Nearly all the surviving land based lighthouses have groups caring for them. The state is the largest owner, maintaining stewardship of Twin Lights, Barnegat, Absecon, and Cape May. These four impressive seacoast lighthouses are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Parks and Forestry, which has used some creative partnerships to ensure their survival.

At Twin Lights, for example, the division has spent millions of dollars from federal, state, and private sources on site preservation. Last year, a joint venture with the Twin Lights Historical Society culminated in the opening of a new, permanent ex-

## Exhibits at Twin Lights

Perched 200 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, the Navesink Twin Lights was the seacoast lighthouse most mariners watched for while entering the busy New York Harbor. The location of New Jersey's only double light towers made them an extremely important navigational aid and one that received a lot of attention. It was the first lighthouse in the country to use two French-made Fresnel lenses, the first seacoast station to use kerosene and, in 1898, the first to

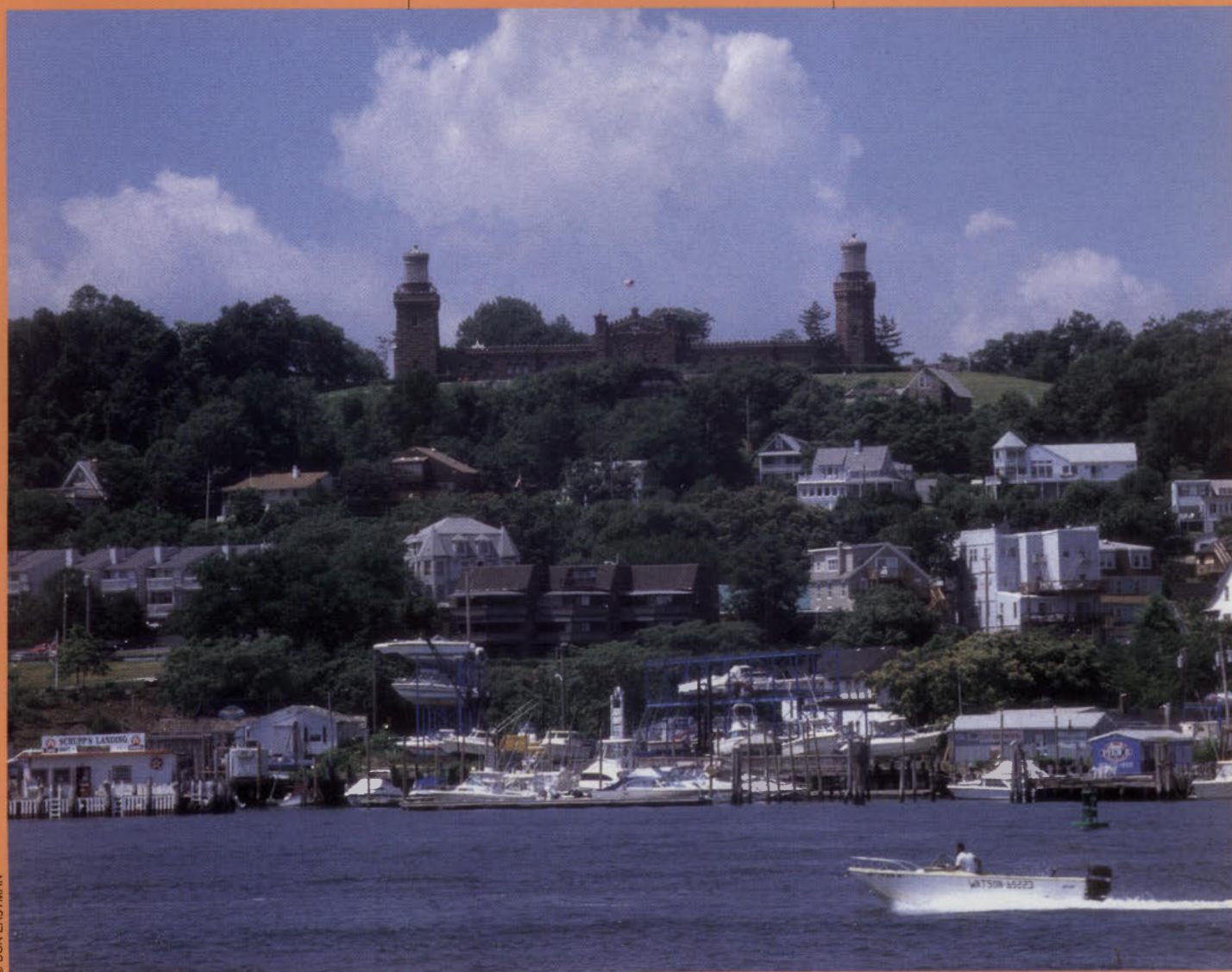
use electricity. Twin Lights had one of the brightest lights in the country at 25 million candlepower.

In 1899, Guglielmo Marconi chose the site as the location for his receiving equipment used to demonstrate wireless telegraph. Marconi's reports about the progress of the America's Cup sailboat races from the course off Sandy Hook, to the lighthouse in Highlands, was the first American use of that technology.

Today Twin Lights Historic Site continues to attract a lot of attention. Last year more than 85,000 visitors took in the scenic views, climbed the tower, and toured the building. And a new, permanent exhibit, titled *The Navesink Twin*

*Lights: Beacons of Safe Haven*, opened in the north gallery of the complex. The exhibit was a joint effort between the Division of Parks and Forestry and The Twin Lights Historical Society, each contributing 50 percent of the \$200,000 final cost. The new exhibit highlights the history of the lighthouse, navigational aids in New Jersey, and the history of another maritime organization, the United States Life Saving Service.

The public can view the exhibit Wednesday to Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., year round. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the building is open seven days a week.



Barnegat Lighthouse (below, left), centerpiece of the state park that bears its name, is one of several lighthouses owned by New Jersey.

Sandy Hook Lighthouse (below, right) is now the oldest operating light in the country.

Volunteers have planted beautiful flower gardens at the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse (opposite page).

hibit about the history of the lighthouse. The society also has been involved with many other Twin Lights projects, including providing volunteers to assist the state staff in opening the building to visitors.

Further south along the coast, "Old Barney" has served as the centerpiece for the state park at Barnegat Lighthouse since 1926. The tower is probably the best known of all New Jersey lighthouses, and has undergone several restorations. At Absecon, the division has leased the historic structure to the Inlet Public/Private Association of Atlantic City, which has been able to raise \$2.5 million from casino and government grant programs. The money will be used to restore the tower and build a replica of the keeper's house, which will be used for public exhibit space and association offices.

Cape May Lighthouse is leased to the state by the United States Coast Guard. The Mid Atlantic Center for the Arts (MAC) sub-leases it from the Division of Parks and Forestry and is responsible for restoring, maintaining, and opening the light to visitors. In 1993, MAC hired a contractor to remove the entire lantern on top of the 157 foot high tower, repair it, and put it back in place. The light tower also was repainted in its 1890 color scheme.



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Public interest in New Jersey lighthouses is so strong that, in 1990, a group formed to provide people with an opportunity to learn and share information.

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### Local Groups Save Lights

The state is not the only organization successful in preserving lighthouses. Local groups have been equally active in places like Sea Girt. The town formed a citizens committee to spearhead the preservation of their light. Using private monies they were able to restore the building and today use it as a center for community events. The town of North Wildwood has done the same for the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse. The structure now serves as a tourist information center and contains a small museum about the history of the inlet area. Volunteers there have planted beautiful flower gardens on the property.

Just up from Cape May, where the Maurice River empties into the Delaware, is the East Point Lighthouse. Vandals started a fire here in 1971, burning the original tower and roof and devastating the interior. Since acquiring the property in the 1970s, the Maurice River Historical Society has been working steadily to stabilize and restore the lighthouse. The group has been able to raise enough money to reconstruct the light tower and to paint the exterior of the building. New floors and stairs have been put in, permitting access to the top. Last year the group received a grant to have a historic structures report done; this study will guide their restoration efforts in the future.

Finns Point Rear Range Light sits on property managed by the Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, not far from Fort Mott State Park, in Pennsville. Range lights were pairs of lighthouses standing as much as a mile or more apart. Mariners used them by lining up one beacon over top of the other as they navigated through a channel. As long as this alignment was maintained, a sailor could be reasonably sure the vessel was safe. The range was taken out of service in 1950, after the channel shifted. In the 1970s, a "save the lighthouse" committee was formed to preserve this structure. Since then, the committee has been instrumental in persuading government agencies to spend money maintaining Finns Point. The group continues its efforts and offers tours of the lighthouse.

### Saving the Past for the Future

Public interest in New Jersey lighthouses is so strong that, in 1990, a group formed to provide people with an opportunity to learn and share information. The New Jer-



© ROBERT E. HOMAN

sey Lighthouse Society, whose membership now exceeds 600 people, has been active in helping to bring knowledge about the history and preservation of lighthouses to public attention. The society also offers its members boat trips, lectures and meetings so that they can share with each other their interest in these stately structures. One of the society's current projects is to assist the National Park Service in opening the Sandy Hook Lighthouse for tours.

Through the diligent efforts of all these organizations, 19 of New Jersey's 39 lighthouses survive. Some of them are still endangered and need attention before the ravages of time, vandals or development permanently extinguish them.

However, if you like to climb the towers, will drive miles out of your way to find one, or simply want to have a family outing to learn more about New Jersey's lighthouse history, you will not be disappointed. From Sandy Hook to Cape May on the Atlantic Ocean, and all along the Delaware River, these landmarks are still pointing the way.

*Tom Laverty, a principal historic preservation specialist who manages Twin Lights, also is president of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society.*

Today, Sea Girt Lighthouse (opposite page, top) is used as a center for community events.

The Ship John Shoal Lighthouse (opposite page, bottom) was built in 1877 on a shoal near the mouth of the Cohansey River where, in 1797, the Ship John was cut in half in ice.

The Maurice River Historical Society has been working steadily to stabilize and restore the East Point Lighthouse (below) where, in 1971, vandals started a fire that burned the original tower and roof and devastated the interior.



© WILLIAM C. ERICKSON

# Lighthouse Information

For general information about lighthouses, contact:

- **The New Jersey Lighthouse Society**  
PO Box 4228  
Brick, NJ 08723
- **The United States Lighthouse Preservation Society**  
Box 736  
Rockport, MA 01966
- **The United States Lighthouse Society**  
244 Kearny Street - 5th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94108

For specific information or directions, contact:

- **Absecon Lighthouse**  
Inlet Public/Private Association  
300 Atlantic Avenue - Suite 102  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401  
609/449-1360
- **Barnegat Lighthouse**  
Barnegat Lighthouse State Park  
PO Box 167  
Barnegat Light, NJ 08006  
609/494-2016
- **Cape May Lighthouse**  
Mid Atlantic Center for the Arts  
PO Box 340  
1048 Washington Street  
Cape May, NJ 08204-0340  
609/884-5404
- **East Point Lighthouse**  
Maurice River Historical Society  
210 N High Street  
Millville, NJ 08332
- **Finns Point Rear Range Light**  
Refuge Manager  
Supawna Meadows NWR  
RD 3, Box 540  
Salem, NJ 08079  
609/935-1407
- **Hereford Inlet Lighthouse**  
P.O. Box 499  
North Wildwood, NJ 08260

- **Navesink Twin Lights**  
Twin Lights Historic Site  
Lighthouse Road  
Highlands, NJ 07732  
908/872-1814
- **Sandy Hook Lighthouse**  
National Park Service  
Gateway NRA - Sandy Hook Unit  
Fort Hancock, NJ 07732  
908/872-5970
- **Sea Girt Lighthouse**  
Box 83  
Sea Girt, NJ 08750  
609/974-0514

Other New Jersey lighthouses:

- **Brandywine Shoal Lighthouse**  
Located north of Lewes, DE, in Delaware Bay; maintained by Coast Guard; interior closed to public.
- **Chapel Hill Lighthouse**  
Located in Middletown; was abandoned and is now a private residence.
- **Conover Beacon Lighthouse**  
Located in Leonardo; with Chapel Hill Lighthouse, formed a pair of range lights; maintained by Coast Guard; interior closed to public.
- **Cross Ledge Lighthouse**  
Located near Brandywine Shoal; also known as Elbow of Cross Ledge Lighthouse, it was destroyed by a ship in the 1950s and only a steel skeleton and automated beacon remain.
- **Great Beds Lighthouse**  
Located in Raritan Bay; maintained by Coast Guard; interior closed to public.

- **Miah Maull Shoal Lighthouse**  
Located off Fortescue and Egg Island Point in Delaware Bay; maintained by Coast Guard; interior closed to public.
- **Robbins Reef Lighthouse**  
Located in NY Harbor; maintained by Coast Guard; interior closed to public.
- **Romer Shoal Lighthouse**  
Located in NY Harbor; maintained by Coast Guard; interior closed to public.
- **Ship John Shoal Lighthouse**  
Located in Delaware Bay, southwest of Sea Breeze; maintained by Coast Guard; interior closed to public.
- **Tinicum Rear Range Lighthouse**  
Located in Billingsport; maintained by Coast Guard; interior closed to public.
- **Tuckers Island Lighthouse**  
*Lighthouse no longer exists. History being preserved by: Barnegat Bay Decoy and Baymen's Museum*  
Tuckerton Seaport  
137 W Main Street  
PO Box 52  
Tuckerton, NJ 08087  
609/296-8868



# Summer by the Sea

by Emanuel Lekkas

Jersey City's Emanuel Lekkas, whose striking image of a crocus won top prize in the Hudson County category of our 1996 photo contest, turns his camera's eye toward Ocean Grove to capture scenes reminiscent of lazy summer days at a coastal resort.



