



## November Meeting - Costa Rica and Panama

**Thursday, November 16th at 7:30 p.m.** (for location and directions, see page 2)

In May and June of 2006, a Messiah College group cast off their routine campus life in Pennsylvania for total immersion into the forests, summits, and shores of Costa Rica and Panama. The classrooms for their Tropical Forest Ecology course included the dry forests of Guanacaste National Park, the cloud forests and paramos of the Talamanca Mountains of central Costa Rica and western Panama, and the rain forests of Canal Zone Panama. This tropical landscape and all of its creatures were the subjects for the group's discussion, study, and investigation. Professor Erik Lindquist and his student Cameron Rutt will talk about "Life and Death in the Neotropics" and how the national cultures interact with their environment. They will provide stunning examples of conservation successes and failures of the region. From American crocodiles and Jabiru storks, to Golden frogs and giant Ceibas, discovery lurked at every turn. Come enjoy an evening of tall tales of nature and culture in the Central American isthmus.

### Forever Wild Concert: A Great Success!

By Lorrie Preston

Outdoor enthusiasts and environmentalists in our area enjoyed an evening of socializing, music, beauty, and inspiration at the *Forever Wild 2006* concert in September. The event was presented by Walkin' Jim Stoltz of Big Sky, Montana, and was co-sponsored by our AAS chapter and twelve other local outdoor-focused organizations. A total of 32 local environmental and outdoor recreation organizations set up displays in the lobby for people to visit before the concert started and during intermission.

There was great energy and enthusiasm while community members visited the various displays, learning about local issues and discovering the many opportunities that are available to outdoor lovers in our area. Groups of people clustered in front of each display. People really got involved in the experience, and displays told me afterwards that they had rarely passed out as much information as they did that night.

Several people told me how much they enjoyed visiting with old acquaintances they hadn't seen in a long time and the networking that took place that night. It indeed felt like a family reunion.

The green Stony Valley Coalition bus greeted concert-goers as they arrived in the parking lot. Beth Carricato, of *Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue*, meandered through the crowd, introducing guests to Lester, the Great-Horned owl, while her husband, John, displayed critters nearby. Alan Corson, with *Monarchs Need Milkweed*, displayed Monarch butterflies in various stages of development. Cheerful volunteers helped in numerous ways interacting with the public, selling refreshments, and taking care of details.

*Continued on page 3...*

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**AAS WEBSITE:**

[www.appalachianaudubon.org/](http://www.appalachianaudubon.org/)

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**Upcoming AAS Fieldtrips**

**Flora and Fauna of Governor Dick in Mount Gretna—Sunday, November 5—2 PM**

This trip is offered in conjunction with Quittaphila Audubon. The group will meet in the parking lot of the environmental center. For more information contact trip leader, Fritz Heilman at 273-0487.

**Bald Eagle Watching at Conowingo Dam—Saturday, December 2—7 AM**

The Conowingo Dam crosses the Susquehanna River in Maryland just across the Mason-Dixon line. It's not unusual to see 25 Bald Eagles congregated below the dam to feast on fish. Conowingo can also be an excellent spot for sighting winter gulls. For more information contact trip leader Pete Fox at 583-2639 (before 9 PM) or email at [pfox@raiderweb.org](mailto:pfox@raiderweb.org).

**Please Don't Forget...**

Please let us know what your email address is so we can keep our membership list up-to-date. Send an email to Ramsay Koury at [rkoury123@aol.com](mailto:rkoury123@aol.com) with your name and email address. Thanks for your help!

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 Allenda's 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.**

Directions: Take New Cumberland exit off I-80, cross Carlisle Road. Turn left onto Allenda Way, take first left at Deerfield Road (from the south, take New Cumberland exit, turn left onto Carlisle Road, left onto Cedar Cliff Road, left on Allenda Way, then left onto Deerfield Road) to the church.

