

# EagleFest

## Narrowsburg, NY

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Summer 2004

### New York's Eagle Capital Celebrates:

*Despite Frigid Temperatures, Birders Flock to Narrowsburg EagleFest on January 17, 2004 for Glimpses of the Big Bird*

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. The Red Storm Drum and Dance Troupe followed with a ceremonial dance.

Tom Ricardi, Head of the Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehab Facility delighted all with his educational presentations with live birds and packed the auditorium each time with curious raptor fans.

An estimated 2500 individuals braved arctic temperatures to stroll Main Street and take in the sites. Eagle ice sculptures were carved and lined the streets to be enjoyed by all.

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### Narrowsburg Plans its 4th Annual Award Winning EagleFest



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#### **EAGLEFEST** **NARROWSBURG, NEW YORK**

**Saturday, January 15, 2005**  
**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

Indoor activities included – presentations by regional biologists on eagle recovery efforts, an eagle photography show, wildlife exhibits and viewing of posters by local artists paying tribute to the Bald Eagle.

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EagleFest 2005:

According to festival organizer, Yoke Bauer DiGiorgio, EagleFest 2005 will continue in its mission to combine a day of entertainment and education for young and old. New programs are still being planned.

Returning this year, is **Bill Streeter** Director of the Delaware Valley Raptor Center with two live birds of prey demonstrations.

**Peter E. Nye**, Endangered Species Unit Leader, Wildlife Diversity Group at NYS DEC will be returning again this year. Pete has been with the NYSDEC since 1974 and has headed up NYS eagle restoration programs since it's inception in 1976. Responsible for the return of the bald eagle to NYS, he has climbed more than 1,000 eagle nesting trees and banded over 800 eagles. Pete will be presenting an update on the status of eagles in NYS and recent study which has been initiated along the Upper Delaware River.

The Chesapeake Bay continues to support the densest breeding populations of bald eagles outside of Alaska. It also supports large numbers of eagles migrating from the north in the winter and eagles from Florida in the summer. **Dr. Bryan D. Watts**, Director of the Center for Conservation Biology, College of William and Mary will be discussing the Annual Bald Eagle Survey in Virginia. 2004 was a good year in the Chesapeake Bay. Despite a 25% lose of nests in 2003 due to hurricane Isabel, 612 chicks were produced in 2004, the largest ever recorded in the state.

**Dr. Larry Niles**, Chief Endangered and Nongame Species Program NJ DEC will be returning to discuss continued eagle recovery and habitat protection efforts in NJ. The Delaware River supports the major portion of the state's eagle population and lingering contamination continues to plague some of the nests and keep the bald eagle listed as endangered in NJ.

**Dr. Charles R. Preston**, founding curator of the Draper Museum of Natural History in Cody Wyoming will be discussing his research on raptor ecology and wildlife management in the greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. His recent book, *Golden Eagle, Sovereign of the Skies*, explores the origin, hunting methods, reproduction and migration of the Golden Eagle.

**Jean Stamey** from the Raptor Trust in NJ will be presenting a special raptor program for children, including live birds of prey.

Teaching children about the environment, wildlife, and family values, **John and Teresa Crerand** are returning with stories about Christopher, a river otter and his discoveries about his world and other wildlife. The stories creatively inspire interest in our world and encourage young readers to read, while educating and entertaining listeners of all ages.

All in all, a most enjoyable day for everyone!

### 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, have a longer tail and wider wings than 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 Arizona, along Gulf Coast, and Florida. Winters along coasts and large rivers in much of US.**

# STUDYING BALD EAGLES ON THE DELAWARE RIVER

By Don Hamilton

Over the next three years, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the National Park Service (NPS) will be conducting a study to learn deal more about the most important habitat areas for bald eagles along the Upper Delaware River. The objectives of this study are to determine the most important, or critical, habitats used by bald eagles for roosting, nesting and perching, and to target and prioritize areas for protection and management into the future.

The Delaware River is one of the largest and most important inland bald eagle wintering habitats in the eastern United States, an increasingly significant breeding locale, and is viewed as a key area in contributing to the full recovery and long term viability of this species.

