

New Volume 3 Edition 4
THE RANCOCAS CREEK
ASSOCIATION

The New Creekside News



The "New" Creekside News is an e-newsletter for, about, and by the Rancocas Creek Association - free to all, published quarterly (**January, April, July, October**). The Creekside News was previously distributed weekly (1930's) to all residents free of charge - for the first copy - any additional copies were sold for 2 cents per copy!

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Creekside News October 2019

The Ornithologist Corner

The American Black Duck



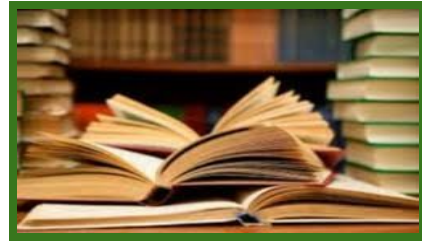
The American Black Duck is a medium-sized dabbling duck with a dark charcoal body. Dabbling is a way of feeding that lets the duck tip forward and reach deeply into the water without actually diving.

Look for white wing linings when they fly (this contrast gives a unique appearance) and an olive or greenish bill. The males and females are very similar; the variations being mainly with the bills - the male has a yellowish bill while the female's bill is dull gray with marks in the upper mandible.

The black duck has bred with the Mallards so much that the pure American Black Ducks numbers are decreasing.

The black duck has a nasal, quacking call - sounding like "whap-whap, whap-whap".

See if you can tell if you have a American Black Duck or a Mallard going "Bottoms Up"!



Ellie's Corner

"To me it is important not to live in a throwaway society...that you respect what came before." Eleanor Gesensway.

The banks of the Rancocas Creek has in its residents a remarkable membership of truly talented and interesting persons. Please enjoy another excerpt from Ellie's book - "An Oral History Project: Life Along the North Branch of the Rancocas Creek between Mount Holly and Smithville, New Jersey".

Matthew Palma lived along the Rancocas almost all his life. His 'first memories of the creek go back to 1933 or 1934". He remembers, at 6 or 7 years old "going across the little footbridge to the boathouse (Kate's Island Boathouse) when it was only 2 ft wide. He enjoyed fishing growing up.

Mr. Palma spoke of the 'crowd from Philadelphia General Hospital...that would rent anywhere from 2 to 5 canoes" when their shifts were done - at night! "They tipped one canoe over and (he) charged them \$7...they tipped another and (he) charged them 2 more dollars. After that, they didn't tip any more canoes over!"

Mr. Palma loved to canoe, "of course, there's no motor-powered boats allowed on the creek, but I'm even against these

electric motors on the canoes even though they're harmless. Memorial Day starts the season on the creek for the city people, but the best canoeing is ... September... and (October). In the wintertime, you can look across the banks and see right straight through the woods".

Franklin's had a rental as well as Hack's. "Hack's canoes were all olive green and grey. But all Franklin's boats were decorated". "We had the 'Duck' boat...with a pair of wood ducks painted on the bow on either side... there was also ... 'Mermaid' canoe, 'Pond Lily', 'Morning Glory', 'Wildfire', 'Cardinal' and others".