## FOREVER WILD CONCERT IS OVER, BUT “CALL FOR THE WILD” CONTINUES

by Lorrie Preston

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

When concert time arrived and people took their seats in the auditorium, we could better estimate the size of our audience. With 1,224 seats available, we estimated a crowd of about 1,000 in attendance – almost a full house. Walkin’ Jim took over after that and provided a great show, with his inspirational music and outstanding nature images on the big screen, as well as amusing stories of his adventures on the trail.

Walkin’ Jim is a 53 year old folk-singer, photographer, and long-distance hiker who has walked more than 26,000 miles over a 32 year period through America’s most remote wilderness. Twenty years ago, he decided to stand up and make a difference by using his talents and his life to protect the wild places and wildlife of our country. He started his annual *Forever Wild* tour, visiting different areas of the U.S. for a few months each year. Jim Stoltz brings the wilderness to the people, right where we live, and reminds us what is at stake and why it is important for us all to speak up to protect America’s wild places, wildlife and our environment, near and far. His strong vision, powerful message, and belief in each person’s ability to make a difference have earned him respect throughout the United States, and that is why he has been one of my heroes since I first saw him on tour 19 years ago.

Walkin’ Jim isn’t the only one that can make a difference to the environment...*you* can, too! Jim’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour of almost 100 free concerts will continue through mid-November, allowing him to reach people all across the U.S. with his message of hope. One of Jim’s goals for the tour is to inspire more than 100,000 phone calls and letters to our elected officials on behalf of our nation’s wild lands, wild waters, and wild lives.

I hope you will help Walkin’ Jim meet his goal. It doesn’t have to be scientific or lengthy. Just speak up and say you care about the environment.

Go to [www.foreverwild.info](http://www.foreverwild.info) to see how you can help. In the coming weeks, keep making those phone calls, send a few postcards, letters, or e-mails, then count up your efforts and send an e-mail to [muse@musemusic.org](mailto:muse@musemusic.org) and tell Walkin’ Jim how many times *you* stood up for America’s wilderness heritage. We must never let our voices be silent about something that matters so much – otherwise no one knows how important it is to so many of us.

After the concert was over, Walkin’ Jim, my husband, Bob, and I sat around our kitchen table talking about the evening, and counting and putting stamps on the postcards that were generated that night at the concert. Occasionally, Jim would read aloud a message to our Senators that he especially liked...

“What better thing can a person do than to leave this world better for having been in it? What can *YOU* do to make the world better for our children?”

“Maybe I don’t have a million dollars to donate to a re-election campaign, but I have something more important – a vote!”

And this one, obviously printed by a child...  
“Why don’t you care about the world? We have to talk if you hate the world.”

The *Forever Wild 2006* concert was a great success and lots of fun. Now, let’s keep our momentum going and continue to make a difference. In places near and far, let us stay “Forever Wild!”

- Lorrie Preston

Lorrie Preston’s “Living Gardens” feature will return in the December issue of *Kingfisher Courier*



## Thanks to All Birdseed Sale Volunteers

Many thanks to the wonderful folks listed below who volunteered their time at our annual Birdseed Sale on October 6th and 7th.

Chris Atwood  
Julia Atwood  
KAREN HOFFMAN Atwood  
Marie Bernard  
Deanna Claypool  
Alex Dale

Jon Dale  
Helen DeLano  
Craig Dunn  
Jan Getgood  
Ernie Johnson  
Tom Johnson

Carl Juris  
Nancy Juris  
Ramsay Koury  
Kathy Kuchwara  
Gary LaBelle  
Tom Lehman

Arnold Mahay  
Susan Miller  
Noel Potter  
John Ranninger  
Sue Strassner  
Marcia Wilson  
Ron Wilson

Special appreciation goes to Tom Lehman for being in charge of sale arrangements; to Tom, Ramsay Koury, and Gary LaBelle who were there the entire time; and to Ernie Johnson for handling and organizing the orders.

