



Kingfisher Courier

MAY 2018

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Silent Auction

There will be a Silent Auction held during the banquet on May 17. Appalachian Audubon has received some wonderful donations for the auction. The large selection will include books, a scope and tripod, native plants, artwork, outdoor equipment, jewelry, and gift certificates. You're sure to find something special for yourself or a gift for someone else! For a preview of some items, check the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/515034908575016>.



Remember to bring cash or a check to pay for items.



Photos courtesy Sarah Klunk

Harrisburg Falcon Watch

Since 1997, the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg has been host to a pair of Peregrine Falcons, the longest continuously successful nest site in Pennsylvania. Between 2000 and 2017, the Rachel Carson falcons have fledged 62 chicks. Peregrine Falcons have proven themselves highly adaptable to city living. But urban environments, including cars and windows, present unique



Stock photo courtesy Karen Stiffler

hazards to young falcons as they learn to fly. To improve the fledglings' odds of survival, each Spring a group of volunteers known as the Harrisburg Falcon Watch and Rescue mounts a dawn to dusk watch, seven days a week, to monitor the young falcons' activity, and when necessary, rescue grounded or otherwise threatened fledglings.

If you are interested in participating as a volunteer, please contact AAS member Sue Hannon, or email hbgfalconwatch@gmail.com. No experience is necessary.

Board Thanks Departing Leaders

As the Audubon year comes to a close, we recognize several people who will be stepping down from leadership positions.

Two years ago, we had no Treasurer. Tracey Ash responded to a request in the newsletter and has served the chapter well for two years. She helped get finances back on track and encouraged us to establish a funding stream for scholarships to maximize the number we can offer.

During her time on the board, Karen Atwood has enthusiastically chaired the Education Committee. She has expanded the scholarships we offer to send more youth to Hog Island and has located more local opportunities as well. In addition, she serves on the Trout Run Committee. As one of the people who saw the nesting Sedge Wren, leading to the establishment of Trout Run Preserve many years ago, she has been a constant advocate for the preserve.

Ian Gardner is completing his term as a director, but he will continue to contribute his expertise in native plants and knowledge of handling invasives

as chair of the Conservation/Trout Run Committee. In addition to his volunteer work at Trout Run, we appreciate his leadership in bird identification during program meetings and on field trips.

We are all grateful for a young birder who has enthusiasm and skill beyond his years. In his time serving Audubon as Youth Chair, Outreach Chair, and on the Trout Run Committee, Eli DePaulis has exhibited leadership skills in writing, documenting, and following up on grants for Trout Run, recruiting scouts to help with the work there, and locating sources for native plants, signs, and other materials. He has been an energetic MC for our Winter Solstice Soiree and led Bird Chat during program meetings. As he heads off to Penn State DuBois, we wish him well. We will miss his enthusiasm for many projects, but look forward to seeing what comes next for him.

If you would like to help further the work of Appalachian Audubon, speak with a board member to learn about serving on a committee.

Chapter-only Membership Renewals

Appalachian Audubon Society (AAS) offers chapter-only memberships to those members who want to be involved locally without joining National Audubon Society (NAS). Some people maintain both local and national memberships to give additional support directly to the chapter.

The chapter-only membership year runs from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. To renew or to add this level of support to your local chapter, please complete your form (available at <http://appalachianaudubon.org/membership.htm>) and send it along with your check to the

address noted on the form. Deadline for renewals is June 30, 2018.

All National Audubon Society (NAS) members are automatically assigned to a local chapter and are notified by national of their renewal. NAS provides some financial support to AAS as well as the benefits of a beautiful magazine and national-level support and activities.

As you can see throughout this newsletter, your local chapter provides many opportunities for educational, recreational, and environmental benefits right here in our local area.

Introducing Our 2018 Hog Island Teen Scholarship Designees

Devin DePamphilis, **Alura Neumyer** and **Lydia Vorodi** will attend Hog Island Audubon's Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens camps this summer with scholarships from AAS. Our camp scholarships are possible thanks to donations by generous AAS members and fundraising activities (e.g., silent auctions, birdseed and native plant sales) by the chapter and the Board.



Devin is from Harrisburg, PA. He is an avid and accomplished nature photographer, an Eagle Scout and a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, and currently a junior at Harrisburg Academy in Wormleysburg. His passions include wildlife conservation and seabird restoration. He hopes that Hog Island will help him learn more about bird identification, ecology and conservation, and about photographing birds and wildlife, as well as build skills for community conservation education.



