

**MAY 18: OUR ANNUAL BANQUET & SILENT AUCTION,
AND
SCOTT WEIDENSAUL,
PRESENTING A PROGRAM ON HIS NEW BOOK,**

“RETURN TO WILD AMERICA: A YEARLONG SEARCH FOR THE CONTINENT’S NATURAL SOUL”

THE PROGRAM:

“In 1953, birding guru Roger Tory Peterson and noted British naturalist James Fisher set out on what became a legendary journey— a one hundred-day trek over 30,000 miles around North America. Two years later, *Wild America*, their classic account of the trip, was published. On the eve of that book's fiftieth anniversary, naturalist Scott Weidensaul retraces Peterson and Fisher's steps to tell the story of wild America today. How has the continent's natural landscape changed over the past fifty years? How have the wildlife, the rivers, and the rugged, untouched terrain fared? The journey takes Weidensaul from the coastal communities of Newfoundland to the Smokies, to Florida, to the Sierra Madres, the Mexican tropics of Xilitla, the Pacific shore and the Bering Sea. Poised to become a classic in its own right, *Return to Wild America* is a sweeping survey of the natural soul of North America today.” [excerpts from book jacket; web]

Scott, no stranger to our chapter, is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, and has written for *Smithsonian* magazine, *Natural History*, *International Wildlife*, *Orion*, *Bird Watcher's Digest* and *Audubon*, among others. He lectures widely in the United States, and his photography and artwork have been published frequently in books and periodicals. Scott lives along the Kittatinny Ridge in eastern Pennsylvania. A

licensed bird bander specializing in the study of hawk and owl migration, Scott has also pioneered research in Pennsylvania on the Saw-whet Owl.

RESERVE your place now for this terrific program and banquet, THURSDAY, MAY 18th! **Reservations are required** for this event. Appetizers at 6:00 pm; dinner at 6:45pm. (*location & directions, see page 2*).

ANNUAL BANQUET & SILENT AUCTION:

Our annual banquet and silent auction will take place with Scott's program on May 18th. We sent out a separate mailing with a **reservation form** (required) to mail back for joining us at this program and event. **If you didn't receive one, or are not yet a member but wish to come, please call Carl Juris, 564-1479, for a banquet and program reservation form.**

Just a few of the great auction items that will be available: a *Peregrine Falcon* print by Mark Anderson, a pair of 10 x 42 Bausch & Lomb Elite Binoculars, The Sibley Guide to Birds and The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior, a beautiful flowering hanging basket, and tickets to the Hershey Gardens & Butterfly House. If you have a new or gently used nature-related item to donate (notice in advance of the event is appreciated for space planning) to the auction, please contact Susan Miller: 697-6696 or millersconer@msn.com. **Reminder: ONLY CASH OR CHECKS can be accepted for winning bids.**

PLEASE NOTE: RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR OUR MAY PROGRAM

Appalachian Audubon Society (AAS) is a National Audubon Society chapter. *Kingfisher Courier*, (copyright AAS; please request reprint permission) is a membership benefit, published monthly, September to May, by AAS: P.O. Box 15123; Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123. Email submissions to editor by the 15th of month prior to desired publication (files < 100KB requested; otherwise, contact editor). Editor & Board reserve publication decisions, per chapter mission/ space available.

AAS WEBSITE:

<http://www.appalachianaudubon.org/>

OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT - Ramsay Koury: 761-1871
rkoury123@aol.com

VICE-PRESIDENT - Vacant

SECRETARY - Denna Claypool

TREASURER - Ernie Johnson: 566-9875

DIRECTORS:

Term Ending May 2006

Gary Labelle
Dale Darkes: 975-9730
Nancy Juris: 564-1479

Term Ending May 2007

Marcia Wilson: 737-7973
Arnold Mahey: 564-1636
Sue Strassner: 243-5731

COMMITTEES (JOIN US!)

