



Delaware Audubon

www.delawareaudubon.org

Vol. XXXII No. 3 • Winter 2010-2011

Andy Ednie Honored at Annual Meeting

Officers and board members also elected at event

Andy Ednie was awarded the Delaware Audubon Society Conservation Award at the Annual Meeting on November 12, 2010.

For twelve years, the words "This is Birdline Delaware" were heard over the airwaves every week on a local news radio station, giving listeners the latest information on birds, their conservation and culture through the radio, thanks to Andy Ednie. Andy is a homegrown conservationist, a native Delawarean who has spent most of his life in the state. He currently lives in Claymont with his wife Jana.

When his father was transferred by DuPont to Nashville, Tennessee, Andy's first recollection of nature was seeing a Red-headed Woodpecker at his bird feeder. He began birding as a teenager on the Brandywine Creek State Park Census under the tutelage of Winston Wayne, who taught him the finer points of ecology. He also became involved with Russ Peterson's campaign for Governor, and the Coastal Zone Act, while in high school.

Andy was concerned about the lack of national recognition for the State in the birding community. He was asked to co-compile Delaware's seasonal reports for American Birds, now North American Birds, published by the American Birding Association. He held that position for 25 years, advancing Delaware's recognition as a prime birding area in the country. He also compiled the Audubon Christmas counts for Elkton, Middletown and finally Bombay Hook, for the last 15 years.

His involvement with collecting seasonal reports introduced him to Armas Hill, compiler for the Philadelphia Birdline out of the Academy of Nature Sciences in Philadelphia. Eventually, "Birdline Delaware" was set up at the Delaware Museum of Natural History for birders to get a weekly report on the changing seasons in Delaware. Sally Hawkins and Allan Loudell, then from WILM, approached Andy to put the "Birdline" on the radio and to address issues of interest.

Andy says there is no greater delight than birding in Delaware, whether it's Brandywine Creek, Bombay Hook, or Thompson's Island at Rehoboth Beach. Being on the radio was also a joy, especially getting to play bird songs like the White-throated Sparrow, possibly the best songster in North America, and Andy's favorite bird. It's also been a challenge to address issues like urbanization, use of pesticides, and over hunting into topics for a weekly special feature.

Andy is a nurse practitioner for E. Russell Ford, M.D. in internal medicine. He is a graduate of the University of Delaware, with a master's from Widener University and an NP diploma from Wilmington University. His study as a medical professional corresponds to his love for the environment. Lynn Frink, founder of Delaware Audubon and Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research, taught him that all life is sacred and provided a role



Andy Ednie (left) receives the Conservation Award from Mark Martell.

model for using birding as a science.

To manage stress, Andy often takes to the field to spend some quiet time observing nature. "Over urbanization not only stresses the environment but also humans. Birds act as a barometer of not only ecological health but also the health of mankind. By awareness of our surroundings, we are able to assess the status of our own society."

Andy testified for Delaware Audubon in the effort to make Texaco accountable for its violations of the Delaware River. Together with the Natural Resources Defense Council, 3.93 million dollars in fines were brought to Delaware.

Although the Birdline is not presently being broadcast on the radio, you can read it weekly on the DE-Birds listserv or on our web site.

The annual meeting also provides an opportunity for members to learn about the organization's accomplishments, and to have a voice in the direction of the Delaware Audubon Society.

During the meeting, three directors were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors. Fred Breukelman was re-elected, and two new board members are Barbara Welsh-Rosenblum and Asha Iyengar. Barbara has been running Delaware Audubon's annual Bird Seed Sale, and Asha is a former board member and past president.

Continued on page 3 ➔

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Delaware Audubon is off to an interesting start in 2011. We have recently achieved another milestone legal victory. A settlement has been reached to end cooperative farming with genetically modified seed at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, unless the refuge management complies with federal law. This was an extension of our 2009 victory at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, and this landmark settlement will change refuge practices throughout the region.

We are also embroiled in a new environmental discussion regarding nor'easter damage at Prime Hook, where dune breaches have converted several units of freshwater impoundments to salt water. Before the refuge was created, the marshes there were brackish. After the refuge was established in the early 1960s, the salt water marshes were turned into freshwater impoundments. As a result of major storm damage, these units are now reverting to salt water marshes.

