



New Jersey

Fall 1999 • \$4.25

Outdoors

Phenomenal Fishing

Casting for Smallies

Two on a Bike

Cycling the D&R Canal Trail

Jeepers, Peepers

We Have Some Neat Leapers

A photograph of a wooden bridge in a forest during autumn. The bridge has a railing and is covered with fallen leaves. The background is filled with trees with yellow and orange foliage. A white sign with red text is placed on the bridge.

For Reference
Not to be taken
from this library

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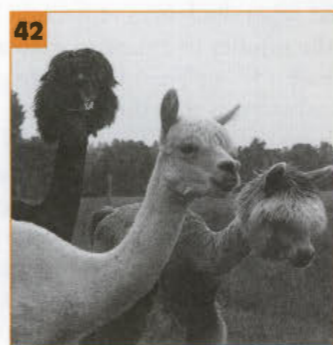
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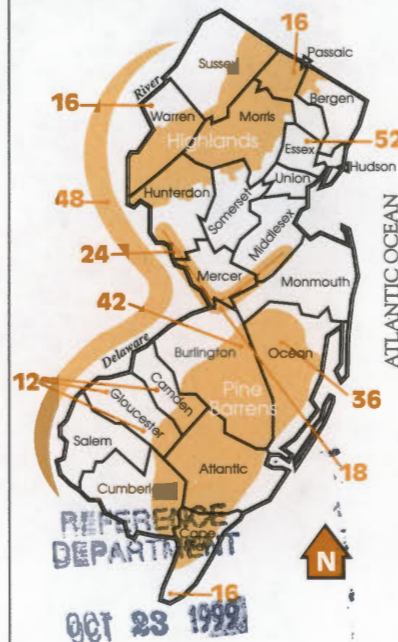
by Natalie Verdi

One of the most migratory of all butterflies, painted ladies frequently are seen in profusion in New Jersey.



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Front Cover

A variety of raptors can be glimpsed from the Montclair Hawk Lookout (see related story on page 56). Pictured here is an immature goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). © Arthur Panzer

Inside Front Cover

This bridge entices fall visitors to enjoy the vibrant splashes of color to be found in Ringwood State Park. © Alyce Parseghian

Inside Back Cover

A painted lady butterfly flutters by its preferred host plant, the thistle. © 1999 Neal MacDonald

Back Cover

Autumnal leaves provide a splash of color to complement the mossy green, misty white and deep blue of this stream scene. © Alyce Parseghian

From the Governor



Christine Todd Whitman,
Governor

Last fall, the voters of New Jersey overwhelmingly approved a ballot question to provide a stable source of funding for open space, farmland and historic preservation. In June, I was pleased to carry out the people's will by signing legislation that will help our state to preserve 1 million acres of open space and farmland within the next decade.

The biggest parcel - 500,000 acres - will be farmland. That's especially important for maintaining the viability of our farming industry. We've lost half our farmland in the past 50 years, and we can't afford to lose much more.

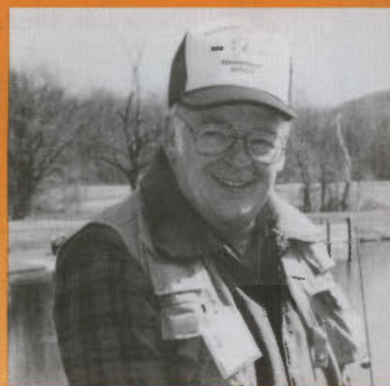
Our plan calls for saving 200,000 acres of land for recreation in rural, suburban and urban areas. This open space will be used for everything from athletic fields to campgrounds to ice rinks and swimming beaches.

We also intend to preserve 200,000 acres of greenways. As New Jersey is the most densely populated state in America, these acres will provide critically needed connections between parks and neighborhoods, and help us protect streams and other waterways.

Last, but certainly not least important, we want to dedicate 100,000 acres for watershed protection. We know that wetlands help reduce the pollution deposited in our waterways. The same is true for headwater areas and stream corridors that feed into our water supplies. Protecting watershed lands improves water quality without forcing us to build expensive water treatment facilities.

I am proud of New Jersey's efforts to ensure that our majestic fields, forests and farms will be preserved for all time - and that we keep the garden in the Garden State. This will be both a legacy for future generations to enjoy and a tribute to the hard work and commitment of those who care so much about New Jersey's precious natural treasures.

From the Commissioner



Robert C. Shinn, Jr.,
Commissioner

How do you value New Jersey's precious water supplies? If a public beach is closed due to an oil spill, how do you compensate the public? How do you restore a pristine trout stream injured by a discharge from a hazardous site?

These are just a few of the issues our Office of Natural Resource Damages has been addressing in carrying out its mission to restore natural resources that have been injured by oil spills and other discharges of hazardous substances. The staff work with those responsible for the injuries to ensure that, in addition to the cleanup, a natural resource restoration project is implemented to compensate New Jerseyans for the lost functions and ecological services that the resource provided.

The office's efforts have resulted in 1,600 acres of preserved open space and restored habitat and projects to compensate the citizens of New Jersey for injuries to the state's natural resources. A recent - and very successful - restoration project featured a unique combination of restoration objectives that stemmed from an oil spill in the Delaware Bay. Here, permanent boom anchors (which enable the quick deployment of oil spill containment apparatus) were constructed in Nantuxent Cove, with nesting platforms for the state-threatened osprey placed on top. These nests yielded 4 fledglings last spring.

Whether acquiring open space to protect aquifers, restoring injured wildlife habitat or enhancing public access to natural resources, the Office of Natural Resource Damages will continue to work to restore New Jersey's natural resources for enjoyment by generations to come.

Editor's Note: To learn more, visit the office's website at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/nhr/onrd>.

NJO News & Notes

Thank You

Heartfelt thanks go to all who entered the New Jersey Outdoors 1998-99 Photo Contest and to those who made the contest possible through their generous donation of prizes.

The winning photos appear on pages 16 and 17. So many excellent pictures were sent in that several entrants were selected to receive honorable mention. They are: Frank Fautacone of Forked River, for *Still*, which was taken at the Forked River Marina; Gloria Archambault of Marlton, who shot *Castaways* at Island Beach State Park; Point Pleasant's M. J. Hulsart, who also visited Island Beach to capture *Bayside Shoreline*; Laura Melendez of Dunellen, who found her *Red Fox* in the Dunes at Island Beach; another Island Beach devotee, Gail Hoofnagle of Marlton, who photographed that state park's *Silver on Blues*; Philip W. Dezan of Kendall Park, who caught *Emerging Light* at the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, and Florham Park's Joseph Zielinski, who snapped two honorable mention images, *Fall Colors* and *Fall Impressions*, in Ringwood State Park.

The *Camera Shop* continued its sponsorship tradition by providing a beautiful camera bag for the first-place winner and complimentary film processing for the second- and third-place winners. The N.J. Department of Environmental Protection's divisions of **Fish, Game and Wildlife** and **Parks and Forestry** and the **Artificial Reef Program** provided a beautiful variety of prizes, including a State Park Pass, Wildlife Profiles, the New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide, T-shirts and The Guide to New Jersey's State Parks and Forests.

In addition to place prizes received, all winners were given a *New Jersey Outdoors* cap and a subscription to the magazine as well as a plaque or certificate memorializing their achievement.

In Memoriam

When Cliff Frazee of Forked River passed away in mid May, we lost a great teacher. I first met Cliff at Wells Mills County Park five years ago. He took me to his cedar swamp, and taught me about re-growing cedar after a harvest. Cliff cared about the future.

Cliff lived with the forests of the Pine Barrens. He knew their ecology long before the courses were invented at Rutgers. I'm fortunate that my friend shared many of his woodland "secrets" with me in the short time I knew him.

Last June, Cliff sold 817 acres of his land in the Forked River Mountain wilderness to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, donating much of the land's value to the cause of protecting Pine Barrens open space.

This wilderness is the largest privately owned forest in the state. It houses the highest concentration of endangered species in the northern half of the Pine Barrens. Cliff kept it that way; he was practicing sustainable forestry before the term was invented.

When you visit the Forked River Mountains, listen to the woods. Then you'll know Cliff, too.

Emile D. DeVito, Ph.D.
Director of Conservation Biology
New Jersey Conservation Foundation

State of New Jersey
Christine Todd Whitman
Governor



Department of Environmental Protection

Robert C. Shinn, Jr.
Commissioner

Peter Page
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Chief, Office of Publications

New Jersey *Outdoors*

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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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State Park Celebrates Silver

On October 10, the Delaware and Raritan Canal will celebrate its 25th anniversary as a state park.

Constructed from 1830 to 1834, and in operation until 1933, the D&R Canal was the second major canal to be built in New Jersey. Linking Bordentown on the Delaware River with New Brunswick on the Raritan, and supplied with water by a long feeder canal extending along the northeast side of the Delaware from Bull's Island to Trenton, the entire system covers a distance of 70 miles.

For nearly 100 years, the canal was used to transport freight between major metropolitan areas, playing a critical role in New Jersey's mid-19th century industrial and commercial development. Besides facilitating the movement of commodities such as iron products and agricultural produce between the expanding metropolitan areas of Philadelphia and New York, the D&R Canal spurred the growth of Trenton, New Brunswick and several smaller communities situated along its banks.

In addition to its assets as a valuable recreational and wildlife corridor, the park's 19th century bridges, bridgetender houses, past and present locks, cobblestone spillways and hand-built stone-arched culverts are a great attraction to history enthusiasts.

The D&R Canal was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. Since 1974, it has served as a source of drinking water and a popular recreational corridor administered by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Parks and Forestry. Though its years as a conduit for freight have long since passed, New Jersey's residents continue to benefit greatly from its existence and use. (For a look at the pleasures of one family's cycling trip along the main and feeder canals, see **Making Memories in Tandem** on page 24.)

To help commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, a calendar of events has been organized with activities featuring everything from leisurely walks and a 5K race to photo exhibits, a historical symposium and a festive dinner. A copy of this calendar is available by contacting Linda Barth, D&R Canal Commission, at 908/722-7428.

Stone Harbor Garden Club Honored

The National Arbor Day Foundation, during its 27th annual Arbor Day celebration, named the Garden Club of Stone Harbor as one of two recipients of the 1999 Lady Bird Johnson Award. Given for exemplary leadership in roadside beautification, the award recognizes the club's 20 years of planting and caring for trees, flowers and shrubs along Stone Harbor's 40 boulevard traffic islands.

Butterfly House Opened

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association's Buttinger Nature Center recently opened the Katherine W. Gorrie Memorial Butterfly House. The seasonal structure is open daily during daylight hours and houses a native plant butterfly garden with several species of native butterflies. Visitors to the nature center, located in Pennington, will marvel at the magic and multicolored beauty of the butterfly house's fluttering inhabitants. For directions and tour information, call 609/737-7592.

New Guidebook Available

The New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry recently released the second printing of its comprehensive 56-page guidebook entitled *New Jersey's State Parks, Forests, Recreation Areas and Historic Sites: The Guide to New Jersey's Special Places*. The popular guide was revised to include information on the state's historic sites, villages and monuments and a new listing of New Jersey's 21 fire towers, which offer unique vistas.

The guide profiles the Garden State's 38 state parks, 11 state forests, 42 natural areas, 5 marinas, 4 recreation areas, golf course and numerous environmental centers. It also provides information on camping facilities, recreational activities and trails in the state park system.

The publication is available for \$2 at state park and forest offices. To receive a copy by mail, send \$4 (\$2 for the guide and \$2 for postage) to the NJ State Park Service, PO Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08625-0404. Checks should be made payable to **Treasurer, State of New Jersey**.

Beware the Lone Star Tick

In his article **The Battle Against Lyme Disease**, which appeared in the Spring 1998 issue of *New Jersey Outdoors*, microbiologist Jim Occi mentioned (in a picture caption) that the lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*) does not transmit the Lyme disease bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

He recently advised *New Jersey Outdoors* that there is increasing evidence that this tick does transmit the bacterium. "This occurs with some frequency in the South (Missouri and North Carolina), and has been documented to occur twice in New Jersey," he noted.

What's Scarlet and Russet and Orange and Gold?

Fall foliage in New Jersey's state parks and forests, of course. Beginning in early to mid October, visitors to our northern state forests — Worthington, Abram S. Hewitt and Jenny Jump — and parks — Swartswood, Ringwood, High Point and Allamuchy Mountain — will marvel at the spectacular array of colors. Peak viewing time comes a little later (mid to late October) in New Jersey's central and southern regions, but whether you're hiking, biking or just driving by, state parks and forests such as Washington Crossing, Hacklebarney, Voorhees, Wharton, Belleplain and Lebanon will delight the eye.

You may opt to take a guided tour or enjoy the vistas on your own. Scheduled events at state facilities include Cheesequake State Park's **Fall Foliage Walk**, which will leave from the park's interpretive center at 11 a.m. on Oct. 23. (For details, call 732/566-3208.) The Paulinskill Valley Trail Committee will sponsor a **Fall Foliage Hike** in Kittatinny Valley State Park. It will leave from Warbasse Junction at 10 a.m. on Oct. 10. (For details, call 908/852-0597.)

The **Fall Forestry and 4-H Festival**, cosponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection's Forest Resource Education Center and Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service's Ocean County 4-H, will take place at the Center on Oct. 2, beginning at 10 a.m. (For more information, call the Center at 732/928-0029 or the 4-H Program at 732/349-1227.) Pick up a copy of the *Fall and Winter Calendar of Events* at any state park or forest office or visitor center for information about activities at other sites.

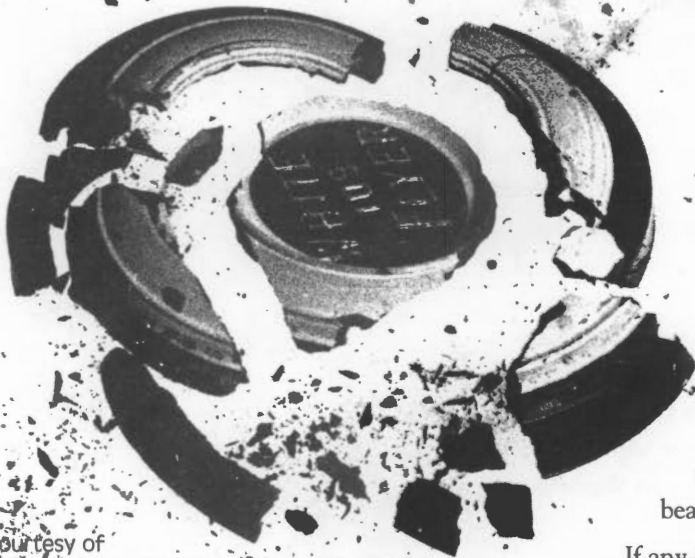
Okay, so you want to see the colors on your own but aren't sure which trees turn what colors. Following is a list of some of the more popular New Jersey trees.

- ✱ White oak — orange-brown, sometimes quite reddish
- ✱ Red oak; black oak — reddish brown
- ✱ Scarlet oak — bright scarlet to deep red
- ✱ Chestnut oak — brownish, with an orange tinge
- ✱ Bear oak — yellowish brown
- ✱ Red maple — very bright red
- ✱ Sugar maple — bright orange red, becoming yellow
- ✱ Silver maple — pale yellow
- ✱ Yellow birch — bright yellow
- ✱ Gray birch; paper birch — pale yellow
- ✱ Sweetgum — orange-red, becoming yellow
- ✱ Sassafras — reddish, becoming yellow
- ✱ Sumac — orange, becoming bright red
- ✱ Eastern sycamore — brown
- ✱ Flowering dogwood — deep red
- ✱ White ash — Maroon; dark reddish green
- ✱ Tuliptree — bright yellow
- ✱ Black gum — very deep, dark red

Whether you "go it alone" or join the crowd, don't miss the spectacular hues of autumn in New Jersey's state parks and forests.

Nothin' But Dust

by Robert Brunisholz



Courtesy of
White Flyer Company, Connecticut

You're traveling on some nondescript interstate, on your way to the outskirts of a town of which you've never heard, much less visited, and chances are you're lost. To make matters worse, you won't even glance at the odometer on your 2-year-old SUV because in the last two shooting seasons you've racked up more miles than the space shuttle — and this season isn't half-finished.

In addition, your non-shooting friends could never understand why the word *lost* causes your pupils to dilate and little beads of sweat to form on your forehead.

If any of this sounds familiar, chances are you're an avid trapshooter.

Yep, I said *trapshooter* — those men, women and sometimes even youngsters old enough to control a scattergun to the extent that they can bust a sufficient number

of clay birds, or pigeons, to remain reasonably competitive at state, and even national, trapshoots.

The genesis of trapshooting harkens back nearly two centuries when, in merry old England, someone conceived the brilliant idea of shooting a shotgun at an airborne glass target, roughly the shape and size of today's traditional softball. Since the carriage trade in England at the time were shooting at game birds released from a pen-like container called a trap, it followed that the device that tossed the glass balls into the air would be called a trap. Makes sense to me.

The new game hit the shores of North America sometime around 1800, but was not readily embraced by wingshooters. Keep in mind, however, that nowhere on this planet will you find people who are more competitive as well as ingenious. If a device needs improvement, you can count on an American to discover, engineer or redesign a mechanical instrument in the name of making it better. That's exactly what happened to the so-called trap and the glass targets.

Doing It *Our* Way

No sooner had American shotgunners adopted the sport than clay targets, similar to the ones used in trapshoots today, replaced the old glass balls. Next came dramatic improvements to the trap. Contemporary traps, housed in buildings called (what else?) traphouses, are fully automated. They are capable of throwing clay birds at speeds up to 60 mph — and doing so within precise and predetermined angles and heights.



© 1999 Oliver Shapiro

Despite a shooting fraternity that was, at first, reluctant to embrace it as a competitive sport, trapshooting now is the most popular of America's shotgun shooting sports, with more than 80 million registered targets shot annually.

Nearly all contemporary shooters compete at matches nationwide under an umbrella organization called the Amateur Trapshooting Association, based in Vandalia, Ohio. Originally founded in 1900 as the American Trapshooting Association, in 1923 the label was changed to the Amateur Trapshooting Association, since ATA officials did not wish to discourage shooters by implying they had to compete against professionals. Though some state shoots, as well as the Grand National Championships held every year in Vandalia, offer some hefty cash prizes, the ATA is made up entirely of non-professionals.

This year marks the 100th Grand American Trapshooting Championships, which were held from August 12 to 23 at Vandalia. Last year, nearly 70,000 attended what trapshooters usually refer to as merely the Grand. Of that number, nearly 7,000 were participants. And therein lies the most reliable indicator of just how popular trapshooting has become during the last few decades: The first Grand National, a 4-day event held in 1900 at Interstate Park in Queens, New York, drew a mere 20 competitors.

Three Distinct Challenges

So, what is this thing that compels shooters to travel thousands of miles at their own expense to compete against shooters they don't know and have never seen? Unlike sporting clays, in which no two clay bird courses are alike, or skeet shooting in which shooters try to break clay birds thrown from two traphouses — a low house and a high house, trapshooters shoot in three separate disciplines.

First is a competition in which everyone, regardless of individual skills or accomplishments, shoots at the same distance, the 16-yard line. Traditionally called singles, the first (or closest) position to the traphouse at which a squad of five shooters compete is the 16-yard mark. The yardage, however, can increase all the way back to the 27-yard line, which brings us to the second discipline, called handicap yardage.