Bird Seed Sale - Tom Lehman: 732-5087

Conservation - Denna Claypool

Education - Pete Fox: 583-2639

Field Trips - Pete Fox: 583-2639

Hospitality - Lorrie Preston: 732-5615

Membership - Ron & Marcia Wilson: 737-7973

Newsletter Editor - Karen Atwood: 766-0146
crakeha5556@verizon.net—Please keep files > 100KB)

Newsletter Mailing Team
- Ron and Marcia Wilson: 737-7973
- Barbara Collins

Programs - Ramsay Koury: 761-1871

Publicity - Jan Getgood: 566-9875

Trout Run - Jon Dale: 432-0335
- Kathy Kuchwara

Invasive Plants - Walter Koerber: 938-9618

Youth Coordinator - Maggie DeWane

THANKS, DALE!

After many years of faithful service, **Dale Darkes** is retiring from the board of Appalachian Audubon. Dale has served our society in many ways: Program Chairman, Board Member, Treasurer and President. A hard-working volunteer at our seed sales and a frequent participant in our field trips, Dale was willing to help out whenever we needed him. Thanks, Dale!

PLEA, RE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS, by Ramsay Koury

I've written several articles over the past year about Pennsylvania's Breeding Bird Atlas. If I haven't convinced you to pick up your binoculars and find some birds, perhaps I can encourage you to help in another way. Many times while atlasing we see good habitat areas for birds, but the land is posted, "NO TRESPASSING." **If you, or a family member, or even the company where you work has LAND — e.g., a farm somewhere, a hunting camp in Perry County, other good birding habitat, and wouldn't mind "citizen-scientist" birders checking it for birds, please let me know. Often good habitat areas go unexplored for breeding birds because we can't access a property.** We could even let you know what birds we find there (special species kept in confidence). If you know of breeding birds on such property, let us know that as well. Thanks!

**THE MAY PROGRAM, BANQUET & SILENT AUCTION
MARK THE LAST PROGRAM OF OUR PROGRAM YEAR.
WE WISH YOU ALL A NATURE & BIRD-FILLED SUMMER!**

EDITOR NEEDED—FOR FALL, 2006

If you are an experienced editor who would like to serve the chapter, OR are seeking an editorship and newsletter experience, please contact Ramsay Koury, current president, or Karen Atwood, current editor (see sidebar). Due to other commitments, Karen has limited her term of service this time to one year; she will step down as editor this summer.

Appalachian Audubon monthly (Sept.-May) programs normally take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month in Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Road, in the Allendale neighborhood of Camp Hill, at 7:30 p.m. **Exceptions are announced in this newsletter**, as are field trips and other activities.

PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Program Location: Take New Cumberland exit off I-83; cross Carlisle Road. Turn left onto Allendale Way; take first left at Deerfield Road (*from the south, take New Cumberland exit, turn left onto Carlisle Rd., left on Cedar Cliff Rd., left on Allendale Way, then left onto Deerfield Rd.*), to the church.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR STONEY CREEK INVASIVE PLANTS TRIP by Denna Claypool:

Walter Koerber, Gary Labelle, Joe Church and I met at Stoney Creek on April 9th and uprooted, poisoned or otherwise killed *multiflora* rose, white garlic mustard, Asian bittersweet, Asian Barberry and *Ailanthus*. Not much was blooming except spicebush and some maples, but there were fiddleheads and small violet leaves emerging. Birds sighted or heard include turkey, phoebe, turkey vulture, blue-headed vireo, Carolina chickadee and cardinal. After several hours killing invasive plants we traveled up the main trail scouting out future sites, and saw the stone foundations of two of the old resort hotels that used to operate there. The ruins were attractive in their own way, with moss-covered stone masonry in remarkable shape, considering its years, but the sites were heavily populated by some of the biggest barberry bushes I've ever seen. We also saw the water neutralization plant from the main trail. If we don't squeeze in another meeting this spring we'll go back to Stoney Creek in the fall.

We're always happy to welcome new volunteers! Call Walter Koerber: 938-9618; email: wakoerber@yahoo.com.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, where Moonwalks, Warbler Walks and moss, butterfly and salamander programs are available. Check out www.hawkmountain.org. Just click on "2006 events".

THE MANADA CONSERVANCY'S 6TH ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE



Sat., May 13th, at Shaffner Park, Hummelstown; 9:00 am—2:00 pm. Pre-Order Catalogue available now. Call 717-566-4122, or download catalogue/order forms from www.manada.org. Pre-order deadline, May 5th. Herbaceous perennials, including water-garden plants, ferns, grasses and wildflowers, assorted woody vines, shrubs and trees. All plants nursery-propagated, chosen for beauty, wildlife value and appropriateness for local conditions.

