



Annual AAS Banquet:

Thursday, May 17th at Christ Presbyterian Church

(directions on page 2)



Joe Duff of Operation Migration will present during the annual AAS banquet. Operation Migration is responsible for Whooping Crane reintroductions into two areas of North America. Come learn how they did it! The cost of the banquet is \$18. If you wish to attend the banquet, please contact Carl Juris at 564-1479.

The annual banquet will also include a silent auction of nature related items and activities. There are sure to be some great treasures and surprises to bid on. **Reminder - we can only accept cash or checks for auction purchases.** If you have something to donate for the auction, please contact Susan Miller at 697-6696 or millerscorner@msn.com before May 15th.

Upcoming AAS Fieldtrips



Stony Creek Valley Warbler Walk – Saturday, May 5th – 7 am

The Stony Creek Valley is a hotspot for migrating songbirds. This walk is reliable for finding Yellow-breasted Chats and a variety of warbler species. For trip details contact Tom Smith at 921-2461.



Carlisle Springs Warbler Walk – Sunday, May 6th

There could be a great variety of migrating songbirds at Carlisle Springs State Gamelands 230, including the secretive Kentucky warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat. Contact trip leader Pete Lusardi at 243-6419.

Pennsylvania Migration Count – Saturday, May 12th

This survey provides excellent opportunities for birdwatching, while contributing to a database. Various trip leaders scour Pennsylvania counties to count as many species as possible within the day. For details contact Jan Getgood at 566-9875 (for Dauphin County) or Ramsay Koury at 761-1871 (for Cumberland County)

John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum – Saturday, May 19 – 7 am

Tinicum is considered one of the "gems" of Pennsylvania's refuges, and offers great habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and a variety of songbirds. Contact trip leader Al Mercik at 657-8548 for more information.

Appalachian Audubon Society (AAS) is a National Audubon Society chapter. *Kingfisher Courier* (copyright AAS; please request reprint permission) is a membership benefit, published monthly, September to May, by AAS: P.O. Box 15123, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123. Email submissions to editor by the 15th of the month prior to desired publication (files <100KB requested; otherwise contact editor). Editor and Board reserve publication decisions, per chapter

AAS WEBSITE
www.appalachianaudubon.org

OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President—Ramsay Koury: 761-1871

Rkoury123@aol.com

Vice-President—VACANT

Secretary—Denna Claypool

Treasurer—Ernie Johnson: 566-9875

DIRECTORS

Term Ending May 2007

Marcia Wilson: 737-7973

Arnold Mahey: 564-1636

Sue Strassner: 243-5731

Term Ending May 2008

Gary Labelle

Nancy Juris: 564-1479

Ed Smith

COMMITTEES (JOIN US!)

Bird Seed Sale—Tom Lehman: 732-5087

Conservation—Denna Claypool

Education—Pete Fox: 583-2639

Field Trips—Pete Fox: 583-2639

Hospitality—Lorrie Preston: 732-5615

Membership—Ron & Marcia Wilson: 737-7973

Newsletter Editor—Jessica Sprajcar: 798-2409
newdomino@hotmail.com (files <100KB)

Newsletter Mailing Team—

Ron and Marcia Wilson: 737-7973

Programs—Ramsay Koury: 761-1871

Publicity—Jan Getgood: 566-9875

Trout Run—Jon Dale: 432-0335

Kathy Kuchwara

Invasive Plants—Walter Koerber: 362-1233

Youth Coordinator—Hannah Plumpton: 796-2396

You are Invited to Join the New Susquehanna Valley Environmental Connection!

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SVEnviroConnect/>

Features a calendar full of outdoor and environmental activities and events for all ages. Learn about the rich natural resources we have in our area. Post activities and events for your organization. Enjoy weekly profiles of local clubs and organizations via e-mail. Stay on top of local environmental issues so you can speak up and make a difference. Join forces so we have a louder voice in the Susquehanna Valley.

