

New Volume 4 Edition 3
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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The Ornithologist Corner
Jacob Poinsett
Audubon Society

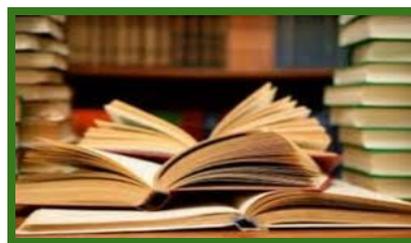


Eastern Phoebe

The Eastern Phoebe is a small songbird in the tyrant flycatcher family that breeds throughout the state of New Jersey. Found in open woodlands, they hunt insects by patiently waiting on an exposed perch and darting out to catch their prey with pinpoint precision. Their common name "Phoebe" is due to the mnemonics of their call. It sounds like they're saying Phoebe! This ferocious hunter has adapted well to life alongside humans and have been known to create nests made of mud, grass, and hair on manmade structures. Like other tyrant flycatchers, the Eastern Phoebe is very territorial and will chase away birds double its size!



Welcome to our
newest member - Arlene O!

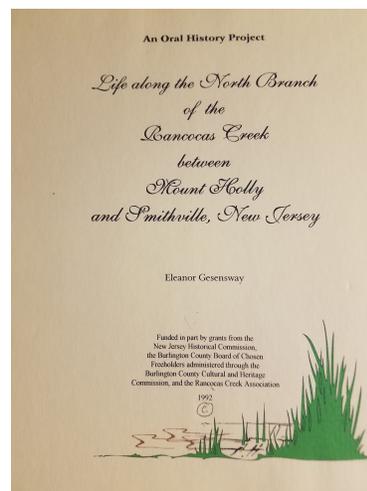


Ellie's Corner

"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".

Excerpts from the interview with Olive Whitehead at "Nallahiwi" Cabin - August 4, 1990.

Olive Whitehead was born and grew up in New England on a farm. She moved to Philadelphia in 1948, and then to Camden shortly thereafter.

Her close friend, Mary Crozer, introduced her to the Rancocas Creek. Suffering from an illness in the 1940's, Crozer's parents wanted her to spend time outdoors and they purchased a canoe from Gimbel's Department Store. The girls enjoyed the

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outdoors and independently sought to purchase along the creek (1951) after 2 years of renting.



Olive, Toby, and Mary

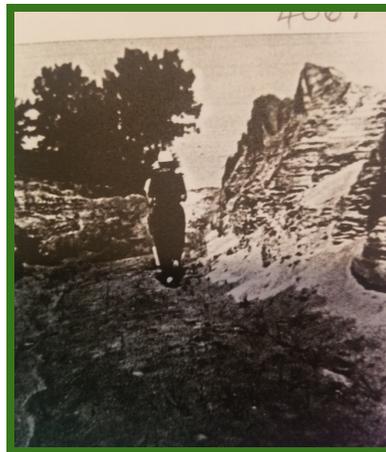
"When we bought in '51, we didn't get the whole lot. (Mr.) Black kept 80' on the downstream side with the intention of putting a place for himself and his family. That never worked out. I think it was in 1953 that he came to us and offered us the rest for a very, very small amount of money. Afterwards he told us he sold it to us too cheap which I think he did! [laughter] When he offered it to us, we didn't hesitate. And we had cash which is what he needed. That's why he put it up for sale."

There was ...'No electricity. No running water. A garden path to the outhouse... we cooked on a kerosene stove...the cabin had no heat." They named their home "Nallahiwi - Lenni Lenape for "Up the Creek".

"It was a weekend retreat away from the heat and the noise and the tensions of our jobs. It provided a place to be outdoors, ...to watch birds,... for canoeing and swimming. ... We stayed here on weekends from May to October. ... We never

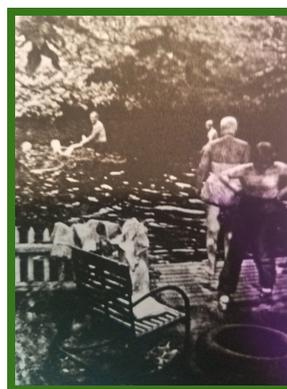
intended it to be a year-round place."

"In those days, the sand pit on the other side of the railroad tracks was a wonderful birding spot. ...The birds we saw ... A blue grosbeak which is a rarity here for example. ...The water that made pools attracted...greater and lesser yellowlegs and the small sandpipers ...some of the larger herons and egrets. It's just a shame. It's all gone now. Every last bit of it."



The Sand Pit - 1961

"Very often there were guests and relatives here. ... We had a lot of family parties too. ... Some seasons we were filled up with company every weekend!"