The passing of a brief summer storm is marked by a rainbow over the Atlantic off Ocean Grove.



These charming tent-like homes (left), rented for the summer, often are occupied by one generation of a family after another.

Ocean Grove attracts visitors of varying types, such as this egret shown below.



Waves crash in the background as a seagull contemplates his next meal (below).

Early morning sunlight hits the fluttering flags and flowering porch-rail boxes of typical Ocean Grove homes (bottom).

Families heading for sand and surf make their own "baby vehicle parking lot" at the edge of the boardwalk (right).





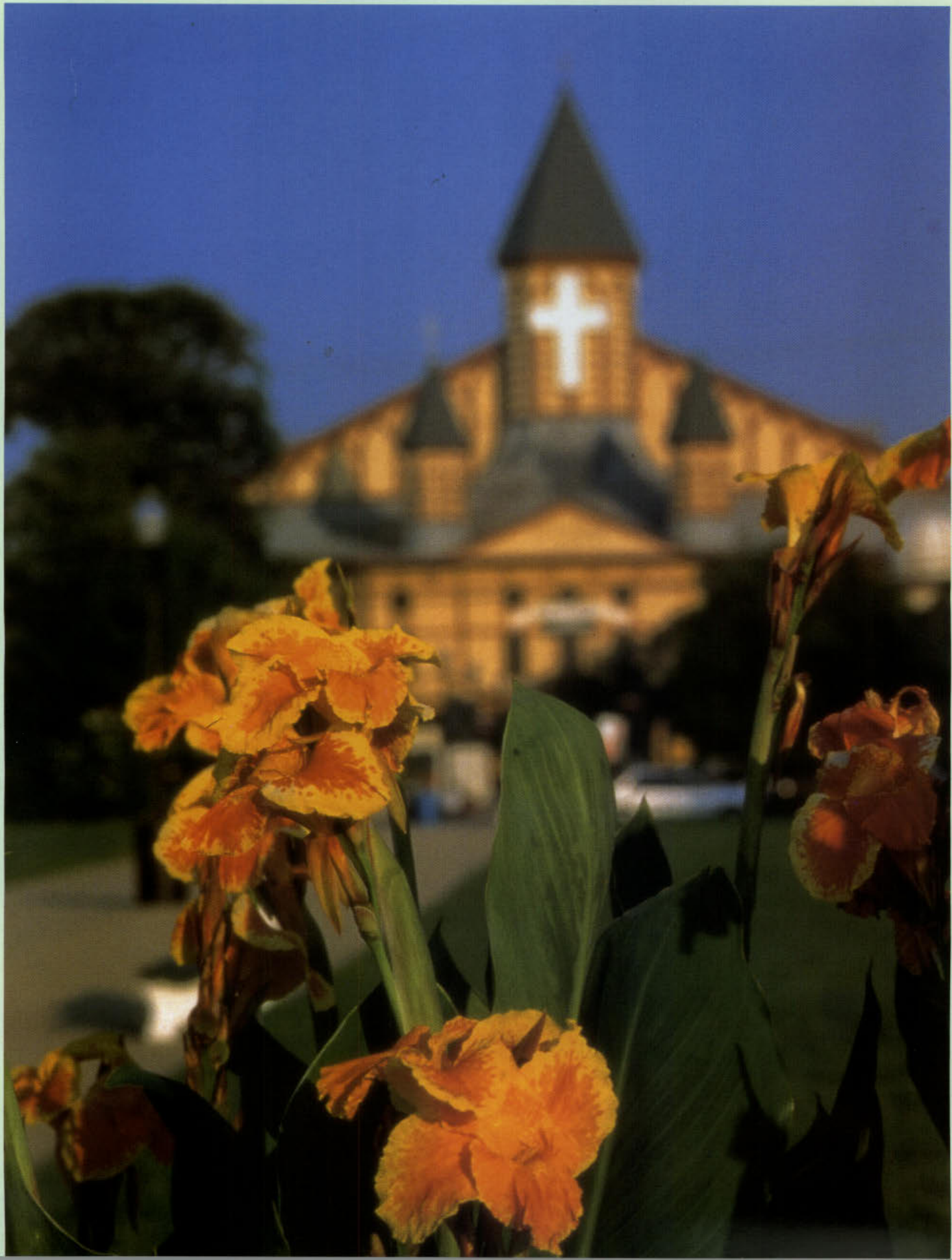
The Ocean Grove Fishing Pier is a "members only" institution (below).

Waves drench pilings near the pier (opposite page).



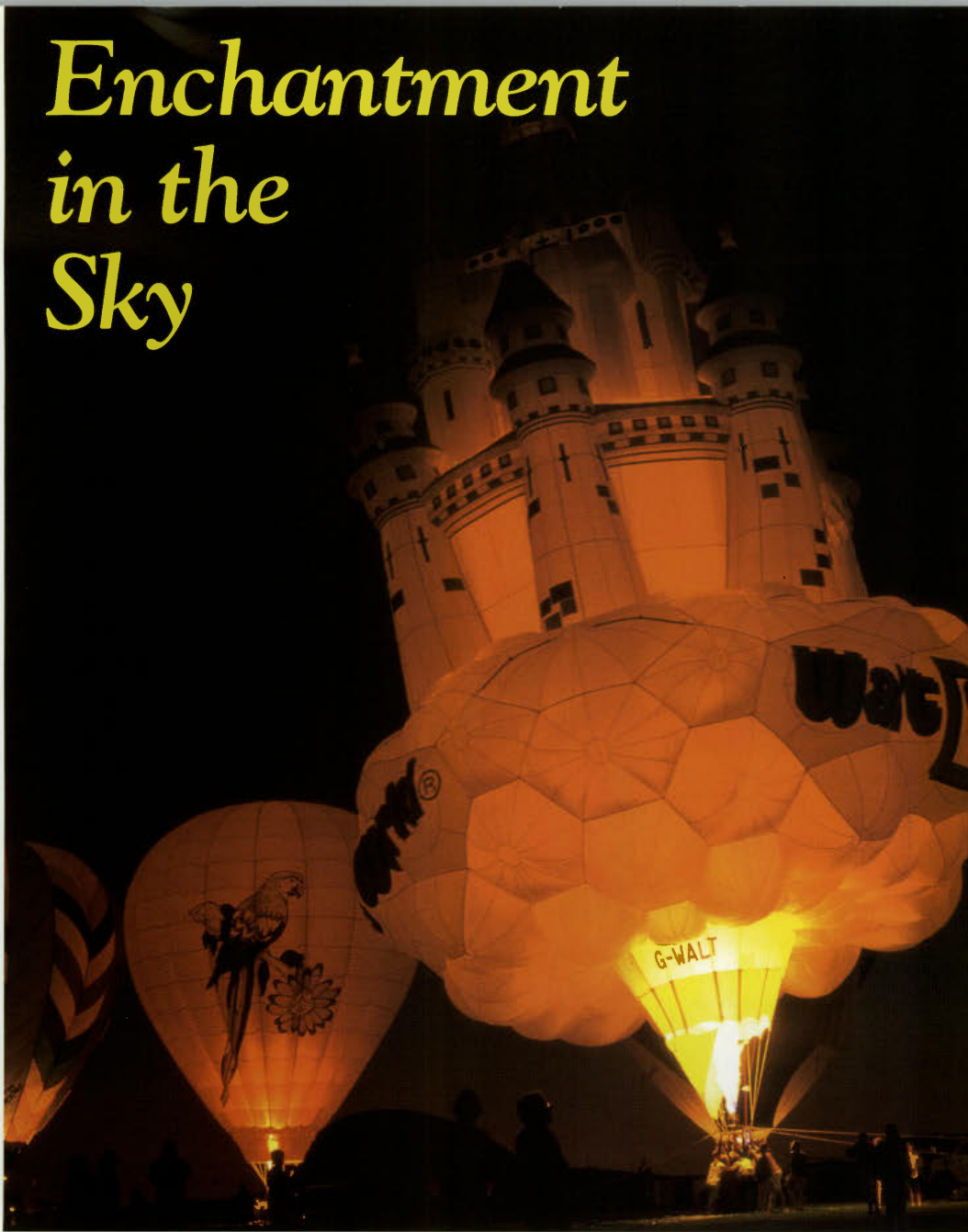


Flowers frame Ocean  
Grove's auditorium.



# Enchantment in the Sky

The glow of this "castle in the sky" lights up the night at The Magic of Alexandria balloon festival.



© JIM GRANELLI

by Dory Devlin

Seven miles east of the Pennsylvania border, where you can still find farms amid grand estates and newer housing developments in New Jersey, lies a small airport, Alexandria Field. It's the kind of place where there are no commuter flights, where the pilots of Cessnas and Piper Cubs know each other and where people learn to fly.

It's here in Pittstown that William Fritsche carved the airport's first runway 52 years ago from the Hunterdon County farmland tilled by his wife's family since the mid 1800s. Dairy farming was Fritsche's business, but flying was his love. He managed to combine the two. The cows didn't mind. For many years they shared the runway with the planes, prompting the pilots to pass low over the field once to move the herd before landing.

"It's a throwback to airports the way they were run 40 years ago," says Kevin Olsen, a pilot who also runs a hot-air balloon

business at the airport. "It's refreshing to see it. With everything just being sold, it's nice to see somebody holding onto the old ways."

Since William Fritsche's death in a plane crash in 1979, his family has had lots of opportunities to sell their valuable land to developers. But the airport remains, run by Fritsche's grown children. The cows are still there, too, though not on the runways. And there are some hay fields, but the family leases land to farmers for both operations.

Some things have changed at the airport since the elder Fritsche, an Army Air Corps flight instructor during World War II, ran the place. There's a helicopter service, a skydive school and, on the first weekend of every August, a major hot-air balloon festival that draws tens of thousands to the small rural airport.

## Up, Up and Away

Linda Fritsche Castner, who left her job as product manager for Johnson & Johnson's "Live for Life" fitness center development program 10 years ago to work full time at the airport with her brother and husband, has run The Magic of Alexandria balloon festival for the past eight years. She launched Up, Up and Away in Hunterdon, Inc., to run the festival after it was first held at the airport nine years ago by other organizers.

This year, Alexandria Field will play host to between 80 and 100 hot-air balloons on August 1, 2 and 3. Scheduled annually a week apart from another major balloon event, the New Jersey Festival of Ballooning at nearby Solberg Airport, The Magic of Alexandria has helped establish the skies over Hunterdon County as prime ballooning territory.

"I've flown over a lot of places in the United States and Europe and it's hard to beat Hunterdon County. It's just gorgeous around here," says Olsen, who holds the balloonmeister title for the second year in the Magic of Alexandria festival. As such, he coordinates the balloon launches that will send the colorful vessels, some shaped like Disney characters, others just traditional balloons, into the air.

Castner is working with Disney's balloon program organizers to bring some of the company's specially shaped balloons to The Magic of Alexandria this year. And Denny Fleck, a Tewksbury balloonist who operates the Forbes Company's balloons, will return to the festival this year with one of the 12 Forbes balloons.

Malcolm Forbes, the late New Jersey publisher known for his motorcycle riding and Fabergé egg collection, also drew a lot of attention with his hot-air ballooning hobby. Aside from setting six world ballooning records in 1973, including the first successful flight across the United States, Forbes helped widen the appeal of the sport and pioneered the creation of special-shaped balloons. Among his collection were ones fashioned like a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, his French chateau and a macaw. These days, balloons shaped like animals, balloon characters, cellular phones and soda cans can be found at balloon festivals nationwide.

Forbes found what many balloonists who followed him did: That the skies above western New Jersey make for some beautiful vistas of hilly, green terrain below, smooth sailing in air free of electrical lines and safe landings on wide open farmland.

## Friendly Farmers; Friendly Skies

Hunterdon County's farmers are a friendly bunch when it comes to the balloon landings, but hot-air ballooning legend has it that not all landowners were always so welcoming. The sport of ballooning dates to 1783, the year the experimenting Mongolfier brothers sent the first gas-heated balloon into the sky in Annonay, France. Later that same year, the first manned flight took off in Paris. The sport soon caught on in France, but



© JIM GRANELLI

many a farmer, frightened by the foreboding sight of a fire-fueled monstrosity descending onto his land, would greet the fliers with pitchforks. The legend continues that the savvy balloon pilots quickly took to carrying the product of the region — champagne — on their flights so they could immediately offer the bubbly to agitated farmers upon landing.

The tradition endures today, with balloon rides, typically costing between \$150 and \$175 an hour, ending with a champagne toast.

At The Magic of Alexandria, balloon rides will be offered for \$165. Evening ascensions are scheduled at 6:00 each night of the weekend event.

Even if you don't want to take a ride in a balloon, there's more to do at The Magic of Alexandria than just watch the colorful ascensions from the ground. The festival offers lots of family-oriented activities, including musical entertainment, children's shows and air shows. Arts and crafts vendors will sell their wares and



© BRECK P. KENT



© JIM GRANELLI

Youngsters of all ages are delighted by hot-air balloons of all shapes and sizes, such as this "sneaker" balloon (opposite page).

Perennial favorites include Planter's Mr. Peanut (above, top) and Disney character Mickey Mouse (above).

## Love at First Flight

Kevin Olsen remembers the day more than 20 years ago he looked skyward from his Montgomery Township home and saw a hot-air balloon flying by.

"They were rare at that time," says Olsen. The former Army Air Force fighter pilot and Eastern Airlines pilot had done just about every other kind of flying, but he'd never been in a balloon. "I had to do it," he says.

