



September Meeting - Scopes and Binocs



Have you ever had questions about binoculars or telescopes? Are you looking to buy a pair of binoculars or scope? If so, our first program of the season is for you! Aden Troyer, of the Lost Creek Shoe Shop, near Mifflintown in Juniata County, will be our speaker. Aden sells excellent shoes and boots at the shop, but also has a nice assortment of optical equipment. He will bring along some binoculars and telescopes for us to look at and will discuss what to look for when buying optics. He will be glad to

Come join us for this unusual program on Thursday, September 21st at 7:30 p.m

"FOREVER WILD – 2006" CONCERT IS FINALLY HERE!

Saturday, September 23, 2006



Doors and Displays Open at 6:30 PM, Concert at 7:30 PM
 Mechanicsburg Middle School, Upper Allen Township
 1750 S. Market St. (Rte 114, just ½ mile west of Rte 15 interchange)



Free Admission / First come - first seated

You've been hearing about it for months, but now we're counting down the days! Walkin' Jim Stoltz and his "Forever Wild – 2006" concert are almost here. Jim will share highlights of over 26,000 miles of wilderness hiking during this multi-media concert that includes inspiring songs, stories, and stunning nature images captured on the trail and projected on the big screen.

From the rugged mountains of Montana, to the canyons of Utah, along the Continental Divide and through the wildest places in the country, you will feel like you've been to these places yourself when the evening is over.

This is one of 100 free concerts Jim is performing across the nation this year in celebration of 20 years of taking his show on the road. He will also be encouraging us to be involved in speaking up for the wild places and the environment.

So come be a part of this one-of-a kind national tour, and visit over 25 displays in the lobby belonging to local environmental and outdoor recreation-focused groups. Jim's CDs and books will be for sale. Hope to see YOU there!

"Jim Stoltz is a music man of exuberance and passion, with more to say in one song than Frank Sinatra ever managed in a whole bloody concert."

— Edward Abbey

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<http://www.appalachianaudubon.org/>

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From the President's Perch



As I write this, summer is nearing an end, and I am looking forward to fall migration and a new season of activity for Appalachian Audubon. Enclosed in this newsletter is a brochure with the programs and field trips we have planned for this year. We have tried to plan trips and programs that will be of interest to our members, but also hope that they will attract non-members as well. All of our activities are open to the public and are free of charge. Feel free to invite a friend, relative or neighbor to a program or field trip.

Looking back to last season, I am happy to report that Appalachian Audubon was able to send FIVE youth to the Audubon camp in Maine. I feel this is our most important accomplishment and I hope that we can send even more youth this coming year. I sometimes feel we ask our members for money too often, but I think you should feel your money has gone to a very good cause with these scholarships.

Our annual birdseed sale will again be held at the Capital City Mall on the first weekend in October. You will find an order form in this newsletter. We seem to always have rain for the sale, so we made it a little earlier than usual. The volunteers always have fun - consider coming to help out!

Speaking of volunteering, you will see an impressive list of names of officers and directors on this page. It takes many people to accomplish all of our activities, and while this looks like an impressive list, we are in need of some new volunteers. Many of us have done the same jobs for many years and it is time for some new blood! Hope to see you

Appalachian Audubon monthly (Sept-May) programs normally take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month in Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Road, in the Allendale neighborhood of Camp Hill, at 7:30 p.m. Exceptions are announced in this newsletter, as are field trips and other activities.

PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Directions: Take New Cumberland exit off I-83; cross Carlisle Road. Turn left onto Allendale Way; take first left at Deerfield Road (from the south, take New Cumberland exit, turn left onto Carlisle Road, left onto Cedar Cliff Road, left on Allendale Way,

Conserving Fuel: What Can YOU Do?

Last year when our administration proposed drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as part of a national energy policy, I thought of how much more energy would be available from conservation than could be produced by drilling there. This is why I researched and wrote the following article. In the months to come I hope to present more articles on different aspects of energy conservation.

There are many online sources of tips for energy conservation. The ones I used are www.fightglobalwarning.com, www.fueleconomy.gov and www.cartalk.com. For people who aren't web connected there are books available, such as *Great Gas Mileage* by Wes Shaw; *Beat High Gas Prices Now* by Diane MacEachern and *The Gas Mileage Bible* by Ron Hollenbeck and Kenny Joines.

And now for what you can do to decrease your fuel consumption!

