



# Kingfisher Courier

MARCH 2017

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AAS PROGRAM | March 2017

## Benjamin Jones: Fire's Role in PA Ecosystems — History, Ecology, and Habitat Restoration

As a natural influence, fire has played a major role in forming Pennsylvania's wildlife habitats. Without the benefit of fire over this past century, habitats are changing and many plants that depend on fire have disappeared. Ben Jones, Chief of the PA Game Commission's Habitat Division, will discuss how prescribed fire is being used for habitat restoration.

Join us at 7pm for refreshments and social time. A brief meeting starts at 7:30, followed by Ben's program.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Thursday, March 16 @ 7:00pm

## Appalachian Audubon Is Going Green

Would you like to save trees, help Appalachian Audubon send youth to environmental education camps, and add some color to your life? You can do all these things with one email!

Printing and mailing costs for the newsletter are the biggest part of the AAS budget — over \$5,000 last year. Beginning in September, paper newsletters will no longer be mailed to members. Instead, all members will receive a link for the newsletter by email. This will let AAS redirect money to scholarships and other chapter activities and save natural resources as well. An added bonus of getting a digital newsletter is that you will see the wonderful photos in color!

For newsletter delivery and chapter communications, please send an email to [appaudubonsoc@gmail.com](mailto:appaudubonsoc@gmail.com) including the information from your *Kingfisher Courier* mailing label:

Name / Street address / City, State, Zip Code / Email address

Be sure to send this information by July 31 to receive newsletter links and reminders about chapter meetings. The email address will be used for communications from the local chapter and will not be shared with other organizations.

Members who already receive the newsletter link and other chapter communications by email do not have to do anything.

If you do not have access to a computer or email you can still get your newsletter in the mail; just send a written request, along with your name and mailing address, to:

Appalachian Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 234, Camp Hill, PA 17001

A limited supply of printed copies will be available at monthly membership meetings.

AAS PROGRAM | April 2017

## The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity

Featuring Doug Tallamy and Rick Darke

Thursday, April 27, 6pm–10pm

at the Lower Dauphin High School

201 South Hanover Street, Hummelstown, PA 17036

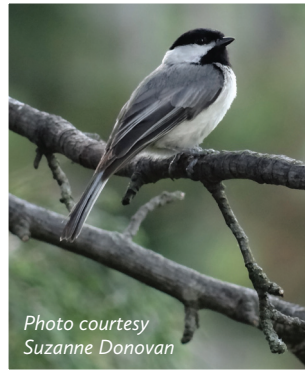


Photo courtesy  
Suzanne Donovan



Photo courtesy  
Suzanne Donovan

Dr. Douglas Tallamy has promoted the use of native plants in our yards as a significant contribution to biodiversity. In this special program co-sponsored by AAS and Manada Conservancy, he will be joined by landscape design consultant Richard Darke to explore the rich layers of private gardens and community landscapes that can serve the needs of both wildlife and humans. The evening will include three illustrated talks, several exhibitors, and book sales/signing.

Using chickadees and other wildlife as guides, they will explore how plants that evolved in concert with local animals provide for the animals' needs better than plants that evolved elsewhere. You will leave with an understanding of living layers that can be put to practical use in the design and maintenance of gardens that are biologically diverse and joyfully livable.

The program is presented through a partnership between Manada Conservancy and AAS. Register for this free program at [office@manada.org](mailto:office@manada.org) or (717) 566-4122.

**Note: the date and location differ from usual AAS programs.**

If you would like to help AAS and Manada Conservancy with the cost of this program, please contact Jane Webster at [willjaneweb@yahoo.com](mailto:willjaneweb@yahoo.com) or 717-526-2127. Donors of \$100 or more will be recognized in the event program. Additional incentives are available for various levels of corporate sponsorship.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
Thursday, April 27 @ 6:00pm



Our chapter was recently given a banner to use at AAS functions. A gift from Karen Stiffler, who has been responsible for the layout of our very attractive *Kingfisher Courier* for the past several years, the banner features a picture of a Belted Kingfisher and includes a statement of the chapter's priorities: Wildlife education and conservation with a focus on birds.



The banner represents what our chapter is all about. For decades we have been visible in the Harrisburg area helping with land acquisition, providing quality environmental programs for members and the general public, and helping young people gain valuable experiences in ornithology and conservation through field trips, mentoring, and scholarships to birding and environmental education camps.



The chapter maintains Trout Run, a nature preserve in Upper Allen Township. We supported the Central PA Conservancy to help finalize an easement for the Matthew Rice Property on the Kittatinny Ridge near Waggoner's Gap.

