

# Nature's VOICE

DELAWARE  
NATURE  
SOCIETY



*Educating Today, Preserving for Tomorrow*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Rare Swainson's Warbler Spotted at Abbott's Mill ..... pg 2
- Christina Students Earn Credits, Have Fun .....pg 3
- Landscape and Trails Improved .....pg 4
- How to Attract Wildlife to Your Yard .....pg 7
- Red Clay Roads Designated as Scenic Byways .....pg 8
- Delaware's Own Macroinvertebrate .....pg 10
- Annual Report ..... Center Spread



# Rare Swainson's Warbler Sighted Near Abbott's Mill Nature Center

by Jeffrey Gordon

On the morning of May 27, 2005, my mother, stepfather, and I went for a walk on the Blair's Pond Nature Trail, just northwest of Abbott's Mill. The trail, laid out and maintained by the Delaware Nature Society, traverses a lovely streamside forest and adjacent uplands. It is locally famous for its profusion of Pinkster azaleas, and we hoped to find them in bloom.

Though this was a botany trip, I was noticing the birdsongs issuing from the woods as well. I was hearing many ovenbirds, red-eyed vireos, eastern wood-pewees, wood thrushes, and other typical breeding birds of the area as we walked along. Then, I heard a sound that stopped me cold. Distant, but still fairly clear, the song was a descending, rich whistle with a jumbled ending.

"That sounds an awful lot like a Swainson's warbler," I said, but knowing just how rare the species is in Delaware and that its song can be confused with a couple of other swamp dwelling species, I was cautious. I made a note to investigate further, and we continued down the trail. Alas, we were a few days too late for the azalea flowers, finding only drooping pink pistils on the bushes and snowdrifts of white petals on the ground below them. But when the trail looped back to the area where I had heard the intriguing song, we found that the singer had moved much closer and was pouring forth his song just a few meters off the trail.

My heart was pounding as I inched forward, desperately trying to spot the bird in a dark holly thicket. Finally, I saw it, unmarked overall but with a conspicuous rufous cap, almost brick colored. In profile, it showed an unusually long spike-shaped bill, and a dark eyeline that ran from the bill's base toward the rear of the face, separated from the rufous cap by a pale, whitish eyebrow. No doubt about it, this was a Swainson's warbler.



Jim White

## Swainson's Warbler

The bird graced the area for the next several days, last heard and seen on June 1. In that time, we were able to determine that it was not paired with a female, though we don't know how long the bird was there before being discovered. It may have been wandering, having tried to find a mate further south or north and meeting with no success. Or it could have been near Blair's Pond since late April, when the species typically arrives on its breeding grounds from its Caribbean home.

*Birds of Delaware* lists only three previous records of Swainson's Warbler in our state, in 1945, 1957, and 1988, all in southern Sussex County. This bird's presence north of its known range, southeastern Virginia to east Texas, holds out the slim but real hope that the species may be colonizing new areas. In any event, it was a wonderful surprise and an affirmation that one never knows what surprises are just around the trail's next bend.



## 200 Area Students Study Water, Plant Trees to Improve Riparian Buffers

Nearly 200 students from New Castle Middle School and Harford Day School participated in the Watershed Study Program at Ashland this Spring.

The group evaluated the quality of area streams by 1) surveying macro-invertebrates, 2) classifying land useage, 3) testing the pH, dissolved oxygen, and nitrate levels. They also planted 50 trees (red maple, green ash, sycamore) helping to improve the riparian buffer along the Red Clay Creek.



Linda Young

## Tree planting at Ashland



## Christina District Students Earn Credits, Have Fun, Learn a Lot

Christina School District students in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades roamed the Ashland fields and forests in a program that provides them with a jumpstart on next year's science curriculum and an elective credit.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Program

This program focuses on **watersheds**. Students learn how water travels through our landscape, which pollutants contaminate water sources, and how to determine our watershed's health through biological, chemical, and physical surveys. They also learn how samples from local creeks are treated to provide clean drinking water.