During the course of a year, ATA officials maintain the scores of trapshooters; those scores are used to assign handicap yardage to each shooter. Those who consistently break targets in, for example, the mid to high 90s at a 100-bird shoot, would be assigned a handicap of 24, or perhaps 26, yards. When shooters receive what they call a bump, notifying them that their handicap yardage is now 27 yards, they know they've arrived. Only the most consistent shooters with scores in the high 90s, including a few of those elusive 100-straight, are backed up all the way to the 27-yard line.



After completing a round of 25 birds at one of the four traps used during a 100-bird race, these shooters gather around the scorekeeper to check on their individual scores, as well as joke with each other about lost (missed) birds. Trapshooters hate the word *lost*.

© 1998 Robert Brunisholz

What You'll Need

Must have:

- ☐ Shooting or safety glasses of the type designed to withstand impact. Standard plastic sunglasses or non-shatterproof lenses will not do.
- ☐ Ear protection – either the ear-muff style hearing protectors or the soft style that can be inserted into the ear will do.

Nice to have:

- ☐ Shell box worn on a belt or designed into a shooting jacket or vest.
- ☐ Shooting gloves.
- ☐ Shooting jacket or vest.

Typical fees

A variety of options often are offered during a formal, or registered, shoot. Fees can vary from \$18 to \$28 for a 100-bird contest, but additional fees may apply should shooters opt to participate in a Lewis Class (method of handicapping using percentages) or a Calcutta.

Fees at Informal, or smaller, club ranges usually average between \$4 and \$5 for a practice round of 25 birds. For a 10-bird shoot, they generally range from \$2 to \$4.50, depending upon club regulations and whether the shooter wishes to pay a dollar or two extra for the money pot.

ATA Classifications

Formal competition shooters are classified according to their average scores. The classifications aid in determining a shooter's yardage handicap and, depending upon the type of competition, often prevent shooters with lower scores from competing against trapshooters who are more experienced and thus better shots.

Class AA 97 percent or greater

Class A 94 percent to less than 97

Class B 91 percent to less than 94

Class C 88 percent to less than 91

Class D Less than 88 percent

For additional information about the Amateur Trapshooting Association or membership in the organization, write to the ATA at 601 W. National Road, Vandalla, OH 45377, or check the ATA website at www.shootata.com.

The third and final discipline is doubles. When shooting doubles, as the label implies, shooters traditionally stand at the singles line (the 16-yard marker) from whence they try to bust not one, but two clay birds thrown at the same time. Of the three disciplines, it is doubles that offers the most difficulty, even to accomplished trapshooters.

Regardless of whether one is shooting singles, handicap or doubles, it has been said that trapshooting is 90 percent mental (concentration) and 10 percent physical ability and equipment. I would like to respectfully disagree.

Watch the Birdie

Based on my own comparatively limited experience, trapshooting is perhaps 50 percent mental, 10 percent physical and 40 percent dependent upon your ability to see the target.

In this instance, the verb *see* takes on an entirely different meaning compared to the ability to merely observe an object. In trapshooting, the gun is supposed to fire at – and hit – what the shooter is looking at, rather than the reverse as applied to rifle and handgun shooters, who primarily see their sights, then look at the target beyond. In trapshooting, the shooter is supposed to focus on the target, rather than the sights – or beads – of the firearm. The shotgun, in turn, is supposed to shoot where one is looking. *Supposed to* are the key words.

To complicate matters a little more, to the casual observer who may have never shot a round of trap, it often appears as though trapshooters don't mount their guns to their shoulders as do shooters competing in sporting clays or skeet. Rather, trapshooters mount guns to their shoulders prior to calling for a bird. Attaining a proper mount of the gun for trapshooters is often an elaborate process that could easily be mistaken for "climbing into a gun," rather than merely shouldering it.

Trapshooters are meticulous in their efforts to mount a gun to their shoulder in precisely the same manner each time; thus, much care and deliberateness is taken during the mounting process. That's because the gun must be held in precisely the same manner each time, thus allowing the shooter to swing, or point, the gun exactly the same way every time he or she turns the upper torso to follow the flying target. "Look at (see) the target, not the gun or the sights," say the instructors.

When a clay bird breaks, it does so in many ways. A target is declared a hit even if only a tiny chip flies off the clay bird. When hit, most targets usually break into chunks, or several pieces. But when a shooter is having one of those *on* days, and the gun is hitting exactly where the shooter is looking, that clay bird can disappear in a cloud of black dust. When that happens, the shooter knows he or she is *on*. As often as not, other shooters watching will often be heard to say, "Man, oh man, nothin' but dust." It is, indeed, a high compliment and a gratifying sight to the person behind the gun.

Conversely, when you're having one of those *off* days, one of the most dreaded words in the English language, at least to serious shooters, is *lost*. The damnable word is announced by the scorekeeper/trap puller whenever a bird is missed, and most seem to take particular delight in trumpeting the word for all to hear.

Like Father, Like Daughter

Turning targets into *nothin' but dust* is a familiar sight for Deborah Ohye of North Brunswick, and she rarely hears the word *lost*. Ohye is a world-class trapshooter as is her father, Kay Ohye, also of North Brunswick and a coach to U.S. Olympic teams. Deborah has carved her own niche in trapshooting history, having logged in as the doubles champion at last year's Grand and the singles champion at the 1998 Southern Satellite Grand. She has captained the New Jersey Trapshooting Team for three consecutive years, and has been appointed to the team for the 12th straight year. Both appear regularly on the ATA's All-America Team where, this year, Kay is on the Men's First Team and Deborah is captain of the Women's First Team.

To top off a list of championship credentials too lengthy to list here, when the ATA posted the New Jersey Average Winners list last year for singles (16-yard), handicap and doubles in the men's division and the ladies' division, only two names appeared in each of the three categories: Deborah Ohye and Kay Ohye

If you're a beginning trapshooter or are considering giving it a try, Deborah has some well-founded advice.

"Novice trapshooters should never be discouraged merely because they are unfamiliar with the sport. But it is important for the beginner to understand the rules of the club at which they are shooting, as well as basic safety rules and the rules of the ATA. I have seen new shooters walk around with their guns closed, and even sometimes with the guns loaded. That's not only against all safety rules, but is reason to be asked to leave the range. Knowing the rules will keep new shooters from an embarrassing situation," Ohye says.

In addition, some neophytes may be perplexed or even intimidated by the various trap guns observed at shoots. Often the guns carry brand names unfamiliar to hunters, and these scatterguns can be prohibitively expensive in comparison to field guns. Ohye also had some advice for newcomers concerning the often substantial investment trap guns require.

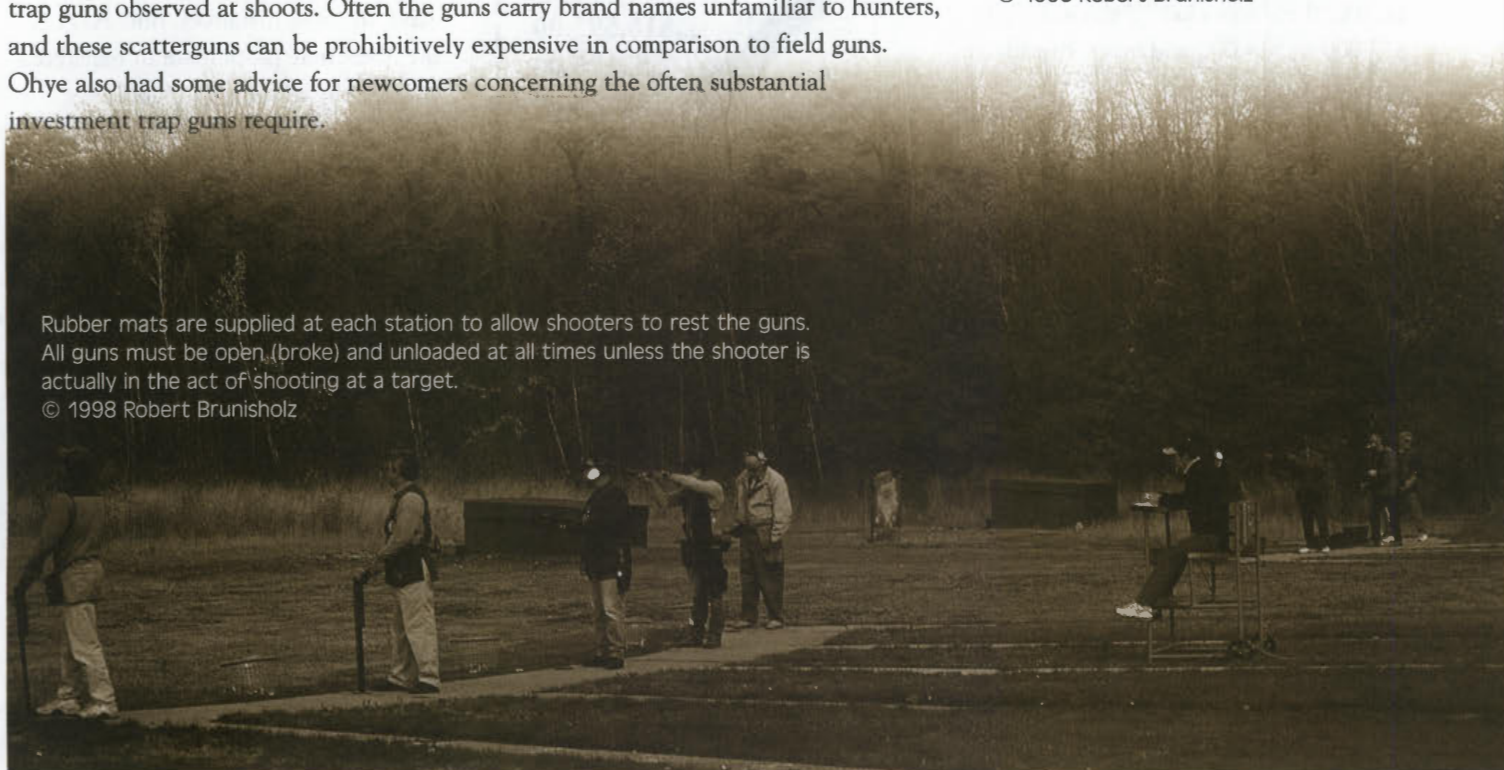
Rubber mats are supplied at each station to allow shooters to rest the guns. All guns must be open, (broke) and unloaded at all times unless the shooter is actually in the act of shooting at a target.

© 1998 Robert Brunisholz



Art DiPhillipis, a long-time member of the North Jersey Clay Target Club in Fairfield, prepares to head to the 16-yard line for a round of singles. Note the highly specialized trapgun with adjustable comb on the stock and the exaggerated (raised) rib along the barrel. The gun DiPhillipis uses is a Krieghoff, model K-80.

© 1998 Robert Brunisholz





Today's state-of-the-art traps are fully adjustable and automatic. They are capable of throwing clay targets up to 60 mph at precise angles and heights as required by ATA rules.
© 1998 Robert Brunisholz

cross that great divide, trapshooting will follow us," Cobosco says, adding that concerted efforts also should be made to encourage more women to join the ranks.

But Cobosco's comments did not address only the recruitment of young shooters. He has stuck with the trapshooting game all these long years for good reason.

"Nowhere will you find a nicer group of people more willing to help and assist new shooters, or even offer advice to experienced shooters who may be in a slump or struggling," Cobosco says. "Though I certainly enjoy shooting and

these smaller ranges do not require membership in the ATA.

Unfortunately, small, or club, ranges with only one or two traphouses do not maintain a registry of locations, dates and times of shooting as do ATA trapfields. Nonetheless, it is at these small club shoots that novice shooters can get their start for later, more formal competition at ATA matches.

The easiest way to locate one of these small ranges is by watching the outdoor calendar in your local newspaper or talking to other hunters and shooters. And once you've found one, you'll have a line on nearly all of them. The shooters who participate in these less formal shoots will be glad to tell you where they go to attend others.

In the meantime, novice shooters should not feel locked out at ATA ranges. Only when an ATA Registered Shoot is in progress are competitors required to be members of the ATA. And, in some instances, non-ATA members may participate in registered shoots, but will not be eligible for prizes. In addition, ATA trap ranges often conduct shoots that are not registered, and anyone may shoot during such events.

But be careful, the bug may bite you when you start turning targets to nothin' but dust. Then watch your car's odometer turn over a few times in the span of a couple of years.

Califon resident Robert Brunisholz is a noted sportswriter and periodic contributor to New Jersey Outdoors. The most recent of his articles to appear, "A Shooter's Lesson in Humility" (Fall 1998), focused on sporting clays.

"I would recommend that the new shooter not invest a lot of money right away. New shooters should first determine how much they enjoy trapshooting, and find out whether they are going to stay in the game," Ohye says.

Ohye's cautions about the purchase of a trap gun by a beginner may not, at first, sound like earth-shattering advice. But, when the new shooter takes a gander at prices that start between \$800 and \$1,200, then skyrocket all the way up to \$12,000 to \$14,000 and more, her advice takes on new meaning.

Think of the Future

Len Cobosco, of Netcong, is a consistently high-scoring and highly skilled trapshooter who has been at the game for about 30 years, and it is not unusual for him to run several 100-straight during a single season. He also has some concerns about new shooters, but they're a little different than Ohye's.

"When you look up and down a trapfield where numerous traps are in operation, most of the shooters are older," he says. "We must recruit more youngsters into what is really a wholesome and healthy sport. If we fail to do so, when we

the competition, it is, without doubt, the camaraderie that has kept me coming back to the trapfields all these years."

If you're thinking about giving trapshooting a try, the best place to start is at one of the many private gun clubs that maintain small ranges where nightly or weekend shoots are contested. Most of

!!	\$7995.00
70/30,CT..	...\$3795.00
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HOT!\$4400.00
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....	\$2895.00
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	\$3595.00

Where to Go

New Jersey has several trapshooting facilities that are sanctioned by the Amateur Trapshooting Association. If you're not a member of the ATA, it would be wise to call the facility ahead of the date you plan to shoot to:

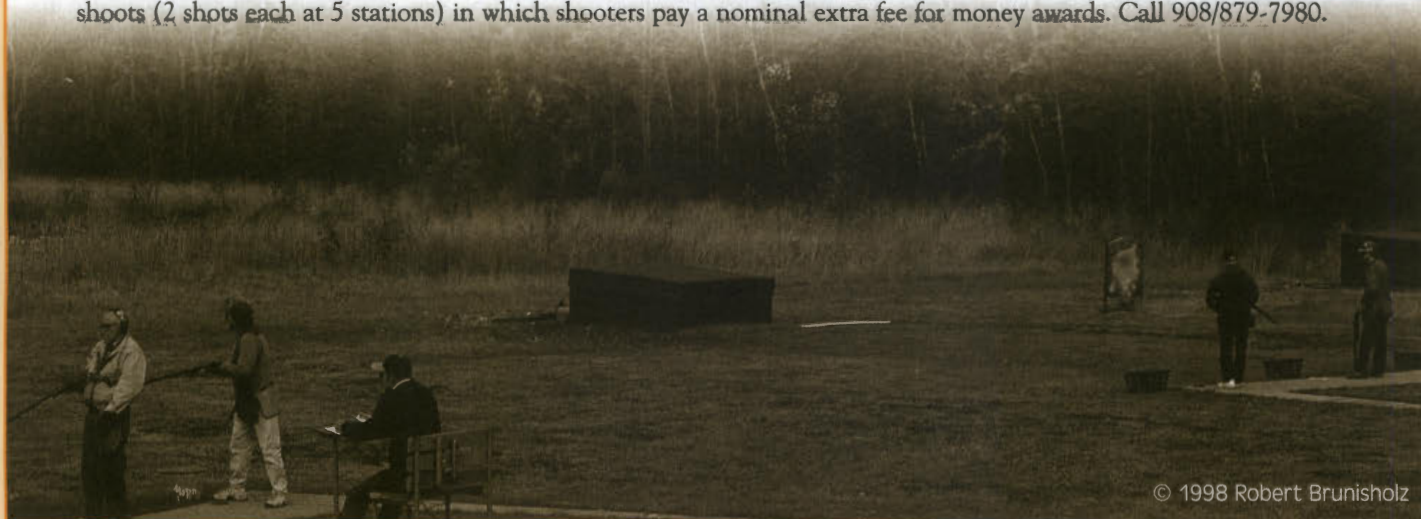
- ❑ Determine club rules: Can a person who is not a member of the ATA shoot during a registered shoot?
- ❑ Request dates on which the range is open to the public as opposed to the dates when registered shoots are conducted.
- ❑ Find out about fees and restrictions. ATA ranges operating under private club rules may often charge non-members slightly more for a round of shooting, and most ATA ranges specify that only 12-gauge shotguns may be used. In addition, nearly all trap ranges restrict shooters to shot sizes no larger than 7 1/2.

Large New Jersey trapshooting facilities with multiple traphouses, sanctioned by the ATA, are:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Pine Valley Gun Club
New Freedom Road, Pine Hill
609/767-2661
Practice trap open Tuesdays
from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.❑ Central Jersey Rifle
and Pistol Club
Stump Tavern Road, Jackson
800/5-GUN-FUN❑ Country Lakes Gun Club
Daisy Lane, Browns Mills
609/893-9480 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Farmers Sportsman Club
Ellis Road, Milford
908/996-4862
Open Fridays from 7 to 10 p.m.❑ Fox Ridge (Fox Ridge Range)
44 Clove Road, Wantage
973/875-5791
Open Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m.
– 6 to 9 p.m., Fridays from 6 to 9 p.m.
and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. An
appointment must be made for groups.❑ Howell Trap Club
Yellowbrook Road, Howell
732/938-2189 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ North Jersey Clay Target Club
488 Horseneck Road, Fairfield
973/227-1139❑ Pine Belt Sportsmens Club
Route 541, Indian Mills
609/268-0237❑ Thunder Mountain Trap
and Skeet Club
Ringwood
973/962-6377
Open Wednesday through Friday
from 1 to 10 p.m. and Saturday and
Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call
ahead to determine dates of regis-
tered shoots, during which hours
may be altered. |
|--|--|--|

Following are three of the smaller or private gun clubs that hold informal shoots. Remember, there are many others, but club ranges operating only one or two traps are not listed in a registry as are ATA affiliated trapfields with multiple traps set up for large numbers of shooters and registered shoots. In addition, depending upon the regulations of private clubs, membership is sometimes required, while in other instances non-members shoot as guests of those conducting the shoot. At other clubs, the traps are open to the public.

- ❑ **The Shongum Sportsmen's Association** is located off Route 46, less than 10 minutes north of Hackettstown. It has four traps, but during routine or evening practice shoots only one is utilized. Trap(s) are in use each Tuesday evening and on some Sundays, depending on activities at other ranges located on the property. For detailed directions, fees and other information, Shongum has a computerized telephone information system. Call 908/637-4991.
- ❑ **The Fin, Fur and Feather Club** is located at 337 Route 526 in Cream Ridge. Shoots are held every Friday starting at 6 p.m. Call 609/259-7309.
- ❑ **The Chester Game Association**, which has two traps, is located on Route 206, about 2 miles north of the Route 206/Route 24 intersection in the center of Chester Township. Weather permitting, shoots are held from 7 to 10 p.m. every Thursday, year round. Participants may shoot 25-bird practice rounds at one trap or join the 10-bird shoots (2 shots each at 5 stations) in which shooters pay a nominal extra fee for money awards. Call 908/879-7980.



© 1998 Robert Brunisholz

THE DEAN OF TRAPSHOOTING

by Charlene M. Engelbrecht



George McCarty has been called "The Dean of Trapshooting" and "New Jersey's Greatest Sportsman." A one-man campaign for the promotion of the sport, he competed alongside Annie Oakley and John Philip Sousa, was instrumental in the repopulation of New Jersey game birds, served on the State Fish and Game Commission, and founded the permanent home of the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA).