It's easy! It's free! Just go to
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SVEnviroConnect
Check it out, and sign up.

One by one, we can make small changes for the environment. Hand in hand, we can do more.
Let's make a difference!

Questions? Please contact Lorrie Preston, SVEC Moderator, at svecboard@yahoo.com

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, then left onto Deerfield Road) to the church.

Hog Island Camp Experience

by Julia Atwood

Editors Note: This is a shortened version of an essay Julia originally wrote for her English class. Her teacher submitted it to a writing competition sponsored by the Patriot News and the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. Julia's essay was awarded a Certificate of Merit in that competition. Julia was one of several young adults that Appalachian Audubon sponsored to attend the Hog Island camp last summer.

"Once you have slept on an island, you'll never be quite the same." This is a line from a poem I heard while at a camp on Hog Island, Maine. I learned that it is true. The experience of this camp is like no other. One learns a lot of things, not just by studying or being lectured at. One learns from direct experience, often hands-on experience. The whole camp made me feel happy, with a great sense of joy in life.



Like most new campers I was nervous when I arrived. However, that changed when the girls in my cabin, the Crow's Nest, introduced themselves. One of the girls, Elinor, said she fenced. This intrigued me, as I had always wanted to learn to fence. As it happened, she had been assigned the cot next to mine, so I asked her about fencing. We found we had a lot in common, and were soon friends.

Our first Hog Island Camp meal was Spaghetti and Meatballs. I sat in the "hopper's" seat (the server's) that night. The food was spectacular! I soon learned that the chef was extraordinary. I talked at that first dinner, was talked to, was asked questions, and asked questions myself. Some of the people I talked with were return campers. I also knew a few of the people there at the camp already, some campers and counselors. The whole place had a very friendly and inviting atmosphere!

The daily wake-up bell at camp rang at 7 a.m. However, on some mornings there were bird-walks at 6:30 a.m. On the first day of camp three people from the Crow's Nest went on the bird walk, and I was one of them.



At one point we were standing on some huge lichen-covered rocks, looking out at an area of the bay. One of the counselors pointed among the brilliant colors of the lobster buoys to a small black-and-white bird. He said it was a Black Guillemot. We focused on it with our binoculars. It looked so tiny out among the buoys! I enjoyed watching it immensely.

After breakfast that first morning we went on a cruise around Hog Island. We saw Harbor Seals poking their heads up out of the water and watching us from a distance. Double-Crested Cormorants flew by the *Puffin Four*, the boat we were in. We also got to see an active Bald Eagle nest, and an immature Bald Eagle! I couldn't believe how big their nest was. We also saw Common Eider ducks and even a pair of Common Loons. Then as we passed a tree someone saw an Osprey and its nest! We also saw a really neat dead tree. The experience was amazing!



On the third day we went sea-kayaking into one of the smaller bays on the mainland. We got to go in the morning when it was still really misty out. As we paddled around an old schooner, sharp, warm shafts of sunlight streamed through the clearing mist. At the end of our morning's paddle our arms felt like lead, but it was still fun. Kayaking was one of my favorite things that we did. As we pushed off of the mainland in kayaks, we could see mist-shrouded islands. Our kayaks sent ripples out onto the glassy, still water as we paddled. We could smell salt, and, near an old ship, rotting wood. We could hear the paddles swishing and birds calling.

Living Gardens

Here it is, May again, and the last issue of the Kingfisher Courier until September. This month I'll update you on several different snippets of interest to the backyard wildlife gardener and naturalist.

NWF's Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program

Do you provide food, water, shelter and a place to raise young for a menagerie of backyard wildlife species? If so, your property probably qualifies as a Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. Each one of us has the ability to help replace habitat that has been destroyed by rampant development, suburban sprawl, and other human causes. It is easy to get certified and the application can be completed online. Simply visit www.nwf.org/backyard.