When the breach at Fowler Beach first occurred, Delaware Audubon was supportive of rebuilding the dunes as quickly as possible to prevent the conversion of these freshwater landscapes to salt water. These dunes had been routinely re-built over a decade or so, and this would be no exception. However, a significant length of time has passed, and the marsh has gone back to saltwater. Before rebuilding the dunes in an attempt to "go back" to freshwater impoundments, Delaware Audubon believes that we need a new discussion on the future direction of the refuge.

After visiting the site in the last week, I came away impressed with the raw power of what a nor'easter can do to our coastline. The refuge management has gone through constant change over the last decade. A long-term management plan, required to be completed years ago, still hasn't been released for public scrutiny. Global climate change is real, and a slow but steady rise in sea level will force a long-term management plan that considers either an inward migration or an external prevention of sea level rise. The result will be a complete change of management approach compared to what was done over the last 50 years at the refuge. Rebuilding dunes every 5-10 years is an expensive proposition, and will not succeed over the next century.

For our friends who own homes at Prime Hook Beach, the issue affects not just the refuge management of public resources, but their property and even their safety. We have had productive conversations with individual home owners near the refuge. Delaware Audubon has an honest disagreement over the proper course of action at Prime Hook, but we share the belief that the refuge needs to chart a future course and take steps toward a long-term action plan. There are obvious public/private land issues at stake.

While one can challenge the idea of building homes on a receding shoreline with the inherent risks therein, nobody wants to see their neighbors at risk when storms turn local roads into small craft advisories. What is absolutely clear to Delaware Audubon is that a long-term action plan, requiring public input, must be taken into consideration before any attempts can be made to buttress the shoreline.

Mark Martell, President

NEWSLETTER DESIGN & LAYOUT.....STEVEN BREUKELMAN
PRINTING.....SPRINT QUALITY PRINTING, INC.



The Delaware Audubon Society, incorporated in 1977, is a statewide chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Printed on recycled paper.

Officers

HONORARY CHAIRMAN
Russell W. Peterson

PRESIDENT
Mark Martell

VICE PRESIDENT
Fred Breukelman

SECRETARY
Ellen Wright

Delaware Audubon seeks Treasurer

We are looking for a member with basic accounting skills to join our Board as Treasurer. This requires very little time commitment. If you'd like to volunteer for this position, please contact us.

Donate and help protect Delaware's environment:

You can make your tax-deductible contribution securely online.

Just go to

www.delawareaudubon.org/donate



Pileated Woodpecker illustration by Steven D'Amato

TELEPHONE:
302.292.3970

MAILING ADDRESS:
Delaware Audubon Society
56 W. Main Street, Suite 212 B
Christiana, DE 19702-1500

EMAIL ADDRESS:
dasmil@delawareaudubon.org

Annual Meeting Report,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Members present also re-elected officers of the organization for another term: Mark Martell, president; Fred Breukelman, vice president; and Ellen Wright, secretary. The treasurer position is currently vacant, and the organization is actively seeking candidates. If you are a Delaware Audubon member with experience in handling organization funds, and would like to volunteer for the position, please contact the office.

President Mark Martell highlighted a few of the organization's accomplishments in the past year. "We filed a second lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), related to Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge violations of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act and the Refuge Improvement Act of 1997," he reported. "The suit accused FWS of failure to conduct Compatibility Determinations and Environmental Assessments for farming and the use of genetically modified organisms (GMO)." A settlement in the case has now been reached.

In another legal action, Delaware Audubon joined Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, in an "action to stop the proposed dune building benefiting private landowners at Prime Hook." The dune restoration was proposed because of a material breach of sea water into the fresh water impoundments at Fowler's Beach. Mr. Martell reported that "the Refuge has filed an Environmental Assessment and Compatibility Determination in support of this action and we are hoping to get an injunction to prevent this from happening."

Third, he said, "We are in the middle of a running battle regarding the dredging of the Delaware River. We believe the Port of Philadelphia, and to a lesser extent the Port of Wilmington, are under the mistaken belief that dredging the Delaware River is necessary to enhance commerce and help the local economies. The General Accounting Office clearly disagrees with this assessment; and Delaware Audubon, along with our friends at Sierra and the Delaware Riverkeeper are fighting it by providing testimony to DNREC."