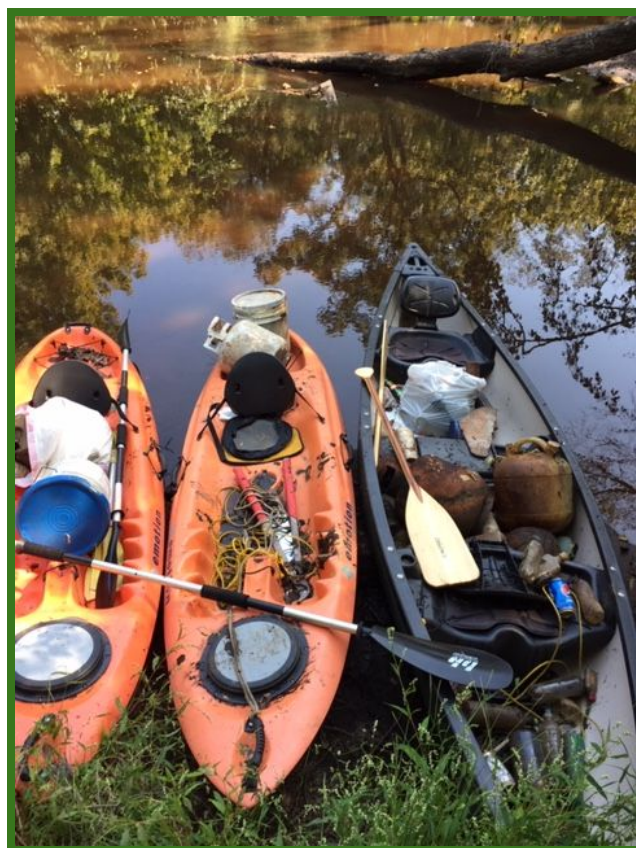
There was a canoe carnival in Mount Holly every year at Mill Dam. "...it was beautiful the way they used to decorate the canoes. Sometimes they would hook them up in tandem, two together, and they had floats".

"It seems to me one of the first meetings the Rancocas Creek Association ever held was held in the boathouse years and years ago. I remember Franklin (Kates) saying, 'I don't want none of you kids down here tonight because I'm having an important meeting".

Mr. Palma shared our sentiments about the beauty of our neighborhood - 'The reason I spent a lot of time down here is that it is just as pretty here in the winter as it is in the spring and the summer. You come down here and it's so quiet. You see things. You can see a rabbit running around or a squirrel or a pheasant. I used to walk all around the tract here and then go up to Paducah and walk all around and come back. I'd go down the railroad tracks and come back. There was nobody down here then".

2019 RCA Creek Clean-up & Picnic

The 2019 Clean-up was held on Sunday, October 22nd, led by Gary Pollak - thank you very much for all the hard work, Gary!



There was lots of trash collected! Large obstacles were identified and those that were manageable were removed.

A very big thank you goes out to Mimi J; Royce J; and Mason D as well as Craig K, Michael G, and Rich A.



This certainly makes the waterways more manageable for the October Fall Float. Thank you in advance to the members that have signed up to man our booth - Claudia McNamara, Tom Greenfield, Richard Astorino, Craig Katz, and Judy Loane.



RCA SUNSHINE

Birthday Greetings and Happy Anniversary to our members celebrating in August, September, and October! Continued good health and happiness to each of you.

Get well wishes to our Co-Secretary *Judy Loane* who is on the mend from a visit to the foot surgeon.

Best of wishes to *Betty Freni* as she continues to rebuild after the stormy summer. A very warm thank you has been

extended to the RCA members that reached out a helping hand to Betty who was a long-time member of RCA.

Phil Joiner is a trooper! He has weathered the storms (pun intended!) with incredible aplomb. Please reach out to him to see if you can assist in any way - he lost just about everything on the lower level of his beautiful home. Good news - bagpipes are safe - do miss hearing them though!

A warm shout out to *Ranger Jacob* who was unable to contribute to this edition and share his vast bird knowledge. Jacob was tormented by Imelda and lost quite a bit in a flood to his home. He has had to temporarily relocate with the dogs and the caique. All the best of wishes to you Ranger Jacob - let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

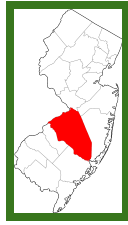


The RCA has a long history. - from 1934! It was originally a "camper's association", formed by families summering along the creek.