He was also my great-grandfather and, although he died 12 years before my birth, his memory stays very much alive in stories handed down at family gatherings. That's understandable, for he was easily the most colorful character on my mother's side of the family tree. He was a large man in stature, with a booming voice that rivaled the sound of his shotgun. In contrast, he evidenced a soft heart and a gentle hand as he raised and cared for the many birds, deer and other wildlife that needed rehabilitation on his property in the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

McCarty was born the eighth of 12 children in Black Oak Bottom, Virginia, near the Potomac River, in 1868. His farming family lived off the land, and it was here, in his youth, that he mastered and honed his shooting skills, hunting deer, squirrel and rabbit with a muzzleloading rifle. At the age of 15, he secured a job as a tannin salesman, traveling between St. Louis and Boston.

In 1902, when he was in his early thirties, he moved to Philadelphia. There, he began importing aniline dyes, which were used to color wool and cotton, from Germany and Switzerland. Two years later he moved to Blackwood (Camden County), where he held the distinction of owning the first automobile in town. Six years after that, he relocated to Woodbury (Gloucester County) with his wife, Wessie, three sons and daughter.



Both photos of George McCarty on this page, as well as all other pictures illustrating this article, were provided courtesy of the estate of George S. McCarty.



One of a Kind

Having the first car in Blackwood had been unique, but uniqueness seemed to follow my great-grandfather around. Life in Woodbury was no exception, especially when his son Shultz returned from an expedition in the Amazon with three spider monkeys. Shultz gave him one, and he and Candy became fast friends.

Great-grandfather often went to the local movie theater with Candy riding in his sport coat pocket. After the lights dimmed and the movie started, Candy would emerge to run amok, jumping on patrons' heads — scaring the daylights out of them — and knocking over or taking cups of popcorn. She would then return to his pocket, tired and full of stolen treats.

At home, Candy and Wessia would sit together smoking cigarettes — yes, the monkey smoked — while Wessia hooked rugs or oil painted. When Candy grew bored of these activities, she would smear tomatoes on the tiny windowpanes of the sun porch, undoubtedly emulating Wessia's oil painting.

Members of the McCarty family pose in their new car.

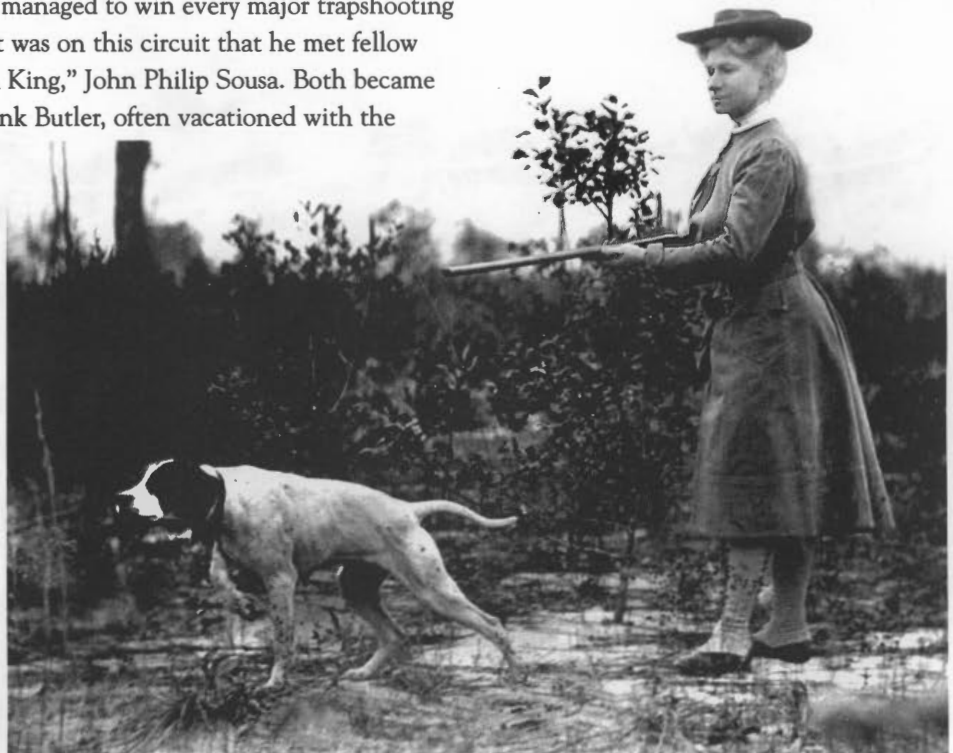
Birds of a Feather

It was around this time that my great-grandfather revived his love of shooting, hunting in the South Jersey woods for quail and rabbit and occasionally taking Wessia, who claimed to be the better shot. But he had a good eye too, and proved it when he started competing in trapshooting. By 1908, he had developed a reputation as a crack shot and for the next 37 years he managed to win every major trapshooting competition in the Eastern United States. It was on this circuit that he met fellow competitors Annie Oakley and "The March King," John Philip Sousa. Both became his fast friends. Annie and her husband, Frank Butler, often vacationed with the McCarty family in the Pocono Mountains, trout fishing and hunting.

Barely 5 feet in height and 100 pounds, Annie Oakley blazed quite a trail for women trapshooters. Very ladylike, even with a 12-gauge across her forearm, she never felt that her femininity was threatened by this "man's sport."

Said Great-grandfather of Annie in an interview for Sportman's Review magazine, "I've seen her lie flat on her back, use a table knife as a mirror, and break clay pigeons sprung from a trap several yards

Annie Oakley, pictured here with her canine hunting companion, was a close friend of McCarty.



behind her." Later she would incorporate this into her act with the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show.

Her husband was a decent shot, too, holding down the New Jersey State Championship for target shooting in 1906. Both he and Annie were representatives of the Union Metallic Cartridge Company, which supplied them with free ammunition whenever they needed it. This was a definite perk for Annie, who was said to go through more than 40,000 cartridges a year.

Businessman and Outdoorsman

As astute at business as he was at shooting, in 1914 Great-grandfather purchased all of the aniline dyes available on the East Coast. Germany was at war, making the dyes unavailable from Europe. He cornered the market and, within six months, made more than \$300,000. This enabled him to retire and purchase a 1,200-acre property in Piney Hollow (Franklin Township), where he built large cranberry bogs, constructed a 50-acre lake for game and planted evergreen Christmas trees. He was one of the first evergreen growers in New Jersey.

Wessia, equally clever at wheeling and dealing, was hesitant to leave behind her active Woodbury social life and friends to live in the desolate Pine Barrens, so she demanded he pay her \$10,000 to move. He did. She did.

In 1929, George McCarty was appointed to the New Jersey State Fish and Game Commission. He outlined a design for a 21-member state game commission with a member from each county and proposed a plan that would open the farms of the state to gunners and, in turn, benefit the farmers financially by paying them to breed and protect wildlife. He was the founder of the McCarty System of Upland Game Propagation for the Commission. Through the Commission he secured 300 eggs, which produced more than 100 pheasants in captivity.

As a major contributor in the restoration of game, fish and forestry, Great-grandfather helped put the bobwhite quail — then near extinction in the East — back on the map. He was the first to successfully domesticate the breeding of quail, spending 10 years in experimentation before turning over his secrets to the Union Metallic Cartridge Company, which at that time instructed boys on farms throughout the country in the proper methods of raising upland game.

He discovered that the common household antiseptic, Mercurochrome, when fed to baby quail, made them immune to many disorders that formerly were fatal. His method was adopted by the Biological Survey of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He also raised bantam hens, ring-necked pheasants, Chinese golden pheasants, chukar partridges, ruffed grouse, ducks, rabbits, deer and the margarete, a bird native to Argentina.



Winners of the 1924
Grand American Handicap
pose with McCarty,
then serving as ATA's president.

Big Gun in the ATA

In 1923, he was elected president of the ATA (Amateur Trapshooting Association) and one year later he was instrumental in building a permanent home for the organization in Vandalia, Ohio, just north of Dayton. There had been talk among the board members about finding a permanent home for the Grand American Handicap Tournament and the city of Dayton offered a tract of land and a cash fund of \$20,000 if the association would establish its headquarters there.

Great-grandfather devised a fund-raising plan to equip the grounds and build a clubhouse that centered on the sale of lifetime ATA memberships for \$25. He sold more than 2,500 memberships, gave one year of his time and donated in excess of \$5,000 of his own money. He even gave his place on the Olympic Trapshooting Team to Charlie Newcomb so that he could supervise the construction of the facility. He was the first president of the organization to serve under the new roof and, on opening day, he broke the first target.

My great-grandfather went on to win every major trapshoot competition in the East, including the 1907 Boston Paleface Handicap Trophy, for which he broke 20 out of 20 targets. He captured first place prizes in the 50-bird match for the Dupont Shield and in the 16th Annual Amateur Championship of America, held at the New York Athletic Club's Travers Island traps. Scoring 198 out of 200 targets, he led a field that numbered 155 men and included the Olympic champion, Forest McNeir of Houston, Texas. This was the third time he won that championship.

He also won the 1908 Grand American at Holmesburg Gun Club traps. A four-time winner of the Amateur American Championship, he captured the trapshooting title at 16 yards in 1908, 1909, 1921 and 1922. At the age of 75, he won the New Jersey State Doubles Championship, which is named after him. He was president of the Pine Valley Gun Club, located in Clementon, considered at the time to be the best equipped target clubhouse in the East.

In March 1945, at the age of 77, "The Dean of Trapshooting" entered the happy hunting grounds. "I do not desire a sad funeral, for I am only passing on to the happy hunting grounds and will be there to greet you when you arrive later," wrote my great-grandfather, expressing his last wishes in a letter to his shooting friends.

In the late 1960s, he was elected to the ATA Trapshooters Hall of Fame.



Annie Oakley helps McCarty's daughter, Virginia, perfect her aim.

Author's Note:

A special thank you to my cousin, George McCarty North, for maintaining the family history.

Charlene M. Engelbrecht lives in Merchantville with her photographer husband, Mark Thellmann. She recently was invited to Vandalia by the ATA to present the awards for the George S. McCarty Championship Shoot at the Grand American Handicap this August.

THE WINNERS ARE...

Cape May Light is the title **Andy Puttbach**, of Ironia, gave to his first-place winning photo. At first glance, the infrared image evokes thoughts of hovering UFOs.

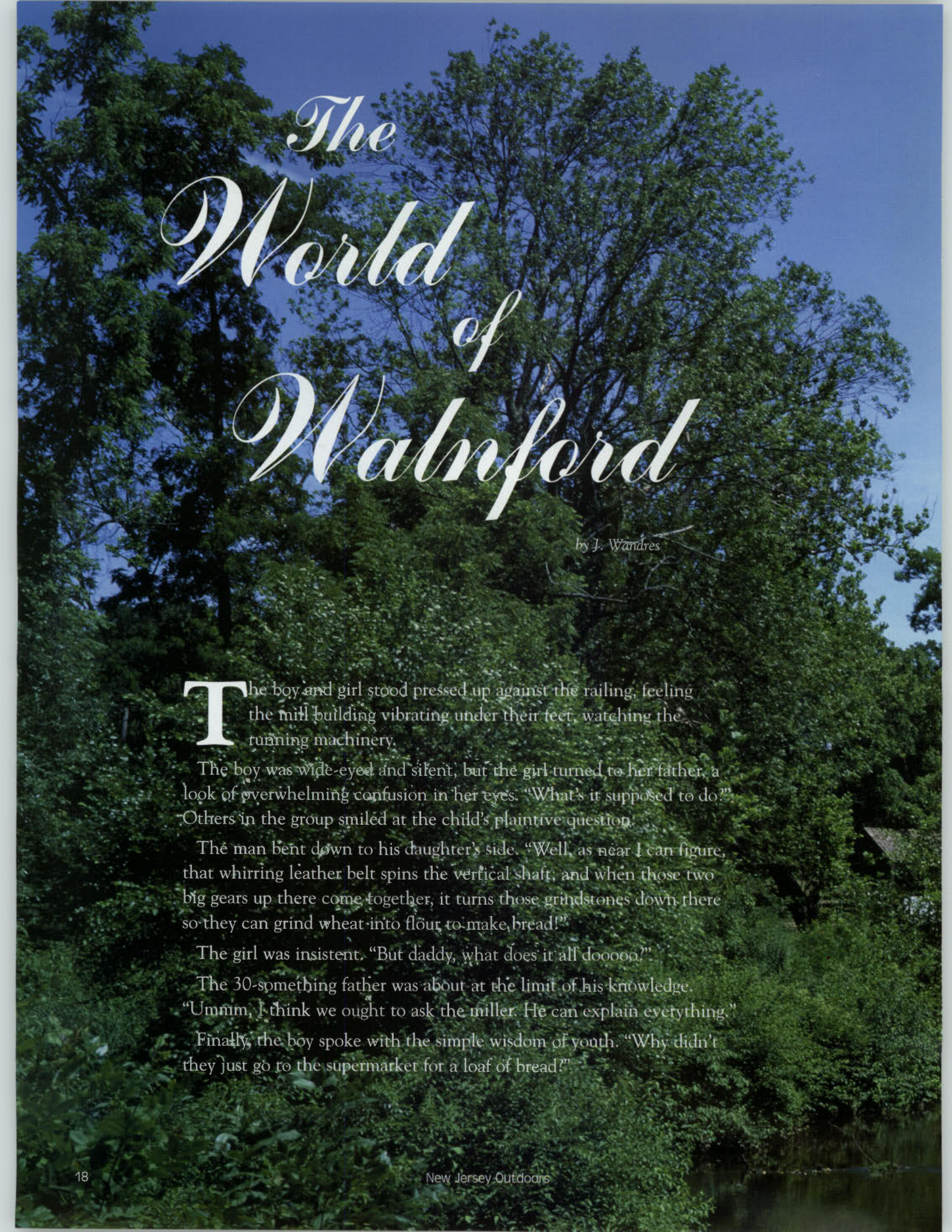




Franklin Lakes' **Alyce Parseghian** captured second place with *Skylands Christmas*. A talented photographer and third-time *New Jersey Outdoors* photo contest winner, her work also is featured on this issue's back and inside front covers.



Kent Sweigert, who lives in Belvidere, "shot" this captivating critter in Worthington State Forest. *Hanging Around* won third place for Kent.



The World of Walnford

by J. Wändres

The boy and girl stood pressed up against the railing, feeling the mill building vibrating under their feet, watching the running machinery.

The boy was wide-eyed and silent, but the girl turned to her father, a look of overwhelming confusion in her eyes. "What's it supposed to do?" Others in the group smiled at the child's plaintive question.

The man bent down to his daughter's side. "Well, as near I can figure, that whirring leather belt spins the vertical shaft, and when those two big gears up there come together, it turns those grindstones down there so they can grind wheat into flour to make bread!"

The girl was insistent. "But daddy, what does it all dooooo?"

The 30-something father was about at the limit of his knowledge. "Umm, I think we ought to ask the miller. He can explain everything."

Finally, the boy spoke with the simple wisdom of youth. "Why didn't they just go to the supermarket for a loaf of bread?"





The restored mill at Historic Walnford was built in 1872.

© 1998 Michael S. Miller

The Walns

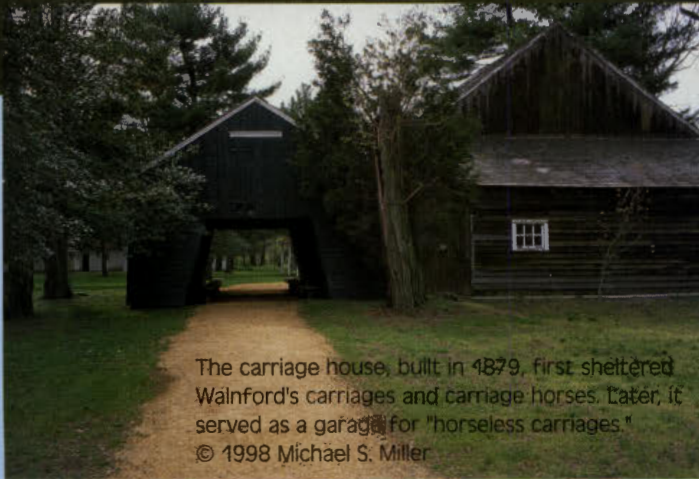
The restored grist mill at Historic Walnford, in Crosswicks Creek Park, located in Upper Freehold Township (Monmouth County), has been attracting sizeable groups since its dedication in October 1998. Most people might not ask such pointed questions. Still, to most visitors the workings of the restored mill are totally outside their known world, something they may have seen only in pictures; a fleeting reminder of how things used to be in days gone by at Waln's Mill.

"Things" started in 1735 when the first water-powered gristmill was built along Crosswicks Creek, at what would later become the village of Walnford. The stream, which empties into the Delaware River above Bordentown, was then wide and swift enough for shallow-draft boats to reach the mill. The pole-boats carried mill-sawn timber, flour, processed wool and local produce to markets in Trenton and Philadelphia.

Richard Waln, a Philadelphia Quaker, purchased a 180-acre tract in 1772. The prosperous merchant-shipper repaired the mill complex,

increasing its capacity by adding a third set of grindstones. He authorized his agent in London "... to make upon his honor a pair of the best Burr mill stones, 4 feet 4 inches in diameter — the Runner rather heavy as my stream is strong; as our wheat is hard — a close stone of even temper is best — the importance of good Mill stones is such that a Miller may make with them a fortune and with bad ones work all his life for nothing."

Waln also built an enormous, six-bedroom, eight-fireplace mansion in the Georgian style, as well as several barns and outbuildings. The mill burned and was rebuilt in 1822, by Richard's son Nicholas. His initials can still be seen in the mill's cornerstone. In 1872, while Nicholas' wife Sarah managed the business, a disgruntled employee torched the mill. Waln's granddaughter, Sarah (Sally) Waln Hendrickson, rebuilt it the same year. She had a water turbine installed in the four-story building in the 1880s because it produced more horsepower than the waterwheel and made the mill more productive. Waln's was one of about 500 mills operating in New Jersey in the mid 19th century. Twenty-six were located in Monmouth County.



The carriage house, built in 1879, first sheltered Walnford's carriages and carriage horses. Later, it served as a garage for "horseless carriages."

© 1998 Michael S. Miller

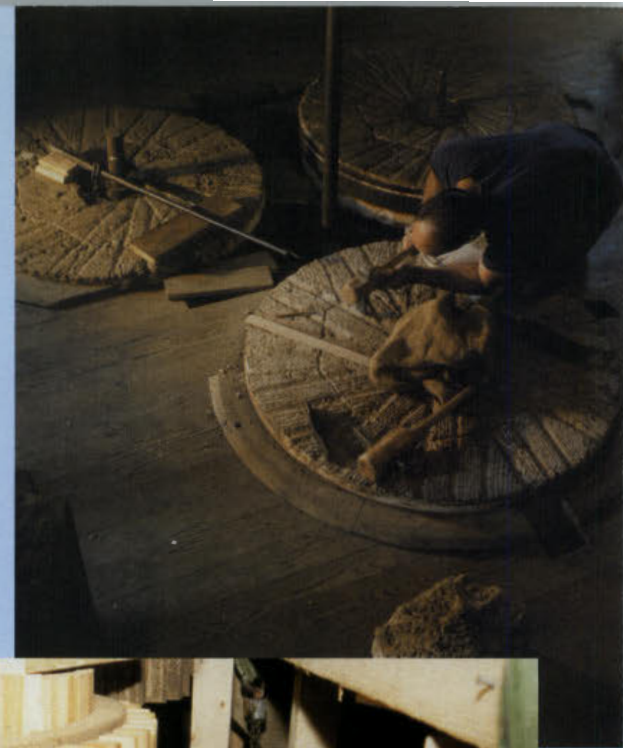


This Georgian-style mansion was built in 1773 by Richard Waln.