Audubon at Home - Certified Wild Bird Habitat Program

Coming soon! Audubon will be offering their own certification program to recognize personal and public efforts to create healthy natural landscapes where birds and wildlife can flourish. Private homes, schools, college campuses, businesses, corporations, community parks and more will be eligible for certification. This program is in the planning stages and hopefully, will be available by late summer or fall. You can request updates about the program as they become available from Steve Saffier, Audubon PA, at ssaffier@audubon.org. Many helpful tools for the wildlife gardener are already available at www.pa.audubon.org/Audubon_at_home.html, including links to native plant sales and nurseries in Pennsylvania.

Monarch Waystations

Have you been planting *Asclepias* (milkweed) species to create a place for Monarch butterflies to reproduce? Milkweed is the ONLY plant that Monarch butterflies can lay their eggs on and it is getting more difficult to find good stands of milkweed in the wild. The Monarch Waystation program was started a year ago, and now has 1,140 Waystations across the United States. Visit www.monarchwatch.org/waystations for more info.

One great benefit of getting certified for any of these programs is that it makes others aware of your efforts and gives you a chance to inspire and educate others.

National Pollinator Week

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, started in 2001, has successfully encouraged the U.S. Dept of Agriculture and the U.S. Senate to designate June 24-30, 2007 as "National Pollinator Week." Pollinators such as bees and butterflies are in population decline due to habitat destruction, pesticides, and pollution. One out of every three bites of food you eat depends on the activity of pollinators. To draw attention to this issue, in June the U.S. Post Office will issue an incredibly beautiful set of postage stamps featuring a ruby throated hummingbird, a bat, bees, a butterfly and flowers. Check out

New Opportunities

It has been my sincere pleasure to write this *Living Gardens* column for the Kingfisher Courier each month for the past few years. I thank you for reading and I especially thank you if you are taking steps to make the world a better place for wildlife. I have decided to take a hiatus from writing my monthly column over the next two years while I serve as your president. I will, however, continue to encourage you all to keep up your efforts for wildlife. Working together, we truly can make a difference. See you in September!



Hog Island Experience continued...



One of the nights at camp, we had a bonfire on the beach. We sang songs and did activities every evening, but the bonfire night was different. There was a kind of happiness and joy about the whole experience that was truly amazing. In the background we could hear Harbor Seals calling and waves gently lapping at the islands' shores.

On the last day of camp, we went on a wonderful sunset cruise. We could see sea birds, Harbor Seals, and a pinkish-red sun glowing in the sky as it sank below the horizon. I could so easily imagine myself gliding, swimming, and frolicking in the foam-capped waves, like a Harbor Seal or a Harbor Porpoise. It all gave me a splendid respect, love and joy for all life on earth and in sea.

The whole place gave me a sense of joy in all things, animals and plants, things human or not, things that were or are on earth or in the sea. It also gave me a hope that we humans, as a species, can heal this world, and help it recover from the damage we earlier inflicted upon it. Even though we humans are capable of destruction, we also can love others than ourselves, others than our own kind. This camp meant a lot to me and I desperately hope that others will have the opportunity to have and love such an experience.

I give my thanks to the Appalachian Audubon Society, which sent me and others to this wonderful camp, and hope that they will be able to send many more! - Julia Atwood



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

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:



May 2007

www.appalachianaudubon.org/

Appalachian Audubon Society
P.O. Box 15123
Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Harrisburg, PA
Permit 486



Printed on 100% recycled paper with
35% post-consumer reclaimed content

In This Issue

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Annual AAS Banquet.....p.1 | Living Gardens.....p.3 |
| Upcoming AAS Field Trips.....p.1 | Hog Island Experience.....p.4 |
| Board of Directors, Chapter Contacts.....p.2 | Hog Island Experience cont.....p.5 |
| SV Environmental Connection.....p.2 | Membership Forms.....p.5 |

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!