



Kingfisher Courier

APRIL 2019

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AAS Program | April 18, 2019

Birding by Ear by Dale Rupert

We all know several birds just by the sound of their voice even when we can't see them. This program will provide a fun and interesting presentation on ways to improve your ability to identify those birds that you didn't actually get a chance to see. Their voices give them away. Their songs give them away. And sometimes their habits and attitudes give them away. You just might gain a whole new perspective on bird identification. By the end of the meeting, you will undoubtedly know a few more things about birds and their songs. Especially if you pass the Birding by Ear Final Exam (which you will)!

Join us at 7:00 pm for refreshments and socializing. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm, followed by the program.

Spring Native Plant Sale

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 20, from 9:00am until 3:00pm. 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. Mark your calendar to attend. If you would like to volunteer to help with the sale, please contact Chris Kemmerer at kemmererc@hotmail.com or 717-571-7958. We hope to see you there!



Photos courtesy
Will Webster

Silent Auction



Photo courtesy Karen Atwood
Painting by Alura Neumyer

AAS will again hold a silent auction at our annual banquet on May 16. If you would like to donate a bird or nature-themed item for the auction, please contact Susan Miller at 717-697-6696 or Mary Brenner at 717-903-0223 by May 1. We expect to have native plants, books, bird feeders and houses, artwork, gift cards and more available for bid. Auction proceeds will benefit our camp scholarship program. **Note:** Our storage capacity is limited. If an item is not sold at the auction, we ask that you receive it back or we may donate it to another community organization.

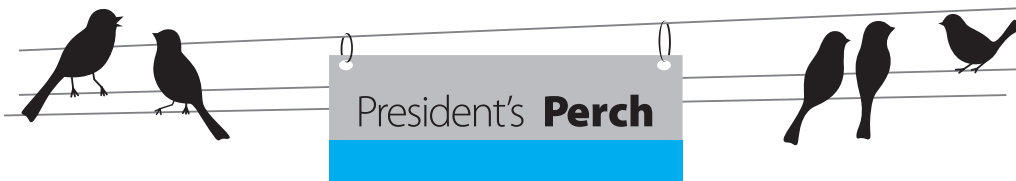
A highlight of the auction will be an original acrylic painting of a puffin by Alura Neumyer. Alura was a 2018 AAS scholarship recipient for the Hog Island Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens Camp. She generously donated this painting to AAS to help raise scholarship funds for a future teen to go to Hog Island.

Board Nominations

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

- President** Chris Kemmerer (2-year term)
- Vice President** Tony Arnold (1-year term)
- Treasurer** Dan Kemmerer (1-year term)
- Secretary** Alexandria Zwinger (1-year term)
- Director** John Latsha (2-year term)
- Director** Georgia Kagle (2-year term)
- Director** Betsy Riter (2-year term)
- Director** Kelly Arnold (1-year term)

Elections will be held at the Annual Banquet on May 16, 2019. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.



By the time you read this, the snow will be long gone and we will be greeting each new sign of spring as it arrives. I don't have a favorite season — it's the constant rotation of the natural world that I love. There is always something different, yet at the same time, there is familiarity. Because of its long absence, I can be surprised by something common — a flicker's white rump as it flies away, skunk cabbage pushing up through the mud, a warmer angle of the sun's rays, shockingly green spicebush flowers, the ethereal notes of a thrush. Like déjà vu, these things can leave an impression of being both new and familiar.

Where do you go to search for signs of spring? For me, first stop is my backyard, but I soon feel I need to widen my search and wander farther. Like many of you, I visit public land for a nature fix. We are fortunate to live so close to the Kittatinny Ridge. This long, forested mountain feels like a foundation I can always depend on. All that green is the birthright of anyone from Penn's Woods.

But it is more vulnerable than it seems. Only 34% of the Kittatinny Corridor is protected as public land or with conservation easements on private land. The stakes are high for wildlife and ecosystems. Our encroachment on the environment has consequences: wildlife declines; loss of diversity; deterioration of water quality, climate change. But positive actions have consequences as well. Jane Goodall said, "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Central Pennsylvania Conservancy is a non-profit organization working to protect land. This year, our chapter's Annual Appeal supports the efforts of CPC in the Kittatinny Corridor. Take some time to read about a few of their current projects on page 4, think about the difference you want to make, then get out your checkbook and make a generous donation.

