

EagleFest

Narrowsburg, NY

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2003

New York's Eagle Capital Celebrates:

Despite Single Digit Temperatures, Birders Flock to Narrowsburg EagleFest on January 18, 2003 for Glimpses of the Big Bird

Narrowsburg - EagleFest in Narrowsburg, a day devoted to demonstrations, films, lectures and bird watching to celebrate the return of the Bald Eagle to the Delaware River Valley. Senator John Bonacic was on hand to open the festivities. Jim Beer, a descendent of the Lenni Lenape Native American tribe, followed with a ceremonial dance.

Bill Streeter, Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Raptor Center of Milford, PA., came back for a second year to give his educational presentations with live birds.

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Narrowsburg Plans its 3rd Annual EagleFest



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EAGLEFEST **NARROWSBURG, NEW YORK**

Saturday, January 17, 2004
9:30AM – 4:30PM

Live bird demonstrations, observation sites, guest lectures, films, poster auction, eagle art (snow or shine)

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New York's Eagle Capital Celebrates School, which included a falcon, a hawk, two owls, and a pair of eagles, packed the auditorium each time with curious raptor fans.

An estimated 1,500 individuals braved arctic temperatures to stroll main and take in the sites – a five foot ice sculptor of a pair of eagles by Mark Crouthamel, an eagle being shaped from a log by Walter Sansone with his chain saw and eagle viewing on the deck with the help of volunteers from the Eagle Institute.

Indoor activities included - a panel discussion by biologists from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania on eagle recovery efforts and results, an eagle photography show by John DiGiorgio, a slide show by Gene Weinstein, and viewing of posters by local artists paying tribute to the Bald Eagle.

Only two years old, EagleFest 2003, had already acquired the support of its second corporate sponsor, Fleet Bank.

All in all, young and old, a most enjoyable day for all!



EAGLEFEST – SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

John Grund, President of the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce, and John and Yoke DiGiorgio of Nature's Art LLC accepted the "Special Recognition Award" for the EagleFest event at the 15th Annual Awards Banquet for the Upper Delaware Council on April 27, 2003:

"To celebrate the return of the bald eagle and spotlight a popular area for these majestic birds to be spotted, Narrowsburg EagleFest debuted on February 16, 2002.

The event was the brainchild of John and Yoke DiGiorgio from Nature's Art LLC. The wildlife photographers teamed up with the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce and other volunteers to plan a community festival with an eagle theme.

The sponsors knew that the Upper Delaware and Catskills region plays host to over 150 bald eagles from January to March that migrate from points north for the open water and fresh fish available here in the winter. They were aware that an increasing number of eagles are making this river valley their permanent home and breeding habitat.

But in that first year, the organizers didn't know what to expect from their festival. Maybe eagle-viewing was a niche interest. Maybe the small hamlet of Narrowsburg, NY was too unfamiliar. Maybe no one would venture out on a winter's day.

Not to worry. By the end of that February day, an estimated 1,000 eagle enthusiasts had flocked to the festival. It was standing-room-only to catch a presentation on live birds of prey by Bill Streeter from the Delaware Valley Raptor Center. Slide lectures by The Eagle Institute's Lori McKean and NYSDEC volunteer eagle monitor Gene Weinstein drew large crowds. Children donned eagle masks to play the "Migration Headache" game. Artists contributed eagle-themed posters for an auction. Ice and wood carvers demonstrated their crafts as festival-goers strolled through Narrowsburg to the Big Eddy deck for some assisted eagle-viewing opportunities.

In the words of this award's nominator, "EagleFest was an event for everyone to be proud of, and presented a unique combination of entertainment and education for all of the day's participants. This event succeeded in bringing local residents and out-of-town visitors of all ages to the day's multi-faceted series of activities. It brought some much deserved attention to the natural resources that enrich our lives in the Upper Delaware River Valley."

By the time the second EagleFest happened on January 18 of this year, no one could dispute Senator John Bonacic's declaration of Narrowsburg as "The Bald Eagle Capital of New York State." An even larger estimated crowd of 1,500 people welcomed and expanded program that included an opening dance by Lenape Native American, panel discussions by expert biologists, two presentations by the Delaware Valley Raptor Center, art shows, films, souvenir sales items, and food offerings.

The Upper Delaware Council recognizes Narrowsburg EagleFest for its success in offering the public a better understanding of how to enjoy bald eagles in their natural habitat".

Lori Rami, Upper Delaware Council

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NARROWSBURG PLANS ITS 3rd ANNUAL EAGLEFEST

According to festival organizer, Yoke Bauer DiGiorgio, this year's EagleFest will continue in its mission to combine a day of entertainment and education for young and old. Additional new and exciting programs are still being planned.

