



Kingfisher Courier

MAY 2015

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Gardening With Nature Series

The Penn State Master Gardeners in Cumberland County are offering a series of talks for home and landowners. The theme is *Gardening with Nature*. Some topics will be presented at the Frederickson Library in Camp Hill. Other programs will be offered at the Cumberland County Extension Office in Carlisle (310 Allen Road) and additional locations in the area.

Paul Zeph, a past president of Appalachian Audubon, will be speaking on May 12th (7:00–8:30pm) at the Frederickson Library. His topic will be *Creating a More Bird Friendly Yard*. Please visit the following link for more information: <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/master-gardener/counties/cumberland/news/2015/gardening-with-nature-series-2015> or call the Cumberland County Extension Office at 717-240-6500. Cost is \$5.00 and pre-registration is required.



Goddard Leadership Camp Scholarships for Teens, July 12–17, 2015

The Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute is a week-long residential environmental leadership program for youths aged 13–15. It is coordinated by the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC). Its lead partner in this venture is Pine Grove Furnace State Park with additional groups who provide support. The camp is hosted at the Ironmaster's Mansion in Pine Grove Furnace (outside of Carlisle). Participants learn key lessons in leadership and citizenship while exploring and

learning about the history and natural resources of the South Mountain landscape. These topics are presented by area teachers, practitioners and community leaders. Appalachian Audubon (AAS) has pledged two scholarships in the amount of \$200 each for this experience and will review the applications selected by CPC to receive them. Please apply directly through the camp website: www.goddardleadership.org.

AAS Awards Hog Island Family Camp Scholarship

Congratulations to Stephanie Orndorff and her daughter Sophie, of New Cumberland, who were selected to receive our first ever Audubon Hog Island Family Camp scholarship: \$1,000 toward their family camp costs. In mid-August these two will head to Hog Island in Muscongus Bay off the coast of Maine for a week of learning, fun and memory making with other families, exploring the animals, plants and ecosystems of the Bay and mid coast Maine. Stephanie works part time as a GIS analyst for Audubon Pennsylvania and part time home schooling her three children. She has also led field trips and taught biology and ecology. Sophie, who will be 11 by camp time, has two younger brothers and a dad who also love the outdoors. We look forward to hearing about their experiences!

**ANNUAL
BANQUET &
PROGRAM**

*Thursday,
May 21st*

**See page 3 for
details.**



President's Perch

It takes a lot of people to keep a volunteer organization going, and Appalachian Audubon Society is no exception. Please offer your thanks to the following people who shared their time to coordinate the activities of our 2014–2015 season of activities: Vice President Kathy Kuchwara, Treasurer John Latsha, Secretary Peggy Price, Directors Rick Price, Ann Glasscock, Sue Hannon, and Karen Atwood, Publicity Chair Sue Strassner, Hospitality Chair Lorrie Preston, and Membership Chair Judy Bowman. In addition, Ed Smith managed our membership/ mailing lists and email distribution, Annette Mathes proofed and Karen Stiffler produced our newsletters. It has been a pleasure to work with this talented group and I appreciate all that they have contributed to our chapter.

Many of you also worked at our annual birdseed sale, provided refreshments for program meetings, led field trips or helped with outreach events. Thanks and kudos to all for a great year! We look forward to welcoming a few new folks to our board and even have another spot or two yet to fill.

Elections for the 2015–2016 season will be held at our annual banquet on May 21st.

Those to be nominated are: *President*, Kathy Kuchwara; *Treasurer*, John Latsha; *Secretary*, Peggy Price; *Directors for 2015–2017 terms*: Rick Price (2nd term), Jane Webster, Ian Gardner and Kevin Shannon to fill the second year of a 2014–2016 term.

Directors Karen Atwood and Sue Hannon will continue in the second year of their terms.

Please join us on the third Thursday of May to elect and show support for the next leadership team of *your* local Audubon chapter.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as AAS president during the past two years. I look forward to finding additional ways in which I can contribute to this exceptional organization. How about you?

Susan Miller



Field Trip

JUNE FIELD TRIP

**Saturday, June 27 —
BREEDING BIRDS
OF THE TUSCARORA
STATE FOREST**

Vern Gauthier, PSO Cumberland County Complier, will lead us on a search for warblers and other woodland breeders of the Tuscarora Ridge. We'll visit local fields to search for Bobolinks, Dickcissels and Blue Grosbeaks. Registration is limited and all participants must register with Vern at 385-9526 or pabirder@gmail.com. The later date this year is to make this a true breeding bird trip and increase the opportunity to view young birds in these habitats.



Thank You From Lorrie Preston

Hospitality Chair Lorrie Preston would like to thank the following folks who provided refreshments for our program meeting this past year:

- Annette Mathes
- Dale Darkes
- Priscilla Klunk
- Deb and John Latsha
- Ann and Bob Glascock
- Eli and Ann DePaulis

JOIN US ON MAY 21ST FOR THE

AAS Annual Banquet!

