

ATLANTIC CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Atlantic Audubon Society
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As Spring reluctantly heads our way, many changes are taking place as Mother Nature's annual renewal program unfolds. In spite of all the nasty things we have done in the past, she keeps renewing the lease.

ELECTIONS: At our meeting on April 23rd, the following officers and directors were elected for the coming year. (President continues for second year of 2 year term.)

Vice-president: Kevin Inman
Secretary: Ruth Stamps
Treasurer: Joseph Delesantro, Jr.
Directors: James Akers, Fred Hamer, Mark Pokras,
Evelyn Baldwin, George Bassett

Congratulations to all- installation will be at the May meeting.

PROGRAM NOTES: The last regular meeting of this year will be May 28.

Program- Archeologic Studies of South Jersey Indians.

Speaker: Dick Regensberg

Time: 8 PM Place: Rm #203, Stockton State College

FIELD TRIPS: May 10: Warbler search. Meet at 7 AM in parking lot at the Brigantine Wildlife Refuge. If you are real eager, Mark Pokras will be there at 6 AM for any early "birds" and in the parking lot again at 7 AM.
June 7: Batsto picnic. Meet in parking lot at Batsto at 10 AM for birding, flowers walks and picnic lunch. Leave whenever you wish.
June 21: Wildflower walk. Leader- Gilbert Cavileer. Meet in parking lot of Port Republic Church at 9 AM.

MEMBERSHIP: In the National Audubon Challenge competition, we were #1 as of March 31 on a percentage basis. We must continue our efforts to get new members between now and June 30 as there are several clubs very close behind us at this point. Keep up the good work. If you need applications, contact Pat Bristow at 641-4670. Remember- that \$1000 can be OURS!!

PRESIDENTS CORNER: I would like to thank all those who have helped to get this organization off to a good start. Please continue your support so that we can continue to grow and to provide more service and educational experiences to our area, as well as to enjoy and learn about this world of ours.

My recent trip to New Orleans to the National Audubon Convention was very informative, and provided me with the opportunity to meet some of the other 300,000+ members who are concerned, and to meet with and talk to the people from the National office. I would highly recommend the experience to anyone who can manage it in the future. Off-shore oil was one of the big topics, and from what we learned the oil drilling per se is the least of the problems. Major impact comes from the pipeline into shore and the on-shore installation for storage and treatment. It appears at this time that we should be involved primarily in looking into the areas of on-shore impact and work to minimize that aspect through coastal zoning, wetlands protection, etc. Failure to control this in the early stages may lead to serious environmental damage. Failure to control flood plain development has also led to many problems

and further efforts are needed along these lines. I strongly urge you to express your views and feelings via letters to our Congressmen, newspapers, and at meetings of other organizations as well as public meetings. The more we can do to convince people of the necessity of caring for our environment the better off we will all be.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: As the new executive board begins planning for the coming year, we would like to have your ideas and suggestions for programs, field trips, and other activities you think would be helpful to members and the general public. We must continue to strengthen and build on what we have so far accomplished. Send same to our mailing address or give to one of the officers or directors. We are also open for suggestions for fund-raising activities.

We have some tentative plans for a couple of programs during the summer for those who will be around. Details will be in the next newsletter.

For those who will be traveling this summer, we have available a copy of a little publication called Nature Guides. This is put out by the Tahoma Audubon Society and provides the names of local guides available in the various areas around the country to help with birding, flowers, etc. If you are interested, this will be available at meetings and field trips. For the 1975 edition, the Atlantic Audubon Society will be listed as the contact for this area- which leads to the final items.

We are trying to establish a list of people who would be available to provide assistance to visitors either by acting as guides or by providing phone information in various areas. If you can help in this regard, please fill in the appropriate section of the last page and return to me.

We are also compiling a list of people who could provide programs or be speakers for various other groups or organizations. This is an excellent way to advance the Audubon name and acquire new members. If you can provide such capability, please provide the necessary information on the last page and return to me.

Thses lists will be made available so that groups that are interested can contact us. Again, your support is needed to make this work.

GENERAL TOPICS:

We strongly urge that you write both senators requesting that they vote against the confirmation of Stanley Hathaway as the new Secretary of the Interior. His record in Wyoming on selling off public lands to private companies, trying to get permission to kill Golden Eagles, and efforts to allow use of various poisons on public land makes him highly suspect as the protector of the environment that he should be in the job at Interior.

Make it a point to attend meetings on these public issues as they develop in this area. Only through providing pressure on elected officials can we hope to maintain some semblance of sanity in this crazy world. As one speaker at the national convention put it, "raise hell and keep the b----- looking over their shoulders.