

Upland Informer

Volume 27 Issue 1

Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

May-Summer-Sept 08

Editors- Suzanne Butcher and Nancy Baker

Check us out online at <http://bartramianaudubon.org/>



Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

.....Kathie Goodblood, acting program chair

Our membership meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Jennings Environmental Education Center, 2961 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA. The Education Center is located on Rt. 528 just west of its junction with Rt. 8- about five miles south of Slippery Rock. The meetings are free and open to the public.

September 8, 2008- Monday: Nesting Common Nighthawks- Tim Hoppe, Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Northwest Region, will help us understand the life history of the common nighthawk, a nocturnal bird nicknamed "bullbat". Tim has constructed, and monitored several nesting areas on building rooftops, in northwestern PA. He will share some of the finding from these observations.

October 13, 2008- Monday: PISP Bird Banding Results-Sarah Sargent Sarah Sargent, Audubon PA's Northwestern IBA Coordinator will talk about the process of banding birds, current work to monitor migration along Lake Erie, plus some of the results from almost 50 years of banding at this site. Some species of birds have changed the timing of their migration since the 1960s, possibly in response to climate change.

November 10, 2008- Monday: Santa Ana NWR: A Naturalist's Paradise - Joanne and Gene Wilhelm. Visit this 2,088-acre home of avian species, half of all butterfly species found in North America and such rarities as the indigo snake and endangered ocelot via slides taken on site in the past seven years. See why Santa Ana is called the "shining jewel" of the National Wildlife refuge system in the USA.

December 8, 2008- Monday: Celebrate the holidays with us. Bring a dish to share at our annual Holiday Potluck. Our 2008 Scholarship recipients will give a brief presentation on their experiences at Audubon Camp at Hog Island Maine.



Upcoming Field Trips/Activities

September 27, 2008- Saturday: Birding at Presque State Park. Join Sarah Sargent, Audubon PA IBA Coordinator for our region as she bands migrant birds at PISP. This is a rare opportunity to see birds up close. We will start at 9:00 a.m.,

with birding before and after for those interested. Space is limited. Call Kathie Goodblood at 814-432-4496, before September 24 to make your reservation and get directions.

October 4, 2008- Saturday: Volunteer work at Moraine State Park Headquarters Building. Gardeners (and others!) Wanted! Help install new sustainable landscaping including native shrubs, flowers and grasses as the park reduces its lawn in favor of wildlife habitat. Learn about native plants and why it makes sense to use them around your home, plus get a free lunch and tee shirt (for the first 25 who register). Call or email Kathie Goodblood at (814) 432-4496 or bhns@conline.net by Oct. 2.

December 20, 2008 – Butler Christmas Bird Count
January 4, 2009 – Pleasantville Christmas Bird Count

Annual Awards Night, May 2008

The Bartramian Audubon Society held its annual Awards Night at its May membership meeting.

Conservation Award to an Organization

The BAS was pleased to award Slippery Rock University the Conservation Award to an Organization.



Kathie Goodblood and SRU Pres. Robert Smith

Robert M. Smith accepted the award. He came to the university in 1999 as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, served as interim president in 2002 and was appointed president in May 2004. He has focused his career on improving the learning environment for students, including striving for a balance between necessary development and protecting a 'green landscape.'

The university has established 4 Audubon wildlife sanctuaries since 2005 with 210.06 acres because of Dr. Smith's vision. Active as a community volunteer, he serves on the Board of Trustees, Butler County Community College, Leadership Pittsburgh, Inc., Butler County Community Development Corporation, Butler Health Systems Board of Directors, past president of the Butler Rotary Club and member of the executive commit-

tee, Slippery Rock Economic Development, Inc. He and his wife, Ramona, have two children: David, residing in Knoxville, Tennessee, and Angela, residing in Nashville, Tennessee. Thank you, Dr. Smith, and congratulation for achieving the BAS Conservation Award for an Institution in our area.

Conservation Award to an Individual

Richard Eakin received the Conservation Award to an Individual. He was originally from Sharon but now lives in Guys



Gene Wilhelm and Richard Eakin

Mills, near Sugar Lake in Crawford County, PA. He earned a B.S. degree in biology from Westminster College and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in zoology from the University of Maine. During a 30-year academic career, he taught a wide range of biology courses (including ecology, ornithology, ichthyology, marine biology, polar

biology, tropical biology, biodiversity, and environmental issues) at the University of New England on the coast of Maine. He was a founder of the Sebago Chapter of Trout Unlimited (a national coldwater fisheries conservation organization) in Maine in 1979. He was active in teaching classes and leading field trips for the Maine Audubon Society for many years and taught a bird course at the NAS camp on Hog Island. He participated in the Maine Breeding Bird Atlas project He recently retired from the classroom to live on an 80-acre wooded property in northwestern Pennsylvania where he has birded, hunted and fished for over 40 years. He participated in the first PA Breeding Bird Atlas Project and is involved in the current atlas effort as well. He serves as Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Erie National Wildlife Refuge and will be attending a national Friends Conference in West Virginia (including a day in Washington meeting with members of Congress) in April. He hopes to pursue his interests in nature study (particularly birds) and wildlife art and photography. BAS members will recognize his drawing of upland sandpipers which serves as the chapter logo.

