

Alive!

At The Boston Nature Center



Mass Audubon
Boston Nature Center

Fall 2007

“Birds of the Americas” Exhibit

We are pleased to present Eduardo del Solar’s “Birds of the Americas” exhibit, a collection of photographs from the coastal, Andean and rainforest areas of Peru as well as images taken at the Boston Nature Center and around New England. Some of the highlights of his exhibit include the Inca Tern and Eastern Screech Owl (pictured above). If you would like to see more of his work, visit <http://www.delsolar.org:82/nature/boa07/index.htm>.



A native of Peru, del Solar lives in Dorchester with his family and has been a teacher in Boston for 27 years. He currently teaches web design classes at the O’Bryant School of Math and Science in Dorchester. Del Solar is a long-time supporter of the Boston Nature Center. “Nature photography is my passion,” he says. “Birds of the Americas is a three- to five-year project and my goal is to photograph birds from New England to Peru. He notes that Peru has about 1800 species of birds, second only to Colombia, while Massachusetts has approximately 500

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Rappin’ with Raptors

Over 450 friends and neighbors gathered on September 29, 2007 for the Boston Nature Center’s annual fall celebration and the fifth anniversary of the George Robert White Environmental Conservation Center (GRWECC). This year Rappin’ with Raptors focused on the owls that make their homes in the area. Visitors enjoyed a close up look at an American Kestrel, a Screech Owl, a Barn Owl, and a Red-shouldered Hawk from the Blue Hills Trailside Museum. The festivities included face painting, crafts, and “make your own” track stories where children used animal signs to tell the tale of different animals. The more adventurous dissected owl pellets to see just what owls eat for lunch!

Guests spent time exploring the nature trails in search of raptors, rabbits, pheasants, and other wildlife. Visitors explored the GRWECC, which features some of the country’s most innovative green technology. Sanctuary Committee member Bruce Fulford was on hand to display an exhibit on the construction of a green roof. All sampled delicacies made from the abundant harvest of the Clark Cooper Community Gardens at BNC.



A Red-shouldered Hawk from the Blue Hills Trailside Museum fascinates the crowd.
Photo: Martha Heath, Sanctuary Committee

Families feasted on veggie and beef burgers, birthday cake, and ice cream from J.P. Licks as they listened to the festive sound of Branches Steel Band. The Children’s Museum, the Franklin Park Coalition, the Museum of Science, Olmsted National Historic Site, Revision House, and Zoo New England all contributed to make it a truly fun day. Guests also had the unique opportunity to build and take home their own birdhouse.

We would like to thank everyone who came out and joined the celebration this year. We would also like to thank our sponsors who make this community event possible at no charge including Blue Hills Press, Cedar Street Foundation, the City of

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Bird house building, face painting and arts & crafts made for a fun-filled day. Photos: Martha Heath, Sanctuary Committee

Rappin' with Raptors

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Boston, Cruz Management, Feinberg, Campbell, & Zack, PC, Forest Hills/Jamaica Plain Kiwanis, GunnDesign, Halvorson Design Partnership, Inc., Harry R. Feldman, Inc., ICON Architecture Inc., Lena New Boston/Olmsted Green, Mass Energy Consumers Alliance, Northstar Mechanical, ProPrint Boston, Seaport Graphics, and Stage One Production.



Visitors made sun prints with the Olmsted National Historic Site volunteers.



Proud bird house builders!



Branches Steel Band kept the music flowing all afternoon. Photos: Martha Heath, Sanctuary Committee

"Birds of the Americas" Exhibit

Cont.' from page 1.

species. He plans to return to the Peruvian rainforest next summer to continue taking photographs for his project.

"Birds of the Americas" exhibit opening and reception was held on Saturday, October 20, 2007. The exhibit will be on

Clark Cooper Community Gardeners: Time, Place and Space

News From The Clark Cooper Community Garden

By Sonny Washington, CCCG Education Coordinator

While CCCG has been at this location for close to 40 years, many people in the surrounding communities know little or nothing at all about its existence or its place in the communities' scheme of things. Well it seems like Jim Clark, President of CCCG, Inc., the Executive Board, Section Leaders, and gardeners are ready to roll up their sleeves and go to work to put CCCG on the map; and it looks like 2008 is going to be the year.