© J. Wandres

(right) Robert Grassi dresses the mill stones. © 1998 Michael S. Miller

(below center) Jim Kricker repairs the mill at Historic Walnford. © J. Wandres



A Woman of Vision

The younger Sarah was a woman of considerable vision. In addition to keeping the books and records of the mill, she applied for and was granted a charter to operate a post office in the house. As postmistress she felt the post office gave the village increased stature, and it let her keep in touch with what was going on among the locals. By the late 1800s, 11 families were associated with Walnford. Sally, who had been widowed in 1858 at the age of 42 after being married for only nine months to Jacob Hendrickson, continued to manage the mill.

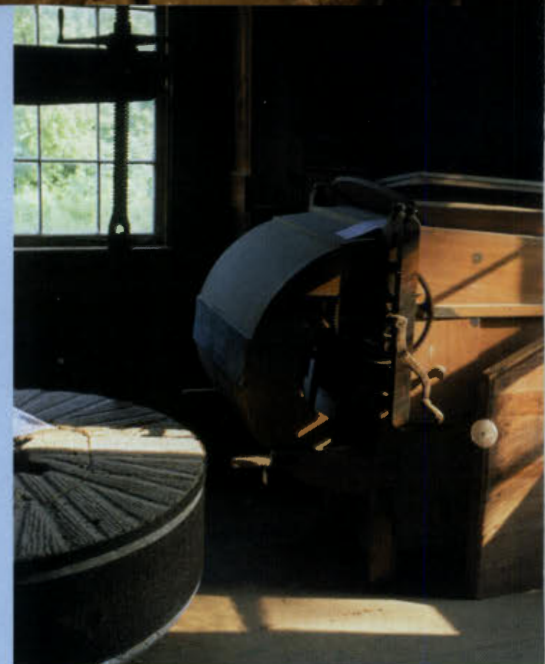
Unlike many women of her day, she listed herself on the census as a farmer rather than as a widow. More than 50 people were employed in milling, lumber, wool fulling (processing) and food production.

However, advances in the technique of rolled milling of wheat made stone milling obsolete. Sally Hendrickson was forced to suspend flour milling and lumber production when her prices could no longer compete with giant processing plants. Instead, she concentrated on shelling and grinding corn for local farmers. Shortly before her death in 1907, the mill was barely turning a profit. A woman of integrity, she left the property to John Wilson, a long-time employee, in lieu of wages owed him.

Her great-nephew, Richard Waln Meirs, purchased the property shortly afterwards, and operated the mill until he died in 1917. By then it was no longer profitable, but continued to supply feed for the dairy herd at Walnford. The property stayed in the Meirs family until 1973, with the house being used as their weekend retreat. Then Edward and Joanne Mullen bought it as their main residence. They listed the property on the National Register of Historic Places and, in 1985, generously donated the house, mill and all existing buildings to the Monmouth County Park system.

"The Best" Restored by Experts

A 1980 evaluation by master millwright Charles Howell showed that "The mill machinery layout is a perfect example of a water-powered grist mill of the 1870s... probably the best surviving example of a complete millstone flour mill... possibly in the whole of the country."



Interior of the mill
© 1998 Michael S. Miller

Three million dollars from the New Jersey Historic Preservation Bond program and matching funds from the Monmouth County Park system has been allocated to restoring Historic Walnford and interpreting it in the period of the 1870s. Of that, \$1 million was dedicated to reconstructing the mill and its machinery. The work included partial rebuilding of the raceway walls and repairs to the mill's stone foundation. Heavy silting in Crosswicks Creek made installation of a water turbine impossible; instead, an electro-hydraulic motor supplies the power to turn the pulleys, belts, shafts, gears and millstones. The attrition mill and corncob crusher also were put back in working order.

Noted millwright James Krick, of Saugerties, New York, was brought in to get the machinery operational. In his foundry, he cast many new metal parts based on pieces of the originals. Harold Rapp, a part-time historian for the county park system, used his carpentry and engineering skills to restore the milling machinery, and to re-create such devices as elevator boots, pulleys, bins, the Eureka Bark Mill and the Sandwich corn sheller.

Robert Grassi of the Hanford Mills Museum in East Meredith, New York, an expert at dressing millstones, hand-carved new furrows, stitches and lands (deep grooves, thin grooves and flat surfaces) into the imported new French volcanic buhrstones. On October 5, 1998, the power was turned on. With a slow, vibrating rumble that grew as the machinery built up speed, the giant millstones began to turn for the first time since 1917.

Connections to the Past

Historic Walnford offers tours of the barn, carriage house, mansion and gristmill. More than that, it serves as a model of one example of our local industrial and agrarian heritage. Several members of SPOOM — the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills — contributed knowledge and resources to help in the restoration of the mill.

Walnford's historic interpreter, Sarah Bent, has steeped herself in the history of the Waln family at Walnford. "Understanding the Walns helps us better understand the evolution of our lives as we head into the 21st century," she

says. Her mission is to help visitors to form connections from the past to the present, and to help history come alive in the sights, sounds and activities at Walnford.

In addition, there are numerous workshops for youngsters from 4th grade through high school to show



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them the life of an apprentice miller, or what it was like to be a child growing up around a working farm and mill complex in a period straddling the 19th and 20th centuries. Students learn about "modern" farm and household implements of the period. Other activities take groups on tours of the environmental assets of the complex.

One unique link with Walnford's mid-20th century past is 79-year old Frank Inman, who shows up on weekend afternoons from May to September. He occupies a chair on the front porch of the Waln house, and is available to answer questions about the farm and surrounding area. Inman came



Cyclists enjoy a peaceful ride past the Waln mansion. Since this picture was taken, the barn was painted blue.
© J. Wandres

to work at the farm as a boy in the 1940s, when it was owned by the Meirs family. Then, there was a large dairy herd and acres of hay and cornfields.

He says that everyone knew everyone else for miles around, and no one locked their doors. If you wanted to get away for awhile, you could walk a couple miles up the road to Davis Station Road and catch the up-train to Hightstown, or the down-train to Wrightstown and Fort Dix.

Inman remembers the Blizzard of '48, when ice on the millpond was 12 inches thick and jammed up against the Hill Road bridge so hard the bridge was in danger of sliding off its piers. The most exciting thing he recalls is the three prisoners who escaped from a local jail in the sheriff's car. By the time they reached the mill, two tires had blown and the car was running on the rims. "They tried to take off across the fields, but the car got stuck, so they lit out on foot," he recollects.

The saddest event Inman remembers came on Friday, February 13, 1948. The farm manager died suddenly, and the owner, Anne Meirs Rush, decided not to seek another manager. Instead, she decided to sell off the equipment. "They had the farm equipment parked in the fields and there were people come from all around. Mrs. Meirs didn't care how much she got; she just wanted to get rid of it. After that it was real quiet around here."

Today, Frank Inman takes people on tours of the carriage house to show them the Rockaway carriage the Walns used before they got their first car. In the barn is a display of old farm implements.

"This one lady, she wanted to know what a certain piece of machinery did. I told her it was a corn sheller, to remove the dry kernels from the cob. She got so excited, she wanted to know where she could buy one. I told her, "Ma'am, they ain't made these things in nearly a century.' She just looked so disappointed."

Visit a Slice of Yesteryear

Historic Walnford at Crosswicks Creek Park is open daily from 8 a.m. to dusk. Parking and entrance to the mill are free. Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the mill and grounds.

The mill is operated on weekends from May to October. Call ahead (609/259-6275) for information and a schedule of times and special events.

To get there, take the New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 7A (I-195). Follow I-195 east to Exit 7 (Allentown). Follow Route 526 (Church Street) through the borough of Allentown, then take Route 539 (High Street) south 2 1/2 miles to Holmes Road. Turn right onto Walnford Road.

J. Wandres is a frequent contributor to New Jersey Outdoors. Among the topics he has covered are beavers, barn restoration, bouldering and rail-trails.

Making Memories in Tandem

Story and photos © by Cindy Ross



“Great day for a ride!” A friendly voice startles me from my work of packing bicycle panniers with snacks, extra clothing and camera gear. In the background I hear my children’s laughter, as they play tag and wait in this parking lot by DeMott Lane outside New Brunswick. My husband Todd and our friend Johnny pump air into the tires of our two Santana tandems so they’re all ready for our cycling adventure on the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park Trail.

“It certainly is,” I reply to the happy man on the bike, for indeed the day is a comfortable 80 degrees, with a shining sun and a delicious breeze. When he learns that we’re riding the entire 70 miles, he’s pleased. “This trail is our heaven on earth. Enjoy!” We call the kids and walk our long bikes over the canal on the special pedestrian bridge.

“Any fish in there?” I yell to a man getting ready to cast.

“I caught a 3-foot tiger muskie the other day,” he replies, smiling proudly.

On the other side of the bridge, I call, “Hop on!” to my 8-year-old daughter, Sierra, my partner and “stoker.” My 6-year-old son, Bryce, hops onto the back of his dad’s tandem and we roll effortlessly down the bike path, thrilled to be here on this glorious weekend and anxious to make the acquaintance of one of the finest converted rail/canal trails in the East.

A Bit of History

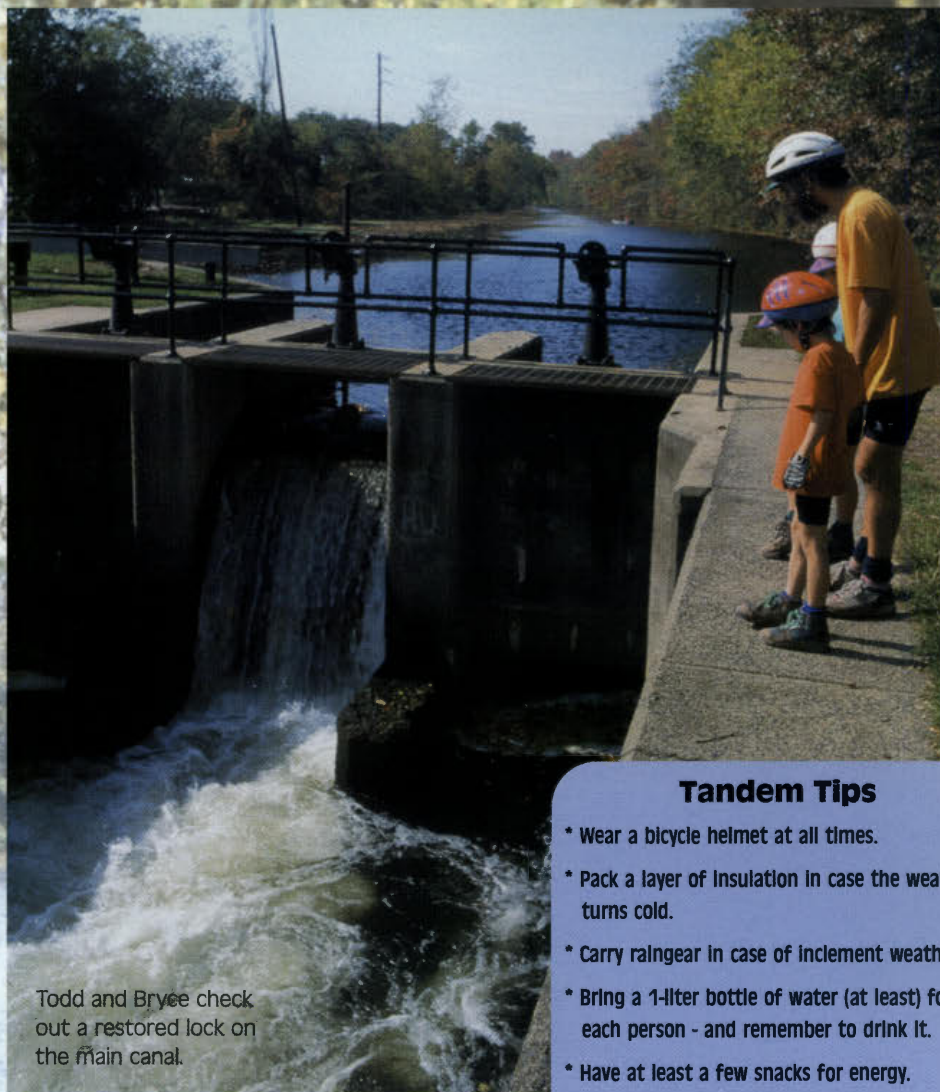
The Big Ditch, as the Delaware & Raritan Canal is affectionately called, runs for 34 miles along river valleys, from New Brunswick to Trenton. It was hand dug by Irish immigrants who dropped dead by the hundreds in the process — not from the backbreaking, low paying work, but from the Asiatic cholera that swept through the labor camps. The fruit of their efforts provided a smooth connection between Philadelphia and New York City, for the ocean route between these two cities was both dangerous and long. Now Pennsylvania's coal could be carried to New York's furnaces.

This "Main Canal" had to be fed water, however, in order to move any boats, so a "Feeder Canal" was dug along the Delaware River. The canal permanently closed to navigation in 1933. In 1974, a bill was passed in the state legislature to establish the narrow band of land along its banks as a state park.

The First Leg

For a short time, the beautiful Raritan River is our close companion. Sierra excitedly points out great blue herons, their long spindly legs piercing the water's edge. We soon arrive at South Bound Bridge where we hop off our bikes to bend down and study the canal bridge, known as an A-frame bridge because of its superstructure. It swung to the side to allow the canal boats through. We peer at the preserved lock with its massive masonry walls, left exposed so we can see some of the wood facing that protected the boats from hitting against the stone walls.

As we roll closer to Griggstown, we see canoe after canoe of smiling paddlers cruising up the canal. The aluminum boats can be rented in this historic town, which often is cited as the epitome of a preserved 19th century rural scene. Right by the canal is the Mule Tender's Barracks, the building that provided lodging for the men and boys who drove the mules used to tow the canal boats. Inside the converted museum, the kids stare at the old black and white pictures and learn how a lock actually works. A staff member operates a wonderful fiberglass scale model, pumping water into the upper level of the lock as the gates open to raise the little boat higher. All these experiences and preserved pieces of history really help a visitor understand how this whole canal system worked and you can begin to appreciate what life was like along the canal. We're discovering that the Delaware & Raritan Canal Trail is much more than a fun bike ride.



Todd and Bryce check out a restored lock on the main canal.

Tandem Tips

- * Wear a bicycle helmet at all times.
- * Pack a layer of insulation in case the weather turns cold.
- * Carry raingear in case of inclement weather.
- * Bring a 1-liter bottle of water (at least) for each person - and remember to drink it.
- * Have at least a few snacks for energy.
- * The most basic trail etiquette is "Wheels yield to heels."
- * Ride on the right side of the trail; pass slower traffic on their left and yield to oncoming traffic when passing.
- * Give a clear warning signal when passing; for example, call out, "Bike on the left."
- * Dismount and walk across all roads with vehicular traffic.
- * Realize children don't view cycling as you do. Scale back your mileage to half or one-third of what you normally ride. Kids have one criterion for enjoyment: fun.
- * Stop for breaks often. Encourage your kids to drink plenty of water and eat frequently. Small bodies deplete quickly.
- * Dress kids warmer than you do yourself. They have less body fat and generally chill quicker on a bike.



A pause at Carnegie Lake yielded sightings of ducks, geese and other trail users, but none of the college athletes who frequently row there.

The trail around Carnegie Lake near Princeton is smooth as silk and perfect for "moving out." One of the joys of tandem cycling is cranking in unison, gaining momentum and moving almost effortlessly through space. The boys attempt to pass the girls. Each child cheers their captain on, but the boys must drop back when they see an oncoming cyclist. Vehicular traffic is never a concern on the Delaware & Raritan but one must obey the trail rules. And yielding to pedestrians and staying on the right side

of the path are two of the most important. On a bridge on the far side of the lake, we look for rowers, for Carnegie is primarily an inter-collegiate rowing facility. But we see only ducks and geese and a lot of trail users passing by.

From the best surface to the roughest; from the busiest stretch to the most deserted; after we leave the lake the trail loses nearly all its visitors and turns into rough single track. The frequent roots across our path jar our bikes and make us slow to a crawl. I yell "Up!" to Sierra every few seconds so she knows to lift her butt off the seat. The captain instinctively knows when to lift, but on a tandem, it's an important courtesy to alert your stoker.

Urban Cyclists

We know we're nearing Trenton for the air quality deteriorates and the sounds of traffic and industry overpower those of the honking geese. As night falls, we stop to add a layer of insulation, suit the kids up in reflector vests and switch on our bikes' flashing rear lights and front spots. At I-295, the trail dead-ends and we're left to find our way through the city to our truck, which sits by the Feeder Canal west of town.

We weren't aware of this break in the trail and did not plan accordingly. We ask directions at a local mini-mart, then decide it's wiser to wait there while John hitches a ride to pick up the truck.

After a good meal and a relaxing night in a motel, we're fresh for the second half of the Delaware & Raritan Canal Trail. This 30-mile stretch runs right along the Delaware River from Trenton north to Milford. The trailbed was once the railroad bed, whereas yesterday's ride was on the canal towpath. As a result, crushed cinders form the base, creating a smoother, more consistent ride.

Rollin' by the River

The trail can be picked up at Cadwalader Park on the west side of Trenton, but a better place to leave your vehicle is at Lower Ferry Road, 1.7 miles north. The broad and blue Delaware is our constant companion. We find ourselves looking for the river through the huge sycamores in the bottomlands to watch it flow and delight in its never-ceasing rolling. Sierra and I comment to each other and point out things of interest. This is one of the joys of tandem cycling - you always have company. At Washington Crossing State Park, we take a break for a cool drink and a walk around the old stone house that General Washington slept in.



Bryce and Sierra share a pensive moment during a break at Bull's Island Recreation Area.

Bryce and Sierra — as well as the ducks at the Holcomb-Jimison Farm — enjoyed this break.

Trail's End

Cycling through Lambertville makes us feel as though we are in Europe, for nearly every house, shop, mill and factory, which are in close proximity to the trail, dates back to the 19th century. The area itself is listed on the National Register as a Historic District. We all agree that this is the prettiest town on the entire D&R Canal trail.

When you ride with children, you must also take their needs and interests into account, perhaps breaking when they find something of interest. At the Holcomb-Jimison Farm, a friendly flock of ducks convinces us to dismount. A trailside table holds paper bags of duck food with a sign stating "25 cents." I fish for two quarters and the social Muscovy ducks surround our little stokers. This farmstead is owned by the Huntington County Historical Society and is operated by a non-profit farmstead organization dedicated to the display of the county's rural heritage.

Coming into the town of Stockton, you're met with a gorgeous, two-story-high painting of a steam locomotive on the gable end of a wood frame house; it's as big as life, coming right towards you. Right afterwards, we hang a left and head for Cravings, an ice cream store that boasts 23 flavors of shakes.

A little farther along the trail is, perhaps, the most interesting site on the entire D&R Trail — the beautifully preserved Prallsville Mill. There are nine buildings on the property, spanning a period from the 17th to the early 20th century. But it is the pink sandstone, four-story grist mill that is the most fascinating. Italian stonecutters immigrated to this area of New Jersey and built this mill and other structures in the Stockton area. Bread was the main source of food in the 18th century, the staff of life. The mill contracted the canal company to receive enough water from the canal to power three pairs of huge, round grinding stones to make flour. We tour all four floors, marveling at the maze of belts, wheels and pulleys, and beautifully restored wooden chutes and gears. In this wonderful environment, the Delaware River Mill Society holds exhibits, concerts and community events. Almost into Milford and the terminus of the trail, we cross the bridge spanning the canal and ride onto Bull's Island. The campground at this recreation site is the only area within the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park where camping is permitted.