Like other balloonists, Olsen says he took his first flight in a balloon and was hooked. What he loves is the challenge of steering the cumbersome craft with measured blasts of propane and a sometimes fickle wind, and the feeling of floating, just floating.

"At one point in my career, I was flying airplanes that go 1,600 miles an hour," he says. "Jets are so incredibly maneuverable. With balloons, all you have is up and down control, so it's a real challenge to conduct a smooth flight and safe landing. I seem to be happiest when I'm challenged."

Balloon pilots who spend the time crewing for other pilots before they get their own licenses and then lay out the cash for what is not an inexpensive hobby all talk of being smitten during their first ride. Strong words like love come up when they describe the allure of the sport.

"I fell in love with it my

first flight up," says Denny Fleck who, as the late publisher Malcolm Forbes' chauffeur, in 1972 took his first balloon ride with his boss. Forbes is credited with bringing a lot of attention to the sport, and he was one of the first to collect specially shaped balloons.

"It was just like falling in love," recalls Fleck, who 25 years later still operates the Forbes balloon collection, as well as his own balloon business, Tewksbury Balloon Adventures in Oldwick. "I couldn't get it off my mind."

Don Matthews learned to fly a balloon from Olsen, who runs his Alexandria Balloon Flights business at Alexandria Field Airport. After crewing for Olsen, Matthews and Jim Kelly bought their own equipment and started a balloon flights business of their own, Hot Air Affair Inc., in Belle Mead.

"Every time I go up it's the same. I love to fly," says Matthews. "I enjoy just going up, period. It's a great feeling to go up in a balloon."

A new balloon and basket can cost about \$25,000, while a vehicle to hold it and a ground crew to drive it and meet you at a landing site can cost about the same. That's why many balloon pilots start a side business in the hopes of paying for their hobby and, possibly, making some extra money while do-

ing something they like.

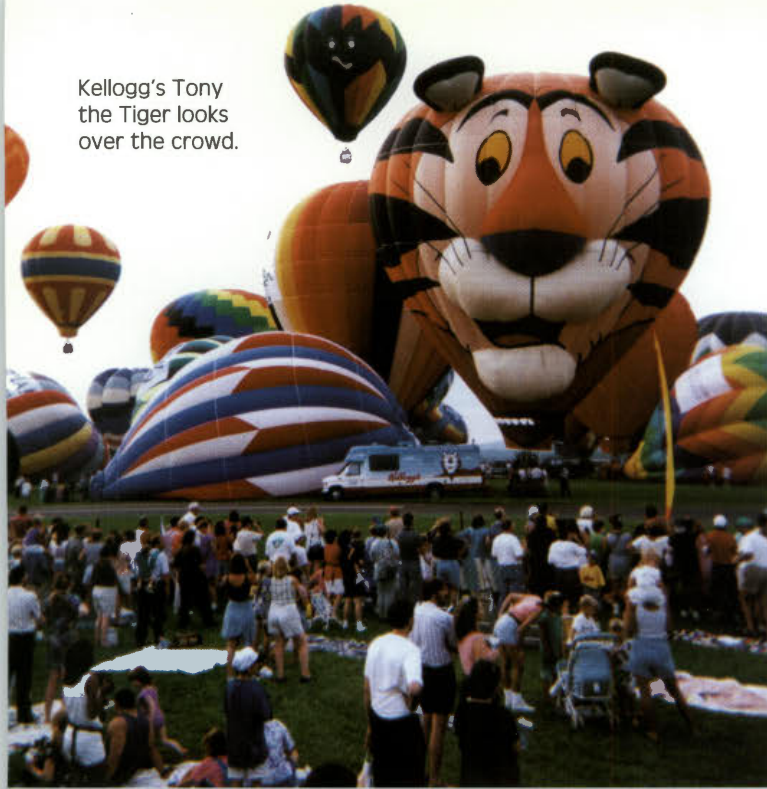
Matthews, a self-employed building contractor, finds ballooning a stress reliever and an escape from his day job. It's also a great way to meet some interesting people, he and other balloonists agree. The kind of people who pay the \$150 to \$175 an hour for a balloon ride range from millionaires to those with modest incomes. But they all share one thing, says Olsen. "They all have a real zest for life," he says.

What ballooning offers, aside from the awesome feeling of floating along the treetops, is a unique view of the world below, pilots say.

"You see the world from a truer, wonderful perspective," says Olsen. If he were born in another time, Olsen says he would have been a barnstormer, whimsically entertaining crowds in an airplane. But he wasn't, so he is content to float in the heavens in a hot-air balloon. As balloonmeister of The Magic of Alexandria balloon festival, he will coordinate the mass ascensions of between 80 and 100 balloons to dazzle the crowds below.

"Ballooning is the closest thing to modern-day barnstorming," he says.

Kellogg's Tony the Tiger looks over the crowd.



COURTESY OF THE MAGIC OF ALEXANDRIA BALLOON FESTIVAL

## On the First Weekend in August, All Roads Lead to Alexandria

If you plan to go to The Magic of Alexandria balloon festival, your best bet is to buy tickets in advance. Advance tickets cost \$9 per adult, \$1 for children ages 6-12. At the gate, ticket prices rise to \$12 for adults and \$3 for children ages 6-12. Children 5 and under are free. For information on how and where to buy tickets, balloon flights and a schedule of events, call 908/735-0870.

**WHEN:** August 1, 2 and 3.

**WHERE:** Alexandria Field Airport, Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County. Airport Road off Route 625. Airport Road is closed to through traffic during the festival. The entrance to Airport Road is off Route 625 only.

**DIRECTIONS:** From the North/East/Northeast: Route 287, the Garden State Parkway, Route 22 or the N.J. Turnpike to Interstate 78 West. Route 78 West to Exit 12. Left at the end of the exit. Left at traffic light. Follow Route 625 South. Cross over Route 579. Continue on Route 625 to Airport Road.

From Southwest Jersey/Trenton/Philadelphia Area: I-95 North to Route 29 North (to Frenchtown). Right onto Route 513 out of Frenchtown, toward Pittstown. After Everittstown turn left on Route 625 North to Airport Road on left.

From the West: Interstate 78 East to Exit 12. Left at end of ramp, then right at light. Follow the above North/East directions the rest of the way.

food from a variety of local restaurants will be plentiful.

"This is the kind of a festival where you bring grandma and you bring the little guy in the stroller and everybody in between," says Castner.

Recent years have seen crowds as high as 55,000 and 60,000 at the festival. That's a lot of people to bring to a small country airport accessible by only one road, Route 625. When Castner ponders what her father would think of such a huge event at the airport, she isn't sure, especially since the crowds are coming to see balloons, not planes.

"He was very staunch on primary flight instruction," Castner says. "He didn't like parachutes or gliders." But like Castner, her father was an entrepreneur, and she thinks he would admire her entrepreneurial approach to bringing people and visibility to their small family airport. The festival was named the Best Event of 1993 by the Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism and received the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce 1994 Entrepreneur of the Year award.

### A Family Affair

Linda Fritsche Castner says people still stop by the airport as frequently as once a week to drop off large checks as down payments on the land. But the family is committed to holding on to the majority of the 250-acre tract, and to keep what their father started going, she says.

"I think it's less difficult for us than for other people who bought an airport to manage," Castner says of the family's ability to resist development pressure. "I can look out a window here and see where I first soloed, where my sisters soloed, where my brother soloed," she adds, recalling the flight lessons she and her three siblings got from their father. "All of us were 16 when we soloed. You had to solo on your 16th birthday even if it was raining."

Flying was in the family blood on both sides. Fritsche learned to fly in the 1930s from his brother-in-law, Martin Everett, a barnstormer, a navy flight instructor and, later, a Pan Am pilot. Fritsche turned down a job as an American Airlines pilot to stay with the family farm. His son, Will, is a pilot for TWA and followed his father into the Alexandria mayor's seat.

Will Fritsche also is general manager of airport operations; his sister Linda's husband, Lee, handles daily airport operations. Eighteen years after Fritsche's death, they still hear from people who learned to fly from Fritsche.

All this helps explain why Alexandria Field Airport remains despite the pressure from developers. The family ties are strong.

"To fly over here and see it covered with houses would not be worth it," says Will Fritsche.

*Dory Devlin, a freelance writer who resides in Basking Ridge, is a periodic contributor to New Jersey Outdoors.*

# Giving Wildlife a SECOND CHANCE



© ROBERT T. ZAPPALORTI

by Lynn Pasquarella and Anita Petito

When the little gray squirrel was brought to the wildlife rehabilitator's home one evening last summer, it was lying on its side, unable to stand. Four months earlier, the orphan had been rescued by a well-meaning man who had raised it on a variety of nuts and other foods. Based on its weak appearance and diet history, it was obvious that the squirrel was suffering from metabolic bone disease.

Metabolic bone disease is a term used to describe a variety of illnesses due to improper calcium balance or absorption. Wildlife rehabilitators often see this condition after someone has tried to save an orphaned baby animal by using infant formulas and "natural" foods. Reconstructing the natural diet

of a wild animal to provide essential nutrients often is impossible.

In the wild, after weaned from their mother, juvenile squirrels eat a variety of foods, including seeds, fruit, fungi and tree buds, thereby balancing their diet. They also gnaw on bones and dropped deer antlers to fulfill their calcium requirements. Nut are part of the gray squirrel's diet, but have little or no calcium. Raised primarily on nut meats, juvenile squirrels will develop weak bones, spontaneous fractures and neurologic symptoms from calcium deficiency.

The ailing squirrel was critical, its survival questionable. The rehabilitator treated it with a human calcium supplement and fed it an animal replacement formula and nutritionally complete weaning diet. To everyone's relief, it im-

## Birdfoot's Grampa

by Joseph Bruchac

The Old Man  
must have stopped our car  
two dozen times to climb out  
and gather into his hands  
the small toads blinded  
by our lights and leaping  
like live drops of rain.

The rain was falling,  
a mist around his white hair,  
and I kept saying,  
"You can't save them all,  
accept it, get in,  
we've got places to go."

But, leathery hands full  
of wet brown life,  
knee deep in the summer  
roadside grass,  
he just smiled and said,  
"They have places to go, too."

"Birdfoot's Grampa" by Joseph Bruchac  
from *Entering Onandaga* (© 1975)  
Reprinted with permission.

A rehabber hand-feeds an abandoned baby squirrel (above) that later was released into the wild.

An injured opossum (right) is examined after being discovered in a trash can.

A dog used this box turtle (below) as a chew-toy.



© LYNN PASQUARELLA

proved rapidly and soon regained its strength and agility. It eventually was placed with another orphaned juvenile squirrel to learn proper social skills. Later that summer, both were released, healthy and strong, scampering and enjoying their new-found freedom.

The man who had rescued the now-recovered squirrel was understandably upset that his good intentions had led to its illness. Until a friend recommended that he bring the squirrel to the wildlife rehabilitator, he was unaware that such individuals even existed. In fact, trained rehabilitators in New Jersey, working at home or at rehabilitation centers, treat thousands of wild animals each year. In 1995, the most recent year for which statistics are available, more than 19,000 wild animals were brought to New Jersey's licensed wildlife rehabilitators.

### Trained and Caring

"This trained corps of volunteers performs a great public service," says Larry Herrighty, chief of the Endangered and

Nongame Species Program for the state Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife.

"They give ill and injured wildlife a second chance through proper treatment and, by being available to handle these creatures, they reduce the risk of injury to untrained citizens.

"Fish, Game and Wildlife also benefits tremendously, since we don't have the resources to care for individual animals. We manage New Jersey's wildlife resources on a population level, and are especially grateful that rehabbers are available to treat and care for injured eagles and other endangered species."

### Nice to Meet You

While some homeowners first meet a rehabilitator in the course of trying to solve a wildlife nuisance problem — rehabbers can recommend humane and

inexpensive remedies for most situations — for most, their first acquaintance comes when they happen upon a distressed animal. Recent surges in development have forced humans into closer proximity with wild animals and, as a result, more wildlife have become victims of human-related activities. Dogs and cats, domestic animals that tend to kill for pleasure rather than sustenance, account for many of the "patients" that are brought to rehabbers.

Animals also may be hit by motorists, caught on glue-boards set out to trap rodent or insect pests, poisoned by household and lawn chemicals or entangled in discarded fishing line. Diseases such as distemper and rabies, and illnesses such as the "conjunctivitis" or mycoplasma infections currently seen in house and purple finches, also take their toll on wild populations.

The months from April through September are known as "baby season," the time when rehabbers receive their heaviest patient load. Spring means the arrival of cardboard boxes full of baby animals, as landscape cleanups occasionally unearth rabbit nests; felled trees accidentally orphan baby squirrels, raccoons and birds; and the trapping and removal of "nuisance" animals lead to the orphaning of squirrels and raccoons that sometimes use attics and chimneys as their nesting sites. If a female with young is injured or killed, her babies may be found wandering in search of food and comfort.



© LYNN PASQUARELLA



Len Soucy, of the Raptor Trust, checks out an injured barn owl.

Sometimes, wild babies are inadvertently “kidnapped” by a well-meaning person who doesn’t know that, for example, unattended young are not necessarily a cause for concern. Mother rabbits leave their babies alone for hours at a time, returning only twice daily to nurse them. Does will often leave their young fawns curled up in a secluded spot while they forage, and some species of birds also spend time on the ground as youngsters, following their parents while learning how to fly and find food.

A rehabber often will ask about the circumstances under which an animal was found to determine if it is truly an orphan. This information helps to determine the course of treatment and may result in the reuniting of babies with their mother. (Contrary to popular belief, many baby animals that have been touched by humans *will* be taken back by their mothers. Birds, for example, have a poor sense of smell, and may not even detect human scent.) Regardless of the cause, though, the sight of an animal in need

Contrary to popular belief, many baby animals that have been touched by humans *will* be taken back by their mothers.

of help is a call to action for most of us.

