

Palisades

NATURE NOTES



Male Blue Dasher Dragonfly on Yellow Indian grass Photo: Evan J. Zupfer

Notes from the Naturalist

Summer is near its close, and the cool brisk air of Autumn will be arriving soon. The naturalists have been busy this summer, clearing-out the Orientation and Education Center for renovations and repairs, squelching the advance of invasive plants, and keeping the trails open and clear of debris. The beginning of the summer was hot and humid, which can slow down even the most enthusiastic intentions of outside workers, but we did make progress, and the Sanctuary is in beautiful condition and ready to be enjoyed.

Sightings of wildlife are not as numerous during summer as in the spring or autumn, but we did have some very unique and interesting observations. Reptile sightings are always exciting; on June 1, a beautiful Garter Snake was observed warming itself on the entrance road. A second Garter Snake was observed along “C” trail on June 18. On June 5, a large Black Rat Snake was seen sunning its four-foot-long body near the office. It was seen again on June 7 over by the pavilion. Also on June 5, a Painted Turtle was found crossing the entrance road. A member brought to my attention on June 21 that a female Painted Turtle was at-

tempting to lay eggs in the middle of the gravel road near the dam. This was the first of several egg laying attempts by Painted Turtles during the latter part of June. Apparently, the females search for a sandy area where they can dig a hole to lay their eggs. They test many sights before finding the one with the best consistency of sand, dirt and humidity. They lay their eggs in a four-to-six-inch hole and then cover them. The young hatch in a few weeks and dig themselves out of the hole before scampering to the water.

In early June a very large bracket mushroom was found growing on a downed oak tree out by the newly re-routed “C” trail. It was as large as a NBA basketball but had a brighter orange color. Sandy and Ken identified it as “Chicken of the Woods.” Apparently so named because it tastes like chicken.

An Osprey was spotted on June 11 soaring over the parking lot and a scarlet tanager was heard singing nearby. On June 13 Sandy eyed a Silver-spotted Skipper along with a Painted Lady Butterfly outside the fence on the entrance road.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Chicken of the Woods Photo: Evan J. Zupfer



Black tooth Mushroom Photo: Joe Giordano

Notes from the Naturalist CONTINUING

There were many sightings of Wood duck families this summer; A mother with three ducklings was spotted by Ken on the morning of June 14, and the following day, two families of wood duck were seen on the pond. One mother had six young following her through the lily pads, and a second had seven. A Great Blue Heron was seen fishing in the pond on June 20.

At the end of June, the participants of an “Early Morning Walk” were fortunate to observe a beautiful Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly in the native plant area. Lizard’s Tail was in bloom down by the pond and a single pink Swamp Rose was also showing its rich pink color. Throughout the summer many colorful flowers were in bloom in Fair Field. Most notable were False Sunflower, Bee Balm, Swamp Milkweed, and Joe Pye Weed.

The beginning of July gave us some wonderful insect sightings. A Twelve-spotted Skimmer dragonfly was seen near Patriot’s Leap. A Red-spotted Purple Butterfly was dancing around the parking lot on July 7. Several Tiger Swallowtail butterflies were seen in Fair Field throughout July, along with both male and female Common Whitetail Dragonflies. On July 19 when Ken and I were clearing trails, a single Monarch Butterfly larva was found on the milkweed down by the dam. In the wet area on “B” trail, I caught site of a small snake darting across the trail. Closer inspection revealed it to be a young copperhead about eight inches long. On July 26, a Summer Azure Butterfly was seen on “F” trail. The next day had a plethora of interesting sightings down by the dam. An Ebony Jewel Wing Damselfly was flitting from lily pad to lily pad, while Blue Dasher and Slaty Skimmer Dragonflies zipped through the air. Many Short-stemmed Russula Mushrooms were sprouting in the shaded

area to the west of the dam.

Late in the afternoon of July 28, I was delighted to see a Wild Turkey hen with three very large and healthy poults below the feeders. They have been sighted numerous times and it appears that the young are growing quickly and are very close to adult size.

August started with a bang. On the 3rd of the month, six adult Wood Ducks were seen flying around the pond as an adult Bald Eagle soared above. There was also a very patient Great Blue Heron fishing on the west side. In Fair Field, I spotted and photographed an Eastern-tailed Blue. This is a small butterfly similar to a Summer Azure, but has a short spine or tail projecting from its back wings.