We have to pass, unfortunately, and just use the facilities for a swing and a slide and a refuel. Under the soft white pines, with the breeze whispering through the needles and the lowering sunlight casting lovely shadows, we realize that our D&R adventure is soon to come to a close.

Indian summer — golden and warm, with its beautiful light and mild temperatures — only lasts a short while. We can choose to stay home and mow the lawn for the last time or make some big memories by getting outdoors to do something extremely enjoyable like riding the D&R. Years from now, when Sierra and Bryce are tandem touring with their own youngsters, these are the times we'll all remember.



This house painting banishes, for a moment, thoughts of mule-pulled barges.

The Prallsville complex, especially the four-story grist mill, is well worth a closer look.



Why Tandem Cycle?

There are many reasons why tandem cycling (on a bicycle built for two) is so great. First off, when cyclists ride together on singles, they are limited by the speed and range of the slower rider. Tandem partners, however, can easily exceed the speed and range of the faster rider. This near doubling of horsepower allows tandem partners to ride faster and farther with less work. This is a great thing when a child is your "stoker" or rear rider. By overcoming disparities in size, strength and skill, tandem bicycles allow the entire family to participate — even small children. Tandems also teach children (through osmosis) the feel of riding at an advanced level — pack riding, cornering, shifting and braking — while keeping them in the safety of your care.

Stokers do not see the road ahead, it's true, but neither do they have to watch the road for rocks, potholes, glass, rear wheels of other riders, and cars, as the "captain" or person in front does. The stoker never has to steer, shift or use the brakes. Stokers can ride with no hands, study the scenery, point out wildlife, chat... even examine the insides of their eyelids.



For More Information

Park Office
Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park
625 Canal Road
Somerset, NJ 08873
732/873-3050

Feeder Canal Office & Campground
Bull's Island Recreation Area
2185 Daniel Bray Highway
Stockton, NJ 08559
609/397-2949

The Prallsville Mill
Delaware River Mill Society at Stockton
PO Box 298
Stockton, NJ 08559
609/397-3586 or FAX: 609/397-3913

Mule Tender's Barracks Museum
4 Griggstown Causeway
Princeton, NJ 08540
908/722-7428



Cindy Ross has written numerous articles and authored several books about hiking and outdoor recreation for families; two of her books were co-authored with her husband, Todd Gladfelter. She and her family live in New Ringgold, Pennsylvania.

Inset: Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)



Ribbit!

© Clay Myers

Green frog (*Rana clamitans*) in its brown phase



They're on the loose all over New Jersey! They've been spotted in ponds, on trees — even clinging to the outside walls of homes. On occasion, they've been known to lurk in the pockets of children.

They come in basic shades of green, brown and gray with splashes of yellow and orange in a variety of spots and stripes that help hide them from view. Some are six inches in length and croak; others are but an inch long and peep.

They can differ greatly in appearance but these odd little critters share many common traits: big eyes, powerful back legs, excellent hearing, inflatable throats and webbed feet. They are superb swimmers that, curiously, began life underwater as completely different looking animals.

Enjoy this closeup look at these odd little critters — New Jersey's frogs.



Southern leopard frog (*Rana sphenoccephala*)

Gray treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*)



Wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*)





Northern cricket frog (*Acris crepitans*)

American toad (*Bufo americanus*)



Spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)

Inset: Fowler's toad (*Bufo fowleri*)





Carpenter frog (*Rana virgatipes*)

Inset: Pickerel frog (*Rana palustris*)



Pine Barrens treefrog (*Hyla andersonii*)



Field Archery

Ancient, Addictive and, Above All, Fun

Story by Gene Grodzki
Photos © by Paul Hollerbach



Close your eyes and picture a person holding a bow and arrow. Whom do you see?

Robin Hood? A Native American, Eskimo or Pygmy bushman? A caveman or an African tribesman? Or a deadly archer from the movie *Braveheart*?

Imagine medieval archers firing arrows at the attacking army from high atop an English castle. Why do you think knights wore suits of armor and carried great shields? Battles were fought while the sky rained arrows. History books are full of images of men and women with bows and arrows, from Egyptian kings to Japanese samurai.

Until the development of modern firearms, the bow and arrow was the weapon of choice for some 50,000 years in almost every corner of the world. The development of the bow is, in fact, ranked by many historians at the same level of achievement as the development of fire and speech.

You might have envisioned a modern bowhunter, dressed in camouflage and patiently waiting in a treestand for a big buck to wander within range, or the 1996 U.S. Olympic Archery men's team holding their gold medals.

To the uninformed, archery might seem to have a firm foothold in the history books but no place in a modern digital world. To others, including thousands of New Jersey archers, there is an unexplained fascination with shooting an arrow cleanly and silently at its mark. Perhaps this fascination comes from the undeniable fact that our ancestors shot bows and arrows to hunt for food, defend their homes and fight in some of history's bloodiest battles.

The Perfect Shot Feeling

What could possibly be appealing about shooting a bow and arrow? Let me briefly compare archery to golf. What attracts a golfer to something as seemingly trivial as hitting a little ball with a stick? Simple! There is truth in a perfect swing. Golfers are looking to repeat the elusive, electric feeling they get when the rare, perfectly executed swing connects, oh so sweetly, with the ball, sending it rocketing toward the green. They know instantly when it is a perfect swing and a great shot. This sensation is difficult to explain but if you have felt it, you know exactly what I am talking about.

This perfect group was shot from 50 yards. When a good shot goes off, the archer instantly knows it will hit the middle. This is the payoff for hours of practice.



Competitive archery is a true discipline. Mind, body and spirit join to create a perfect shot.

The character in the distance is the Black Knights' mascot from their annual Bigfoot Open. This unique event brings out top shooters who vie to see who is "Top Gun."

An archer gets the same electric feeling in the split second that a perfect arrow leaves his bow. A perfect-feeling shot can be rare for a novice. When it happens, for a magical moment the mind, body and equipment are all in harmony and the result is the perfect shot. The arrow slams into the bullseye. This was not a lucky shot. For a moment everything makes sense — and the memory of all the terrible shots is gone.

Try It; You'll Love It

Here in New Jersey, one of the best ways to learn about archery is to try out a fun game called field archery. Field archery is in every way as addictive as golf or fishing. If you don't believe me, ask my wife.

The layout of a field archery range is, in many ways, similar to a golf course. Targets are set up at known distances along marked trails through the fields and woods. The type and size of the targets will vary depending on the distance and the game. As with golf, groups of shooters, usually two to four, simply follow the trail markers from target to target, shooting and keeping score. Youngsters and newcomers will shoot from closer stakes and competitive shooters will shoot at longer distances. Usually each archer will shoot four arrows at each of 14 or 28 targets to complete a game. The distances can range from as close as 20 feet to as far away as 80 yards. If you are shooting a very short distance, the targets are small. Longer targets, like on the 60, 70 or 80 yards distances, are quite large. Every distance can be a challenge, even 20 feet.

There are separate divisions for men, women and youth. Age categories further divide the groups, so that a 6-year-old is not competing with a 12-year-old, and a senior citizen is not competing against someone half his or her age.

Equipment choices also could put you into a separate style of shooting. For example, you will see some folks shooting hi-tech, super fast compound bows with intricate sighting systems and mechanical releases, while others shoot medieval looking, traditional longbows using their fingers to draw and release the arrow.

The most popular styles are freestyle, where almost anything goes in the choice of equipment, and bowhunter style, which is a setup similar to what a hunter might use. Some of the elite shooters have very exotic equipment that helps give them the incredible scores they shoot. The scores shot with an exotic freestyle setup will be much higher than those shot with a traditional longbow.

As a matter of fact, traditional archery has become very popular in recent years. It is great fun to shoot simple, uncomplicated equipment. Groups of traditional archers seem to spend more time laughing and having fun than shooting. (Maybe that's why Robin Hood's men were "merry.")

As with golf courses, different archery field ranges can be more challenging. Some ranges have a fair number of up- or downhill shots. Picture shooting down a steep hill at a target 65 yards away. What could be more fun than that? New Jersey happens to have some great elite shooters who can drill the bullseye regularly at these



Score is taken after each archer in a group shoots four arrows. Twenty-eight targets make up one full round.



distances. For the novice, there is a thrill in getting all four arrows grouped anywhere in the target.

Another popular game is 3-D archery. Lifelike, full-sized, animal targets resembling deer, elk, bear, raccoon and so forth, are placed at unknown distances throughout the woods. The animal targets have concentric scoring circles that are not visible at a distance. The archer must judge the distance and shoot without a clear spot to aim at. This closely simulates a real hunting situation. For shooters who prefer not to hunt, this is a great way to enjoy a harmless game, and for hunters it is serious practice for harvesting game in the fall.

New Jersey is the home of about a dozen archery clubs affiliated with both the National Field Archery Association and the New Jersey State Field Archery Association. Many of the clubs boast beautifully maintained and extremely safe outdoor ranges and hold weekly sanctioned tournaments. There are annual indoor,

outdoor and 3-D state championships with awards for all classes and styles.

Some clubs have great indoor ranges where they practice year round. Membership is generally inexpensive and visitors are welcome to stop in and ask questions. Some of the shoots are open, which means you do not have to be a member of any organization to participate. Membership in the New Jersey State Field Archery Association is only \$5 a year and allows you to shoot in all New Jersey sanctioned tournaments. Membership in the NFAA is an additional \$20. There are more than 90 tournaments on the 1999 New Jersey schedule.

Getting Started

Here are some guidelines for getting started in archery. If you don't know an archer, call a nearby club (see sidebar on page 41) for some basic information and places to shoot in your section of New Jersey. Ask about the laws in your town, as it may be illegal or unsafe to shoot in your backyard. When getting started in any sport, get good solid advice. Learn safety first. Don't buy your first bow at a garage sale or from a buddy with a bargain bow that might not fit you. Steer clear of big chain stores or mail order catalogs where there may not be anyone qualified to answer your questions. A bow must fit the archer, and the arrows must match the bow to shoot well.

Four-year-old Patrick Fennell shows his dad, Michael, how it is done. Children of all ages are welcome.





Double scoring is required in all sanctioned tournaments.

Go to a store that specializes in archery. Be sure the person behind the counter is an experienced bow mechanic who will fit the bow to you and set it up for you. If you have a bow, or someone gives you one, have a professional set it up. A compound bow that is the proper draw length and weight for you will feel natural and shoot well. The most common mistake is buying a bow that does not fit your draw length and is too powerful to pull back comfortably. Start out with an inexpensive, but properly set up, bow. With properly matched arrows, you will be amazed at how quickly you will progress. The total cost for a complete, good quality archery setup can be as little as two to three hundred dollars. Unlike with other shooting sports, you reuse your ammunition, so the cost is very reasonable.

It is best to learn the basics of shooting from an experienced archer. To find one,



Some of the Black Knight Bowbenders pose at their Jackson field range.



Shooting at distances up to 80 yards away takes a keen eye and steady nerves. Mike and Lisa Fennell call each other's arrows at practice.

contact or join one of the archery clubs in New Jersey. Learn who the better shooters are and ask for some guidance. It's hard to find a more helpful group of sportsmen than archers.

If you stick with the sport you will eventually start building your own arrows and working on your own equipment. Having shot for most of my life, I have never gotten tired of tinkering in hopes of finding that perfect setup. Like a fly fisherman who ties his own flies, an archer can get great satisfaction from building his own arrows and working on his gear.

If you think about it, many sports are simply excuses for us to spend time in the beautiful outdoors. We don't backpack just for the exercise. We don't fish just because we're hungry. We don't

canoe because we need to get somewhere. Following the quiet wooded trails of a field archery course, bow in hand, is the perfect escape from noise, asphalt and concrete.

We live in a world of the Internet, e-mail, cell phones, beepers and fax machines. Our kids seem to think that video games are exercise and sporting goods stores are fashion boutiques. If you want to challenge yourself with a sport that is as personally rewarding and modern as it is steeped in history, pick up a bow and arrow. Come on out and see what the fun is all about.

Gene Grodzki, who lives in Freehold, is a member of the Black Knight Bowbenders.



Contacts and Clubs

♦ **New Jersey State Field Archery Association**

Kathy Jarvie,
Secretary/Treasurer
732/634-7536

♦ **Black Knight Bowbenders**

Perrineville Road, Jackson
Gene Grodzki
732/462-2278

♦ **Cape May Archery Association**

Fullingmill Road, Cape May
Jim (VP, NJSFAA)
or Cheryl Mitchell
732/264-2728

♦ **Dover Consolidated Sportsmen, Inc.**

Art (President, NJSFAA)
or Claire Reimer
973/729-3736

♦ **Garden State Archers**

Larrison Road, Jacobstown
Frank or Eva Mazzella
609/737-3632

♦ **Green Mountain Bowmen**

Weldon Road, Oak Ridge
Bob Plumb
973/729-2419

♦ **Lincoln Park Archers**

96 Jacksonville Road, Towaco
Matt Setzer
732/249-9443

♦ **Sequoia Bowmen**

42 Brighton Street,
Tottenville,
Staten Island, NY
Phil McCarthy
718/981-9471

♦ **Shongum Sportsmen Club**

Jane Chapel Road, Mansfield
John Gumann
908/362-7712

♦ **Sumi Bowmen**

Mahwah
Paul "Doc" Torre
201/947-5226

♦ **WA-XO-BE Archers**

Major Road, South Brunswick
Jim Pickell
732/821-6196

♦ **WO-PE-NA Archers**

39 Harding Avenue, Clifton
Phil Niosi
201/943-9309

♦ **Victory Archery**

Saint Mary's Avenue,
Staten Island, NY
Bob Adamo
718/946-3536

ALPACAS in the PASTURE

by Katharine Thompson

As you drive peacefully down a Pine Barrens highway, the evening's softening light shades the pastures and woods in misty gray-green. There's a nip in the air, and tinges of russet color the overhanging branches. White-tailed deer are coming out to feed.

Glancing over the scene, you notice three tawny backs, three necks bent in grazing. And just over the fence more creatures stand, contentedly munching through the day's end. But along with the familiar fawn color, these creatures are black, white, silver-gray, honey and piebald.

Those can't be deer - unless Dr. Suess drew them. They have long, camel-like necks and legs, though no humps. They appear to be wardrobe in fleecy angora coats of every possible natural hue. A sound off-scene momentarily attracts their attention. Heads now erect, they stop pulling grass and watch the shadows.

A glimpse of their faces reveals long lashes framing huge Bambi-like eyes, fuzzy upright ears pricking to the sound, perhaps a hint of camel in the nose. There is something knowing, perhaps intelligent, in the gaze. Just who are these strangers in our midst and what are they doing on a farm better known for cranberries than livestock experimentation?

Fenwick Manor Farm
© T. Stephan Thompson



Deer by Dr. Seuss?
No; alpacas by way of the Andes.
© Fred Cantor

Ancient Alpaca, Camel's Cousin

In the thin air of the high Andes mountains of Peru, Chile and Bolivia live four camel cousins: wild vicuña and guanaco and their domestic relations, llamas and alpacas. These South American camelids are the New World counterparts of the Bactrian (two humps) and dromedary (one hump) camels we know from the sands of Northern Africa and the Mid-East. They represent the migratory remains of a camel presence that, according to fossil evidence, once existed throughout ancient North America.

For several thousand years llamas have acted as the beasts of burden for the native people who live in the Altiplano's harsh environment. For just as many years, alpacas have provided soft, fine, strong fiber to clothe these mountain natives.

Once they grazed contentedly on South American slopes, but the conquering Spaniards — determined to crush the spirit of the native people — slaughtered much of the livestock herds. The surviving animals regrouped in mountain climes too high for European lungs. Today, we benefit from this natural selection of the hardiest animals.

While a few llamas and alpacas dotted the hillsides of publisher William Randolph Hearst's California estate, San Simeon, in the 1920s, alpacas were virtually unknown in the United States before 1984. Known as the gold of the Andes, alpacas have been imported only in limited numbers so that the entire United States population still numbers no more than about 20,000 animals.

An Old Farm Learns New Tricks

Fenwick Manor Farm is not as ancient as the alpaca, but it has a long history by U.S. standards. James Fenwick bought a few hundred acres on the edge of the Pine Barrens from a cousin in 1844, and set about developing the farm's potential.

Besides the upland acres, used for pasture and crops, were some natural wetlands where cranberries flourished. The locals picked from these acres and used their harvest to improve on the plain fare of the time. Fenwick was a man of business, and knew that the value of cranberries in nearby Philadelphia, and even Europe, was increasing. So he fenced his bog acres and set about cultivating what had been wild.

Another young man shared Fenwick's enthusiasm for cranberry horticulture: Joseph Josiah (J.J.) White had his own boggy acres, just down the road. White often passed Fenwick Manor on his way home to his family estate. At day's end, he sometimes stopped to water his horse and spend a few minutes in pleasant conversation with Fenwick's daughter, Mary Annie.

Eventually, White married Mary Annie and came to live at Fenwick Manor. In time, he controlled both cranberry properties and expanded the business until J.J. White, Inc., was one of New Jersey's largest cranberry producing properties. The historic company village still is known by the name Whitesbog.

A strong-minded entrepreneur, White knew the wisdom of working cooperatively with other growers for financial gain. He helped found the American Cranberry Growers (ACG) Exchange that later would become Ocean Spray cranberries. Though today Ocean Spray is a well-established farmers' cooperative, at the turn of the century White's cranberry efforts were sometimes called White's Folly. Equally immune to others' opinions was his daughter Elizabeth, who would go on to help develop the cultivated blueberry, an unusual achievement for a woman of that time.

While both properties are owned by Fenwick's descendants, the J.J. White, Inc., property has been divided from Fenwick's original upland acres, still known as Fenwick Manor Farm. White's bogs continue to profitably grow cranberries for Ocean Spray, but the blight affecting many small farms was impacting the manor acres. With corn and other grains today bringing prices reminiscent of Fenwick's time, Fenwick Manor Farm was facing an uncertain future. While many New Jersey farmers have chosen to "grow houses" rather than try to turn a profit from farming, Fenwick Manor Farm's owners wanted to keep the land in agriculture and try to pass a viable business down to the next generation.

In order for the farm to grow as a business, a financially viable — but sustainable — alternative was sought. No get-rich-quick scheme would do for a property with this much history. The farm's fragile Pine Barrens ecology dictated a "land friendly" alternative and many options were examined and discarded.

Don't let the "Moe" haircut fool you — this is one smart critter!

© Fred Cantor





Are we due for a haircut soon?
© Fred Cantor

Dusty gently welcomes Espera.
Even the Fenwick Manor Farm herd
sire enjoys the newest member.
© T. Stephan Thompson



Sustainable Agriculture for a Fragile Environment

While the arid scrub growth of the Andes does not closely resemble New Jersey farm land, adaptations that assured the alpaca's survival in that fragile South American environment now benefit ours. Modified ruminants (cud chewers), alpacas make efficient use of pasture and are happy grazing and browsing on what horses might refuse. Unlike sheep and goats, alpacas don't tend to overgraze and they leave grass roots undisturbed. They travel softly on padded feet, not hooves, thereby protecting the turf underfoot. They foul only small areas of each pasture, returning regularly to common "poop piles," a habit that protects grazing areas and decreases parasite load.

