



# Delaware Audubon

www.delawareaudubon.org

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## Annual Meeting Set for October 29<sup>th</sup>

*Howard P. Brokaw will receive Conservation Award*

Howard Pyle Brokaw will be honored with the Delaware Audubon Society Conservation Award at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 29 at 2:00 pm in the DuPont Pavilion at Cokesbury Village, 726 Loveville Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707. Light refreshments will be served. Advance registration is requested, and admission is \$10 per person.

The guest speaker at this year's meeting will be Dr. Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society.

Howard P. Brokaw, grandson of the great American artist Howard Pyle, has contributed to ornithology and bird conservation for most of his 90 years of life. A passionate birder and inveterate traveler, he retired in the 1970s from a distinguished career in business to devote more time to the non-profit sector. He has served as chairman of the boards of trustees of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (1981-1985) and the American Bird Conservancy (1994-2002).

He has served as a founding trustee of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, as treasurer of the International Council for Bird Preservation, and as president of the Delmarva Ornithological Society. In addition, he served two seven-year terms on the governing board of the National Audubon Society.

In 1978, Brokaw was Project Director and Editor for the Council of Environmental Quality's book, *Wildlife in America*. One of his most important contributions from a Delaware perspective was his role as editorial consultant in the production of *Birds of Delaware*, described as "an account of not just breeders but of all occurrences of bird species in Delaware." Howard enjoyed working and birding with Russ Peterson and Roger Tory Peterson.

When asked what his advice would be for future generations, Howard said, "Knowledge of the environment is important. We need to preserve the environment for humankind to learn from, to use, and to enjoy. As time goes on there is increasing pressure to use the environment for profit. It must be controlled for the existence of people." He also pointed out that "our population must be controlled or we will overrun our resources."

If you plan to attend the annual meeting:

- To register and pay online by credit card, go to [www.delawareaudubon.org/meeting](http://www.delawareaudubon.org/meeting)
- To pay at the door (cash or check), please email us in advance at [dasmall@delawareaudubon.org](mailto:dasmall@delawareaudubon.org) or call (302) 292-3970.
- To register and pay in advance by mail, please send the name(s) of people attending, along with your check (\$10/person), to:  
Del. Audubon, 56 W. Main St., Suite 212 B, Christiana, DE 19702 ■

## About the Guest Speaker: Gregory S. Butcher, Ph.D.



Photo of Dr. Butcher by David Ringer

Dr. Greg Butcher is Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society. In this role he oversees Audubon's "State of the Birds" analyses and other research related to bird conservation. He also works closely with Audubon's partner organizations, including Bird Conservation Alliance, BirdLife International, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and Partners in Flight.

He has had a long association with Audubon's Christmas Bird Count: as a participant since 1965, as a count compiler and database manager from 1984-92, and as a researcher since 1984.

From 1992 to 1998, Greg served as Executive Director of the American Birding Association (ABA) where he spearheaded the addition of education and conservation initiatives to the organization's program agenda. Under his leadership, ABA's membership grew from 11,500 to 20,000 in five years.

Previously, Greg was the Midwest Coordinator for Partners in Flight where he served on the species assessment technical committee, which determined many of the scores that underlie Audubon's "State of the Birds: WatchList" methodology today. He also has served as editor of *Birder's World* magazine. Greg started his career at Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology as the Director of Bird Population Studies.

Greg earned his B.A. in zoology from Connecticut College and his Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Washington. He has been an active field birder since the age of 11, birding in 47 of the 50 states, as well as Canada, Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, Chile, Europe, and South Africa. ■

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



The last several months have been sad ones at the Delaware Audubon Society, as we have lost some long time environmental friends here in Delaware. We've lost Fred Jahn, Barbara Lundberg and our honorary chairman, Russ Peterson.