1. Wind Resistance. Anything that increases wind resistance lowers fuel economy, so don't drive around with bike racks, ski racks, etc. mounted on your car when you are not using them. Highway driving with the windows down also increases wind resistance, so use your air conditioning on the highway.
2. Extra Weight. We need a jack, spare tire and other emergency equipment but an extra 100 pounds in our car can mean a 2 percent reduction in fuel economy. So leave the 20 pound sack of salt or kitty litter at home over the summer months.



by Denna Claypool

3. Speeding. Do we all do it? Think about this the next time you are tempted: at highway speeds 5 mph over the posted limit means a 6 percent loss of fuel efficiency.
 4. Idling. If you idle for more than 10 seconds you use more fuel than if you turn off the engine and restart it. Also, in cold weather idling for 30 seconds is long enough to warm the engine if it is 25 degrees F outside. 60 seconds is long enough if the air temperature is 10 degrees F.
 5. Maintenance. Keeping your vehicle tuned can save 165 gallons per year. Fuel economy drops 1 percent per pound of pressure below the recommended level for your tires. Using a heavier grade of oil than is called for in your vehicle will also decrease your fuel efficiency.
1. Overdrive and low gears. If you have overdrive use it. Because there is more power involved in using the lower gears they consume more fuel per distance traveled. Shift into the higher gears as soon as your car can without bucking.

WARNING on Devices and Additives

In the last 30 years the EPA has tested over 100 of these that claimed to increase fuel economy.

None of them work, so buyer beware!

By following these guidelines, you may save money, reduce this country's dependence on foreign oil, and help start to reverse global warming.



Upcoming AAS Fieldtrips

Saturday, September 16—State Game lands 246—7:30 AM

State game land 246, located just outside of Middletown, has proven itself to be a reliable spot to see migrating songbirds. The easy walk is through wooded habitat. Target species include warblers and other migrating songbirds. Contact trip leader Chuck Berthoud for details at 533-7136 or cberthoud@comcast.net

Saturday, October 14—Koch farm—7:00 AM

The Koch farm, located in the Easton area, is known as a place where a variety of interesting birds have been spotted. The fields provide excellent habitat for sparrows, with Lincoln's Sparrow as a regular visitor. Leader Ramsay Koury will be there to lend a helping hand with the subtleties of sparrow identification. Contact trip leader Ramsay Koury for details at 761-1871.

Saturday, October 21—Bombay Hook—7:00 AM (return by 6:00 PM)

Located in the Dover area, Bombay Hook is an excellent spot for spotting waterfowl, shorebirds, and birds of prey. Large flocks of Snow Geese should be in attendance, and Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, and Osprey are usually seen. Port Mahon Road and Little Creek Wildlife area may also be visited. Contact trip leader Pete Fox at 583-2639 (before 9:00 PM) or

Living Gardens

by Lorrie Preston, Penn State Master Gardener, Cumberland County

We've all seen it before...the telltale pile of feathers near the bird feeders that let you know there's been a violent altercation in your backyard while you weren't looking. You wonder what predator took out one of your feathered friends and look for clues...hawk...owl...or is it that *neighborhood cat* that you've seen around lately? You look closer at the feathers to try to make a postmortem ID. In my case, the bright feathers that lay scattered across the ground were unmistakable. One of the cardinals was gone. I had my suspicions about who was responsible, but it wasn't until I saw it with my own eyes that I had the facts. As another bird landed at the feeder, a black and white blur pounced out from under a nearby plant, did a half twist in the air and grabbed! Feathers flew, but this time, the bird got away. And now, I knew for sure who the culprit was...the same one that I had caught lurking in that general area a dozen or more times over the summer, the one I have chased home on numerous occasions, and the same one that I now knew was responsible for the other piles of feathers I had found nearby over the last month. It was a *Felis catus*, a cute, furry, and most likely described by his family as loveable, domestic cat.

Once I discovered his hiding place and how he was accomplishing his dirty work, I immediately cut the plant back to the ground, only to discover a bowl-like indentation in the soil he had made smooth by his frequent use under my old fashioned bleeding heart near the feeder. Although the plant was only 18" high, the cat had found a way to position himself under there, completely unseen, and wait for the right moment...the kill.



It is estimated that over 90,000,000 pet cats live in the U.S., and most of them spend at least some time outdoors. About 30% of households own cats, and they have surpassed dogs as our nation's favorite pet.

Millions more cats are free-ranging cats that have been abandoned or live on their own. Cats hunt and kill by instinct, as their ancestors did. It doesn't matter whether they are hungry or not. Two separate parts of their brain discern hunger and the desire to hunt.

Nationwide, cats kill well over a billion small mammals each year and hundreds of millions of birds. Sometimes they are common backyard birds that can be replaced, but sometimes cats kill birds and mammals that are already experiencing population decline due to habitat destruction, pollution, and pesticide poisoning. Studies have shown that a bell hung on a cat's collar to alert wildlife to danger does not reduce the number of killings, as cats learn to stalk their prey silently, and wildlife may not associate the bell with danger.

The American Bird Conservancy, the Humane Society of the U.S. and the American Humane Assoc. teamed up in 1997 in a campaign to educate cat-owners and others about the dangers to both wildlife and cats when cats are allowed to roam outdoors. It is called *Cats Indoors! The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats*. They have excellent publications that can be ordered or downloaded and used to teach others the facts about this important subject. I am sending my neighbor a letter requesting that she keeps her cats indoors, along with an excellent pamphlet called "*Keeping Cats Indoors Isn't Just for the Birds*" and a fact sheet entitled "*How to Make Your Outdoor Cat a Happy Indoor Cat*." Check out their website at www.abcbirds.org/cats/ or call at 202-234-7181 x.201.

