

## Bringing Nature Home: A Case for Native Gardening

Presented by Entomologist, Wildlife Ecologist, Professor, and Author Dr. Douglas Tallamy of the University of Delaware



## Thursday, April 16, 2009

Doors and Displays Open at 6:30 p.m., Program at 7:30 p.m.

Mechanicsburg Middle School – Lobby and Auditorium

1750 S. Market St., (Rte 114), Mechanicsburg, PA



A <u>free</u> community event sponsored by Appalachian Audubon Society and Mechanicsburg Parks and Recreation Department.

Please join us as Dr. Tallamy helps us understand the consequences of the plant choices we make in our home gardens, public spaces, and parks. With a strong community effort to integrate native plants in our landscapes, we can make a real difference in the environment and the health and populations of songbirds and beneficial pollinators. Steven Saffier of Audubon Pennsylvania will also introduce the new Audubon at Home "Bird Habitat Recognition Program."

From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., there will be a variety of organizations on hand with information and handouts on all facets of environmentally healthy lawn and garden care and property management, including gardening to attract birds and butterflies, integrated pest management, native and invasive plants, rain gardens, and much more.

Dr. Tallamy will have signed copies of his book "Bringing Nature Home" available for sale.

This event is for homeowners, garden hobbyists and landscape professionals alike. Please contact *GardensNaturally@aol.com* or 732-5615 for more information.

This project is supported by TogetherGreen, an Audubon program with funding from Toyota; and the Ron Wilson Memorial Fund.



Landscape Professionals - The above program has been approved for Pesticide Recertification Credits by the PA Dept. of Agriculture in the following categories: PC-Private category - 2 credits, 06- Ornamental and Shade Trees -2 credits, 18-Demonstration and Research - 2 credits, Park/School Pest Control - 2 credits.

In addition, the program qualifies for Continuing Education Credits from the PA Landscape and Nursery Association for PA Certified Horticulturists (PCH) and Certified Landscape Technicians (CLT).

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 10th of the month prior to desired publication (files <100KB requested; otherwise contact editor). Editor & Board reserve publication decisions, per chapter mission/space available.

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### **Electronic Version of Kingfisher** Courier Newsletter Available



Recognizing a national trend of Organizations converting from hardcopies of their newsletters to electronic versions, the Appalachian Audubon Society (AAS) would like to offer you an option of receiving the Kingfisher Courier newsletter by e-mail. If you decide to receive the newsletter electronically, you will receive an email notice of the newsletter's posting to our website, rather than the monthly paper version mailed to you. The newsletter will also be attached in pdf format to the e-mail.

This will result in a significant cost savings to the chapter, so the AAS board is encouraging our members to sign up for this service.

In order to initiate this service, simply send an email from the account that you wish to receive the email notice to appaudubonsoc@yahoo.com. Please include your name in the text of the email.

Please note that your email address will <u>not</u> be sold or provided to others, not even the National Audubon office, as a result of signing up for this service.

Thank you very much for considering this option. If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to appaudubonsoc@yahoo.com or call Ed Smith at 717-960-9441.

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.

## Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens

by Douglas Tallamy. 2007. Cloth. 288 pages. Timber Press, Portland, OR. \$27.95. Book review by Dan R. Kunkle, reprinted from *Wildlife Activist* 62:20 (Autumn 2008)

Doug Tallamy is the April Program Speaker. Signed copies of his book will be on-sale at the event.

Do you feel powerless to directly help wildlife? Saving whales may be out of your reach. Cerulean Warblers require large tracts of mature forests. Most endangered species require vast areas. In *Bringing Nature Home,* the author explains how you can help native wildlife right in your own backyard.

Tallamy is an entomologist who teaches at the University of Delaware and lives just across the border in Chester County, Pennsylvania on a 10-acre site. Combining his professional knowledge and research with his (and his wife's) passion for gardening and wildlife, the author undertook a mission with his own gardens to replace all of the non-native flora with native plants. In this book he explains why, and why you should as well. Some of the reasons are well known – natives need less watering, fewer pesticides, and help preserve populations of our native plants. Others seem obvious yet few people think about them.