Tom Guyer

### Christina students collect samples to study water quality

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Program

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade program allows students to explore **local ecosystems**. They visit coastal and piedmont ecosystems. They compare differing ecosystems and investigate the interactions taking place within them, as well as studying the living and non-living components of each. This year information was collected via a stealth camera that enabled us to learn about nocturnal animals that visit the nature center while humans sleep.

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Program

This partnership program between the Delaware Nature Society and the Hagley Museum exposes students to our natural resources: **water, local geology, air**, and how these resources impact our population and influence future decisions. Students study the soil at **Coverdale Farm** to learn how it dictates what can be grown. They also study how we utilize local water resources for both power and consumption and examine the air quality. 

## Visit Our New DNS Website

[www.delawarenatureociety.org](http://www.delawarenatureociety.org)

## Connect Your Child to the Natural World, Overnight at Ashland Lodge!

If you are looking for a way to connect your child's classroom experience to the natural world, consider a one or two-night stay at the **Ashland Lodge**. This past school year, **1,630 students** explored the meadows, forests, marshes, streams, and pond at Ashland Nature Center, ending their days with convenient and fun on-site lodging. Students discover **how to identify negative impacts on our watershed**, as well as methods of **observing nature through photography**

**and drawing**. They **gather local rock samples** to learn about geology, and some students enjoyed **canoe rides** to get a closer look at Delaware's wildlife.

Like more information about overnight programs? Please contact Judy Montgomery at 302-239-2334, ext. 127, [judydm@delawarenatureociety.org](mailto:judydm@delawarenatureociety.org).

### 130 Picnic at Coverdale

The first ever Coverdale Farm **Family Day** (May 15, 2005) brought more than 130 people to walk through the farmstead, enjoy the beautiful views and picnic. You too may enjoy the farm by joining us for the Harvest Moon Festival on October 1 & 2, 2005. And, you can expect more Coverdale Farm Family Days.



Linda Young



## Ashland


### Landscape and Trails Redesigned / Relocated Reconstructed, Enhance Hiking and Observation

When you next visit the Ashland Nature Center you will see exciting changes. You may enjoy the results of a major landscaping renovation and cleanup project. Areas modified include the front parking lot, walkway to the Center, the entrance area and the trails. Some trail areas have been repaired to reduce soil erosion. Large quantities of debris from recent flooding have been removed along the **Flood Plain Trail** and a large section was reconstructed this summer to allow visitors to once again walk through the habitat area.

Under the direction of the Land and Biodiversity Management Committee, landscape designer Jessie Benjamin of Taproot Inc. developed a comprehensive plan which includes a new marsh overlook

which offers a panoramic view of the Ashland Marsh and its inhabitants.

In addition, volunteer Pat Strahorn (Backyard Habitat Steward) has developed a plan to reconstruct the backyard habitat garden, using native plants in all areas. The design emphasizes the creation of mini-habitats that provide food, shelter, and nesting areas for wildlife. Visitors may enjoy year-round the seasonal colors of a wide variety of plants.

The self-guided trails have also been overhauled. Revised trail brochures will soon provide improved and updated information. Modified markers and directional signs will be installed along all trails while new interpretive signs will be placed in all of the major habitat types. 



Linda Young

### Volunteers repair Ashland trails

## Abbott's Mill

### New Boardwalk at Isaacs Tract Constructed by Boy Scouts




Richard Fleming

### Board walk the boardwalk

Directors of the Delaware Nature Society on June 13 visited the Isaac's Tract in Sussex County, where a beautiful new boardwalk extends through the bottomland forest to the edge of Johnson's Branch, the stream that was dammed to create Abbott's Pond. The tract section just south of Abbott's Pond is surrounded by lush riparian forest, including some of the best remaining stands of Atlantic white cedar in the state.

Elliott Workman, DNS Loop Trails Coordinator, worked with volunteer Steve Childers on the design. Young Lumber donated the necessary wood, 84 Lumber provided the hardware and Eagle Scout candidate Stephen Mynatt and Troop 141 in Felton provided the labor. Stephen and twenty-five troop members completed 225 hours of work in very difficult terrain, with Steve Childers and Stephen Mynatt's father overseeing the project.

