



Spring/Summer 2024

Volume LXXXII Issue 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Kindness and Community

After an unfortunate event at one of our parks, I sat down and had a conversation with a police officer concerning the incident. The episode, to say the least, caused me to feel very down and saddened. I wondered what is happening to people and to society in general all around me. "It's not the same out there anymore Mr. Torino," the officer said to me. The comment did not surprise me at all.

Our conversation continued and I sympathized with the tough job the police have nowadays. But then the officer interrupted me and said, "kindness and community Mr. Torino." I fell silent for a few moments. I was not expecting that from a police officer "Nothing will change until we have more kindness and community" the officer added.. I was taken aback to say the least and nearly at a loss for words. Yes I added, you are right, and then almost as a natural reaction I added, "that is what we try to do all the time on our Bergen Audubon bird walks! It is all about kindness, community and of course the birds!" The officer added, "I have heard that about you guys. Thank you for doing that." Thank you again, I said as our talk ended.

After the conversation I had to take a seat, feeling in some way exhausted but also strengthened. Those two simple words held the answers, I thought, and maybe even in some way the future of conservation. I could not help to imagine what our efforts could and would be like if we had more kindness and community, not only in our everyday lives but also when it came to nature and the environment? Would we have to endlessly battle to save wildlife habitat if the conversation started with community before anything else? Would we have to fight and battle for bird safe buildings if, when we sat down at the table, the discussion was about kindness first? I thought maybe we could better protect endangered species? Even save more trees? Stop cutting down milkweed? Or maybe just maybe finally do something about climate change - if we talked more about kindness and community than about politics and power? It is naïve to be sure, but it may be the best argument of all when things are said and done.

To survive and to continue on as an environmentalist there is no choice but to believe in the future. A future that we need to make better for future generations and hold onto the trust that our children and grandchildren might enjoy the birds and butterflies as we did, if not more. When we get there, it will be together and with the profound understanding that community and kindness is what helped get us there and saved not only our environment but the rest of us along with it. **Kindness and Community.**

See you in the Meadowlands,

DON TORINO

BERGEN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY—

Officers, Directors & Committee Chairpersons

PRESIDENT: Don Torino
201-230-4983
VICE PRESIDENT: Marilyn Sadowski
201-9820483
TREASURER: Dave & Nancy Hall
973-226-7825
RECORDING SECRETARY: Patrice Torino
201-414-0534
CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY: Julie McCall
201-639-4647
FIELD TRIPS: Chris Takacs
201-207-0426
BLUE JAY: Nancy Salvati
201-840-0542
PUBLICITY, WEBMASTER: Tzvee Zahavy
201-262-5867
CONSERVATION CHAIR: Karen Nickeson
201-886-1748
EDUCATION: Marie Longo
201-498-0809
LEGISLATION: Dave Hall
973-226-7825
FIELD WORK: Dave Hall
973-226-7825
FUNDRAISING: Peggy O'Neill
201-868-5829
MEMBERSHIP: Joseph Koscielny
201-337-3405

Published quarterly by the Bergen County Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Send articles to PO Box 235, Paramus, NJ 07653-0235 or email editor, Nancy Salvati at nancys@nj.rr.com.

IN THIS EDITION

PROGRAMS, SAVE DATES	Pg. 2
CONSERVATION	Pg. 3
CLEANING YOUR BIRD FEEDERS	Pg. 3
FIELD TRIPS, April-June	Pg. 4
POEM FROM BCAS MEMBER	Pg. 5
FUNDRAISING THANK YOU	Pg. 5
EDUCATION	Pg. 6
SPRING COUNT ON MAY 11	Pg. 7
SPRING FUNDRAISER	Pg. 7
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	Pg. 8

BCAS PROGRAMS – APRIL-JUNE 2024

These programs will be presented on zoom at 7:30pm. Please check www.bergencountyaudubon.org for more updates and info on our speakers, and further descriptions and photos of the event.

