

Fall 2021

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see our website at
www.stantonbirdclub.org*****In this issue**Annual Meeting Photos **P.2**Membership Dues **P.2**Thorncrag Nature Week **P.3****The President's Perch***Jeri Maurer, President*

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead American anthropologist

Sometimes, the gifts that cost nothing are the ones that have the greatest value. Such is the case with the gift of time which is what volunteers for the Bird Club have been generously donating for over 100 years.

Next year we will be celebrating one of the most visible symbols of this generosity as we mark the 100th anniversary of Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary. In 1921 the Bird Club, after being active for two years, incorporated to be able to accept the gift of 45 acres from the Anthony family and begin the goal of creating a bird sanctuary. Over those 100 years, many volunteers have given thousands of hours to take care of the sanctuary. For some it was by hands-on activities such as trail maintenance or invasive removal, for others it was by serving on the board or stewardship committee of the Bird Club and helping with decisions made about the land, and for others it was by educating the youth of our communities about the importance of taking care of the natural world.

We have many activities planned to celebrate Thorncrag's Centennial but one of the most important is to erect a monument at the height of land honoring all the volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

You will see a donation envelope in this newsletter which you can use for membership renewal.

THANK YOU!



Monthly Education Meetings still on hold

USM has informed us they are still not able to host our monthly program meetings for now. Please check our website in the new year for an update.



On a misty fall day, over thirty members of the Stanton Bird Club gathered at the Hayward Gazebo for our annual meeting. Our thanks to Pineland Farms, Dunkin Donuts, Hannaford Supermaket, Drillen Ace Hardware, Mandarin Restaurant, and Greco's Pizza for their donations for the day.

In Memory

Over the past several months we lost three valued members of stewardship and the Bird Club: Paul Belisle, David Footer, and Bonnie Soper.

Among the many things Paul did for the Club, was to serve on the board and chair the stewardship committee working to erect the sign at the East Ave entrance as well as overseeing the first team of volunteers who began the work of clearing the Thorncrag Meadow.

David also served on both the board and the stewardship committee, enjoyed teaching woodcraft to youngsters and share his knowledge of the natural world to those who attended Bird Club events.

Bonnie also served on the stewardship committee, led birding trips, but was never happier than when a busload of children visited Thorncrag so she could teach them about nature.



David



Bonnie with children at Oxford Fair



Paul

Thorncrag Nature Week

Whenever the world news overwhelms us with stories of destruction and anger, it is good to be reminded of the joy found in the world as well. That is what was going on when 9 children participated in Thorncrag Nature Week in early August. Ranging in age from 4 years to 11, they all shared one thing in common – their enthusiasm for being outdoors: looking for insects, growing and finding mushrooms (July’s rains led to a great number of fungi), hunting for frogs, learning about bats or watching a hummingbird at the Joe Pye Weed by the Hayward Gazebo.

Our mission statement from 100 years ago includes the statement ‘to inculcate the love of nature and science’. I think those founding members would be happy to know that work is still a vital part of the Stanton Bird Club.



Looking for Insects



Our thanks to Northspore for the donation of mushroom growing kits



Plein Air Days at Thorncrag

As part of Thorncrag Centennial celebration we are planning an art exhibit scheduled for next summer. In preparation for that event, Club member Mike Everett has been hosting a series of plein air days at Thorncrag.



P.O. Box 3172
Lewiston, ME 04243-3172

SAVE THE DATE

Christmas Bird Count December 19th