For Delaware Audubon, the history of our organization runs through the contributions of these great environmentalists. Fred Jahn spent countless hours for Audubon preparing bluebird boxes and managing bluebird trails. He and his wonderful wife of 60 years, Peggy, were part of the backbone of Delaware Audubon for decades. The Jahns hosted our bi-monthly board meetings and were wonderful hosts. Peggy continues to support the organization in her spare time.

Barbara Lundberg's contributions to the birding community cannot be understated. She was our Conservation Award winner in 1991 for her decades of work at Tri-State Bird Rescue. She co-chaired the Oiled Bird washing and cleaning unit there. She and Lynne Frink were stalwarts for creating both Delaware Audubon and Tri-State Bird Rescue. Barbara served on the Field Trips Committee for Audubon for many years, along with running our birdseed sale and developing our Bluebird nesting box trail system.

Then there was the loss of Russ. In Russ we lost a national environmentalist of the first order. In Delaware, the name of Peterson will stand the test of time and will be etched in the history books forever. There isn't enough space in this newsletter, let alone in this column, to discuss Russ's accomplishments. So allow me to provide a personal anecdote:

A few years ago, when I first became President, Russ attended our annual meeting. He sought me out after the meeting to give me a bit of stern advice. I was a little worried at first, as I was concerned that Russ wasn't happy with something, and Lord knows I didn't want him angry with me in my first term as President.

Russ's powers of observation were astute. Russ had noticed that our audience was elderly in nature. He cornered me to tell me that I had to make it a particular mission of mine to try to get our organization to draw in a younger audience. He wanted to get his point across to me – environmental organizations have to ENGAGE the young or we will perish over time.

All the while I was thinking Russ was upset with something I said or a position we took that he disagreed with. As always, Russ was a forward thinker.

Mark Martell, President

## Officers

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Mark Martell

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### Needed:

We need pictures of Leah Roedel and Jake Kreshtool for our archives. If you have a picture to share, please call Ann Rydgren at (302) 235-0242 to make arrangements.

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### Shop at Amazon.com and help Delaware Audubon:

Shop at Amazon.com through the links on the Delaware Audubon web site, and Delaware Audubon receives a portion of the purchase price.



Pileated Woodpecker illustration by Steven D'Amato

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The Delaware Audubon Society, incorporated in 1977, is a statewide chapter of the National Audubon Society.

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## IN MEMORIAM:

# Russell W. Peterson, 1916-2011

Russ Peterson joined the National Audubon Society in 1952, became an active birder, and through this hobby a dedicated environmentalist. He became known nationally as an environmentalist when, as governor of Delaware, he was the major force in the passage of legislation banning heavy industry from a two-mile-wide strip of Delaware's 115 mile coastline. It was the first state law of its kind and led to coastal zone legislation in other states.

His leadership as president of the National Audubon Society reflected his philosophy of bringing citizen action and holistic thinking to bear in helping humanity to live in harmony with the natural environment. Through science, education, and citizen action, he made the collective voice of the Audubon Society's 500,000 members heard by key decision makers around the country and around the world. He promoted a science and public policy emphasis, and moved Audubon into such international issues as population growth and energy.

Russ was active on the national and international scene as a strong advocate for both the appreciation and conservation of our natural and wildlife resources.

As chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, he was involved in implementing the National Environmental Policy Act with concern for the whole gamut of environmental problems nationally and globally. During his tenure in this job he did much to promote the understanding that we can have both a healthy environment and a healthy economy.

He was founding Chairman of the Board of The Global Tomorrow Coalition – an affiliation of 115 organizations concerned with population, resources and environment. He served as a director of Population Action International, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Alliance to Save Energy. He was vice-president of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, president of the International Council for Bird Preservation, and president of the Better World Society. He also served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Solar Energy Research Institute of the US Department of Energy.

More recently, Russ served as co-chairman of the Governor's Task Force on the Future of the Christina and Brandywine Rivers. This task force developed a vision that included a harbor to attract visitors, upscale residences, an entertainment center, the Wilmington Riverwalk, and a 250-acre urban wildlife refuge.

