



Winter/Spring 2018

Volume LXXVI, Issue 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

2018 Is the Year of The Bird!

In the coming year National Audubon Society will be joining with many other conservation organizations to make 2018 "The Year of the Bird". That's because not only is it the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a critical piece of legislation that continues to save countless birds' lives, but also because our birds are facing many new and serious threats that were not or could not be envisioned 100 years ago.

While these conservation groups bring attention to our birds on a national level, Bergen County Audubon Society will be contacting our local and County officials throughout the area asking that we all work together to protect and defend our birds.

*We will be asking our elected representatives to be more proactive and work even harder to preserve and protect open space. Habitat is still being lost at an alarming rate and now every acre matters more than ever to the future of migratory birds.

*We will ask that our local and County parks be managed at least in part as bird habitat. By using native plants in place of exotics and installing nest boxes, it will help migratory birds survive their long arduous journey and create a place to rest and raise young.

*We will let developers know that they can do more to create wildlife habitat on their property. They need to use bird-safe building practices by using glass that prevents bird strikes which kill millions of birds each year.

*We need to eliminate pesticides and herbicides not only on public property but also in commercial buildings and our own backyards.

*We will ask homeowners to do their part in protecting birds. We can do more to prevent bird window strikes, protect birds by keeping our cats indoors, and landscape our backyards with native plants.

Studies show that climate change could put half of all U.S. birds on the brink in the coming years. What we do here in the Year of the Bird will be an important part in helping the birds at a time when they are most vulnerable. Bergen County Audubon Society along with our partners will also continue to expand our longstanding efforts to help create and improve bird and wildlife habitat throughout the region. Volunteers will be needed to expand those efforts.

These are only a few ways that we can all help our threatened bird populations. Please join us in the coming year for seminars, nature walks and special events that will focus on making our environment a better place for all in this "Year of the Bird". Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions Greatauk4@gmail.com .

DON TORINO

BERGEN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY—

Officers, Directors & Committee Chairpersons

PRESIDENT: Don Torino
201-230-4983

VICE PRESIDENT: Karen Riede
201-463-0771

TREASURER: Dave & Nancy Hall
973-226-7825

RECORDING SECRETARY: Patrice Torino
201-414-0534

CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY:
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201-207-0426

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201-840-0542

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Alicina Memar 201-747-5651

CONSERVATION CHAIR: Mary Kostus
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EDUCATION: Marie Longo
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973-226-7825

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FUNDRAISING: Peggy O'Neill
201-868-5829

MEMBERSHIP: Joseph Koscielny
201-337-3405

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

Membership Chair Request

It is important that you notify us of any change in your e-mail address and/or mailing address so that you can be kept current on our activities. You can mail your changes to: BCAS Membership Chair, PO Box 235, Paramus, NJ 07653-0235, or e-mail Joe Koscielny at joedadcpa@aol.com

SCHEDULE OF BCAS MONTHLY MEETINGS AND EVENTS - JANUARY-APRIL 2018.

Meetings held at Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Puffin Way, Teaneck.
Programs are free and open to the public.
Business Meeting at 7:30pm. Program at 8pm.

February 21, 2018 (Wed.) – A Paddle Through The Meadowlands by Ron Shields. This presentation will take you on a photographic journey through the Kearny Marsh and the Saw Mill Creek Wildlife Conservation Area during the spring, summer and fall of 2017, and taken from the unique perspective of the kayak. Ron Shields has been photographing the wonders of this area for the past ten years spending most of that time on the water.

March 21, 2018 (Wed.) – Kingsland Overlook Project by Gabrielle Bennett-Meany. The Kingsland Overlook Trail is a six acre side slope of a former landfill located in Richard W. DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst. Areas along the trail have been enhanced with native vegetation beneficial to wildlife. The funding for the project was made possible from Bergen County Audubon Society. Gaby will take us through the process of the project from start to finish. Over the next few years she will monitor the newly planted habitat communities. **Gabrielle Bennett-Meany is a Senior Natural Resource Program Specialist at the New Jersey Sports and Exhibition Authority (NJSEA), and has been employed there for 23 yrs.**

April 18, 2018 (Wed.) - An Incredible Journey: Shorebird Migration by Stephanie Feigin, a wildlife ecologist with Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey. She is responsible for CWF's shorebird project including conservation and research efforts to protect shorebird populations throughout their migratory flyway, including work in Cape Cod, Brazil, Tierra Del Fuego, their Arctic breeding grounds, and here in New Jersey. She is also responsible for the Delaware Bay shorebirds projects, including the restoration of the beach and marsh destroyed by Hurricane Sandy, migratory tracking projects and the banding, resighting and coast wide survey projects. Stephanie has B.S. Ecology & Natural Resources Mgmt. from Rutgers University, 2013.