In New Jersey, more than 100 individuals and centers are available to aid wildlife in need. Fish, Game and Wildlife issues “avian rehabilitation” permits and game “cooperator” licenses to qualified individuals. The agency also issues “scientific holding” permits, such as the one under which the Marine Mammal Stranding Center operates. Some rehab centers provide treatment for a variety of animals, while others specialize (e.g., the Raptor Trust deals only with avian species).

### It’s a Compulsion

To many, rehabilitation is an avocation that consumes their free time. For some individuals and established centers, it is their full-time pursuit. Karen and Dan Bonica, of Toms River Avian Care, have been rehabbing for the past 17 years.

“We feel it’s productive and positive,” says Dan Bonica. “It’s rewarding and we enjoy it. It’s part of our life. We think we are putting something back into the environment.”

In recent years, large centers and wildlife veterinarians have researched and established basic protocols for wildlife care, feeding and treatments. There is an increasing array of publications dedicated to disseminating the latest information on the care of wildlife patients. National and international conferences also make the latest findings available to the rehabber.

Veterinarians often offer their services at low or no cost to a rehabilitator. For them, it is a chance to broaden their knowledge and skills treating “exotic” species.

“Most of what we deal with are inju-

ries resulting from man’s encroachment into the animal’s habitat,” says Dr. Paul Lukianovich, of Marlton Animal Hospital. “Treating these guys makes me feel better in that I am partially responsible for their habitat loss by where I live.”

For the rehabber, working with a veterinarian is an invaluable learning experience. For most of them, networking — the sharing of successes and failures — continues to be one of their most valuable resources.

Caring for wildlife can also be an expensive proposition. There is no federal or state support for the services rehabbers provide. Many of them pay for formulas, foodstuffs, caging and medical supplies out of their own pocket.

“My expenses run from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year,” says Susan Loux, a rehabilitator from Gloucester County. “That’s for special formulas, dog food, cat food, rats, mice . . .”

Most nonprofit centers support themselves by actively soliciting members, donations, corporate sponsors and grants. Centers caring for large numbers of animals often rely heavily on volunteer labor.

### Don’t “Do it Yourself”

As tempting as it may be for the untrained person, trying to raise or treat wildlife at home is doing the animal a disservice. Meeting the specific nutritional requirements at each stage of life is essential to avoid a myriad of nutritional deficiencies that can cause illness

# To Join the Ranks . . .

To become a licensed rehabilitator in the Garden State, an applicant must complete an apprenticeship under an experienced rehabilitator for a period of one year or more. At the conclusion of the apprenticeship, which must have included a full "baby season," the licensed rehabber writes a letter of recommendation. The applicant must complete a form providing, among other things, information about the facility at which he or she works and the name of a veterinarian willing to treat

wildlife. The application also poses different situations and the rehabilitator must indicate how he or she would handle each.

Currently, the New Jersey Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators is working with Fish, Game and Wildlife to develop a comprehensive test that new rehabilitators would be required to pass before receiving their permits. These legal requirements not only protect the public from possible harm, but they assure that distressed wild animals receive the very best of care.

or even kill an animal. Most rehabbers have experienced the frustration of trying to save an animal that would have survived if it received the proper diet and medical treatment.

To give the animal its best chance for survival, immediate professional attention is critical. Proper caging allows exercise and pairing with animals of the same species provides for the development of proper social and survival skills. Animals raised alone will imprint on their human caretakers and develop improper and possibly dangerous aggressive behaviors. Imprinted animals are caught between two worlds: they have grown to rely on the caretakers for the basics of survival, food and shelter, yet instinct and sexual maturity make them wary and unpredictable.

Wild animals also can carry diseases that can infect and even kill a human if the proper precautions are not taken. Rehabilitators working with species that may become infected with rabies are vaccinated with a pre-exposure rabies vaccine and take special precautions when handling those species. If there's a chance that a member of the public has been exposed to rabies during the handling of an animal, the state health department requires that the animal be sacrificed and tested. Due to the potential for disease transmission and injury, the handling of these animals is best left to trained professionals.

Raising and caring for wildlife is not as simple as it may seem. Some people question the value of saving the "few" animals that are brought to rehabilitators. Rehabbers not only value the individual life, but also see what they do as

a way to reduce some of the damage done in the name of progress, while educating the public about the world around them.

## Why They Do What They Do

Rehabbers are given the awesome responsibility of intervention. They determine if an animal is salvageable and, if so, if it will be releasable. Realistically, they can't save every animal. Many of the animals brought to them are beyond help. The lucky ones get a second chance at life in the wild, thanks to the rehabber's skills and resources.

The goal of wildlife rehabilitation is to return viable wild animals capable of survival to their natural habitat. Some ill or injured wild animals can be saved, but are not able to be released. A small number of them can be placed in an educational facility where, although they will never be free again, they can provide the public with a glimpse into the natural world. They can become ambassadors for their species, helping the public to appreciate wildlife and to understand that habitat conservation is urgently needed, not only in the rain forests, but in New Jersey. Those that are too severely injured to survive, or that cannot be returned to the wild or placed in a facility, can be humanely euthanized.

Many people do not realize that it is

illegal to be in possession of native wildlife taken from the wild. The care of orphaned and injured wildlife is regulated through state permits; in the case of migratory birds, federal permits are also required. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife enforce laws pertaining to the possession and disposition of these animals in New Jersey.

As development in New Jersey increases, there is a real need for professional assistance for wild animals that become the victims of dogs, cats and human-related activities. Fortunately, the methods and techniques of wildlife care have improved considerably in recent years. The professional care provided by licensed wildlife rehabilitators can give imperiled wildlife a second fighting chance.

If you find a wild animal in need of care, call your veterinarian, local police department or the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife (609/292-2965) for the name of a rehabilitator in your county.

*Lynn Pasquarella, who has 11 years of experience in wildlife rehabilitation, is a licensed New Jersey game cooperater (rehabber) and has worked as a wildlife manager at a large private rehab center in New Jersey. Anita Petito has 10 years of experience in rehabilitating New Jersey's native wildlife at two centers in New Jersey.*

# Create Your Own Back Yard Oasis



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Fancy koi (above) feed in the pond.

This view of the author's pond (left) shows the pea gravel filter in the background.

by Richard E. Wilson

Water gardens are as old as civilization itself. Archaeological remains demonstrate abundant evidence that early humanity participated in this activity we define as water gardening. Today, whether you plan to raise fish or water lilies (or both), you can create a water garden that will bring you pleasure for years to come.

A water garden is a small ecosystem that will attract and support many forms of life. Begin your project with thoughtful research. There are many excellent books, videos, catalogs and websites with information on designing and constructing a water garden. Having aquarium experience is a definite plus.

I also would recommend a visit to a few garden centers that handle and install water gardens. They provide professional advice about the many products that will make your

Pond excavation (below, right) begins after careful research has been conducted.

Once the liner is in place, the pond is filled with water and stones are carefully placed over the top of the liner (bottom).

project successful. Some dealers hold workshops to provide practical know-how.

Choosing the right spot is essential. Consider the availability of water, sunlight — it should be abundant — and trees. You'll also need an electrical outlet with a ground fault circuit interrupter, adequate drainage and a substantial 4-foot fence. Decide upon a pond design and size. Check out local ordinances and advise your homeowner's insurance company of your project.

To create the pond itself, you can use a flexible pond liner or a rigid, formed liner — or you can pour a concrete pond. By far, the easiest is the flexible liner, since absolute precision in excavating is not essential. There are several materials that can be used as flexible liners, such as those made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM) and butyl. Your research will



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© EMANUEL LEKKAS

show you which best fits your budget, pond size, climate and intended use.

Family and friends can help you excavate and form your designed pond. I'd suggest you slope the bottom of the pond down a bit at one end to collect any garbage and facilitate its removal. Use sand to fill in any awkward spots, since its fine grains are easier to smooth than dirt.

There are many excellent, economical, submersible pumps on the market to run your filtration system. I use a homemade filter to keep my pond crystal clear. It is made with an old marbled sink, pea gravel, copper pipe, garden hose, plastic fittings and a submersible pump. The real beauty of this system is that, as soon as it gets dirty, I have only to scoop the gravel out with a shovel, wash it clean in a pail and return it to the sink.

During the winter, a methane gas escape hole has to be kept open to prevent a fish kill. A small circulating pump does this very well. The hole also provides a drinking site for the birds.

## Just Add Water

Once the form is completed and the filtration system has been installed, just add water — it's about a month too soon for fish. Your water needs to have a chance to work with your filtering system. Since you will not be using chemicals, bacteria need some time to start their growth. And you will have a chance to observe and solve any problem that might occur.

A pond with lilies in bloom is a delight to the eye.

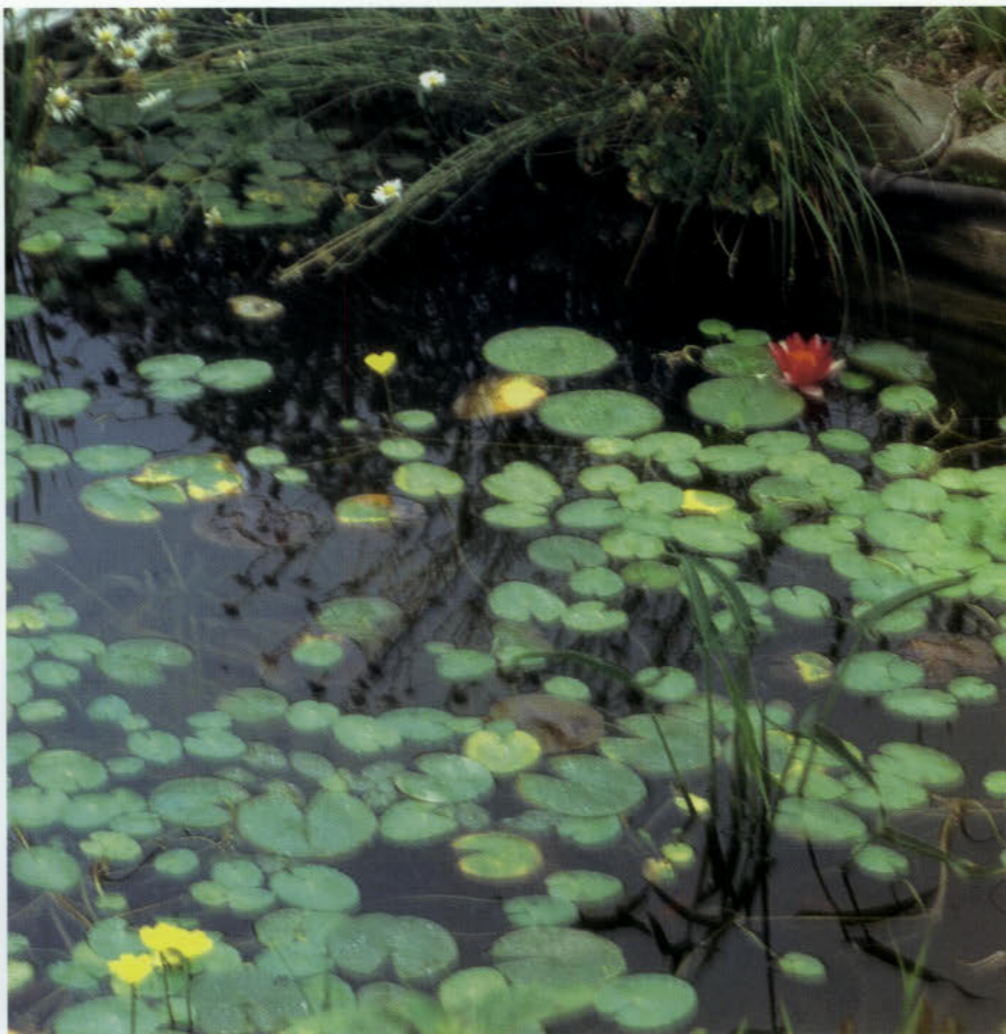
Choosing the right spot is essential. Consider the availability of water, sunlight — it should be abundant — and trees.

Water lily plants (right) keep the water from overheating and provide shade or resting spots for pond inhabitants.

A hardy red water lily blooms in the author's mature pond (below).

A blue frog (bottom) found by the author is shown here surrounded by water lettuce.

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© RICHARD E. WILSON



Do not bring large bull frogs to your pond unless you want them to eat everything they can swallow, including your fish.

© RICHARD E. WILSON



After the waiting period, it is time to add your fish. Remember to take things slowly! Start with a few inexpensive fish. Float the bag containing the fish for 15 minutes so that temperatures have a time to adjust. Open the bag slowly, letting pond water seep into the bag. This helps the fish adjust to their new home. Gently open the bag completely and release the fish. Do not pour the fish from the open end of the bag as it will collapse and trap the fish at the back of the bag.

With success you can then expand your fish populations. Go slowly; do not invest in expensive fish during your first year.

You'll have many options when selecting those plants you want to add to your water garden. Unless you plan on removing and sheltering your plants in the winter, select ones that will survive a wide range of conditions, such as parrot feather, hardy lilies — tropical varieties do not winter well — and water clover. Your lilies will need six to eight hours of sunlight for proper growth; if you're planning on keeping fish, buy enough lilies to cover 90 percent of the water surface to provide the fish with shade and to keep the water from overheating.