This year we are doing a concerted effort to get substantial work efforts going to solidify our beautiful environment. A major endeavor is mapping our beautiful section of the creek. Claudia M and Morgan A have already made great strides in

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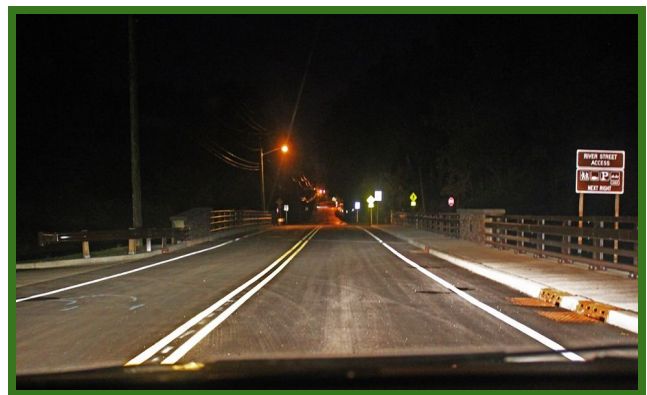
outlining the needed tasks. Updates will follow in our next newsletter!



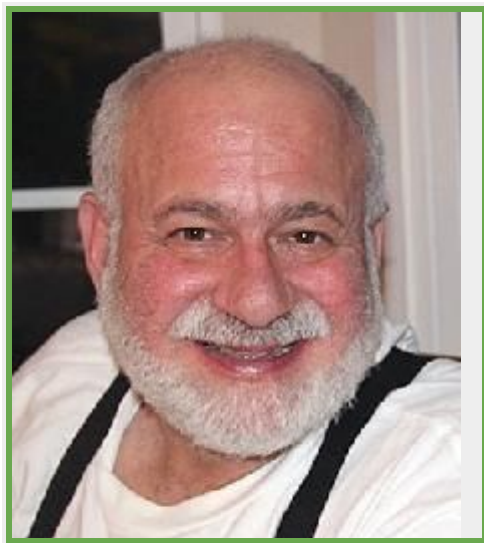
Update on the Smithville Bridge



Woo Hoo! The Smithville Bridge reopened at midnight on July 26th. The Eastampton Fire Company gave it a resounding siren - at a more reasonable hour of 9 am on the 27th - to commemorate the historic event!



Tribute to Long-Standing Friend of RCA Members David A Rubin



David was the third generation owner of Ted Rubin and Son Plumbing and Heating in Lumberton. He was more than our plumber, David had an incredible way about himself that made you simply love him. David passed away Wednesday, April 24, 2019 and he will truly be missed - the smile, the wit, the heart, and of course, the talent. Rest In Peace David.

Do try to go out and support the **Mill Race Theatrical Company** - their next event is The Theater of Fear!!!



Be amazed and share in the most sensational event of the Halloween season with Theater of Fear, a new original show developed by The Mill Race Theatrical Company exclusively for their immersive Mount Holly theater. Featuring wrap-around scenery, virtual projections, and environmental effects, the audience will be right in the middle of three hair-raising stories:

- See love turned to terror in The Lighthouse Keepers!
- Behold the world-class excitement of Doctor Stubs the Amazing Chainsaw Magician!
- Question your sanity as Tillinghast's machine summons eldritch creatures From Beyond!

See you there!! BOO!

The RCA is a non-profit organization.

Tax deductible donations may be forwarded to RCA at 36 West Railroad Avenue, Eastampton NJ 08060;

OR you may donate through Facebook;

OR you may identify Rancocas Creek Association as your charity of choice when purchasing through **Amazon Smile** (smile.amazon.com). RCA will receive 0.5% of your purchase courtesy of the vendor.

So many options!



We are looking for GRANT WRITERS!!!

Anyone love to play on FaceBook?

Please let the President know if you would be willing and able to volunteer your time - thank you!

We are Walking!

Claudia McNamara and Bill Bolger have been diligently walking along Hand Lane, Shreve Street, and West Railroad Avenue collecting trash. Thank you for your dedication to keeping our little bit of paradise clean!

Should anyone wish to join in their walks, please contact Claudia - bring your trash-bags and complete your pre-walk tick prevention routine!