If you have program ideas or speaker suggestions, contact Karen Riede, 201-463-0771.

21ST ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT on February 16-19, 2018

Join in! Count birds in your backyard, local park, or wherever you spot a bird and submit your observations online.
Visit birdcount.org to learn more,

BCAS will provide instructions on how to participate with an indoor presentation on February 11th @1PM at Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Then, participate in the actual count with us at Teaneck Creek on February 18th at 9:30AM.
See you there!

2018 THE YEAR OF THE BIRD

This year marks the centennial of the passing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. While great strides have been made to protect birds, there is still much more work to be done. Birds face even greater challenges today than they did one hundred years ago. Please join BCAS as we celebrate this remarkable milestone and the Year of the Bird by helping us connect our youth and the public to nature, take part in field trips and citizen science projects, protect and restore habitat and reach out to local, county and state officials so that the next one hundred years will be even better than the first for birds. We can all make a difference for birds whether it be something simple or something more complex.

A great way to help birds is by planting a bird-friendly garden using native plants and having it certified by BCAS. Visit <http://www.bergencountyaudubon.org/cwg/> for an application.

SECOND ANNUAL BCAS TEACHER APPRECIATION AWARD - Know of a teacher who goes above and beyond to connect their students to nature and the environment? Why not nominate them for our Second Annual BCAS Teacher Appreciation Award. Nominations accepted beginning 2/1/18, deadline for nominations 3/31/18, winner announced 4/15/18. The award will presented to the winner at our June chapter meeting on 6/20/18. Please submit nominations to Marie Longo, P.O. Box 235, Paramus, NJ 07653 or MLongo8383@aol.com.

FINDING HOPE IN THE NEW YEAR

MARY KOSTUS, Conservation Chair

I spent some time thinking about what I would write. I thought of how while trying to do the right thing for conservation we do the wrong thing. For example, a tree I had found moths sleeping on in the shade and sun was cut down to the base because it was thought too dangerous for humans and therefore denied a few additional feet for birds to feed and nest in or moths and butterflies to hide behind. Take Dumont's new rule that all driveways had to be paved with impervious surfaces instead of stone. The thought is, unless the driveway is impervious, gas, oil and antifreeze would leak into the immediate ground. Yet with an impervious parking surface, rain will wash the contaminants down the sewers and out to our creeks, rivers and ocean. Or towns like Saddle River that cull coyote while complaining about growing deer populations. Those decisions boggle my mind and give me headaches.

In the end I've decided to think and write about positive things such as:

- * **The structure put up around the methane burner on Disposal road to protect raptors flying by and the volunteers who monitored the results.**
- * **The over 100 backyards certified by BCAS as wildlife and pollinator gardens.**
- * **The protection of the Bald Eagle nest in Ridgefield Park.**
- * **The butterfly gardens and bird gardens maintained by Bergen County Audubon in Teaneck Creek and Overpeck, and other butterfly gardens we support through donations of funds, plants and education at schools like Saddle Brook, nature centers like Flat Rock Brook, Lyndhurst Nature Preserve, Losen Slotte, NJ Botanical Gardens, The New Weiss Center, and many other Butterfly garden projects.**
- * **The revival of The New Weiss Center which Bergen County Audubon is very happy to support as they once again introduce children and the community to conservation and wildlife.**
- * **The Teaneck Weed Warriors who work tirelessly at Teaneck Creek Conservancy.**
- * **The new bird blind that was installed in Merhof Pond.**

It is important to remember that birds would not exist without shelter, trees, insects, native plants, forests, meadows and clean water. Let us continue in the positive path and work together to keep conserving and protecting the local environment.

Echoing Don's thoughts for this year. 2018 is the YEAR OF THE Bird. Happy bird year. Make it a good one.

2018 FIELD TRIPS - WINTER/SPRING FEB.-APRIL 2018

Unless noted, **all field trips are rain OR shine**. For last minute changes due to inclement weather or other conditions, please notify trip leader. For additional information on trip locations, go to www.bergen-county-audubon.org.

To make suggestions for field trips, **please contact Chris Takacs at 201-207-0426 or americanchris22@gmail.com**.