1956 Swimming Party

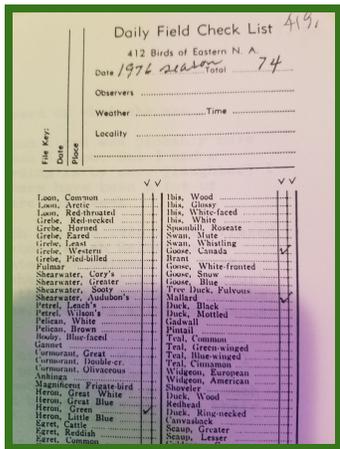
"We had 2 canoes stolen. ... In 1976. ...They were both Old Towns ...both had been recanvassed by the man down at Hack's. "

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One of these was the original canoe purchased by Mary's father back in the '50s.

The creek was at that time around 3' deep. "When the dam at Mt. Holly functioned, it was very nice - say 5' deep. It was easy to swim."

"Mary kept extensive records of our birdwatching. ... She made a list for the Rancocas Creek Association of the birds that we had seen..."



1974 Birding Checklist

"In the past, Hack's Canoe paid to have workmen come up the creek and clean out the trees that had fallen into the creek on account of their business needing to make a good place for canoers. But Hack's canoe is up for sale and they don't have the management that they used to have..."

"The Island Store was not functioning in 1949" ... so we could not go there to get groceries anymore.

"I remember going to at least three concerts" ... put on by the Rancocas Creek Association. "I remember the fairs!" "I hope one of [RCA's] goals is to maintain the creek as a recreational area that we can really enjoy and pass on to posterity. I think that's important."



Thank You to Claudia McNamara and Sharon Astorino for submitting our first grant proposal. Unfortunately, we were not successful; however, that hasn't stopped us! We are working on some fundraising opportunities instead - keep posted!



Native Plants for our Region

Members of the Rancocas Creek Association have shown an interest in Native Plantings for our area; therefore, we have done some research and have included some of the more common natives for your review and perusal.

Here are some annuals/perennials that have been hand-selected by Audubon experts for our region - there are more on their website!

¹ "Native Plants" Audubon, www.audubon.org/native-plants/search?zipcode=08060.

Black-Eyed-Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)



This herbaceous annual grows 1 to 2 feet tall in full sun and moist to dry, well-drained soil. The daisy-like flowers are yellow with a brownish-purple center, and bloom on rough stalks from June to October. It attracts birds for its seeds and pollinating insects for its nectar, and is resistant to browsing by deer.

May attract orioles, waxwings, chickadees, titmice, wood warblers, vireos, and thrushes.

Cardinal-Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)



Cardinal-Flower is a short-lived perennial that grows up to 6 feet tall, and is capable of thriving in standing water or average soil. From mid-summer to fall it produces showy red flowers at the end of terminal spikes that are especially attractive to hummingbirds. This plant can grow in full sun to shade, but its soil must always be kept moist or wet.

May attract wrens, cardinals, grosbeaks, hummingbirds, wood warblers, chickadees, titmice, and blue jays.

Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)



Common Milkweed is a rough, weedy perennial that typically grows 3 to 4 feet tall on stout, upright stems. The plant's most noticeable features are its spherical umbels of fragrant, pink to purple flowers that bloom from June to August. It is drought tolerant, growing in full sun and in a variety of moist soils, including sandy, rocky, clayey, or well-drained loamy soils. Note that the milky sap from this milkweed is poisonous if ingested in large quantities.

May attract finches, woodpeckers, nuthatches, wood warblers, wrens, cardinals, and grosbeaks.

Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)



This erect perennial reaches 2 to 3 feet in height, and produces lavender-blue, tubular flowers that bloom July through October. This plant grows in full sun to shade, and in clay, loam, or sandy soils; it is not drought tolerant, requiring soil that is kept moist or wet. The noticeable flowers are especially attractive to hummingbirds and pollinators such as

bees.

May attract sparrows, vireos, thrushes, wrens, waxwings, nuthatches.

Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)



A herbaceous perennial, it reaches a height of 1 to 3 feet, producing large leaves and a distinctive, hooded, green flower with brown stripes that blooms from March to June. It prefers full sun to partial shade and moist, rich soils. During late summer, this plant bears bright red berries that attract birds and mammals.

May attract woodpeckers, sparrows, finches, chickadees, titmice, crows, blue jays, cardinals, and grosbeaks.

Spotted Beebalm (*Monarda punctata*)



Also called Spotted Horsemint or simply Horsemint, this aromatic perennial grows up to 3 feet tall and attracts pollinators such as bees and butterflies. A central stem produces two or more dense whorls of yellowish, purple-spotted flowers with purplish bracts in the upper portion of each plant. It is drought tolerant, growing in full

sun, and in dry, sandy soils.

May attract thrushes, wrens, mockingbirds, thrashers, waxwings, cardinals, grosbeaks, and woodpeckers.

Woodland Sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*)



This perennial wildflower grows 2 to 6 feet tall, with a smooth central stem that branches where the yellow flower heads occur. These flowers bloom from July to September, attracting birds and butterflies. Woodland Sunflower can withstand a wide variety of soil conditions, but does best in dry to moist, well-drained soils, and in partial shade.

May attract thrushes, crows, blue jays, mockingbirds, thrashers, sparrows, wood warblers, and nuthatches.