At one-third to one-half the size of a llama, four or five alpaca can be kept on an acre of pasture, making them ideal for the small farms now typical in New Jersey. More importantly, alpacas are highly intelligent and gentle and have quirky personalities more suited to a comic book than a spreadsheet.

Quirky is good, but could alpaca husbandry provide Fenwick Manor Farm with the income needed to protect against the temptation of selling out to creeping suburbia? Ostriches, emus, pot-bellied pigs and chinchillas — each species has taken its turn as a fad exotic, temporarily commanding huge prices and providing a roller coaster ride for investors.

The alpaca differs from these species thanks to the on-going demand for its fiber. (Alpaca hair has long been considered a luxury fiber; at one time, the fiber was reserved for the exclusive use of Inca royalty.) It comes in more natural shades than that of any other domestic livestock.

While tight exportation restrictions, a closed breed registry, and long gestations — which usually result in single births — have kept th

Alpacas usually are shorn once a year. Each will produce enough fiber for four to eight sweaters.
© Fred Cantor

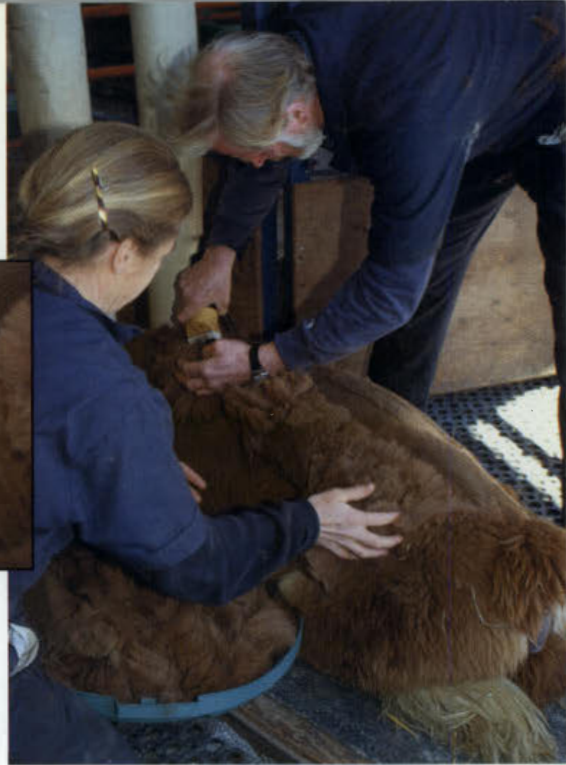
demand for alpacas high, it is its fiber that provides a true basis in value. Alpaca prices have remained consistently high for more than a dozen years, and the future is bright, thanks in part to a strong breed association that supports national marketing and a newly formed fiber cooperative.

The farm's owners wanted what many of us crave: a rural lifestyle, the tax advantages of farm ownership and an adequate income, without the backbreaking labor that most farming is made of. A tall order, but one being enjoyed by many alpaca breeders who may spend only a couple of hours each day caring for a small herd.

Today, the farm is home to more than 30 alpacas in a rainbow of colors, some owned, others agisted (boarded). Among the farm's herd are animals of the more common coat type, known as huacaya, which is characterized by its crimp; these alpacas begin to take on a round appearance by spring shearing time. There are also a few of the more rare suri type, whose fiber is so silky as to hang in thin dreadlocks; it may measure only 16 to 20 microns, finer than human hair. Alpacas bred on Fenwick Manor Farm are registered, just as a quality horse or dog would be, and each carries the "FMF" farm designation in its registered name.

The financial outlook for the farm, now in its third year of breeding, is positive. There is reason to expect the next generation of Fenwick's descendants will be able to stroll the farm in the evening light, comfortable in the knowledge that one does not always have to sell a farm to make money from it.

Alpacas' personalities — and hairdos — are as varied as the colors of their coats
© T. Stephan Thompson



Katharine Thompson, great, great-granddaughter to James Fenwick, owns and manages Fenwick Manor Farm with her photographer husband, Stephan, and their two daughters. Although this is her first contribution to *New Jersey Outdoors*, she has written for a variety of other publications. Katherine and her alpacas recently were featured on the television show, *Wild About Animals*.

Where to Learn More

Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA)

PO Box 1992

Estes Park, CO 80517

Phone: 970-586-6685

E-mail: kenaoba@aol.com

Web site: <http://www.aoba.org>

You may request a breeders guide listing area farms, or just visit their Web site. Subscriptions are available to Alpacas magazine.

Alpaca Registry, Inc. (ARI)

PO Box 1862

Kalispell, MT 59903-1862

406-755-3158

E-mail: ari@digisys.net

ARI registers North American bred alpacas based on blood or DNA testing to prove parentage.

Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

(MaPaca)

Web site: www.mapaca.org

MaPaca hosts a large Eastern Alpaca Jubilee in late April. This event is a regional showplace of vendors, halter and performance classes, and educational seminars. The year 2000 Jubilee will be held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Alpaca and Llama

Show Association (ALSA)

PO Box 1189

Lyons, CO 80540

E-mail: alsa@llama.org

Web site: www.llama.org/alsa

ALSA sanctions llama and alpaca shows and judging certification.

Alpaca Fiber Cooperative of North America (AFCNA)

PO Box 1992

1140 Manford Avenue, Suite A

Estes Park, CO 80517

Web site: www.alpacafibercoop.com

Shop this web site for a peek at products soon available from the cooperative.

Fenwick Manor Farm

PO Box 189


New Lisbon, NJ 08064

609/893-5552

E-mail: Thompson333@Juno.com

Web site: www.FMFalpacas.Fenwick.net

Alpaca Autumn will be held on Saturday, October 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy seminars, demonstrations, alpaca garments and fiber, food, music, farm tours and activities for the kids. The \$20 fee (ages 18 and up) includes lunch and parking. Reservations required. Fenwick Manor Farm also hosts visitors on other days; call or e-mail for an appointment.



The legs of her cria, Espera, seem as long as the gestation period (almost a year) Sweet T endured.
© T. Stephan Thompson

'PACA FACTS

Adult alpacas range from 110 to 190 lbs.; most adults and some children can handle them.

Alpacas can be expected to live approximately 17 to 23 years.

Males typically breed by age 24-30 months, females usually by 18 months.

Single births are the norm, following an 11+ month gestation; re-breeding often occurs within 2-3 weeks of birthing.

Offspring are called cria, and a female may produce 10-12 cria in a lifetime.

Alpacas eat primarily grass and hay, with pellets, grain and minerals offered to supplement. They may nibble on leaves and shrubs but should be kept well away from toxic plants.

Alpacas tend to be hardy and disease-resistant. They need regular parasite protection in white-tailed deer areas. (Consult a veterinarian for recommendations.)

The breed requires minimal upkeep — a small group may take less than an hour per day of care, on average.

Alpacas may be boarded on another's farm (a service called agisting) for a small monthly fee.

Fiber is usually harvested once per year, in the spring.

Alpacas need protection from summer heat, but are quite cold tolerant.

Like all intelligent animals, alpacas have distinct and very strong personalities; temperaments include aloof, curious, playful, loving, gentle.

Alpacas can be trained readily to halter. They ride easily in trailers or even the family minivan.

Alpacas do not need to be sacrificed to produce income.


Alpacas come in 22 recognized colors, plus some combinations. Their fiber has great insulating value and strength. Without the "scales" that characterize sheep's wool, alpaca hair has a silky "hand" and a welcome lack of prickle. It lends itself to being spun, dyed, woven, felted or knit, and is a favorite of handworkers.

Alpacas may be shown, kept as pets or fiber animals, or may be used within a breeding program.

Alpaca breeding can be a full time or part time business for individuals and families of almost any age. Animals may be considered "investment only" or as a "hands on" endeavor.

As with any investment, livestock investment bears some risk. And as with ownership of any animal, new owners with related experience will fare the best. It is suggested that those who wish to own alpacas, but have limited livestock experience, consider agisting with an experienced breeder to speed the learning process. Those with limited budgets can co-own an animal, or buy a pet-quality or non-breeding alpaca.

Caution: Sticker Shock Potential! While pet quality alpacas start at about \$1,000, quality breeding females often cost \$20,000 or more, with return on investment coming with the sale of offspring.

A photograph of a man fishing from a boat on a river. The man is wearing a blue jacket, a green cap, and sunglasses. He is holding a large fish, likely a bass, which is splashing in the water. The background shows the river and some distant land.

Autumn Bronzebacks of the Delaware

Story and photos © by J. B. Kasper

By the time lakes, streams and rivers have taken on their autumn ambiance, many sportsmen have replaced the rod and reel with the gun and long bow and have taken to the fields and woods in search of whitetail and other game. That doesn't mean there isn't still some good fishing out there. In fact, some of the best fishing of the season is at hand for the dedicated angler who persists in his pursuit of "old bronzeback" in the Delaware River, for this is the time when the bass go on the feed to fatten up for the coming cold water season.

Autumn is a time of change, and the Delaware River is one of the first places to see the metamorphosis of the seasons. Water temperatures begin to fall and water levels are usually at their lowest levels of the year. In a normal year, the river is alive with small shad and herring that were spawned the previous spring and now are making their way back to the sea.

Smallies often will zero in on the schools of baitfish and go into a frenzy, chasing them onto bars, flats and shorelines in an attempt to put on some extra weight for winter. The sight of bass smashing through the schools of baitfish can get one's blood boiling, and it's an occurrence that is repeated up and down the river in the fall. The angler who knows how to take advantage of these conditions can really enjoy some phenomenal fishing.

Schooling Bass

Much of the action that occurs during the early fall is close to the surface of the water. On a typical morning, there will be a bug hatch as soon as the sun hits the water, and the small shad and herring will begin feeding on them in shallow areas. Soon the bass will start homing in on the schools of baitfish and move under and around them, picking off those that stray. Once they go into a frenzy they will dart into the schools, inhaling baitfish as they go. This will be highlighted to the angler by swirls in and around the school.

The angler can use several tricks when the bass are found surface feeding on these schools. Small surface plugs such as Blabber Mouths, Trouble Makers, tiny Zarra Spooks and floating Rapalas are commonly used for the surface feeding smallies. However, the bass can be very fickle when feeding on small shad and herring and they will often turn off the plug at the last second, causing many short hits.

When this occurs, a good lure to use is a floating twitch bait. A small floating Rapala can be doctored up by breaking the bib off and weighting the back of the plug so that its rear will sit below the water and the front will be above the water. In a pinch you can crimp a small split shot onto the rear hook to weight it down, but it's better to carefully cut a small hole into the back of the plug and press the split shot into the hole. You can then seal them up by applying several coats of model airplane glue.

The broken bib Rapala, as it has become known, can be cast into a school of surface feeding shad or herring and then retrieved with a twitching motion that — if worked properly — will perfectly imitate the action of the feeding baitfish.

Another way of working the fish right in the school is through the use of small plastic baits. Sassy Shads and Sassy Shiners are the most commonly used rubberbaits since they best imitate the action of the baitfish. The standard way of fishing these rubberbaits is to dress them on a small jig head. Another excellent way of fishing them is to dress them on a plain hook with some small split shot or strip lead added to the line about a foot ahead of them and slowly retrieve them through the schools of baitfish and feeding bass. The plain hook method will work best in shallow water and the jig/rubberbait combination will work best in deeper water or in areas that have good sized rocks with small eddies behind them. The jig/rubberbait combinations will offer you better speed and depth control in deeper or faster water.

Live Bait: Autumn's Top Producer

With all the forage that is present during the fall season, bass often will hit a lure very lightly, causing the angler to miss more hits than he catches. This is the time to switch over to live bait. When a smallie hits live bait during this time of the year, he will hang on to it; this gives the angler extra time to set the hook.

As the water dips below the 55-degree mark, live bait will outproduce artificials by a 5-to-1 margin. Killies, flatheads and small shiners will be your ticket to some good numbers of smallies. Many anglers also net the small shad and herring while they are fishing and use them for bait. These fish, however, need oxygen rich water and can be hard to keep. A live well with an aerator, or a container that floats in the water you're fishing, will work best.



A happy angler shows off the smallmouth he took from an eddy on a jig/minnow combination, which provides better depth and speed control than a live-line rig.



This dark colored smallmouth was taken from a deep eddy during the early autumn.

Delivering a minnow to the feeding fish can best be accomplished in two different ways: live-lining and jigging. Live-lining minnows is best used in shallow water or for surface feeding fish when they won't hit plugs. It is the simplest method because all that is needed is a hook and a small split shot or piece of strip lead to deliver the bait. Once you have spotted a school of feeding fish, you can cast the minnow into it and await a pickup. Live-lining is also very useful when fishing areas

where small shad or herring might school up and feed on insects, such as dead water pockets found in eddies, shallow flats and long quiet stretches of water.

A good part of the fall you will find the jig/minnow combination more useful. You can use it to dig the fish out from deep eddies, drop-offs and other deep water and to fish shallow areas that have faster moving water. Also, the jig/minnow combination will give you better depth and speed control than a live-line rig will. These are elements that can make or break your fishing, especially during the late fall when the water has chilled down.

The one drawback to using the jig/minnow combination is that you will lose a good number of jigs to hangups and the rocks. As inexpensive as they are, it still can add up. When using a jig in combination with live bait, it is not necessary to have a fancy paint job, deer hair or other frills. The main purpose of the jig is to deliver the bait to the strike zone and be able to maintain both speed and depth control. A plain unpainted jig does this just as well as a fancy jig, so go the no frills way.

Always hook your minnows through the head, whether jigging or live-lining, and keep the bait in the 2- to 3-inch class. Using the smaller baits and rigs allows you to strike the fish as soon as you feel the hit, and this will cause most of the fish to get hooked in the mouth where it does the least amount of damage and allows you a clean release. As the water gets cooler, you will have to allow more time for the fish to swallow the bait, and hooking the minnow in the head puts the hook where it will do the most good, since smallies swallow the bait head first.

The one difference between live-lining and jigging is how you hook the minnow in the head. When live-lining, it's best to hook the minnow through the lips, as you will want a lively minnow. It is also prudent to use a light wire hook; it will penetrate better and the fine shaft of the hook will do less damage to the bait than a standard hook. Light wire hooks also are a better choice because they will bend when you get hung up — and getting hung up is part of autumn smallmouth fishing in the Delaware. When you are jigging, you don't have to worry about the minnow being alive, so it's best to hook them deep in the head. This holds them on the hook better while you are bouncing them in a current or along the bottom.

Crisp fall days mean bundling up against the chill and fishin' for bronzebacks on the Delaware.



Learn To Fish the Current

One of the most important factors in fishing a river, especially during the transitional period of the fall, is learning how to use the current to bring your baits to the bass. A river is different from a lake or reservoir because of its current. The constant mixing of water with oxygen in rapids, falls and ripples is the reason a river will turn over quicker than a still body of water such as a lake. Smallies and other fish that live in a current environment learn to look to the current for food and oxygen.

The most important thing to remember when working a current is to keep as much line off the water as possible when working your baits. This gives you a more direct contact between your rod tip and your bait or lure, giving you better hookups when the fish hits. It also helps keep the current from sweeping your baits out of the strike zone, and this gives your bait or lure a more natural presentation, which translates into more hits.

The best way to make the current work for you is to position yourself or your boat parallel to the area you want to fish and cast your bait or lure slightly upstream. Holding your rod tip up high, allow the current to sweep your bait or lure downstream. As it does, gradually lower your rod tip and follow the bait downstream until it is directly down from your position. Then slowly reel your bait back to your position.

One last tip for working the current for autumn smallies: Some of the new braided, no-stretch lines that are on the market are ideal for fishing the currents of a river. Their finer diameter will cut through the water better, while allowing you to use heavier pound test. Their no-stretch characteristic gives you much better sensitivity and striking power, allowing you to detect the slightest pick-up and to set the hook in the current with a lot more authority.

The term "all hell breaks loose" best describes the exciting portion of the fall when the smallmouth go on the feed late in the season. So when there's a nip in the air and frost on the ground, keep those rods handy and get in on the action.

*J. B. Kasper, who lives in Morrisville (PA), is an angler, fishing instructor and guide as well as a freelance writer and photographer. His article about fishing the Delaware for striped bass appeared in the Spring 1998 issue of **New Jersey Outdoors**.*

Jersey Sketchbook: The Montclair Hawk Lookout

Text and sketches © by John R. Quinn



Sitting atop a densely wooded suburban ridge in toney Upper Montclair is what has to be one of the better-kept secrets of “natural New Jersey.” In a state known for its environmental and urban contrasts — one that’s home to more people per square mile than any of the other 49 — natural enclaves are often, of necessity, found in small packages. And the New Jersey Audubon Society’s Montclair Hawk Lookout is surely one of the better ones.

The one-acre lookout perched atop a 500-foot basalt ledge of the First Watchung Mountain is one of the smallest nature sanctuaries anywhere. Located on one of the major Watchung flyways for migrating raptors, the lookout is a mini-refugium of woodland and ancient weathered rock set in the midst of one of the densest urban complexes on Earth. And although no hawks likely breed on the premises any more, it nonetheless serves a very important purpose.

I first visited the lookout not in the fall, when the hawks are flying, but in mid-May. This is an interesting experience in itself. For starters, the place is almost impossible to find. The trail to the pinnacle is located on the south side of woody, relatively untraveled Edgecliff Road in Upper Montclair, about 100 yards down the way from Essex County’s densely wooded Mills Reservation. Except for a small sign suspended from a wire, the trail entrance is unmarked; unless you know what you’re looking for, you’ll drive right on by it.

The sanctuary is officially open to the birding public from August 15 through November (so the sign said); for the remainder of the year the steep trail to the lookout is gated. On my mid-spring visit, when I expected to see warblers



rather than hawks flitting through the forest canopy, I was pleasantly surprised to cross paths with — yes, a real live hawk! As I climbed the rustic wooden stairway toward a slot cut in the cliff, a broad-winged hawk, closely tailed by a screaming blue jay, sailed down-slope through the woods and vanished in the manicured greenery of a nearby backyard.

I was intimidated by the “No Entry” proclamation on the chain-link gate barring the way up to the lookout, but later, on the road below, I very nearly had a change of heart. A passing cyclist, a trim, middle-aged gent garbed in banana helmet and colorful spandex, spotted me standing by the wayside, torn by indecision: Should I climb the fence anyway, or not? Assuring me that he was a local resident, he insisted that “nobody’ll think much about a guy with a camera and a sketchpad going up there — it’s the kids with the cases of beer that they’re worried about.” Nonetheless, in the end, I decided to “keep it legal”; I clambered over the lip of brown rock to the left of the gate and made my way to the top of the rugged ridge just outside of the sanctuary itself.

The view from this particular outcrop’s vantage point alone is dramatic, to understate it, but while taking it all in I was struck by the paradox. From the pinnacle the forest canopy sweeps down and away toward New York City, but the rumpled carpet of seemingly unbroken greenery is deceptive. The hushed roar of traffic filled the air, here and there voices could be heard, and the pounding beat of the Rolling Stones’ *Satisfaction* drifted up to the peak from the radio of a passing car far below. Crows and street pigeons coursed back and forth above the trees,

but there were actually more aircraft of human design in sight at one time than birds. And then — a raptor! No, several of them.

To the east, in the general direction of the Hackensack Meadowlands, four tiny dark winged forms sailed in lazy arcs high against the hazy blue. My binoculars revealed them to be three turkey vultures and a red-tailed hawk, birds of prey far better adapted to humanity than the declining Cooper’s and red-shouldered hawks. The birds’ presence in the sky had nothing at all to do with the hawk watching sanctuary I stood upon, but there was no doubt that this was the premier location from which to watch this particular breed of avian creation do what it has done best for countless millennia.