AUDUBON CHAPTER ASSEMBLY REPORT

Denna Claypool, Marcia Wilson and Ramsay Koury spent April 1st & 2nd at the statewide Audubon Chapter Conference in Valley Forge, where about 15 of the state's 21 chapters were represented. It was interesting to meet so many leaders from chapters around the state and learn about their activities. We got some great some new ideas for programs and field trips! We also heard speakers on Important Bird Areas, chapter-building and policy issues, like Wind Turbines and Deer Management; expect to hear more about these in the future. We had a good field trip to Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (Tinicum) on Sunday morning. The event was very well-organized by PA Audubon and Valley Forge Audubon. However, the best part was meeting our fellow Auduboners from around the state!



"Forever Wild - 2006" Concert Continues to Grow



The 20th anniversary multi-media concert by long-distance, solo wilderness hiker Walkin' Jim Stoltz, coming to our area this September, continues to gain support and momentum. Walkin' Jim is a folk singer who plays guitar and harmonica and sings deep from his heart about the wild places and wild creatures he has seen on his long journeys in the backcountry. His concerts transport you to the wild places yourself, while you watch his outstanding nature images appear and disappear on the big screen. He is truly an inspiration and touches a place in our souls that allows us to feel that we, too, can make a difference in protecting our miraculous, natural world.

Currently, eight different environmentally-focused local groups have joined forces as co-sponsors for this event. We, Appalachian Audubon Society, are the organizing sponsor, as well as providing financial support. Other sponsors to date are the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Bluebird Society of PA, the Gov. Pinchot Group of the Sierra Club, the Manada Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy in PA, the PA Parks & Forests Foundation, and Physicians for Social Responsibility. We expect about 25 groups with educational/informational displays in the lobby on concert night. Details will be published in the September issue of the *Kingfisher*. Visit www.foreverwild.info for regular updates about Walkin' Jim and his national "Forever Wild -2006" tour, already in progress in the western states.

You will **not** want to miss this event, so mark your calendar and plan to be there. **Remember, it is FREE admission, thanks to the co-sponsors, and seating is limited to the first 1,224!** Hope to see you there!

"Forever Wild - 2006" Concert with Walkin' Jim Stoltz: Saturday, Sept. 23, 2006, 7:30 PM, in the Mechanicsburg Middle School (Rte 114 W exit from Rte 15 S, Mechanicsburg, 10 minutes south of Camp Hill Shopping Mall. Then 1/4 mile to the 2nd light along Rte 114). Call 717-732-5615 or e-mail mitandpak@aol.com for more info.



Maine Audubon Youth Camp Scholarships — THANK YOU, TO ALL THE CHILDREN who applied. Your enthusiasm and interest are FANTASTIC; we *wish* we could send you all! Recipients of this summer's scholarships are: Julia Atwood, Alex Dale, Amy Klippel, Tim Monko and Carla Santiago. Congrats, all!

WELCOME TO OUR WEBSITE!

Check out our new Appalachian Audubon chapter website at <http://www.appalachianaudubon.org/>. We activated the website in mid-April; it contains the *Kingfisher Courier* in PDF files, as well as a lot of other good information, calendar, etc. Still much more to add, but hey, it's a start!



Audubon Pennsylvania:



Great PA Clean-up — Local Important Bird Area

Pennsylvanians across the Commonwealth are cleaning up litter and trash on Important Bird Areas (IBAs) this spring. The PA Department of Environmental Protection is partnering with Audubon Pennsylvania to place a special emphasis on IBAs, to promote healthy bird habitat state-wide. The banks of the Susquehanna in Harrisburg are part of the *Sheets Island Archipelago IBA*, so Audubon PA is hosting a clean-up for the area on **Sat., May 27th, 8 am to 1 pm**. **FREE parking** will be available. **We need volunteers to help with a birding station and the clean-up itself. If interested, please call Stacy Small at 717-213-6880, ext. 22.** The event will take place between Forster and Division streets in Harrisburg, from the river's edge up to Susquehanna Street. Participants will meet in Riverfront Park at Front and Kelker streets; clean-up materials will be available. There will be a spotting scope for us to view wading birds and other species. Riverfront Park is part of the Susquehanna River Birding & Wildlife Trail; **volunteers will receive a gift copy of the Trail guide.** For details or to register, **contact Stacy Small, Audubon PA Director of Bird Conservation, at 717-213-6880 ext. 22, or email: ssmall@audubon.org.** For information about Audubon Pennsylvania and IBAs, visit <http://pa.audubon.org/> <<http://pa.audubon.org/>>.

