

## **2022 Raptor Festival Speakers**

### Virtual Presentations

Some more details on the speakers and their presentations

#### **Barred Owls Who Cooked For Me – February 1, 2022, 6:30 p.m.**

Presented by Jane Morton Galetto, Board President of CU Maurice River

Southern New Jersey has some excellent barred owl habitat. Jane shares the natural history of barred owls as well as some fun stories. Southern New Jersey has some excellent barred owl habitat.

Jane Morton Galetto was instrumental in the incorporation of Citizens United in 1986. For 18 years Jane chaired the New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee (ENSAC) and she remains a committee member. While holding the chairmanship she served on the Fish, Game and Wildlife Council (both are advisory to the New Jersey Division of FG&W, DEP). She serves on the Federal/State Red Knot-Aquaculture Stakeholder Committee, created by the Agency Work Group given the responsibility of maintaining conservation measures to protect the federally listed red knot.

Jane played an integral role in the passage of New Jersey's stringent 1987 Wetlands Law while serving on the NJ Freshwater Wetlands Advisory Committee. She has served on the boards of the Bayshore Discovery Project, South Jersey Bayshore Coalition, South Jersey Land Trust, Stockton Alliance, New Jersey Audubon Board, and The Nature Conservancy Bayshores Program. She is currently a columnist for *SNJ Today* writing stories on natural and cultural history. She has received numerous state, national and local awards for her conservation and community contributions.

#### **Wings over the Glades – Thursday, February 3, 2022, 6:30**

Presented by Debbie Beer, Natural Lands Director of Volunteer Engagement

At Glades Wildlife Refuge, the rhythm of the natural world flows through vast tidal marshes, wooded uplands, and beaches along the Delaware Bay. These diverse habitats sustain more than 270 resident and migratory bird species that wing their way through remarkable landscapes. Eagles and owls, waders and waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds, all make their home in the expansive 7,440-acre Glades of Cumberland County NJ. Debbie Beer, an avid birder and Director of Volunteers with Natural Lands, highlights some of the amazing birds of this special place, and how Natural Lands works to protect them.

Debbie Beer has been an avid birder for more than 20 years. She loves to travel for birding, but spends most time around Philadelphia where she resides, and New Jersey, where she grew up and still has family. Debbie is fortunate to blend professional and personal interests while working for Natural Lands as Director of Volunteers. In that capacity she manages robust volunteer birding and land stewardship programs on Natural Lands properties! She is a fellow of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC), president of the Birding Club of Delaware

County (BCDC). Debbie is passionate about sharing nature with others, supporting conservation, and advocating access to green space in a diverse, urban community.

**“NJ DEP’s Pond Creek Marsh Restoration Project”** – Thursday, February 3, 2022, 7:30  
Presented by Melissa Woerner, Melissa Woerner, NJ Fish and Wildlife, Habitat Planner

Melissa will present on this large-scale wetland restoration project taking place on Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area in lower Cape May.

This presentation will highlight the upcoming Pond Creek Marsh Restoration at Higbee Beach WMA, including information on project goals, site history, design process, and recreational elements. This area is recognized as critical stopover habitat for migratory birds. However, the marsh is currently choked off from the tide which has diminished ecological function and caused degradation of habitat. Restoration of native tidal marsh, freshwater wetlands, and upland habitat will augment the vital role Higbee Beach WMA plays in providing migrants with a stopover site while creating enhanced recreational opportunities.

After graduating from Rutgers University with a B.S. in Natural Resource Management, Melissa Woerner began her career with NJ Fish and Wildlife in 1999 as a seasonal waterfowl technician. She then worked for the Conserve Wildlife Foundation for nearly 8 years as an endangered species biologist, working alongside the state’s Endangered and Nongame Species Program. Her tenure there included working with a variety of wildlife, including bobcats, bats, raptors, and timber rattlesnakes. She served as a regional coordinator for the state’s bald eagle monitoring program, co-founded ENSP’s American kestrel nestbox program, and became the state’s lead biologist for bats before White Nose Syndrome was discovered in the US. She briefly switched careers and dabbled in environmental education, teaching high school biology and environmental science for two years and working as a Teacher-Naturalist for NJ Audubon for three years. She returned to NJ Fish and Wildlife in 2012, running the state’s National Archery in the Schools Program while earning an M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Science. Since 2016, she has been working with the Bureau of Land Management as a Habitat Planner, where she works on various habitat projects on Wildlife Management Areas. These projects range anywhere from small-scale field plantings to increase pollinator habitat, restoration of native warm season grasses, and managing farm leases, to large-scale restoration projects like the Pond Creek project.

**The Cape May Raptor Banding Project** – Saturday, February 5, 2022 6:30 p.m.  
Keynote Speaker: Paul Napier, President of the Cape May Raptor Banding Project

Paul Napier will present “The Cape May Raptor Banding Project” which will cover a brief history, some impressive Project statistics, an overview of the intern program, how the Project contributes to science projects, and portraits and facts about the raptors banded. There will be lots of great close-up photographs.

Paul Napier has been banding raptors since 1988. He started out as a birdwatcher, then discovered raptors and never recovered. He has traveled extensively in the U.S. and abroad in order to learn more about the many exciting birds of prey that share our environment. Paul has been President of the Cape May Raptor Banding Project since the early 2000s when Project founder and noted raptor expert William S. Clark retired.