



The Society for a Re-Natural Environment

Newsletter #081710

Dear *SRNE* Members, Friends and Associates,

We hope this newsletter finds you well as we near the official end of summer. It has been a while since our last email and we have a lot to catch up on. We are now on the other side of our busy spring and summer and looking forward to working toward previously scheduled projects and jumping into some new ones as well. We welcome all new members and encourage you to read to the end of this letter to see the special member thank you offer.

Before we write about our recent activities we must speak about the dominant news item from the past months for anyone working with environmental issues, the BP oil spill. This monumental ecological disaster was caused by unfettered corporate greed and malicious stupidity driven by our demand for cheap oil. To say we are disappointed by the causes and handling of this disaster would be a tremendous understatement. We strongly encourage our members to get involved in any way possible to help with cleanup efforts and encourage strong legislation to keep anything like this from ever happening again.

In *SRNE* project-related news, we were disappointed to hear that earlier this year the Obama administration rejected a bid to list the American pika as endangered even though their number are in decline in the western US due to pressures from anthropogenic climate change. In May, the Michigan Congressional Delegation made a plea to close the locks and canals that connect the Mississippi water basin and Lake Michigan. We believe this separation is the only control method that will definitively keep invasive silver carp from spreading into the great lakes. Finally, in some brighter news, in May the New York State Senate passed The Monk Parakeet Protection Act which prevents people from harming wild populations of this highly charismatic non-native bird. We were pleased to hear of this legislation which is a rare example of support for non-invasive, non-native members of the re-natural environment.

Our participation in the Open Engagement conference in Portland was a big success. It was the premiere deployment of our native seed ball dispersing walking staff and seed ball gun. Special thanks to members Zach Springer and Elysia Contreras for all their help and congratulations on their recent marriage. BD also gave a presentation about future manifestations of “On the Impact of Flying Carp” on a panel chaired by Linda Weintraub.

In May BD had the opportunity to give the flying carp presentation at Urban Culture Projects La Esquina space in Kansas City. Thanks to Julia Cole, Kate Hackman, David Hughes, Charlotte Street Foundation and all who helped out.

Currently, BD is exhibiting the next chapter of Anthropogenic Ornithology, “The New Birds of Long Island” at ArtSites Gallery in Riverhead, NY as part of the “Bird Shift” show with Lianne Edwards, Hope Sandrow and Totino Valderrama. The show opened on July, 23 and closes on August, 22.

We also currently have work in “The Backyard,” an exhibition at McLean County Arts Center in Bloomington, IL. The exhibition includes displays about our native seed dispersal project and our new dispersal devices. The exhibition also showcases a proposal to turn a parcel of land owned by the Art Center into a Re-Nature Preserve. If successful, this will be the first such preserve and it will function as a sanctioned version of our acquired re-natural

habitats. We are very enthusiastic about this project and look forward to collaborating with many local individuals and organizations to realize it to its full potential. The exhibition will be up until September 11. There will be a closing reception on September 10 from 5-7PM. In conjunction with the exhibition, on September 7 at 7PM in the Brandt Gallery at The McLean County Art Center in Bloomington, IL, BD will give a presentation titled, "Exploiting Unintentional Greening." Please come if you are in the area.

Next Month we will have work in an exhibition at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. Next week we venture into the field with scientists from the Illinois Natural History Survey to work on our "On the Impact of Flying Carp" project. The work will include a trip out on the Illinois River to shoot photographs and video of one of the most carp infested waterways in the nation. We are pursuing this work in order to expand the multi-media presentation into an exhibition designed to help scientists increase public awareness of the issue. We are still seeking venues for this project.

Remember, SRNE memberships are always available (suggested donation only). So email us to sign up for yours today.

We are currently offering an end of summer member thank you offer! If you mail us any color or size blank t-shirt (or any t-shirt you want to transform) with a self-addressed envelope with return postage, we will print it with the official SRNE logo for FREE. We recommend black, white or green t-shirts. Please remember to include a return envelope with adequate postage otherwise we will not be able to return your printed shirt. The offer is only for current members and only one t-shirt per member.

If you have any comments or questions related to our programs or your own experience with the Re-Natural Environment, please email them to society@societyrne.net. We accept all submissions of project descriptions, announcements, research and observations for our next periodic newsletter. Submissions from members are considered first for publication in future newsletters. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list please email us at society@societyrne.net.