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## DINNER-DANCE

LRWS HOSTED AN ANNUAL FUND RAISING event on September 16th with approximately 150 people attending. Guests enjoyed cocktails and music from the versatile rock band Eight to the Bar.

The Sanctuary also sponsored a silent auction for the evening with unique donations from Winvian, Blantyre, the Smithsonian Institution and many other generous supporters. Thank you to all who helped make the evening a success for the Sanctuary.



## PLANNED GIVING

DID YOU EVER CONSIDER PLANNED GIVING to the Sanctuary? Planned gifts include gifts through your will, charitable gift annuities, gifts of life insurance, pooled income funds and charitable trusts.

If you would like to consider supporting the Sanctuary in one of these ways, please call us at (860) 567-2062. Your financial support to the Sanctuary will help us realize our mission.

*Please write to us with your comments or suggestions. LRWS is a 501(c)3 organization, your contribution is tax-deductible. You can visit us on our website at [www.lrws.org](http://www.lrws.org)*



### THE LIVINGSTON RIPLEY WATERFOWL SANCTUARY

P. O. Box 210 • Litchfield, Connecticut 06759

[www.lrws.org](http://www.lrws.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Hartford, CT  
Permit No. 1754

### TOURS

Guided tours are offered on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. during the months of May, June, July, September and October. Admission is \$10.00 per person and children under the age of 10 are free. Tour pre-registration is required. Other group tours can be arranged on request by calling the Sanctuary at (860) 567-1691. We look forward to welcoming you!

### DIRECTIONS

From Litchfield Center, take Rte 202 west towards Bantam. Travel 0.8 miles to the traffic light (just past Stop & Shop on left) and turn right on Milton Road. Travel 1.2 miles on Milton Road. Take third left onto Duck Pond Road, a small dirt road. Proceed 0.5 miles, crossing a small bridge, to the Sanctuary driveway on the right marked with a wooden sign for LRWS. Park at the red barns further down the road on the left.

### THE LIVINGSTON RIPLEY WATERFOWL SANCTUARY

55 Duck Pond Road • P. O. Box 210, Litchfield, CT 06759 • (860) 567-2062  
Fax (860) 567-4369 • [info@lrws.org](mailto:info@lrws.org) • [www.lrws.org](http://www.lrws.org)

### MEMBERSHIP

To become a member of the Sanctuary, please complete the following form and send it to the address above.

- \$50 Wood Duck
- \$100 Nene Goose
- \$200 Siberian Red-breasted Goose
- \$500 Atlantic Eider
- \$1000 Trumpeter Swan

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone		
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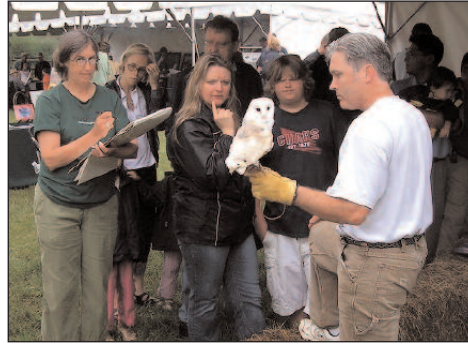
# NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2006

## LRWS Family Duck Day



**Dr. Barb Mangold lets children listen to a duck's heartbeat**



**Brian Bradley, bird of prey specialist, holds a Barn Owl**

ON JUNE 25TH, LRWS HOSTED ITS first Family Duck Day. The purpose of this special day was to inspire and educate visitors about nature, birds and the Sanctuary. Despite inclement weather, over 400 children and adults attended the event and enjoyed activities that included duck handling, watching ducklings hatch, face painting, relay races, duck related puppet shows, learning how to "talk" like a duck and educational trivia.

Demonstrations were held throughout the day on wood duck nest box building, veterinary care, creative woodcarving, waterfowl drawing and photography. Brian Bradley, a bird of prey specialist, provided an impressive display of six different species and conducted flying demonstrations of a Harris Hawk and Eurasian Eagle Owl. The Harris Hawk demonstration was especially impressive as the hawk was set loose in an adjacent field and hunted over a miniature Long-Haired Dashund which worked the field for small game. Lastly, students from the Wamogo and Litchfield High School art programs contributed over 60 spectacular waterfowl drawings for display. For two weeks prior to duck day, Litchfield Bancorp graciously exhibited these paintings and works of art for the



**Some of the paintings by students from Wamogo and Litchfield High School**

community to view.

Funds raised to help support this event and our recent dinner dance are being used to construct a new netted aviary to provide protected areas for grazing.

Other organizations that participated in this event and offered activities and educational materials were Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection, the Kellogg Nature Center, Ducks Unlimited, Litchfield Hills Audubon and White Memorial Conservation Center. LRWS wishes to extend its appreciation to the Litchfield School District Superintendent's Office, WZBG Radio,

Northwest Connecticut Visitors Bureau and Northwest Connecticut Arts Council for providing resources to announce this event. We thank Evi Bergs, Martha Bernstein, Linda Bowen, Jeffrey Crawford, Kim D'Andrea, Christina Jacobs, Stacie Kavle, Bruce Losee, Al Meisner, Margaret and Tom Sellers, Jessica Travelstad, Carol Williams, Chez Winter and Joan Young for providing a helping hand to make this day a success.

