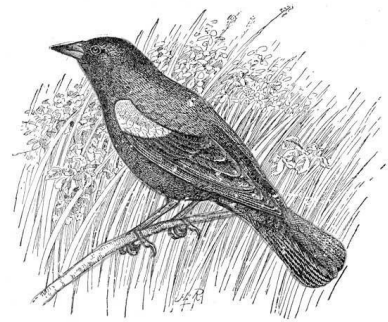


FYKE NATURE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.fykenature.org

Vol. 62 – No. 2 – Summer 2016

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



April 16, 2016 – High Mountain Hike

Join Fyke Nature Association and the Bergen County Audubon Society on Saturday morning, April 16, for a free rigorous hike to the summit of High Mountain -- which offers historic views of New York City and the suburbs of North Jersey. We'll look for birds, and pick up any trash we see along the way. Bring water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. The walk is from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **For more info or to RSVP, e-mail celeryfarm@gmail.com.** Meet at the 1260-acre preserve's the Red Trail Parking lot on University Drive in Wayne.

April 22, 2016 - Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building Edith Wallace, The Gardens of the Garden State Gardens Consortium

The gardens of the Garden State Gardens Consortium feature historic houses and gardens, formal gardens, sculpture, and, of course, native plants displayed in this presentation. Take a virtual tour of public gardens of New Jersey with Edith Wallace to see treasures of our native plants.

April 23, 2016 - Earth Day Warbler Walk at the Celery Farm

Meet fellow Fyke Members at the end of Green Way at 8:00 a.m. to look for spring arrivals. Birders of all levels are welcome! Leaders: Gaby Schmitt and Mike Limatola. **Register for this walk by e-mail to mike.limatola@gmail.com.**

May 7, 2016 - May Walk at the Celery Farm

This walk is for nature-lovers and birders of all levels. We'll look for butterflies, bugs, weird plants and our feathered friends. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Greenway. Wear long pants and socks; bring water and bug spray! Leaders: Jim Wright and Mike Limatola. **Register for this walk by e-mail to celeryfarm@gmail.com.**

May 14, 2016 - Stepping Up For Lorrimer

This will be our 17th Celery Farm Big Day, also known as "Stepping Up For Lorrimer". Fyke teams will be birding the Celery Farm from dawn to dusk. The goal is to count all the species of birds seen to raise money for the New Jersey Audubon's Lorrimer Sanctuary in Franklin Lakes. **Please see the pledge form on page 9. To sign up for a team contact Gabriele Schmitt, gaby413@aol.com.**

**May 27, 2016 - Monthly meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building
Jerry Barrack, From Africa to Allendale**

From South Africa to Allendale, with many interesting stops along the way, Jerry will be presenting many of his favorite images. The private game preserves of Phinda and Londolozi and Kruger National Park in South Africa provided many opportunities for great images of the "Big Five" mammals, Lions, Leopards, Cape Buffalo, Elephants, and Rhinos, as well as many birds not seen in the U.S. Many new images from Florida will be shown in addition to other "special places" including the most idyllic of all, the Celery Farm.

June 4, 2016 - Celery Farm Bird Walk

This walk is for nature-lovers and birders of all levels. We'll look for butterflies, bugs, weird plants and our feathered friends. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Greenway. Wear long pants and socks; bring water and bug spray! Leaders: Jim Wright and Mike Limatola.

Register for this walk by e-mail to celeryfarm@gmail.com.

July 31, 2016, 8:30 p.m. - Moth Night at The Fell House

The Fyke Nature Association and the Concerned Citizens of Allendale (who saved the historic Fell House) are holding their annual Moth Night on Sunday, July 31 at 8:30 p.m. The event will include a short talk about moths and why most of them are our friends, followed by a chance to look at and photograph any moths attracted to our lights. The free event is being held in conjunction with National Moth Week. The Fell House is located across Franklin Turnpike from the Celery Farm parking lot. **E-mail Jim Wright at celeryfarm@gmail.com to reserve a spot or for more information.**



July 16, 2016 - Our Tom Burr Memorial Butterfly Walk at the Celery Farm



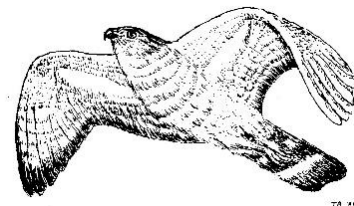
Our annual Celery Farm Butterfly Walk is held in memory of Tom Burr, the late Fyke member, naturalist and photographer, and friend. Meet at the end of Green Way at 10:30 a.m. for a 90-minute stroll. Dress for bright sun. Bring water and sunscreen. **Register for this walk by e-mail to celeryfarm@gmail.com.**

