



# Kingfisher Courier

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2015

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

**AAS PROGRAM | OCTOBER**

## Don't Tread On Me

Andy Wolfe was educated as a zoologist at Miami University and Oregon State University, where he studied vertebrate/invertebrate zoology and herpetology. He has worked as a pathologist at a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Oregon. His life took a different turn and he made a career change to sales and marketing. Andy currently is the CEO of a Delaware based corporation. He has frequently posted on Appalachian Audubon's Facebook page.

When Andy moved to the Michaux State Forest in 2000 he became interested in Timber Rattlesnakes and began to study and photograph them in their dens. His goal is to educate the public to develop a healthy respect for this incredible species and appreciate rather than fear them. They are an endangered species and are too frequently killed by hikers and campers who come in contact with them on the trails. Andy will share photographs of these snakes and discuss their natural history and behavior.

Plan on joining us on October 15. Our social gathering begins at 7:00 PM. At 7:30 we will have our monthly meeting, during which there will be a brief presentation by our Goddard Scholarship recipients. Andy's program will follow.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**Thursday, October 15 @ 7:00pm**

**AAS PROGRAM | NOVEMBER**

## Colorado: A "Rocky Mountain High" of Wildlife and Scenery

Long time AAS Member Jon Dale's photographs and story sharing have made his programs among the most popular we present. From the majestic scenery and wildlife of Rocky Mountain National Park, to the valleys and parks adjacent to the Front Range, to the plains along the eastern border with Kansas and Nebraska, Colorado offers a myriad of habitats to enjoy birds and other wildlife. Along the Front Range, visit Castlewood Canyon State Park and Roxborough State Park near Castle Rock, Royal Gorge, Seven Falls, and Garden of the Gods. There you will find Hummingbirds, Mountain and Western Bluebirds, Lesser Goldfinch, Western Scrub Jay, several flycatcher species, Spotted Towhee, Black Bear, and other wildlife. Gunnison, Crested Butte, La Garita Mountains and Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve provide views of Coyote, Mule Deer, Pronghorn, Fox Squirrel, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, Bewick's and Rock Wrens, Swainson's Hawk and other bird species.

Rocky Mountain National Park is home to Elk, Big Horn Sheep, Yellow-bellied Marmots, Pika, and more. Avian species include Stellar's Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Say's Phoebe, Green-tailed Towhee, American Pipit, American Dipper, Pigmy Nuthatch, Clark's Nutcracker, and the elusive White-tailed Ptarmigan. The presentation concludes with visits to the towns of Lamar and Granada on Colorado's southeast border with Kansas to witness sunrise at a Lesser Prairie-Chicken lek and a busy afternoon at a Greater Prairie-Chicken lek at the famous Bledsoe Ranch near Wray on the northeast border with Nebraska.

Join us on November 19th at 7:00PM for our social hour. Our meeting begins at 7:30PM followed by Jon's program.



Mountain Bluebird

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Thursday, November 19 @ 7:00pm**



## President's Perch

The other evening at about 7:00PM I was driving west on 581. As I approached the Creekview Exit, my attention was captured by something truly amazing. Off to the right, three flocks of tiny birds rose up from the trees that border the Conodoguinet Creek. They gathered in a swarm-like formation and flew off in a southerly direction. I immediately thought of migrating songbirds and sent off a "Fly safe little birds" wish as they left my sight.

It's not easy being a bird in 2015, even less so if you are one that migrates. A good portion of them will never make it to their destination: predation, weather, and man-created obstacles take their toll. The irony is that even those who make it may find their wintering grounds are no longer there, sacrificed for farmland, condominiums or roads. If I dwell on this long enough, it can get really depressing. But I'm not writing this to be a gloom and doom column. I'm looking at this as a reminder to myself to become more aware of how the simple things I do every day impact the environment. And indirectly those little birds who fly south. Can I cut down on my material waste? Can I be more energy-efficient in my practices? Can I be more discriminating in what I buy and from whom? I don't think that I'm going to be in a position to dictate energy policy anytime soon. But I can make changes in my practices that are more environmentally friendly. I can "clean up my side of the street" and hope it serves as an example. I invite you to join me in making a difference, one small change at a time.

Kathy Kuchwara



## Field Trips

### OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

#### Saturday, October 3rd, 2015

##### Birding Oasis at the Former Harrisburg State Hospital

Join AAS Board member Ted Nichols II in search of fall migrants through the grounds of the former Harrisburg State Hospital, with its stately historic buildings and mature trees, many of them over 100 years old. Meet at 7:00AM in the Department of Agriculture parking lot, across from the Farm Show Building on Cameron Street in Harrisburg. Participants must register with Ted at tanicholsii@gmail.com.

#### Sunday October 4th, 1:00PM, 2015

##### Autumn Trees with Jane Earle at Silver Spring Preserve

Join us for a walk along the Conodoguinet Creek at the new preserve in Silver Spring Township, where we will learn how to identify the variety of large and unusual trees along the creek. We will also look for migrating hawks and other birds. The preserve is the flood plain portion of the former Silver Spring Golf Course, a lovely meadow with six ponds. Contact Jane Earle at janeearle7@msn.com or 728-4241 for meeting location.