The most important of these begins with plantinsect interactions –Tallamy's specialty. Plants and insect herbivores are locked in a never-ending struggle to survive with plants evolving some toxic substances in their foliage and local insects evolving the ability to cope with the toxins. Take a plant from one continent and place it on another one far away (or even on a faraway part of the same continent) and chances are the local insects will not touch it – not even recognize it as something good to eat. Those herbivorous insects are the main organisms for transferring energy from the plants to rest of the organisms in the food chain.

No native insects — no birds! (95% of all our song birds, even the seedeaters, feed insects to their young.) No food for caterpillar larvae — no butterflies. Nectar of an alien plant is much the same as nectar from a native, so butterflies might sip nectar from your butterfly bush, but our native plants are a must to produce butterflies in the first place.

In addition to feeding so many insects, native plants present no danger of upsetting the balance of our native ecosystems. Tallamy gives a litany of examples of how horticultural favorites or plants touted as wildlife food have become devastatingly invasive species - Japanese honeysuckle, autumn olive, Japanese barberry, Bradford pear, and yes, even butterfly bush. The people who introduced the chestnut from Asia in the early 1900s did not intend to cause the death of billions of American chestnuts, but that is what they did by bringing in chestnut blight fungus with those alien trees. Who knows what the next "blight" will be that is accidentally introduced with a horticultural plant?

The author builds his case carefully, backing up everything with science, addresses the thorny question of what "native" means, explains what you should plant to help wildlife, and includes a very helpful chapter on "Answers to Tough Questions" on the subject. The appendices include lists of native plants with wildlife value, host plants for showy moths and butterflies, and research on the subject.

This is the most comprehensive, eloquent and convincing plea for planting natives that I have seen. It is based not on emotion or just a feeling

that planting natives is the right thing to do (which it is), but on research by the author and others, and on case studies from the past two centuries. I recommend this book most highly to home gardeners, landscape architects, park and other land managers, and nursery staff and owners.



### Coins for Conservation Challenge

For the second year in a row, AAS has been accepting loose change and donations at our monthly meetings in the Coins for Conservation box for the benefit of the Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue. Last year, AAS members donated a total of \$239.32. This year, as of this writing, we have collected a total of \$220.27. Can we hit the \$300 mark this year? With only a couple of months to go, let's try to surpass last year's donation. The Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue uses this money to feed, treat, and rehabilitate the many raptors and mammals that end up at the Rescue each year. Please help us finish strong in our support of this worthy cause.

### Auction Items Needed for Banquet

Again this year AAS will hold a silent auction of nature-related items during our annual banquet in May. Proceeds from the auction support educational activities, including scholarships to Audubon environmental camps. Past auction items have included binoculars and scopes, field guides, artwork, guided field trips, plants that provide food for wildlife, jewelry, and books. If you have a new or gently used birding/nature-related item to donate for the auction, please contact either Susan Miller at 697-6696 or millerscorner@msn.com or Jean Graybill at 737-4611 or jegraybill@comcast.net.

### Please Join us for the Annual AAS Banquet

Thursday, May 21, 2009 (Reservations Required! Return form by May 15th)

#### NEW LOCATION - RADISSON PENN HARRIS HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER

Ballroom South, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA 17011



Appetizers and Silent Auction 6:00 p.m.
Buffet Dinner 6:45 p.m.
Election of Board Members 7:45 p.m.
Program 8:00 p.m.



Program – "Of a Feather: A (Brief) History of American Birding" By Scott Weidensaul, Internationally Respected Author and Naturalist

Join famous author and naturalist Scott Weidensaul as he traces the unpredictable history of bird study in America. Based on his new book *Of a Feather*, this whirlwind history shows how ornithology and birding grew from eccentric hobbies into something so completely mainstream they're now (almost) cool.

