

Alive!

At The Boston Nature Center



Mass Audubon
Boston Nature Center

Spring 2007

Spring Warblers

By Andrew Birch, Property Manager

Spring is one of the most popular times for birding in Massachusetts. This is largely due to the number of Warbler species that occur here at this time. Warblers are famous for their

bright plumage and beautiful songs, and the Boston Nature Center is a great place to observe migrating warblers.

Many birds, including Warblers, migrate at night. As the sun begins to rise they descend from the sky looking for promising habitat. In urban areas like Boston they get concentrated

into small green spaces like the BNC. This is why the BNC is often referred to as an "Urban Migrant Trap", and it is the phenomenon that produces such wonderful springtime birding here!

A walk along the trails can produce as many as a dozen species of warblers in a single

cont.' on page 3.



Palm Warbler
Photo:
Eduardo del Solar

The Wonders of Winter Wildlife: BNC February Vacation Week 2007!

Despite some fierce winter weather this year, our February vacation week program was a huge success! **The Owls** (6 to 7 year olds) extended their learning by building diorama animal homes and making track casts as they learned all about their favorite animals.

If only someone could have measured the 'wonder' in that hushed room when the Great Horned Owl made his appearance!

The Hawks group (8 to 10 year olds) exercised their ingenuity and creativity through various projects. While investigating plant and animal survival in winter, they worked cooperatively on creating their very own "winter survival kits." They drew inspiration from the adaptations that help local wildlife survive in the winter.

The Adventurers group (11 to 14 year olds) not only honed their skills as naturalists, they also had the unique opportunity to design and lead activities for the youngest group of campers, the Owls. Working in small groups, the Adventurers guided each one of the Owls to his or her own personal discovery of the BNC in winter. To learn more about BNC's April School

Vacation Programs and Summer Camps, call 617-983-8500 x-6904.

By Andrew Breck, Teacher



The "Hawks" created a snow penguin and celebrated their creativity.



Blue Hills Trailside Museum's Teacher Naturalist, Emily Carreiro introduced the "Owl" Group to various animals including the Striped Skunk shown here.

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Transitions at BNC

Mass Audubon recently named Gloria Villegas-Cardoza Director of Education. A native of Venezuela, Gloria has extensive experience in innovative science and environmental education, multicultural education, and program development and administration.

For the past seven years, Gloria served as the first education manager at BNC and was instrumental in establishing it as a dynamic multicultural community-based education center. "I am passionate about working collaboratively with other New England educational leaders to ensure innovation, high education standards, and cross-organization programming for all residents of Massachusetts," says Gloria. "As Mass Audubon's Director of Education, I will look to expand our work with urban communities, help Massachusetts residents learn about and lessen their environmental footprint, and integrate environmental education into school curricula standards."



Many of the leaders of the BSEI gathered at a reception to discuss best practices including (l-r): Antioch New England Institute's, Bo Hoppin; Holmes Elementary School's Principal, Catherine Constant; Mass Audubon's Education Director, Gloria Villegas-Cardoza; Curley Elementary School's Principal, Mirna Vega Wilson; BNC's Education Manager, Jean Dorcus; Philbrick Elementary School's Principal, Steve Zrike.

BNC welcomes former Haley School Principal, Jean L. Dorcus as its new Education Manager. Jean has been involved with BNC since its inception and served both as its Sanctuary Committee Chair and Committee Chair of its Education Advisors Task Force. Both Haley School and BNC are proud of our long and continued partnership. We look forward to working with Jean in her new role.

Jean will focus on the implementation of BNC's formal partnerships with the Boston schools through the Boston Schools Environmental Initiative (BSEI) and the Boston School Initiative. Through these two programs, BNC's Teacher Naturalists work with over 1,600 school children on a weekly basis (throughout the school year) including hands-on, minds-on teaching methods, integrated curriculum development in collaboration with each grades' teacher, field trips, school-wide conservation projects, science fairs, and professional development for both Teacher Naturalists and educators. We appreciate and acknowledge the generous grants from an anonymous foundation, the EdVestors Collaborative Fund, and Mass Audubon supporters to fund these innovative educational programs.