Urban and even rural hawk watch promontories have much more meaning to people than they do to the hawks and eagles that each fall execute their magnificent flybys past these once-wilderness mountains. The Montclair Hawk Watch, conducted annually since 1957, is second only to the annual fall raptor count at Pennsylvania’s Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (1934) as the oldest in the nation. The Montclair property was purchased in 1959 by the Montclair Bird Club and presented to NJAS as a sanctuary.

The lookout was formally dedicated to veteran hawk watcher Andrew Bihun, Jr. in 1988. Bihun, who kept meticulous records of raptor passages at Montclair for more than 20 years, died in 1986. In a poignant avian tribute, on the breezy September day of its dedication, the lookout logged the greatest number of

passing birds of prey in a single day in its history: 17,420.

Today, the Montclair Hawk Lookout continues to produce results for both neophyte and experienced hawk-watchers. In the 1998 fall count, 11,743 individuals of 16 species were tallied. Some of the more notable records for last year include 5,501 broad-winged hawks; 2,461 sharp-shinned hawks; 551 ospreys; 174 Cooper’s hawks and 59 bald eagles. At the low end, seven black vultures, three golden eagles, two goshawks and a single rough-legged hawk passed over the observation platform.

Unfortunately, the count figures compiled at this and other hawk-watching hot spots around the country all too often reflect the disturbing decline in raptor numbers over the years. But the emotions and the yearnings for that essence of the wild and untamable that inspire people to clamber up to a rocky nub in the middle of suburbia to witness something elemental and not of suburbia is what special places like the Montclair Hawk Lookout are all about. In the end, we humans very much need such little sanctuaries more than the birds do.

For information and directions to the sanctuary, call the New Jersey Audubon Society at 908/766-5787, go to their Web site (www.nj.com/audubon/sites/sites.html) or, better yet, join them. I promise you, it’ll be the best dues money you ever spent.

Artist-naturalist John R. Quinn, who is employed as Natural Resource Specialist with the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission, has published many books on nature and science. He regularly portrays segments of New Jersey’s environment in words and sketches for New Jersey Outdoors.

TRY PULLING, Not PUSHING

by Fred Uhlman

Have you ever pushed against a door only to find that it swings in the opposite direction? Nature will often work the same way, with the result being that we miss some incredible opportunities to observe and photograph wildlife. Like many outdoor enthusiasts, I carry my camera everywhere I go. I realized long ago that if I leave it home a condor will swoop in and grab a dodo bird while the Jersey Devil jogs by.

My good old Canon AE-1, tipped with a 300mm telephoto, is perfect for shooting earthquakes. However, if I want a good sharp photo, I have to use a tripod — especially with the way wildlife refuses to stand in direct sunlight and hold a perfectly still pose.

A typical outing for me would start with locating a subject, such as an interesting bird. I'd move in as close as possible, then set up the tripod, mount the camera, find the right exposure and focus — only to find out the bird has migrated three states away. I tried reducing the setup time by keeping the camera mounted and the tripod extended while I drove around. Let's just say that me getting out of my car with this equipment was not a pretty sight and could be extremely dangerous for anyone near me.

Someone suggested building a blind, but that limits maneuverability. The same person told me to be very quiet and sneak up on my target. People sneaking up on wildlife must be so entertaining to the wildlife. Here I am, 6 feet tall, 200 pounds, with camera, tripod and backpack — I couldn't sneak up on a road kill!

© Fred Uhlman

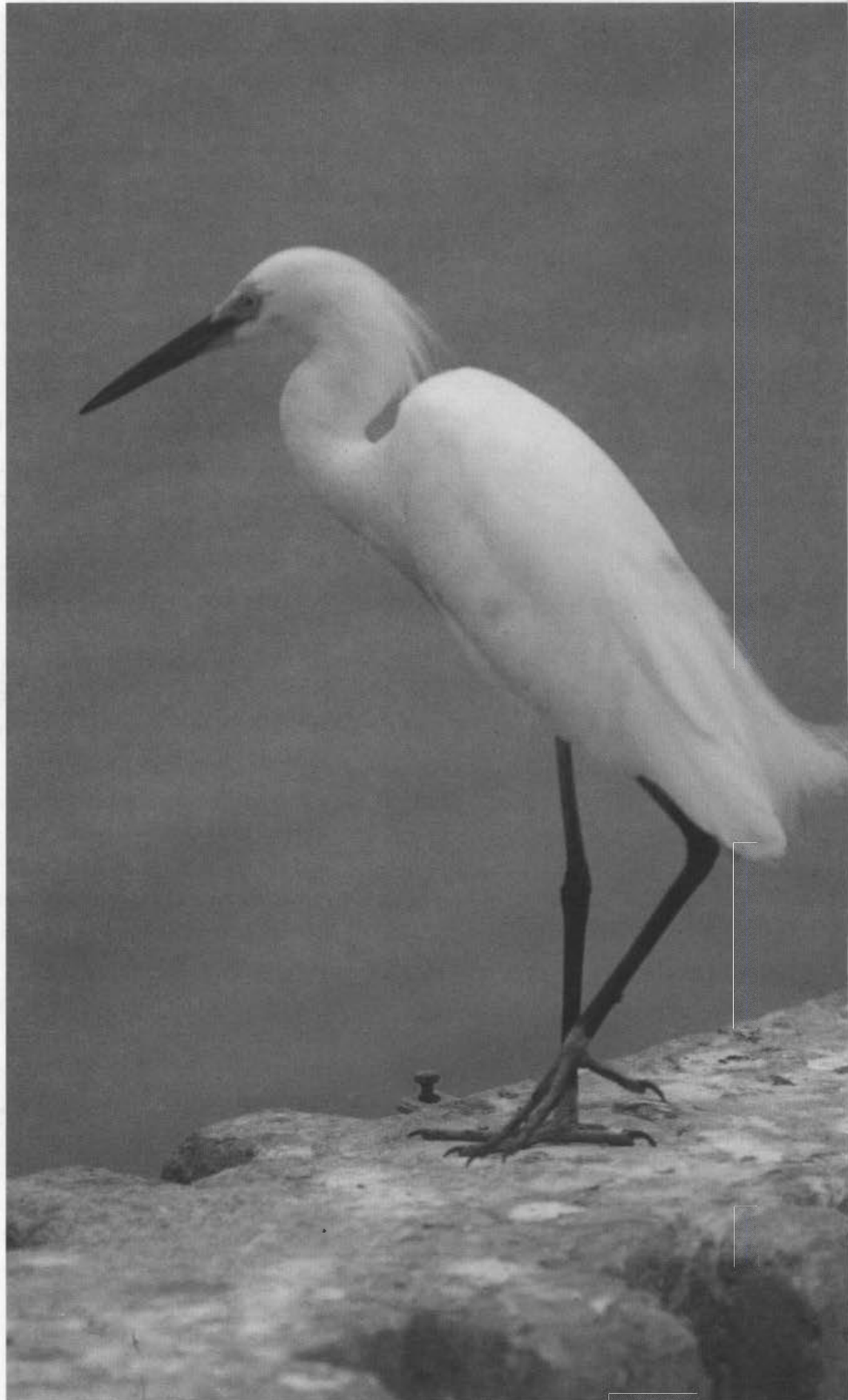
© Clay Myers

The Curiosity Theory

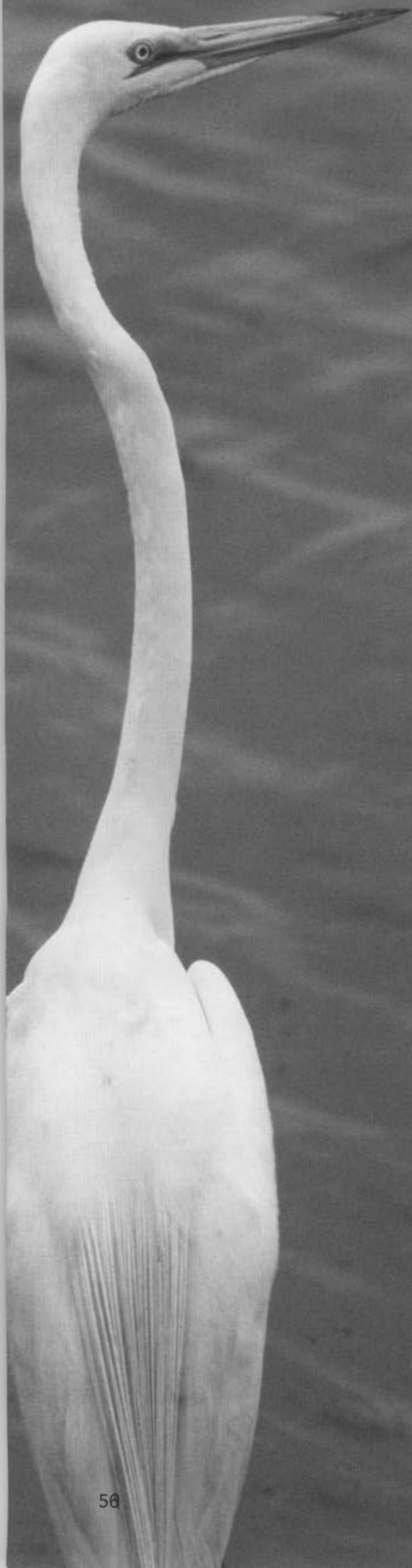
I needed to change something if I wanted good close-up shots of animals that seem to shy away from human contact. Then it came to me while I was sitting in front of my aquarium. The 60-gallon tank is set up with salt water and stocked with local life forms such as sea bass, flounder, crabs and shrimp. Whenever I put my hand in to move something the inhabitants would stay as far away as the glass would allow. One day when I'd finished moving a rock I left my hand in but kept it still. In a few minutes most of the fish slowly moved to about an inch away to inspect my arm and hand. It dawned on me that they were curious and as long as I made no aggressive moves my presence was not a threat.

An old friend of mine back in Pennsylvania revealed a little secret to me many years ago. We walked to the edge of a crystal clear lake and immediately the large-mouth bass in the shallows moved off into deeper water. My friend told me to stand still and watch. He picked up a large rock and threw it into the middle of the shallow water breaking what to me was one of the most important rules of fishing: Be quiet at all times. We stood motionless and, after a few minutes, several bass began to slowly move in close to examine the new addition to their area. My friend told me that animals are just as curious as people are, and we can use that curiosity to our advantage. Without the rock, the fish might have stayed out of the area or, at best, just moved back into the fringe area at the edge of the shallows.

I decided to try the curiosity theory out while bird watching. First I located a snowy egret that was standing on a pipe that let a narrow tidal creek flow under a dirt road. From a distance I watched as the egret



Courtesy of Bob Malone



picked at small minnows that traveled through the pipe. As I moved closer, the egret flew off a short distance and proceeded to hunt along a muddy bank. I figured that the pipe was the perfect place for it to feed so I set up my camera about 10 feet away and waited. After about 10 minutes, the egret moved a little closer while keeping track of what I was doing. Eventually deciding that I was no threat, it hopped back up on the pipe and, after a few more scrutinizing looks, turned and began picking at the minnows. I came away with a whole series of great close-ups that I had previously spent months trying to get.

Shooting a Rail

My next target was the Northern clapper rail — the ever-invisible mud hen. The roadrunner of the meadow is, feather for feather, one of birding's most difficult targets. This shy bird not only avoids human contact but also blends in so well with its environment that photos are usually a small brown dot from deep in tall brown grass.

I spotted one about 50 yards away, walking the edge of a tidal creek. Through the lens it was the brown dot on brown mud that offered little to get excited about. I set up again and made sure that the hen knew I was there. Then I sat still and waited. The hen moved back into the grass and reappeared a few minutes later a little closer. It checked me out again then moved back into the grass. This continued for about 20 minutes until the hen stood not more than 6 feet away, checking me out as much as I was checking it out. With slow non-aggressive movement, I was able to take a full roll of photos with the hen almost posing for me. When the hen's curiosity was satisfied it slowly turned and moved back into the high grass while I sat there, amazed at how close we had been.

I returned the next day to try my theory again but an old-timer spotted me and stopped to chat. The hen did make an appearance but stayed a good distance away and always in the grass. I can only imagine that the sound of our voices and our movement was enough to represent a threat that overruled its curiosity. The following week I returned alone and once again the hen slowly moved to within 10 feet to check me out.


Most, if not all, animals are territorial and will defend against intruders. However, they are not stupid and know when the intruder is more than they can handle. Animals are also curious and — as long as we present ourselves as non-threatening — many eventually will want a closer look. We are probably the biggest thing they have ever seen in their back yard and, if we represent no threat, why not get a closer look?

Nature is — except for a buffalo stampede — very subtle. We humans, on the other hand, are just the opposite, as we stomp around dragging equipment, talking and doing just about everything possible that sends out the signal to get the heck out of our way. If we tone down our presence a bit we can entice rather than scare. Travel alone, make your presence known, then become inactive. Let your wildlife subject's curiosity set up the shots for you.

Humorist/sportswriter Fred Uhlman lives in Rio Grande. His first contribution to New Jersey Outdoors, "How to Get (or give) the Perfect Gift," appeared in the Fall 1998 issue.

Events

- Information listed was accurate at the time it was submitted to New Jersey Outdoors. Before traveling to an event, readers are advised to call the number listed to confirm the information provided and obtain any additional information desired.
- Where the sponsor has provided such information, symbols have been used:

-  Handicapped accessible
-  Fee or Donation
-  Preregistration required

Lack of the indicative symbol may mean either that the opposite is true or that the sponsor did not provide the information. Please call the contact number for any event about which you have questions.

General Information is provided here for frequently mentioned event sponsors. The bold-faced name is all that will appear in an event's description.

Albert – Albert Music Hall, 125 Wells Mill Rd. (Rte. 532), 1/4 mile west of Rte. 9, Waretown; 609/971-1593; handicapped accessible; fee charged

Batsto – Batsto Village, Wharton State Forest, Hammonton

Cold Spring – Historic Cold Spring Village, 720 Rte. 9, Cape May; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily through Labor Day, then only on weekends in Sept.; donation requested; 609/898-2300

Cooper – Cooper Gristmill, County Rte. 513 (1.3 miles west of Rte. 206), Chester; 908/879-5463

Fosterfields – Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, 73 Kahdena Rd. (just off County Rte. 510, 1.25 miles west of the Morristown Green, Morristown); 973/326-7645 (TTY: 800/852-7899); fee charged Thursdays through Sundays

Great Swamp – Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham; weekend and evening nature hikes and other seasonal activities are available in addition to listed programs; 973/635-6629

Hermitage – The Hermitage, 335 North Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus; 201/445-8311

Howell – Howell Living History Farm, Valley Rd. (just off Rte. 29, two miles south of Lambertville), Hopewell Township (Mercer County); 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., unless otherwise specified; free admission & parking, but a fee is charged for rides, maze and crafts; lunch served 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; handicapped accessible; 609/737-3299

Pequest – The Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, Rt. 46, Oxford (nine miles west of Hackettstown); 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, except holidays; handicapped accessible; registration opens two weeks prior to program date; 908-637-4125

Skylands – Skylands Manor and N.J. State Botanical Garden, Morris Rd., Ringwood State Park, Ringwood; 973/962-9534; fee for park entrance on weekends from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend; fee for manor house admission

TNC Bayshores – The Nature Conservancy's Delaware Bayshores Office (2350 Route 47, Delmont) sponsors events in Southern New Jersey; call to register and to obtain details; 609/861-0600

TNC Northern – The Nature Conservancy's New Jersey Field Office (200 Pottersville Road, Chester) sponsors events in Northern and Central New Jersey; call to register and to obtain details; 908/879-7262

Trallside – Trallside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Rd., Mountainside; 908/789-3670

Waterloo – The Historic Village of Waterloo, 525 Waterloo Road, Stanhope; 973/347-0900 (unless otherwise noted); open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday from mid-April through mid-November; fee

Wetlands – Wetlands Institute, 1075 Stone Harbor Blvd., Stone Harbor (3 miles east of the Garden State Parkway exit 10B); 609/368-1211; fee

Wheaton – Wheaton Village, 1501 Glasstown Rd., Millville; Closed on New Year's, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, and on Mondays and Tuesdays from January through March; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 856/825-6800 or 800/998-4552; handicapped accessible; fee

Whitesbog – Whitesbog Village, mile marker 13 on Rte. 530, Browns Mills (Pemberton Township); 609/893-4646

Events

Ongoing

Pequest Trout Hatchery Tour Pequest

Cape May County 64th Annual Fishing Tournament

Cape May County waters;
800/227-2297

Nature Classes and Special Events

Paws Farm Nature Center, Mt. Laurel;
856/778-8795; \$; ♿ for large groups

Saturdays and Sundays

Guided Walks

Parvin State Park, Pittsgrove;
856/358-3105

Guided Nature Walks

Cooper Environmental Center,
Cattus Island Park, Toms River;
732/270-6960; ♿

Second Saturday of Each Month

Navy Lakehurst: Past and Present
Lakehurst; 732/818-7520

Sundays except Christmas, New Year's and Easter

Planetarium Show Trailside; \$

Sundays, January through May & September through December

Family Nature Program Trailside

Sundays, May 16 through October

Guided Garden Walk Heavy rain cancels; Carriage House at Skylands

Wednesdays

Governor's Mansion Tours at Drumthwacket Princeton;
609/683-0057

Wednesdays through Sundays

Environmental Interpretive Programs at State Parks and Forests Call for schedule and other details: Cheesequake, Matawan, 732/566-3208; Island Beach, Seaside Park, 732/793-0506; Liberty, Jersey City, 201/915-3409; Parvin, Pittsgrove, 856/358-8616; Washington Crossing, Titusville, 609/737-0609; Wharton, Hammonton, 609/567-4559 or 609/561-0024

Wednesdays through Sundays, October 6 through November 21

The Search for Life in the Universe Dreyfuss Planetarium at the Newark Museum, Newark; 973/596-6529; ♿; \$

Saturdays and Sundays, October 9 through November 21

Magic Sky Dreyfuss Planetarium at the Newark Museum, Newark; 973/596-6529; ♿; \$

Through October

Sail the Historic A. J. Meerwald Public sails and charters; 856/785-2060

Through October 17

Entertaining Crafts Exhibition & Sale Gallery of American Craft; Wheaton

Through October 24

Vanity Vessels: The Story of the American Perfume Bottle - A Major Exhibition Museum of American Glass; Wheaton

Through November 15

Fall Hawk Migration Count Mid-September is peak flight time; Wildcat Ridge Hawkwatch, Wildcat Ridge WMA, Rockaway Township; <http://pw2.net-com.com/billyg/>; 973/335-0674

Through November 30

Cape May Bird Observatory Hawkwatch Hawkwatch platform, Cape May Point State Park; 609/884-2736 or 609/861-0700

Through December 15

Cape May Bird Observatory Seawatch 7th Street and the beach, Avalon; 609/884-2736 or 609/861-0700

October 2 through November 14

45th Annual Long Beach Island Surf Fishing Tournament The beaches of Long Beach Island; 609/494-7211

October 23 through November 21

Classic Creations Craft Boutique Hermitage; \$

November 13 through January 2, 2000

3rd Annual Handcrafted Gift Exhibition & Sale Gallery of American Craft; Wheaton

November 19 through January 2, 2000

Christmas in Cape May Cape May; 609/884-5404 or 800/275-4278

November 26 through January 2, 2000

The Holidays at Wheaton Village Wheaton

October

1 and 2

24th Annual Wildwood AHEPA Greek Weekend Convention Center, Wildwood; 609/522-7157 or 610/775-7155; \$

