



Upland Informer

Volume 28 Issue 1

Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

May Summer Sept 09

Editors - Suzanne Butcher and Nancy Baker

Check us out online at www.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 14, 2009- Monday: Vernal Pools. Join Will Taylor, Program Coordinator for Jennings Environmental Education Center, as he gives a presentation on the benefits of vernal pools. What is a vernal pool? Come find out. Weather permitting, we will go outside to see one up close. This is a must for anyone creating a backyard habitat for wildlife.

October 12, 2009- Monday: Owls and Owl Prowl with Gary Edwards. Avid birder Gary Edwards will give a power point presentation on the owls in our region. Learn field marks and calls. We will take the program outside to see if Gary can "call in" an owl or two. Bring binoculars if you have them.

November 9, 2009-Monday: Butterfly Gardening with Jodi Hopper. Jodi Hopper is the owner operator of Wish Upon a Butterfly, located near New Castle, PA. She has been raising and selling butterflies for release for nine years. She is one of the founders and president of Association for Butterflies. Jodi will cover the do's and don'ts of butterfly gardening, what plants attract which species, and more.

December 14, 2009-Monday: Holiday Potluck. Join us for our annual holiday get together. Bring a dish to share. As a special treat, Cathy Setzer of The Birdwatcher's Store will give us some pointers on feeding birds and what type of feeders work best. This is a good time to ask Cathy for some gift ideas for those people on your gift list that feed the birds.



Upcoming Field Trips/Activities

September 12, 2009-Saturday: Fall Migrants at Butter-milk Hill Nature Sanctuary. Join us at 8:00 AM to look for migrating warblers, sparrows, and other songbirds. This is a great opportunity to brush up on the fall plumage of many of our feathered friends. Beginners are very welcome. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. Contact Kathie at 814-

432-4496, larkwren@hughes.net or go to our website for directions.

September 20, 2009-Sunday: Miller Woods Wildlife Sanctuary. Join Joanne and Gene Wilhelm from 1:00 to 3:30 PM as they guide us through the marvelously rich biodiverse landscape of Miller Woods. This 42.11 -acre property is owned and managed by Slippery Rock University and became a BAS wildlife sanctuary in 2005. Meet at the parking lot on the west side of Wolf Creek. Drive three miles west of Slippery Rock on West Water Street that becomes Miller Road and cross the bridge. