



# Kingfisher Courier

DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AAS PROGRAM | December 2017

## Year-end Social: Solstice Soirée

**Special Event:** Please note this meeting is the second Thursday of the month.

The days are short, the darkness seems to settle in much too early, but the Solstice is coming so the days will begin lengthening soon. Celebrate with Appalachian Audubon at the Solstice Soirée.

The evening begins with music by Two Flutes (Susan Miller and Lori Elliott) while members chat and eat refreshments. Master of Ceremonies, Eli DePaulis, will lead fun and educational activities that involve optional participation. Gather all your Audubon peeps and flock to the Solstice Soirée.

### DECEMBER PROGRAM SILENT AUCTION

The ever-popular silent auction of nature-related and seasonal items will be back for the AAS year-end soirée on December 14. Auction proceeds will support the chapter's scholarship programs. You may find a treasure for yourself or a gift for someone else. *Reminder* — we can accept only cash or checks for auction items.



Photo courtesy Will Webster

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
December 14 @ 7:00 pm

AAS PROGRAM | January 2018

## Birds, Bugs, and the Water They Depend On: A Virtual Watershed Tour with Audubon PA

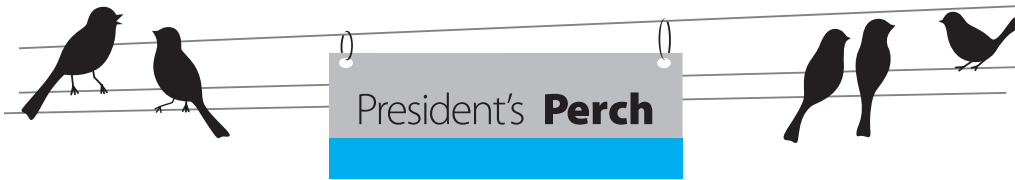
by Kim Schubert and Holly Smith

Join Audubon PA educators Kim Shubert and Holly Smith for a virtual watershed tour! Learn about endangered birds nesting at Kiwanis Lake, significant sources of water pollution, fascinating "water bugs" that reveal water quality, and green stormwater management best practices. These topics will be discussed through the lens of Audubon PA's Watershed Education programs that take students out in the field and into the stream to explore, examine, and take action to protect area waterways and conserve their local watershed.



Photos courtesy Shannon Svitek

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
January 18 @ 7:00 pm



Appalachian Audubon's purpose is education and conservation with a focus on birds and other wildlife, as well as the habitats they need to survive. The chapter has been moving forward on activities that fulfill this mission, while securing funding to sustain them.

At Trout Run Preserve in Upper Allen Township, the Conservation Committee is using a grant administered by Audubon Pennsylvania to restore habitat that has been invaded by non-native plants. Committee volunteers, partnering with local residents and the township maintenance crew, have removed a tangle of bittersweet and mile-a-minute vines, honeysuckle bushes, and ailanthus trees, and are replacing them with native trees and shrubs that will benefit wildlife. See photos and a full report of the progress on page 4 of the newsletter.

In the area of education, the board has been working to find funding that will allow the chapter to continue and even expand scholarship opportunities for youth and educators. The board voted to dedicate money raised at the December and May Silent Auctions and the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser toward scholarships.

Board member Mary Brenner proposed and orchestrated a Scholarship Camper Roundup for the October program, during which scholarship recipients shared their experiences at last summer's camps. Photos and a report are on page 5 of the newsletter. At the end of the program the campers greeted people with a Hog Island hat, collecting donations that will be directed toward scholarships. Deb and John Latsha were so inspired that they generously pledged to fund a full scholarship to Hog Island Camp in Maine. Deb is on the Hospitality Committee and John serves on the board and chairs the Birdseed Sale.

Scholarships for birding, natural history, and environmental education camps can result in life-changing experiences for the next generation of conservationists. In turn, the campers benefit AAS by energizing the chapter, volunteering to help with outreach and other chapter activities, and working for conservation beyond the chapter. The generosity of the chapter expands our reach and furthers the mission.

Thanks to all members who continue to work toward sustaining and expanding these successes.

Jane Webster

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## AAS Native Plant Sale A Success

by Rick Price

Overcast skies and the opening of archery season did not put a damper on the AAS Native Plant Sale hosted on September 30 by the Diakon Wilderness Nursery outside of Boiling Springs. Patrons were able to pick from a wide variety of native plants from asters to White Pines.