The results are spectacular, a trail from the woods' edge through the forest understory that is fragrant with blooming sweetbay magnolia and swamp azalea. At the foot of the boardwalk are soaring white cedar trees, reminders of an earlier era when the species dominated the coastal plain. From the platform itself visitors can enjoy watching the incandescent blue and green damselflies called ebony jewelwings and listening to the songs of prothonotary warblers and scarlet tanagers.

Members are invited to visit the white cedar grove and boardwalk also. Watch the member's program brochure for periodic events there or join us for the **Autumn at Abbott's Festival** on October 15, 2005, when a variety of walks and other fun activities will be offered. For information about visiting at other times, call the Abbott's Mill Nature Center, 302-422-0847. 



## Volunteer Guide

### Orientation Sept. 9

The Volunteer Guide Corps spent the winter boiling down sap to make syrup for students learning about Maple trees, exploring the marsh and catching many tadpoles, visiting farm animals and learning about life on the farm, and searching the meadow for hidden insects. This school year, the guides helped the Delaware Nature Society teach 12,375 visiting students about the environment and the wildlife dependent on it.

If you enjoy sharing the gift of nature with children, learning new things every day, and exploring the great outdoors, the guides welcome you to join them in September for another great school year. An orientation for interested volunteers will be held on September 9 at 10:00 a.m., providing an opportunity to learn more about the guide corps. There will also be guide training workshops on September 12, 14, and 16. For more information, contact the School/Group Program Manager, 302-239-2334.

## Harvest Moon Revel Saturday, Sept. 24

### Revel...by the Sea

- Auction • Catered Dinner
- Wine & Beer Tasting Stations
- Steel Drum Music

Information: 302-239-2334

[www.delawarenaturesociety.org](http://www.delawarenaturesociety.org)

## Autumn at Abbott's Festival

### Saturday, Oct. 15

- Historic Gristmill Tours
- Canoe Rides • Wildlife
- Grind corn and churn butter
- Stuff a strawman

Information: 302-422-0847

[www.delawarenaturesociety.org](http://www.delawarenaturesociety.org)

## Stream Watch Workshops Oct. 22 and 29

**Become a Delaware Stream Watch Volunteer** and learn how you can become a partner in monitoring the health of Delaware's streams, rivers, and ponds. Stream Watch volunteers adopt sections of local waterways, periodically surveying the sites to determine water quality and sources of pollution. They then share their findings with appropriate State and local agencies.

### Attend Workshops at Ashland (October 22) or Abbott's Mill (October 29)

To learn how you can become involved, attend a workshop at the Ashland Nature Center on Saturday, October 22, and at Abbott's Mill Nature Center in Milford on Saturday, October 29, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. During the workshop you will explore a

stream, learning how to evaluate it using visual, biological, physical, and chemical methods. Dress for the weather and be prepared to get wet up to the knees. Wear boots, waders, or old sneakers and bring insect repellent and a drink or snack.

The workshops occur rain or shine, as most of the activities can be conducted inside if necessary. Other dates may be available. Pre-registration is requested. Call Ginger North, 302-239-2334, ext. 100, or e-mail her at [ginger@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:ginger@delawarenaturesociety.org).

Delaware Stream Watch is sponsored by the **Delaware Nature Society**, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and local partners.

## Volunteers Needed

### Harvest Moon Festival - Oct. 1 & 2



Linda Young

Volunteer to be part of one of the best seasonal events in the area. Hundreds of volunteers participate in the annual two-day Harvest Moon Festival, scheduled this year for Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Coverdale Farm in Greenville, Delaware. This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with the community and have fun. Activities include draft horse hayrides, a corn

maze, artisan crafts, seasonal food and treats, family games and activities, farm demonstrations, and more. This is a great way to earn community service credit or just get out and have a great time.