## Garden Guests Will Come A-Calling

Purchase farm-raised water plants. (It is against the law to remove any kind of vegetation, even poison ivy, from state or federal land.) Plant them in a good size plastic pot with no drainage holes; fill the pot with heavy garden soil — commercial grade potting soil will make a mess; add a cover layer of pea gravel to keep the dirt in and place the pot in the pond. Water lily fertilizer tablets will aid your plants' growth.

Now just sit back and enjoy your water garden. You'll be amazed at the visitors that drop by throughout the year. Countless birds use the pond for bathing and drinking. Garter snakes love a swim, an occasional goldfish meal and the shelter of the pond. Frogs, toads and spring peepers provide a stereophonic symphony at night.

You might want to discourage certain visitors, however. A portable scarecrow helps keep green and blue herons away. And a security fence keeps snapping turtles, black bears, deer and neighboring children from invading this space.

Our most interesting visitor turned out to be a female green tree frog missing her yellow pigment — her actual color was blue. Upon spotting her, I called my wife and grabbed my camera to verify and photograph my discovery. Slides were sent to various organizations. Confirmation was made and different suggestions as to her fate were discussed. We chose to let nature take its course. She stayed into October and left to hibernate; we have not seen her since.

Do not bring large bull frogs to your pond unless you want them to eat everything they can swallow, including your fish.

The best part of our water gardening experience is the quality time we spend sitting on our garden benches with our grandchildren. The girls love to feed the fish and observe the large perennial flower garden that surrounds our water garden. It's nature at its best.

Initially, a water garden may seem like a lot of work, but with love and patience, an ecosystem can be created that will bring years of pleasure. Good luck!

*Richard E. Wilson, a science teacher who lives in Branchville, enjoys nature in all its forms.*

## Product and Information Sources

### Catalogs

- **Waterford Gardens**  
74 E. Allendale Road  
Saddle River, NJ 07867
- **Lily Blooms**  
932 S. Main Street  
North Canton, OH 44720
- **Lilypons Water Gardens**  
6800 Lilypons Road  
PO Box 10  
Buckeystown, MD 21717-0010

### Web Sites

- **Product Sources On and Off the Net**  
<http://www.onenet/~rzutt/suppliers.html>
- **Water Garden Frequently Asked Questions**  
<http://www.one.net/~rzutt/plant.html#1.0>
- **Index to Organic Pondkeeping**  
<http://www.one.net/~rzutt/organic.html>



A garden slug feeds on leafy mustard.

# Thieves in the Night

Story and Photo © by Edwin S. Bernardo

These vegetarians munch on leafy greens for dinner. Under cover of darkness, they prey on succulent vegetables and other garden plants. By morning, they are well hidden underneath rotting woods or in moist garden crevices. They often escape notice, unless one observes the damage and looks for the culprits.

What are they? Slugs (*Limax*). Native to New Jersey gardens, they belong to the mollusk family. While kin to the squid and octopus, they more closely resemble snails without the shells.

The mottled gray creatures have long bodies that, when extended, are spindle shaped (tapered at both ends). They have two tentacles, a pair of eyes and a mouth armed with tiny teeth called radula.

*Sluggish* is the way they move. Undulating foot muscles (actually the entire bottom of the body) enable them to traverse the garden terrain on the trail of mucus they secrete. Their slow crawl, however, belies the speed with which they indulge their voracious appetite.

Slugs like leafy vegetables and thrive on fungi such as mushrooms. Fermenting and decaying substances seem to attract them. This can lead to their downfall, as some beer in a shallow container makes an excellent trap, should a gardener wish to rid his plot of slugs.

But slugs are also a fascinating example of nature's lowly creatures. To children and adult onlookers, their slow acrobatics provide an amusing sight. They can be caught and kept in a glass container for the curious to observe; other than air, all they need is a small piece of wood, along with some leafy vegetables and mushrooms, to thrive.

Slugs move quietly in the garden, surviving in their covert existence. They can be a menace. They can be pets to care for. Yet they remind us that nature provides a niche for all — even these gentle thieves of the night.

*Edwin S. Bernardo, who lives in Manville, enjoys gardening and observing nature. This is his first contribution to New Jersey Outdoors.*

While kin to the squid and octopus, they more closely resemble snails without the shells.

# Casting for Memories

Becky (left) and Jennifer check out the catch of the day.



## Family Fishing Tips & Tales

Story and Photos © by Kerry Hart

"Dad — I got a bite!" screamed my 8-year-old daughter, Jennifer. Seconds later, the red and white plastic bobber disappeared under the water.

"Set the hook, Jennifer," I yelled back.

"Okay, Dad," she replied. Clenching her teeth, she ignored me completely and began furiously reeling in.

Jennifer's fish, a smallish bluegill, planed across the top of the waves, leaving a V-shaped wake as it skimmed the surface. Any tournament bassmaster landing a legal fish would have been proud. Seconds later, the panfish was flopping on the bank, its iridescent sides

glistening in the April sunlight.

My other daughter, Becky, age 10, offered her usual congratulations to her younger sister: "Big deal! That's the *teeniest* fish I ever saw — I hope I don't catch one like that!"

Even though New Jersey's trout season had just gotten underway, I chose to avoid the crowds and enjoy some early season fishing with my daughters. From a child's view, the art of fishing is simple — cast as often as possible, catch as many fish as possible and leave as soon as possible when things get boring.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAUL KRAML

Jennifer shows off her catch.



Unfortunately, my 8-year-old daughter has developed the disconcerting habit of befriending and naming each worm, somehow turning a once simple task into a moral dilemma.



### Keep It Simple

The real trick to fishing with children is to find a place, close to home, where fish are abundant and easily caught. We happen to live in Wayne, where there are several small, yet productive, ponds of an acre or so in size. Many of these ponds, both in Wayne and elsewhere, were built as drainage basins for new housing developments and now harbor a variety of fish. Other likely prospects include park systems and the many ponds that dot the grounds of large corporations. Be sure to secure permission before venturing onto private property.

Actually, any small body of water that retains water year round can provide good fishing. We begin our fishing right after ice-out — it's surprising how quickly the small ponds warm up.

The key to enjoyable fishing is to keep it simple. I've found the best fishing outfit is a medium action spin-casting rod and reel filled with 8- or 10-pound test line. Use lighter line and you'll lose too many hooks to snags. If

the line is too heavy, casting distance will suffer. Also, don't buy the cheapest outfit available; like anything else, good quality equipment lasts longer and is easier to use. Expect to pay around \$25 to \$35 for a good, balanced rod and reel combo.

The rest of the equipment needed is easy — several packages of #6 or #8 baitholder hooks with leaders, an assortment of split-shot lead sinkers and some small plastic floats (bobbers). Don't forget a pair of pliers. They cut line, crimp on weights and facilitate the removal of hooks from sharp-spined creatures.

In the colder waters of spring, fish tend to be sluggish and inhabit deeper water. Place a sinker a foot or so above the hook and forget the bobber. As the waters warm, fish migrate closer to shore, and bobbers can be employed with good success.

Bait is also a simple affair. Spring, summer and fall, nothing beats a lively garden worm. Also good are dough balls and mealworms. Where carp are present, cornmeal rolled into half-inch

balls is the best bet. For all else, including bass, crappies, perch, bluegills, and catfish, worms head the list. Unfortunately, my 8-year-old daughter has developed the disconcerting habit of befriending and naming each worm, somehow turning a once simple task into a moral dilemma.

Make sure that when your child is ready to cast, he or she is given plenty of room. Being your basic coward, I usually back up 10 or 12 feet.

After the cast, your primary function as the reigning adult will be to persuade your child to leave the bait in the water for more than 1 1/2 seconds. Several years ago, I watched spellbound as a youngster cast and recast repeatedly, his bobber never more than a blur on the water. Forget his bait — that fell off with his first cast and the 100-mph retrieve. It didn't really matter; he was having a great time and catching fish was secondary.

### Falling — Hook, Line and Sinker — for Fishing

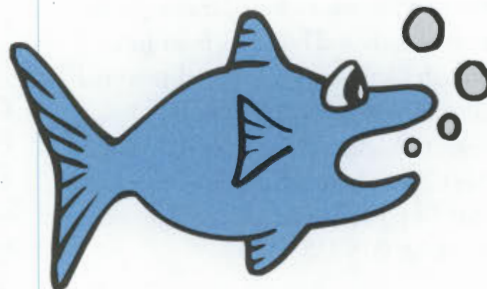
This brings us to our final and most rewarding aspect of fishing with kids. Kids love to catch fish, any fish, regardless of species. Bass, catfish, carp — it doesn't matter. Adults may wait patiently all day for a trophy rainbow or largemouth, but kids have better things to do with their time.

At our little pond in Wayne, it's easy to catch a dozen or so catfish, along with a similar number of panfish, in an hour. When the fishing slackens, or the kids tire, it's time to go home. Bring a five-gallon pail with you and let the kids keep a fish or two — make sure they're in season — to show off to their friends. Kept in a bucket for a short period of time, the fish can then be released to be caught another day.

There are few nicer ways to spend a summer afternoon than watching a child peer intently at a bobber, waiting for the first telltale sign of a nibble. With the approach of fall, as leaves cover the water and frost tints the ground, fishing takes on a special beauty.

Best of all, fishing provides the chance to spend some quality time together, away from the television and video games. Bring a camera — that small fish caught today will be a large memory for years to come.

*Kerry Hart, an outdoors writer from Wayne, is a periodic contributor to New Jersey Outdoors.*



#### Author's Note:

Currently, New Jersey requires all fresh water anglers 14 and over to possess a valid N.J. fishing license. Licenses must be worn conspicuously on outer clothing while fishing. Regulations vary so it's important to consult the annual Fish and Wildlife Digest published by the N.J. Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife. Copies of the digest are free and can be obtained at most sporting goods stores across the state.



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There are few nicer ways to spend a summer afternoon than watching a child peer intently at a bobber, waiting for the first telltale sign of a nibble.

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# Events

## Ongoing

**Contemporary Flameworked Glass** (through October 26) An exhibition featuring the works of more than 20 international glass artists who exemplify excellence and innovation in the field of flameworking; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Museum of American Glass at Wheaton Village, 1501 Glasstown Road (exit 26 off Route 55), Millville; \$6.50/adults, \$5.50/senior citizens, \$3.50/students, free/ children 5 and under; 1-800-998-4552 or 609/825-6800, ext. 2746 or 2747

**Guided Garden Tour** (every Sunday through October) Learn about the special trees, shrubs and plants of New Jersey's State Botanical Gardens at Skylands; 2 p.m.; meet at the Carriage House, New Jersey State Botanical Gardens at Skylands, Morris Road, Ringwood; free; 201/962-9534

**Train Rides** Ride restored trains of yesterday; steam-powered trains operate on weekends and holidays from June through October, while diesel-powered trains run on weekdays from July 1 through August 29; noon to 4:30 p.m.; Pine Creek Railroad, Allaire State Park, Wall Twp.; \$3/parking fee, \$2/person train fare; 908/938-5524

**Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association Reserve Summer Activities** (July 7 through August 15) Activities include children's and family programs and a summer nature camp; the reserve features a nature center and eight miles of trails; Titus Mill Road, Pennington; 609/737-7592

**Nature Classes** Every Wednesday through Sunday, year round; various exciting, fun-filled learning activities centered on farm life and wildlife rehabilitation for children from 2 to 8 years of age; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; PAWS Farm Nature Center, 1105 Hainesport-Mt. Laurel Rd., Mt. Laurel; reservations requested for large groups; admission: \$3/adults, \$2/children; classes: \$3.50; 609/778-8795

## July

**4 Independence Day Celebration** This festive celebration features children's games, music, a temperance rally and an 1850s town ball game; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; donation fee; 609/898-2300

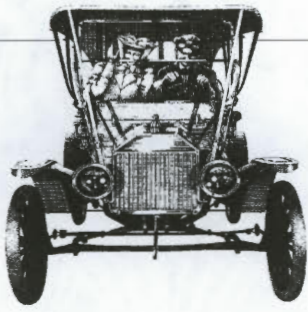
**5 & 6 Craft Show** Artisans and crafters display, demonstrate and sell their handmade wares; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; donation fee; 609/898-2300

**6 Founder's Day** A celebration of the 212th birthday of the village's namesake and most successful proprietor; noon to 4 p.m.; Historic Allaire Village, Allaire State Park, Wall Twp.; \$3/car; 908/938-2253

**9 Wednesday Matinees** (also July 16, 23 & 30 and August 6, 13 & 20) Performers, plays, puppets and more; ages 4 and up; 1:30 p.m.; Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside; \$3/person; 908/789-3670

**12 & 13 Antique Show and Sale** A "Stella Show" of quality dealers from the northeast; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; donation fee; 609/898-2300





**Wooden Boat Festival** Classic wooden boats, nautical vendors, food and music are just a few of the this event's features; show opens at 9 a.m. both days, but call for a schedule of other events; Huddy Park, Toms River; free; 609/387-5680

### 13

**Skylands Manor Tour** (also on August 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5 and Nov. 2) Take a guided historical tour of this Tudor Revival manor house, located in the heart of the State Botanical Gardens, which contains magnificent antique paneling and stained glass; 1 to 4 p.m.; Skylands, Ringwood State Park, Ringwood; \$3/adults, \$2/senior citizens, \$1/children ages 6-12, free/under 6 years; 201/962-9534

**Antique Auto Show** (rain date: July 20) Antique autos will be on display; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Historic Allaire Village, Allaire State Park, Wall Twp.; anyone wishing to display should call for details; \$3/car; 908/938-2253

### 16

**Three Days in the Life of a Victorian Family** A video about Victorian silver; 7 p.m.; Kuser Farm Mansion, 390 Newkirk Ave., Hamilton (Mercer County); free, but advance reservations required; 609/890-3630

