

The CU Maurice River 2022 World Series of Birding Team

The CU Fish Hawks

Meet Our Captain

Mary Watkins

CU Naturalist, Trustee Emeritus



As CU Maurice River's World Series of Birding team captain Mary Watkins knows her species. Prior to her avid, or "rabid," birding, as she calls it, Mary was a Registered Nurse for 32 years. Coming from a musical family, Mary's life was rich in melody; she worked in music education and was also an opera singer.

Mary's technical and artistic background impacts the way she connects with birds, nature, and people. Wanting to be involved in avian studies and citizen science, she found her interests in conservation and advocacy mirrored in CU's mission of creating an appreciation of our natural wonders. Mary is adroit at picking out distinct behavioral characteristics of different avian species in order to help our members better identify and understand birds.

Mary does a great job of sharing her love and respect of birds and nature on our outings. She believes everyone's well-being benefits from participating in the enjoyment of nature.

Tony Klock

CU Naturalist, Trustee and Teacher



Tony Klock, posing for the camera while birding. This is Tony's 32nd year as a school teacher, currently at Kresson Elementary where he offers enrichment activities and gets students outside in the Kresson native meadow he worked to establish. While at home, he enjoys gardening and watching birds, butterflies, dragonflies and all of nature's wonders. Tony is a family man who enjoys life with his wife, Marcia, and his large Irish family.

While he grew up along the Atlantic in Ocean City, Tony has spent the last 30 years in Port Norris. Unfamiliar with Port Norris until he found his home there, he quickly fell in love with the NJ Delaware Bayshore through experiences with the fire company and the Bayshore Center at Bivalve. Tony is heavily involved in experiential learning about cultural aspects of the Bayshore area, and he volunteers for various bird-count endeavors in the region as well as for numerous Cape May Bird Observatory Raptor Surveys. When he isn't at work or birding,

you can sometimes catch Tony on the Bayshore, shucking oysters, a skill for which he has earned championship status! He loves volunteering, mostly for the wonderful people in CU, and he enjoys the shared fellowship and mutual mostly for the wonderful people in CU, and he enjoys the shared fellowship and mutual interests of our members.

You can follow him on Instagram @tkportnorris

Kathy Michel

Veterinarian, Professor



Kathy Michel hails from Bryn Mawr but also has digs in Fortescue. A clinical faculty member and a Professor of Nutrition at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, in addition Kathy is the Associate Dean of Education at Penn Vet. Her love of nature, birds, and conservation spurs her on as one of our area's most enthusiastic birders. She often leads birding cruises on the AJ Meerwald along with fellow birder Tony Klock and her husband Bob. Our World Series Team has traditionally led our annual Hansey Creek Road walk in May. Kathy is also a fan of local seafood and the Charlesworth Restaurant; in fact her husband brings a Celtic flare to the Charlesworth with his musical talents.

Jim Blumenstein

CU Naturalist, Teacher



Jim Blumenstein is a CU Naturalist who has been teaching social studies at Sterling High School in Somerdale since 2005. He loves connecting his students to history and nature through outdoor activities that facilitate a deeper understanding and appreciation of our connection to the past and present. Over the years he has brought students to “Down Jersey” as part of their annual curriculum. He is clearly a Bayshore fan intellectually and emotionally. His passion for the outdoor world stems from a trip in which he traveled and backpacked throughout the country during the summer of 2005. Hiking and camping led to a passion for birding which opened up the door to the natural world and all its wonders. Jim lives in Audubon NJ with his wife, Samantha, and three kids, James, Eleanora, and Jackson. His family is continually engaged in the natural world under their parents' mentoring.