



## Winter Lecture Series

The Wetlands Institute presents its 2016 **Lunch and Learn** and **Covered Dish Dinner** winter lecture series. These lectures consist of weekly daytime (Lunch and Learn) or monthly evening (Covered Dish Dinner) presentations occurring onsite at The Wetlands Institute. Throughout the series, guest presenters from around the state share presentations and/or programs on a variety of scientific and cultural topics.

Lunch and Learn lectures are held weekly from January 8 to March 25, except on Covered Dish Dinner dates - January 29, February 26 and March 18. Lunch and Learn presentations are held from 11:45am to 1pm and Covered Dish Dinners from 6pm to 7:30pm

Admission for Lunch and Learn lectures is \$3 for Institute members or \$5 for non-members. Attendees are invited to bring their own lunch and The Wetlands Institute provides coffee and dessert.

For more details, please visit our website at [wetlandsinstitute.org](http://wetlandsinstitute.org) or call us at 609-368-1211.

Here is our **Lunch and Learn** lineup:

### **January 8 - Ospreys: Your neighbors at the shore**

Presented by: Ben Wurst, Habitat Program Manager – Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ

Did you know that in 1974 only 50 osprey nests were left in NJ? Today, ospreys are a common sight along the New Jersey shore during the summer. Join us to learn about the life history of ospreys, current monitoring techniques, and their amazing comeback. Ben Wurst, Habitat Program Manager with Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ will share his experience from working to manage this amazing species over the past 10+ years.

### **January 15 - Rising seas: properties, habitats and turtles**

Presented by: John Wnek and Students, Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) Project Terrapin

Estuaries, productive areas along our coastline, will be greatly impacted by rising seas. Join Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) Project Terrapin students for an interactive and hands-on presentation on recent climate change predictions, strategies to protect threatened property and habitat, and what we are facing in terms of rising seas. Learn about a new initiative to enhance nesting habitats for shoreline nesting species, such as the diamondback terrapin and see how local students are developing “turtle gardens” in Central New Jersey along Barnegat Bay.

### **January 22 - Habitat Restoration Following Hurricane Sandy at E.B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge**

Presented by: Marc Virgilio, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

Hurricane Sandy caused significant damage to Refuge infrastructure and highlighted the vulnerability of its degraded coastal properties to severe storm events and sea level rise. Following the impacts of Hurricane Sandy, Edwin B. Forsythe NWR received \$30 million through the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2013. EBFNWR will be conducting a number of projects throughout the Refuge to repair damages and improve the resiliency coastal marshes. This will include repairs to its Headquarters freshwater impoundments (Wildlife Drive), restoration to improve resiliency of Refuge saltmarsh, and the removal of barriers to fish passage to spawning grounds.

### **February 5 - The Cape May Raptor Banding Project**

Presented by: Paul Napier, President – Cape May Raptor Banding Project

Join us to learn about “The Cape May Raptor Banding Project” presented by President Paul Napier. He will include a brief history of the Project, how the Project contributes to science projects, some amazing statistics, and portraits and facts about the many species of raptors banded. There will be lots of great close-up photographs.

*A non-profit organization studying, preserving and protecting wetlands and coastal ecosystems*



### **February 12 - *Tracking New Jersey's American Oystercatchers Through Time and Space***

Presented by: Allison Anholt, Research Scientist – The Wetlands Institute

American Oystercatchers are charismatic shorebirds of New Jersey's beaches and marshes. Despite their conspicuous nature, oystercatchers are clever, migrate far throughout their range, and are impossible to tell apart. By putting on colorful leg bands, we are able to learn an incredible amount about the biology, lifespan, and range-wide movements of individuals and of the species as a whole.

### **February 19 - *Piloting the beneficial re-use of dredged material for salt marsh restoration in Cape May County, NJ***

Presented by: Metthea Yepsen, Coastal Projects Manager – New Jersey Chapter The Nature Conservancy

This presentation will provide insight on the concept of re-using dredged material for salt marsh restoration- the benefits, the challenges, the various techniques- and will present an overview of the pilot restoration projects at Ring Island and the Cape May Wetlands Wildlife Management Area in Avalon. You will hear about how the projects have been designed, what we have learned, and how it will inform future projects in the area.

### **March 4 - *Anthony Hillman: Shorebirds in Wood and Tin***

Presented by: Anthony Hillman, Wood Carver

Join Anthony Hillman, a self-employed wood carver for the last 45 years, for a personal story of his involvement with shorebird carving; primarily as traditional decoys evolving into collectable art. During this presentation, questions from the audience are welcome, and he will bring several examples of finished carvings, as well as, step-by step display groups.

### **March 11 - *Horseshoe Crab Rescue at Fortescue Beach***

Presented by: Ron Smith, Environmental Science Program at Haddonfield Memorial High School

The environmental science students of Haddonfield Memorial HS have saved over 10,000 horseshoe crabs along the Delaware Bayshores through participation in Return the Favor. Looking forward to their 4th season, teams of students will visit Fortescue and three other sites to flip and rescue crabs trapped in debris along the coast every Friday during the spawning season. Join Ron and his students for images, data and stories from this exciting project – a great example of place based education and student citizen science.

### **March 25 - *Habitat Restoration at Stone Harbor Point***

Presented by: Lisa Ferguson, Director of Research and Conservation – The Wetlands Institute

In the early months of 2015, we established areas of elevated habitat at Stone Harbor Point to provide protected nesting and roosting areas for birds. It was not long before American Oystercatchers, Piping Plovers, Black Skimmers, and terns arrived to find nesting spots on and among the newly created habitats. Come learn about how the Stone Harbor Point restoration and monitoring project is progressing, what we're learning, and plans for the 2016 nesting season.



## Winter Lecture Series

Admission for **Covered Dish Dinner** lectures consists of a covered dish to share with at least 8 people and \$7 for Institute members and \$12 for non-members. The Wetlands Institute provides coffee and refreshments. RSVP requested – call 609-368-1211.

Here is our **Covered Dish Dinner** lineup:

### **January 29 - *Listening Closely – Acoustic Monitoring for Bats in the Northeast Region***

Presented by: Mike Tolan, Biologist – US Fish and Wildlife Services

There is no better way to spend a dark winter evening than learning about these marvelous creatures of the night! Join Mike Tolan, Biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, as he shares an overview of the USFWS efforts to better monitor bat populations through the use of acoustic monitoring equipment. This will be an interactive presentation containing information, as well as, demonstrations of acoustic monitoring equipment.

### **February 26 - *Engaging Communities to Save Diamondback Terrapins: Lessons from the Georgia Coast***

Presented by Dr. John Maerz, Professor of Vertebrate Ecology – Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia

Turtles are evolutionary phenomena and ecologically important to our ecosystems. The southeastern U.S. is a global hotspot for turtle diversity, but many turtle species are increasingly threatened by human activities. This presentation will give an overview of the evolutionary and ecological marvels that are turtles, and will highlight how partnerships between researchers and various stakeholders is addressing multiple threats to Diamondback Terrapin populations through community-based conservation along the Georgia coast.

### **March 18 - *The Father of Gentle Architecture: The Legacy of Malcolm Wells***

Presented by: Rev. Wayne Conrad

Details to be announced soon on our website at [wetlandsinstitute.org](http://wetlandsinstitute.org).