Our thanks is also extended to the following businesses and organizations that helped to make this event a success:

**Forklifts, Inc.**— for use of the forklift

**Capital City Mall**— for parking lot space, tables & chairs

**Isaac's Restaurant**— for providing meals for the volunteers

**Davis Country Living, Mechanicsburg**— for assistance before, during and after the sale

**THANKS TO ALL FOR A JOB WELL DONE!**



## Wildlife and Wind Energy Conference

Saturday, December 2nd

8 am—6 pm

Kutztown University

Auditorium of the Boehm Science Center (North campus)



The use of utility-scale wind power as a supplemental source of generating electricity is gaining popularity in the Central Appalachian states of MD, PA, VA, and WV. However, an increasing number of wildlife biologists are concerned that utility-scale wind energy development in this region is not an environmentally-benign energy source, and that its possible benefits may not offset the potential harm wind energy may cause, despite what many have claimed.

This Wildlife and Wind Energy Conference was organized to present accurate, objective, state-of-the-art information on this topic in a public form aimed at an audience of the general public, print and electronic media, government officials, non-profit organizations, wildlife experts, and wind energy companies.

Because wind turbines could potentially affect migratory bird flyways, as well as other wildlife, please consider attending this conference. Registration is \$35 in advance (deadline November 12), \$45 at the door. To access a registration form and more information, visit

[www.kutztown.edu/acad/geography/wildlifeconf.htm](http://www.kutztown.edu/acad/geography/wildlifeconf.htm)

or email Donald Heintselman at [donsh@enter.net](mailto:donsh@enter.net).



## Native Songbirds Love Trout Run

By Joan Wietroba

Appalachian Audubon manages the Trout Run Nature Preserve on Stumpstown Road in Mechanicsburg. This 21-acre wetland preserve is home to many songbirds and bird species that frequent riparian habitats. There is a mowed, meandering nature trail, benches, and a bird observation platform overlooking the stream that encourage visitors to enjoy this natural area. Local volunteers care for the colorful perennial gardens which contain many plants that attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

Great blue herons, mallard ducks, green herons, snowy egrets, and even pheasant are frequently seen near the stream. There is a good supply of natural food within the habitat, including different types of berries, pokeweed, and lots of insects. Songbird species like robins, cardinals, red-winged blackbirds, blue jays, hummingbirds, tufted titmice, mockingbirds, white-breasted nuthatches, and catbirds can also be seen within the preserve.

This year marked another successful nesting season along the 14-nest box bluebird trail. Twelve of the fourteen nest boxes were occupied from April to August, and some of the boxes were used more than once by the same or different species. Bluebirds, chickadees, house wrens and tree swallows successfully laid their eggs and raised their young in the boxes.

One of the neighbors enjoys seeing the bluebirds so much that he purchases mealworms by mail order and serves them on a platform feeder in his yard. Mealworms provide an excellent nutritional food source for the bluebird parents and their young, especially during the early part of the nesting season when natural food supplies can be scarce. This year, the nest boxes at Trout Run fledged 20 bluebirds, 25 tree swallows, 15 house wrens and 6 chickadees.

For more information about the bluebird trail at Trout Run, contact Joan at [sunshiebb@msn.com](mailto:sunshiebb@msn.com). For more information about the nesting and habitat needs of bluebirds, visit the web site of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania at [www.thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org).



### Join Appalachian Audubon Society AND National Audubon Society



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

This application is for **NEW** members joining Appalachian and National Audubon for the **FIRST** time (for members

renewing, *renewal* information 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

### 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:

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November 2008

[www.appalachianaudubon.org/](http://www.appalachianaudubon.org/)

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## Deer and the Environment

In Pennsylvania, deer densities in some areas have had drastic effects on plants and other wildlife. Audubon Pennsylvania has released a report titled, "Managing White-tailed Deer in Forest Habitat From an Ecosystem Perspective," which can be read at:

[http://pa.audubon.org/deer\\_report.html#exec](http://pa.audubon.org/deer_report.html#exec). This report provides findings and recommendations for creating a balance between deer and the rest of the ecosystem.

### MOVING? TAKING AN EXTENDED VACATION?

To receive AAS mailings when away on long vacations or after moving, PLEASE contact our AAS chapter Membership chair (see 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 \$.39 charge per item for each piece of incorrectly addressed, returned mail.

Please help us help you!