Mr. Martell thanked Kathy Tidball for all her work in bringing Audubon Adventures to middle school children around the state. "Kathy and I have had the pleasure of delivering environmental education kits to teachers and schools up and down the State of Delaware over the last week," he noted, "and the materials are very well received."

"I would also like to thank Barbara Welsh-Rosenblum for volunteering time to run our two birdseed sales and to obtain funds from Deutsche Bank, to help underwrite the costs of Audubon Adventures for our organization. Through her efforts, we hope to provide more and more children with this vital educational tool that teachers desperately need during this period of budget cutbacks."

The 2010 Treasurer's Report noted that the books and records for the Society are available for members to review upon request. "We continue to break even financially in this economy. We are searching for funds to expand our Audubon Adventures program."

The Annual Meeting is held every fall, with a modest admission charge to cover the costs of a guest speaker and light refreshments. ■

Settlement Reached in Bombay Hook Farming Suit

Cooperative farming with genetically modified seed halted

A settlement has been reached in Delaware Audubon's lawsuit against Bombay Hook and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The settlement prohibits cooperative farming using genetically modified seed on the refuge until the FWS does a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) required analysis of the consequences of such activity.

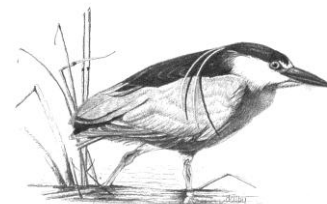
The settlement was signed by Interior Department Secretary Ken Salazar on December 22, 2010.

At least for the near future, there will no longer be cooperative farming at Bombay Hook NWR using any seed that has been genetically modified. Kenneth T. Kristl, Esq., director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic at the Widener University School of Law, said the door isn't completely closed on cooperative farming with genetically modified crops. "But the litigation has ensured that it won't happen in the near term and that any future decision-making process will be out in the open," he said.

Mark Martell, president of Delaware Audubon, praised the settlement (see his Letter on Page 2). He also noted that the settlement will have an impact beyond Delaware's two refuges (Bombay Hook and Prime Hook), affecting policy at other refuges in the region.

The suit, which was reported in the Spring 2010 issue of this newsletter, was brought by Delaware Audubon, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, and the Center for Food Safety. The Department of the Interior stated that all cooperative farming on the refuge had ceased in December of 2009.

The primary agreement in the settlement is that DOI FWS will not authorize the use of genetically modified crops within the refuge *until an appropriate NEPA analysis is completed*. This agreement also applies to other refuges in the Northeast Region. The settlement also requires the defendants to give notice of plans at least 60 days before entering into any cooperative farming agreement authorizing the use of genetically modified crops on any refuge in the region. The FWS must notify the plaintiffs of its intent and provide a copy of any proposed agreement. ■



Black-crowned Night Heron
illustration by Daniel S. Kilby

Lawsuit Filed to Bar Beach Scraping at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge

Plan would damage refuge wetlands

A plan to scrape sand from the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge in order to build a dune-line to protect beach homes violates federal environmental laws and cannot go forward, according to a lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for Delaware. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS operates the refuge) contends that bulldozing its wetlands and removing sand poses no significant environmental effect requiring further analysis.

Filed by the Mid-Atlantic Environmental Law Center and the Widener Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic on behalf of the Delaware Audubon Society and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), the suit charges that the plan to scrape sand and sediment from Prime Hook Refuge to build up dune-lines on 700 feet of refuge land and 3,200 feet on adjacent private property was approved in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires full environmental review of all significant federal actions, and the Refuge Improvement Act, which requires that projects on refuge lands be compatible with refuge purposes. This project is intended to protect private property and temporarily halt saltwater intrusion into a man-made impoundment whose protective dunes have been breached by a combination of storms and rising sea levels.

"The unique coastal habitats of Prime Hook should not be sacrificed for the benefit of a few private landowners," said Mark Martell, President of Delaware Audubon. "If these fragile environments are not safe within our National Wildlife Refuges, where indeed can they be safe?"