Satellite transmitters will be placed on a number of bald eagles to document their use of habitat in the Upper Delaware region. The newest satellite transmitters weigh only 50 grams (1.6 ounces), or about 1% of the birds' body weight, and are designed to fall off after about 3 years of data collection. Information from the transmitters worn by the eagles is uplinked to satellites daily, and can be accessed, downloaded, and compiled to pinpoint their location, analyze their movements, and document their use of habitat.

In June, Peter Nye of NYSDEC placed transmitters on two 9-week-old eaglets from Upper Delaware River nests as part of this study. We are already learning about the habits of fledglings as they leave their nests and venture out into the Upper Delaware region. We're excited about, and anticipate learning much more.

***Don Hamilton is a National Park Service Natural Resource Specialist, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River***



©2004 Photo provided by NYS DEC and NPS



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## FIELD TRIP – ANNUAL BALD EAGLE SURVEY

By Yoke Bauer DiGiorgio

The Annual Bald Eagle Survey in Virginia is conducted by Dr. Bryan Watts, Director of the Center for Conservation Biology College of William and Mary, assisted by some of his graduate students. John and I were fortunate to be able to accompany Bryan and document his work in a recent field trip to the Chesapeake Bay.

The objective of the survey is to monitor and document information on Bald Eagle breeding pairs (Virginia has 428 "occupied" Bald Eagle territories). A two-flight approach is used to measure breeding activity and productivity. The first flight in early spring detects eagle nests. The second flight in late spring detects chick activity and productivity.

Monitors were set up at several nests. The resulting 4,000 hours of footage will provide new and important information about chick diet and growth. That information is now in the process of being reviewed and analyzed. Targeted nests were visited to specifically measure and weigh the chicks. We joined Bryan, and one of his graduate students, on two of these visits.

2004 was a good year for Bald Eagles in the Chesapeake Bay. Despite a 25% lose of nest in 2003 due to hurricane Isabel, 612 chicks were produced. This is the largest ever recorded in the state since the survey was initiated 28 years ago.

*For more information on The Center for Conservation Biology visit [www.ccb-wm.org](http://www.ccb-wm.org)*

## Narrowsburg Plans its 4th Annual Award Winning EagleFest

### 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 Bill Streeper, The Delaware Valley Raptor Center
- "LIVE Birds of Prey" Presentation by Jean Stamey, The Raptor Trust, NJ
- "Bald Eagle Conservation Efforts" Panel Discussion Hosted by Don Hamilton, National Parks Service. Speakers include: Peter Nye, NY DEC; Dr Bryan Watts, Center Conservation Biology (VA); & Larry Niles, NJ DEP
- "Golden Eagle – Sovereign of the Skies" Presentation by Dr Charles Preston, Draper Museum of Natural History Cody, WY
- "The Adventures of Christopher Otter", Presentation by John and Teresa Crerand \*\*
- MOVIES: "American Bald Eagle Heritage on the Wing" and "Down the Upper Delaware, a Sojourn Through Time & Place"

### Exhibits:

- Eagle Art Posters by Local Artists for Auction.
- Eagle Photography by John A DiGiorgio
- Ice Sculpture Demonstrations
- Telescope Demos by High Point Scientific
- "Sullivan County Wildlife", National Parks Service

*and much more . .*

\***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. For more information visit [www.eagleinstitute.org](http://www.eagleinstitute.org)



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## AN INVITATION TO JOIN US AT...

the fourth 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 Nature's Art LLC, the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce, Fleet Bank and local businesses with the help of community volunteers.

Most of the numerous presentations and events will be free of charge.

We hope that you will join us on January 15, 2005, 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

### For more information

Call: 1-845-252 -6509 (Nature's Art LLC)  
1-888-252-7234 (Chamber of Commerce)  
Visit our Web Site: [www.naturesartllc.com](http://www.naturesartllc.com)  
[www.narrowsburg.org](http://www.narrowsburg.org)

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