If you or your group are interested in helping, please contact Judy Petterson, Assistant to the Director, 302-239-2334, ext. 117, fax: 302-239-2473, [judy@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:judy@delawarenaturesociety.org).



## Register for Free Landscape Package



Walck residence Smartyard


Walck photo

Register now for one of fifty free Smartyard landscaping packages to be awarded in May 2006. Participants will receive a free landscaping package that includes native trees, shrubs, and perennials; a bird feeder, nesting box, and bird bath; one-on-one assistance from trained Delaware Nature Society Habitat Stewards; planning and installation guidelines to ensure proper placement and maintenance of plants; a rain barrel; certification as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat™ by the Delaware Nature Society's Backyard Habitat program; and a yard sign to inspire others in the community.

All residents of the Delaware portion of the Christina Basin Watershed are eligible for the Smartyards program. The watershed is composed of four sub-basins, the White and Red Clay Creeks, and Brandywine and Christina Rivers, including in Delaware; Elsmere, Newark, Newport, and Wilmington. Community open space is not appropriate for this project. Smartyards awardees must meet watershed criteria; packages are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Emphasizing native plant species, Smartyards provide habitats for a diversity of wildlife species, reduce or eliminate the need for chemical fertilizer and pesticide, and conserve water resources more than traditional landscapes.

To apply, submit your name, physical address and phone number to the Delaware Nature Society to [smartyards@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:smartyards@delawarenaturesociety.org) or 302-239-2334, ext. 142. For more information, visit [www.delawarenaturesociety.org](http://www.delawarenaturesociety.org).

Christina Basin Smartyards is offered by DNS and Christina Basin Clean Water Partnership. Funding for this project was made possible through the national watershed initiative grant program. 

### Become a Habitat Steward!

Stewards also lend a helping hand to neighbors, local schools, businesses, and places of worship to help them attain Backyard Wildlife Habitat™ certification. For information contact John Harrod, 302-239-2334, ext. 142, [john@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:john@delawarenaturesociety.org).

## Save Your Plants for our Native Plant Sale

Do you have native plants in your garden that need to be divided or that have outgrown their space? Please save them for our Spring Native Plant Sale. Do not dig them up now. Simply mark the plant location so you will know where to dig in early spring, when the plants may not yet have emerged. If you have plants to donate, e-mail [john@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:john@delawarenaturesociety.org).



Linda Young

### DNS Native Plant Sale

## Upcoming Events

**Aug. 20 & Oct. 15**

Habitat Stewards Training

**Sept. 9**

Orientation for new Volunteer Guides

**Sept. 12, 14, 16**

Volunteer Guide Training

**Sept. 24**

Harvest Moon Revel

**Oct. 1 & 2**

Harvest Moon Festival

**Oct. 15**

Autumn at Abbott's Mill Festival

**Oct. 22**

Stream Watch Workshop  
at Ashland Nature Center

**Oct. 29**

Stream Watch Workshop  
at Abbott's Mill Nature Center



**BackYard Habitat Series: Part 2**

**How to Attract Wildlife to Your Yard**

by John Harrod

To beat the heat on Saturday afternoon you dip your feet in the cool and refreshing plastic baby pool in the backyard. You then step inside to get a drink. When you return you find a gray catbird splashing in your makeshift pond. Just like people, wildlife need clean, safe water.

**Four Elements You Need**

Water is the second of four elements you need to create a backyard wildlife habitat. The other three are food, shelter, and areas for the birds or animals to raise their young.

**A Small Puddle Will Do**

Wildlife drink, bathe, breed, and live in water. Something as simple as a small **mud puddle** fulfills this purpose. Butterflies (such as the Tiger Swallowtail) sip water and minerals from puddles or terra cotta saucers. Some birds (including robins and barn swallows) also harvest mud to build nests. **Birdbaths**, essentially shallow puddles on pedestals, are another great way to provide water. They should be only one to three inches deep, as birds avoid anything deeper.