Besides the beach scraping, the refuge also entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) allowing DNREC to maintain and manage a water control structure on refuge lands for 20 years without any form of NEPA compliance. In addition, the refuge has yet to obtain any of the required federal and state permits.

This project has been immersed in controversy since this spring, when FWS stopped DNREC bulldozers from doing the work it now proposes. The project would strip refuge beaches to the detriment of shorebirds, shellfish and other wildlife to shore up private property at taxpayer expense. Besides the environmental damage, other questions include –

- Is there enough sand to rebuild the dune-lines? In September, DNREC argued that "sand starved" refuge beaches had insufficient sand to complete the work. The alternative of importing sand has been rejected because neither the state or federal agency wants to pay for it; and
- What happens next year after this sand is washed away? FWS maintains that this project is only a one-time fix and has yet to decide what it will do as nature continues to take its course.

"This project shows a pattern of negligent refuge management," stated PEER Staff Counsel Christine Erickson. "The Fish & Wildlife Service is contravening the very laws it was created to administer."

On July 27, 2010, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service unveiled the Draft Environmental Assessment for the project. Bulldozers would mine sand from the refuge to fill in "breaches" created by recent storms in the dunes north of Prime Hook Beach in Sussex County. The stated reason for the project, however, is to reduce the animosity between "some community members and the Service," as local homeowners have blamed FWS for growing subsidence and flooding.

In fact, as FWS admits, *the problem is sea level rise* and other climate changes which will inexorably change the contours of the Atlantic Coast. At the same time, Delaware Audubon and PEER argue that the project will:

- violate a number of laws;
- contradict the FWS Climate Change Strategy, which prescribes adapting to sea level rise rather than resisting it through engineering efforts; and
- be counterproductive. As the FWS assessment admits; "A scenario of continual rebuilding of artificial dunes could have long-term and cumulative negative impacts and consequences....Geologists recommend that artificial dunes not be rebuilt after storm damage to allow tidal inlet and overwash formation that reduces the vulnerability of back-barrier marshes to sea level rise..."

Delaware Audubon recognizes that this is a sensitive issue, and did not enter into this legal action lightly. For more information about Delaware Audubon's position, please read the President's Letter on page 2. ■

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count ♦ February 18-21, 2011

The 14th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is coming up February 18-21, 2011. The four-day event is free and is open to bird watchers of all ages and skill levels. Participants watch birds for any length of time on one or more days of the count and enter their tallies at www.birdcount.org. The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species. The GBBC is a joint project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada.

The 2010 GBBC was another record-breaker with more than 97,300 bird checklists submitted by an estimated 63,000 volunteers from across the United States and Canada. These volunteers found connecting with nature to be great fun.

"I enjoy being outdoors and birding is a source of relaxation and stress relief," wrote one participant. "Looking and listening for birds forces me to focus on the environment around me at a higher level of intensity, and notice things I might otherwise miss."

From reports of rare species to large-scale tracking of bird movements, the GBBC provides insight into the lives of bird populations.

A few highlights from the 2010 GBBC:

- The invasive Eurasian Collared-Dove keeps expanding its range. It was reported in 39 states and provinces during the 2010 GBBC. Where will this hardy dove show up next?
- Tree Swallows showed dramatic increases in numbers during the last count, possibly because of warmer temperatures and earlier migration. Will that pattern hold true again for GBBC 2011?

Mid-February is chosen as the time for the Great Backyard Bird Count because it offers a good picture of the birds typically found throughout the winter months. It also coincides with migration for some species, such as the Sandhill Crane. That window of transition affords an opportunity to detect changes in timing for northward migration.



Northern Cardinal photo by Heather Taylor

On the www.birdcount.org website, participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during the count. The site has tips to help identify birds and special materials for educators.

GBBC participant surveys have shown that people really enjoy exploring the data and say they learn more about their local birds. "I looked at data with my 9-year-old son to help him learn about birds in our area," wrote one parent. "We talked about migration, bird flyways and compared bird counts for our area with where his cousins live."

Participants may also enter the GBBC photo contest by uploading images taken during the count. Many images will be featured in the GBBC website's photo gallery. All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs, and many other great birding products.