AAS Supporting Science & Research

Recently a wonderful opportunity was presented to the AAS board by members Rich and Betsy Riter. In our continuing effort to encourage more youth to become active in AAS, the outdoors and conservation, they suggested that AAS support the Capital Area Science and Engineering Fair (CASEF) by offering awards to two students whose science fair projects further the conservation of birds or the habitats on which they depend.

On March 5th, AAS members Rich and Betsy Riter and Chris Kemmerer reviewed the CASEF projects. With so many projects, it was a large task. But we are excited to announce the two winners of AAS's first CASEF award. Each will be receiving \$50.00.

Anne Pulchalsky from Cumberland Valley High School won for her project "Evaluating the Impact of Grass Buffer Zones on Fall Pollinator Species in PA." This project assessed the numbers of pollinating flies, beetles, and butterflies affected by mowing vs not mowing grass buffer zones. As might be expected, not cutting the grass is extremely beneficial for all species.

Dominic Mirarchi from Trinity High School won for his project "Do Bird Sounds Differ Based on Geographical Location?" This project compared winter bird songs of the Blue Jay and Song Sparrow as he recorded them at York Springs vs Maine and then uploaded them to eBird. There were some, but not significant, differences.



Photo courtesy
Sean Stratton on
Unsplash.com

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JOIN US ON MAY 16TH FOR THE

AAS Annual Banquet!

Cindy Adams Dunn: The Future of Our State Parks and Forests for Birds and People

As Pennsylvania's conservation agency, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is working to address today's challenges on parks, forests, and climate, while engaging with youth to assure the next generation of conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts.

Join us for a special evening featuring a presentation by Cindy Adams Dunn. Since 2015, she has served as Secretary of DCNR, where she has held multiple positions over the last two decades.

Previously, Secretary Dunn was president and chief executive officer of PennFuture, a statewide environmental advocacy organization. Her other leadership roles include serving as the president of Appalachian Audubon, the executive director of Audubon Pennsylvania from 1997–2003 and as the Pennsylvania program director for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for 10 years.

In addition to working to protect natural resources, Secretary Dunn enjoys them through hobbies like birding, canoeing, fishing, and hiking.

Enjoy this memorable evening for only \$31 per person!

When: Thursday, May 16

6:00 pm Silent Auction, Appetizers, Cash Bar (Doors won't open until 6:00 pm sharp!)
6:45 pm 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
5/9/19**

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

AAS BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Must be received by Thursday, May 9th!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make reservations for _____ persons @ \$31 each \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal for Central PA Conservancy's Kittatinny Ridge Projects \$ _____

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

2019 Annual Appeal

CENTRAL PA CONSERVANCY: PROTECTING THE KITTATINNY CORRIDOR

The Kittatinny Ridge slices through Appalachian Audubon chapter territory as it stretches across Pennsylvania and beyond human borders, providing habitat and a migration corridor for wildlife. Mostly forested, only one third of the corridor's land is protected by a patchwork of federal or state ownership, land trusts, and conservation easements. The majority is privately owned, leaving it vulnerable to fragmentation by development or unsustainable timber harvest.

Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC), a local land trust, actively protects land that is essential to Kittatinny's wildlife. Additional benefits of preservation include ecosystem services like carbon sequestration, safeguarding water quality, and outdoor recreation opportunities. CPC is this year's Annual Appeal recipient for preservation work in the Kittatinny Corridor. These three projects are supported by the appeal:

- The Spangler project on Blue Mountain in Dauphin County will acquire 86 acres protecting 2 miles along the ridge and securing access to Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area from Blue Mountain Parkway.
- Flemish Down, a 400-acre property on Peters Mountain, will be acquired for transfer to the state. It includes the Appalachian Trail near the Peters Mountain Shelter and Table Rock View and adjoins State Game Lands #211, Ibberson Conservation Area, and Clarks Creek, a high quality trout stream.
- The natural diversity of Brady Bryner Preserve in Juniata County includes Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers. CPC needs funds to purchase a 36-acre inholding and prevent fragmentation of valuable habitat. Support from organizations like AAS can make a big difference in the success of a grant proposal for a small project like this.