Alura moved to Lewisberry, PA, from Maryland last summer. Currently a senior in the Visual Arts program at Capital Area School for the Arts (CASA) Charter School in Harrisburg, she plans to attend college in a Global Media Studies program, concentrating in Visual Journalism. Alura is an avid nature photographer, hiker and an accomplished visual artist. She would like to create a voice for the conservation of wildlife and the environment through Visual Journalism.



Lydia hails from Boiling Springs, PA, and is a sophomore at Boiling Springs High School, where she is extremely interested in science, especially biology. She is eager to learn more about the different species of birds in Maine, and about the impacts of climate change on birds, how to help birds in the face of it, and how to share what she learns with others for the greater good. Lydia loves being outdoors, and also enjoys hiking, camping, photography and writing.

We look forward to hearing about these teens' summer Hog Island experiences in the fall!

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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 Spring Run restoration effort \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Scholarship Fund \$ _____

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 CPCs LeTort Spring Run restoration effort \$ _____

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



Our chapter's Annual Appeal provides much-needed funding to worthy causes which align with AAS's mission of education and conservation with a focus on birds

The projects we chose are:

- Audubon PA's Environmental School Programs. Last spring, AAS members who helped with field trips for students from Harrisburg and Carlisle saw them connecting with nature while learning about birds and their habitat needs. One student's comment, looking up from her net full of insect larvae: "This is the best field trip ever!"
- Central PA Conservancy's restoration at LeTort Spring Run. In 2016, donations from our annual appeal helped Central PA Conservancy preserve LeTort Spring Run. The task ahead is to restore the wetland ecosystem to provide habitat for diverse species at a location that is accessible to people for recreation and appreciation of nature.

In addition to the Annual Appeal, we invite you to donate to our scholarship program for local youth. This year, significant donations have already come in from the Nancy Juris Memorial

Scholarship Fund, John and Deb Latsha, and other donors. Hog Island scholarships are the largest piece of the scholarship budget. Over the years, this camp has provided life-changing experiences for campers. Here are three examples of Hog Island Alumni from AAS:

- Tom Johnson is now an ornithologist and birding guide. He helps teach at Hog Island.
- Maggie Dewane went on to become a journalist who covers environmental issues across the world. She is a guest teacher at Hog Island and will present a program for AAS in the fall.
- Eli DePaulis has given back to the chapter in many ways. The ultimate volunteer, he doesn't hesitate to help where needed and has made significant contributions in the restoration of Trout Run Preserve.

As you read more on page 4, please consider adding your donation to those of other chapter members. It will have a local impact that may even send ripples out across the world.



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.

MAY FIELD TRIPS

Warbler Walk in Stony Valley

Saturday, May 5, 2018

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 at State Game Lands 230

Sunday, May 6, 2018

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.

Annual Spring Migration Count

Saturday, May 12, 2018

Actively participate in identifying as many bird species as possible within the day. In Dauphin County contact Rick Price at 717-657-1950 and for Cumberland and Perry Counties contact Vern Gauthier at 717-385-9526 or pabirder@gmail.com.

JUNE FIELD TRIP

Breeding Birds of Chestnut Grove Natural Area

Saturday, June 2, 2018

Join Jeff Musser of Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority and Lancaster Bird Club and Rick and Peggy Price to look for breeding birds in the restoration area along the Susquehanna that includes wetlands, meadows, woods and river hills. Species to look for include American Kestrel, Blue Grosbeak, Worm-eating Warbler, Bobolink, and Orchard Oriole. For registration and directions, contact Rick Price at rprice210@comcast.net or 717-657-1950.



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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/>



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

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

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.

AAS Thanks Delta Dental

Appalachian Audubon thanks Delta Dental Insurance of Mechanicsburg employees for helping plant trees, install deer-tubes, and remove invasives on April 24 at Trout Run! If your organization wants to volunteer with restoration efforts at Trout Run Nature Preserve in Upper Allen Township, please email: conservation@appalachianaudubon.org. Many hands make light work, especially in this beautiful setting.

AAS MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Photo courtesy Mary Brenner



Photo courtesy Mary Brenner



... at the March Tussey Mountain Hawkwatch field trip

Photo courtesy Susan Miller



... at the Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 21

Photo courtesy Mary Brenner



... volunteering on work day at Trout Run