Reservations required by Thursday, May 14th

For the Birds: Special Spots and Habitats in our Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests



Acting DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn will talk about the history and habitat protection of our public lands and give tips on special places to spot birds and other wildlife in some of Pennsylvania's 120 state parks and 2.2 million acres of state forests. Cindy previously served as CEO and president of PennFuture, Executive Director of Audubon Pennsylvania, and PA Program Director for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. She is a lifelong conservationist and lover of outdoor recreation of all types. Over the years Cindy has been recognized with numerous awards for her leadership in conservation. She is also a past president of Appalachian Audubon Society.

Join us for this celebration of some of our state's wonderful natural resources!

Enjoy this great evening for only \$27 per person!

When: Thursday, May 21

6:00pm Silent Auction, Appetizers, Cash Bar (Doors won't open until 6:00 sharp!)

6:45pm Buffet Dinner, followed by a brief meeting and then the program

Where: West Shore Elks Lodge #2257

108 N. St. John's Church Road, Camp Hill, PA (Just off the Carlisle Pike, near Liebman's Furniture)

You are encouraged to car-pool if possible.

Menu: Buffet dinner features Braised Roast Beef Burgundy, Chicken with Asian Ginger Glaze, Rigatoni Marinara with Mushrooms & Fresh Basil, Fresh Steamed Vegetables, Mixed Greens Salad, Rolls, Beverages, and Dessert. Cash Bar.

REMINDER – We can accept only cash or checks for auction item purchases.

AAS BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Must be received by Thursday, May 14th!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make reservations for _____ persons @ \$27 each \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal to support the Golden-winged Warbler Project \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Camp Scholarship Program \$ _____

Total included \$ _____

Mail this form, along with your check payable to AAS (Appalachian Audubon Society), to:
John Latsha, AAS Treasurer, 827 Siddonsburg Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339

AAS 2015 ANNUAL APPEAL

Golden-winged Warbler Project



This year's AAS annual appeal will raise funds for a joint effort to establish "urgently needed high quality" young forest habitat in Pennsylvania for Golden-winged

Warblers and 19 other species of conservation concern, including the Cerulean Warbler. The Golden-winged Warbler Project is a partnership between the American Bird Conservancy, Dr. Jeff Larkin of Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The project is beginning its second year and has already received private funding from other sources.

The project will partner with 60 landowners to create at least 1,200 acres of young forest habitat that meets the needs of the Golden-winged Warblers Best Management Plan. It will also establish

permanent protection of 2,500 acres of mature forest adjacent to the young forest for foraging habitat for the Golden-winged Warblers and other species of concern.

The Pennsylvania project will serve as a model for other Appalachian and Great Lakes states to protect the Golden-winged Warblers. Funds will also be used to purchase telemetry units for tracking areas visited by the targeted species and for other equipment and expenses of staff working on this project through the IUP-Research Institute.

You are invited to support this important habitat protection project to keep the Golden-winged Warbler and other species of conservation concern off the endangered species list.

Yes, I want to support the Golden-winged Warbler Project.

(If you are attending our Annual Banquet, you can make your donation on the Banquet reservation form.)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal to help the GWW Project. \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Camp Scholarship Program \$ _____

Total included \$ _____

100% of your contribution is tax-deductible.

Mail this form, along with your check payable to AAS (Appalachian Audubon Society), to:
John Latsha, AAS Treasurer, 827 Siddonsburg Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339

Volunteers Gearing Up for Fledge Watch

By Sue Hannon

Volunteers for the Harrisburg Peregrine Falcon Fledge Watch are getting ready for the 2015 fledging season. Three chicks have hatched to the local falcon pair, situated on the 15th floor ledge of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in downtown Harrisburg. The first hatch occurred on April 21; the third egg hatched two days later. The fourth egg did not hatch.

Weighing about 1.5 ounces at hatching, naked, helpless, and blind, falcon chicks keep their parents busy all day long keeping them safe and warm and providing food for them. Meanwhile the chicks grow at an exponential rate. By three weeks, they are nearly their parents' weight and size, and feathers are beginning to develop. They spend the next three to four weeks growing feathers, exercising their wings and learning how to be falcons by watching their parents.