### AAS Annual Banquet-May 21, 2009

Please make reservations by May 15, 2009

Name(s): Address:	
Phone Number:	
Please make reservations for Total included: \$	Adults or Youth aged 12 years and up at \$25.00 each
Send this form along with your cha	eck payable to AAS or Appalachian Audubon Society to:
	Appalachian Audubon Society c/o Ellen Zeph, Treasurer

18 Glendale Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

#### John James Audubon-Part II-Mill Grove Tour and Nature Walk

You are invited to join AAS and our host, Walt Pomeroy, an expert on John James Audubon's life, on **Saturday**, **April 25**, **2009** for a day-long trip to Audubon's first American home, Mill Grove, in Audubon, PA. We will celebrate Audubon's 224th birthday with a guided tour of this nationally registered historic home, now a museum with an extensive collection of his art and wildlife. Over a catered sack lunch, we will enjoy a special presentation on raptors, and later will have the opportunity to view a juried wildlife art exhibit in the barn. Wear comfortable shoes so we can enjoy the beautiful 70 acre grounds with 5 miles of walking trails. We will plan to leave Mill Grove at 4:00 p.m. to return home.

For your convenience, our group will travel by bus to Mill Grove. We will meet at 7:20 a.m. near the Sovereign Bank, in front of Boscov's at the Camp Hill Mall, and will have a second pick up for east shore residents in the parking lot of Wolf's Furniture, 4661 Lindle Rd., Harrisburg at about 7:50 a.m. Cost of this trip is \$45.00 per person, which includes travel (180 miles round trip), lunch, and admission fees. Please fill out the form above or contact Judy Bowman (761-3815 or <code>jbowman@messiahvillage.com</code>) or Lorrie Preston (732-5615 or <code>mitandpak@aol.com</code>) for further information or visit <code>http://pa.audubon.org/centers\_mill\_grove.html</code>.

<b>AUDUBON BUS TRIP</b> PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN BY APRIL 8		
NAME(s)		
ADDRESS		
PHONE EMAIL		
LUNCH CHOICEcheck preference and indicate quantity if more than one  Turkey Cranberry Wrap  Monster Veggie  Good, Old Fashioned Tuna Hero  Mail completed form and payment of \$45.00 per person (check payable to Appalachian Audubon Society) to Lorrie Preston, 3904 Chippenham Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17050.		

### North American Bird Phenology Program Seeks Volunteers

The NABPP, which conducts the oldest and longest running bird study on seasonal migration activities, is now searching for online volunteers to help scan and transcribe about 6 million historical bird arrival and departure records from as early as the 1880s through 1970 into their online database. Modernizing this information will help the NABPP understand the scale of global climate change and how it is affecting birds across North America.

They accept volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. You may register to volunteer and get more information at www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bpp/BecomeAParticipant.cfm or call (301)487-5745.

### **Upcoming AAS Field Trips**

#### Wildflower Walk at Pinchot State Park - Saturday, April 18

This spring outing will feature Marsh-marigolds, *Caltha palustris*, at beautiful Pinchot State Park. Contact leader and wildflower expert Dan Welte at 728-0421 or *dcmawelte@paonline.com* for more information.





#### Mill Grove Tour and Nature Walk – Saturday, April 25

AAS will spend the day at Mill Grove, the first home of John James Audubon in America. See page 4 for more information and to sign up for the trip.

#### Annual Warbler Walk in Stony Creek Valley – Saturday, May 2

Join warbler expert Tom Smith as he leads us through the beautiful Stony Creek area. Last year's sightings included Blue-winged warbler, Prairie warbler, and Towhees. Contact Tom at 921-2461.

#### **NEW TRIP ADDED:**

#### Nature Walk at The Gregory Alan Grening Forest Preserve (Greg's Woods) - Sunday May 3

Join Jane Earle for a nature walk at Greg's Woods. Early May is a time of awakening for tree buds and wildflowers and for the return of warblers and other forest birds from their southern wintering grounds. The 33 acres Greg's Woods and its wetlands provide habitat for a variety plants and animals accessible through a winding gravel trail. The property has been preserved through ownership by the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy. Greg's Woods is one hour from Harrisburg, along old US Route 322, in the Village of Mexico, Juniata County. Walk begins at 1 pm. Contact Jane Earle at (717) 728-4241 or *janeearle7@msn.com* for more information and for carpooling.

#### Pennsylvania Migration Count Annual Survey – Saturday, May 9

This annual survey provides an excellent opportunity for birding and contributing to a scientific effort. Various leaders search the tri-county region to count as many species as possible within the day. AAS contacts are Carl and Nancy Juris at 564-1479 or *hbgbrdrs@verizon.net* and Ramsay Koury at 761-1871 or *RKoury*123@aol.com.