September 1, 2016 - Mt. Peter Hawk Watch begins

The fall hawk watch on Mount Peter in Warwick, NJ begins on September 1, 2016 and continue daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until November 15. **Contact Judy Cinquina at judycinq@optonline.net to volunteer or for more information.**

September 4, 2016 - Mt. Peter Clean-Up

Our annual Clean-Up is scheduled for Sunday, September 4 from 9 a.m. to 12 pm. **Contact Judy Cinquina at judycinq@optonline.net to volunteer or for more information.**



THE NATURE PROGRAM COOPERATIVE

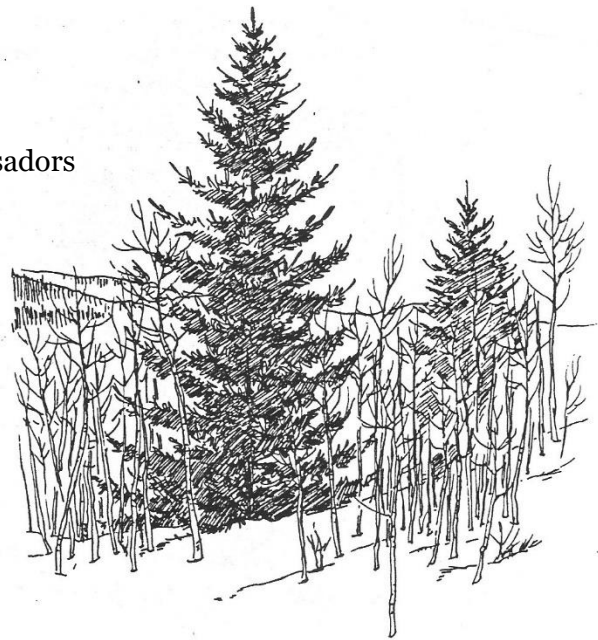
NPC - The Nature Program Cooperative

By Gabriele Schmitt

Do you sometimes find yourself in need of a little less mall/a little more nature? Do you want to see what nature programs and walks are available in the area? Or, perhaps you need some fun, outdoor activities for children?

The Nature Program Cooperative brings together the knowledge and resources of 18 organizations: nature centers, parks, and environmental educators. Working together with shared programming throughout the year, it offers numerous opportunities to explore and enjoy our region's natural side. Through the website, www.natureprogram.org, you can access one calendar which lists members' events. There are hundreds of beautiful, verdant acres to explore. There is also information and a link to the website of each of the following:

Bergen County Audubon Society
The Bergen County Zoological Park
Bergen SWAN outdoor
Closter Nature Center
Demarest Nature Center
Flat Rock Brook Nature Center
Fyke Nature Association/Celery Farm
Greenbrook Sanctuary
Hackensack Riverkeeper
Hudson River Fishermen's Association
Lorrimer Sanctuary
Meadowlands Environment Center
AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors
Overpeck Preserve
Palisades Interstate Park
Teaneck Creek Conservancy
Tenafly Nature Center
Thielke Arboretum



New Fyke Poetry Challenge

By Gabriele Schmitt



Time to shake off the winter blahs, bring your Muse out of hibernation and get those creative juices flowing. I know you can do it! Many of you rose to the challenge of the haiku and the limerick and it was a pleasure to share your poetry in the newsletter, and an honor for me to read them aloud at Members Night.

Having restricted you in 2014 to the 17 syllables and form of traditional haiku and, then in 2015, to the established lines and rhymes (not bawdy, thank you!) of limericks, I thought that perhaps this year, we should throw out some rules and structure.

And so, for 2016, I please consider submitting a poem in free verse. Your opportunity for artistic expression - unfettered by set meter, or rhyme scheme, or particular structure. Robert Frost once commented that writing free verse was like "playing tennis without a net." Will you find this form liberating or more challenging? As there are no "rules", I would only "suggest" that it would be great if your poem(s) were about the Celery Farm or Nature, in general.

Recognizing that some may be creative outside the sphere of poetry, I'd also like to know: do you have a creative use for the pages of past years' Celery Farm Calendars?