**Conservation Award for Business
Grove City County Market**

Grove City County Market is a full service supermarket located in the Pine Grove Square, Grove City, PA and open 24 hours a day. The business opened in July 1984 and features only the highest quality food items, including a produce department stocked with local produce and organics, a large meat and fish department, deli, bakery, restaurant and a recently opened pharmacy serving prescription needs. County Market is independently owned and operated by Dave and Vicki Knopp and their son David, Jr. who have been annual financial contributors to the local Audubon Cause for the past decade Furthermore, Dave and Vicki have been ‘hooked’ on birds for some years. In 2006, they established their beautiful 1.1-acre Lake Latonka property as a BAS Bird & Butterfly Sanctuary that already has attracted a rich biodiversity of fauna to their

yard and gardens. Therefore, thank you for past contributions



Gene Wilhelm and Dave and Vicki Knopp

and current interest in making your property even more natural and organic. Audubon looks forward to continued success, mutual respect and friendship. Congratulations on receiving the BAS Conservation Award for a Business this fiscal year.

Mike Starker Scholarship at Slippery Rock University

Benjamin Baker received the Mike Starker Scholarship. Benjamin (Ben) Baker is an Environmental Studies major beginning his junior year at Slippery Rock University with a double major in Parks and Recreation. He lives in Philipsburg PA. He currently has a 4.0 and is active in departmental activities and the GES club. An outstanding contributor to the classroom, he is interested in conservation efforts in PA as well as nature education. He intends on continuing his education following SRU. He is greatly appreciative of the scholarship but due to family commitments was unable to attend the awards ceremony.

**BAS Helen R. Ferguson Fund Scholarship in
Environmental Sciences at Westminster College**

The BAS presented the BAS Helen R. Ferguson Scholarship to **Melanie Mathews**, a junior Environmental Science major at Westminster College who is enrolled in the 3-2 Environmental Science and Management cooperative program with Duquesne University. Melanie is a 2005 graduate from Allegany High School in Cumberland, Maryland, where she was President of the Ecology Club and a member of the Envirothon Team. Both of Melanie’s parents have had professions in the field of science and throughout her childhood they often spent time fishing, canoeing and camping. During Melanie’s time at Westminster, she has worked for two years as a Residence assistant and has had the pleasure of working alongside professors in three biology labs as a Teachers Assistant. After graduating from Duquesne with a Masters degree in 2010, she

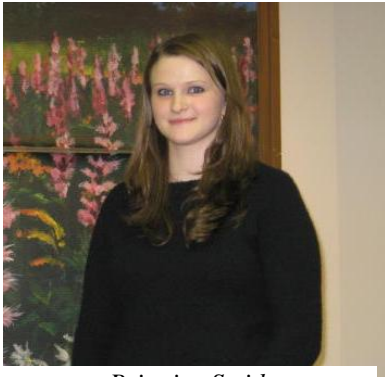


Dr. Shahroukh Mistry of Westminster and Melanie Mathews

hopes to pursue a career in environmental politics promoting the better use of our natural resources.

Audubon Scholarships to Hog Island, Maine

Audubon scholarships to Hog Island, Maine were presented to Amanda Seibel, Ameri-Corps teacher from the Grove City School District who won the Workshop for Educators Scholarship, Brittainie Smith, eleventh grade student at Slippery Rock High School who won the 2008 Teen Adventure camp scholarship (see last *UI*), and to Nancy Lendyak who won the Leadership Workshop Scholarship.



Brittainie Smith

Nancy Lendyak, a Learning Support Teacher with the Karns City School District has been involved in many volunteer projects involving youth and the environment. At the work-



Kathie Goodblood and Nancy Lendyak

shop, Nancy will discover proven strategies to power our local Audubon chapter. She will then bring those new ideas back to Bartramian Audubon in her role as a member of the board of directors.

2007 - 2008 Year New B&B and Wildlife Sanctuaries 12 Protecting 286.418 acres

New sanctuary members were introduced and presented their sanctuary signs. The 8 new B&B Sanctuary owners include Larry & Linda Bruno-7 acres, Susan & Ron Tenace-4.758 acres, Pamela & John Croll - 3.96 acres, Mary Ellen Walter-.75 acre, Robert A. Macoskey Center, SRU - 5 acres, The Birdwatchers Store, Cathy Setzer, Owner - 4 acres, Eileen Donnelly - 7 acres, and Susan Stockton Miller - 1 acre for a total of 33.468 acres.

The 4 Wildlife Sanctuaries include Linda & Henry Lenz -85 acres, Robert A. Macoskey Center, SRU- 78 acres, South Main Street Forest, SRU- 16.3 acres, and The Old Stone House Forest, SRU- 73.65 acres for a total of 252.95 acres.