**Wednesday Matinees** (see July 9)

### 19

**Wildflowers and Wildlife of the Pinelands Hike** (also on Aug. 16, Sept. 20 and Oct. 18) A guided, easy-paced, 2- to 3-mile walk that courses through various Pinelands habitats; 10 a.m.; Annie M. Carter Nature Center, Batsto Village, Wharton State Forest, Route 542, approx. 9 miles east of Hammonton; insect and tick repellent recommended; preregistration by phone required; free; 609/567-4559

**Antique Auto Show** More than 200 antique cars will be on display and refreshments will be available; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wheaton Village, 1501 Glasstown Road, Millville; \$6.50/adults, \$5.50/senior citizens, \$3.50 students, free/children under 5; 609/825-6800 or 1-800-998-4552

**Carriage Demonstration** Members of the Hunterdon Horse and Pony Club will show off their carriages and horses as they drive around the farm; 10:30 to 3 p.m.; Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, 73 Kahdena Road, Morristown; \$4/adults, \$3/seniors (65+), \$2/children (6-16), free/under 6 and members of Friends of Fosterfields; add \$1 for guided tour of The Willows mansion on property; 201/326-7645

**Small Loom Weaving** See a demonstration of table and hand looms, such as those used to produce belts, tapes and other small items through the 19th century, and try your hand at using them; 1 to 4 p.m.; Cooper Gristmill, State Route 24/County Route 513 (1.3 miles west of Route 206), Chester; admission is by donation; 908/879-5463

**Pine Barrens Kids Day at Whitesbog** Kids aged 9 to 12 will learn about Pine Barrens water as they participate in pond exploration, a nature hike and history orienteering; 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Whitesbog Village, Pemberton Twp.; bring a bag lunch; \$6/person; preregistration with payment required; there's a limit of 40 participants, so early registration is suggested; 609/893-4646

**Sound** This workshop, designed for children 8 to 12 years old, will teach about sound; participants will make a musical instrument; 1 to 4 p.m.; Passaic County Nature Center, 311 Pennsylvania Avenue, Paterson; \$5/person; preregistration/prepayment required; 201/881-4832

**Full Moon Hike** (also on Aug. 16 and Sept. 13) Listen for Pine Barrens tree frogs as you hike approximately four miles in the moonlight on Whitesbog's sand roads; 7 p.m.; Whitesbog, Lebanon State Forest, Burlington County; preregistration required; \$4/person, \$9/family, free/members; 609/893-4646

### 19 & 20

#### **The Return to Beaver Creek Pow-Wow**

This native American Pow-Wow features ethnic dancers, crafters, entertainment, educational seminars, music and food; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sat., noon to 7 p.m. on Sun.; Matarazzo Farms, Route 519, Belvidere; \$6/adults, \$5/seniors, \$4/children 12 and under; 908/475-3872

#### **A "Taste" of Cape May County History**

Enjoy heritage music, dancing, historical exhibits and cultural foods; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; donation fee; 609/898-2300



### 20

**Dolphin Watch Cruise** (also on Aug. 10 and Aug. 24) Take this half-day cruise, to observe dolphins along the Jersey shore, aboard the 65-foot *Cruisin' 1* with members of the Marine Mammal Stranding Center staff; 1 to 4 p.m.; 42nd and Bay, City Marina, Sea Isle City; advance reservations suggested; call between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mon. through Fri.; \$20/adults (20 and older), \$15/teens (12-19), \$10/children under 12; will admit one child (under 12) free per paid adult; 609/266-0538

#### **19th Century Craft Guilds Open**

**House** Demonstrations of the various crafts instrumental to life in the 19th century; noon to 4 p.m.; Historic Allaire Village, Allaire State Park, Wall Twp.; a recruiting day for people interested in joining the Allaire Village craft guilds; \$3/car; 908/938-2253

## Events • July/August

**Laundry Demonstration** Learn how clothing was washed 100 years ago and help with hand wash; 1:30 to 4 p.m.; Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, 73 Kahdena Road, Morristown; \$4/adults, \$3/seniors (65+), \$2/children (6-16), free/under 6 and members of Friends of Fosterfields; add \$1 for guided tour of The Willows mansion on property; 201/326-7645

### 22-27

**Monmouth County Fair** Enjoy the old-fashioned fun of this country fair, including 4-H exhibits, amusements, entertainment, fireworks, home and garden competitions, hot-air balloon races, an antique auto show, firemen's mud-flag football and other special attractions; 5 to 11 p.m. Tues. -Thurs., 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Fri. and Sat., and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun.; East Freehold Park Showgrounds, Kozloski Street, Freehold Township; admission fee; free parking; 908/842-4000

### 23

**Weekday Wednesday Doll Video Evening** Call for special schedule of doll related educational videos; 6 p.m.; Kuser Farm Mansion, 390 Newkirk Ave., Hamilton (Mercer County); free, but advance reservations required; 609/890-3630

**Wednesday Matinees** (see July 9)

### 25-27

**QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning** This festival features more than 100 hot air balloons, an old-time air show, daily concerts, fireworks, arts and crafts, magic shows and more; 1 to 10 p.m. on Fri., 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sat., and 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sun.; Solberg Airport, accessible from routes 22, 78, 206 and 287, Readington; advance ticket purchase: \$13/adult, \$5/children (4-12); at the gate: \$15/adults, \$10/children (4-12), free/under 4; 1-800-HOT-AIR9

### 26 & 27

**Country Corn Festival** This festival features cornhusk doll making, corn grinding, a husking bee, corn roast and a Lenni-Lenape Pow-Wow; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; donation fee; 609/898-2300

**Mid Summer Antiques and Collectibles Show and Sale** Indoor and outdoor show with more than 80 dealers from the mid-Atlantic states; food and refreshments; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wheaton Village, 1501 Glasstown Road, Millville; \$6.50/adults, \$5.50/senior citizens, \$3.50 students, free/children under 5; 2-day discount available; 609/825-6800 or 1-800-998-4552

**School Days** Learn what subjects were taught, games were played, textbooks were used, etc., during a typical school day 100 or more years ago; classes at 1, 2 and 3 p.m.; Cooper Gristmill, State Route 24/County Route 513 (1.3 miles west of Route 206), Chester; admission is by donation; 908/879-5463



### 27

**Historic Uses of Herbs** A program in Caroline Foster's delightful little garden featuring the historical importance of herbs in cooking, as fragrances, for skin care and more; 1 to 4 p.m.; Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, 73 Kahdena Road, Morristown; \$4/adults, \$3/seniors (65+), \$2/children (6-16), free/under 6 and members of Friends of Fosterfields; add \$1 for guided tour of The Willows mansion on property; 201/326-7645



### 30

**Video Evening American Glass** at 7 p.m. and *Teapots* at 8 p.m.; Kuser Farm Mansion, 390 Newkirk Ave., Hamilton (Mercer County); free, but advance reservations required; 609/890-3630

**Wednesday Matinees** (see July 9)

## August

### 1-3

**The MAGIC OF ALEXANDRIA Balloon Festival** A family-oriented celebration of the magic of air ballooning, with stage concerts, arts/crafts exhibits, magic shows, air show, circus stage continuous shows, and airplane, helicopter and balloon rides; 3 to 10 p.m. Fri., 1 to 10 p.m. Sat., 1 to 8 p.m. Sun.; Alexandria Field Airport, Pittstown; portion of proceeds to Make-A-Wish Foundation; pre-event tickets: \$9/adults, \$1/children; at gate tickets: \$12/adults, \$3/children; parking donation; 908/735-0870

### 1-10

**Sussex County Farm and Horse Show** Activities include agricultural attractions, flower displays, arts and crafts, interactive exhibits for children, amusement rides, concerts and more; 5 to 10 p.m. on Aug. 1, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 2-9., and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 10; Plains Road (1 mile from jct. 15, 206 and 565), Augusta; \$7/adults, \$2/children 12 and under; Tues. (Children's Day), children pay half price; Thurs. (Senior Citizens' Day), seniors pay only \$3; 201/383-3279

**2**  
**Woods Hollow Classic Mountain Bike Race** This mountain bike race through open fields and woodlands is ideal for beginners (7.5 miles) or sport class (11.25 miles); 8 a.m.; Tatum Park, Holland Activity Center, Holland Road, Middletown Township; 908/842-4000

**Photography** This workshop, designed for children 8 to 12 years old, will teach about taking pictures; participants will take a picture, develop the film and print the picture; 1 to 4 p.m.; Passaic County Nature Center, 311 Pennsylvania Avenue, Paterson; \$4/person; preregistration/prepayment required; 201/881-4832

**2 & 3**  
**Sea 'n Shore Celebration** This event features seafood, maritime displays (US Coast Guard, carvings, small boats and more) and a singer-storyteller; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; donation fee; 609/898-2300



**3**  
**1830s Temperance and Charitable Society Fair** Reenactment of an 1830s temperance demonstration and other social concerns of the 1830s; 1 to 4 p.m.; Historic Allaire Village, Allaire State Park, Wall Twp.; \$3/car; 908/938-2253

**Skylands Manor Tour** (see July 13)

**6**  
**Wednesday Matinees** (see July 9)

**7-17**  
**New Jersey State Fair** The fair offers exhibits, rides, attractions, headline entertainment, vendors and food; Garden State Park, Cherry Hill; 609/646-3340

**8-10**  
**Wheaton Village Craft Fair** This juried show, presented by American Craft Marketing, features more than 100 dealers, entertainment, refreshments and craft demonstrations; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wheaton Village, 1501 Glasstown Road, Millville; \$6.50/adults, \$5.50/senior citizens, \$3.50 students, free/children under 5; 2-day discount available; 609/825-6800 or 1-800-998-4552

**9**  
**Fiddlin' on the Farm** A fun evening of outdoor square dancing with Lew Gelfond and live band; 4 to 8 p.m.; Howell Living Historical Farm near Lambertville (call 609/737-3299 for directions); \$8/adults (\$5 if purchased in advance), free/children; ticket orders: 609/890-7432

**Bridgeton Zoo Ride Bike** 25, 50 or 100 miles over flat or rolling terrain; 8 a.m.; Schalick High School, Centerton; helmet required; sponsored by the South Jersey Wheelmen; registration fee \$12 until August 1, then \$15; 609/848-6123

**From Feed Bags to Evening Dresses** (also on Aug. 10, 11, 12 and 15) Learn how feed bags were recycled to produce clothing in the 19th century and view samples; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Cooper Gristmill, State Route 24/County Route 513 (1.3 miles west of Route 206), Chester; admission is by donation; 908/879-5463

**10**  
**Dolphin Watch Cruise** (see July 20)

**13**  
**Video Evening Jewelry Through the Ages** at 7 p.m., *Victorian Jewelry* at 7:45 p.m. and *Perfume: the Odd, the Unusual and the Mysterious* at 8:15 p.m.; Kuser Farm Mansion, 390 Newkirk Ave., Hamilton (Mercer County); free, but advance reservations required; 609/890-3630

**Wednesday Matinees** (see July 9)



Youngsters kick up their heels to the tunes of a live band at the **Fiddlin' on the Farm** square dance, held at Howell Farm in Titusville.

**16**  
**Gigantic Yard Sale** Interested vendors should call for registration information; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Historic Allaire Village, Allaire State Park, Wall Twp.; \$3/car; 908/938-2253

**Wildflowers and Wildlife of the Pinelands Hike** (see July 19)

**Preparing the Feed** (also August 23) Corn shellers and feed grinders will be demonstrated to show how these machines were used to process the harvested grain to prepare it for feeding to the farm animals; 1 to 3 p.m.; Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, 73 Kahdena Road, Morristown; \$4/adults, \$3/seniors (65+), \$2/children (6-16), free/under 6 and members of Friends of Fosterfields; add \$1 for guided tour of The Willows mansion on property; 201/326-7645



## Events • August/September

**Electricity** This workshop, designed for children 8 to 12 years old, will teach about electricity and basic circuits; participants will build their own electric gadget; 1 to 4 p.m.; Passaic County Nature Center, 311 Pennsylvania Avenue, Paterson; \$4/person; preregistration/prepayment required; 201/881-4832

**Full Moon Hike** (see July 19)

### 16 & 17

**Farmfest '97** Enjoy a watermelon seed spitting contest, games, animals, pony rides, butter churning, soap-making, country music and dancing; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; donation fee; 609/898-2300

**Memorabilia Days** See items your parents and grandparents commonly used, such as irons, toys, games and many other household items; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Cooper Gristmill, State Route 24/County Route 513 (1.3 miles west of Route 206), Chester; admission is by donation; 908/879-5463

### 17

**Antique Fire Apparatus Muster and Show** One of the largest shows on the East Coast, featuring contests and a swap-and-sell flea market; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wheaton Village, 1501 Glasstown Road, Millville; \$6.50/adults, \$5.50/senior citizens, \$3.50 students, free/children under 5; discount admission for firefighters and their families with proper identification; 609/825-6800 or 1-800-998-4552

### 20

**Video Evening** *Paper Plates to Silver Spoons: The Complete Guide to Manners* at 7 p.m., *The Art of Napkin Folding* at 7:45 p.m., *The Art of Dining: The Business Lunch* at 8:30 p.m. and *The Art of Dining: The Formal Dinner* at 9:15 p.m.; Kuser Farm Mansion, 390 Newkirk Ave., Hamilton (Mercer County); free, but advance reservations required; 609/890-3630

**Wednesday Matinees** (see July 9)



### 22-24

**Sussex Air Show** This show is famous for its world-class performers; gates open at 8 a.m.; show is from 12:30 to 5 p.m.; Sussex Airport, Route 639, Sussex; \$12; 201/875-0783