LRWS intends to host this event on an annual basis and hopes that you'll plan to come with the whole family next year on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Inside this Edition:

2006 Breeding Results

Update from Siberia

Local High School Students Participate in Nest Box Project

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### LRWS Starts Lecture Series:

*Dr. Nancy Clum, Curator of Birds at the Wildlife Conservation Society, will present a lecture on "Monitoring of Caribbean Flamingos Populations in the Bahamas" on Wednesday, November 15th, at 7:30 pm at the Litchfield Community Center.*

### LRWS Board of Directors:

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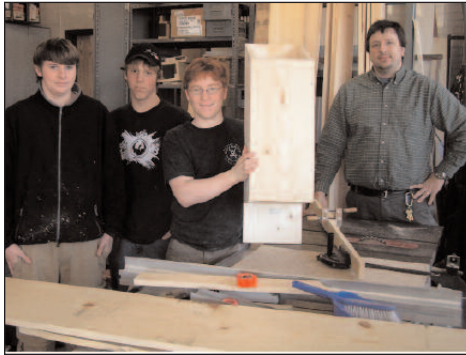
Laura Ridgely

Eliot Wadsworth

T. Dennis Williams

# LRWS JOINS FORCES WITH LITCHFIELD, WAMOGO HIGH SCHOOL & HOME DEPOT

**T**HIS SPRING, LRWS INITIATED A WOOD DUCK AND HOODED MERGANSER nest box project in an attempt to increase potential breeding sites for these species. Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers prefer nesting in tree hollows, and ideal sites for nesting have been reduced with the growth of suburbs and development. Home Depot and students from Wamogo and Litchfield High Schools joined LRWS staff to participate in this project. Home Depot donated the lumber and the students built the nest



**Almost finished! Students at Wamogo High School build nest boxes**

Hooded Merganser females with ducklings were observed in the vicinity of several nest boxes. Downy feathers hanging from other nest box openings suggest they too were utilized.

This fall, students will be invited back to the Sanctuary to record the productivity of each nest box. During this time, old nests will be removed and used bedding will be replaced with new pine shavings in preparation for the next breeding season. Because each nest box is numbered, this survey

is just the beginning of what will be annual surveys to determine which nest sites are preferred over time and count the hopefully growing number of nesting pairs. Local schools interested in participating in this project in 2007 are encouraged to contact LRWS at 860-567-2062.

boxes to LRWS specifications. The students then worked with LRWS to place nest boxes around the Sanctuary's ponds and nearby wetland areas to enhance breeding of wild populations of Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers.

Summer observations near nest boxes indicated their usage. Wood Duck and



**Fastening a nest box**

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

LRWS HAS A NUMBER OF CAPITAL PROJECTS underway to improve our infrastructure, both for managing waterfowl and for visitors. Depending on the outcome of a couple of grants, we hope to be able to install new fencing and a boardwalk across our largest pond.

Utilizing funds raised at the dinner dance, we have constructed a netted aviary, which will promote parent rearing of goslings and provide more natural vegetation on which they can graze. This aviary also will allow LRWS to manage a greater number of species for visitors to view as our collection continues to expand. Thanks to Olaf Soltau who is studying to become a Master Gardener, we have added vegetative plantings to several aviaries to provide additional areas for feeding and security for nesting. Ramps have been added to a number of pools to promote access for ducks. Lastly, in order to comply with American Zoo and Aquarium (AZA) Facility Guidelines, all electric wiring was updated and replaced in our quarantine facility. With the completion of this project, LRWS intends to apply for accreditation as a "Related Facility" to this prestigious organization in the months to come.



**LRWS staff constructs new aviary**

**UPDATE FROM SIBERIA**

**GOOSE**

*Goose, my goosee,  
Goose my grayish!  
Goose my bravish!  
You are towering, goosee,  
In the middle of the yard  
You have on, goosee, grey feathers,  
You have under, goosee, silky grass,  
You have above, goosee, fresh air,  
Fresh and clean air  
And sweet-scented one.*

**GOOSE AND CENTIPEDE**

*Goose and centipede once met  
each other on the road  
Good morning! Nice to meet you!  
40 feet you have to greet  
And while goose was doing it  
Time's come for the sun to sit!*

**Written by 5th grade  
Student Julia Tokarsaya  
(translated from  
Russian language)**

IN 2006, LRWS CONTINUED ITS INVOLVEMENT with the Swan Geese Reintroduction Program at Muraviovka Park in the Amur River Region in Russia.