April 10, 7:30 pm

The Bahamas to New Jersey Shorebirds' Journey, presented by Todd Pover of Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ.

May 8, 7:30 pm

Life in the Meadowlands, a collection of 35 nature -themed lyric essays written and presented by Don Torino, President of BCAS. Don will talk about the Meadowlands as a native son up to the Meadowlands of today.

June 12, 7:30 pm

The White Tailed Deer presented by Marc Gussen, education director and naturalist of the Closter Nature Center.

**

All programs and events are free and open to the public. We are supported by memberships and donations.

Send program suggestions to Marilyn Sadowski, msadowskicas@gmail.com

BCAS SPECIAL DATES (see Field Trip events for more info)

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, April 22 **Earth Day Celebration at Overpeck Butterfly Garden.**

Saturday, May 11 **32nd Annual Spring Count.**

Sunday, May 19th **Native Plant Day** at Richard DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst

Sunday, June 30- **Overpeck Butterfly Garden Tour, Leonia.**

Sunday, July 21st **15th Annual Butterfly Day** at Richard DeKorte Park

MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS from Joe Koscielny,

Thanks all for your continued support.

If you have moved or changed your e-mail address, or wish to change how you get your copy of the Blue Jay, by mail or e-mail, please let me know at joedadcpa@aol.com so that I can update our membership list.

If you are not getting our regular e-mail updates about upcoming events, field trips, zoom meetings and notifications of any changes, you need to go to our web page <http://www.bergencountyaudubon.org> and click on the **Contact** tab. Select **Email List** and enter your information. **Do nothing if you already get the e-mails.**

Enjoy the Spring migration.

Joe Koscielny, Membership Chair

CONSERVATION Karen Nickeson, Chair

LIGHTS OUT, PLEASE

In February, Flaco, the celebrity Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*), died as a result of an acute traumatic injury in New York City. According to new toxicology findings, anticoagulant rodenticides were a factor in the owl's death. But, international publicity surrounding the demise of the beloved bird highlighted building collisions and the dangers of light pollution, especially for migrating birds. Two pieces of legislation currently in committee in Albany, The Bird Safe Buildings Act and Dark Skies Protection Act, will receive renewed attention due to this notable passing. They offer models of action for all states.

National Audubon has promoted its "Lights Out" program for more than 20 years. The goal of the program is to get property owners, building managers, and local governments to shut off, shield, or dim all unnecessary lighting during spring and fall migration in order to reduce bird-building collisions. <https://www.audubon.org/news/lights-out-across-country>. BCAS encourages its members who live or work in a town that presents lighting hazards to voice their concerns.

One notable local challenge to wildlife safety is the proliferation of large digital billboards presenting constant light projection every day and night of the year.

Recently, a billboard project on the border of Overpeck Park was adopted by the Borough of Leonia for a minimum monthly lease of \$48,000.

Being a sensitive wildlife area, the County would not allow such land usage within Overpeck. But, Leonia will allow such usage, just a few meters away from the Park in the flyway of our Eagles, Owls, waterfowl, and migrating birds. BCAS submitted letters of objection to the proposed project in 2022.

New York's Bird Safe Buildings Act mentioned here is also a model for responsible conservation policy. BCAS advocates for bird safe building construction using non-reflective glass. Although high rise buildings present significant dangers, bird mortality occurs at high rates at the average home. Bird species statistically that are most likely to die by window strike during migration are: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Brown Creeper, Ovenbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Gray Catbird, and Black-and-white Warbler. Please use screening or bird-friendly window treatments. You can find how-to information here: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-can-i-keep-birds-from-hitting-my-windows/>

As we look forward to the approaching migration and nesting season, I'd like to express appreciation to all the monitors and observers who list, document, and photograph our local birds. Thank you for your diligent work.