Exposing young people to educational experiences has paid off in so many ways. Tom Johnson, who joined our chapter as

a youngster well over a decade ago, has gone on to become nationally recognized in ornithology circles. On a more recent and local level, Eli DePaulis, our Youth Coordinator, has represented our chapter at a variety of events, sharing his passion for birding and conservation with the public. He has worked with Scout Troop 127 to clear invasive plants from sections of Trout Run and has been awarded a grant from PA Audubon to plant natives in their place. Whatever the long term plan for Trout Run will be, this can only add to the health of the preserve, its wildlife, and the surrounding area.

However, our chapter cannot continue to provide all these services without your involvement. Members are essential in helping us accomplish our mission. There are number of ways you can do this: donate to our annual appeal and support chapter-related activities; serve on a committee and/or volunteer for events; support conservation-related causes, which are certainly in need of help right now. The choice is yours — but please help AAS as we educate the public and protect the habitats that birds and other wildlife require to survive.

Thank you,  
Kathy Kuchwara

**President** Kathy Kuchwara  
kathykatbird2@comcast.net  
717-319-0828

**Vice President** Jane Webster  
willjaneweb@yahoo.com  
717-526-2127

**Secretary** Peggy Price  
rprice210@comcast.net  
717-657-1950

**Treasurer** Tracey Ash  
traceyash16@gmail.com  
717-623-4676

### DIRECTORS

*Term ending May 2017*

Rick Price 717-657-1950  
rprice210@comcast.net

Ted Nichols 717-856-3851  
tanicholsii@gmail.com

Mary Brenner 717-903-0223  
mbrenner822@comcast.net

*Term ending May 2018*

Karen Atwood  
atwoodphoto1@verizon.net

Ian Gardner 717-350-5815  
gardnie07@gmail.com

Kevin Shannon  
kbsathome@comcast.net

### COMMITTEES

**Bird Seed Sale**  
Vacant

**Conservation**  
Ian Gardner 717-350-5815  
gardnie07@gmail.com

**Education**  
Karen Atwood  
atwoodphoto1@verizon.net

**Field Trips**  
Rick Price 717-657-1950  
rprice210@comcast.net

**Hospitality**  
Lorrie Preston 717-580-8993  
lpreston5156@gmail.com

**Membership**  
Judy Bowman 717-761-3815  
bowma99@aol.com

**Newsletter**  
Jane Webster 717-526-2127  
willjaneweb@yahoo.com

Kathy Kuchwara 717-319-0828  
kathykatbird2@comcast.net

**Publicity**  
Vacant

**Trout Run**  
Vacant

**Youth Committee**  
Eli DePaulis 717-526-9761  
elidepaulis1@gmail.com

## Ed Smith "Retires" from AAS Position

For the past five years AAS member Ed Smith has provided a valuable volunteer service to our chapter, keeping the membership lists that help make sure you get your newsletters and email announcements about Audubon events.

Ed has taken his job seriously, and at times has maintained as many as six different lists, including a list for members who get newsletters by mail, one for those with email, one for complimentary mailings to organizations, and yet another for birdseed sale flyers. He has diligently sent reminder emails about monthly chapter meetings and special events and monitored incoming chapter email.

Despite his many other commitments, both personal and professional, Ed fit this responsibility into his schedule. He is an example of how volunteerism can work even with limited time available. Our chapter is grateful for his service and dedication.

# Naturalist Notes — White-throated Sparrow: Hopping Around All Winter Long

by Eli DePaulis

White-throated Sparrows are a quintessential winter bird of early successional woodlands and brushy patches throughout North America. Their melodic song breathes life into otherwise quiet woodlands during the winter and adds invaluable to the springtime serenade.

“Oh sweet Canada, Canada, Canada” is a song that is easily recognizable to birders who reside within the White-throated Sparrow’s broad range. Considered a favorite bird by many, the White-throated Sparrow is not only a masterful singer, but a very striking bird with its white or tan head stripes contrasting sharply with its black crown. As its name implies, White-throated Sparrows have a white throat patch that makes them easily distinguishable from other sparrows.

White-throated Sparrows breed in the boreal forests of the northern United States and Canada during the summer. On the breeding ground they utilize mostly edge habitat created by various kinds of wetlands, logging cuts, wildfires, and meadows. White-throated Sparrow nests are constructed by the female and placed on the ground in dense vegetation. After breeding is complete, White-throated Sparrows disperse southward across the lower 48 states for winter, going as far south as Florida and west to California.

During the winter, White-throated Sparrows can be found just about anywhere there is ample food and low vegetation for cover. These ground-feeding seed eaters are common winter visitors to backyards, usually found underneath bird feeders, cleaning up seeds dropped by other birds.

