



# Kingfisher Courier

APRIL 2017

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## AAS PROGRAM | April 2017

An evening with Doug Tallamy and Rick Darke, co-authors of

### *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity*

Presented by Manada Conservancy & the Appalachian Audubon Society at the Lower Dauphin High School, 201 South Hanover Street, Hummelstown, PA 17036



#### **The richness of life in any landscape is linked to the richness of its layers.**

Using Chickadees and other wildlife as guides, we will explore how layers of native plants evolved with local wildlife. Join us as we learn to enhance our ability to see these layers and to create them in our own landscapes. We are privileged to present two of the nation's leading authorities on the interplay of design, native plants and wildlife.

**6:00–6:30pm** — Doors open — Visit Local Environment Groups' Displays

**6:30–7:00pm** — Rick Darke — Layers

**7:00–8:00pm** — Doug Tallamy — Relationships & Biology

**8:00–8:15pm** — Break

**8:15–9:00pm** — Rick Darke — Putting It All Into Practice

**9:00–10:00pm** — Meet the Authors/Book Signing and Visit Displays



**Doug Tallamy** is Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and author of the award-winning book, "Bringing Nature Home".

**Rich Darke** is a landscape design consultant, author, lecturer, and photographer based in Pennsylvania who blends art, ecology and cultural geography in the creation and conservation of livable landscapes.

**This program is free and open to the public.** Questions? Contact the Manada Conservancy office at [office@manada.org](mailto:office@manada.org) or (717) 566-4122. [www.manada.org](http://www.manada.org)



**Directions:** From Route 322 East, take the Hummelstown/Middletown exit. At traffic signal, turn left onto South Hanover Street. The driveway will be on the right after crossing over Route 322.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Fourth Thursday, April 27 @ 6:00–10:00pm**

## *Kingfisher Courier Goes Digital*

Printing and mailing costs for the newsletter are over \$5,000 each year, inspiring AAS to transition to a paperless newsletter, beginning September. This will allow AAS to redirect money to scholarships and other chapter activities.

For members who do not already receive the newsletter link by email, please send an email to [appaudubonsoc@gmail.com](mailto:appaudubonsoc@gmail.com) by July 31, including the information from your *Kingfisher Courier* mailing label: Name, Street Address, City, State, Zip Code, Email Address.

If you do not have access to a computer or email, you can still get your newsletter in the mail by sending 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. The Annual Program/Field Trip Brochure will still be printed and will arrive by mail.



## APRIL FIELD TRIPS

### Saturday, April 8, 2017 — Spring Wildflowers at Gifford Pinchot State Park

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

### Saturday April 22, 2017 — Wildflowers at Pine Hill Arboretum

Wildflower expert Jane Earle takes us through the wooded ravine at Pine Hill Arboretum in East Pennsboro Township to look for wildflowers such as Dutchman's Breeches, Toothwort, Saxifrage, Trout Lily, and Blue Phlox, or other seasonal wildflowers in bloom. Meet at 1:00pm. Contact Jane at janearle7@msn.com or 728-4241 for meeting location. Date subject to change in accordance with weather conditions.

### Sunday April 30, 2017 — Spring Migration in Perry County

Join AAS Board member Ted Nichols II for some Perry County birding! As one of the least birded counties in the state, we hope to stir up some good spring migrants and showcase some of the great birding locations this county offers. The morning portion of the trip will explore Little Buffalo State Park and a nearby bird sanctuary. The afternoon portion of the trip will proceed (for those interested in continuing) to western Perry County in Tuscarora State Forest and areas that have hosted breeding Golden-winged Warblers. Highlights of this trip last year included a Cape May Warbler, Cerulean Warblers, a Golden-winged Warbler, Horned Grebes, a Bald Eagle and a Broad-winged Hawk. Meet at the Little Buffalo Park Office (1579 State Rte. 4010, Newport, PA) at 7:00am. Participants must register with Ted at tanicholsii@gmail.com.

### Saturday May 6, 2017 — Warbler Walk in Stony Valley

Join warbler expert Tom Smith on this classic annual trip through the Stony Creek area to see, hear, and learn about many species of warblers and other spring birds. Meet at 7:00am at the power line by the PPL power substation along Stony Creek Road. Contact Tom at 921-2461 to register.

## AAS Celebrates Earth Day with a Native Plant Sale

AAS, in partnership with Diakon Wilderness Nursery near Boiling Springs, will hold a Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 22, from 9:00am until 3:00pm. Since it falls on Earth Day, there will also be bird walks at the nursery and other special activities. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Ian Gardner, Plant Sale Chair, at gardnie07@gmail.com or 717-350-5815. We hope to see you there.

For a list of plants available at the sale, go to [http://www.diakon.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Availability%20List%202017\\_1\\_2017.pdf](http://www.diakon.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Availability%20List%202017_1_2017.pdf).

Directions to Diakon Wilderness Nursery are at <http://www.diakon.org/youth-services/directions>.

