

MENUNKATUCK July 2000

THE NEWSLETTER OF MENUNKATUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY, A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Biodiversity Day 2000

Biodiversity Day 2000 is drawing closer and the town of Madison is about to be invaded! For a 24-hour period beginning at 5 p.m. Friday September 8, over 75 experts and students from all over Connecticut will probe Madison's special places in search of things that live in them. The vast array of organisms that inhabit these places is termed biodiversity. Therefore, this event, sponsored by Menunkatuck Audubon, is called Biodiversity Day 2000.

What affects biodiversity and why is it important?

In general, the physical and chemical characteristics of a place determine the number, variety and interrelationships of its life forms. Water greatly increases the potential for species diversity, so wetlands and intertidal zones are "richer" than rocky outcrops. Since organisms interact with each other and their environment, ecosystems with a great variety of living organisms are usually healthy and possess a high degree of resilience to stress factors such as drought, pollution, insect outbreaks and disease.

Why Madison? Madison is an ideal choice as the site for Biodiversity Day 2000 as it is blessed with a wide variety of ecosystems ranging from saline ocean, intertidal beaches and saltmarshes, to brackish estuaries. Further inland, many fresh-

water wetlands, streams and ponds are dispersed in grasslands and upland forests. Many of these sites lie wholly or partially within publicly owned lands.

Recording the biodiversity of natural ecosystems takes a lot of work by naturalists and assisting volunteers. Participants will include entomologists, botanists, ornithologists, herpetologists, mycologists, phycologists, ichthyologists and mammalogists.

The headquarters for the event will be at Madison's Bauer Park.

The park possesses a number of the ecosystems to be studied and is already the site of considerable activity in the areas of environmental education and conservation.

How will the information be used? This is the first time for such a detailed survey in the

Connecticut shoreline area. The findings, which will be published, will provide the raw material for an evaluation of the health and vitality of our principal ecosystems (and our own health?). They will serve as a benchmark against which future changes, both positive and negative, can be measured. Results will be of particular interest to the land trust, land use planners, schools and other environmental organizations.

Organizations that have pledged to help underwrite the event include
(See *Biodiversity Day*, Page 2.)



INSIDE...

Ride the Carousel
Page 2

Open Space
Page 3

Membership Form
Page 3

MENUNKATUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY

is a chapter of National Audubon Society. The newsletter is published bi-monthly by Menunkatuck Audubon Society.

Mailing address:

MENUNKATUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY
PO Box 214
GUILFORD, CT 06437

- President:**.....Henry Ferris
.....(245-4397)
Vice-President:Dorothy Holabird
Treasurer:.....Brad Garber
Recording Secretary:Catherine Ferguson
Corresponding Secretary:Cindi Kobak
Directors:Chuck Annicelli,
Dan Cinotti, Pauline Garber,
David Houston, George Lemieux,
Shirley McCarthy, Connie Mortensen,
Dennis Riordan
Program:.....Jerry Connolly
Wildlife/Conservation:.....David Houston
Connecticut Amphibian Monitoring:Gary Cline
Publicity:Barbara Nugent
Education:.....Cindi Kobak
.....Dorothy Holabird
.....Dotty Young
Membership:.....
Town Reps
Branford:.....Lisa Santacrocce
East Haven:Mary Quinlan
Guilford:.....Linda Anderson
Madison:.....David Houston
Newsletter:Dennis Riordan
.....(387-2167)
Webmaster:.....Brad Garber
E-mail:
.....menunkatuckas@snet.net

Biodiversity Day 2000

(Continued from Page 1.)
United Illuminating (Earth Partner Grant), the Audubon Council of Connecticut, the Madison Garden Club, the Madison Land Conservation Trust, and Lenny and Joe's Fish Tale. Guides from the Madison Land Conservation Trust will shepherd teams to particular sites. Madison

Public Television and the Coastal Camera Club will cover the event. Check our calendar of evening programs in a future newsletter for the date of a special slide presentation on our Biodiversity Day 2000. In the meantime, wish for pleasant weather on September 8 and 9!

Ride the Carousel

Friday, August 4, is Menunkatuck Audubon Day at Lenny and Joe's Fishtail Carousel.

All proceeds from the \$1.00 ride will go to support Biodiversity Day 2000.

Treat yourself to a meal!
Treat the kids to a ride!
And help Menunkatuck all at once!

The Flying Horse Carousel is at Lenny and Joe's Fishtail Restaurant, 86 Boston Post Road, Madison, just past Hammonasset, and is open from noon to 8:30 p.m.

See you there!

Menunkatuck Audubon Society is committed to work locally to preserve our natural ecosystems for the benefit of people and the earth's biodiversity. Through education and conservation activities within our communities, we raise public awareness of environmental issues and connections to the natural world.

Help Preserve Open Space

Menunkatuck Audubon is sponsoring a drive to preserve Griswold Airport in Madison as open space. This vital 42-acre area is a buffer between the highly productive salt marshes of Hammonasset and development on Route 1. If developed, the airport would seriously degrade the water quality of the marshes that are so beloved by all who enjoy nature in this area.

Please help! Write to Congresswoman DeLauro and tell her of your concern for this critical habitat.

Sample Letter

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Room #436 Cannon House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeLauro:

I strongly support efforts to acquire the Griswold Airport in Madison, Connecticut, to be added to the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. This will provide vital open space on Long Island Sound and help protect valuable salt marshes at Hammonasset Beach State Park.

I hope you will work to add the Griswold Airport to McKinney NWR.

Thank you.

Please remember to add a closing, such as "Sincerely," and your name and address.

**Connecticut
Rare Bird Alerts
(203)254-3665
(860)599-5195**

Menunkatuck on the Web:

www.audubon.org/chapter/ct/mas/



Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

- My check for \$20 is enclosed.
- As a senior citizen or a student, I am eligible to join for only \$15.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.

Send this application and your check to:

National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51005
Boulder CO 80323-1005

LOCAL CHAPTER

Menunkatuck Audubon Society

D63 / 7XCH

Menunkatuck Audubon Society
PO Box 214
Guilford, CT 06437

Non-Profit Org
US POSTAGE
PAID
Guilford, CT
Permit No. 22

MENUNKATUCK

July 2000



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

NEXT MEETING

*Wednesday, September 13, 2000
7:30 PM
Guilford Community Center
Route 77
Guilford*

*Are you on our mailing list?
If not, send in this form with \$10.00 to cover
costs to be sure that you are informed about
our activities.*

Please add me to your mailing list.
Enclosed is \$10.00 to cover the costs of the
newsletter for one year.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Mail to:

Menunkatuck Audubon Society
PO Box 214
Guilford, CT 06437