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### **Field and Feeder Notes**

By Judith Cinquina

*Bluebirds are seen more or less in winter over so much of their breeding range that the spring migration is not easily traced...*

*John Burroughs (1880) says: In New York and New England the sap starts up in the sugar maple the very day the bluebird arrives...The bird is generally a mere disembodied voice; a rumor in the air for two or three days before it takes a visible shape before you. The males are the pioneers, and come several days in advance of the females.*

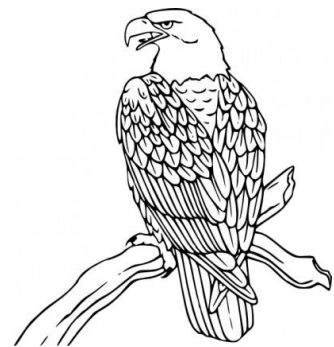
Bent, A.C., Life Histories of N. Am. Thrushes, Kinglets, & Their Allies, Dover Ed. 1964

As early as February 5, Wiebke Hinsch spotted two E. Bluebirds in Woodcliff Lake, and questioned her identification. Two days later, six or eight male Bluebirds (could not sex them all) filled the Skylands Botanical Gardens in Ringwood with surprisingly rich, loud warbles. Three males were in one treetop, others were elsewhere, throwing their songs back and forth across the gardens, over-singing one another, seemingly in heated competition, and they were loud! It was so unlike my experiences with a Bluebird's soft, liquid warble that I interpret as "gee-turtle-charmer." Often their voices are so quiet, that you have to be near them to hear them, and they perch low and are difficult to find, mid-tree. I guess I encountered what Donald Kroodsma, in his book *The Singing Life of Birds*, calls a Bluebird "song melee." He goes on to explain that a melee sounds like a dozen Bluebirds, "each singing so rapidly, no pauses between songs, singing continuously and simultaneously." And he adds, "What a racket!" Gowaty and Plissner, 2015 in *The Birds of N. Am. Online*, state that "Males sing Loud Song from conspicuous high perches..." They continue, "Loud Song by males predominates March through July" and state that Loud Song is used "as advertisement of territory establishment and to attract breeding females."



Like Wiebke, Simon Streatfeild was surprised to find three Bluebirds January 21 at Mahwah Green Acres (Mary Patrick Park). But he also counted 41 Am. Robins there that day. Both are thrushes, and both are partial migrants, which means, if the weather suits them and if there is enough food available, they'll stick around. Both can survive on berries during mild winters like this one. Although Wiebke couldn't believe her eyes, she clearly saw the earth-colored breast and sky-blue backs of the Bluebirds, colors produced by two different processes. The breast color depends on pigments derived from flowers, roots, seeds or fruits. In the Bluebird's case, most likely the berries they eat contain carotenoids that can produce red, yellow, or orange feathers. The Bluebird's back feathers, however, are the result of microscopic feather structure or schemochromes. Light waves of blue are reflected from a layer of cells which overlie the dark brownish basal pigment cells in the barbs of the feathers. The various shades of blue for all blue birds result from how their feather structures send light back to our eyes. On March 19, only two male Bluebirds were present at Skylands, each singing their soft songs from low perches near nest boxes.

Wiebke went on to report a Bald Eagle regularly passed over her Woodcliff Lake yard during January and wrote, "I hope it stays." Well, Wiebke, you have your wish. Rosemarie Widmer, who has been keeping tabs on Woodcliff Lake eagles for a few years now, discovered an adult on a nest there, March 17. That nesting pair will join others in Ridgefield Park, Oradell, and Wanaque in northern NJ as part of this eagle's resurgence since DDT was banned 40 years ago. According to Hugh Carola's Hackensack Watershed Field Notes, Spring 2016, the Hackensack Watershed produced 11 Bald Eagles in 2015: Ridgefield Park fledged three, and Alpine, Oradell, Woodcliff Lake (in spite of on-going construction near the nest) and Kearny Point each produced two. It is not surprising that Gaby Schmitt found two immature Bald Eagles over Oradell Reservoir, March 7. They just may have hatched there. Reservoirs provide perfect habitat for eagles: restricted areas where the general public can't wander; large stands of mature trees that can handle stick nests that are enlarged year after year; and plenty of fish, an eagle's staple food. Now that there is a sufficient population of Bald Eagles to insure their posterity, they have been removed from the federal endangered species list; nevertheless, they remain a protected species.