By Julie Brandlen, BNC Director

A Reverence for Wood at the former Boston State Hospital

The developers of the neighboring Olmsted Green project of the Boston State Hospital site made considerable efforts in the design phase to preserve many important trees in the landscape. However, most of the trees on the 44 acre site were felled in the land clearing process to accommodate the hundreds of homes and residential buildings that will house thousands of the BNC's new neighbors. I worked with Olmsted's Green's design and construction team to develop best use strategies for the harvested trees, which included identifying and saving trees that were of significant value as sawlogs to ensure that their highest value was preserved. Many of the trees are unsuitable for milling and will be used for firewood. The rest of the trees will be ground with last fall's leaves and converted on-site into a rich, dark and fertile mulch.

The trees that have been saved for reuse include black walnut, American cherry, sugar maple, silver and Norway maple that are ideal for furniture and cabinetry, red and pin oaks, and ash for structural lumber and flooring, and a selection of linden, apple and mulberry that may find creative uses in carvings, bowls and other ornamental uses. Dozens of hardwood sawlogs from the Olmsted site are being stored on BNC's site, and will be milled into lumber on-site in April. A local sawyer with a portable sawmill will convert the suitable logs into furniture quality hardwood boards and structural lumber which will be carefully air-dried and custom kiln-dried as needed, depending on their intended use.

Some of this lumber will be used in Olmsted Green's Gateway Center. We hope to secure funding to convert the most appropriate logs into posts, beams and sheathing of a 'Green Roof' garage that is intended for construction on BNC's site, adjacent to the George Robert White Environmental Conservation Center. The building to be made from the wood will support a 'Green Roof' – selected plants in a customized soil blend that filters and slows down the runoff of storm-water, and offers specialized wildlife habitat and a valuable teaching opportunity to visitors of the

Boston Nature Center. This building will exemplify some of the 'greenest' elements of new construction by using locally harvested and milled wood. Wood that is responsibly recovered for lumber during construction projects and used locally reduces the energy use and other environmental impacts of logging and transporting wood thousands of miles from forests in North, South and Central America and Asia.



Logs waiting to be milled at the Boston Nature Center. Photo: Bruce Fulford

Some of the more valuable hardwood will be sold to pay for the added handling costs associated with the harvest, milling and curing of the wood. There are particularly beautiful cherry, walnut and maple slabs, boards and burls that can become tables and chairs, bowls, baseball bats, cabinets, musical instruments and sculpture in the hands of skilled local woodworkers. There is also softwood that could be milled into boards for the birdhouses built with kids during the Rappin' with Raptors festival or camp sessions, and basswood (Linden, or Tilia) is very soft and easily worked, and prized for carvings of birds.

The waste bark and sawdust from the wood milling and firewood splitting will be turned into mulch and used on site at the Boston Nature Center and the Olmsted Green landscape to help other trees recover from construction disturbance and transplanting and resist drought, reduce soil erosion, and increase the recharge of groundwater. In these ways, the contributions of the trees that graced the grounds of the Boston State Hospital continues far beyond their life with roots in the ground and leaves on the branch.

By Bruce Fulford, BNC Sanctuary Committee Member

News from the Clark Cooper Community Gardens (CCCG):

Annual Meeting and Registration Day

Place: Boston Nature Center

Date: Saturday, March 31, 2007

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

CCCG Fourth Annual Black & White Ball

Friday, May 25, 2007

Please call or email CCCG for more details:
617-983-8500 x6911 or
clark_cooper_community_garden@yahoo.com

Learn with Us!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April School Vacation Week Program: "Food from the Earth"

Tuesday, April 17th through Friday, April 20th
For: Owls (ages 6-7)

Hawks (ages 8-10) and
Adventurers (ages 11-14)

Explore the connections between food and people, and learn that food choices can make a difference for ourselves and the environment. Conduct research experiments, create art projects, explore the sanctuary for food sources and more!

Fees are based on a sliding scale.
Please call to register.

Spring Fling and Silent Auction Sunday, May 6th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

This is a special membership event featuring sweets, sounds, and for the first time, a silent auction! Join our extended membership family to celebrate spring at the BNC!

Free event; donations welcome.
Look for your invitation soon.

Bird-A-Thon 2007

Friday, May 18th, 6:00 p.m. through
Saturday, May 19th, 6:00 p.m.

Help count bird species while raising funds for the BNC! All skill levels are strongly encouraged to participate.

This is a free program for all ages.

