



Kingfisher Courier

APRIL 2018

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AAS PROGRAM | April 2018

Habitat Restoration

by Allison Vollmer and Jeff Musser

The Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA) manages the municipal solid waste and recyclable materials from Lancaster County, as well as refuse for the Greater Harrisburg area. Their innovative approach to handling waste saves significant landfill capacity while creating clean, renewable energy (electricity).

LCSWMA owns land that includes the Chestnut Grove Natural Area. Located in Manor Township, the 170-acre site is comprised of restored wetlands, grasslands and wildflower meadows, and forest. Join us to learn about the transformation of the Chestnut Grove and the wildlife that call this free community nature preserve home.



Photos courtesy Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority

SAVE THE DATE!
April 19 @ 7:00 pm

Native Plant Sale Celebrates Earth Day

Since 2016, Appalachian Audubon has partnered with Diakon Wilderness Nursery near Boiling Springs to offer native plant sales. The spring sale is on Saturday, April 21, from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. It offers an excellent opportunity to celebrate Earth Day by making your yard, patio, or deck more welcoming to birds. The sale benefits the chapter, which receives a percentage of the day's profits.

There will also be guided bird walks on the property and activities for children. Mark your calendar to attend. If you would like to volunteer to help with the sale or with activities, please contact Kevin Shannon at kbsathome@comcast.net or Jane Webster at 717-756-6492.

We hope to see you there!

Board Nominations

The Appalachian Audubon Society's Nominating Committee (Chris Kemmerer, Kevin Shannon, and Jane Webster) is pleased to present this slate of candidates for consideration by members.

Vice President	Chris Kemmerer (2-year term)
Treasurer	Vacant (1-year term)
Secretary	Sarah Klunk (1-year term)
Director	Tony Arnold (2-year term)
Director	Ann DePaulis (2-year term)
Director	Dale Rupert (2-year term)
Director	Kevin Shannon (1-year term to finish Chris Kemmerer's term)

Elections will be held at the Annual Banquet on May 17, 2018. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Silent Auction

Appalachian Audubon has received some wonderful donations for the Annual Silent Auction to be held during the May Banquet. For a preview of items, check the Facebook group at <https://m.facebook.com/groups/515034908575016> and the website at www.appalachianaudubon.org.

If you have bird or nature themed items to donate, contact Susan Miller at 717-697-6696 or Mary Brenner at 717-903-0223 by May 1. Native plants, books, and bird feeders are welcome additions to this spring fund raiser. All proceeds go toward camper scholarships.

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.

APRIL FIELD TRIPS

Spring Wildflowers

Saturday, April 7, 2018 • Shenk's Ferry

Shenk's Ferry is well known among local botanists and wildflower enthusiasts as a Central PA hotspot for spring wildflowers. Wildflower expert and naturalist Dan Welte will lead the trip to this special place. Carpoolers will meet at the Newberry Commons off of I-83 in York County at 11:30 am. Those traveling from the east shore may want to carpool to meet at the preserve at 12:30 pm, where there is limited parking on weekends in season. Contact Dan at dcmawelte@verizon.net or 717-728-0421 for registration and details.



MAY FIELD TRIPS

Warbler Walk

**Saturday, May 5, 2018
Stony Valley**

Join warbler expert Tom Smith on this annual classic trip through the Stony Creek area to see, hear, and learn about the various species of warblers and other spring birds. Meet at the power line by the PPL substation along Stony Creek Road Dauphin, PA 17018 at 7:00 am. Participants must register with Tom at 717-921-2461.



Warbler Walk

**Sunday, May 6, 2018
State Game Lands 230**

Pete Lusardi will lead a walk along the base of Blue Mountain near Carlisle Springs to look for migrating and summer resident warblers and other song birds. This trip has a history of uncommon birds showing up such as Golden-winged Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Canada Warbler, and a Summer Tanager in 2017. Contact Pete at 717-243-6419 or pjlusardi@aol.com to register. Participants will meet at the first parking lot on the right (coming from the east) at 7:30 am.



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717-756-6492

Vice President Vacant

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Term ending May 2018

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JOIN US ON MAY 17TH FOR THE

AAS Annual Banquet!