#### Sunday evening October 18th, 2015 (Rain date November 1)

##### Owl Banding At Small Valley

Bird bander Sandy Lockerman will demonstrate owl banding to a small group of participants, provided an owl is caught that evening. No guarantees! Participation is limited to a maximum of 10 and carpooling is required. No children under six please. The group will meet near Harrisburg at 6:30PM. Contact Rick Price to register at 657-1950 or rprice210@comcast.net. The demonstration should be over by midnight. Dress warmly as the small cabin is unheated.

# Kingfisher Courier

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## Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute

AAS awarded partial scholarships this summer to two local teens, Katy Cummings (Dillsburg) and Jack Drda (Camp Hill) to attend the Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute (GLLI) camp based in Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Cumberland County. Katy and Jack shared these words about their 2015 GLLI experiences:

**From Katy:** My name is Katy Cummings and I was fortunate enough to attend the Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute camp. During this amazing life-changing week I learned about leadership, personal and group, the environment of the world and locally, along with gaining amazing friendships, and having the best time of my life.

The Goddard camp is not only learning, but also relating and interacting with other teens with the same interest. The atmosphere of this camp is an amazing feeling. It is not competitive or judgmental, but a place where anyone can be the true person they are and will be welcomed and treated the same. During this week, the other leaders and I made an everlasting friendship. We did many fun activities like ropes courses, kayaking, and archery. Going through all of the leadership activities we learned each other's strengths and difficulties and, as a result, though we were all very much different, we were able to relate and have an amazing fun and humorous time. The friends I made and the bond that we share is unlike any other friendship that I have and I gained this bond in five days.

Going into this week I did not know what I was getting myself into, but I took the big first step, and I would not trade the experience that I gained for anything. For other leaders that are wanting to participate in this experience or are not sure if they could do this, I would tell them to take the first step, not knowing what you are in for, but at the end of that quick five days the memories and knowledge that you gain are priceless and cannot be found in a normal school or activities environment.

I thank you so much for giving me this wonderful experience and I hope that all teens would take that first step and gain this rare knowledge that is not normally gained. I truly do not think that words can explain this experience that I had and a life-changing five days. Thank you again from myself, a new and stronger leader, but also from the leaders in the past and the future to come.

**From Jack:** During the week of July 12, 2015, I was selected to be a part of the Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute (GLLI) camp. Eight other middle school students from around



AAS partial scholarship recipients Jack Drda (left), Katy Cummings (right) with fellow camper Emma Burgess. Photo courtesy GLLI 2015

the Central Pennsylvania area also attended the camp, which was held at the Ironmaster's Mansion in Pine Grove Furnace State Park. With the help of scholarship money from the Appalachian Audubon Society, I was able to attend this wonderful camp for six days.

When I first drove to the camp, I was a bit apprehensive because it seemed as though I did not know anyone but, as the week progressed, the eight other campers became close friends of mine. We all shared a passion to help protect the environment and make a difference.

Over the next few days of GLLI, we participated in activities that taught us about the LeTort Spring Run. The Central Pennsylvania Conservancy plans on acquiring it and restoring the wetlands of the spring for generations to come. Not only did we learn about the LeTort Spring Run, we also studied the wildlife of macroinvertebrates and birds that inhabit the wetlands in the LeTort area. In addition, we tested the water quality to find the pH, nitrate, dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, and turbidity. Soon we discovered that the pH was a neutral seven and the alkalinity was an amazing

two-hundred. The campers went on a bird tour provided by the Appalachian Audubon Society, where we saw many diverse species of birds including Red-winged Blackbird, Mourning Dove, Great Blue Heron, robin, and catbird. A chickadee call was heard in the distance.

In addition to learning about LeTort, we also learned about the history of Pine Grove Furnace and the legacy of Maurice Goddard. Mr. Goddard was the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters. He helped to create forty-five state parks in Pennsylvania and was a conservationist.

All the campers participated in activities throughout the week such as kayaking, hiking, and swimming. We also participated in a forestry tour, completed a low ropes course, practiced archery, visited Dickinson College, and many more amazing activities. One of my favorite experiences of the GLLI Camp was that we were able to go to the Carlisle Farmers' Market and then prepare an amazing dinner back at the mansion.

The Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute Camp was a memorable experience that I will have for the rest of my life. The camp will surely be seeing me next year in 2016!



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 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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Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute



**AAS members on the move**

## Holiday Gift Idea

Looking for Holiday Gifts for Bird Loving friends? Workman Publishing's 2016 Audubon Calendars are now available for Audubon members at a 20% discount. These annual favorites showcase stunning bird and nature photography month after month, making them popular holiday gifts for friends and family. This is a thank you for supporting Audubon and is in effect from now until the end of 2015. Use the coupon code "audcal" to receive the 20% discount through the online order form. ([http://www.pageaday.com/store/audubon?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=book&utm\\_campaign=audubon-calendar-chapter-resources](http://www.pageaday.com/store/audubon?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=book&utm_campaign=audubon-calendar-chapter-resources)).

## COMING IN DECEMBER

**Program:** Ian Gardner, "The Biggest Week in Birding".

**Christmas Bird Counts:** Check Your Brochure for the Schedule

**OMISSION:** In the September Newsletter, credit the picture of Eli DePaulis to Hog Island.