### Other Upcoming Activities of Interest

Saturday, April 25 \* Mechanicsburg Earth Day Festival – Downtown Mechanicsburg

\* Wetlands Festival and Bird Walk – Wildwood Park/Nature Center

www.wildwoodlake.org/events

Sunday, April 26 \* Mechanicsburg Earth Day Festival – Trails and Trees Environment Center

www.mechanicsburgearthdayfestival.com

Saturday, May 2 \* Manada Conservancy Native Plant Sale – Meadowood Native Plant Nursery

www.manada.org/nativeplantsale.html (Pre-order by April 24th)

May 8-10 \* **Festival of the Birds** – Presque Isle State Park – Erie, PA

www.presqueisle.org/audubon

September 9-13 \* 31st Annual North American Bluebird Society Conference

- Holiday Inn-Harrisburg/Hershey in Grantville, PA

- Early discount registration by May 15; Deadline for registration - July 18

- www.thebsp.org or www.nabluebirdsociety.org





### Kingfisher Queries

Ramsay Koury, past president of AAS, answers your questions in this premier edition of *Kingfisher Queries*. If you have a question you would like Ramsay to answer, send him an email at *rkoury123@aol.com*.



Our first question comes from Susan Miller who asks, Since most owls are nocturnal, why do the birds still bother them during the day? Crows and many other birds will harass (mob) anything they perceive as a threat. We most often see them attacking hawks, but they will mob many species of owls, other large birds, and even mammals they see as a threat. Once I even watched a number of crows chase a Red Fox! I don't know whether crows "know" that owls are nocturnal or not, but I am sure they know that they are a danger and want to chase them out of their immediate area. They wouldn't want them to stay in the area for the upcoming night - the crow would then be at a distinct disadvantage.

Our second question comes from Annette Mathes who asked about calls songbirds make while migrating at night. Many species of songbirds make flight calls while they are migrating, especially while they are migrating at night. It is theorized these calls help the birds keep track of each other while they are migrating. In some species these calls are similar to the calls heard while the birds are on the ground. In other species, however, the calls are different. It takes a great deal of practice to recognize these calls, but there are a number of resources available. A CD-ROM, "Flight Calls of Migratory Birds" by Michael O'Brien, is particularly helpful. There are many places on the internet to listen to flight calls. The peak times to listen for these calls are in late April and May and after a cold front in September and October. It is often possible to hear these calls anywhere, but somewhere very quiet is particularly helpful. Fairly close to dawn is usually a good time as the birds should be getting closer to the ground. Some people have suggested listening on ridge tops, but some people have good success from their backyards. It is very challenging to identify individuals, especially when several birds are calling at once. Another difficulty is that you never get to actually see the bird of course, to actually check and make sure you have identified it correctly!

### Shade-Grown Coffee and Grocery Cards at April and May Meetings

Audubon Organic Shade Grown Coffee will be available for sale on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Mechanicsburg Middle School and also at the May 21<sup>st</sup> AAS Banquet at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center. We carry a variety of blends in whole bean and ground, caffeinated and decaf. 12 oz. bags are \$10.00 each. Please contact Lorrie Preston at *mitandpak@aol.com* or 732-5615 for special quantities or associated items which can be special ordered. Production of organic shade grown coffee is a perfect example of a method of managing land and growing plants which benefits birds and wildlife by working with nature and providing critical habitat. Shade-grown coffee makes a nice Mother's Day or Father's day gift. For more information, visit *www.auduboncoffeeclub.com*.



Giant Grocery and Gas Gift cards will also be available for purchase for our members. Please look for Judy Bowman at the AAS display in the lobby in April to purchase Giant gift cards. Appalachian Audubon donates a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Giant Gift cards to support Operation Migration, the migration of the Whooping Cranes, www.operationmigration. org/index.html.

### Summer Environmental Camps and Chapter Scholarships

Appalachian Audubon will once again be awarding Grace Randolph Scholarships to campers that wish to attend Wildwood Day Camps this summer. Our goal is to award five of these scholarships each year. Because we had only two G.R. scholarship winners last year, we are adding the extra three slots from last year to the five slots available this year, allowing us to offer eight Grace Randolph scholarships for the summer of 2009. Each scholarship has a value of \$100. This year, with the economy being as it is, we are opening the scholarships up to youth whose families are experiencing financial stress due to a parent losing a job or other situation which would prohibit the student from being able to attend summer camp.

