

New Volume 2 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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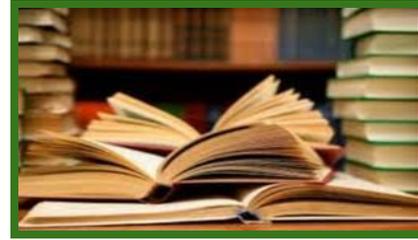
Creekside News October 2018

The Ornithologist Corner

Contributed by Ranger Jacob



Cooler weather, change of foliage, and the time change are all signs that fall has arrived yet again. But autumn also means migration for our avian friends. Many species that breed in the far northeast need to return south for the winter. In New Jersey we are lucky enough to be located along the Atlantic migration flyway, a common migration route many different species rely on for both long and short distance trips. Along with the colorful and musically talented songbirds we all love to spot, a variety of raptors are embarking on their long journey to the tropics. Therefore in the coming months, the abundance of birds will multiply (for a short period of time). Some of the most awe-inspiring are the falcons! The smallest falcon in North America, the American Kestrel, is no larger than a Blue Jay but is as fierce as any predator in the skies. They hunt from forest openings and grassland edges looking for small rodents, snakes, and large insects. We also may spot the Peregrine Falcon, the fastest bird reaching over 230 mph while dive bombing its prey! These long distance migrants can travel over 15,000 miles in a year but some will remain year long residents in New Jersey. So next time you see a soaring raptor this fall, it may be using the creek as a quick pit stop as it continues south, or maybe looking to hunker down before it gets real cold!



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 the second 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". This time about Eleanor Lust, Ms. Lust, as I knew her!

Ms. Lust lived on Gerber Lane - she never felt the need to name her home, which I found interesting as she was such a creative and artistic person. Ms. Lust was a member of the RCA attending meetings once in a while but avidly supporting the objectives.

Ms. Lust was a teacher and lived and taught in Africa for a time. She returned to the US and decided to teach in New Jersey. A friend gave her some information on homes and she "remembers casing Mount Holly and thinking, I really do like it, and took a job as an art teacher at Rancocas Valley Regional High School."

Being an animal lover, Ms. Lust had a collection of pets that cost her her rental in the small Mount Holly town - so she had to look elsewhere for lodging. She was told about this place on the creek and in the quest to keep and provide for her pets, she

drove over and "it was really a shack"! She stated: "I couldn't even describe it as a cottage. It had been built by a farmer by the name of Croshaw.." although that "particular piece of ground had been part of an original grant from Queen Anne" in the 1700's.

Ms. Lust became a special education teacher teaching at Shawnee and then at Lenapi High School.

She had studied art, which was her passion, and taught art in South Africa. She has paintings in a permanent collection in the National Museum of Women Artists in Washington DC and a painting in the museum at Fort Dix.

Ms. Lust and a few friends began an avant garde co-op art gallery in New York 1937-38 - Norlyst Gallery.

Ms. Lust's characterization of our beloved creek: "It's what the American Indians call - closeness to the Great Spirit...You just look outside or you look down at the water and you can't help feeling part of the Great Spirit...I love it..."

If anyone has photos or pictures of or by Eleanor Lust - we would love to share.



Happy Birthday to *Katie Loane* - wishing you an Outstanding October!

Happy Birthday to *Ellie Gesensway and Michael Hayes* - hoping that you have the Nicest of Novembers

Happy Birthday to *Michael Grace and Jodi Mallon* - a Delectable December to each of you!



The RCA has a long history. It was originally a "camper's association", formed by families summering along the creek between Smithville and Mount Holly in the 1930's. Although the creek has undergone many changes since then, the RCA has remained a permanent fixture in the area, working to improve the environment for both the local residents and all who wish to enjoy the Rancocas Creek's natural beauty.

Did you know that the RCA dues have remained the same for many years - and that the \$20 covers the household, not each person, for the year?!