DEAR BCAS BIRDLIVERS

by Nancy Salvati



Since we are not holding our BCAS Feeder Cleaning Drive, I want to share the tips you'll need to keep our birds safe and disease free. (For example, recently my finch feeder had a whitish film around the inside

bottom of it. I immediately took it down and proceeded to empty and soak in a soapy pot then dunked in a 1-9 bleach solution, e.g. 1 part bleach to 9 parts water).

Some of the more common diseases that birds can spread through feeders include house finch eye disease (the colloquial name for mycoplasmal conjunctivitis, which can infect more than just the bird for which it's named), salmonellosis (caused by salmonella bacteria), aspergillosis (a fungal respiratory disease), and avian pox.

To prevent the spread of illness in the birds that frequent your seed buffet, try these four steps:

1. Clean feeders regularly. Rinse the feeder well with soapy water, then dunk it into a bleach-water solution.

"A monthly cleaning with a nine-to-one water-bleach solution will deter bacteria in plastic, ceramic, and metal feeders. "A dilute vinegar solution (three-to-one) or non-fragranced biodegradable soap should be used on wood to minimize fading." Dry out the feeder before hanging it back up. Double the frequency of cleaning if you suspect disease a-lurking.

2. Tidy below the feeder. This can mean raking or shoveling up feces and hulls (seed casings)—particularly those that are moldy, wet, or spoiled—and throwing them out. "Bird food scattered on the ground also can attract rodents."

3. Share the wealth. Spread out food among a couple of feeders so there's less opportunity for sick birds to touch and contaminate each other. "Crowding only expedites the spread of disease," the Audubon guide reads, "so give the birds variety and plenty of room."

4. To keep your birdbath fresh, just rinse and scrub it with nine parts water, one part vinegar. Skip the synthetic soaps and cleansers; they can strip the essential oils off of bird feathers. And make sure to refill the water every other day to keep it from bugging up.

Thanks for the bird love!

BCAS FIELD TRIPS - MAY-JULY 2024

All field trips are rain OR shine. For additional information or to make suggestions for field trips, please contact Field Chair, **Chris Takacs at 201-207-0426 or americanchris22@gmail.com**. For a complete list of directions to field trip sites please visit www.bergencountyadubon.org. Where not noted -Don Torino info: greatauk4@gmail.com (201) 230-4983.

May 1 (Wed.) 10AM. Borg's Woods, Hackensack. Meet on Allen Street entrance. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com (201) 230-4983

May 4 (Sat.) 8:30AM. Eight Acre Woods Spring Bird Walk, Hawthorne. Park in the Boys & Girls Club parking lot. Contact: Liana Romano liana.romano@hotmail.com (201) 675-2427

May 4 (Sat.) 1PM. Wawayanda State Park, 885 Warwick Turnpike, Hewitt. Bald Eagle lecture presented by Don Torino. Meet at the beach area near the bath house. Bring a chair or blanket. Contact: Don Torino .

May 5 (Sun.) 10AM. Richard DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com (201) 230-4983

May 11 (Sat.) **All day Annual BCAS Spring Count** Participants needed. Contact: Dave Hall david.hall@einsteinmed.edu (973) 226-7825

May 12 (Sun.) 8AM. Mother's Day Walk at Garret Mountain Reservation, Woodland Park. Meet in the three tiered parking lot, entrance off of Mountain Avenue. Contact: Chris Takacs americanchris22@gmail.com (201) 207-0426

May 12 (Sun.) 10AM. Mother's Day Walk at Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck. Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com

May 15 (Wed.) 9AM. Halifax Road/Lake Henry, Mahwah. Park at Continental Soldiers Park. Contact: Chris Takacs americanchris22@gmail.com (201) 207-0426

May 19 (Sun.) 10AM-2PM. **Native Plant Day** at Richard DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst. Plant walks and talks, information tables. Don Torino will present: *Attracting Hummingbirds to Your Garden* in the auditorium. Rain date Sunday June 2. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com (201) 230-4983

May 22 (Wed.) 10AM. Losen Slote Creek Park, Little Ferry. Trails may be muddy, boots are highly recommended. Park and meet in the parking lot adjacent to the soccer field. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com (201) 230-4983