**A Pond is Even Better**

A more permanent and deeper source of water draws a greater diversity of wildlife. A **pond** no larger than 4 feet wide and 2 feet deep will attract salamanders, toads, and wood and tree frogs, which only enter the water during their breeding period.

**Plants and Trees Help**

Gently slope the edges to allow wildlife (including turtles) to wade in. Native trees, shrubs, and perennials around the edge encourage more visitors, as they provide refuge from predators. Plants also shade and cool water. This helps reduce algae and makes the water more habitable for fish and macro invertebrates like aquatic dragon fly larva.


**A Stream Takes Care**

If you are lucky enough to have a backyard stream, there are special property management concerns. One of the best things you can do is to **avoid mowing to the water's edge**. This can cause erosion. Instead, **create a riparian buffer** by leaving a strip of land along a stream, encouraging trees, shrubs, and small plants

to grow. This helps keep streams healthy by reducing bank erosion and acting as a natural soil filter to prevent sediment and nutrients entering the water. With no filter, sediment can clog the gills of fish and insects and reduce stream bottom habitat for insects like the stonefly, Delaware's new State Macro-invertebrate.

Nutrients, including excess fertilizers washed in during storms, promote algae growth and decay that decrease dissolved oxygen, which is necessary for aquatic wildlife to survive.

**Balanced System is the Answer**

By promoting a balanced system, you create a water supply that sustains itself and controls problems. Mosquitoes are kept at bay by native fish (including Eastern Mosquito fish, salamanders, frogs, and adult and larval stages of damselflies and dragonflies). 

For more information on creating valuable wildlife habitats contact John Harrod, Backyard Habitat Coordinator, 302-239-2334, ext.142, or e-mail [john@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:john@delawarenaturesociety.org)

**Cokesbury Village Certified Backyard Habitat**

**Delaware's First**

Wilmington area's Cokesbury Village recently became Delaware's first community to be certified as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation and the Delaware Nature Society.

Spearheading this accomplishment was Esther Martin, certified gardener, Nature Society board member, and member of the Cokesbury Horticulture and Grounds Committee. The Nature Society worked closely with Esther, her committee and other residents to implement additional resource conservation measures, providing education and support to fully develop the habitat.





## Red Clay Roads Designated as Scenic Byways



Carlos Alejandro

At the Delaware Nature Society's 40th Annual Meeting on April 13, 2005, Secretary of Transportation Nathan Hayward announced official approval of the Nature Society's application, admitting 27 roads into the State Scenic and Historic Highways Program. These roads will be known as the "Red Clay Valley Scenic Byway."

The nomination application was strongly endorsed by the state agency Evaluation Committee and the Scenic and Historic Advisory Board. Members of the Evaluation Committee indicated, "The quality of the remaining natural and scenic resources in this area are extremely significant. Not only the type of landscape, but also the large amount of it that exists in its undisturbed state, makes it special and unique to Northern New Castle County and Delaware." According to the statement, "The resources identified in this application and both the current and future preservation efforts of those resources, 'epitomizes what the Scenic Byway Program is all about'."

Now that the nomination application has been approved, the Nature Society is establishing a Steering Committee to assist in developing the Corridor Plan, a document describing the goals, strategies, and responsibilities for conserving and enhancing the scenic and historic highways' most valuable qualities. The

plan will be worked upon collaboratively by the Nature Society, New Castle County, Red Clay Valley Association, Center for the Creative Arts, The Yorklyn Planning Group, The Chesapeake Bay Girls Scouts Council, Mt. Cuba Center, and area residents. It will include both a long-term vision for the Scenic and Historic Highway over time, and also a short-term Action Plan covering the first two years. For additional information or to participate on the Red Clay Valley Scenic Byway Steering Committee, please contact Jennifer Gochenaur, Associate Director for Natural Resources Conservation, 302-239-2334, ext. 102, [jen@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:jen@delawarenaturesociety.org).

### Farmland Preservation Program Gains Permanent Funding

Delaware's Farmland Preservation Program has received a permanent funding stream thanks to the Preservation Coalition, some 300 organizations, individuals and local governments.