It is believed that there are about 140 million White-throated Sparrows alive today. Sadly, though, their populations are declining. Data from Breeding Bird Surveys indicate that the breeding population in the northern United States has declined by 63% since 1966, and across their entire range White-throated Sparrows declined 35% during that same period. These numbers are indicative of the population shifting northward into Canada and out of their breeding sites in the northern United States. Given the adaptability and extensive range of these dynamic little birds, it is fair to say that, despite these declines, the White-throated Sparrow will be gracing our woodlands for many years to come.



Photos courtesy  
Eli DePaulis

## Common Name

White-throated Sparrow

## Scientific Name

Zonotrichia albicollis

## Identifying Marks

White throat patch and white or tan head stripes are identifying marks. Chest is grayish in color.

## Notes

Be careful not to mistake the White-throated Sparrow for the White-crowned Sparrow. Their head stripes can appear similar. White-crowned Sparrows are larger and do not have a white throat patch. Their plumage is also lighter in tone.

## AAS Plans Plant Sale On Earth Day

After the success of the fall native plant sale, AAS has decided to partner with Diakon Wilderness Nursery near Boiling Springs for another sale. The spring native plant sale is on Saturday, April 22, from 9:00AM until 3:00PM. This is exciting, as it falls on Earth Day, so we will have bird walks on the property and other special events to mark the occasion.

More information will be forthcoming, but mark your calendar and make this one of your stops during the day. We need members who would like to volunteer their time and talents to help make this a success. If you can help please contact Ian Gardner, Chairperson for the event at [gardnie07@gmail.com](mailto:gardnie07@gmail.com) or 717-350-5815.

We hope to see you there.



Photos courtesy Kathy Kuchward.

## Save the date

### Appalachian Audubon's Annual Banquet Thursday, May 18

Scott Weidensaul  
will present  
“Caught in the SNOWstorm”  
his program about  
research during the  
Snowy Owl irruption  
of 2013–14.

Watch for more information  
in the April newsletter.



# AAS Helps Protect 500 Acres of Woodland on the Kittatinny Ridge in Perry County

From a Press Release by Anna Yelk, Executive Director, Central PA Conservancy

In December 2016, Central PA Conservancy (CPC) recorded a conservation easement with Perry County landowner Matthew Rice, permanently preserving 500 acres of forested ridge habitat on the Kittatinny or Blue Mountain. This property is in close proximity to protected lands, including Tuscarora State Forest, the Reineman Wildlife Sanctuary, Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch, county-preserved farms, and other nearby CPC easement properties in Perry County.



and Golden-winged Warbler. If not protected, these natural resources would be threatened by construction, fragmentation, and mismanagement.

In terms of water resources, the protected land maintains and improves the quality of water within, around, and downstream of the property. Both Sherman Creek and Stillhouse Hollow Run, tributaries to the Susquehanna River, flow through it. Overall, the property filters and regulates water flows to

Appalachian Audubon Society partnered with CPC to provide \$10,000 of essential funding for the project. The money came from the settlement of a case in which a Perry County contractor was fined for illegal dumping. AAS was asked to use the funds for a project in Perry County that would promote conservation.

The Kittatinny Ridge is recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area (IBA) and within the state as an Important Mammal Area (IMA) for threatened bats and the Allegheny woodrat. The Rice property is part of a contiguous forest block of over 4,000 acres and offers refuge for woodland organisms requiring deep woods. These include Scarlet Tanager, a species of conservation concern observed on the property,

support coldwater fisheries of Laurel Run and McCabe Run, significant for anglers.

This conservation easement protects ecosystem services, or natural resource benefits that translate to economic value. Forests, covering 99% of the property stabilize slopes, ease effects from storms, recharge groundwater, trap carbon, and soften impacts of intensified uses on neighboring properties.

In addition to CPC and AAS, Perry County Conservation District, the PA Land Trust Association, and landowner Matthew Rice played important roles in bringing this three-year project to completion.



## Field Trips

**NEW!**

### MARCH FIELD TRIP

**Saturday March 25, 2017**  
**Hummerhaven Farmstead**

Bonnie Schubert, who recently joined Audubon, has graciously invited AAS members to bird Hummerhaven Farmstead, a 127-acre farm in Juniata County, approximately eight miles from the Millerstown exit of Rt. 322. The farm has a variety of habitats, including a natural wetland and a pond. Spring migration should be starting, while winter birds may still be lingering. This is an exciting new exploratory trip for our chapter. Contact Rick Price at 717-657-1950 or rprice210@comcast.net to register.



### APRIL FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday April 8, 2017**  
**Spring Wildflowers at Gifford Pinchot State Park with Dan Welte**

Expert Dan Welte has offered to lead this annual wildflower trip to Pinchot State Park. We can expect to see Trillium, Goldenseal, Virginia Bluebells, and more. We'll also keep our eyes open for Eastern Bluebirds, Barred Owls, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Contact Dan at 717-728-0421 for carpooling instructions from the Rt. 322 Walmart parking lot.