May 26 (Sun.) 10AM. Frank Chapman Trail, Teaneck. Park and meet in the parking lot on the corner of Riverview Avenue and River Road. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com

May 29 (Wed.) 10AM. Van Buskirk Island County Park, Oradell. Park in the lot on Elm Street (across from the waterworks). Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com

June 1 (Sat.) 11AM. Ringwood Public Library, Ringwood. Don Torino will present: **Creating a Certified Wildlife Garden**. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com

June 5 (Wed.) 10AM. New Milford Woods, New Milford. Meet in the New Milford Swim Club parking lot, 160 Trotta Drive. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com

June 7 (Fri.) 10AM. Celery Farm, Allendale. Park at the end of Green Way, meet inside the entrance of the preserve. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com

June 9 (Sun.) 10AM. Annual Bluebird Walk at the New Jersey Botanical Garden, Ringwood. Meet by the carriage house. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com (201) 230-4983

June 12 (Wed.) 10AM. Frank Chapman Birthday Walk along the Frank Chapman Trail, Teaneck. Park and meet in the parking lot on the corner of Riverview Avenue and River Road. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com

June 16 (Sun.) 10AM. Father's Day Walk at Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck. Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com

June 20 (Thurs.) 10AM. Summer Solstice Walk at Mill Creek Marsh, Secaucus. Park behind Bob's Furniture Store. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com

June 30 (Sun.) 10AM-1PM. **Overpeck Butterfly Garden Tour, Leonia**. Park in the lot adjacent to the equestrian center parking lot. Walk to the dirt road and follow the signs to the butterfly garden. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com

July 6 (Sat.) 10AM. Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck. Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com

July 7 (Sun.) 10AM. Native Plant and Butterfly Walk at Richard DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst. Contact: Don Torino

July 14 (Sun.) 1PM. Butterfly Walk at the New Jersey Botanical Garden, Ringwood. Meet by the carriage house. Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com (201) 230-4983.

Continued on pg. 5

Field Trips Continued

July 17 (Wed.) 10AM. Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck. Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way.
Contact: Don Torino greaauk4@gmail.com (201) 230-4983

July 21 (Sun.) 10AM-3PM. **15th Annual Butterfly Day** at Richard DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst. Butterfly walks and talks, information tables, educational kid's activities, music.
Rain date Sunday, July 28.
Contact: Don Torino greaauk4@gmail.com (201) 230-4983

July 24 (Wed.) 6:30PM. Richard DeKorte Park Evening Walk, Lyndhurst. Contact: Don Torino greaauk4@gmail.com (201) 230-4983

July 31 (10AM). Frank Chapman Trail, Teaneck. Park and meet in the parking lot on the corner of Riverview Avenue and River Road.
Contact: Don Torino greaauk4@gmail.com (201) 230-4983

##

Poem submitted by Kay Fialkoff

December 8-12, 2023 Saddle River Pathway 2.7

A Forest Walk

A small, shiny button
caught my eye
on a forest walk today.

It was nestled in moss that
spread like lace
across a log.

Stepping over fallen leaves
and dried wildflowers,
I approached the timber.

A tiny mushroom
no bigger than a fingertip
glowed in filtered sunlight.

A spark of inner joy
touched my heart
in silent song.

*Come again, come again.
There's a smile
on your lips.*

FUNDRAISING 2024

PEGGY O'NEILL, CHAIR

BCAS is once again grateful for its generous members. Your donations allow us to be so pro-active in all our efforts to help our native wildlife. Thank you for your generosity.