There are many more plants to choose from at Audubons' website.

RCA Creek Maintenance

The Rancocas Creek Association is very grateful to our youth volunteers, Mason and Royce, for the diligent work put forth thus far regarding our creek maintenance.

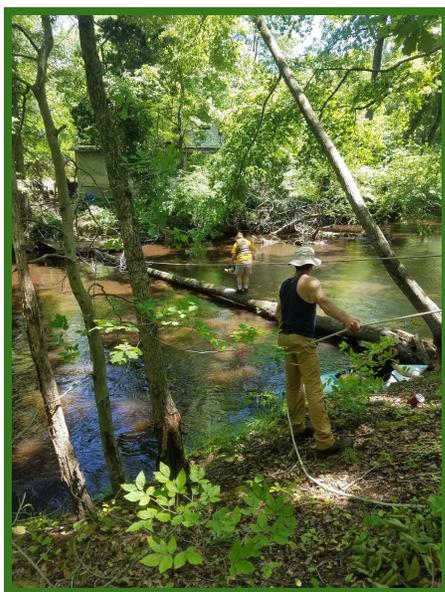
We are paddling along taking pictures of the trees that are blocking paddlers from enjoying our waterway. There are a few tree companies that are providing

estimates for the removal of these trees. We are hoping to have a grant to provide for this project.

From there, we will continue with erosion remediation and addressing invasives.

Assistance of time, talent, and funding is always welcome!

A huge thank you goes out to Arlene, John, and Teri - with little assistance from Sharon - for removing a very long tree that covered the entire width of the creek.



We've also noticed some erratic creek levels. On the Sunday that the tree was cut, the creek level was very high, two days later, it was extremely low. RCA will continue to monitor the levels.



RCA SUNSHINE



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

RCA OUTREACH

The Rancocas Creek Association, in an effort to connect our organization's ideas or endeavors to the public is focusing on educational initiatives in our community.

We are hoping to pick-up again with the July presentation on Natives and Invasives - possibly virtually! Keep posted for any changes.

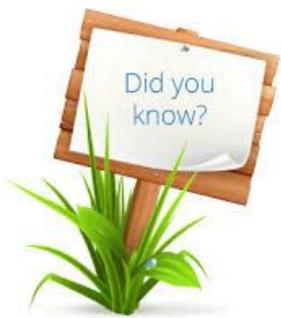
July 21, 2020 - Invasive Plants

August 18, 2020 - Birds of Prey

September 15, 2020 - to be announced

October 20, 2020 - to be announced

Anyone interested in assisting by providing refreshments (unless we stay virtual!), facilitating an educational topic, or locating topics, please contact Sharon.



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 initiatives going to solidify our beautiful environment. A major endeavor is mapping our section of the creek. Claudia and Morgan have already made great strides, with the help of our youth volunteers, in outlining the needed tasks.



Burlington County Virtual History Fun Day

The Rancocas Creek Association participated in this virtual event - check our Facebook page to view the powerpoint.



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](https://www.amazon.com/smile)); **Amazon Smile** now works on your Amazon app! RCA will receive 0.5% of your purchase courtesy of the vendor;

OR you may use PayPal - rancocas@gmail.com is our identifier.

So many options!

RCA GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

The easiest way to help the most people, right from your computer!

Rancocas Paddlers, sponsored by the RCA, has a fundraising page for the **Food Bank of South Jersey**. We are helping to raise funding to help fight hunger in South Jersey. You are invited to join us at <https://donate.foodbanksj.org/team/296015> to help our neighbors. Thank you!



HELP WANTED!!!!

We are looking for GRANT WRITERS!!!

Anyone love to play on FaceBook? Social Media authors are needed!

Enjoy digging through archives? We are looking for someone to go to the library and download old copies of newsletters.

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

Sunday, October 11 Potluck (Elections)
Sunday, November 8 Support-Local Gathering
Sunday, December 13 Winter Gathering

Venue to be finalized.

Dues



Dues remain at \$20 per household! Please forward your dues to our Treasurer, Tom Kempton at 1 Hand Lane, Eastampton NJ 08060.

You may also pay through PayPal (\$20.74) - please email us at Rancocas.org to ensure you are credited with the membership!



2020 Meeting Schedule

10:30 am - refreshments

11:00 am - meeting

Noon - adjourn

Sunday, April 26 - Astorinos (virtual)
Sunday, May 24 - Virtual
Saturday, June 20 - Virtual
Sunday, July 12
Sunday, August 9
Sunday, September 13 (Nominations)

Our Newsletter

Anyone interested in writing an article for our newsletter, or have news that they would like to share, should contact Sharon Astorino or Claudia McNamara at 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 residents' association for people who

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live on or near the Creek between the Smithville Spillway and the Mount Holly Dam, or who enjoy paddling along the creek. 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 Tom Kempton, RCA Treasurer at 1 Hand Lane, Eastampton NJ 08060. We look forward to hearing from you and working together for a beautiful, clean creek!

Like us on Facebook!



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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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Claudia McNamara |
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