For more information about the GBBC, visit: www.birdcount.org

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by generous support from Wild Birds Unlimited. ■

Looking for Color Banded Shorebirds...

The September issue of *WHSR (Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve) News* has a very useful and updated "birding for banded shorebirds" piece on gaining an understanding of those color bands that can sometimes be seen on migrating shorebirds anywhere in our hemisphere. Under the Pan American Shorebird Program (PASP), researchers use one (or two) specific flag color(s) to indicate the country where the bird was banded. The placement, sequence, and color of the accompanying bands are all described and explained in detail here:

www.whsrn.org/news/article/birding-banded-shorebirds-basics-updated ■

One Red Knot's Record-Breaking Flight

This spring, shorebird researchers analyzed the year-long data recorded by the sunrise- and sunset-sensitive geolocators that had been attached to migrating Red Knots in New Jersey in May 2009.

One of the recaptured knots had flown nearly 5,000 miles (8,000 kilometers) in six days, a record-breaking distance for a non-stop flight by a Red Knot. It flew across the Amazon and the Atlantic Ocean between southern Brazil and North Carolina, shattering the previous known Red Knot record by nearly 700 miles. In the previous summer, that same Red Knot flew non-stop for eight days between Canada's Hudson Bay and the Caribbean, a distance of 3,167 miles (5,100 kilometers).

These are just some of the fascinating results published last month in the bulletin of the International Wader Study Group by a group of shorebird researchers from the United States, Canada, Argentina, Britain, and Australia. The lead author, Larry Niles, and his colleagues employed a relatively new technique - sunrise- and sunset-sensitive geolocators attached to the legs of Red Knots in New Jersey - to reveal details on the annual migration of this species. Red Knots can winter as far south as Tierra del Fuego, South America, and breed in the Arctic.

To see more on this amazing Red Knot, the geocator technology applied, the researchers doing the work, and a migration map and photos, visit:

www.whsrn.org/alertsupdates/alert/20100920 ■



Delaware Audubon Merchandise Available for Sale on our Web Site

Now you can support the work of the Delaware Audubon Society – and wear our logo! Buy t-shirts, tote bags, and more. Just visit our web site at www.delawareaudubon.org and look for the “Delaware Audubon Store” link on the right side of the page.

Shop at Amazon.com, and Help Support Delaware Audubon!

Just go to www.delawareaudubon.org/amazon every time you shop, and a percentage of the sale will support our efforts to improve the environment in Delaware.

JOIN AUDUBON NOW!

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP OFFER

For \$20.00 receive membership in both the National Audubon Society and the Delaware Audubon Society. This form is for **new memberships only – NO RENEWALS.**

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ Email: _____

Please do not share my contact information with other organizations.

Audubon magazine is published 6 times per year. Your gift to Audubon is tax-deductible except for the amount allocated to Audubon magazine (\$7.50) for a one year membership. Please allow 6 - 8 weeks to receive your first issue.

Please make all checks payable to “Audubon”

Send this application and your check to:
National Audubon Society
PO Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

C1ZD900Z

DONATE TO DELAWARE AUDUBON

Delaware Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, but we receive only a small portion of your membership dues. We are truly reliant on you – our local members and supporters – to fund our efforts:

Education – like the *Audubon Adventures* program in Delaware middle schools, or our Piping Plover Suite music education program.

Advocacy and policy actions – Delaware Audubon testifies at hearings and public meetings, and is involved in litigation to ensure environmental regulations are enforced.

A Center for Environmental Education – We’re seeking funds to develop a center that will allow us to do more environmental education of students and adults.

Donations are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to “Delaware Audubon Society” and mail to:

Delaware Audubon Society
56 W. Main Street, Suite 212 B
Christiana, DE 19702-1500

or donate with a credit card at
www.delawareaudubon.org/donate

LETTERS

Some weeks ago I contacted your office in regards to a male cardinal attacking my windows. I was told it was a territorial thing - the bird saw his reflection in the window and was trying to scare the "other bird" away. The solution to stopping the bird was preventing the bird from seeing his reflection. Rather than draping the window from the outside with a tarp or some other light blocking material I hung sheets of waxed paper between the window and the screen. I hung them about an inch apart so I could peek out but not give the bird enough glass area to see his reflection. This has been a very satisfactory solution and I pass it on to you and thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
William T. Watts