There will be a revenue stream of \$10 million a year from the state's Real Estate Transfer Tax as part of the budget agreement for Fiscal Year 2006, announced in Governor Minner's office on June 15,

2005. This will give a much-needed boost to an already highly successful program and be a boon to the future of Delaware's agricultural industry. It comes at a time when the state's prime farmland is disappearing at a rate of more than 10,000 acres a year, mainly to residential developments.

The Coalition was formed in 1995 to ensure the success of Governor Carper's plan to use \$95 million from an abandoned properties settlement for farmland preservation. Coordinated by the Nature Society, the Coalition's singular mission later became lobbying the General Assembly and the Administration to obtain steady, adequate funding for the work of the state's Open Space Council and the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation.

In 2001 a \$9 million a year, 17-year revenue stream from the Real Estate Transfer Tax was enacted. Added later was \$1 million for greenways expansion. The Coalition's principal focus then became obtaining a revenue stream for farmland preservation. Governor Minner has shared the Coalition's goal and deserves tremendous credit for urging the General Assembly's Leadership Team to enact the farmland preservation revenue stream this year. The bill codifying the revenue stream (Senate Bill 229 sponsored by Senator Nancy Cook and Representative Pam Thornburg- with numerous co-sponsors) passed both Houses on June 30. With this latest success the Coalition's mission is accomplished!

Coalition Cochairs: Lorraine M. Fleming (Delaware Nature Society); Robert Garey, (Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation), and William Wasik (U.A.W. Community Action Program Council).

**Action Request:** Please e-mail, telephone or personally deliver your thanks to the Governor and your legislator for this action which helps protect our farmlands.



# August

## Birds

### Member Activities

Event: **Delaware Bay Bird Migration Outting**

Location: Ashland Nature Center

Date/Time: August 26, 8 am-3:30 pm

Activity: **Songbird migration:** By August, most songbird species have stopped singing and usually communicate through calls.

When: Middle through late August

What: Migrant songbirds like **warblers** tend to center their activities around the local resident **chickadees** and **titmice**.

Where: Go out into the forest at this time to listen. The trick is to listen and look for these two species and then for the migrants.

### Member Activities

Event: **Scheduled Late Summer Nature Walk**

Location: Bucktoe Creek Tract

Date/Time: August 30, 7:30-11:30 am

## Flowers/Insects

For many naturalists, the seasons changing is signaled by vegetation life cycles. During late August, **take a hike** in an uncut meadow to experience a blast of color and insect activity. **Goldenrod, ironweed, asters, sunflowers**, and many other plants bloom at this time. The meadow trail at Ashland (which can be reached by going through the covered bridge from the parking lot and making a left onto the trail) is one of the best places to identify and enjoy late summer bloomers and insects.

## Berries

Berries that ripen in late summer include **spicebush, flowering dogwood, Virginia creeper, grapes, black gum**, and many others. Most of these species depend on birds to spread their seeds by dispersing

them in droppings. These berries tend to have high fat content, which enables birds to gain weight and store fuel for their long migration south. Take a walk at Ashland and look for shrubs, vines and trees that are fruiting. Are birds feeding on the fruit?

### Member Activities

Event: **Late Summer Nature Walk**

Location: Bucktoe Creek Tract

Date/Time: August 30, 7:30-11:30 am

# September

## Birds

Activity: Migration of Broad-winged Hawks and other raptors

When: Beginning in early September and peaking around the third week of the month

What: Broad-winged Hawks migrate in large flocks over Delaware. Look for these crow-sized hawks circling together in kettles where they are riding high on rising air currents, then gliding south after their free lift. Adults have black and white bands on the tail. Bring your binoculars, and you may see several **Bald Eagles, Broad-winged Hawks, Kestrels**, and other raptors in an hour or less.

Where: You don't have to go to Hawk Mountain or Cape May to see migrant hawks in the fall. Spend a sunny lunch-hour sitting on top of Hawk Watch Hill at **Ashland** Nature Center.