1 through 3

October Fest Botanical Garden at Skylands; ♿; \$

2

Star Watch at Wharton State Forest Batsto; 856/627-3043

Hermitage Harvest Festival and Halloween Fair Hermitage; \$

Scandinavian Festival

North Wildwood; 609/463-8035 or 609/889-9785

Manumuskin Hike TNC Bayshores; \$

Oktoberfest Jackson Street, Cape May; 609/884-5404; ♿

Country Fair Celebrating Eagleswood Township's 125th anniversary of incorporation; Eagleswood Firehouse, West Creek; 609/296-3040

2 and 3

Festival of Fine Crafts Wheaton

Family Harvest Festival Four Sisters Winery/Matarazzo Farms, Belvidere; 908/745-3671; ♿

New Jersey Beach Buggy Association Surf Fishing Tournament

15th Avenue & the beach, North Wildwood; 609/522-1526

Thunder on the Lake Festival and Power Boat Races Sunset Lake, Wildwood Crest; 609/523-8051

Chowderfest Weekend Bayfront Park, Taylor Avenue, Beach Haven; 609/494-7211 or 800/292-6372

Oktoberfest Weekend Smithville (Atlantic County) 609/652-7777 or 609/748-6160

Fall Festival Howell

Art & Crafts Show Nomahegan Park, Cranford; 908/527-4900

Oktoberfest Point Pleasant Beach; 732/899-2424

3

Horse Ride on the Paulinskill Valley Trail Bring your own horse; 908/725-9649

Hunter Pace Thompson Park, Lincroft; 732/542-1642; \$

Walnford Day Mini Fair; Historic Walnford, Allentown; 732/842-4000, ext. 237 or 239

12th Somerville Fall Fun Festival & Boogie Woogie Blues Festival Rain date: Oct. 17; Somerville; 908/996-3036

Big "C" Day Festival; Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island Park, Toms River; 732/270-6960; ♿

Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament Island Beach State Park; 732/793-0506 or 732/793-5525

Poetry & Jazz Skylands; ♿

Cranberry Harvest Tour Whitesbog

Fungus Fest Environmental Center, Basking Ridge; 908/766-2489

Gesneriad Society 20th Annual Show & Sale Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown; 732/899-2211

Canoe Race Old Toms River Bus Terminal, Toms River; 609/971-3085

6

The Glorious Great Swamp TNC Northern; \$

8 through 17

6th Annual Victorian Week Cape May; 856/885-5404, ext. 116; ♿; \$

9

Fall Foliage Hike on the Paulinskill Valley Trail Warbasse Junction; 908/852-0597

Old Fashioned Country Fair

Longstreet Farm, Holmdel; 732/842-4000, ext. 237 or 239; ♿

Pine Barren Jamboree Wells Mills County Park, Waretown; 609/971-3085

Pennsauken Surf Fishing Club Tournament North Wildwood beaches; 609-486-9180

Medford Apple Festival Medford; 609/654-0768

Blacksmithing and Horseshoeing Howell

Harvest Festival Bayhead; 800/4-BAYHED

Pedricktown Day Pedricktown; 856-299-2333

Civil War Living History Demonstration Hudson Methodist Cemetery Grounds, Pedricktown; 856/299-2133

9 and 10

21st Annual Great Fall Classic Surf Fishing Tournament 15th Avenue and the beach, North Wildwood; 215/289-2019; \$

Christopher Columbus Treasure Hunt and Festival North Wildwood; 609/729-3223

Family Science on Sandy Hook New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, Sandy Hook, Fort Hancock; 732/872-1300, x39; ♿; \$; 🍷

Fall on the Farm 1899 Fosterfields

9 through 11

Annual Juried American Indian Arts Festival Rankokus Indian Reservation, Westampton Township; 609/261-4747; ♿; \$

Events

October

10

American Wheels Car Show
Rain date: October 24; Wheaton

Antique Show
Convention Center, Cape May;
609/884-5404

1770s Festival Somerset County
Environmental Education Center,
Basking Ridge; 908/766-2489; ♿

6th Annual Heritage Festival
Holly Beach Station Mall, Wildwood;
609/729-6818

18-Mile Run Brant Beach (Long Beach
Island); 609/494-8861; ♿; 🍷

Cranberry Harvest Tour Whitesbog

14 and 15

Creatures of the Night
Wagon Rides Huber Woods Park, Locust
(Middletown Township); 732/842-4000,
ext. 237 or 239; \$; 🍷

9th Cranford Autumn Festival Rain
date: Oct. 17; Cranford; 908/996-3036

15

7th Annual Baymen's Museum
Dinner Auction Tuckerton;
609/296-8868

16

Kids pARTicipate Wheaton

Timberbrook Triathlon Manasquan
Reservoir, Howell Township;
732/842-4000, ext. 237 or 239; \$; 🍷

Trail Tales Great Swamp; 🍷

Wildflowers and Wildlife of the
Pinelands Hike Batsto;
609/567-4559; 🍷

There's a Fungus among Us
TNC Bayshores; \$

Fall Foliage Hayrides Howell

16 and 17

Harvest Wine Festival Alba Vineyard,
Finesville; 908/745-3671; ♿; \$

Chatsworth Cranberry Festival
Chatsworth; 609/726-9237

Apple Festival Cooper; \$

17

Turkey Swamp Park Day Family
Fair; Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold
Township; 732/842-4000, ext. 237
or 239; ♿

Bats Great Swamp

2nd Annual Fall Country Harvest
Kuser Farm Park, Hamilton Township
(Mercer County); 609/890-3684

Family Science on Sandy Hook
New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium,
Sandy Hook, Fort Hancock;
732/872-1300, x39; ♿; \$; 🍷

1770s Festival Somerset County
Environmental Education Center,
Basking Ridge; 908/766-2489; ♿; \$

Raising Chickens Fosterfields

Making Strides against Breast
Cancer Walk-A-Thon Arnold Avenue
Band Shell, Point Pleasant Beach;
732/914-1000

Tour of Flinns Point Rear Range
Light Weather permitting; Pennsville;
856/935-1487

22

Halloween Fright Night Fort Mott
State Park, Pennsville; 856/935-3218

22 and 23

Creatures of the Night Wagon
Rides Huber Woods Park, Locust
(Middletown Township); 732/842-4000,
ext. 237 or 239; \$; 🍷

23

8th Annual Pumpkin Festival
Rain date: Oct. 24; Cold Spring

Fall Beach Sweeps Help Clean Ocean
Action clean up beaches; Atlantic, Cape
May, Monmouth, Ocean and other coun-
ties; 732/872-0111 or 609/729-9262

Autumn Crossing Fest Festivities on
both sides of the Delaware River
will celebrate Colonial era agriculture;
Washington Crossing State Park,
Titusville (NJ) and Washing Crossing
Historic Park, Washington Crossing (PA);
215/493-4076

Bacon, Sausage and
Scrapple Making Howell

Alloway Halloween Parade Alloway;
856/935-7046

23 and 24

Four Centuries in a Weekend
Heritage Festival 21 sites in Union
County; 908/558-2550;
Relay 800/852-7899

Civil War Weekend Fosterfields

23 through 29

Storm Drain Stenciling Week Help
Clean Ocean Action combat nonpoint
source pollution throughout New Jersey
by raising awareness; 732/872-0111 or
609/729-9262

24

Haunted Hayride North Wildwood;
609/522-2955

Halloween Parade Emlen Physick
Estate, Cape May; 609/884-5404;
♿; \$ for participants

28 and 29

Nightmare on Main Street
Haunted House and Hayride
Barnegat Township Park; 609/698-0080

Events

November

29

Halloween Parade and Fun Fair
Wildwood; 609/729-1934

29 and 30

Creatures of the Night Wagon Rides Huber Woods Park, Locust (Middletown Township); 732/842-4000, ext. 237 or 239; \$; ♿

Halloween Weekend Down Jersey Folklife Center at Wheaton

29 through 31

74th Annual Meeting and 8th Tree Expo Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Cherry Hill; 732/246-3210, ext. 237 or 239; ♿; \$; ♿

30

Halloween Show Albert

Children's Halloween Party
Hermitage; \$; ♿

South Jersey Surfcasting Fishing Club Tournament North Wildwood beaches; 609/886-6314

Popcorn Harvest Howell

Halloween Parade
Barnegat; 609/698-0080

Miller's Halloween Cooper; \$

Toms River Fire Company Halloween Parade Rain date: November 1; 2nd largest Halloween parade in the world; Main Street, Toms River 732/349-0144 or 732/244-7941

30 and 31

Red Men's Fishing Tournament
For stripers; Tuckerton; 609/296-6278

31

Historical Ghost Hike on the Paulinskill Valley Trail Beginning at Footbridge Park, Blairstown; 908/852-0597

Halloween Parade Toms River; 732/349-0220

1

Great Pumpkin Sall Trailside; \$; ♿

5 through 7

53rd Annual Cape May Autumn Weekend...The Bird Show Cape May area; 609/884-2736 or 609/861-0700

Victorian Homes Weekend Cape May; 609/884-5404; \$; ♿

5 and 6

Turn-of-the-Century E.S.C.A.P.A.D.E. (Eastern States China, American Pottery and Dinnerware Exhibition) Laurence Harbor; 732/738-5677; \$

6

Explorer Hike on the Paulinskill Valley Trail and Other Rail Trails
Beginning at Warbasse Junction; 908/852-0597

Jersey Devil Show Albert

Maze Harvest for Wildlife Howell

Manumuskin Hike TNC Bayshores; \$

Turkey Trot 5K Race and 1-Mile Run; Colonial Park, Franklin; 908/722-1200, ext. 226

6 and 7

Tristate African Violet Show
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown; 973/326-7600

7

Mineral Club Show Trailside; ♿

12 through 14

Cape May Jazz Festival Cape May; 609/884-7277; ♿

Quiet Festival Ocean City; 800/BEACH-NJ

13

Homeplace Gathering Albert

Myra's Amazing Puppets
Great Swamp; \$; ♿

Symposium on the Delaware and Raritan Canal History and Technology Prallsville Mill Complex, Stockton; 908/722-7428

Barn Raising and Barn Restoration Tours Howell

Discover Cape May Historic House Tour Cape May; 609/884-5404; \$

14

Hunter Pace Thompson Park, Lincroft; 732/542-1642; \$

November Arts & Crafts Festival
Convention Hall, Cape May; 609/884-5404; ♿

25th Anniversary Show Albert

20

Wildflowers and Wildlife of the Pinelands Hike Batsto; 609/567-4559; ♿

Cider Making Howell

20 and 21

Holiday Preview Weekend
Aleathea's Restaurant (holiday feast) and Convention Hall (brass band concert), Cape May; 609/884-5404; ♿; ♿

27

Hike the Paulinskill Valley Trail
Beginning at Footbridge Park, Blairstown; 908/852-0597

Holiday Hoopla Craft show; Wetlands

Thanksgiving Hayrides; Wreath and Sleigh Bell Sale Howell

28

Penns Grove Centennial Christmas Tree Lighting Penns Grove Park, Penns Grove; 856/299-0098

28 and 29

Holiday Crafts Fair Convention Hall, Cape May; 609/884-5404; ♿

Events

December

1 through 4

Winter Wonderland Kuser Farm Park, Hamilton Township (Mercer County); 609/890-3684

1 through 5

'Twas the Night before Christmas A Victorian Christmas house museum tour; Kuser Farm Mansion, Hamilton (Mercer County); 609/890-3630

2 through 5

Holiday Open House Skylands; ♿; \$

3

Hereford Inlet Lighthouse Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Hereford Inlet Lighthouse Courtyard, North Wildwood; 609/522-4520

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony and Charity Drive Watchung Stable, Mountainside; 908/529-4900

Woodstown by Candlelight Woodstown; 856/769-2997 or 856/769-0290

3 through 12

Festival of Trees Exhibit; Somerset County Environmental Education Center, Basking Ridge; 908/766-2489; ♿; \$

4

Hike the Paulinskill Valley Trail Beginning at Warbasse Junction; 908/852-0597

Children's Holiday Party Hermitage; \$; ♿

26th Christmas Candlelight House Tour Cape May; 609/884-5404; \$

Christmas by the Sea Holiday House Tours North Wildwood; 609/522-6200 or 609/522-4520; \$

Manumuskin Hike TNC Bayshores; \$

Annual Long Beach Island Christmas Parade Long Beach Boulevard, Ship Bottom; 609/494-5556

Christmas on the Farm Howell

Salem Christmas Parade Broadway, Salem; 856/935-8257

Annual Yuletide Tour of Historic Salem 856/935-0896 or 856/935-4324

4 through 12

Gingerbread Wonderland Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown; 973/326-7600

5

Nature Boutique Trailside; ♿

Holiday Happening Family Fair; Thompson Park, Lincroft; 732/842-4000, ext. 237 or 239; ♿

Sled Dogs Great Swamp

Annual Christmas Tour of the Inns Bayhead; 800/4-BAYHED

Candlelight Tour Church Landing Farmhouse Museum, Pennsville; 856/678-4453

5 through 7

Dickens Christmas Extravaganza Cape May; 609/884-5404; \$; ♿

8

Community Wassail Party Emlen Physick Estate, Cape May; 609/884-5404

8 through 12

'Twas the Night before Christmas A Victorian Christmas house museum tour; Kuser Farm Mansion, Hamilton (Mercer County); 609/890-3630

11

26th Christmas Candlelight House Tour Cape May; 609/884-5404; \$

Christmas by the Sea Holiday House Tours North Wildwood; 609/522-6200 or 609/522-4520; \$

12

Candlelight Tour Church Landing Farmhouse Museum, Pennsville; 856/678-4453

15

Christmas by the Sea Holiday House Tours North Wildwood; 609/522-6200 or 609/522-4520; \$

Events

Year 2000


18

Holiday Show Albert

Explorer Hike on the Paulinskill Valley Trail and Other Rail Trails

Beginning at Footbridge Park, Blirstown; 908/852-0597

Wildflowers and Wildlife of the Pinelands Hike Batsto;

609/567-4559; 

19

Friends/Jersey Shore Running Club Trail Run Hartshorne Woods Park, Middletown; \$; 732/542-6090

Candlelight Tour Church Landing Farmhouse Museum, Pennsville; 856/678-4453

25

George Washington Crossing the Delaware Reenactment; Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville; 609/737-0623

31

New Year's Eve Horse Ride on the Paulinskill Valley Trail Bring your own horse; 908/725-9649

Ongoing

Sundays except Christmas, New Year's and Easter

Planetarium Show Trilside; \$

Sundays, January through May and September through December

Family Nature Program Trilside

First Saturday of Every Month except January, February and December

Trailwork Day Volunteers needed; Trilside;

January 2000

1

15th Annual New Year's Day Hike On The Paulinskill Valley Trail

Beginning at Footbridge Park, Blirstown; 908/852-0597



26th Christmas Candlelight House Tour Cape May; 609/884-5404

8

Albert Music Hall 3rd Anniversary Show Albert

28 and February 1

Great Environmental Magic Show

Second Show (3:30 p.m.) on 1/28 will be ASL interpreted; schools and other organizations may call in advance to schedule attendance at group shows which will be offered Jan. 25 through Feb. 4; Somerset County Environmental Education Center, Basking Ridge; 908/766-2489; ; \$; 

29

Annual Open House Rutgers University Geology Museum, New Brunswick; 732/932-7243; , except exhibit area

February 2000

6

12th Bluegrass Festival Albert

27

Astronomy Sunday Trilside; ; \$

March 2000

11 through 26

Preschool Science Discoveries Trilside; ; \$;

18

Songwriters Show Albert

The Painted Lady Butterfly

by Natalie Verdi

As a warm breeze gently rocks a patchwork field of wildflowers, butterflies delicately dance atop the blossoms, sipping their sweet nectar. Among the myriad flutterers is the most universal of all, the painted lady butterfly.

The painted lady, like all butterflies and moths, belongs to the second largest order of insects, *Lepidoptera*, which consists of more than 100,000 known species — and thousands still undescribed. A member of the brush-footed family of butterflies, *Nymphalidae*, the painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*) shares similar characteristics with the buckeye, the American painted lady, the West Coast lady and the red admiral. All, generally dark in coloration, are medium-sized butterflies with strong, fast, zigzagging flight patterns that make them hard to keep in sight.

Approximately 2 3/16 to 2 7/8 inches (55 to 73mm) tall, the painted lady has wings colored clouded-tan nearest its body that extend to a patched field of orange and black. Its forewing has a black tipped area with white spots, while the hind-wing has a sub-marginal row of five small black spots that occasionally have some blue scaling. When freshly emerged, the upper sides of its wings are orange with pinkish overtones. A white crescent at the front edge of the forewing distinguishes it from other types of lady butterflies, most of which have an orange-colored crescent.

At times referred to as the cosmopolite, or champion globe-trotter, the painted lady is one of the most migratory of all butterflies. Found just about all over the world, its home ranges from North and South America to Eurasia and Africa, including many isolated islands. Although widespread, the painted lady is not found in Antarctica or the Pacific Islands and has a very limited range in Australia, where the West Coast lady predominates.

In North America, it is found from coast to coast and from sea level to an elevation equal to that of Pikes Peak, Colorado (14,110 feet). Although the painted lady doesn't truly reside in most of the United States, its emigration northward during spring and summer, from Mexico and the Southwest deserts, expands its range from South Florida to Canada.

Flying at speeds of approximately 5 to 9 mph, the painted lady's extensive migration northward involves four generations

of offspring. It begins when vast numbers of the species build up due to flourishing vegetation produced by favorable weather conditions, but the painted lady does not establish itself permanently after the migration and there is no return flight. Instead, many adults die off in the fall except in the Southwest stronghold. Those that overwinter in the Southwest will continue their northward journey the following spring.

Before die-off and overwintering occurs, the painted lady lays eggs so the life cycle can continue for the next spring's journey. The host plant preferred by the painted lady is the thistle, which lent the species its former reference name, the thistle butterfly. One to three broods are laid each year with the eggs, light green in color, laid individually.

Upon hatching, the caterpillar, or larva, is covered in thin bands of black, green and yellow and has a black head. Bands of sharp gray spines protrude from its body as it feeds on more than 100 plant species including thistles, wildflowers, mallows and legumes. The larva will continue its metamorphosis by forming a chrysalis inside a cocoon attached to its thistle host by a single thread. The chrysalis is blue-green in color and has patches of olive, black dots and spines on it.

In New Jersey, the adult painted lady seems to be most everywhere — from forest openings in the north to coastal dunes along the Jersey shore. Overall, the species prefers open areas such as fields, marshes, dunes, thorn scrubs and gardens. With such a vast array of habitat, the painted lady nectars on a variety of plant species, from seaside goldenrod found down along the coast, to milkweed and wildflowers further north. These different flowers produce nectar with varying concentrations of sugar and the painted lady is able to feed on diluted concentrations of nectar more rapidly than higher concentrations, obtaining a full meal, with the maximum amount of energy, in much less time. In addition, the painted lady's eyes have four different types of color receptors that enable this butterfly to pick out its food plants more specifically, seeing patterns in flowers and other butterflies that we do not. In essence, they see a much wider array of colors.

Although the painted lady is found throughout New Jersey, its erratic immigration patterns make its appearance here rare in some years, widespread and common in others. In 1991, the painted lady's presence was prevalent in the state, outnumbering previous sightings in central New Jersey with counts of up to 35 in one day. Unfortunately, due to our state's extreme and fluctuating weather conditions, the painted lady does not overwinter here.

Natalie Verdi is a natural resources interpretative technician with the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife. Her previous *Wildlife in New Jersey* profile, featuring the black crowned night heron, appeared in the Summer 1999 issue of *New Jersey Outdoors*.