Bob Mulvihill: Bird Conservation Work of the National Aviary

Bob Mulvihill, the National Aviary's Ornithologist, will give us a "behind the scenes" look at the work of National Aviary staff in support of bird conservation around the world. Join us to learn what goes on beyond the building of the National Aviary. The work includes breeding programs for endangered species (and species that are extinct in the wild); work with new veterinary techniques that help preserve the lives of endangered birds and improve their chances for breeding success; and original research to determine the human factors affecting wild bird populations and possible means for avoiding or mitigating these adverse effects.

Bob has been fascinated by birds all his life. Following a summer internship at Carnegie Museum of Natural History, he became a regular volunteer at their Powdermill Nature Reserve. This led to full-time employment at Powdermill for nearly 30 years. In that position, he has conducted field research on a variety of birds including juncos, hummingbirds, and waterthrushes, and has followed their migration into Mexico and Central America. He has authored more than thirty peer-reviewed scientific articles as well as written dozens of popular articles on birds and nature.

In addition to his ornithological studies, he is deeply involved with citizen science, including the PA Breeding Bird Atlas (leadership roles in both editions), Neighborhood Nestwatch, Project OwlNet, and Christmas Bird Counts. Bob has trained and mentored more than a hundred students, many of whom have pursued graduate degrees in ornithology and conservation biology. In recognition of his contributions and efforts on behalf of bird conservation, he has received awards from the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology.

Enjoy this memorable evening for only \$30 per person!

When: Thursday, May 17

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
5/10/18**

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

AAS BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Must be received by Thursday, May 10th!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make reservations for _____ persons @ \$30 each \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal for Audubon PA School Programs \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal for CPCs LeTort/Letort restoration effort \$ _____

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

2018 Annual Appeal

AUDUBON PA SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Audubon PA partners with Harrisburg City and Carlisle Area school districts to provide hands-on watershed education to students. Audubon staff works with students and teachers in the classroom throughout the school year, then takes them outside for an exciting field experience in the spring. In Carlisle, 2nd, 5th and 7th-grade students explore bird and aquatic life, and habitats in and around LeTort Spring Run, a world-renowned trout stream. In Harrisburg, 4th-grade students investigate ecosystems and wildlife at Gifford Pinchot State Park. For many Harrisburg students, this is their first experience on a trail or at a state park. All told, Audubon serves nearly 2,000 students between the two school districts.

AAS members who have volunteered with these programs witnessed magical moments — students connecting with the natural world while discovering how aquatic insects, land use, riparian buffers and woodlands, and in-stream habitats are related to water quality and overall community health.

A habitat enhancement project is part of every field experience, and is often the most memorable part of the day for students. Students create or enhance native perennial gardens, remove invasive plants, plant native trees and shrubs, and/or clean up riparian areas. Your donations will support these conservation efforts, such as (but not limited to) purchasing native plants, equipment, tools and/or other materials.

CENTRAL PA CONSERVANCY

Two years ago, Appalachian Audubon's Annual Appeal helped Central PA Conservancy raise the funds needed to buy 30 acres at LeTort Spring Run. Having raised a total of \$415,000 in that period through state, county, municipality, and private funding for the acquisition, CPC finalized the purchase in February 2018. With the success of permanently preserving the unusual wetlands, limestone springs, wild brown trout, LeTort Nature Trail, and historic structures, CPC is now seeking matching funds for a preserve management plan as well as a wetland restoration project that will also be supported by state and federal grants. The 130 years of commercial watercross production on the property has altered the natural hydrology of the site, including the diversion of the stream up against the road and into a channel against the railroad bed. Restoration efforts seek to reconnect the stream to the floodplain and create the wetland and meadow complex that existed there historically. Bird species that CPC has identified on the property include:

- Indigo Bunting
- Scarlet Tanager
- Baltimore Oriole
- Red-Winged Blackbird
- Great Blue Heron
- Sora Rail and nesting areas
- Bald Eagle
- American Woodcock

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

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal for Audubon PA School Programs \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal for Central PA Conservancy \$ _____

Total included \$ _____

**Donation
deadline is
6/15/18**

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



Birds have the power to bring people together.