## Nominations for 2017–2018 Board

The AAS Nominating Committee announces the following candidates for open board positions for the upcoming year:

**President:** Jane Webster (2-year term)

**Secretary:** Marilyn Glace (1-year term)

**Director:** Mary Brenner (2-year term)

**Director:** Chris Kemmerer (2-year term)

The following positions are open: **Vice President, Treasurer, and Director.**

The election for the above positions will take place at the Annual Banquet on May 18, and nominations will be taken from the floor. If you are interested in being considered for any of these positions, please contact Rick Price at rprice210@comcast.net or 657-1950 prior to this date.

## Annual Silent Auction

The ever-popular silent auction of nature-related items will be back for the AAS annual banquet on May 18. Past auction items have included books, binoculars and scopes, native plants, artwork, outdoor equipment and clothing, jewelry, and gift certificates. Auction proceeds will support the chapter's scholarship programs. If you have a new or gently used bird or nature-themed item to donate for the auction, please let us know by May 14. You may contact Susan Miller at 697-6696, Sue Strassner (Carlisle area) at 243-5731, or Kathy Kuchwara (Camp Hill/West Shore) at 319-0828.

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

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

**Secretary** Peggy Price  
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**Treasurer** Tracey Ash  
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## DIRECTORS

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*Term ending May 2018*

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Kevin Shannon  
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## COMMITTEES

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Vacant

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Kathy Kuchwara 717-319-0828  
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**Publicity**  
Vacant

**Trout Run**  
Vacant

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

JOIN US ON MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FOR THE

# AAS Annual Banquet!

## Scott Weidensaul: Caught in the SNOWstorm



Photo courtesy  
Beth Sanders

The winter of 2013-14 saw the largest invasion of Snowy Owls into the eastern United States in perhaps a century and marked an unprecedented opportunity to learn more about these mysterious Arctic hunters.

Author and researcher Scott Weidensaul will share the story of Project SNOWstorm: How a huge, collaborative research effort focused on Snowy Owls came together in a few frantic weeks, funded with the help of people from around the world, and which years later continues to reveal discoveries and unexpected insights into the life and ecology of this great white raptor.

Scott's research specializes in the study of migration in owls, hummingbirds and passerines. He has written more than two dozen books on natural history, including **Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds**, a Pulitzer Prize finalist. He will be bringing books to sell and sign. Recent releases include:

- The long-awaited 20th anniversary edition of Weidensaul's classic, **Mountains of the Heart**, which he fully revised to reflect the changes in ecology, conservation and natural history over the past two decades. It also features an expansive new foreword.
- One of the most comprehensive works yet produced on North American owls, **The Peterson Reference Guide to Owls of North America and the Caribbean**, covers 39 species from Mexico and the Caribbean north. It includes a downloadable audio album of more than 80 vocalizations representing all species, the most detailed range maps ever produced, and more than 350 color photographs.

Enjoy this memorable evening for only \$29 per person!

**When:** Thursday, May 18

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 Club

108 N. St. John's Church Road, Camp Hill, PA, 17011, 717-761-3904  
(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, Grilled Chicken Breast with Greek Marinade, Rigatoni Marinara with Mushrooms & Fresh Basil, Fresh Steamed Vegetables, Mixed Greens Salad, Rolls, Beverages, and Dessert. Cash Bar.

**Reservations  
required by  
5/11/17**

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

### AAS BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Must be received by Thursday, May 11th!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$29 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal for Waggoner's Gap \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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:  
Appalachian Audubon Society, P.O. Box 234, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234

# Annual Appeal Waggoner's Gap

Many Appalachian Audubon members are familiar with the Waggoner's Gap hawk watch, located on the Kittatinny Ridge, the eastern edge of the Appalachian Mountains. With annual totals of more than 20,000 raptors, including some of the highest Golden Eagle counts east of the Rockies, the site is one of the finest places to watch migrating hawks in Pennsylvania. Waggoner's Gap receives approximately 3,000 visitors annually during the fall migration. With its first known counts from 1948, Waggoner's Gap is one of the oldest count sites in North America. Counts have been submitted to the Hawk Migration Association of North America since its inception in 1974.

Over the years, Waggoner's Gap has relied on trained volunteers to conduct the annual count, which runs from August 1 to December 31. The core counter group of volunteers and site owner Audubon Pennsylvania are developing a plan for long-term continuation of the count. The plan involves establishing a paid counter position, along the lines of those at many other hawk watches. In addition



to assisting with the daily counts, there would be opportunities for interaction with visitors and public programs off-site.

Audubon Pennsylvania is raising funds for this new position, including \$8,000 for the first year of the counter position and additional funds for an endowment to maintain this paid position. Appalachian Audubon members can help sustain the counts at Waggoner's Gap by contributing through the Annual Appeal.