If not noted -Contact Info for Don Torino 201-230-4983 Email: greatauk4@gmail.com.

February 1 (Thurs) 7:00 PM- Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Owl Prowl, come join us as we look and listen for Great-Horned and Screech Owls. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 , greatauk4@gmail.com

February 4 (Sun) 10:00 AM -Richard DeKorte Park. Superbird Sunday. Look for eagles, falcons, cardinals and other wintering birds Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

February 6 (Tues) 9:30 AM -Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Wintering birds, sparrows. Contact: Don Torino

February 18 (Sun) 9:30 AM -Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Great Backyard Bird Count. Contact: Don Torino

February 20 (Tues) 10:00 AM -Mill Creek Point. Ducks, eagles, wintering birds Contact: Don Torino

February 25 (Sun) 1:00 PM New Jersey Botanical Garden, Ringwood Endangered Species: From Exploitation to Conservation (indoor presentation) Meet in the carriage house. Contact: Don Torino

March 1 (Thurs) 8:30 AM, Hatfield Swamp. Wintering birds, bluebirds, rusty blackbirds. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

March 4 (Sun) 10:00 AM- Richard DeKorte Park. Wintering birds. Contact: Don Torino

March 6 (Tues) 9:30 AM -Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Wintering birds, early migrants. Contact: Don Torino

March 10 (Sat) 9:00 AM - Sandy Hook / North Shore. Looking for wintering ducks, shorebirds, waterfowl. Meet at parking lot B. Bring Lunch. Contact: Bill Resotko 732-899-2004 & Peg O'Neill, omargarito@aol.com 201-868-5829.

March 11 (Sun) 10:00 AM -Richard DeKorte Park. Birding for beginners. Registration required. Contact: Don Torino

March 15 (Thurs) 8:30 AM, Weequahic Park. Wintering birds, waterfowl, early migrants. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

March 18 (Sun) 9:30 AM -Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Early migrants, wintering birds. Contact: Don Torino

March 20 (Tues) 10:00 AM -Mill Creek Marsh. Waterfowl, wintering birds, spring migrants. Contact: Don Torino

March 24 (Sat) 9:00 AM, Merhof Pond, Little Ferry. Waterfowl and spring migrants. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu.

March 25 (Sun) 1:00 PM - New Jersey Botanical Garden, Ringwood Attracting Hummingbirds. (indoor presentation). Meet in the carriage house. Contact: Don Torino

April 1 (Sun) 10:00 AM - Harrier Meadow. Spring Migrants, raptors. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983

April 3 (Tues) 9:30 AM -Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Spring migrants. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983

April 8 (Sun) 1:00 PM- Birding for Beginners at NJ Botanical Garden in Ringwood. Meet in the Carriage House. Contact: Don Torino

April 15 (Sun) 9:30 AM -Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Spring migrants. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983

April 17 (Tues) 10:00 AM- Losen Slote Creek Park. Spring migrants, warblers. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983

April 22 (Sun) TBA -DeKorte Park. Earth Day, Certified Wildlife Garden Program and walk. Contact: Don Torino.

April 26 (Thurs) 8:30 AM - Branch Brook Park. Spring migrants. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825, David.hall@einstein.yu.edu

April 29 (Sun) 10:00 AM -Teaneck Greenway Walk at Indian Pond. Spring migrants. Contact: Chris Takacs 201-207-0426 americanchris22@gmail.com

April 29 (Sun) 10:00 AM - The New Weis Center, Ringwood. Certified Wildlife Garden Program (indoor presentation) . Contact: Don Torino

WARMTH - THEN COLD – LEADS TO A SUPERB 69TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Following the tough weather faced during the Hackensack-Ridgewood Christmas Bird Count (CBC) of 2016, we approached this season's event with trepidation. Mild fall weather had allowed fair-weather birds to remain in the area, and delayed the arrival of many waterfowl from the north. But a shift to snow and cold weather began in mid-December, and a strong cold wave on Dec 13 prompted large flocks of waterfowl to fly south through our area, but possibly leaving us in the lurch.

As Dec 16 dawned, we were left wondering what could still be found. Much of Bergen County's open water had suddenly frozen, there was an inch of fresh snow covering the frozen ground, and chances for those warm weather friends seemed doubtful. Happily, BCAS birders were not deterred from their appointed rounds, and participation went on as scheduled. Roads were clear, walkways passable, and unlike 2016, we did not face cold rain nor snowfall. There were fewer birds still overhead in migration, but plenty were sitting tight here in Bergen County. The result was an excellent CBC list, as shown on page 7 in this newsletter. The variety of species was better than average, and quite a few rarities were spotted.