Yes, I want to support the Annual Appeal:

(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 Central Pennsylvania Conservancy's
Kittatinny Corridor Projects \$ _____

Total included \$ _____

**Donation
deadline is
6/15/19**

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



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

Exploring AAS's own Trout Run Preserve and nearby LeTort Run Preserve



Saturday April 6, 2019

Have you been to Trout Run Preserve recently? This is a chance for chapter members and other interested parties to check out AAS's own Trout Run Preserve to see what has been done to restore the property to its natural wetland state and to encourage the propagation of native species at this suburban oasis. Meet at Trout Run at 9:00 am.

Following our visit, we will stop at LeTort Run Preserve where Ben Mummert, Director of Land Protection and Stewardship for Central PA Conservancy, will introduce us to conservation efforts which have been implemented there, that may also be useful at Trout Run. Participants should contact Rick Price at 717 657-1950 or rprice210@comcast.net to register.



Photo courtesy Ann Depaulis



Photo courtesy Ann Depaulis

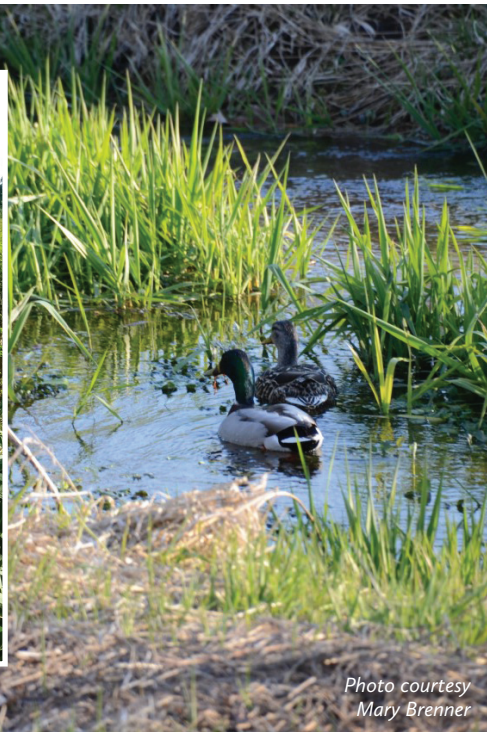


Photo courtesy Mary Brenner



Photo courtesy Mary Brenner

Spring Wildflowers with Dan Welte

Saturday April 13, 2019

Join wildflower naturalist Dan Welte on a trip to Gifford Pinchot State Park to search for early wild blooms.

We will meet at the Conewago Day Use Area (North end of the parking lot) at 10:00 am.

Contact Dan at dcmawelte@verizon.net to register. Many of the early flowers should be in bloom by mid-April.



Photos courtesy Will Webster





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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/>



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P.O. Box 234, Camp Hill, PA 17001
www.appalachianaudubon.org

AAS MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Great Backyard Bird Count



Photos courtesy
Kelly McGinley

AAS Supports Scout Project

Recently AAS supported an Eagle Scout project for Noah Yeich of Middletown. He built and installed a Chimney Swift tower and kiosk at Wildwood Park near the north parking lot. From Noah's research, Chimney Swifts have lost more than 50% of their



Photos courtesy
Noah Yeich

natural habitat since the 1970s. They are in desperate need for more areas to raise their young. This tower and kiosk combination will not only provide vital habitat for swifts, but it will also provide educational opportunities for the over 115,000 annual visitors to Wildwood Park. Currently, there are only a few

towers located in eastern Pennsylvania. We encourage you to visit Wildwood to view the tower and read the kiosk. To learn more you may also want to read *Chimney Swift Towers: New Habitat for Mysterious Birds*, written by Paul and Georgan Kyle.