In your Summer/Autumn 2010 issue of *Delaware Audubon* you devote the back page to "Green Your Commute." I was sorry to see no mention of the bicycle as a transportation option. Roadway bike lanes are becoming increasingly commonplace. In the City of Newark the bike has within the past three years or so become the vehicle of choice for the student body, if the University's struggle to provide enough bike stands to meet the demand is any indicator. WILMAPCO has a bike committee as well as a non-motorized transportation committee. Here is a list of local bicycle promoter/user web sites taken from the recent issue of the Newark Bicycle Committee flyer:

- Bike Delaware: www.bikede.org
- White Clay Bicycle Club:
www.whiteclaybicycleclub.org
- Delaware Bicycle Council:
www.bike.deldot.gov
- Delaware Greenways:
www.delawaregreenways.org
- Delaware Trail Spinners:
www.trailspinners.org
- WILMAPCO: www.wilmapco.org

Along with taking public transportation, cycling is a viable alternative in many instances to the private automobile, as many have discovered and more will, as road marking and road design facilitate a safer infrastructure.

Robert Bennett
WILMAPCO
Non-Motorized Transportation
Committee

Delaware Audubon Society 2010 Financial Summary

Balance Sheet:		31-Dec-10 Balance
Assets:		
Cash and Investments		22,550.15
Fund Liabilities:		
Unrestricted General Fund		16,422.51
Restricted Funds		6,127.64 22,550.15
Fund Activity Statement:		
General Fund - Beginning Balance		17,202.98
+ Restricted Funds closed	0.00	
+ Contributions	16,266.72	
- Expenses	17,067.19	
Net Fund Change:		-800.47
General Fund - Ending Balance		16,402.51
Restricted Funds - Beginning Balance		6,127.64
+ Contributions	0.00	
- Expenses	0.00	
- Closed Funds to General	0.00	
Net Fund Change:		0.00
Restricted Funds - Ending Balance		6,127.64



2nd Annual Spring Bird Seed Sale

Mark your calendars now!
Help support the *Audubon Adventures*
middle school education program.

Pick-up date:
Saturday, March 5th 2011

Order form and additional information
will be available by early February at:
www.delawareaudubon.org/seedsale



Delaware Audubon

56 W. Main Street, Suite 212 B
Christiana, DE 19702-1500

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit # 428
Wilmington, DE

EARTH SAVING TIPS:

Cold Facts About Fireplaces

When you light a blazing fire on a cold winter day it looks and feels wonderful, but it can be an expensive and inefficient endeavor. A fireplace sends most of the heat in your house straight up the chimney – emitting as much as 24,000 cubic feet of air per hour to the outside! But, there are ways you can limit the loss of heat when enjoying a quiet evening by the fire:

- Reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly - only about an inch - and close doors leading into the room.
- Install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.
- Check the seal on the flue damper and make it as snug as possible.
- Use grates made of C-shaped metal tubes to draw cool room air into the fireplace and circulate warm air back into the room.
- Keep your fireplace's damper closed when you aren't using it.
- Consider a gas fireplace if you are planning to install a new one. These provide the enjoyment of looking at flames but can be 70% more efficient than regular fireplaces.

Windows and Energy: No Panes, No Gains

Windows waste plenty of energy and money. Experts say as much as 25% of your home's heat can escape through leaky windows. Here are simple things you can do to make your existing windows save energy and keep your home a little cozier:

- Install weatherstripping on drafty doors and windows. Storm doors and windows should have weatherstripping on all movable joints.
- Use stretch-seal, heat-shrink plastic sheeting kits for windows as an inexpensive and easy way to seal warped or single-glazed windows.
- Use window quilts or shutters over your windows to keep the cold out in the winter and the heat out in the summer. An uninsulated drape can cut window heat loss by one-third. An insulated drape can reduce it by half.
- Apply glazing compound to leaky wooden windows where the glass meets the frame and seal where the frame meets the house. If you have aluminum windows, you may need to replace the weatherstripping, available at most hardware stores.
- Don't try to seal cracks in the glass. Instead, replace the whole pane.