### 23

**Whitesbog Evening Birdwalk** A summer evening with Whitesbog's birds; 6:30 p.m. Whitesbog, Lebanon State Forest, Burlington County; preregistration required; \$4/person, \$9/family, free/members; 609/893-4646

**Preparing the Feed** (see August 16)

### 23 & 24

**Antique Auto Show** This event will feature more than 75 antique cars; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; donation fee; 609/898-2300

**Sewing Machine Days** View an exhibit of foot-powered sewing machines and other items used to make clothes in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and try your hand at sewing on such a machine; 1 to 4 p.m.; Cooper Gristmill, State Route 24/County Route 513 (1.3 miles west of Route 206), Chester; admission is by donation; 908/879-5463

### 24

**Dolphin Watch Cruise** (see July 20)

**Demonstration of Teasel and Apple Doll Making** Learn how these interesting little dolls are made from natural materials; 1 to 4 p.m.; Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, 73 Kahdena Road, Morristown; \$4/adults, \$3/seniors (65+), \$2/children (6-16), free/under 6 and members of Friends of Fosterfields; add \$1 for guided tour of The Willows mansion on property; 201/326-7645

### 25

**Barnegat Bay Crab Race and Seafood Festival** In addition to crab races and seafood, the festival features a flea market and craft show; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Bay Front, Seaside Heights; free; 908/349-0220

### 30

**Kite Building** This workshop, designed for children 8 to 12 years old, will teach about aerodynamics and wind; participants will build their own kite; 1 to 4 p.m.; Passaic County Nature Center, 311 Pennsylvania Avenue, Paterson; \$6/person; preregistration/prepayment required; 201/881-4832

### 30-Sept. 1

**Sheep Dog Trials** Border collie handlers from the Northeast compete in the 3-day New Jersey Sheep Dog Trials; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, 73 Kahdena Road, Morristown; \$4/adults, \$3/seniors (65+), \$2/children (6-16), free/under 6 and members of Friends of Fosterfields; add \$1 for guided tour of The Willows mansion on property; 201/326-7645

**Craft Show** Artisans and crafters display, demonstrate and sell their handmade wares; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; donation fee; 609/898-2300

### 31

**1830s Parlor Games and Outdoor Amusements** Join in a variety of games of the 1830s; 1 to 4 p.m.; Historic Allaire Village, Allaire State Park, Wall Twp.; \$3/car; 908/938-2253

## September

### 1

**Election Day in the 1830s** Reenactment of an 1830s election day; noon to 4 p.m.; Historic Allaire Village, Allaire State Park, Wall Twp.; \$3/car; 908/938-2253

**6 & 7**

**19th Century Harvest Days** This festival features bread-making, apple butter, corn grinding, open-hearth cooking, cornhusk dollmaking and cornmat braiding; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; donation fee; 609/898-2300

**7**

**Skylands Manor Tour** (see July 13)

**Septemberfest** Enjoy musical treats ranging from rock and pop performances to barber shop quartets, arts and crafts, an incredible array of good things to eat and much more; 9 a.m. to dusk; Hamilton Veterans Park, Hamilton Township (Mercer County); free; 609/890-3684

**Sprint Triathlon** Multi-sport race consisting of 1/4-mile ocean swim, 16-mile bike ride and 4-mile run; 7:30 a.m.; Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Ocean Avenue, Long Branch; \$30 registration fee; 908/542-1642

**5th Annual New Jersey Storytelling Festival** Professional storytellers will present traditional and contemporary stories for the entire family; noon to 4 p.m.; Historic Allaire Village, Allaire State Park, Wall Twp.; \$5/adults, \$3/children (5-14 years); \$1/ticket discount for advance purchases; 908/938-2253

**Annual Railroaders Day Celebration** Steam locomotive and diesel train rides, shop tours, train exhibits, live music, slide shows and more; noon to 4:30 p.m.; Pine Creek Railroad, Allaire State Park, Wall Twp.; free admission, but \$2.50/person for train ride; 908/938-5524

**7th Ocean County Bluegrass Festival** The program features a live stage concert of bluegrass music performed by leading bluegrass bands from the tri-state area; 8 to 11:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.); Albert Music Hall, 125 Wells Mill Road (Route 532), 1/4 mile west of Route 9, Waretown; \$8/adults, \$1 children under 12; 609/971-1593

**Grandparents Day** Enjoy games of the past and hand-cranked ice cream; 1 to 4 p.m.; Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, 73 Kahdena Road, Morristown; \$4/adults, \$3/seniors (65+), \$2/children (6-16), free/under 6 and members of Friends of Fosterfields; free for grandparents if accompanied by grandchild; add \$1 for guided tour of The Willows mansion on property; 201/326-7645

**10**

**Sewing Machines** Lecture and demonstration; 7 p.m.; Kuser Farm Mansion, 390 Newkirk Ave., Hamilton (Mercer County); free, but advance reservations required; 609/890-3630

**13**

**Highlands Hawk Watch** Enjoy the scenic beauty of the Highlands as you go on a guided search for falcons, hawks and accipiters; preregistration required; 908/234-1225 or 1-800-LAND-SAVE



**Garden Work Party** (also on Oct. 4) Help restore Elizabeth White's historic Pine Barrens garden (winner of the National Gardening Association 1997 Youth Garden Grant) and learn about it in the process; 9 a.m.; Whitesbog, Lebanon State Forest, Burlington County; all volunteers, with or without gardening experience, are welcomed; call to register; 609/893-4646

**Full Moon Hike** (see July 19)

**13 & 14**

**Garden State Wine Growers' Fall Festival** Enjoy food, music, an amateur wine competition and a sampling of New Jersey's finest wine; noon to 5 p.m.; Waterloo Village, exit 25 off Route 80, Stanhope; \$12/adults, \$9/teens 16-19, free/children aged 15 and under; 908/475-3671

**Native-American Celebration** This event features music, dancing and Indian lore; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; donation fee; 609/898-2300

**14**

**Corvette Show** Nearly 300 cars from the '50s through the '90s; judging and trophies; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wheaton Village, 1501 Glasstown Road, Millville; \$6.50/adults, \$5.50/senior citizens, \$3.50 students, free/children under 5; 609/825-6800 or 1-800-998-4552

**Birds, Poets and Jazz** Music and poetry about birds; 3 p.m.; Carriage House, New Jersey State Botanical Gardens at Skylands, Morris Road, Ringwood; free; 201/962-9534

**17**

**A Vision of Loveliness: Late Victorian Dress and Etiquette** Lecture; 7 p.m.; Kuser Farm Mansion, 390 Newkirk Ave., Hamilton (Mercer County); free, but advance reservations required; 609/890-3630

**19**

**Golf Outing** All-day golfing event to benefit the Marine Mammal Stranding Center; Sea View Marriott Country Club, Absecon; various price combinations for golfing, dinner and/or overnight stay; preregistration required; call between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mon. through Fri.; 609/266-0538



**20**

**Festival of the Sea** Enjoy this 20th annual festival, featuring fine crafts and food; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Arnold Avenue (south of Route 35) and Bay Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach; free; 908/899-2424

**Beach Wheels '97** Beach recreation day for the physically challenged featuring various activities, entertainment and refreshments; beach-accessible wheelchairs enable disabled to participate in beach athletic events and fishing; free; 609/597-3211

**Jersey Shore Sea Kayak and Bay Canoeing Show** Clinics, test paddling, bay canoeing clinic, manufacturers, demonstrations and rolling clinics; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Berkeley Island County Park, Bayville; free; 609/971-3085

**Nature Walk/Environmental Program** Identify wild plants and listen to a lecture on ecology conservation accompanied by folklore and anecdotes; noon; meet at the Carriage House, New Jersey State Botanical Gardens at Skylands, Morris Road, Ringwood; \$10/adults, \$5/children; 201/962-9534

**Flea Market** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Historic Allaire Village, Allaire State Park, Wall Twp.; vendors should call for registration information; \$1/adults, free/children under 12; 908/938-2253

**Jersey Devil Century** Bike 25, 50, 75, 100 or 125 miles over flat or rolling terrain; 8 a.m.; Parvin State Park, Centerton; helmet required; sponsored by the South Jersey Wheelmen; registration fee \$12 until August 1, then \$15; 609/848-6123

**Wildflowers and Wildlife of the Pinelands Hike** (see July 19)

**20 & 21**

**Wings 'N Water Festival** The wildlife arts festival celebrates South Jersey's coastal environment with exhibits, workshops, world renowned carvers and wildlife artists, retriever demonstrations, duck and goose calling, clam chowder cook-off, fly casting clinic, bird walks, salt marsh safaris, back bay boat cruises, a wildlife craft market, children's activities, music, entertainment and much more; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sun.; \$8/adult if purchased prior to Sept. 1 (with SASE, if by mail); after Sept. 1, \$10/adult, \$4/children (4-12); call for fees for outdoor/wildlife photography seminar, boat cruise, opening party and auction (Sept. 19) and flounder dinner (Sept. 20); admission tickets are good for both days; The Wetlands Institute, 1075 Stone Harbor Boulevard, Stone Harbor; 609/368-1211

**Civil War Weekend** In addition to regimental music, a military encampment populated by more than 150 Confederate and Union forces, a battle (daily, at 1 p.m.) and parade (daily, at 2 p.m.), this event features a military trial (4 p.m., Sat.), candlelight tour of both Confederate and the Union camps (7:30 p.m., Sat.) and a Memorial Church Service at "Old Brick" Presbyterian Church (9:30 a.m., Sun.); 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; donation fee; 609/898-2300

**Grind-a-thon Times Two** Get a feeling for what it was like in a mill in the late 1800s as both 2,000-pound millstones are operated for a longer than normal duration; 1 to 4 p.m.; Cooper Gristmill, State Route 24/County Route 513 (1.3 miles west of Route 206), Chester; admission is by donation; 908/879-5463

**21**

**Hey Rube, Get a Tube** Join the parade, then blow up your tube and paddle it for several blocks in the ocean; parade starts at 1 p.m.; tube race, at 2:30 p.m.; Point Pleasant Beach; free; 908/899-2424

**Wild Safari** Enjoy audience participation and lots of fun as Andrew Simmons wows you with his collection of animals, including a golden eagle, alligator snapping turtle, 15-foot Burmese python and American alligator; 11 a.m.; Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission Environment Center, 2 DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst; organized groups welcome; \$4.50/person; 201/460-8300

**SPUR (Special People United to Ride)**

**Hunter Pace** A game played on horseback where a pair of riders tries to match the pace set for a course through woods with obstacles; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Turkey Swamp Park, Georgia Road, Freehold Township; 908/842-4000

**Manasquan Reservoir Run** A 5-mile run, almost entirely off-road, on a path around the beautiful Manasquan Reservoir; 9 a.m.; Joseph C. Irwin Recreation Area, Windeler Road, Howell Township; \$12 preregistration, \$15 day of race; 908/542-1642

**27**

**Blacksmithing Demonstration** Iron will be wrought into usable iron tools and implements by means of a coal-fired forge; 1 to 4 p.m.; Cooper Gristmill, State Route 24/County Route 513 (1.3 miles west of Route 206), Chester; admission is by donation; 908/879-5463

**Cape May Hawk Watch** Take a guided hike and watch for hawks in Cape May, the hawk capital of the East Coast during the fall months; preregistration required; 908/234-1225 or 1-800-LAND-SAVE

**27 & 28**

**Colonial Days** In addition to demonstrations of colonial activities such as sheep shearing, wool carding, dying and spinning, this event features demonstrations and an 18th century military encampment; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; donation fee; 609/898-2300

**Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and**

**Gunning Show** More than 500 exhibitors, antique and new decoys, duck calling, skeet shooting, music, food, children's contests, archery contest and much more; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tip Seaman Park, Pinelands Regional Middle School and Pinelands Regional High School, Tuckerton; free; 609/971-3085

**Craft Fair** Sixty master crafters will demonstrate and sell their wares at this fair which also will offer food and entertainment; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Gibbon House, Ye Greate Street, Greenwich; \$2; 609/447-3530

## 28

**Bulbs and Blooms** Slide lecture on spring bulbs; 3 p.m.; meet in the Carriage House, New Jersey State Botanical Gardens at Skylands, Morris Road, Ringwood; free; 201/962-9534

**Old Fashioned Cider Pressing ;**

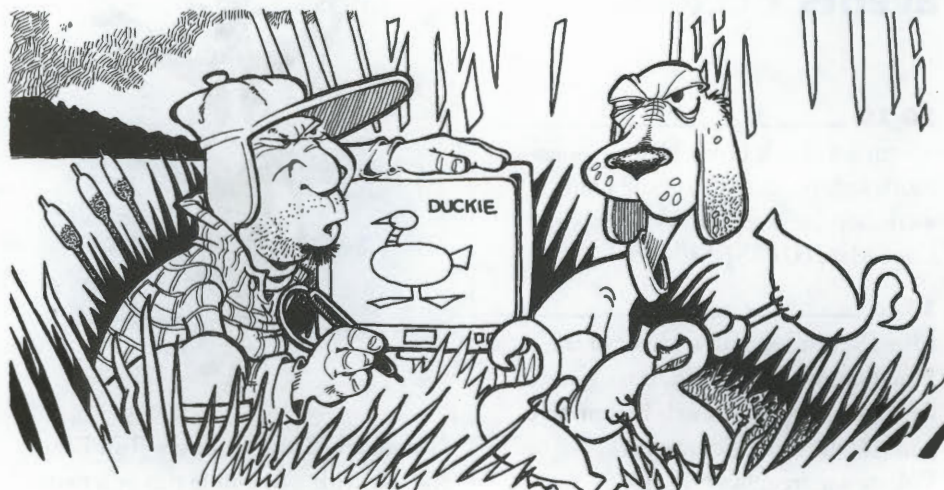
**Cooking in The Willows Mansion** See how cider was made in the past (and maybe even help to produce some) and enjoy a cooking demonstration using the wood-burning stove in The Willows kitchen; 1 to 4 p.m.; Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, 73 Kahdena Road, Morristown; \$4/adults, \$3/seniors (65+), \$2/children (6-16), free/under 6 and members of Friends of Fosterfields; add \$1 for guided tour of The Willows mansion on property; 201/326-7645