Birds & Bards Festival

Friday, June 1st - Sunday, June 3rd

Sponsored by: Boston Nature Center, Franklin Park Coalition, Forest Hills Educational Trust, Olmsted National Park, Studios without Walls, and Zoo New England

This exciting weekend festival will feature various activities at three of Boston's premier green spaces - Franklin Park, Boston Nature Center, and Forest Hills Cemetery.

Nearly all activities are free and will take place rain or shine.

Rappin' with Raptors Anniversary Event Saturday, September 29th, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Come celebrate the 5th anniversary of the George Robert White Environmental Conservation Center.

There will be fun for all ages! This is a free event.

Check out Mass Audubon's website
www.massaudubon.org/boston



Spring Warblers *Cont.' from page 1.*

day. Some of the more common warblers at the BNC include: Yellow Warblers, which also nest here, Black and White Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, American Redstarts, Northern Waterthrush, Palm Warblers, and

Black-throated Green Warblers. To date there have been 25 species of Warbler recorded at the BNC – join one of our walks this spring and help us find more!

Bird Photos: Eduardo del Solar

Glorious Spring Warblers!



Black and White Warbler



Yellow Warbler



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Northern Waterthrush

OOOPS!!



A.



B.



C.



D.



E.



F.

In our last issue, "Name These Winter Birds" careful readers brought to our attention that they were out of order! Thank you for your feedback. To set the record straight, they are: A. Black-capped Chickadee; B. Northern Cardinal; C. Downy Woodpecker; D. White-breasted Nuthatch; E. Tufted Titmouse and F. Blue Jay.

Birdhouse Building by Concerned Black Men of Massachusetts

By Cathy Campbell, BNC Sanctuary Committee Member

On February 17, 2007, the Boston Nature Center was delighted to host a group of young men and their mentors from the Paul Robeson Institute for Positive Self-Development (PRI). PRI was initiated by the Concerned Black Men of Massachusetts in the fall of 1989 to provide a vehicle of educational, emotional and personal support to young black males and their families.

The group toured the George Robert White Environmental Conservation Center focusing on the use and benefits of green technology in Boston's first green building. With binoculars in hand, Andrew Birch of the BNC led the boys on a nature walk through the trails. They searched the sanctuary for wildlife, honing their skills in seeking out and identifying birds and other creatures living right here in the heart of the city. As part of the workshop, the boys also built their very own birdhouses.

Courtney Small of PRI said of the group's visit, "Because of the thoughtfulness and generosity from you and your staff, our event by all indications was an overwhelming success. The visit and workshop we conducted left an indelible impression on me, as I'm sure it did on our PRI young men who were fortunate enough to be able to participate."

From the BNC perspective, we hope to continue and grow our relationship with PRI in the future as such

educational experiences meet our goal of encouraging the development of environmental stewardship among the youth of our community.



Members of the CBMM displayed their newly constructed birdhouses.



(L-R) Frederich Johnson, II, CBMM President; Angelo Paul, Assistant; Evans Erius, Assistant; Courtney Small, Instructor led CBMM members in their project.

Future Leaders:

BNC Teen Ambassadors

When asked about her favorite part of being a BNC Teen Ambassador, Monique Brunner said, "I really enjoy teaching the kids, because I love seeing the excitement in their faces when they are learning something new." The BNC Teen Ambassadors, who are part-time staff between the ages of fifteen and eighteen, help the community learn more about nature while taking an active step in learning more about themselves.

By helping BNC Teacher Naturalists with after-school programs, vacation weeks, and summer camp, Teen Ambassadors are teaching children in their communities to value nature and to discover it in their own backyards.

Along with teens from four other Boston non-profits, BNC Teen Ambassadors take part in workshops aimed at personal and academic development. Brandon Emiliano feels that the program is helping youth to become the "leaders of tomorrow." The BNC Teen Ambassadors are: Brandon Emiliano (Jamaica Plain), Halla Abdelrahman (Roslindale), Marquis Henderson (Dorchester), Mary Jaber (Roslindale), Monique Brunner (Dorchester), Quianna Barnwell (Hyde Park), and Tatiana Johnson (Dorchester). The Teen Ambassador program is generously funded by Mellon CityACCESS. Written by Monique Brunner and Tatiana Johnson



We welcome our newest Teen Ambassador, Quianna Barnwell, who joined us this past February.



The BNC Teen Ambassadors, pictured above, are part of Mellon CityACCESS at the Boston Nature Center. Teen Ambassadors: (L-R/back) Brandon Emiliano, Marquis Henderson, (L-R/front) Halla Abdelrahman, Tatiana Johnson, Mary Jaber and Monique Brunner.