Two other raptor species that we once believed would never adapt to suburbia are making headway in our area. Our local Red-shouldered Hawk pair is giving it another try after failing to raise young last year. Rob Fanning spotted one of the adults carrying nesting material over the CF (Celery Farm), March 1. And young Cooper's Hawks turned up in yards and the CF this winter, probably the offspring of successful suburban nests. Boyle in his Birds of NJ states that Griscom described Cooper's Hawks as relatively common in 1923, but by 1976 their numbers were so low that they were put on the NJ Threatened Species list. Their numbers have rebounded since, and they have nested in suburban backyards and our CF. Judy Colliers posted excellent photos on our Yahoo site of a young Coop that strafed her feeding station in Ridgefield Park, March 22. Its large eye and light nape eliminate Sharp-shin, even without her note that the hawk was Crow-size. A Rough-legged Hawk is always a good find. Charlie West and company noted one at DeKorte in Ridgefield Park, January 29. This top of the world breeder is not a dependable winter visitor and wanders down here when rodents aren't abundant up north. Not many were noted this winter.

Charlie also scored three Fox Sparrows at DeKorte that same day, and Rob found two at the CF, February 23. Fox Sparrows overwinter only occasionally. Their spring migration waits until mid-March, but they were early this year. My first one popped up March 3 in my Upper

Saddle River yard. Simon's monthly Mahwah Green Acres survey produced eight on the 17th, right on time. One sang. Sibley describes a Fox Sparrow's song as "a halting, low, rich warble." To me it sounds like a Purple Finch on tranquilizers. Speaking of Purple Finch, Rob scored the only one at the CF February 5. None have yet to be reported at feeders. For some reason, Pine Siskins have continued to frequent my thistle feeders in Upper Saddle River but haven't been reported anywhere else. If you have Goldfinches at your feeders, check them closely. Siskins can get lost in a flock of Goldfinches, and they should be migrating north in late March or April.

March 13 wasn't a particularly cold or miserable day, yet a Robin and a Mockingbird fed all that morning at Mimi Brauch's suet feeders in Midland Park. And a Black-capped Chickadee was already working on a possible nest site, March 17 in HoHoKus. Mike Limatola found it hammering on the copper sparrow guard on his wren box. Hoping it might nest there, Mike removed the guard. Chickadees have fierce competition from House Wrens and House Sparrows over nest boxes and tree cavities in suburbia, but somehow they manage to produce new generations.



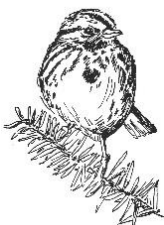
Crows are already constructing stick nests. Stephanie Seymour observed one arranging nest material in a tree in her Ringwood back woods and noted four other Crows lined up on a nearby branch, watching. Crows, Jays and Ravens are very family oriented, and yearlings from the previous breeding cycle often help their parents construct a nest and raise the young, although nest site selection and intimate interaction with the chicks, including brooding, is mostly the female's responsibility. According to Madge and Burn in their 1994 book *Crows and Jays: A Guide to Crows, Jays and Magpies of the World*, it is unlikely that Stephanie will detect what food items the Crows carry to this nest, if chicks do hatch there. They explain that Crows carry food items either in the throat or in a small pouch within the chin, not in the bill. Although I have had a couple of Fish Crows in my neighborhood on rare occasions, I have never before had them pass over my Upper Saddle River yard as a flock, as if going to a roost, like they did this winter. On February 26, I was filling my feeders at 3:30 p.m. when I counted 30 Fish Crows going through, talking to one another the entire time. Two days later, I counted 17 over my yard at exactly the same time of day. On March 18, it happened once again, with 30 again tallied. Since the flight has always been late in the day, I am guessing they are going to a roost. According to Kevin McGowan's article on Fish Crows in *The Birds of N. Am. Online*, 2001, Fish Crows gather in large groups to forage and to roost and sometimes they roost with Am. Crows. McGowan also mentions that this species has expanded its range in the last few decades and has adapted well to scavenging for food in suburbia.



Tom Nicastrì spotted a Snow Goose in a field along Route 202 near Ramapo College March 13. He stated it was hanging around with two Canada Geese. According to Gaby Schmitt, the Hour on the Tower group enjoyed a handsome male Northern Pintail on Lake Appert, February 28. Richard Pough, in his *Audubon Water Bird Guide*, 1951, stated the Pintail is stronger, faster, and a more "dexterous flier" than other ducks. He also wrote of an amazing Pintail feat. It seems a flock of 22 "very tired Pintails turned up on Palmyra Island, 1,100 miles south of Hawaii, in 1942, and one wore a band placed on it in Utah 82 days earlier." Pough further relates that this was after the banded Pintail had been "cured of botulism poisoning." Now that's a tough bird.