AAS UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS



Pennsylvania Migration Count: Sat., May 13. Enjoy excellent opportunities for birdwatching and learning while contributing to a database. Participants scour areas of Dauphin and Cumberland counties to count as many species as possible within the day. Contact County Coordinators for details:

Dauphin County: Jan Getgood, 566-9875; *Cumberland County:* Ramsay Koury, 761-1871

Riverside Birding: Sat., May 27, Bainbridge. One highlight species of the trip is Prothonotary Warbler, a nester here in prior years. Offered in conjunction with Lancaster Bird Club. Call trip leader Larry Coble, 367-5083.



Join Appalachian Audubon Society AND National Audubon Society

AT THE SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY RATE OF \$20 (\$15 FOR SENIORS & STUDENTS)



This form is for **NEW** members joining Appalachian and National Audubon for the **FIRST** time (*for members renewing, renewal info. will come to you directly from National Audubon*). This Introductory Offer includes membership in both National and Appalachian Audubon societies, the beautiful *Audubon* magazine, and our own *Kingfisher Courier* newsletter. Please send the form below, with **check** payable to **National Audubon Society**, to: Appalachian Audubon, PO Box 15123, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123. **New Member's Name:** _____

Address: _____ **E-mail address:** _____

Phone: _____ **Senior Membership?** _____ **Student?:** _____ **U07 7XCH**

Chapter-Only Membership: \$12.00 per year

Chapter-Only members receive the *Kingfisher Courier* and support the local Chapter. Make **check** payable to **Appalachian Audubon Society**; send to: Appalachian Audubon, PO Box 15123, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123

Chapter-Only Member's Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____ **U07 7XCH**

LIVING GARDENS

— Lorrie Preston, Penn State Master Gardener - Cumberland County

Since this is likely the last Kingfisher edition for the current Appalachian Audubon program year, I am going to do something different this month and touch briefly on several different subjects:

Backyard Wildlife Garden Field Trip, Postponed

The backyard wildlife field trip that I had proposed last year is being postponed for one more year, because I am organizing the "Forever Wild – 2006" concert with Walkin' Jim Stoltz, coming to our area on September 23rd. I hope you will all come out for this exciting event. Hopefully we can reschedule the field trip for June 2007, so keep on planting those native plants and improving your wildlife habitat. E-mail me at mitandpak@aol.com when your property is certified by the National Wildlife Federation or is ready to have our AAS members visit your special backyard wildlife habitat.

Speaking of Native Plants...

The more we understand about the relationship between native plants and the way they support our native birds, beneficial insects, butterflies, moths and other wildlife, the more valuable and essential we understand these plants to be. Visit native plant sales and nurseries this gardening season, but also ask your local nursery managers and plant buyers for native plants. Let them know that you are interested in using native plants. Garden centers will carry whatever will sell most readily, so we have to educate others about the value of native plants.

The "Invasive Dirty Dozen"

A new brochure has been published by the PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources listing the top 12 worst plants for landscaping. Many of these are currently available to purchase at your local garden center, but these plants have proven to be invasive, meaning they will self-seed or spread rapidly to take over native habitat for wildlife. The twelve "dirty" plants are: Burning Bush (*Euonymus altus*), Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*), Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), Bradford Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Privets (*Ligustrum* species.) The brochure lists native alternatives to use in

place of these invasives. I will try to have some of these brochures available at the May 18th AAS banquet and program.

You might be surprised to see Butterfly Bush on that list, since it seems to be a great plant that does attract butterflies by the dozens. If you have this plant, please take the time to deadhead the blooms when they are faded and before the seeds have time to mature. In some areas, Butterfly Bush is now growing rampant as a woodland understory, taking over valuable habitat for our woodland wildlife.