We saw that during the Great Backyard Bird Count, when Appalachian Audubon and Wildwood Park partnered for an informal Saturday program in February with a simple objective — count birds at the nature center’s feeders. Over 150 people came to the center that day and most stopped by to learn about birds; indeed, many came specifically for the program. Many people stayed for hours, watching, counting, and talking with volunteers about birds. The commonest of feeder birds has the power to bring us together and engage us in a shared endeavor.

Although the national and world news concerning the environment look bleak, many people are passionate about wildlife. Audubon works to channel that passion not just for watching birds, but toward protecting the landscapes all living things need to survive.

National Audubon, partnering with other organizations, has named 2018 the Year of the Bird. It is a celebration of the

100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, an attempt to raise awareness of birds, and a call to action. Each month, there is a new focus that draws people together to make a difference for birds.

If you participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count, you’ve started celebrating the Year of the Bird. March and April focus on native plants and simple actions you can do to make your part of the world more bird-friendly.

Locally in Appalachian Audubon’s bird year, April is all about native plants. You can make your yard more bird-friendly by visiting the Native Plant Sale on April 21, volunteer at Trout Run by contacting the Conservation Committee, or go on the April 7 field trip in search of wildflowers.

Let birds draw you in as they bring us together and spur us to take action on their behalf. Learn more at www.birdyourworld.org.

EDUCATION NEWS

Education Update

by Karen Atwood

Congratulations to our three scholarship designees for the Summer 2018 Hog Island Audubon *Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens (CMBS)*: **Devin DePamphilis** of Harrisburg, **Alura Neumyer** of Lewisberry, and **Lydia Vorodi** of Boiling Springs! We’ll learn a bit more about them in our next newsletter. We are delighted to be able to offer three teen scholarships this year, thanks to chapter fundraising efforts and to special scholarship donations from members Deb and John Latsha.

Meanwhile, our other “partner” camp registrations and scholarship application processes are now open for the following: Central PA Conservancy/Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Goddard Leadership (GLLI) camp (www.goddardleadership.org), Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art (www.nedsmithcenter.org), the Wildlife Leadership Academy (www.wildlifeleadershipacademy.org) and Wildwood Park (www.wildwoodlake.org). Please apply directly to those organizations; note your affiliation with AAS for possible scholarship-assistance consideration. Information about these camps and stories from former AAS campers may also be found in our newsletters on our website: www.appalachianaudubon.org.



Photos courtesy Audubon’s Hog Island



APRIL 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>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/appalachianaudubon/>



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

Trout Run: Spring Bird Walk

Sunday, April 29 at 8 am

Restoration efforts at our chapter's Trout Run Nature Preserve are progressing rapidly. We have cleared many areas once dominated by invasive plants, reconstructed trails, and installed new signage. In addition to this progress, we are currently conducting a massive tree-planting campaign with help from Delta Dental Insurance and many volunteers. In celebration of this progress, there will be a bird walk/tour of Trout Run led by Ian Gardner and Eli DePaulis on Sunday, April 29th at 8 am. The walk will start from the newly renovated viewing deck along Merrimac Avenue in the Creek Stone Manor development. Attendees will get to experience Trout Run's fabulous birding and see AAS's restoration efforts firsthand.

Directions to Trout Run Nature Preserve in Mechanicsburg: From Camp Hill: Take Route 15 South to the Lisburn Road exit. Turn right onto Lisburn Road and continue straight through the traffic light across the intersection with Old Gettysburg Road. After the traffic light, take the second right onto Stumpstown Road. Once on Stumpstown Road, continue until you see the sign on the left at the bridge for the Creekstone Manor development. Turn left, crossing the bridge onto Merrimac Avenue, and bear right, continuing on Merrimac. Park along the right side of Merrimac; look for people with binoculars.

AAS MEMBERS ON THE MOVE



Photo courtesy Susan Miller



Photo courtesy Mary Brenna

Getting Social with AAS on Instagram

AAS is now on *Instagram* as "Appalachian Audubon Society". Follow us and help connect a greater audience with our organization. Our goal is to reach more youth and encourage them to appreciate nature and perhaps become birders too!

If you would like to share your photos for our Instagram posts, please contact Sarah Klunk, board secretary and the Instagram admin at sarah2fred@comcast.net.