These dues are used for the purchase of items for the RCA and for the promotion of the RCA mission. The latest purchase was yard signs to be placed along the creek to promote our mission during the Burlington County Annual Fall Float.

We meet monthly during the late spring, summer and early fall - rotating meeting

venues.

Membership means differing things to each one of us and the RCA does its best to encourage participation.

We offer fellowship, camaraderie, and goodwill - by rotating the meeting venues, we are able to meet each family and respectfully and civilly share in their ideas for "creek issues". This supports the social aspect of our group with the host/hostess deciding on the "theme" (depending on the month - Halloween, Independence, etc) of their refreshments that they graciously donate with the use of their home.

We offer the ability to share talents. The creek clean-up is one such way to share multiple talents, some are avid craftsmen that are able to wield a weighty chainsaw in the midst of the creek, and enjoy doing that! Others are more comfortable collecting the trash as others divest such from the water. There are others that prefer to offer their cooking talents in providing a feast for the worthy soldiers that return wet and dreary or organizational talents for putting together said feast! The RCA has a place, and a use, for each talent!

For others, the most important function of the RCA is the knowledge that they may glean from its resources. In utilizing speakers, this newsletter, and that camaraderie, we can learn of ways to arm ourselves to fight mosquitos, to shore up banks, to battle with the wildlife, to keep our properties at peak for ourselves.

Whatever it is that you need from the membership, the RCA is willing to work with each to provide - all while remaining dedicated to the improvement, upkeep, and general health of the Rancocas Creek and its banks.

We do look forward to seeing new faces,

and utilizing, and promoting, various talents at our meetings and functions!

Burlington County Parks

made a presentation to the Association at a recent meeting,

John Smith remarked that there are 14.5 miles of creek and canoe trails over which he and his staff have responsibility.

Silting on the creek has been identified as a major issue. The more shallow the water, the faster it runs - adding to the erosion of the banks. This very wet season has made the banks more precarious with the fluctuation of the water levels.

Residents are being asked to pay attention to the rate of erosion on their property. The RCA is planning on having research done on indigenous flora to assist with this project. The issue of destructive bamboo is also being reviewed!

John Smith, Nate Woods, and their crew have been working diligently to clean up as much of the fallen trees as they can prior to the Fall Float. They look forward to reinforcing a partnership with the RCA to keep a steadier handle on the clean-ups for the future.



The RCA is a non-profit organization.

Tax deductible donations may be forwarded to RCA at 249 Shreve Street, Mount Holly NJ 08060.

CALLING ALL DOCK DECORATORS



Cash prizes are being given at the Annual Fall Float this year! RCA and the Burlington County Freeholders are working together to make this another fun-filled event on October 21, 2018 (postponed due to the rains from Hurricane Michael) from 9am to 4pm. Contact Gary Pollak to get your number!! Numbers will be displayed on your RCA yard signs to make identification and voting easy for the paddlers.



We are looking for GRANT WRITERS!!! Anyone able, please let the President know - thank you.



Inclusion.....Diversity.....Opportunity

Breaking Grounds Coffee and Café, a non-profit organization, opened its doors December 1, 2017. It is located at 14 White St, Mount Holly, nestled in the historic Mill Race Village.

Its mission is to provide employment opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities for gainful employment in a supportive and progressive environment. Breaking Grounds serves coffees, teas, sandwiches, bagels, cookies, baked goods, and sells art and seasonal crafts and apparel.

Stop by and sample the delicious wares while interacting with the spectacular staff. We hear that you can get a "Judy" (Loane) there!!



2018 Meeting Schedule

April 22 - Astorino
May 20 - Katz
June 17 - McNamara
July 15 - Barber / Joiner
August 12 - Champion / Pollak
September 9 - Loane
October 7 Potluck - McNamara (to be rescheduled)



*****There will be a Rancocas Creek and Watershed Book-Fair on December 1st at the newly reopened Mount Holly Lyceum*** Volunteers needed to represent RCA.**

Our Newsletter

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

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