Henry and Linda Lenz with their Sanctuary Sign. Our thanks go to the Lenzs for hosting the BAS June Picnic.

NABA 4th of July Sandy Creek Butterfly Count

Suzanne Butcher, compiler

Three new county records were netted on the 6th Annual Sandy Creek NABA Butterfly Count held on July 12th. Field participants included Suzanne Butcher, Kathy Camilleri, Erin Jolly, Curt Lehman, Bob and Dianne Machesney, Monica Miller, James Monroe, Walt and Dana Shaffer, Steve Todor, and Harvey, Jerry, and Neil Troyer. The group started their day at the Triple Link Road abandoned RR bed of SGL 130 in Mercer County, and walked along Sandy Creek and past the wetlands until about 12 noon. While the sought after Broad-winged Skipper was not found, two new Mercer County records were documented— a Dion Skipper and a Crossline Skipper both photographed by Jim Monroe and later identified by Jim and Curt in consultation with David Wright. The next stop was the Polk Wetlands of SGL 39 located in Venango County and here too a county record, the Hickory Hairstreak, was netted by Neil, and confirmed by Walt and David. The Baltimore Checkerspot, Black Dash and Bronzed Copper were once again found. The group then caravanned along the wooded part of Reed Furnace Road in SGL 130 making several stops along the way. After a get together at the Jackson Center Dairy Queen, the group then headed to the Neil Troyer property and explored the pastures with the young Troyer children, Samuel, Harvey, Rachel, and Ruth Ann.

Pipevine Swallowtail -1, Black Swallowtail -1, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail-11, Spicebush Swallowtail -4, Cabbage White -8, Clouded Sulphur-15, Orange Sulphur-11, Harvester-1, Bronze Copper-2, Coral Hairstreak-6, Banded Hairstreak-1, Hickory Hairstreak-1, Striped Hairstreak-5, Eastern-tailed Blue-13, Summer Azure-3, Great Spangled Fritillary-31, Aphrodite Fritillary-3, Meadow Fritillary-15, Pearl Crescent-5, Baltimore Checkerspot-12, Question Mark-1, Eastern Comma-8, Gray Comma-2, Mourning Cloak -4, Red Admiral-6, Red-spotted Admiral-1, Appalachian Brown-3, Common Wood- Nymph -13, Monarch -5, Silver-spotted Skipper -8, Wild Indigo Duskywing-1, European Skipper-55, Crossline Skipper- 2, Northern Broken Dash-1, Little Glassywing-4, Hobomok Skipper-3 Dion Skipper-1, Black Dash-4, Dun Skipper -19 : Total 39 Species,

**BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 315
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057**

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Dooryard Gardens and the Neotropical Avian Connection

Few beings are as interesting, beautiful and worthy as neotropical birds and Pennsylvania butterflies. To help them, learn how to make your dooryard gardens more bird and butterfly friendly by providing the basic needs for their survival, thus playing a critical role in preventing our winged friends from extinction. This mini-course, taught by Dr. Gene Wilhelm, meets every Tuesday and Thursday mornings through September. Spaces are limited, so please call the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) office, Slippery Rock University, promptly at 724-738-1604 for



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Membership Reminder

.....*Sandee Swansiger, Membership Chair*

We welcome the many of you who have recently joined Bartramian Audubon Society.

As a reminder, the expiration date of your membership with the BAS should be on your address label. Please renew in a timely fashion as to not miss future newsletters. If you have any questions about your membership status, feel free to contact the membership chair, Sandee Swansiger.

B&B and Wildlife Sanctuary renewals should be handled through the sanctuary chair in June or July each year. The \$15.00 dollar checks should be made payable to BAS and mailed to Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145.

**Bartramian Audubon Society
Associate and Newsletter Application**

Please check below

_____ \$15.00 BAS associate fee- includes newsletter
_____ \$5.00 newsletter only

Please send this form along with your **name and address** with payment to the:

**Bartramian Audubon Society
PO Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057**

FYI- Subscribers to National Audubon Magazine will note some changes: The magazine will be published bimonthly starting in 2005 - Jan./Feb. March/April etc. There is also a new format in which the expiration date will be given as the last bimonthly issue and use J/F or M/A 200_. All membership expiration dates have been adjusted to insure that you get your full subscription. THIS DOES NOT affect those who only have Sanctuary, BAS Associate, AA School or Upland Informer subscriptions.

**National Audubon Society
Membership Application**

Please enroll me as a NEW member in the National Audubon Society. This membership will include membership in the National Audubon Society and *Audubon* magazine and the local Bartramian Audubon Society and the local chapter newsletter, the *Upland Informer*, but excludes the BAS Sanctuary Program.

Current introductory membership offer \$20.00
Student/Senior (62 and above) membership \$15.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send this form with payment to

**National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
PO Box 52529
Boulder CO 80322-2529**

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