This year, I became involved with the Boston Youth Fund, a city based group that puts Boston communities' young adults to work for various businesses and groups for about nine weeks in the summer. CCCG was able to get four young men ranging in age from 16 to 18 and living in the Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roslindale sections of Boston and going to various high schools in the area. This was a new experience for them in terms of work

and work they did--planting some vegetables and learning to use rakes, shovels, hoes, pitchforks, and gas powered tools such as weed-whackers, lawnmowers, hedge trimmers, and a chipper-shredder. They tackled tasks including clearing all walkways and



The Clark Cooper Community Gardeners display of vegetables, fruit and flowers from their gardens at the September 29th Rappin' with Raptors Event.

Photos: Martha Heath, Sanctuary Committee

pathways of over-growth, removing most of the large and medium sized rocks that littered the pathways, and restoring the bins in the "A" section of the CCCG now in use to make compost and mulch for the gardens.

I was very impressed with the work they did and the way they undertook each new task, mastered it and went to the next challenge. It restored my faith in young people, realizing that when given the opportunity and encouragement, they will get it done. Being involved in life is a challenge for me but I face nowhere near what these young adults go through everyday. I believe the crew working at CCCG this summer gained insight and knowledge, wisdom and understanding of the food chain, the environment and the wildlife habitat that is here at CCCG and the Boston Nature Center (BNC).

display through November 30, 2007 at BNC. We hope that all of our readers will be able to visit BNC to see these spectacular photographs, explore the sanctuary, and check out our latest interactive exhibit on biomimry. Note that the proceeds from a silent auction, extending



Inca Tern

the duration of the exhibit, of three of del Solar's photographs will be donated to non-profits including BNC. If you would like to bid on any of these photographs or you would like additional information, please call 617-983-8500.

BNC Teen Ambassadors

BNY Mellon CityACCESS: An Investment in Youth program provides the Boston Nature Center with a wonderful opportunity to participate in this innovative program with a total of 36 teenagers and five other non-profit organizations along with Chike Ibeabuchi, BNY Mellon CityACCESS program manager, and other key BNY Mellon staff. This initiative focuses on youth development through responsibility and leadership. BNC is in its second term (sixth year) of this three-year program which emphasizes a relational approach encouraging its teens to develop increasingly greater ambassadorship skills, strong teaching skills, and a growing sense of appreciation of our connection to the environment. We welcome three new Teen Ambassadors (TA) and hope that our three returning TAs, now seniors, will conclude their journey at BNC making a positive step toward their future. Our sincere appreciation and thanks to BNY Mellon CityACCESS for another terrific year in this program and for our spectacular Teen Ambassadors! Now, in their own words...

Hi, my name is Monique Brunner and I have been a Teen Ambassador for about three years. I am a senior at English High School located in Jamaica Plain. In my spare time I like to write poetry and analyze excerpts from novels I have read.



This year I hope to gain new experiences as a teacher and a leader.

Hi, my name is Michael Ejelonu, and I am the newest Teen Ambassador. I am a sophomore attending the Community Academy of Science and Health (CASH) located in Hyde Park. As a Teen Ambassador I would like to have fun, learn

more about nature, and get to know different people. One thing I am looking forward to is working with my other teen ambassadors.



Hi my name is Mary Jaber and I am a senior at the John D. O'Bryant School. This is my third and last year as a Teen Ambassador (TA) at the Boston Nature Center.



As a Teen Ambassador my greatest joy is working with the kids that come here for camp and participating in the BNY Mellon CityACCESS. As a TA I want to accomplish the skills required to function in the work force.

