“Then the birds got together
To chirp about the weather
After makin’ their decision
With birdie-like precision,
Turned about and made a bee-line to the south”

*Nat Cole, song ’Tis Autumn*

**Doug Tallamy visits SE North Carolina**

Autumn began for Cape Fear Audubon with Doug Tallamy’s presentation of “Bringing Nature Home” at the St. James Community Center on September 24th. As usual, Doug was inspiring and entertaining. An example of the entertainment came with the slide shown in picture. (Picture courtesy of Lara Berkley)

*The Donald Caterpillar (Make America Native Again)*

Over 200 attended the presentation
During Doug’s visit, 15 questions were presented to him. Here are three of the questions and answers.

Q. What do you think is the most bird-friendly plant species?
A. White Oak. Although, I am going to say that Black Cherry is a close second because it produces an awful lot of caterpillar bird food but also has berries whereas oaks do not.

Q. What constitutes ‘junk food’ for birds?
A. The berries produced by these Asian plants. They are producing high sugar berries in the fall instead of high fat berries. If that doesn't fit the definition of junk food, I don't know what does.

Q. What one common habit of most Americans would you change if you could?
A. I would change the status symbol of the lawn. Get people to see it as a place to walk not as something to look at as vast acreage.

For a copy of the complete interview, send email to info@capefearaudubon.org

New Yard Sign Program

The program has been received with much enthusiasm. At this writing, many are lined up to have a consult to receive sign. Thanks again to Jill Peleuses and Wild Bird & Garden for her support. Do a little something for the birds and get a sign. Things you can do, remove invasives or remove non-native plants, especially crape myrtle, or remove some lawn. Do one of those and then plant some natives and get a sign.
Wind Farms?
At the CFAS meeting on October 3rd, Bruce Hovermale gave a presentation on wind farms. He was the Project Director of The Greater Gabbard Wind Farm off the east coast of Suffolk, England. At that time, it was the largest wind farm in the world. Now retired and living in Sunset Beach, he gave a very thorough presentation on pluses and minuses of wind farms and renewable energy in general. It is difficult to summarize the entire presentation, but the last three slides summarize much of the presentation.

3rd slide from last

UK Experience

The cost of power, electricity prices by technology

Round 3 is the current offshore leasing regime that is expected to take advantage of the cost savings from technology development from the previous offshore leasing efforts.
Note in above slide, the different currencies were normalized to purchasing power. Bruce’s example: One could check out the price of a McDonald’s Big Mac in each of the countries in their currency to calibrate purchasing power. Germany decreed that renewable energy was paramount and other data show that carbon emissions have not decreased at all, yet energy cost is the highest. Many factors not considered at onset are to blame.

Last slide

Considerations

• **Renewable energy generation is increasing and trend will continue.**
• **Conventional generation or energy storage is required. Energy storage is limited at present.**
• **Impact on the environment & wildlife must be carefully considered**
• **Grid connection and grid impact is important**
• **Transmission can mitigate impacts**
• **Subsidies can lead to perverse impacts**
Subsidies: One of the factors contributing to Germany’s problems from earlier information in presentation.
By the way, offshore wind farms if properly placed, offer very little hazards to birds. Improper placement of onshore wind farms have given wind farms a bad rap with bird fatalities.

Native Plant Festival 2016
By Catherine Nesbit
There was a lot of excitement at the second annual Native Plant Festival Sept 10th at the New Hanover County Arboretum. The festival’s goal was to inspire participants to include native plants in their gardens because natives support birds, butterflies, bees and other wildlife. In order to achieve this goal, participants were presented with a variety of experiences with native plants. There were experts speaking about native plants throughout the day. There were 22 educational exhibits with interactive activities. For example, participants could hold snakes, watch bees in their hives, and/or make birdhouses. The interactive learning centers from the Discover the Wonders of Birds program were also available where participants could measure their “wingspans” and compare them to birds’ wingspans and many other activities. Six local plant vendors sold a wide variety of plants. And finally, participants could stroll through the newly planted Native Plant garden while they munched on outstanding food and listened to live music by Susan Savia.

Rescue birds on display  Native Plants for sale

The free festival was planned and sponsored by an alliance of community groups interested in promoting the use of native plants. The community groups were: the Arboretum, Cape Fear Audubon Society, Master Gardeners, Cape Fear Garden Club, Going Green Magazine, and the Southport Native Plant Society. Catherine Nesbit, Charley Winterbauer, and Debbie Downey represented Cape Fear Audubon Society on the planning committee.

Note: Effective January 1st, Lara Berkely and Cary Paynter are stepping down as co-chairs of the SE chapter of the Native Plant Society. Michael Abicht and myself, Charley Winterbauer, are going to try to replace those very talented ladies. Wish us luck.
New Native Plant Garden at the Arboretum
by Bonni Cutler
August 31st, Charley Winterbauer presented an Audubon sign recognizing the newly planted Arboretum Native Plant Garden as a habitat for birds and wildlife. The new established Native Plant Garden has been a year in planning, site grading, soil preparation, and weed eradication prior to the actual planting of native perennials as a first phase. The garden is a project of the Master Gardeners Association which has been emphasizing native plants and educating its membership about the value of native plants over the past year with programs, educational handouts at public events, propagation of natives, and hands on work in the garden.

The mission of the garden will be to showcase a variety of native trees, shrubs and flowers that will provide year round interest as well as be year round sources of food and shelter to birds, butterflies, pollinators, and insects that birds depend on for food. The garden will show the public what the natives look like, test how they can perform in backyard gardens as well as educate the public about the web of life that starts with plants that support the rest of the environment.

Currently the Master Gardeners are propagating hundreds of native perennials for sale at their public spring Plant Sale. The goal being to encourage home gardeners to incorporate natives in their own landscapes by making them available through their spring plant sale and fall Native Plant Festival. If homeowners would plant natives, we could help make up for the loss of habitat now disappearing to development in our area.

Garden development in progress, crew taking a photo break
Balloons and birds
Shame on Harris Teeter

Here today

There tomorrow
Photos from Balloons blow  http://balloonsblow.org/

If you wish to voice your concern, write Harris Teeter at
customerrelations@harristeeter.com
“Who is this good lookin’ chick?”
Kim Brand, CFAS guest speaker November 14th, “The Brown Thrush connection”