Words of Inspiration

The following letter came to me over the Monarch Watch listserve. It appeared in the *Record Newspaper* in Kitchener, Canada, in early April. It was written by a nine-year-old girl named Mattea Haga. I couldn't have said it better myself and hope the words will inspire you to make a difference, today and everyday. Have a great summer!

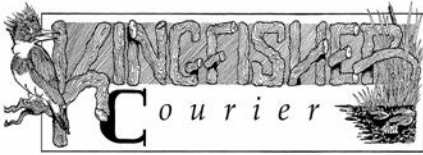
"Soon I will be turning 10 and what I want most for my birthday is to make a difference. I want to do something to save nature. I asked my friends not to bring birthday presents to my party, but instead help me adopt an owl by donating to the Long Point bird recovery program. I picked an owl because I am a "night owl."

I want to ask the mayor not to spray pesticides in our city. Did you know milkweed is the only plant the Monarch butterfly will lay its eggs on and the only food source that the Monarch caterpillars will eat? Don't you think it's strange that the Monarch butterfly is on the protected list because it is endangered but that the milkweed plant it needs to survive is still being sprayed? Now does that really make any sense?

If we all did just one small thing each and every day to make the world a better place, what a difference we could make. So think of something you can do today to make the world a better place; maybe it's as simple as a smile or a kind word. Maybe it's volunteering time or donating money. Whatever it is, big or small, it does make a difference. It's not so important what you do, but that you actually do something.

It would be nice if there were space in the newspaper for kids to write in about what they are doing to "nurture nature." I am sure there are lots of kids doing great things."





Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Harrisburg, PA
Permit 486

May 2006

<http://www.appalachianaudubon.org/>

Appalachian Audubon Society
P.O. Box 15123
Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Printed on 100% recycled paper
with 35% post-consumer reclaimed content

IN THIS ISSUE:

May Banquet/Auction, and SCOTT WEIDENSAUL presents	Chapter Assembly Report from Valley Forge.....	p. 3
Reservations Required, please note!	Wildlife Concert Coming—More Info!	p. 3
Board of Directors; Chapter Contacts.....	Living Gardens.....	p. 4
Annual Banquet and Silent Auction.....	Maine Audubon Camp Scholarships.....	p. 5
Thanks, Dale.....	AAS Website, Up!.....	p. 5
Plea RE Private Property, for Atlasing	River IBA Clean-up, Free Wildlife Trail Guide.....	p. 5
Editor Needed.....	Field Trips, Membership.....	p. 5
Highlights from Stoney Creek.....	Buy Original Art, Support Local Lands and Environment.....	p. 6
Hawk Mountain, Manada Conservancy— Native Plant Sales, etc....		p. 3

GIFT CARDS: As a fundraiser, AAS sells gift cards to Giant and Weis groceries, which kindly give non-profits a discount on their gift cards. We sell the cards at our monthly programs. Please consider buying these to apply to grocery purchases. There's **no additional cost to you**, beyond the cards' face values, but your use of them helps our chapter's fundraising efforts. Thanks!

Buy Original Art and Support Local Land Preservation & Environment :

On Sunday, May 21, from 2 pm to 6 pm, the William Ris Gallery, Camp Hill, hosts "Earth Matters," a solo show of works by contemporary realist and nationally recognized artist **Brad Stroman** (www.bradstroman.com). A percentage of proceeds from the day go to **Manada Conservancy**, to support their central PA land-preservation mission. Proceeds also benefit **Tri-County Conewago Creek Association**, a non-profit protecting the Conewago Creek watershed. Ris Gallery will also be open Sat., May 20, 10 am to 3 pm, for a show preview. Stroman's works heighten awareness of the delicate balance between man and nature.

MOVING...? GOING ON A LONG VACATION...?

To receive AAS mailings when away on long vacations or after moving, PLEASE contact our AAS chapter Membership chair (p. 2) with your address change -- this saves us money while keeping you current with our activities. Giving a change of address form to the US Post Office (USPS) **will NOT help**; our USPS addresses are handled by National Audubon. We incur a \$.37 charge per item for each piece of incorrectly addressed, returned mail. Please help!