A few species escaped detection on Saturday, so got listed only as "Count Period" birds, including an Orange-crowned Warbler in Hawthorne Woods, a Gray Catbird, and an amazing **Blue-headed Vireo** (shown above) in Teaneck Creek. *Photos courtesy of Joe Koscielny*



However, we still racked up some highlights in our 69th annual CBC.

The **American Bittern** found at Mehrhof Pond on Dec 2 was still present on Dec 16, lurking along the warm waters of the BCUA outfall. Just a few yards away on the shore of the Hackensack River was a Nelson's Sparrow lurking in tall grass, a first ever for the count. Just offshore in the river was a Horned Grebe, marking its first appearance since 1987.

Further up Overpeck Creek there were more surprises including two Cackling Geese, a flock of American Pipit, a Woodcock, and a large flock of Wilson's Snipe at (frozen) Skeetkill Marsh.

Further north in our Count Circle there were big numbers of Bald Eagles, and a huge flock of Great Blue Herons roosting in Harrington Park, just above Oradell Reservoir. The Reservoir itself was still mostly open water. Besides the usual mass of Common and Red-breasted Mergansers there, a single Redhead was seen. A few Canvasback were found in the Hudson River. One flock of Snow Geese was seen overhead, heading south. Besides Bald Eagles, the most exciting raptors included 4 Merlin, one Kestrel, and 7 Peregrine Falcon.

I have marked certain species on the main list where birds were found in unusually high or low numbers. As always, I need to offer special thanks to our participants in the field, especially those who scouted in advance, and to many BCAS members who counted the birds at their feeders during that day. Their collective efforts across the Count Circle really paid off.

DAVID HALL

Book Review by Edith Wallace

***The Birdwatcher*, a novel by William Shaw.**

This is a crime story in the police procedural genre. It is set on the Kentish coast of England with flashbacks to Northern Ireland.

Why do I recommend a novel to birders? Because it's a good story, well written and different from other crime stories in that the author sets up parallels in the childhood and adult life of the protagonist. The main character is a birder and policeman. Many of the attributes of good birders are described. There are parallels between birding and police work, i.e. persistence, detail-minded, patience, and observational skills. Shaw does a fine job of showing how a young person gets hooked on birds. Well done, William Shaw! Read this on a day when you cannot get outside. Did the author get it right?

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL HAROLD FEINBERG CONSERVATION AWARD



This award is named in honor of Harold Feinberg, our longtime member and field trip chairman for many years. Harold has been a mentor and an enthusiastic supporter of our endeavors and has always given freely of his expertise with a combination of patience and knowledge that few possess. These unsung heroes have given of themselves with little recognition and often with personal sacrifice. So it is in their honor that we are proud to announce our winners of the 8th Annual “Bergen County Audubon/Harold Feinberg Conservation Award.”

Recipients are shown here from left to right - Don Torino, President BCAS, George Rekakis, Gabrielle Bennett-Meany with Mary Kostus, Conservation Chair.

Gaby is a Senior Natural Resource Program Specialist at the New Jersey Sports and Exhibition Authority (NJSEA), formerly the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission. Her tireless hours transforming DeKorte Park to a pollinator and bird friendly habitat has yielded tremendous results. Gaby had a great idea to bring seeds and native grasses from the landfills to the park. Her office is full of seeds and cuttings for next year's plantings. She is changing the face of Meadowlands habitats .

George Rekakis who is a resident of Teaneck, NJ and serves on the parks and recreation board of Teaneck and is the original Teaneck weed warrior at Teaneck Creek as well as the current manager of the weed warriors. George began at Teaneck Creek over 12 years ago when there were no paths or bridges, bird garden or butterfly garden. George has dedicated his life to restoring native habitat to Teaneck Creek and eliminating invasive species and educating the public. In addition he works a full time job, attends educational seminars and transfers knowledge to the public. Teaneck Creek is known as a hotspot birding area and a gem to hike. TCC would not exist without George.

Other **Awards of Appreciation** were given to **Florence Rutherford** (at left) for her many contributions to BCAS and the community and **Dee DeSantis** (at right) for her willingness to share her great photography from our walks and events with BCAS.