By the way, I have two, loveable furry cats myself that enjoy living in a house surrounded by a National Wildlife Federation certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat. Misty and Patches spend a lot of time watching birds out the windows, and long summer afternoons laying on the screened porch watching butterflies, frogs and other interesting creatures pass by.



This Event is for the Birds!

The Annual Birdseed Sale Returns



Your Birdseed Order Form is enclosed. Our yearly birdseed sale will take place on the afternoon/evening of **Friday, October 6th** and the morning/afternoon of **Saturday, October 7th** at the **Capital City Mall**. Volunteers are needed to make this a spectacular success. Jobs available include loading seed in customer cars, selling seed and feeders, greeting customers and pulling order forms, set up and clean up. On-the-job training is provided! Come meet and visit with other Audubon members while helping to support this chapter project. Some fun is also guaranteed! Please contact Susan Miller at 697-6696 or millerscorner@msn.com with the dates and times that you can volunteer. **We look forward to seeing you there!**



“FALL IS FOR PLANTING” - NATIVE PLANT SALE FUND RAISER FOR AAS

Sunday, September 10th, 2006

12:00 Noon until 4:00 P.M.



Appalachian Audubon members are invited to Meadowood Nursery on Sunday, September 10th, from 12:00 Noon until 4:00 P.M. for a Native Plant Sale Fund Raiser for our Chapter. All proceeds from plant purchases during this event will benefit Appalachian Audubon’s Community Education Program and Hog Island Ecology Camp Scholarship Program for teachers and youth.

Meadowood Nursery is a wholesale nursery cultivating native plants for south central Pennsylvania landscapes. Meadowood offers over 200 species of trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, grasses, perennial wildflowers and watergarden plants all native to our area and therefore well suited to the soils and climate of South Central Pennsylvania. Early fall is an ideal time to install plants, allowing roots to establish for winter and prepare for new growth next spring! Bring a neighbor! Bring a friend! Come browse, consult with native plant gardeners, learn about the benefits of gardening with natives and purchase plants to benefit AAS.

No pre-orders. No shipping. Cash and Check Only. No Credit Sales.

Plants from six inches to six feet: Herbaceous plants in quart, one and two gallon containers. Trees and Shrubs in one gallon to seven gallon containers. All plants are nursery propagated.

Never take plants from the Wild!

DIRECTIONS to Meadowood Nursery: 24 Meadowood Drive, Hummelstown, PA

From Rt. # 322 and Rt. # 39 (Hershey Park Drive): Travel north on Rt. 39 to the traffic light intersection in front of Hershey Park’s Giant Center. Turn left at the light and continue north-west on Rt. 39 for approximately 3 miles. Turn left on Red Top Road at Blackie’s Nursery. Travel west on Red Top Road 1.1 miles. Turn right on Long Lane, and take the first left onto Meadowood Drive. At the end of Meadowood Drive stay to the left at the “Y” and follow the driveway towards the Barn and to the Nursery. Follow signs for parking.

From I-81: Exit #77 (Manada Hill) to south on Rt. # 39 (South Hershey Road) approximately 3 miles. Turn right on Red Top Road at Blackie’s Nursery and proceed as above.



Join Appalachian Audubon Society AND National Audubon Society



AT THE SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY RATE OF \$20 (\$15 FOR SENIORS AND STUDENTS)

This application is for **NEW** members joining Appalachian and National Audubon for the **FIRST** time (**for members**

renewing, renewal information will come to you directly from National Audubon). This

introductory offer includes membership in both National and Appalachian Audubon societies, the beautiful

Audubon magazine, and our own *Kingfisher Courier* newsletter. Please send the form below, with **check** payable to **National Audubon Society**, to: Appalachian Audubon, PO Box 15123, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123.

New Member’s

Name: _____

Chapter-Only Membership: \$12.00 per year

Chapter-only members receive the *Kingfisher Courier* and support the local chapter. Make **check** payable to

Appalachian Audubon Society; send to Appalachian Audubon, PO Box 15123, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123.

Chapter-Only Member’s Name: _____



September 2006

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The Life, Art and Birding of David Sibley

David Allen Sibley, well-known author and illustrator of the *Sibley Guide to Birds*, is the focus of an art display at the **Olewine Gallery of the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art** in Millersburg, PA beginning on **July 21st and running through December**. This will be the very first retrospective of Sibley's life, and the largest exhibition of his work (few of which have ever been shown publicly) ever mounted.

For more information about this program and the center, including directions and hours, visit

MOVING? TAKING AN EXTENDED VACATION?

To receive AAS mailings when away on long vacations or after moving, PLEASE contact our AAS chapter Membership chair (see p.2) with your address change. This saves us money while keeping you current with our activities. Giving a change of address form to the US Post Office (USPS) **will NOT help**; our USPS addresses are handled by National Audubon. We incur a \$.39 charge per item for each piece of incorrectly addressed, returned mail. Please help us help you!