Details about the various camps are below. Please help us spread the word to children that may qualify and be interested in the scholarships. Student applicants must write a one page letter giving their name, address, phone #, e-mail address, age, which camp they are interested in, and the reasons why they want to come to environmental camp. Parents or applicants can write an accompanying note, briefly explaining why the camper is eligible to receive the scholarship. There are a limited number of scholarships available for each session.

These exciting camps are also available for youth who do not qualify for the scholarships, at a cost of \$100 each. These camps are fun! Requests for more information or scholarship applications can be directed to Jane Webster, Environmental Educator, Olewine Nature Center, 100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg, PA 17110 or call 717-221-0292.

#### • Wildwood Way Day Camp (ages 7-9)

*June* 15 to *June* 19 – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. <u>OR</u> *June* 22 to *June* 26 - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nature explorers will enjoy science exploration, environmental education activities, crafts and nature observations.

#### • Junior Naturalist Day Camp (ages 10-12)

July 20 to July 24 - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Campers will explore the natural environment through hands-on nature adventures including hiking, learning to use a map and compass, canoeing on Wildwood Lake, and environmental education activities such as plant and animal I.D.

### • Digital Photography Day Camp (ages 10-14)

August 3 to August 7 – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This camp is for beginners and will cover camera basics, composition and more. Each day will include indoor instruction and outdoor photography. Charlie Smith of the Harrisburg Camera Club will teach and Cannon has donated digital cameras for the campers to use.



### • Outdoor Week (ages 13-14)

July 13 to July 17 – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Participants ages 13-14 will become more comfortable in the outdoors and gain an understanding of outdoor skills and primitive technologies through personal experience. Activities will include canoeing, hiking, orienteering, natural history and ecology lessons, poisonous and edible plant knowledge, animal I.D., team building, shelter building and fire making.



For information on other camp opportunities, see page 9 or *Google* "Audubon PA Teen Conservation Leadership Camp"

### Summer Environmental Camps and Chapter Scholarships continued

Mechanicsburg Area Environmental Club is partnering with Appalachian Audubon Society to produce a fun-filled, well-rounded, highly educational day camp and environmental experience this summer. All camps are for students who have passed grades 3-6. Fee: Residents \$70, Non- Residents \$80 per camp. If you attend both camps, the second camp is \$10 off. Lunches and snacks are brought from home. Camp goes from 8:30 - 4:30 daily.

Drop-off and pick-up is at the farmhouse at Trails and Trees Environmental Site, South York Street, Mechanicsburg (Behind the Mechanicsburg Middle School). If necessary, students can be dropped off after 8:00 a.m. to help get set-up and maintain the camp/farmhouse/environmental site. For more information, contact Paul Garrett at 737-2554.

- Birds, Other Critters, and the Bugs they Eat June 22- June 26
- Critters Found in Trees around Mechanicsburg July 13- July 17 (Example - mammals, birds, snakes, tree frogs, bats, etc)



\*\* These camps will teach recycling, ecology, composting, organic gardening, stewardship opportunities, arts and crafts, and down-right fun and enjoyment of the outdoors. The purpose of the camps is to connect youth to our natural world and get the youth outdoors so they learn to understand, respect and care about their planet.

At the writing of this issue of the Kingfisher Courier, we continue to research options for awarding scholarship funds that would ordinarily have gone to campers attending the Hog Island Environmental Camps in Maine. Hog Island is closed to campers this summer. Look for an update in the May issue.

#### 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:	Today's Date:
Address:	E-mail Address:
Phone: Senior Men	mbership? (age 62 and up) Student?
Is any of this contact information new? I	f so, place an X here:
Please send my Kingfisher Courier news E-Mail (Saves funds and resour	,

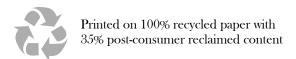


#### April 2009 www.appalachianaudubon.org

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

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# Reservation Forms for Mill Grove Field Trip (Deadline April 8th) & May Banquet Inside (Deadline May 15th)

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