Wood Ducks, usually frozen out of our area, were a treat this winter. The Tower group enjoyed them on the 28th, "especially the males in all their splendid plumage," Gaby wrote.

Other wintering Wood Ducks were found at Halifax (15), January 15 and Mahwah Green Acres (12), February 22. On March 17, Simon counted 31 Wood



Ducks at Mahwah Green Acres and 32 Ring-necked Ducks. He also tallied eight Phoebes, 20 Song Sparrows, and eight Fox Sparrows, a snapshot of the spring migration taking off. At the CF on March 23, spring migration took the form of a Wilson's Snipe, at least five Phoebes, a Rusty Blackbird, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, and, according to Rob, the first Great Blue Heron.

What is spring without the ritual of witnessing the Woodcock's nuptial flight? Doug Morel got his fix at Halifax in Mahwah on March 7, tallying six to nine different Woodcocks peenting and displaying between 6 and 6:30 p.m. And Rob, who on February 25 found a raft of eight Ring-necked Ducks during a lunchtime stop at the CF and thought for sure spring had arrived to stay until below freezing temperatures set him straight, found an Osprey over the CF, March 22. He watched it hovering and circling over the CF for 10 minutes, but it was harassed by "both flavors" of Crow and moved on. He wrote: "It's official—SPRING is here to STAY!" He added tentatively, "I really hope I'm not wrong this time!"

If you're out birding or hiking in any area where fishermen go, please consider picking up any fishing tackle you see and disposing of it properly. On March 24, my bird watching class and I discovered an oriole nest low (10 feet) above a trail at Mahwah Green Acres. It was constructed primarily of fishing line. Immediately above the nest we spotted a bird skull, somehow attached or caught in the twigs, and slightly removed were yellow and black tail feathers, twisted and attached to some more fishing line. We concluded that a female oriole died a slow death at that spot. Birds should be thankful for the No Fishing ordinance at the CF.

Fill your hummingbird feeders and your birdbaths and turn on your drippers if you have them. Let us know what visits your yard this spring and summer. For information on the latest bird sightings, go to [www.fykenature.org](http://www.fykenature.org) and sign up with our discussion group where many of the reports for this column originated. Or send your observations to me at [judycinq@optonline.net](mailto:judycinq@optonline.net) or call me at (201) 327-1782.



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Photos Are Needed for the Celery Farm 2017 Calendar!

It's that time of year again! Production of the 2017 Celery Farm calendar has begun. This is an annual fund raiser for Fyke. The fantastic photos bring beauty to your home or office all year, and to friends and family who receive this wonderful calendar as a gift from you!

Photos taken at the Celery Farm by Fyke members are being accepted now. There is a limit of 10 photos per person. The photos should be landscape format. Non-cropped photos work best with the software used for the calendar. Please send your photos as a .jpeg attachment to carolflana@aol.com by July 15, 2016. (An earlier deadline this year.)

Broken Promises

By COOx2, aka Charlie West

It's funny how some romances die. Well not Ha! Ha! laughing funny, but all-of-a-sudden, unexpected funny. Matter of fact it's not "funny" at all, but sad and somewhat tragic - - at least that's the way it was with me.

April and I had always had a great relationship - - and why not, she was dependable, bright, not given to excesses, and warm. (Hey! What's not to like?) But overnight it seemed she became contentious, unreliable, her disposition often cloudy and inconsistent, and her mood a day-to-day variable.

In an effort to clear the air and, hopefully, to get back to our past good times, I consulted with some of my friends. They thought her mood swings might possibly be due to climate change. I scoffed at that and asked if they were going to suggest I consult the Farmer's Almanac next!

As I was pondering my options, she presented me with "the day of reckoning"! It was a cold, rainy, totally miserable day - - so I did the only thing I could do - - I tore off her page and now I'm looking forward to a new relationship with May.