## Yes, I want to support the Annual Appeal as designated below:

(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 for Waggoner's Gap \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Total included** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation  
deadline is  
6/15/17**

**100% of your contribution is tax-deductible.**

Mail this form, along with your check payable to

AAS (Appalachian Audubon Society), to:

Appalachian Audubon Society

P.O. Box 234

Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234





I think I can safely say that most AAS members are familiar with Waggoner's Gap. In fact, many have climbed the rocks to sit at the summit to witness the beauty of raptor migration that passes through this area in the fall. For years, Dave Grove and his group have spent their days from the beginning of August until December 31st counting and reporting the migration they observe. The dedicated counters have put in many long days at Waggoner's Gap.

Audubon Pennsylvania, who took over ownership of the hawk watch in 2001, has been working with the core counter group to come up with a plan to insure the counts continue into the future. They believe the best way to make this happen is to establish a paid counter position based at Waggoner's Gap. In addition to assisting with the count, this person would also interact with visitors and provide off-site outreach to educate the public about the importance of this site for raptor migration and conservation.

Audubon PA is seeking to raise \$8000 to fund the counter for the 2017 season and raise funds to build an endowment to maintain this position for upcoming years. Our board felt that this was a worthwhile project for our chapter to support and so have designated contributing to help fund the counter as our Annual Appeal for 2017.

Also, please don't forget our spring plant sale on April 22nd from 9:00am–3:00pm at Diakon Wilderness Nursery and our annual Banquet on May 18th at the West Shore Elks.

Additional information on our appeal, plant sale and banquet can be found throughout this newsletter.

Happy Spring!  
Kathy Kuchwara

## EDUCATION NEWS

### AAS to Send Three to Hog Island Teen Camps This Summer

Congratulations **Jadeyn Henry**, **Caroline Klunk**, and **Grace Stewart**, who will attend Hog Island teen camps this summer on full scholarships from AAS. Jadeyn and Grace will go to *Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens*, and Caroline to *Marine Natural History for Teens*. We offer three scholarships this year in part thanks to a generous donation, earmarked for Hog Island Teen Camps, from an AAS donor.

**Jadeyn** is a 10th grade homeschool student from Gardners, PA. In January, she helped AAS at an outreach event in Carlisle. Jadeyn's volunteering also includes the Ned Smith Center's Saw-whet Owl banding project and banding passerines at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on Cape Cod, MA. **Grace** is a 10th grade student at Camp Hill High School. She is a 2015 graduate of the PA Wildlife Leadership Academy field school, is an active 4-H participant/competitor at local, state and national levels, and has successfully competed in Capital Area Science & Engineering Fairs. **Caroline** is a 9th grader at Boiling Springs High School who has participated in public natural history programs around this region and from coast-to-coast, including in national parks with family. She hopes to major in Marine Biology in college.

AAS is delighted to send these three conservation-minded students to Hog Island, and we look forward to hearing about their experiences.

### Wildlife Leadership Academy Scholarships for High-School Students

The Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA) is a cooperative learning initiative involving state agencies and conservation organizations. WLA runs six field-school camps for high schoolers interested in gaining intensive knowledge about wildlife, fisheries and conservation, and looking to develop their leadership and communication skills. AAS offers partial scholarship assistance to two of their field-school camps: "Drummers," near State College, and "Brookies," near Lock Haven. Both camps run July 18–22. The WLA is now accepting student nominations at <http://wildlifeleadershipacademy.org>. To be considered for AAS scholarships, note your affiliation with AAS on your application.

### Summer GLLI Camp Scholarships for Youth Ages 13–15

AAS offers partial scholarships to youth ages 13-15 to attend the Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute (GLLI) <http://goddardleadership.org/>, run by the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC). This summer's camp runs from July 10–15. Deadline to apply is June 4. Camp activities will be based at the Ironmaster's Mansion in Pine Grove Furnace State Park, near Carlisle, PA, and at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Center on the bay's Smith Island. CPC handles the GLLI camp applications and financial-assistance considerations; please note your affiliation with AAS (or residence within AAS chapter territory) along with your application.



APRIL 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.



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**Appalachian Audubon Society**  
P.O. Box 234  
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## Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute Participant Thanks AAS

My name is Emma Stone and I attended the Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute in 2016. I had a wonderful time. We did many activities that taught me loads about conservation and leadership.

The camp went to the LeTort Spring Run where we tested the water quality and checked out some macro-invertebrates. Also, while visiting at the LeTort Spring Run, we all helped and pulled out lots of Japanese Stiltgrass, which is an invasive species. We planted various native species in their place. It was a great service project that let the other campers and me really see the difference we were making.

After a few days staying at the Iron Master's Mansion, we travelled to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Maryland where we got the opportunity to be involved in yet another service project. It consisted of shoveling over 13 tons of oyster shells into crates so that baby oysters can be put on them to grow and have a stable habitat. It is a great way to help restore the oyster population.

Overall, I greatly enjoyed the camp and wish that I could experience it all again. The staff and camp counselors were great leaders and role models.

Thank you again for my scholarship.