My name is Tatiana M. R. Johnson and as a Teen Ambassador I hope to have more interaction with the children and the other Teen Ambassadors. I look forward to meeting new people at the Boston Nature Center and other events within Mass



Audubon and BNY Mellon CityACCESS. I also hope to have an amazing last year at the Boston Nature Center.

My name is Teeyana Roxton. I am currently a sophomore at Braintree High School through the METCO program. Things that I like to do in my free time are listening to music and hanging out with my friends. The BNC provides a great learning experi-



ence and also a chance to work with kids. I hope to accomplish a lot here at the BNC and I also hope to learn more about the environment in which I live.

Hello! My name is Nathaniel Smith.



I am a new Teen Ambassador and I am now a sophomore at Boston Latin Academy. My interests are basketball, football, and music. As a new Teen Ambassador, I want to increase my knowledge of

the natural world. I have always been interested in nature and the environment around us. I also want to have a great experience working with other teens and young children.

BNC Needs Volunteers

Are you wondering if you can contribute to the welfare of others? Ponder no more. We would love to tell you about the many volunteer opportunities here at BNC. Volunteers are needed to help for many hours a week or only a couple of hours a year. You can work on the paths, help in the library, dig in the garden, be part of the camp program, work on computers, classify digital photographs, clean up the sanctuary, identify birds, insects, flora and fauna. If you are interested in any of these (or other) areas, consider helping us. We will be thrilled to include you in our family.

Are you thinking about volunteer leadership positions? Would you like to become more involved with BNC's conservation work in Boston? Consider the following areas:

Friends of the Boston Nature Center
(contributors who are interested in helping BNC in its fundraising efforts)

▪ **Sanctuary Committee** (meets bi-monthly to

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Learn with Us!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Winter Solstice Celebration

December 13, 2007

6:00-8:00 pm

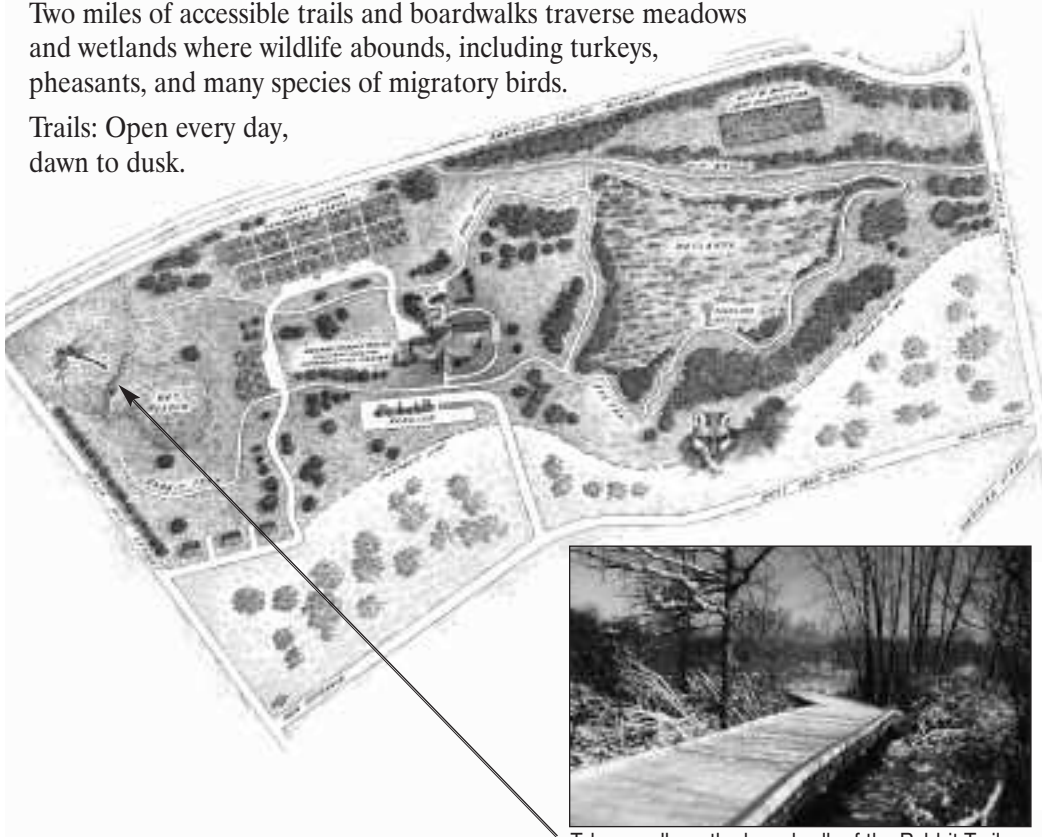
All ages are welcome.

