A marshy place worth a visit...

Adjacent to our Institute Woods is the Charles H. Rogers Wildlife Refuge, 39 acres of tranquil marsh, woods, bush areas, and thickets that are well known as a spring migratory trap for birds flying north along various flyways. Since 1968, when the land, owned by the local water company, was protected through a conservation easement, the area has been maintained by a joint effort of Princeton Township, the water company, and volunteers, most recently through the Friends of the Rogers Refuge (FORR).

Every May, the Institute Woods and the refuge are popular destinations for bird watchers looking for the many species of warblers that stop by the Woods along their spring migratory route. Along trails and from the recently constructed observation platform, birders have spotted some 20-25 species of warblers in one day. The refuge is also home to a variety of mammals including opossum, raccoon, and muskrat, and 5 percent of Princeton’s water is supplied through the refuge’s aquifer. Frogs or peepers form a shrill chorus in early spring, only to be followed later by the croak of the bullfrog.

Following a very successful treatment of the invasive plant, Phragmites australis, by the Partners for Fish and Wildlife, FORR funded an ecological study of the refuge by naturalist Steve Hiltner. The study identified several concerns that are being addressed by FORR, including removal of additional invasive species and replacing them with indigenous wildflowers and shrubs. In April, Mr. Hiltner will lead a group of volunteers on a marsh work project. If you are interested in joining his team, please email me at lgg@ias.edu for further information.

Reaching the observation platform, located just above the tranquil marsh, is an easy walk along the dirt and gravel road behind the Institute Housing. Once you pass the swimming pool on the left side of the road, continue on the road until a large wooden sign for the refuge appears on the right. The dirt road to the right leads straight to the observation platform.

As the Institute Woods comes alive this spring with wave after wave of migrating birds and the flowers and trees burst with color, take the time to walk through the refuge and the Institute Woods and enjoy the warblers and other species of birds, frogs, and animals that can be found in our magical backyard.

Interesting Websites

Helen Goddard writes:

Thank you to Maria Echeverria Maldecena, Katerina Schnablova, and Brig Gebert who have all recommended websites to me and which I should like to pass on. All sites are free.

www.freerice.com is a vocabulary game. You are given a word and four possible meanings. If you click on the correct one then twenty grams of rice are donated to UN World Food Program. According to the website, “Freerice has a custom database containing thousands of words at varying degrees of difficulty. There are words appropriate for people just learning English and words that will challenge the most scholarly professors. You are possibly increasing your vocabulary at the same time as helping to feed the poor (now, would that be philanthropic, killing two birds with one stone, generous or canny?).

The other site is vaguely geographical so close to my heart. It is www.travelpod.com/traveler-iq and here you choose which area you want whether global or continental and whether photos or names of places. You then have to locate a given place on the map as quickly as possible and a score comes up with how far or close you are in kilometers.

Have you ever wondered whether these emails that sometimes circulate are genuine or not? Go to www.snopes.com where you can read a sensible commentary on current and past circulating emails and see whether this is one to take notice of, ignore or laugh at. For example you can put freerice into Snopes and find out whether rice is really being donated. They say that it is.

Finally to find all past copies of this newsletter, which started in October 2004, go to www.ias.edu/about/publications.

Linda Geraci writes:

Silver Medal in the International Piano Recording Competition. The performance is free and open to the public. Tickets are required and may be requested by contacting Druh Kazakoff at kazakoff@ias.edu or 609-951-4458. Families are welcome, but please note that the performance is not appropriate for those under the age of 10.

Volunteers on a...
**Morse Lane**

Harold Calvin Marston Morse was born in Maine in 1892. He wanted to be known by his third name, which is the maiden name of his mother, Ella Phoebe Marston. After attending college in his hometown, Waterville, he studied and taught math at Harvard University. He moved on to become assistant professor at Cornell and Brown University after World War II. In 1935, he was appointed to the Institute, where he stayed for the rest of his career. In 1940, he married Louise Jeffreys, his second wife. They had five children. He died in Princeton in 1977.

Although his work encompasses many mathematical problems, he spent most of his career on a single theme. This theme, Morse theory, is a very important subject in modern mathematical physics, such as string theory.

**Earle Lane**

Edward Mead Earle was born in New York City in 1894. He graduated from Columbia University from which he received a B.A., M.A., and later a Ph.D. In 1919, he married Beatrice Lowndes. They had one daughter. Earle was appointed to the newly created School of Economics and Politics at the Institute in 1934. Here he established a seminar designed to explore various issues on American security. Earle is best known for his role as a strategist in World War II and a lecturer on many topics related to National and International relations. Princeton University library provides online access to his publications and correspondence, graciously donated by his wife after he died in 1954, [http://diglib.princeton.edu/ead/eadGetDoc.xq?id=/ead/mudd/publicpolicy/MC020.EAD.xml](http://diglib.princeton.edu/ead/eadGetDoc.xq?id=/ead/mudd/publicpolicy/MC020.EAD.xml).

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**April 2008**

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**Did you know?**

Brig. Gebert writes:

Tast is pleased to continue to help you even further connect to your surroundings. The pleasant short roads in Member Housing were mostly created in 1999 and named after former Faculty and Directors, now deceased. In past issues we highlighted the Lanes named after Flexner and Meritt in February 2005 and Pinkney and von Neumann Drive in March 2005. If you happen to live on Earle or Morse Lane or simply to further enhance your knowledge about more streets on campus, this is the issue to read.

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**Green Roof**

Did you know that the new extension to Bloomberg Hall hosts the first green roof built in Mercer County? Ninety percent of the 4,300-square-foot roof has been planted with a mixture of three variants of sedum, a plant that can survive on shallow soil depths and withstand harsh growing environments. A green roof is a low-to-no maintenance solution to reduce storm water runoff. After watering once a week for the first six months, the plants should need very little care, maybe weeding and fertilizing once or twice a year. The soil layer and plants soak up water for prolonged periods of time between rains that would otherwise immediately run off into storm sewer. Some of the secondary benefits of a green roof include reduced heating and cooling energy costs due to a shaded roof and increased insulation. Green roofs also help mitigate “urban heat islands,” the increase in localized temperatures from impervious surfaces absorbing solar radiation, which increases energy use and also is linked to the formation of smog. As a final benefit, the green roof should extend the service life of the roof itself due to the reduction of direct exposure to the elements.

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**Knitting Together**

On February 29, Elena Alexeeva, encouraging a sharing of handicraft skills, welcomed some forty people, old and young. Following that open day at 330 South Olden Lane, several days later Alexeeva, a native of Russia, shared her knitting skills with some forty members of the Institute community. A second open day on March 16 featured a group of eight women sharing knitting skills from Germany and Russia. Watch out for announcements in the Dining Hall entrance and in the laundry room for future events.