## Chapter Outreach in Carlisle

Volunteers from Appalachian Audubon Society (AAS) and staff from the Pennsylvania state Audubon office joined hundreds of excited children and families at the activity and music filled Carlisle Buck-a-Book 2017 Literacy Campaign Kick-off event in early January. AAS was there to help bring the wonder of birds to area children and families.

AAS teen volunteers **Eli DePaulis** (our Youth Committee Chair and 2015 Hog Island Scholarship recipient) and **Jadeyn Henry**, one of our 2017 Hog Island Teen Camp Scholarship recipients, led our educational offerings. They eagerly shared their passion for birds, teaching about birds with the aid of bird wings, skulls, feet, and photographs, delighting the many children and families who stopped by our table. Our activities generated so much interest that even Eli's



mom, **Ann DePaulis**, jumped in to help excited youngsters select their choices from our handmade photo bookmarks, which chapter Board member and event volunteer **Mary Brenner** donated to the cause. Mary also shared her knowledge and love of birds, along with books about birds and pollinators.

The annual Buck-a-Book Literacy Campaign raises funds for the local Employment Skills Center's mission of helping people achieve personal growth and job betterment through education and training. Students in grades K-5 in the Carlisle Area School District read books and have money donated to them for the Employment Skills Center. Students learn that, even though they are young, they can still

make a difference in their community — and have a great time doing it! What a fun and successful event — we plan to do this again next year! Volunteers welcome; watch for opportunities in the *Kingfisher Courier* newsletter.

*Photos courtesy Education Chair Karen Atwood.*

## Camper Letter

by Michael Brant

This year at the Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute camp I learned about many different areas of environmental science. The main subject we studied was the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, which we live in, and how we can help improve the condition of the Chesapeake Bay.

While we were at the Ironmaster's Mansion in Pine Grove Furnace State Park, we learned about the original conditions of the bay and how it has deteriorated over the years due to human development and invasive species, which have caused sediment build up in creeks due to erosion.

One of the activities we participated in was at LeTort Spring; here we studied the chemical makeup of the water and discovered that it had a high amount of nitrates. The nitrates affect the life in the stream and the water quality; however, the water quality has improved since last year and we are

hoping to help it improve further by removing more invasive species and reducing nitrates.

Another service project in which we took part was at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Here we shoveled oyster shells into containers that the Foundation then took to create new oyster reefs.

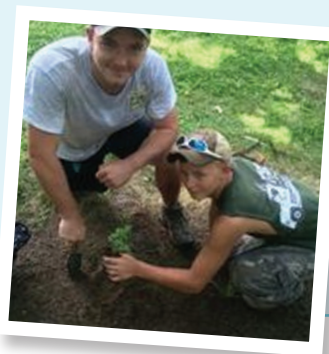
I would highly recommend this camp to teenagers who want to learn about the environment; it gives you a picture of how drastically our actions can harm our ecosystem. Aside from learning about environmental science, at this camp you get to meet many different people and you get the chance to make friends with people you otherwise may never have met. The people I met were very open and willing to share their experiences and we discussed religion, politics, science, everyday life and our families back home. One night we just sat around

on the beach for hours and talked, and that was a very humbling experience.

The other campers and I did a variety of activities during our free time: we caught crabs, fish, and jellyfish in the bay and studied them, we played cornhole and volleyball, we slept in tents on the beach, we listened to music, went swimming, watched a movie and we even had a karaoke night in the foundation center!

My experience at camp this year was amazing and taught me much. My hope is that people who go to this camp will enjoy it as much as I have. I would like to thank the Appalachian Audubon Society for my partial scholarship, which enabled me to attend camp this year and to have a wonderful, enlightening environmental experience.

*Photo courtesy Goddard Legacy Leadership Institute.*







MARCH 2017

Except for the December program, this year's special April program, and 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.



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.



**Appalachian Audubon Society**  
P.O. Box 234  
Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234  
www.appalachianaudubon.org

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HARRISBURG PA  
PERMIT NO. 486

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### AAS Programs • 1

- Fire's Role in PA Ecosystems by Benjamin Jones
- The Living Landscape by Doug Tallamy and Rick Darke

### President's Perch • 2

Ed Smith "Retires" from AAS Position • 2

### Naturalist Notes • 3

AAS Plans Plant Sale On Earth Day • 3

Save the Date: Annual Banquet • 3

AAS Helps Protect 500 Acres • 4

Field Trips • 4

Education News • 5

Camper Letter • 5



## AAS Members on the Move



Photo courtesy Eli DePaulis



Photo courtesy Rick Price



Photo courtesy Karen Attwood