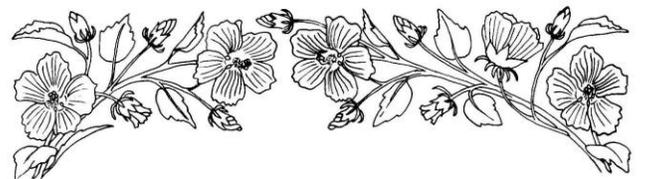
Russ served on the board of the Riverfront Development Corporation, the group responsible for carrying out the revitalization efforts. The wildlife refuge, which opened in 2009, was named in his honor.

Russ received many awards during his long career, including 15 honorary doctorates. In May 1996, he joined the list of distinguished Delawareans to receive the prestigious Delaware Audubon Conservation Award.

Further cementing his place in Delaware's history, a statue of Mr. Peterson was erected at the riverfront. The statue, created by acclaimed Wilmington sculptor Charles C. Parks, depicts Peterson holding field glasses in a bird-watching stance.

In 1999, Russ published an autobiography, describing his fascinating life and career. The book, entitled *Rebel with a Conscience*, was published by the University of Delaware Press.

As Honorary Chairman of the Delaware Audubon Board of Directors, he has endowed us with the footsteps for a path to follow. Inspired by his life and leadership, we resolve to carry on. ■



Artist: Rosemary Gilbert Hall



Statue of Russ Peterson along the Wilmington Riverfront



# Delaware Audubon

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## EARTH SAVING TIPS:

*Each fall, leaves turn from a summery, fresh green to autumnal, rich reds and yellows. As homeowners tackle the job of raking leaves, clearing gardens, and cleaning yard debris, they make a lot of noise and pollution. So, many of us are starting to look for quieter, cleaner alternatives to the loud power tools often used for cleaning yards.*

➤ **Choose hand-powered or electric tools.**

**Leaf Blowers:** Rakes are effective, and cheaper than using a leaf blower. Plus, you get a chance to burn some extra calories! If you need a power tool for a hard to reach spot (like your roof, or in between shrubbery), try an electric leaf blower rather than a gasoline-powered one. Electric leaf blowers are usually quieter, more energy-efficient, and get the job done just as well as their high-powered counterparts.

**Garden Trimmers:** As an alternative to more energy-intensive trimmers, you can also try electric trimmers. Or, if you want to be a retro gardener, use manual shears to trim back bushes and prune your favorite tree.

**Lawn Mowers:** Many yards are small enough that a hand-powered lawn mower does the job. Hand-powered lawn mowers are very quiet, replacing the roar of a power motor with the quiet whir of the lower-tech model. If you have a larger yard or one that requires heavier maintenance, research electric lawn mowers which make less noise and have a lower environmental impact.

➤ **Hire neighborhood kids to help.**

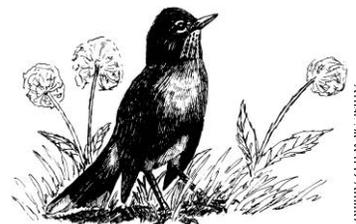
If you don't have the time or energy to clean up your yard after a long work week, support the local economy by hiring kids in the neighborhood to help you with your yard work. Not only is it affordable, but it's also more ecological!

➤ **Compost as much as possible.**

Instead of putting your leaves, branches, and weeds into plastic bags only to be picked up by trash collectors, consider turning this lawn "waste" into nutrient-rich soil ready for your spring garden! Collecting compost is quite easy and can save money on soil and fertilizer when it comes time to start your garden after the cold season.

Almost everything in your yard is compostable (grass and plant clippings, leaves, dead or brown weeds), except for weeds that have seeds or pernicious weeds (i.e. ivy) that can withstand composting. Mix in some of your kitchen waste as well – fruit and vegetable peels, teabags, and coffee grinds – to increase your yield.

– These tips were provided by EarthShare ([www.earthshare.org](http://www.earthshare.org)).



Artist: Steven D'Amato