Wish List:

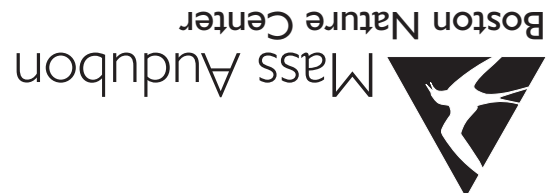
- Defibrillator for public use
- New books for all ages regarding any aspect of nature
- Skid Steer
- Wheelbarrows
- Sturdy Rubbermaid (type) carts with wheels
- Leather and garden gloves
- Six pairs of rubber waders

Printed on Recycled Paper with Soy Inks.

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.

STAFF:
 Julie Brandlien, *The Aime & Peter Brooke Director*
 Jean Dorcus, *Education Manager*
 Mohamed Abdulrahman, *Property Worker*
 Andrew Birch, *Property Manager*
 Susan Brace, *Teacher Naturalist*
 Andrew Breck, *Teacher Naturalist*
 Irma Cambara, *Receptionist*
 Paula Davis, *Receptionist*
SANCTUARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
 Jennifer Charles, *Chair*
 Tom Daly, *Vice Chair*
 Betsy Johnson, *Clerk*
 Cathy Campbell
 Pam Chatis
 Bill Coady
 Bruce Fulford, *Environment Committee Chair*
 Alma Habteworld
 Jim Hill
 Martha Heath, *Planning and Development Committee Chair*
 Rutus Lawrence
 Alexandra Rollins
 Charlene Ross
 Stanley Washington

500 Walk Hill Street, Mattapan, MA 02126 • 617-983-8500
 www.massaudubon.org



SAVE THE DATE!
 Spring Fling & Silent Auction
 Sunday, May 6, 2007
 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 4
 Lincoln, MA

Boston Nature Center

Spring 2007 Programs



Mass Audubon
Boston Nature Center

Spring Migration Bird Walks

Second Saturday Bird Walks:

April 14 and May 12 from 8 am to 10 am All ages.

Come explore the Boston Nature Center on second Saturdays and discover the amazing diversity of birds found here! We will slowly walk the trails looking for the birds of the season. We can provide binoculars and field guides if needed.

A great time for all experience and age levels!

Fee: \$4 members/\$5 non-members

Boston Bird Walks:

April 24 and May 1, 8, & 15 at the BNC 6 am-8 am / April 26 and May 3, 10, & 17 at Forest Hills 6 am-8 am All ages.

Co-sponsored by the Brookline Bird Club and the Forest Hills Educational Trust. The Boston Nature Center and Forest Hills Cemetery shelter a huge variety of bird life. Expert birders will help you find some of the most elusive and interesting bird species. Meet at appropriate main entrance. Admission is free!



April Vacation Week Program

Food From the Earth

April School Vacation Week: Tuesday, April 17 through Friday, April 20, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm Ages 6 to 14.

Explore nature at the grounds of the Boston Nature Center through minds-on, hands-on investigations. During this fun-filled week off from school, we will explore where your food comes from!

Fees are based upon a sliding scale; please call (617) 983-8500 for registration details.



Ongoing Programs

Early Explorers

10 am – 11:30 am Ages 3-6, with an adult

Join us on first and third Thursdays for stories, games, and outdoor explorations. Each session will focus on a different topic; come to any number of sessions. Please bring a small snack to enjoy at the end of the program.

Thurs., April 5: Birds in Spring

Thurs., May 3: Buds and Flowers

Thurs., May 17: The Marsh

Thurs., June 7: Butterflies



Scientists in Action

3:30 pm – 4:45 pm Ages 7-10

Looking for something fun and different to do in the afternoon? Join the Scientists in Action on second and fourth Thursdays! Participants will explore, experiment and more. Come to any number of sessions.

Thurs., March 22: Springtime

Thurs., April 12: Roots and Shoots

Thurs., April 26: Cooking With The Sun

Thurs., May 10: What Do Flowers Do?

Thurs., May 24: What's in Water?

Thurs., June 14: Mammals

Weekend Discoveries

Saturdays and Sundays 30-minute programs

From 11 am to 2 pm All ages

Boston Nature Center Teen Ambassadors* will continue leading free educational mini-programs on the weekends. These 30-minute programs will include guided walks and/or hands-on activities about science and nature topics. Join us at any of these programs, available upon request.