Memorial Donations:

In memory of Gerry Byrne by Harry Byrne.	\$250.00
for Drew Sohi by Anna Kurtz.	\$ 50.00
Network for Good (Year end Appeal).	\$3,058.23

General Donations- AOL GIVING FOUNDATION, BLACKBOUND GIVING FUND, BUCKLEY WIRTSHAPTER GIVING FUND. DENNIS BUTTACAVOLI, ROSEMARYCAULK/JOHN TROSKY, DONNA DANGLER, KEVIN DOLCE, WENDY FABRIEZO, CARL HAGELIN/ JOAN HESSING , MARIANNE HERRMANN ,JAMES LE MAIRE, LINLEY MAHON, MONICA MALEY, NETWORK FOR GOOD, BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD, REBECCA PIGONELLI, NOELIE SIONG, KARL SOEHNLEIN.

Total	\$1,052.91.
Grand Total	\$4,411.14

Any mistakes will be corrected in next newsletter.

EDUCATION

MARIE LONGO, Chair

Certified Wildlife Garden Program-our latest addition is number 228 and located in Wyckoff at Russell Farms Community Park, welcome! These gardens create stepping stones for wildlife in between areas devoid of habitat and are crucial for their survival. Applications and additional information may be found on our website, bergencountyaudubon.org/cwgf/. Certify your garden today!

Audubon Adventures-the new titles have been released. Bergen County Audubon Society proudly sponsors the kits to schools, nature centers and groups in our area free of charge. New titles for the classroom kits are:

- * Bird Migration Explorer: Interactive Maps/STEM-contains 2 student magazines and migration explorer.
- * Birds of a Feather, vol. 1-contains 3 student magazines.
- * Bird of a Feather, vol. 2-contains 3 student magazines.
- * Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees-contains 3 student magazines.

Each classroom kit contains enough materials for 32 students. Homeschool kit contains enough for 1 student. Nature news packets are also available and contain enough materials for 32 students but are topic specific.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit our website bergencountyaudubon.org/audubon-adventures/ and/or audubonadventures.org. If you are interested in ordering, contact Marie Longo MLongo8383@aol.com.

27th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count Final Numbers



If you would like to view results for a specific location, visit ebird and sort by location and date(s). Thank you to all who participated!! See photo (l).

Mark your calendars for the next count, taking

place February 14-17, 2025.

- 7,920 species of birds identified
- 210 countries or subregions
- 384,416 eBird checklists
- 313,874 Merlin Bird IDs (step-by-step, sound, or photo)
- 164,740 photos, videos, and sounds added to Macaulay Library
- 642,003 estimated global participants
- 385 reported community events.

Devastating News for The Beloved Monarch Butterfly

The overwintering Monarch numbers are in from Mexico and

the news is devastating. The Monarch populations are in a 59% decline as compared to the previous year which had already been low.

Can it be that the incredible migratory journey of this beautiful ambassador of all insects will soon be gone forever? What will it take for this iconic butterfly to be protected and listed as an endangered species? The Monarchs left the sanctuaries in Mexico three weeks earlier than they normally do. What will they find as they make their journey north? What can we do to help?

Yes, we must continue to plant host and nectar sources, especially late blooming natives that Monarchs need during their fall migratory journey, eliminate/limit pesticide/herbicide use, create new habitat where possible and encourage others to do the same. Spread the word to friends, family and neighbors. Contact your town officials and explain the importance of planting native plants, especially milkweed. Help establish a school butterfly/pollinator started, not only will it help wildlife, but it will also become an outdoor classroom where the students can learn and care about the creatures in their environments.

There are also other ways we can help. Participating in a citizen science project is crucial right now. The butterfly observations need to be reported so that scientists and researchers know where their populations are and where they are not, every Monarch butterfly matters at this point. There are many projects to participate in and we are being asked to take part. Here are some that may be of interest, listed from easy to a bit more challenging. The first two projects I'm listing require nothing more than your time and effort.

Easy and most important-

Journey North-journeynorth.org Report your sightings.
Monarch Calendar Project-monarchwatch.org/calendar Report your sightings.

Challenging- Monitoring Larval Populations, Habitat, and Disease-

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project-monarchparasite.org- This project requires a bit of skill and you will have to pay for postage to return your samples.
Monarchwatch.org/tagging/- This project requires a bit of skill and you will have to purchase a net and tags.