August 10th, we had another mushroom walk conducted by Paul Sadowski from the New York Mycological Society. His walks are always informative and can lead to some interesting Fungi finds. During the walk a very dark black mushroom was found along Lost Brook. With Paul’s help we were able to identify it as a Black Tooth Mushroom (*Phellodon niger*). It is quite rare in Greenbrook. The only other sighting on record was from a survey done back in 2017.

Migrant birds appeared in the Sanctuary on August 15 with a small group of Black-and-White Warblers down by the pond, and a single Palm Warbler in the Native Plant Area. On the same day Rod Mackenzie caught sight of an early Canada Warbler on “C” trail. Another sighting of note was a House Wren seen several times in Fair Field during the summer. We are unsure if it was breeding or just hanging out for the summer. Finally, Doug Berger found and photographed an early Black-throated Green Warbler on “J” trail by the west side of Greenbrook Pond August 22.

— EVAN J. ZUPFER *Naturalist / Director*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Every Greenbrook season has its rhythms; I find summer at the Sanctuary appealing for simply being quiet. It is not yet too late to enjoy the peace of summer times. I have found serenity at the edge of the bog overlooking the pond amidst the aerial displays of bejeweled damselflies. You can find your own by taking a stroll.

This summer at Greenbrook sounds did intrude, but for the benefit of our members. First there was the din of trail-making tools (and the grunting of trail-makers!). The naturalists had recommended improving the existing trail experience by relocating trail segments away from perennial wet spots made worse by more intense rain storms. I am pleased to report the completion of three such trail improvements:

C (Wherry Fern) Trail – At its south end leaving the main woods road, the trail dipped into a lowland that became a waterlogged channel after any sizable rainfall. The naturalists relocated the trail just a little further to the south over a small uphill that bypasses the flooded section.

O Trail – At its west end going downhill to the junction with B Trail near North Brook, the trail followed a fall line that both channeled rain water and severely eroded the tread. The trail is now relocated just to the east on a level wooded path leading gradually down to the B Trail junction.

North Junction of B and M Trails – This junction had become a muddy morass over the years as members tramped through the surrounding area in vain attempts to find firm footing. B Trail has now been straightened to traverse a rock defile to connect with M Trail and minimize encroachment on wet ground.

Having walked all three realigned trail segments, I thank Sandy, Ken and Evan for making a saunter through the Sanctuary more enjoyable. I especially find the pretty new O Trail setting so natural that one would think it had always been the route. Moreover, the relocations have the ecological advantage of allowing the former wetland routes to recuperate from unnecessary foot traffic.

The Sanctuary pavilion was the site of more mellow sounds on a fine Sunday summer evening on July 21. These were the notes of woodwinds at an outdoor concert appropriately entitled “Music in the Forest.” Performers Christine MacDonnell and Michael Ryan treated 40 members to a selection of classical, jazz and pop tunes with a summery feel. Many thanks to Council member Fang-Chin Chiang for organizing this concert as well as providing technical support during the musicale.

Looking forward to the Fall, all members are invited to attend the Greenbrook annual meeting on Sunday, October 13. This year the Administrative Council will host a picnic for the occasion. The business portion of the meeting will include the election of five directors to sit on the Council. The slate of nominees features four Council stalwarts: Assistant Treasurer Meg Browar, 1st Vice-President Mike Gallo, Treasurer Alec Malyon and retiring Secretary Chris Murphy. The Sanctuary could not operate without the hard work and dedication of these volunteers.

The fifth nominee is the Council's newest director, Paul Curn, whom the Council appointed this Spring to fill a vacancy on the board. Paul is a sound and film editor who heads the video department of a company supporting live events and Broadway theater. A man of many talents, he is a musician (guitar, bass, vocals), macro floral nature photographer and outdoorsman who has been a steadfast Sanctuary visitor since being gifted a membership back in the 1980s. But he adds, “Better than that, I am a dad and a granddad.”

One sad note – We received news of the passing of retired Council member Bill Nicodemus. Bill's son told us that his father loved and cared for Greenbrook and was proud to serve as a Council member. The Council extends its condolences to Bill's family and will cherish Bill's memory.