**Cranberry Harvest Tour** (also on Oct. 5) Learn about the history of cranberry culture and see today's cranberry harvest; 9 a.m.; Whitesbog Village, Pemberton Township; \$5/nonmembers, free/members; preregistration required; 609/893-4646

## October

### 1

**Reproducing Your Own Victorian Fashions** Lecture and demonstration; 7 p.m.; Kuser Farm Mansion, 390 Newkirk Ave., Hamilton (Mercer County); free, but advance reservations required; 609/890-3630



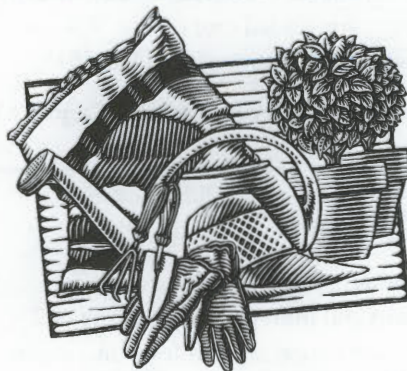
### 4

**43rd Annual LBI Surf Fishing Tournament** (through November 16) Six-week surf fishing competition for bluefish and striped bass with thousands of dollars in daily, weekly and grand prizes; ocean and bay beaches of Long Beach Island; \$25 registration/adults, \$15 registration/children 14 years old and younger; 609/494-7211 or 1-800-292-6372

**Annual Fall Crafter's Market**

Handcrafted items will be on display and on sale; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Historic Allaire Village, Allaire State Park, Wall Twp.; crafters should call for registration information; \$2/adults, free/children under 12; 908/938-2253

**Garden Work Party** (see Sept. 13)



**Astronomy** This workshop, designed for children 8 to 12 years old, will teach about astronomy; participants will build their own telescope; 6 to 9 p.m.; Passaic County Nature Center, 311 Pennsylvania Avenue, Paterson; \$7/person; preregistration/prepayment required; 201/881-4832

### 4 & 5

**Chowderfest Weekend** Seafood festival and chowder cook-off (with 20 area restaurants competing) featuring entertainment, shopping and unlimited chowder tasting; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Taylor Avenue Bayfront Park, Beach Haven; \$8/adults, \$3/children 12 years old and younger; 609/494-7211 or 1-800-292-6372

### 5

**Morristown Fall Festival** This popular festival features an environmental awareness area, entertainment, rides and food; 1 to 6 p.m.; on the town green, Morristown; free; 201/455-1133

**Skylands Manor Tour** (see July 13)

**SPUR (Special People United to Ride)**

**Hunter Pace** A game played on horseback where a pair of riders tries to match the pace set for a course through woods with obstacles; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thompson Park, 805 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft; 908/842-4000

**Hal Allaire Day** A celebration of the 150th birthday of James P. Allaire's son, Hal Allaire; 1 to 4 p.m.; Historic Allaire Village, Allaire State Park, Wall Twp.; free; 908/938-2253

**Cranberry Harvest Tour** (see Sept. 28)

### 8

**Les Petite Dames de Mode** — A video about the history of Edwardian fashions; 7 p.m.; Kuser Farm Mansion, 390 Newkirk Ave., Hamilton (Mercer County); free, but advance reservations required; 609/890-3630

## Events • October

**10-19**

**Victorian Week** Enjoy historic house tours, fashion shows, arts and crafts workshops, antique shows and more; Cape May; 609/884-5404

**11**

**Pine Barren Jamboree** Music of the Pine Barrens, crafts, children's games, demonstrations and food; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wells Mills County Park, Waretown; free; 609/971-3085

**Fall at Fosterfields** A variety of seasonal farm activities, including blacksmithing, beekeeping, butter making, corn husking and antique engines, will be featured along with hands-on activities; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, 73 Kahdena Road, Morristown; \$4/adults, \$3/seniors (65+), \$2/children (6-16), free/under 6 and members of Friends of Fosterfields; add \$1 for guided tour of The Willows mansion on property; 201/326-7645

**Civil War Encampment** Members of the 33rd N.J. Infantry Regiment and the 11th N.J. Volunteers will be at the mill to talk about and demonstrate camp life, musket firing and skirmishing during the Civil War; 1 to 4 p.m.; Cooper Gristmill, State Route 24/ County Route 513 (1.3 miles west of Route 206), Chester; admission is by donation; 908/879-5463



**Cranberry Cross-Country Run** Begin the day with a five-mile run or a two-mile fun run; 8 a.m.; Whitesbog Village, Pemberton Twp.; \$10/person preregistration, \$12/day of race; 609/893-4646

**12**

**Autumn Poets and Guitar** Music and poetry about autumn; 3 p.m.; meet at the Carriage House, New Jersey State Botanical Gardens at Skylands, Morris Road, Ringwood; \$3/person; 201/962-9534

**Corn Husking, Cooking and Cider Making** From 1 to 3 p.m., see a husking machine and help pick and husk the year's corn crop; from 1 to 4 p.m., try cooking on a wood-burning stove and making cider using a turn-of-the-century type cider press; Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, 73 Kahdena Road, Morristown; \$4/adults, \$3/seniors (65+), \$2/children (6-16), free/under 6 and members of Friends of Fosterfields; add \$1 for guided tour of The Willows mansion on property; 201/326-7645

**Cranberry Harvest Tour** (see Sept. 28)

**18**

**Wildflowers and Wildlife of the Pinelands Hike** (see July 19)

**Timberbrook Triathlon** A race for teams and individuals consisting of 2 miles of canoeing, 5 miles of mountain biking and 3 miles of cross-country running; 8 a.m.; Joseph C. Irwin Recreation Area, Windeler Road, Howell Township; \$20 solo entry, \$30 team entry; some canoes, with paddles and life jackets, will be available for rent at \$10; 908/542-1642

**The Magic of the Illusion Maker** A large stage production that involves levitation acts, disappearing acts and a puppet show, with a digital contemporary sound track, lights, smoke and a BANG! at the end that will make this a far cry from your ordinary magic show; 11 a.m.; Hackensack Meadowlands Decolpment Commission Environment Center, 2 DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst; organized groups welcome; \$6/person; 201/460-8300

**Whitesbog Village Tour and Full Moon Hike** Learn about Whitesbog Village and then hike approximately four miles on Whitesbog's sand roads; 7 p.m. Whitesbog, Lebanon State Forest, Burlington County; preregistration required; \$4/person, \$9/family, free/members; 609/893-4646

**19**

**Fat Tire Bike Rallye** A Whitesbog nature and history facts fun time trial; 1:30 p.m.; Whitesbog, Lebanon State Forest, Burlington County; preregistration required; \$4/person, \$9/family, free/members; 609/893-4646

**25 & 26**

**6th Annual Pumpkin Festival** Halloween parade (Sat. at noon; paraders must preregister; prizes will be awarded), pumpkin decorating/scarecrow-making contest, music, food, pumpkin painting, games and a craft show featuring more than 100 exhibitors; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cold Spring Village, 720 Route 9, Cape May; \$2/adults, \$1/children ages 5-12; 609/898-2300



## From the Governor



Christine Todd Whitman,  
Governor

The Jersey shore, a cherished treasure, is flourishing. Not by accident, but because government is working in partnership with others to make our coastal waters clean and safe. We've seen a remarkable recovery in the stock of fish species such as striped bass, Atlantic mackerel and Atlantic herring. And even more dolphins can be seen off the shore than in recent years.

This spring's Coastal Alliance summit focused on sharing information and local input as we develop our Shore Master Plan. There, I committed my continued support in funding and policies to protect the Jersey shore and highlighted some of the many things that we have been doing to protect the coast.

New Jersey's 14 artificial reefs are providing nearly 24 square miles of habitat for marine fish and shellfish, as well as fishing and diving opportunities. Our watershed management policies have enabled us to continue to increase acreage for approved shellfish harvesting. And, for the first time in 25 years, we opened more than 600 acres for seasonal unrestricted clamming in the Navesink River.

In other programs, we established a combined sewer overflow strategy to further improve water quality. We have had no recreational beach closings due to the washup of floatables for six years. We have a \$15 million stable source of funding for shore protection and beach replenishment. We worked with Atlantic City to guarantee public access to beaches and waterfronts. And our Blue Acres program is enabling coastal towns to acquire undeveloped storm-prone and ecologically vulnerable land.

I encourage your input as we move forward with the Shore Master Plan to preserve the Jersey shore for the continued enjoyment of our children and grandchildren.

## From the Commissioner



Robert C. Shinn, Jr.,  
Commissioner

"Perhaps nowhere is the redirection in water system management more evident than in the State of New Jersey." That quote, giving national recognition to New Jersey's leadership in water quality protection, was part of a report recently published by the Trust for Public Land. The report also praised our water supply master plan for advocating watershed acquisition and watershed management. New Jersey and the Trust worked together to purchase 16,000 acres in Sterling Forest along the New York border to protect watershed land and wildlife, as well as to enhance recreational opportunities.

As we enjoy New Jersey's lakes and coast this summer, I'd like to share some more good news about our water resources. Our recent water quality inventory reported a continued trend in cleaner waters. This is due to both treatment plant upgrades and greater compliance with discharge regulations.

This year we initiated a major watershed protection effort to control runoff from widespread areas, such as roads and farms. Our multi-phased effort includes public education grants to local and regional organizations, and implementation of a state-wide watershed management framework to further improve our waters.

Along our vital coast, we have a comprehensive estuary program that includes the New York-New Jersey Harbor and the Delaware and Barnegat Bay estuaries. Management plans were developed, through public and private partnerships, to reduce pollution, protect living resources and enhance habitats in each of these estuaries. We also have been working with marine associations to reduce sewage discharges from boats by the installation of marine sewage pumpouts.

These programs will help ensure that New Jersey's abundant swimming, fishing, clamming and water sports will be enjoyed for generations to come.

# The American Oystercatcher

by Sherry Meyer

Boldly marked with black and white, the American oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) is once again a common resident in coastal New Jersey. Although this species historically nested in the Garden State, the late 1800s saw a population decline due to hunting pressure, egg collecting and human encroachment on breeding habitats. By 1897, their breeding population was eliminated.

Protection afforded by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 allowed numbers to gradually increase. In 1947, breeding was once again confirmed in New Jersey. The breeding population reached an estimated 250 pairs in 1992 and the population has been growing ever since.

A large, distinctive shorebird, the American oystercatcher appears similar in both sexes, although the female is larger. The head of the adult is black; the breast and belly are white and the back is dark brown. Its brown wings show a broad white bar when in flight and its tail is brown with a white patch at its base. Splashes of color show up in its flat, reddish-orange bill, its bright yellow iris surrounded by a reddish eyering and its dull pink legs. The bird's call is a piercing, repeated *wheep*.

The juvenile of the species lacks the striking plumage of adults. Its head, back and wings are brown with buff feather edges. Its dark-tipped, pinkish bill is washed with gray, its iris is brown and its legs are gray. During its first fall, the juvenile molts into adult-like plumage, often retaining some juvenile feathers. Adult coloration of the bill, eyes and legs is attained in one to two years.

Aptly named, oystercatchers are specialist feeders, consuming mainly

shellfish such as mussels, oysters and clams. In addition, other marine invertebrates, including marine worms and crabs, may be taken. The bird forages on mud flats, sandbanks and shellfish beds and along tide lines and tidal creeks.

The oystercatcher uses its bill to sever the muscles sealing the shell of its prey. If the shell is open, the oystercatcher inserts its bill and cuts the muscle. If shut, the bird hammers the shell with its bill until it breaks, then severs the muscle.

Spring migration of the eastern race of the American oystercatcher occurs from March through May. Upon arriving at their breeding grounds along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, mates establish pair bonds. They nest on beaches, dunes, dredge spoil islands and salt marshes, preferring to breed at less disturbed locations and avoiding areas with heavy human use.

During the nesting period, oystercatchers are sensitive to disturbance. The approach of a predator, such as a fox or gull, or a human often triggers the adult to leave the nest and lure the intruder away with an attraction display. It may fly over the trespasser while calling or mock incubation to divert attention from the actual nest location.

Although oystercatchers nest singly, they may sometimes nest within tern or skimmer colonies. Nests often are located a distance from water at a higher elevation to minimize the risk of flooding. The nest is a depression scraped in the sand, occasionally lined with shells, pebbles or tidal debris.

Oystercatchers lay a clutch of two to four eggs during late April or May. The eggs are gray or olive with brown spotting or streaking. Parents share

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incubation duties, sitting on the eggs for 24 to 27 days.

The chicks are covered with down and are quite active, leaving the nest soon after hatching. The young follow the parents, begging them for food. At 34 to 37 days of age, they are able to fly. Because their bills are not yet fully developed, they are unable to forage like adults and are dependent upon their parents for food until they are eight to nine weeks old. Chicks may be preyed upon by gulls, foxes, dogs and cats.

Family groups may remain together during migration and into the winter. From late August through November, oystercatchers travel south, wintering along the Gulf coast and along the Atlantic coast as far north as New Jersey.

*Sherry Meyer works with the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program.*