You are invited to celebrate the start of winter. We'll provide hands-on nature activities and hot cocoa. This popular event features a night walk and look into the night sky! **The event is free.**

BNC Trails

Two miles of accessible trails and boardwalks traverse meadows and wetlands where wildlife abounds, including turkeys, pheasants, and many species of migratory birds.

Trails: Open every day, dawn to dusk.



Take a walk on the boardwalk of the Rabbit Trail in the winter snow to see many different birds and animals. Photo: Martha Heath, Sanctuary Committee

BNC Needs Volunteers *Cont.' from page 3.*

advise on policies and BNC's overall direction)

- **Education Advisors Task Force** (for educators and meets bi-monthly to support formal and informal learning at the BNC)

- **Environment Committee** (meets monthly to strategize on issues to restore and protect the sanctuary)

- **Planning and Development Committee** (meets monthly to help establish meaningful connections with our neighbors)

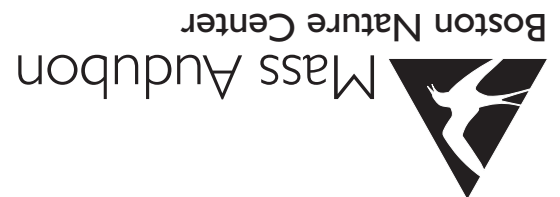
Volunteering works both ways: you get to improve your life by working with people who are interesting, fun and friendly, while your community is improved by your generosity and love of the outdoors. The rewards for everyone are real! If you want to learn more about volunteer opportunities at BNC, please call Kylee at 617-983-8500 x-6904 or email her at kwilson@massaudubon.org **Thank you!**

Wish List:

- Story Tellers for young and old alike
- Local residents with Oral Histories of the former Boston State Hospital
- Sturdy garden gloves for volunteer groups
- 20 x 20 ft. canopy or tent without sides

STAFF:
 Julie Brandlen, *The Anne & Peter Brooke Director*
 Jean Dorcus, *Education Manager*
 Mohamed Abdulrahman, *Property Worker*
 Susan Brace, *Teacher Naturalist*
 Andrew Breck, *Teacher Naturalist*
 Irma Cambara, *Receptionist*
 Tim Cooke, *Property Manager*
 Paula Davis, *Receptionist*
SANCTUARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
 Jennifer Charles, *Chair*
 Tom Daly, *Vice Chair*
 Betsy Johnson, *Clerk*
 Cathy Campbell
 Pam Chats
 Bill Coady
 Bruce Fulford, *Environment Committee Chair*
 Alma Habtewold
 Jim Hill
 Martha Heath, *Planning and Development Committee Chair*
 Ratus Lawrence
 Alexandra Rollins
 Charlene Ross
 Stanley Washington
THE BOSTON NATURE CENTER IS EASY TO FIND.
 Boston Nature Center is located on the grounds of the old Boston State Hospital, bounded by Morton Street (Route 203), American Legion Highway, Walk Hill Street, and Harvard Street. Many road maps and bus route maps still identify it as "Boston State Hospital" or "State Hospital."
 If you get lost, call 617-983-8500.
 The Boston Nature Center is open: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Sunday, and Monday holidays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 The Trails: Open every day, dawn to dusk.
 Printed on Recycled Paper with Soy Inks.

500 Walk Hill Street, Mattapan, MA 02126 • 617-983-8500



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