To create awareness of this endangered species in the Amur Region, LRWS provided funds to Muraviovka Park's Education Program to organize a "Swan Geese Educational and Art Contest" in 21 school districts in the Amur Region. Media support was provided by the Department of Education of the Amur Region, the Russian Service on Nature Inspection and The Amur Regional TV Company. Over 450 children participated and submitted paintings, essays and poems on Swan Geese. Artwork was exhibited at Muraviovka Park's Nature Center and in regional libraries of the Amur Region.

Svetlana Tolkueva from Magdagchinski and Alecsie Larin from Blagoveschensk were rewarded for their exceptional art work and essays by being awarded LRWS sponsored scholarships to attend Muraviovka Park's International Summer Camp. Each year, children and teachers from Russia, China, South Korea and the United States participate in this camp and



**Svetlana Tolkueva, winner of Muraviovka Park's Swan Goose Art Contest**

learn about environmental education, habitat management and sustainable land use.

LRWS also funded a Swan Geese genetic study conducted by Dr. Marina Kholova at Moscow State University. Dr. Kholova examined genetic diversity and relationships among wild breeding populations of Swan Geese from two geographic regions in Russia, the Chita and Khabarovsk

regions, as well as captive Swan Geese from LRWS and the Moscow Zoo. Results of this study will aid LRWS efforts to develop a genetically diverse Swan Goose captive breeding population at Muraviovka Park, the offspring of which will be released in the Park.



**Field biologists fasten neck collar on a Swan Goose for identification purposes**

**NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

LRWS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THREE NEW MEMBERS who have recently joined the Board.

Guy Baldassarre is a well-known waterfowl ecologist and professor at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. Guy has made his career in field biology and wildlife science and has recently updated his definitive book Waterfowl Ecology and Management. Teaching and research have been Guy's life-long passions, and the Sanctuary is excited to be able to share Guy's insights, knowledge and energetic enthusiasm for waterfowl. Guy received his PhD in Wildlife Science from Texas Tech University.

Eliot Wadsworth is the owner and CEO of The White Flower Farm, a nationally known nursery and leading retailer of garden products, headquartered in Litchfield. Eliot is a venture capitalist and businessman. Committed to the preservation of open and wild spaces, Eliot has recently formed the Litchfield Hills Greenprint. This organization is an information clearing house using sophisticated mapping technology to assist local land trusts plan for sensible growth while maintaining open space and farmland in



**Eliot Wadsworth**



**Guy Baldassarre, PhD**

Litchfield County.

Laura Ridgely is in medical school at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Prior to working as a physician's assistant, Laura worked with Cambridge Associates in Boston. A graduate of Hamilton College, Laura is the oldest of the grandchildren of Dillon and Mary Ripley.

# 2006 BREEDING RESULTS



Female Barrow's Goldeneye with ducklings



Barnacle Geese pair with newly hatched goslings



Female Black Swan with cygnets

THIS PAST SEASON, 22 SPECIES successfully hatched offspring, despite heavy spring rainstorms, which proved detrimental to several ground nesting species. A total of 33 species attempted reproduction. Several endangered species that were successful included the Meller's Duck, Red Breasted Geese and Laysan Teal. In total, 120 waterfowl were reared at LRWS making it one of our most productive seasons in recent years.

Species that attempted to reproduce this season, which have not bred in recent past

years, included Pink-footed Geese, Lesser White-Fronted Geese and White-Headed Duck. Their initial success can be attributed to islands constructed in covered aviary pools last fall. These islands provided appropriate resting sites, as well as ideal locations for nesting. As anticipated, our recently completed off-exhibit breeding enclosures proved to be outstanding sites for breeding. Ten species successfully reproduced in 9 of the 12 enclosures. This quiet, isolated environment provided surroundings conducive for species to feel

secure to breed, incubate and rear young.

Numerous species were allowed to incubate and rear their own offspring. Black Swans, Barnacle Geese and Barrow's Goldeneye, among others, were successful in rearing clutches of young. In comparison to hand rearing, parent rearing provides encouragement for adult birds to reproduce in future seasons and tends to produce stronger and more productive offspring. Parental rearing also reinforces pair bonds among swans and geese.

## PASSING OF A FRIEND

LRWS REGRETS THE PASSING OF SONIA P. SEHERR THOSS, but joins her family and many friends in tribute to her. Sonny was a true friend of the Sanctuary. She helped us in the early stages of our infrastructure improvements and offered us unflagging enthusiastic support. Sonny often just dropped by, sometimes with friends and family, to see the latest developments and look at the birds. She seemed to enjoy both the tranquility the Sanctuary offered as well as the constant changes. We cherish the memory of Sonny's gracious presence and warm energy and encouragement.



Sonia P. Seherr Thoss

## EDUCATION INTERN



Katie Denton

SPECIAL THANKS TO KATIE DENTON, this year's education intern. Katie, a junior at the University of Vermont, offered invaluable help in preparing educational materials for Duck Day. In addition, Katie computerized our collection's egg laying data and compiled a report on preferred nesting sites by species at LRWS facilities. This consolidated data will serve as useful sources of reference for years to come. We wish Katie the best of luck in her junior semester abroad at the University of Ghana.