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### **Reflections on the Celery Farm Cleanup**

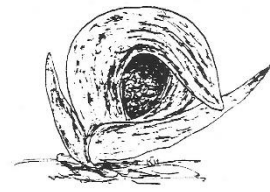
By Mimi Brauch

If volunteering is your wont  
Here's a list to do or don't:  
Prepare yourself for lots of dirt;  
Wear hip boots and a filthy shirt.

Take clippers with your great big bag  
As thorns your skin will surely snag  
Beware! The mud will take you down  
And sink yourself from toe to crown.

Consider this task a treasure hunt,  
Take heart! And get ye out in front.  
Be alert for goodies like those of past years:  
Some rum, and some rye, and lots of beers  
A bowling ball, Frisbee, good for sports,  
And a pair of Valentine's boxer shorts.  
Add in the remnants of someone's feast -  
Jarred giardiniera, now deceased.

Anticipate quite a collection of stuff,  
Don't smoke the butts; enough is enough.  
Hope for good weather as you join the foray  
Breathe deeply, step up. And have a nice day!



*I never for a day gave up listening to the songs of our birds,  
or watching their peculiar habits,  
or delineating them in the best way I could.*



~ John James Audubon

*Everyone likes birds. What wild creature is more accessible to our eyes and ears, as close to us and everyone in the world, as universal as a bird?*

~ David Attenborough



**Welcome New Members!**

John Wolosz, Park Ridge  
Jay Friend, Waldwick



**Stepping Up For Lorrimer Pledge Form 2016**

There are three ways to send your pledge:

- Bring your pledge form to the April members meeting.
- By mail to Fyke Nature Association, Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446
- By e-mail to John Brotherton, jbro29@optonline.net

YES! I want to support Fyke’s team and Lorrimer by making a pledge per bird species seen. I understand that 60 to 80 species may be recorded, however, the total could be higher if conditions are ideal. All money donated will go to Lorrimer Sanctuary.

My pledge is:

\_\_\_\$1/species \_\_\_\$.75/species \_\_\_\$.50/species \_\_\_\$.25/species \$\_\_\_\_\_/species

Name:

Address:

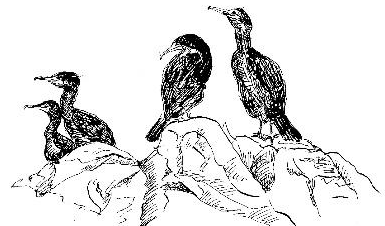
Phone:

e-mail:

**You will be notified of your pledge total soon after the event. Checks should be made out to Fyke Nature Association.**

**Here’s An Easy Way To Support Fyke**

Don’t forget we now have a direct link to AMAZON from our website. Fyke does not endorse any particular merchant but just log onto [www.fykenature.org](http://www.fykenature.org) and you will



find the link on the first page. Every month AMAZON sends us a sales commission check. Thank you for your participation.

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Fyke Board of Trustees:

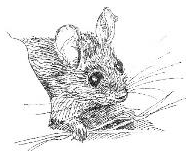
Chairpersons:

President:	Mike Limatola	Celery Farm:	Stiles Thomas and Mike Limatola
First Vice President:	Jim Wright	Conservation:	Jim Wright
Second Vice President:	Penny Whitlock	Hawk Watch:	Judy Cinquina
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Recording Secretary:	Molly Gardener	Newsletter:	Carol Flanagan
Corresponding Secretary:	Mimi Brauch	Programs:	Penny Whitlock
Trustees:	Carol Flanagan	Publicity:	Gabriele Schmitt
	Darlene Lembo	Webmaster:	Kevin Watson
	Gabriele Schmitt		

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**The Fyke Nature Association**, a 501 (c) (3) organization, meets at the Allendale Municipal Building, 500 W. Crescent Avenue, Allendale, NJ 07401 on the fourth Friday of every month January to May, and in September and October. The winter meeting is the first Friday in December. (No meetings in June, July, August, and November.)

Meetings and membership are open to all. Annual dues: Individual -- \$15.00; Family -- \$20.00. For further information, write to Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446, visit our website [www.fykenature.org](http://www.fykenature.org), or call Mike Limatola, President, at 201-739-8062. The Newsletter is published four times a year and manuscripts and artwork are welcome. Interim Editor: Carol Flanagan, [carolflana@aol.com](mailto:carolflana@aol.com). Production: Molly Gardener, Herb Gardener, and John Brotherton.



The deadline for the Fall 2016 issue is August 17, 2016. Send material to Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446, or via e-mail to [carolflana@aol.com](mailto:carolflana@aol.com).