EVENTS TO INCLUDE:

- Eagle Viewing Assisted by Eagle Institute Volunteers*
- Poster Auction Viewing & Silent Bidding
- "Opening Ceremonial Dance" by Lenni Lenape Native Americans and Festival Dedication
- "LIVE Birds Of Prey" Presentations by Thomas Ricardi, Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Facility
- "LIVE Birds of Prey" Presentation by Matthew Hoyt, CT Audubon Society
- "Everything You Wanted To Know About Eagles, and Some Things You Didn't" Presentation by Peter Nye Leader, Endangered Species Unit, Wildlife Diversity Group NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.
- "The Role of Citizens in Bird Conservation – Past and Present" Presentation by Ron Rohrbaugh, Director of Citizen Science Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- "The Delaware River – Its Role in Eagle Recovery", Presentation by Lori McKean, President of The Eagle Institute*
- "The Adventures of Christopher Otter", Presentation by John and Teresa Crerand
- "Farmers Garden – Interactive Puppet Show" with Ed Wesley
- MOVIES - "American Bald Eagle Heritage on the Wing"
- MOVIE - "Down the Upper Delaware, a Sojourn Through Time & Place"



EXHIBITS:

- Eagle Art Posters by Local Artists for Auction
- "A Time For The Eagle" Wildlife Photography by John A DiGiorgio
- Ice Sculpture Demonstration by Mark Crouthamel, 2002 Olympic bronze medal winner
- Wood Carving Exhibits
- Telescope Demonstrations by High Point Scientific
- "Sullivan County Wildlife", National Parks Service
- Horse Drawn Hay Rides

* **The Eagle Institute** is a volunteer non-profit organization which operates in cooperation with the PA Game Commission, National Park Service and New York DEC. Its mission is to protect the bald eagle and promote habitat conservation. Visit their web site, www.eagleinstitute.org, for the 2003-2004 "Eagle Watch Programs".

EAGLE FACTS:

- Height: 30-31", Wing Span: 6'-7'6", Weight: to 14 lbs, Life Span: 25 – 30 years.
- Mated bald eagles are monogamous.
- Female bald eagles are larger than the males.
- 2 or 3 white eggs in a massive nest of sticks usually in a tall tree.
- Can fly 36 – 44 miles per hour.
- Juvenile bald eagles resemble Golden Eagles, require 4 – 5 years to reach full adulthood, and have a longer tail and wider wings than the adults.
- Are fish eaters, like Ospreys, but snatch fish from the surface with their talons.
- Can be found Alaska to Newfoundland and south to California, Great Lakes, and Virginia also in Arizona, along Gulf Coast, and in Florida. Winters along coasts and large rivers in much of US.



Narrowsburg Bridge

DIRECTIONS TO NARROWSBURG, NY

From NYC & Albany:

NYS Thruway to Exit 16 (Harriman)
Rt 17W to Exit 104 (Monticello Raceway)
Rt 17B to Country Road 115
to Rt 52W to 97N (Bear left at blinking light)

From New Jersey:

Rt 80 to Tr 23N
Rt 23N to Port Jervis
Rt 6W 2 miles thru Port Jervis to Rt 97N
Follow Rt 97N to Narrowsburg (Bear left at blinking light)

From Connecticut:

Rt 84W to Exit 1 (Port Jervis)
Rt 6W 2miles thru Port Jervis to Rt 97N
Follow Rt 97N to Narrowsburg (Bear left at blinking light)

From Pennsylvania:

Rt 84E to Exit 10 (Milford)
Rt 6W toward Hawley and Honesdale
Bear right on 652E to Narrowsburg

For more information

Call: 845-454-7409 (Chamber President, John Grund)
845-252-6509 (Nature's Art LLC)

Visit our Web Site www.narrowsburg.org
www.naturesartllc.com

AN INVITATION TO JOIN US AT...

the third annual Narrowsburg EagleFest, a celebration of the return of the bald eagle. The brainchild of John and Yoke DiGiorgio of Nature's Art LLC, this event is being sponsored by the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce and local businesses with the help of many community volunteers.

The Upper Delaware/Catskill region plays host to over 150 bald eagles every winter from January to March. They migrate here from Canada and other points north for the open water and fresh fish available here.

In the spring, most migrant eagles return to their nests and breeding habitats. But in recent years more eagle pairs have made this region their permanent home, often using the same nest year after year. Recent data suggests there are over 60 eagle nests each in NY and PA (and growing each year).

We feel very fortunate to be blessed by the return of the bald eagle to our area. Most of the numerous presentations and events will be free of charge.

We hope that you will join us on January 17, 2004 and that when the day's events are concluded you will leave with a better understanding of ways to enjoy the wonderful bald eagle in its natural habitat.

Narrowsburg EagleFest Committee

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