## Fish

Activity: Catch small brackish water fish and Ghost shrimp in Delaware marshes

When: Anytime

What: Take a dip net and plastic jar to a Delaware Bay marsh and catch numerous fish, as well as **inch-long crustaceans called Ghost Shrimp** in the shallow water. **Mummichogs**,

**brown minnows** with silvery speckling, are the most common. **Striped Killifish** have black stripes on their bodies, while **Sheepshead Minnows** are "chubby" looking and more rounded.

Where: Go to the Boardwalk Trail at **Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge** or the boardwalk at the **Aquatic Resource Education Center** along Route 9 for good places to dip net.

# October

## Deer

Activity: Look for signs of White-Tailed Deer. **Torn twigs:** When deer browse on a twig, they tear and not snip, because they only have incisors on their front lower jaw and a hard pad on top. Look for **buck rubs on small trees** that they have scraped with their antlers. Also, bucks make **scrapes on the ground** along their paths with their front feet.

When: Anytime this month.

Where: **Ashland** is a great place to look for these signs, as well as tracks and scat (droppings), piles of small, oblong pellets, usually with a point at one end and a dimple at the other.

## Turning Leaves/ Fall Color

Activity: Enjoy an outdoor walk, or bike local roads. Take a bike ride on a Sunday morning when roads are quiet along Route 82 from Delaware into Pennsylvania for a fantastic foliage show.

When: Around mid-month, fall colors will peak in northern Delaware. Some of the best color displays come from **Tulip trees** turning yellow, **Red Maples**, red and yellow, **Sumacs** creating a low mound of red, and **Hickories** turning golden-yellow.




## Land Conservation Forum Featured Patrick Noonan, Governor Minner



Over 110 landowners and professionals attended the Land Conservation Forum, presented by the Delaware Nature Society at Bellevue Hall on May 24, 2005. Patrick F. Noonan, founder and Chairman Emeritus of The Conservation Fund, presented an

inspiring keynote address tracking the evolution of the conservation movement, current trends, and the leadership role of states in addressing growing public demand for land conservation. Mr. Noonan also emphasized the need to explore

unique and nontraditional partnerships to achieve conservation goals. Peter Flint, Delaware Nature Society President, welcomed Governor Ruth Ann Minner. She discussed new opportunities for land preservation and conservation presented by her “Green Infrastructure” initiative, a component of the Livable Delaware agenda set forth in Executive Order 61. The Forum also included a primer on land conservation and estate planning, with a real-life case study involving the owner of a 250-acre farm. Concurrent afternoon sessions focused on easements and appraisals, including Congressional proposals to limit tax deductions and state conservation incentive programs. 

The Forum was co-sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, The Brandywine Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy in Delaware, The Frederick Academy of Real Estate, and The Delaware State Bar Association.

### Delaware’s Own Macroinvertebrate

To help raise public awareness about the importance of water quality, the Delaware Nature Society championed State legislation to designate the common stonefly as the State Macroinvertebrate. State Representative Deborah Hudson was the lead sponsor of the bill, and seven schools that participate in our Stream Watch program joined the Nature Society to urge elected officials to pass the bill. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed it into law, and Representative Hudson, Eileen Butler, Jennifer Gochenaur, Ginger North, Dave Brown, and Alisa Schultheis witnessed the signing.



Stonefly (adult)

Elton Woodbury



## DuPont Awards DNS \$5000 for Conservation and Education



DuPont photo

### Members of DuPont's Award Winning Team


DuPont chairman Chad Holliday far right, second from right, Terry Caloghris, Vice President of Engineering Polymers, Marion Waggoner far left.

A team of DuPont employees from Engineering Polymers selected the Delaware Nature Society to receive a cash award of \$5,000 in recognition of its conservation and education programs.

The gift is part of "The DuPont Sustainable Growth Excellence Award" which recognizes teams of DuPont employees who make a significant contribution to the company's environmental goals. Twelve teams each disburse their cash award to organizations of their choice. This is the second consecutive year that the Nature Society has been selected to receive funds.

The team's Engineering Polymers group was recognized for developing a process designed to specifically minimize waste in the production of certain DuPont polymers. Based on his family's experience with the Delaware Nature Society, team member **Marion G. Waggoner** convinced his team to direct their donation to support our conservation and education efforts.

The twelve-member team developed an underwater melt-cutting technology that reduced waste polymer by 4.5 million pounds and saved over \$3 million in costs and increased capacity. Team members included Linda Baker, William Camp, Achim Grass, John Hunt, Richard Jackson, John Lathrop, Phillip Logue, Dennis Royer, Amy Schantz, David Skinner, J.D. Updegraf, and Marion Waggoner.

"We are very pleased to accept this gift, and appreciate this acknowledgement by these DuPont employees," said DNS Executive Director Michael Riska. "We intend to use this donation to continue our efforts in conservation and education." 

### United Way contributions: Remember us!

Designate the Delaware Nature Society as the beneficiary of your pledge to the United Way just by writing in the name and address (Delaware Nature Society, P.O. Box 700, Hockessin, DE 19707).

### Two new books feature birding and DNS history

**Identify Yourself: The 50 Most Common Birding Identification Challenges** by Bill Thompson III, *Birdwatcher's Digest* Editor; Illustrator/Writer Julie Zickefoose; and **Jeffrey Gordon**, Delaware Nature Society. This book is a must-have for all birdwatchers who have difficulty distinguishing between similar species. Combining clear, easy-to-understand text and beautiful illustrations, the book provides beginning and intermediate bird watchers a helping hand with some of the most confounding identification challenges, also refreshing the skills of avid birders.

**Member's : \$18.00**  
**Non-Members: \$21.95**

### Delaware Nature Society: Educating Today, Preserving for Tomorrow

In celebration of the Nature Society's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we proudly present this history of the organization. 124 pages of interesting facts, anecdotes, and over 100 photos.

**Member's: \$11.50**  
**Non-Members: \$14.95**

**Available for Members:**  
**Attractive DNS Polo Shirts**  
**\$26.95**

[www.delawarenaturesociety.org](http://www.delawarenaturesociety.org)



United Way of Delaware

Mark Your Calendars and Join Us!

## Free Nature Walks .... And Videos!

Join us on Saturdays at Ashland Nature Center for **FREE** nature videos and walks. Each program begins at 1:00pm with a nature video inside the Ashland Nature Center, followed by hour-long guided walks with a Delaware Nature Society naturalist at 1:30pm.

### September

3 Trees  
10 Water life  
17 Broad-winged Hawk Migration  
24 Weather/clouds

### October

1 Power of Water  
8 Colors of Fall  
15 Hawk Watch  
22 Hibernation  
29 Spiders



Linda Young

### Upcoming Events

Aug. 20 & Oct. 15 - Habitat Stewards Training  
Sept. 9 - Orientation for new Volunteer Guides  
Sept. 12, 14, 16 - Volunteer Guide Training  
Sept. 24 - Harvest Moon Revel  
Oct. 1 & 2 - Harvest Moon Festival  
Oct. 15 - Autumn at Abbott's Mill Festival  
Oct. 22 - Stream Watch Workshop at Ashland Nature Center  
Oct. 29 - Stream Watch Workshop at Abbott's Mill Nature Center



**The Delaware Nature Society**, a nonprofit membership organization, fosters understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the natural world through education; preserves ecologically significant areas; and advocates stewardship and conservation of natural resources.

We maintain two nature centers—Abbott's Mill Nature Center (Milford) and Ashland Nature Center (Hockessin)—and manage four nature preserves for biodiversity, research and educational programs: Burrows Run Preserve/Coverdale Farm, Flint Woods Preserve, Marvel Saltmarsh Preserve and Cedar Bog Preserve. The Nature Society is an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, offering input on national issues that concern citizens in our region.

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**JOIN US!**  
Visit [www.delawarenaturesociety.org](http://www.delawarenaturesociety.org)  
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