Of special interest was the unusual Franklinia Tree. This tree, now extirpated from its native Georgia, was publicized by pioneer American botanist John Bartram of Philadelphia. The Franklinia continues to exist as a cultivar tolerant of temperate climates and is available from nurseries such as Diakon.

Turnout for the sale was good and we hope to see even more patrons at our native plant sale in the spring of 2018. Thank you to our friends at Diakon and to Ian Gardner and all who volunteered to help at the sale.



Photo courtesy  
Rick Price





# Field Trips

*Appalachian Audubon Society welcomes people at all levels of experience. Birding with a group is a good way to improve your skills and confidence in birding.*

## DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS

### Christmas Bird Counts

In this early-winter bird census, thousands of volunteers across the Western Hemisphere follow specified routes through 15-mile diameter circles, counting every bird they see or hear in a day. Become a citizen scientist for the day by participating in this century-old annual tradition. To help with the National Audubon Society's 118th Annual Christmas Bird Count, contact one or all of the circle compilers for a team assignment and details.

**Harrisburg CBC** — Saturday, December 16, 2017. Contact Deuane Hoffman at 717-564-7475 or [corvuscorax@comcast.net](mailto:corvuscorax@comcast.net).

**New Bloomfield CBC** — Saturday, December 23, 2017. Contact Annette Mathes at [amathes19@verizon.net](mailto:amathes19@verizon.net) or 717-514-4512.

**York Springs CBC** — (Cumberland, Adams, and York) – Wednesday, December 27, 2017. Contact Vern Gauthier at 717-385-9526 or [pabirder@gmail.com](mailto:pabirder@gmail.com).

**Newville CBC** — Saturday, December 30, 2017. Contact Vern Gauthier at 717-385-9526 or [pabirder@gmail.com](mailto:pabirder@gmail.com).



Photo courtesy  
Rick Price



Photo courtesy  
Rick Price

## JANUARY FIELD TRIP

### Juniata County Winter Birding Saturday, January 13, 2018

Juniata County birders, Aden Troyer and Chad Kauffman, know where to look for birds that use the rural landscape for winter habitat. Join them in search of owls, longspurs, hawks, eagles, water birds, and other winter specialties. Meet at the Lost Creek Shoe Shop at 12:30 pm, where you may browse their extensive

selection of birding optics, with hands-on testing and expert advice from the owners. Car-pooling is required from the meeting place. Participation is limited to the first 20 registrants, with a maximum of five vehicles. Contact Aden at 717-463-3117 or Chad at [chadkauffman@earthlink.net](mailto:chadkauffman@earthlink.net), 717-436-8257 or 717-994-6715.

## AAS Field Trip to the Vincent DiFilippo Nature Preserve

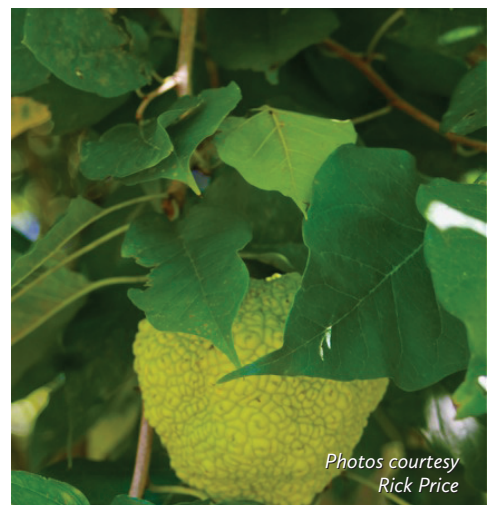
by Rick Price

On Sunday afternoon, October 1, former AAS President Jane Earle led a well-attended field trip to the Vincent DiFilippo Nature Preserve in Silver Spring Township. Jane was an active advocate for the nature preserve, which opened earlier this year.

Participants were treated to hands-on instruction by Jane on many of the 40 species of trees that live on the grounds of the former Silver Spring Golf Course. Some of the more noteworthy trees included the Common Pawpaw, the Shagbark Hickory, the uncommon Burr Oak, and the Osage Orange, a native of the midwestern states. On a sad note we also witnessed the ash trees destruction caused by the Emerald Ash Borer.