The coming season will also see implementation of the trail changes that I described in my report in the last newsletter. Progress will be posted at the Sanctuary as well as on our Facebook page. And, whatever the season, let Greenbrook welcome you!

— CHRIS CONNOLLY *Board President*
Palisades Nature Association

S P E C I A L W A L K S

**WITH MARGO MOSS**

For more than two decades Margo Moss has used her camera to explore the unusual and beautiful places in six continents. A certified teacher with a master's degree and

a post master's certification as a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant, creator and director of Creative Camps, a state certified school for the learning-disabled child. Margo has been on the photography faculty of The New School for almost two decades, and has taught workshops and classes in various venues in the East Coast. She created and developed the children's photography program at the Newark Museum, and further afield, she created the first photography workshop involving the local people in Copan, Honduras.

Margo shows people, in her words, how to "break down barriers and allow a personal vision to come through." Whether it is experiencing a photography workshop, a series of classes or a Photo Trail Tour, Margo is able to show you how to expand your own personal vision and expression while enjoying the company of like-minded people and most of all, having a wonderful time!

Margo's Webpage: <https://www.acephoto.com>

Sunday, September 8 — 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Photo Walk with Margo Moss

Professional Photographer Margo Moss will lead an informative walk on close-up macro photography.

Wear good hiking shoes and bring your cameras.

**WITH IRIS JACKSON**

Join the growing community of Telling Trails "Hike Creators" who enjoy the combined benefits of physical and mental health gained from walking-workshops with Iris Jackson. We will gather in Tenafly,

New Jersey at Greenbrook Sanctuary's Orientation/Education Center, for an introduction to Iris' Telling Trails method. Following this, we will journey through the Sanctuary taking time to engage with nature and express ourselves through writing, drawing and enjoying photographic moments. After the walk, we will recap to reflect on our trailside inspirations.

From the magnificent views, up close and throughout the surrounding area, observing plentiful plant-life and its seasonal changes, to the diverse wildlife migrating through or preparing for winter, participants will enjoy new interactions and discoveries. A can't miss, amazing experience to detail in your own creative way, on this unique hike, inspired by Telling Trails in the Greenbrook Sanctuary!

Iris Jackson comes to Greenbrook Sanctuary for this event with over three decades of workshop experience. Students, businesses, and communities alike enjoy participating in her interactive Telling Trails workshops, as they are developed to be inspiring while meeting the needs of all involved. Participants are encouraged to create with opportunities to share in the Telling Trails Tour Book Series and invited to join in on-going communications at <https://www/TellingTrail.org>.

Saturday, November 2 — 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Telling Trails Tour through Greenbrook Sanctuary

Iris Jackson, consultant/author/educator

Entry fee: \$15.00 for members / \$25.00, non-members.

Please call the sanctuary to register, 201-784-0484.

Bring your Greenbrook Membership card and a photo ID.

AUTUMN 2024 ALMANAC

Programs subject to change. • For more information call 201-784-0484 or email: pnanaturalist@gmail.com

Saturday, September 7 — 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Twilight Walk

Hike through the Sanctuary at sunset. We'll look and listen for sounds of animals that are crepuscular, active during twilight. Bring flashlights.

Sunday, September 8 — 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Photo Walk with Margo Moss

See Special Walks (page 5) for details.

Saturday, September 14 — 8:00 – 9:00 PM

Night Hike

Short hike through the Sanctuary to explore the sights and sounds of late summer night creatures. Bring flashlights.

Saturday, September 21 — 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Hawk Watch 1

Join us at Arboretum Point as we look for migrating hawks and other birds moving south along the Hudson River. Come when you like, leave when you want. Bring binoculars and/or field scopes.

Saturday, September 28 — 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Hawk Watch 2

See September 21 for description.

Sunday, September 29 — NOON – 3:00 PM

Visitors' Day

An open house to introduce the sanctuary to non-members. Including guided short informative walks that help explain and describe this gem on the Palisades..

Saturday, October 5 — 10:00 AM – NOON

Volunteer Day at the Bog

We will be clearing unwanted and old vegetation from the bog. The conditions are wet and muddy. Please wear durable outdoor clothes and shoes. Don't forget a good pair of work gloves.

