



Lewnes Named First National Master Naturalist

Take your knowledge of wildlife and wildlife to a higher professional level by enrolling in WindStar Wildlife Institute's homestudy courses. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, more than 66 million people 16 years old and older—31 percent of all Americans—feed, photograph and observe wildlife in 2001 and spent \$40 billion on these activities.

Myersville, MD, April 01, 2008 --(PR.com)-- Jack Lewnes, Port Republic, MD, a retiree who works on weekends at the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, earned WindStar Wildlife Institute's highest certification--National Master Naturalist.

In addition to his innovative habitat improvement projects on his own acreage, Jack was cited for his work with youth and graduate students at the sanctuary. He is a supporter of the "No Child Left Inside" movement that is rapidly growing across America after Richard Louv published his book two years ago entitled Last Child in the Woods -- Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder.

Jack was certified as a WindStar Master Wildlife Habitat Naturalist in 1997. He is a veteran birdwatcher, boater and outdoorsman. Currently writes for WindStar's Wildlife Garden Weekly e-magazine and the American Wildlife Blog. And, he often can be found in his new kayak exploring wildlife habitat in eastern Maryland.

If you love to feed, photograph or observe wildlife and want to know more about them, you, too, can register for WindStar's Wildlife Habitat Naturalist homestudy course. After successful completion, you may register for the new, advanced course--Certified National Master Naturalist.

“The overall mission of these programs is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources, including wildlife and wildlife habitat, on their properties and within their communities,” says Tom Patrick, President.

“We want students to inventory the elements and components of their wildlife habitat, learn more about forest and wildlife management, decide what to add and create a plan for making it happen,” says Patrick. “They can then replicate this effort for others such as friends, relatives and neighbors.”

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“These courses can help people develop their personal and professional environmental skills in order to creatively tackle natural resource challenges,” says Patrick. “And, they can do it at their own pace and time.”

The advanced course is divided into two parts—The Woods In Your Backyard and the Wildlife In



Your Backyard. Two of the DVD videos used in the course—“How Birds Eat” and “Insect Defense”—were created by Dr. Ron Goor, creator of the Smithsonian's Insect Zoo, the first live insect zoo in the U.S.

Special sections are devoted to: Plants, Ornithology, Entomology, Herpetology, Mammalogy and Teaching Others About Nature. Individuals will learn how to manage their land, map it, and assess why they purchased the land and what they hope to get out of it. Plus, subjects like tree identification, forest and wildlife management, water resources, best plants for wildlife, creating wildflower meadows, lists of native plant nurseries and contractors, recreation, aesthetic appeal and ways to improve each will be covered.

WindStar Wildlife Institute is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit, conservation organization whose mission and solution to the loss of native plants and wildlife habitat focuses on effectively teaching wildlife habitat improvement practices through proven methods such as "neighbor helping neighbor" and "education through demonstration".

The Institute publishes two free periodicals-- “Wildlife Garden Weekly”, an e-Magazine and the “American Wildlife Blog.” An award-winning website provides a wealth of information for gardeners and wildlife enthusiasts.

Also, the Institute certifies residential, commercial and rural wildlife habitats in its American Wildlife Habitat Registry™ program. Institute headquarters is located in Myersville, MD in an earth-sheltered, passive solar structure with grass roof.

Individuals can obtain additional information on both e-learning courses and register for the courses by going to the website (www.windstar.org) or by calling 800-324-9044.

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Contact Information:

WindStar Wildlife Institute

Tom Patrick

301-293-3351

wildlife@windstar.org

www.windstar.org

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