BIG THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS:

BCAS sent out an end of year appeal and the following people generously responded for a total of \$4465.00

CHRISTINE ALBER, HILDEGARD AMPSSLER, JOHN BENNETT, SUSAN BERNKNOFF, ELIZABETH BIGGIO, JANET BLAM, DR. BEN BURTON, HELEN CANTOR, NANCY AND WAI CHIANG, HOLLY COWEN, REGINA COYLE IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER JAMES F. COYLE, DOROTHY DARROW, CYNTHIA DIVEREUX, MARJORIE DORISMUS, THOMAS AND PATRICIA DUEMIG, PAM FERRARI, ANNE FLEISHER, JOHN A. FORBES III, ANTHONY GORDON, LISA AND JOHN HAHN, CAROL ANN HAVENS, PATRICIA HAYNES, RAIME KRISTE IN MEMORY OF DAVID STONE, MARY KOSTUS, LESLIE KRUEGEL, JAMES MACALUSO, MONICA MALEY, ELIZABETH MCDONNELL, JOHN MORAN, JAMES O'LEARY, GEORGE AND JULIE RESKAKIS, LIANA ROMANO, SUSAN ROSS, EDWARD SAGE FOR HIS SISTER ELIZABETH STANTON, SEBRA SAHA, DENNIS SANTELLA, MARTIN AND LINDA STIO, RACHEL STERN, LAURIE STRIEKER, SUSAN TOZZOLI, RITA WARNER, LISA ZENTNER, QIN ZBU

Thank-you very much for all your contributions both financial and participation in our many activities. Come join us and help make a difference **Go Birds !!!**

I apologize for any mistakes and will be happy to correct any errors.

PEGGY O'NEILL, Fundraising

Pied-billed Grebe	1
Horned Grebe	1!!
Dbl-crst. Cormorant	79
American Bittern	1!!
Great Blue Heron	68
Mute Swan	9
Snow Goose	30H
Canada Goose	6448
Cackling Goose	2H
Wood Duck	2L
Green-winged Teal	58
Am. Black Duck	112
Mallard	1069L
Northern Shoveler	49
Gadwall	40
Am. Widgeon	13
Canvasback	2
Redhead	1!!
Ring-neckd Duck	17
Lesser Scaup	85H
Bufflehead	13
Hooded Merganser	246H
Com Merganser	3005
Red-br Merganser	2
Ruddy Duck	1435
Turkey Vulture	27
Black Vulture	15
Bald Eagle	51H
Northern Harrier	1
Sharp-shin. Hawk	7
Cooper's Hawk	11
Red-shldrd. Hawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	40
American Kestrel	1
Merlin	4H
Peregrine Falcon	7H
Wild Turkey	41H
American Coot	13
Killdeer	5
Wilson's Snipe	11H!
Am Woodcock	1
Ring-billed Gull	1794L
Herring Gull	90L
Gr.Bl.-Bckd Gull	16 L
Rock Dove	378
Mourning Dove	511
East. Screech Owl	15
Great-horned Owl	5
Belted Kingfisher	17
Red-bel. Woodpckr	114
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	23H
Downy Woodpecker	104L
Hairy Woodpecker	23
Northern Flicker	18
Pileated Woodpckr	7H
Common Raven	13H

Blue Jay	318
American Crow	3089
Fish Crow	389H
Bl-cap Chickadee	120
Tufted Titmouse	122
White-br Nuthatch	86
Brown Creeper	5
Carolina Wren	31
Winter Wren	4
Golden-crnd Kinglet	56 H
Ruby-crnd Kinglet	7
Hermit Thrush	2
American Robin	75L
Gray Catbird	CP
N. Mockingbird	30
American Pipit	6!!
Eur. Starling	1205
Blue-headed Vireo	CP!!
Orange-cr Warbler	CP!!
Northern Cardinal	157
Ruf-sided Towhee	1
Am Tree Sparrow	9L
Chipping Sparrow	2
Field Sparrow	3
Nelson's Sparrow	1!!
Fox Sparrow	5
Song Sparrow	142
Lincoln Sparrow	2
Swamp Sparrow	1
White-thr Sparrow	427
Dark-eyed Junco	605
Red-wgd Blackbird	48L
Rusty Blackbird	16
Common Grackle	964
House Finch	297
Am. Goldfinch	153L
House Sparrow	324
Monk Parakeet	82

NOTE:

22,942 birds

91 Species plus 3 "Count Period" species.

No Exotics this year

H = High Count, L = Low Count

!! = Unusual species

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



www.bergencountyaudubon.org

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

Dated Material
January 2018

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 2018

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