Overall, insects are in decline due to pesticide use, habitat loss, climate change and invasive species. Birds depend on insects to feed their young and themselves. We must be reminded that everything is all connected in nature and when one thing begins to go awry the rest will soon follow.

The Monarch is the canary in the coal mine if you will and is telling us it's time to act before it's too late.

BCAS Spring Count Bird-watchers 2024 Wanted!

Please volunteer for the 32nd Annual "Spring Count". It will be held Saturday, May 11, rain or shine.



Similar to last year, we invite participants to view birds in your local park, your yard, or in one of the larger natural areas in Northern New Jersey, such as Garret Mountain, Oradell Reservoir, Teaneck Creek, DeKorte Park, Losen Slote, or the Celery Farm. But we would also love to send people to other promising habitats such as Mahwah/Ramapo, Van Saun Park, Tenaflly Nature Center, the Hudson River shoreline, or even further afield. The goal is not only to identify as many bird species as possible, but to estimate the number of birds per species that you have found in your territory. This event will also be the basis for our Spring Fundraiser, which is shown below.

Invite a friend to join you. Tell me in advance (by email, please) where you plan to be birding, and I may be able to match you with other birders with the same goal. If you send an email in advance, of the event, I can also share a report form to record your birds.

After May 11, please send back your findings to **Dave Hall** (973 226-7825; david.hall@einsteinmed.edu), including a clear account of where you were birding.

May brings us a wonderful selection of birdlife, and this event can be a fun way to practice your bird identification skills. The more the merrier!

DAVE HALL

BCAS SPRING FUNDRAISER - SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

Pledge your support for BCAS and all the conservation and education projects by sending in this form or using our website.



You may pledge "X" amount per species and your donation will be multiplied by the total number of species seen on that day, or you can pledge/donate a fixed amount. Your donation is fully tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to Bergen County Audubon Society.

1. Mail form/check to BCAS Spring Fundraiser
P.O. Box 235
Paramus, NJ 07653-0235 or
2. Use the donate button at www.bergencountyaudubon.org.

We appreciate any donation you can make and if your financial situation is limited we appreciate that too, but hope you can still go birding and help with the data collection and enjoy the spring migration .

Pledge- per species amount \$ _____

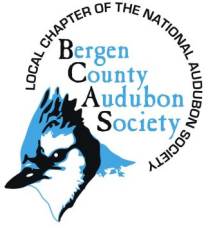
or check amount \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Tel # _____ Email _____

Contact Peggy O'Neill, Chair at (201)868-5829 if you have questions.



**BERGEN COUNTY
AUDUBON SOCIETY
A CHAPTER OF THE
NATIONAL AUDUBON
SOCIETY
P.O. Box 235
Paramus, NJ 07653-0235**

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 28
Hackensack, NJ

**Dated Material
APRIL 2024**

As Members of Bergen County Audubon Society, we share a love for birds and a concern for the environment. Our mission is to promote and protect wildlife in their natural habitat by providing opportunities for observation and conservation.

All field trips and programs are open to the public and free of charge.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2024

Please enroll me as a member of the Bergen Audubon Society and/or the National Audubon Society. My check is enclosed for:

Chapter Sustaining Member. \$20.00 - Single or \$35.00 for Family Membership. All funds stay in our area, helping us to support local efforts and provide services in Bergen County. Make check payable to Bergen County Audubon.

\$20.00 - National Audubon Society Member. (1st year rate for new NAS members only). Includes Chapter membership. Make check payable to National Audubon Society.

Name: _____

Address : _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

E-mail (I would like to be notified of upcoming events online and receive the newsletter electronically.)

Please mail to : BCAS Membership Chair, PO Box 235, Paramus, NJ 07653-0235

Volunteer opportunities in local chapter activities or committees are available. Please circle the following and mail with your subscription or see any officer or chair at one of the meetings.

- Conservation Membership Publicity Field Trips
 Education Newsletter/Website