The Mount Holly Farmers Market



Thursday, June 13th was the opening day of the Mount Holly Farmers Market at the corner of Washington and High Streets. It is just across from the entrance to the Mill Race Shops, in the heart of Mount Holly's active and charming downtown. Come and support this new venture and purchase Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables, pastured heirloom beef, pork, chicken, and eggs, bedding plants, hanging baskets, cut flowers, local honey and cheese. It will even be a place to pick up your locally

caught seafood by advance order. All that goodness plus live music, hand-made crafts and art, cooking demonstrations by Rowan College at Burlington County, coffee roasters, the list goes on.

The Market is open Thursdays from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm until October 10, 2019.

See you there!



2019 Meeting Schedule

10:30 am - refreshments

11:00 am - meeting

Noon - adjourn

Sunday, October 13 Potluck -
McNamara

Sunday, December 15 Gala -
Harkaway/Grace

Our guest for the October Potluck is Michael Van Clef, Ph.D.

Stewardship Director, Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space

Program Director, New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team

Principal, Ecological Solutions, LLC.

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He will be speaking about common invasive plants in our area and how to tackle them.

You may visit their website at: <https://www.fohvos.info/invasive-species-strike-team/>

Dues



Dues remain at \$20 per household! Please forward your dues to our Treasurer, Tom Kempton.

You may mail them to the RCA at 36 West Railroad Avenue, Eastampton NJ 08060.

Our Newsletter

Anyone interested in writing an article for our newsletter, or have news that they would like to share, should contact Sharon Astorino, Teri Montgomery, or Claudia McNamara. You may use our personal emails or our WebMaster will forward mail to us that is sent to Rancocas@gmail.com.

For those of you who read this newsletter and are not members of the RCA, we would like to tell you what it is! The Rancocas Creek Association is resident's association for people who live on or near the Creek between the Smithville Spillway and the Mount Holly

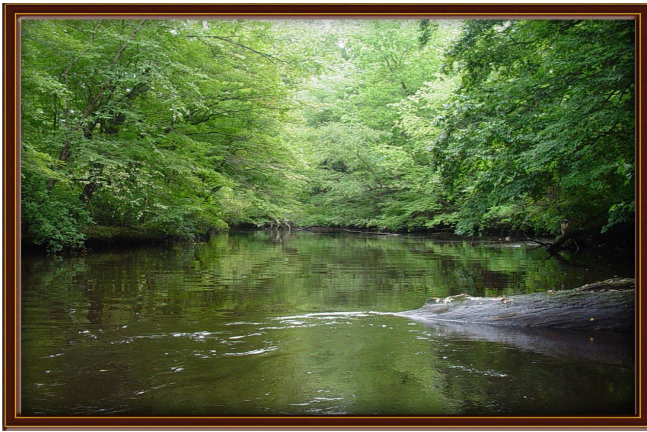
Dam. We are a non-profit organization. Although RCA is not primarily an environmental organization, our location and relationship to the Creek means that many issues that we take up on behalf of residents have to do with preserving the quality of the environment and ecology of the Creek.

We welcome new members!

The more subscribed members we have, the stronger our voice to protect our environment and neighborhood and the quality of all lives along it. Dues are \$20 per year per household - not a high price to support an association that looks out for our small community and is also a source of information about local activities and development. So come on in! Join up and be part of this not-for-profit neighborhood association!

To join, simply mail your dues along with your name, address, email and telephone number to RCA at 36 West Railroad Avenue, Eastampton NJ 08060. We look forward to hearing from you and working together for a beautiful, clean creek!

Like us on Facebook!



President: Sharon Astorino
Vice President: Richard Astorino
Secretaries: Judy Loane
Claudia McNamara
Treasurer: Tom Kempton
Parliamentarian: Kerry Sharps
Editors: Sharon Astorino
Claudia McNamara
Teri Montgomery
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