Sunday, October 6 — NOON – 3:00 PM

Rain date for Visitors Day or Hawk Watch 3

*See September 29 for description of "Visitor's Day."
See September 21 for description of "Hawk Watch.".*

Saturday, October 12 — 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Hawk Watch 4

See September 21 for description.

Sunday, October 13 — STARTS AT 2:00 PM

Annual Members Meeting at the Pavilion

Join us for organizational updates, sanctuary news, and elections.. A picnic lunch, soft drinks and a raffle for prizes will follow the meeting. RSVP by calling the Sanctuary at 201-784-0484 by September 27.

Saturday, October 19 — 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Hawk Watch 5

See September 21 for description.

Saturday, October 19 — 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Non-Sanctuary Event - Lamont -Doherty Earth Observatory Open House

61 route 9W, Palisades, NY. <https://openhouse.ldeo.columbia.edu>

Sunday, October 20 — 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Nature Photography Workshop 2

Details on page 6 Learn to take better pictures of Nature.

This Program is a joint venture with Bergen County Camera.

Cost to members \$15.00, Non-members, \$25.00. Use this link to register - <https://bergencountycamera.com/classes-trips-event-calendar>

Saturday, October 26 — 9:00 AM – NOON

Field Trip to Richard W. Dekorte Park and Silkowski Road (formerly Disposal Road)

Join us in the parking lot of DeKorte Park, 1 DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst, NJ, for a walk through carefully managed salt marshes and shore-bird pools. We will be scouting for migratory sandpipers, shorebirds and waterfowl. Bring binoculars and field scopes.

Saturday, November 2 — 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Telling Trails Walk with Iris Jackson

See Special Walks (page 4) for details..

Sunday, November 3 — 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Rain Date for Telling Trails

Saturday, November 9 — 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Autumn Walk Around the Pond

A walk that completely circles Greenbrook Pond.

Saturday, November 16 — 1:00 – 2:30 PM

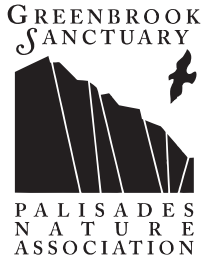
Late Autumn Nature Walk

A casual walk through the Sanctuary

Saturday, November 23 — 1:00 – 2:30 PM

All the Vistas

Hike from the most southern vista, Patriots Leap, to the most northern, Bald Eagle Point



Nature Photography Workshop Co-hosted by Greenbrook Sanctuary & Bergen County Camera

SESSION TWO, OCTOBER 20, 2024



• The Workshop is open to both existing Greenbrook members and the public to introduce the Sanctuary to non-members. The participation fee is \$15.00 for Greenbrook members and \$25.00 for non-members.

• Bergen County Camera staff will be present during the workshop to answer questions, and give advice on how to take better pictures

• Attendees are also invited to participate in a future Photo Contest as well. More details about the photo contest will be announced later.

• Register online through Bergen County Camera's website:

<https://bergencountycamera.com/classes-trips-event-calendar>

You can also call 201-664-4113 for more information

• Greenbrook Members only, to get your discount code
email matt@bergencountycamera.com

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS: CYCLE 3 — Fei Xu, Matthew Spiegelman, Dongbeom Eem, Shimon/Rivki Margaliot, Rita/William Bodine, Michael Scharff, Amy Nellissen, Liangjie Xia, Sharon Meyer, Joel Binn, Samuel Roche, Lori Liparini, Soo Maing, Eric Shyr, Camillus Fitzpatrick, Crystal Hall

Membership entitles you to join Greenbrook's online community on Meetup.com. View pictures, calendar of events and more.
Email 2greenbrook@gmail.com or call Membership Director Mike Gallo with online questions: 201.280.0160.

Palisades NATURE NOTES

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Asst. Naturalists: Sandy Bonardi

Kenneth Habermann

Join Us. THIS FORM IS FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY.

Yes, I want to become a member of Greenbrook Sanctuary.

- | | | | |
|---|--------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$ 40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship | \$ 250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household | \$ 60 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member | \$ 1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor | \$ 100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization | \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>This is a gift membership given by:</i> | | | |

Name _____

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to: PNA, PO Box 155, Alpine, NJ 07620, or join on our web site.