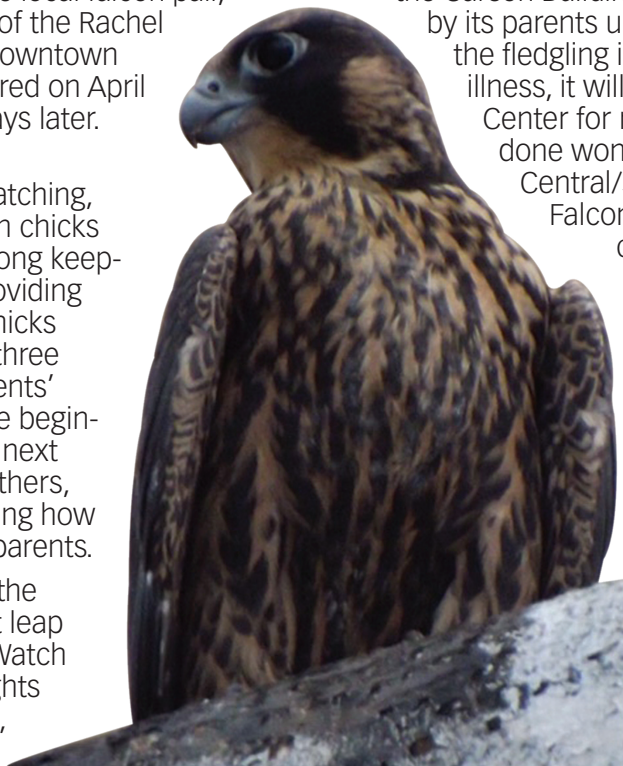
Sometime near the end of May, the young falcons will take their first leap from the ledge, and the Fledge Watch volunteers will be there. First flights can be clumsy and, on occasion, dangerous. Inexperienced flyers still need to develop their flight muscles for sustained flight, and they don't yet know how to use their wings for optimal lift. It takes time to learn how to judge an approach for landing. Sometimes new fledglings land on the sidewalk or the street, bump into walls and bruise their wings or get concussions, or end up in other dangerous situations. When that happens, trained Fledge Watch volunteers rescue the downed birds according to an established protocol.

The rescued fledgling is then examined. If it appears healthy and uninjured it will be released to the roof of the Carson Building, where it can be supervised by its parents until it is ready to try again. If the fledgling is injured or shows signs of illness, it will be taken to Red Creek Wildlife Center for rehabilitation. Red Creek has done wonderful work with many of South Central/South Eastern PA's Peregrine Falcons. In most cases, the young bird can be returned to its parents within a few days.

Volunteers will continue to monitor the fledglings for several days after their first flight, until they are flying safely and independently. At some point after the first few days of flight, we will see it happen – suddenly the fledgling begins to fly with confidence, speeding through the air and performing dazzling feats of aerial acrobatics. It is the moment when the young falcon embraces the sky as its home, and our job is done.

If you have available time between May 29 and June 8 please consider becoming a Fledge Watch volunteer. It is not only rewarding to give a young life another chance at successful flight, but we have a lot of fun during our watches. If you are

interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please contact hbgfalconwatch@gmail.com.



First flights can be clumsy and, on occasion, dangerous. Inexperienced flyers still need to develop their flight muscles for sustained flight, and they don't yet know how to use their wings for optimal lift.

Third Annual Bird the Ridge Hike

Saturday, May 9, 7:45 a.m. to noon — Sponsored by the Kittatinny Coalition, led by Audubon PA & Appalachian Trail Conservancy, in partnership with A.T. Clubs & Audubon Chapters. The route is Peters Mountain (Rt. 225) to the Victoria Trail in Dauphin County, a distance of 5 miles with moderate hiking difficulty. The meeting place is the Appalachian Trail parking area on Rt. 225 at the top of Peters Mountain. Trip leaders are Gary LaBelle and Lorrie Preston, both Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club and Appalachian Audubon Society members. **Registration is required by May 7th.** Contact Lorrie at lpreston5156@gmail.com or 717-580-8993. A complete schedule of other Bird the Ridge hikes can be found at www.kittatinnyridge.org.



MAY 2015

Except for the May Banquet, AAS monthly programs typically take place on the third Thursday of each month at the **Christ Presbyterian Church** located at 421 Deerfield Road, in the Allendale neighborhood of Camp Hill. Join us at 7:00pm for socializing and refreshments. The program begins at 7:30pm.

DIRECTIONS

I-83 southbound — take exit 40B towards New Cumberland. Stay straight, cross Carlisle Road to Cedar Cliff Drive. Turn left onto Allendale Way and turn left onto Deerfield Road. The Church is on the left. Park in the second lot.

I-83 northbound — take exit 40B, turn left onto Carlisle Road/Simpson Ferry Road and go under I-83. Turn left again at the light onto Cedar Cliff Drive. Turn left onto Allendale Way and turn left onto Deerfield Road. The Church is on the left. Park in the second lot.



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Silent Auction, May 21

This beautiful quilted wall hanging, crafted and donated by Barbara Motter, will be a highlight of the silent auction at our banquet on May 21. It measures approximately 52" x 58". Other special auction items include original framed artwork by Megan Lloyd and Mark Brown.

Reminder — we can accept only checks or cash for auction purchases.

This is the final newsletter of our 2014/2015 season. We'll be back in touch in September. Enjoy the summer!