* This program is supported by Mellon CityACCESS



Program Fee: \$4 members/\$5 non-members

Programs By Request

Programs for Birthdays and Celebrations

Looking for a fun place to celebrate your child's birthday or other occasion? The Boston Nature Center is a great choice! We provide a nature craft activity for each child, an outdoor exploration, and a beautiful space for you to gather and eat.

Minimum 8 children.

Fee: \$10 per child.

Group Programs

Does your youth group, senior group, or other organization wish to learn about science and nature? We offer hands-on programs on a variety of topics for adults, families, or children.

Minimum 8 people.

Fee: \$4 per participant

(Limited financial aid available).

Summer Camp 2007

June 25– August 24

8:30 am - 5:30 pm Ages 6-14

Mark your calendar for summer camp at the BNC! Each week we will explore a different nature topic. Teacher Naturalists will guide participants in understanding the outdoors through exploration and experiments!

Call for registration details.

Boston Nature Center Spring 2007



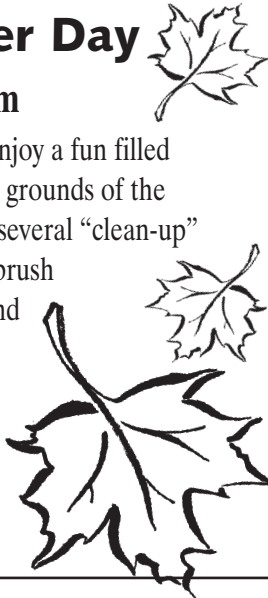
Mass Audubon
Boston Nature Center

Special Events

Statewide Volunteer Day

Saturday, April 28, 9 am-12 pm

Come to the Boston Nature Center to enjoy a fun filled morning of exploring and improving the grounds of the sanctuary. The day will commence with several "clean-up" activities that include: trail restoration, brush removal, gardening, fence installation and painting. Following volunteer efforts, a Signs of Spring Scavenger Hunt will take place so volunteers can explore and enjoy the grounds on their own. Snacks and beverages will be provided.



Spring Fling and Silent Auction

Sunday, May 6, 2 pm to 4 pm

This is a special membership event featuring delectable sweets, delightful sounds, and for the first time, a silent auction! Join our extended membership family to celebrate spring at the Boston Nature Center and bid on some spectacular auction items that include a behind the scenes tour of the Franklin Park Zoo, event tickets and gift certificates to local stores and restaurants! Come and celebrate spring! \$10 suggested donation.



Birds & Bards Festival

Friday, June 1 through Sunday, June 3

Co-sponsored with the Franklin Park Coalition, Forest Hills Educational Trust, Olmsted National Historic Site and Zoo New England.

This exciting weekend festival will feature various fun activities at three of Boston's premier green spaces: Franklin Park, Boston Nature Center and Forest Hills Cemetery. Birds, art, poetry and music will be the focus of this wonderful family outing! Live bird demonstrations and creative bird art installations are a few of the events that will take place over the course of this late spring weekend. Bring your entire family to enjoy the outdoors, poetry and of course, birds!

Nearly all activities are free and will take place rain or shine. Please call for more information!

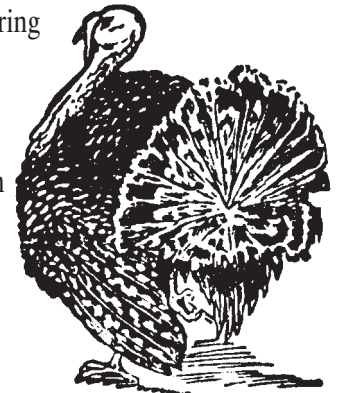


Bird-A-Thon 2007

Friday, May 18, 6 pm
through Saturday, May 19, 6 pm.

Over the course of 24 hours, hundreds of people from around the state will join together in a spirited effort to raise money for Mass Audubon Sanctuaries. This is an annual event that raises much-needed funds for conservation and education.

This year, the money raised during Bird-A-Thon will go to help children from surrounding neighborhoods attend BNC summer camps, school vacation week programs, and other urban ecology programs. Remember, you have 24 hours to find as many bird species as possible! This is a free program for all ages.



*So many birds...
...So little time*

For more information about any of these events please contact the Boston Nature Center: