

2001 Resolutions For Wildlife

Vow to make a difference for New Jersey's wildlife this year. Resolve to do one or more of the following:

1. Income Tax Check Off: Donate your N.J. state income tax rebate to the Conserve Wildlife tax check off. The check off is one of the main sources of funding for the ENSP. But over the years, as new check off options have been added to the income tax return, our revenues have dwindled. Help reverse that trend this year.

2. Conserve Wildlife License Plate: Show everyone you care about endangered and nongame wildlife by purchasing a Conserve Wildlife license plate -- the other main source of revenue for the ENSP. Eighty percent of the \$50 cost, or \$40, goes to the ENSP. And if you already have a Conserve Wildlife license plate, don't forget to renew. Of your \$10 renewal fee, \$5 goes to the ENSP, \$2 goes to an ENSP grant program and \$3 helps fund the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine. Contact your local Department of Motor Vehicle Office, or call 609-292-6500.

3. Adopt-A-Species: Support a particular species, everything from bald eagles to butterflies, by contacting the Conserve Wildlife Foundation's Keara Giannotti at 609-984-6012 or kgiannotti@dep.state.nj.us. If you prefer to make a general donation, you may do so using the envelope provided in this newsletter.

4. Volunteer: Donating your time and expertise is an extremely gratifying way to make a difference for wildlife. Throughout the year, the ENSP offers a number of opportunities for citizen scientists. If you are interested, call the ENSP's Steve Paturzo at 609-292-1231.

5. Plant for Wildlife: This spring, turn your backyard or other parts of your property into a wildlife sanctuary. To help you, the ENSP has a limited number of copies of four informational brochures: *Landscaping for Birds*, *Landscaping for Birds on Larger Parcels of Land*, *Landscaping for Birds on New Jersey's Barrier Islands* and *Gardening for Butterflies*. To request a single copy of a particular brochure, write to: ENSP, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625.



Top row: George Hines, John Bowen, Jim Davies, Jim Dahlin, and Al Hudson of Conectiv. Second row: Felicia Lewis, Michael Lewis, Jessica Hirsch, Jeanne Coon, Jennine Zielinsky, Sandra Chamberlin of DKB & Partners. Bottom row: Linda Carlough, Wildlife Unlimited and Todd Pover, ENSP.

ROOSTS FOR RAPTORS

One of the most important management techniques that the ENSP uses to restore and maintain osprey and peregrine falcon populations in New Jersey is providing man-made nest structures.

Last year, a number of osprey platforms along the Atlantic Coast were in disrepair due to weathering and wear. In response, employees from DKB & Partners and Conectiv graciously donated their time last October to help build and position eight new platforms.

The Cape May Courthouse Home Depot donated the materials. Bob and Linda Carlough, of Wildlife Unlimited, donated the use of a boat they use to conduct the "Salt Marsh Safari", an ecotour of the coastal marshes beginning in Cape May. For more information, call 609-884-3100.

Many thanks to all of these volunteers. They have made an important contribution in helping maintain the osprey's strong comeback in New Jersey.

CONSERVATION WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 JOANNE BRIGANDI - South Jersey Gas Company
 STEPHEN HELLER - Verizon Communications
 JOHN MANOS - DKB & Partners, Inc.
 ROBERT McDOWELL - NJ Div. of Fish & Wildlife
 ERIK MOLLENHAUER - Educational Information & Resource Center
 LARRY NILES, Ph.D. - Endangered & Nongame Species Program
 RON REISMAN - Elizabethtown Gas Company
 TIM VOGEL - Wakefern Corporation
 LEE WASHMAN - Conectiv
 RICHARD WEHMAN - Rockitt Benckiser

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
 FRED J. ABBATE, Ph.D. - NJ Utilities Association
 KURT HOENIGSBERG - NJN Public Television
 SCOTT A. KOBLER, ESQ. - McCarter & English
 ROBERT REYNOLDS - Lucent Technologies

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 LINDA TESAURO

CORPORATIONS FOR CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE

And other partners helping to keep New Jersey's wildlife in our future!

Bell Atlantic • Lewis H. Bochner Wildlife Trust
 Clean Air NJ • Conectiv • DKB & Partners
 Elizabethtown Gas Company • Educational Foundation of America
 Garden Club of Long Beach Island • Gerald R. Dodge Foundation
 Greater Watchung Nature Club
 Hyde & Watson Foundation • Jersey Shore Audubon
 K. Howman Companies • Liberty Property Trust
 ExxonMobil • Lucent Technologies • Nature Conservancy
 New Jersey American Water Company • NJ Audubon
 PSEG • Rockitt Benckiser
 Robert R. Shomer and Leona R. Shomer Trust
 South Jersey Gas Company • Wakefern/ShopRite Supermarkets
 Johanne W. Wallerstein Institute • Warner Lambert
 Weyerhaeuser Co.
 Wildlife Conservation Society

Endangered & Nongame Species Program
 Division of Fish & Wildlife
 PO Box 400
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0400



Conserve Wildlife Foundation News

Message from Linda Tesouro, Executive Director

As the year 2001 begins, I want to thank all our Partners in Protection who have helped support the plight of New Jersey's endangered and threatened animals this past year. By purchasing a CW license plate, "Checking-Off for Wildlife" on your state tax form, Adopting-A-Species and through direct contributions, you are helping to protect and preserve our natural wildlife resources for future generations. We are truly grateful.