The preserve also offers riparian habitat for a wide variety of birds. Doris Brookins, a participant on the outing with her husband, posted on eBird 24 species that were seen and/or heard on our trip. Notables included Chimney Swift, Eastern Bluebird, Palm Warbler, Belted Kingfisher, Chipping Sparrow, and a very cooperative Red-tailed Hawk.

It all made for a very enjoyable afternoon on a pleasant day. Many thanks and kudos to Jane for an educational introduction to this natural venue.



Photos courtesy  
Rick Price

# Trout Run: Progress Continues

by Eli DePaulis

At the beginning of the year, the Appalachian Audubon Trout Run Committee received an \$800 grant to remove invasive species, install signage, and restore a trail at the AAS-owned Trout Run Nature Preserve. This funding was in addition to the \$500 allotted by AAS for Trout Run at the May 2016 Board meeting. Having these funds in hand, the committee has been hard at work improving the site, with the assistance of other conservation organizations.

Work started right out of the gate this year with a work day in February that repaired the aging viewing deck at the site, cleaned up litter, and installed durable metal signage that was donated by Strickler Sign Company in New Oxford. The signs were constructed from recycled metal but look brand new. With the help of Boy Scout Troop 127, Abbottstown, a police line was formed across the length of the preserve and a lot of litter was removed.

Many meetings were held throughout the winter and early spring to discuss restoration options. Among those consulted were members of the Penn State Master Gardeners, who aided in developing plant lists for the site. By the beginning of March, it was concluded that an invasive plant removal and replacement campaign would be the best strategy for restoring the site.

Spring was a busy time at Trout Run with committee members planting 110 seedlings, comprising 50 White Pines, 50 Spice Bushes, and 10 Swamp White Oaks. In addition, large areas of exotic honeysuckles were eliminated by a team of volunteers that included personnel from the Pennsylvania Game Commission and a wildlife biologist from Fort Indiantown Gap. Many areas where honeysuckle removal took place were



## Planting Trout Run by the Numbers

*In the spring of 2017, a variety of seedlings were planted by committee members at Trout Run.*

**50**

**White Pine Seedlings**

**50**

**Spice Bush Seedlings**

**10**

**Swamp White Oak Seedlings**

found to contain large amounts of Common Hackberry that were being suppressed by the honeysuckle.

During the repressive heat of summer little occurred at Trout Run, but once fall came the invasive removal campaign kicked into high gear. Boy Scouts from Troops 127 and 88

took to the preserve, axes in hand, under the supervision of an invasive removal expert. The scouts took great pride in dropping the abundant Bradford Pears with their axes and began referring to themselves as the suburban "Paul Bunyans." The effort of Boy Scouts at the preserve over the past year cannot be overstated, and much of the progress we have seen can be attributed to their actions.

Unfortunately, our team of Paul Bunyans could not take on the daunting task of slaying the invasive plants on its own. Thanks to the networking efforts of Ian Gardner, the Upper Allen Township Parks and Recreation crew brought their chipper and dump truck to the preserve for a one-day invasive massacre. With the aid of volunteers from the neighborhood and AAS members, two large dump truck loads of invasive woodchips were collected and piled for use on the new nature trail along Stumpstown

Road. The committee would like to extend a special thanks to Ben Mummert and Kelsey Miller of Central PA Conservancy for providing much needed technical assistance during invasive removal operations.

As this year winds to a close, the Trout Run Committee will be preparing more reports and finishing work at the site. By the end of the year the trail along Stumpstown Road will be finished and new information posted on the bulletin board near the old parking lot. This winter, litter removal will continue in addition to a honeysuckle removal campaign in the section of the preserve affectionately referred to as "Honeysuckle Heights." This coming spring, a large-scale plant and tube campaign will be launched to promote forest regeneration. Help will be needed, so stay tuned for details. In the meantime, take a trip to Trout Run to see the progress for yourself.



## My Experience at Hog Island in Maine

Dear Appalachian Audubon Society,

This past July I had the pleasure of attending a camp at Hog Island in Maine. Never have I ever had a better experience at a camp or any location. It was by far the highlight of my summer and I will never forget this opportunity I had. I attended the Marine Natural History for Teens camp and it was the perfect combination of zoology, ecology, geology, and chemistry. For anyone like myself who loves all natural sciences, this is the best camp you could go to. I had a wonderful time with all the people there and felt like I fit in no matter who I was with. There was always

a positive atmosphere and you always felt accepted for who you were as a person. I would just like to thank all supporting members of the Appalachian Audubon Society for this once in a lifetime chance and I would advise anyone interested in the outdoor world, whether you are an expert birder or a novice geologist, this camp is definitely something to apply to. I will never forget my adventure on Hog Island and hope others after me will be able to say the same.

Sincerely,  
Caroline Klunk



Photo courtesy  
Hog Island

## October Program by Scholarship Campers Results in a Generous Donation for an Additional Scholarship!

by Karen Atwood

Our exciting October program brought us face to face with many of the 2017 AAS scholarship campers and two terrific camp representatives. We met Director of Education **Beth Sanders** from Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art (Millersburg), who brought along her young birder friend **Jeffrey**, age 10, and his family. Jeffrey went to Ned Smith Center's *Bird Camp* last summer through AAS; he enthralled us all with his favorite birds and stories! Beth showed us precious photos, too, of the second AAS scholarship designee, age four, all dressed up in a bee-keeper suit for her *Honeybees and Me* pollinators camp.

Board member **Mary Brenner** sprinkled in thoughtful letter-excerpts from *Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute* teen scholarship campers, who explored both the local Michaux State Forest and the Chesapeake Bay near Annapolis, MD. The camp is offered by partners *Central PA Conservancy (CPC)* and *Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)*. **Emily Thorpe**, CBF's Pennsylvania Student Leadership Coordinator, opened our eyes to some new potential partnerships close to home in PA and MD through her slides

and talk about their exciting youth council and adult educator programs.

Last, but certainly not least, our three 2017 Hog Island teen camp scholarship awardees, **Caroline Klunk** (*Marine Natural History for Teens*), **Grace Stewart** and **Jadeyn Henry** (*Coastal*



Photos courtesy  
Mary Brenner

*Maine Bird Studies for Teens*), transfixed us with their personal slide shows and shared anecdotes from their time on

mid-coast Maine. Sometimes humorous, sometimes moving, they each voiced their enthusiasm and gratitude for new friendships, perspectives, information, and inspiration gained from their Hog Island experiences. Their "passed hat" for scholarship donations netted \$81 in scholarship funds!

Capping off this delightful evening, and particularly inspired by the three young ladies' passionate-for-science Hog Island presentations, AAS members **Deb and John Latsha** stepped up just after the program to donate a FULL scholarship (\$1,395) to the 2018 summer Hog Island *Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens* camp! Thank you, Deb and John! (and all our campers!) We are now able to offer TWO Hog Island scholarships in 2018!

Please check out the scholarship listings and Hog Island Teen application form on our website's Education tab ([www.appalachianaudubon.org/education.htm](http://www.appalachianaudubon.org/education.htm)). **We are accepting Hog Island Teen applications through Saturday, January 27, 2018.** Watch our website as the other summer-camp offerings bloom over the coming months! (*AAS scholarships are dependent upon chapter fundraising; donations are gladly accepted year-round.*)



## DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

Except for the December program and the May banquet, AAS monthly programs 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 7:00 pm for socializing and refreshments. The program begins at 7:30 pm.

### 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.



**Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/appalachianaudubon>

**Facebook group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/515034908575016/>



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

P.O. Box 234, Camp Hill, PA 17001

## Winter Storm Cancellation of AAS Programs

If severe weather is forecast for the evening of an Appalachian Audubon program, please check the following for possible cancellation information:

- [www.Facebook.com/appalachianaudubon](http://www.Facebook.com/appalachianaudubon)
- WHTM abc27 at [www.abc27.com](http://www.abc27.com)
- 717-756-6492

## Juniata County Winter Birding

Bird with local experts Aden Troyer and Chad Kaufman in search of owls, longspurs, hawks, eagles, waterfowl and other winter specialties. Contact Chad at [chadkauffman@earthlink.net](mailto:chadkauffman@earthlink.net), 717 436-6257 or 717 994-6715. Aden can be reached at 717 463-3117 for more information.



*This is a chapter favorite and is limited to the first 20 respondents.*

## AAS MEMBERS ON THE MOVE



Photo courtesy Susan Miller



Photo courtesy Rick Price



Photo courtesy Rick Price



Photo courtesy Rick Price



Photo courtesy Rick Price