Many of our donors have asked us other ways they can support rare wildlife conservation. One way is to make a meaningful gift to the Conserve Wildlife Foundation through bequests and planned giving. This can include gifts by will or living trust, annuity trust, and life insurance. All bequests made to CWF are free from federal estate taxes. Most importantly, your commitment to preservation will live on in perpetuity. CWF also receives donations made in memory of a loved one.

We want to thank the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation for its generous grant of \$45,000 for the Citizen Scientist program. This volunteer effort will be instrumental in helping protect wildlife at the local level. A special thank you also goes to the Johanne W. Wallerstein Institute for its renewed support, the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation, and the Educational Foundation of America for its \$10,000 grant for bog turtle conservation. It's also not too early to begin thinking about golf! The Second Annual Conserve Wildlife Foundation Golf Classic is scheduled for May 29, 2001, at the Stanton Ridge Golf and Country Club. If you are interested in playing and/or being a corporate sponsor, please call Keara at (609) 984-6012. We can only accommodate 120 players, and based on the success of last year's event and the thrill of playing at one of New Jersey's most beautiful and challenging courses, we expect this year to be a sellout.

Have a happy and healthy New Year, and thank you again for your support and for helping to keep New Jersey's wildlife in our future.

PRSRT STD
 US Postage
 PAID
 Trenton, NJ
 Permit No. 21

CONSERVE Wildlife

Newsletter of the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife's
 Endangered & Nongame Species Program

Winter/Spring 2001

Arogos Skipper: NJ one of last strongholds for imperiled butterfly

Both New Jersey and the federal government are considering placing the Arogos skipper (*Atrytone arogos arogos*)-- a small pale orange butterfly with about an inch-wide wingspan -- under the protection of their respective endangered species acts. "This butterfly is really in trouble," says Dale Schweitzer, The Nature Conservancy and Association for Biodiversity Information biologist and lepidopterist who several years ago was among the first to alert the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to the butterfly's plight. "It's less in trouble in southern New Jersey than probably anywhere else, but it's still very vulnerable there."

Besides a few known populations in South Jersey, lepidopterists Sharon and Wade Wander -- under contract with the ENSP -- last summer confirmed one population with two distinct pockets within a half-mile of each other in a North Jersey county. Besides the New Jersey populations, the remaining known locations for the eastern subspecies include one in the Carolinas, one in Georgia, several in Florida and one in Mississippi.

In order to comply with lawsuits forcing it to designate critical habitat for species already listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, the FWS has declared a moratorium on proposing any new species for listing under the ESA until next fall. In the meantime, it is also sponsoring surveys this summer of other potential Arogos skipper sites in the Southeast. But at a meeting of national experts held last fall, "We all agreed that all the evidence suggests it should be listed," says Schweitzer.

In New Jersey, the Arogos skipper is one of seven

butterflies proposed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to the state Legislature for protection under the state's Endangered Species Act.

As with many species, the Arogos skipper's decline is habitat related. "The species is restricted to prairie-like natural grasslands, and outside of the New Jersey Pine Barrens, there just aren't a lot of them," says Schweitzer. "And even within the Pine Barrens, the habitat is rare."

Except for the North Jersey site confirmed last year -- an abandoned agricultural area and a utility right-of-way in a remnant of a sandy, glacial outwash plain that apparently once harbored substantial grasslands -- all the known remaining sites are grassy pine savannas.

Besides keying in on a particular habitat, the Arogos skipper depends mightily on a particular type of grass on which it lays its eggs, and upon which its larval caterpillar stage feeds. In northern New Jersey, the essential host is little blue-stem grass; in southern

New Jersey and North Carolina, it is reed grass. The eggs hatch as caterpillars in the summer, which feed upon their host grass, hibernate about half grown and then pupate for probably two or three weeks before emerging the following late June or July as butterflies that dart or skip -- hence the name -- as they fly. In northern New Jersey, they feed upon nectar-bearing plants such as milkweed. But in the Pine Barrens, where weeds are not available, Schweitzer is not convinced that the fat-laden adults eat anything. Regardless, throughout their range the short-lived adults die before the end of the summer.



PHOTO BY SHARON & WADE WANDER

VOLUNTEERS & RUNNERS NEEDED FOR A MARATHON EFFORT

The Ocean Drive Run Club is holding its third annual marathon, 5K, 10K, and 1.5-mile promenade on April 1, 2001. Proceeds raised will go to the Conserve Wildlife Foundation to help protect New Jersey's endangered species and to the "Shield the Blue" campaign for law enforcement officers in Cape May County. The marathon starts in Cape May and ends in Sea Isle City. It is a great event, drawing both seasoned and casual runners/walkers who just want to have fun and participate in a worthy cause. Over 150 volunteers will be needed, so we need your help! If you are interested in volunteering for the event, please contact Tammy at TSWSMOKEY@msn.com. For an application for the marathon, 5K, 10K or 1.5 mile promenade, call the Ocean Drive Run Club at 609-523-0880 or visit their website at www.odmarathon.com.

"Keeping New Jersey's Wildlife in Our Future"

ENSP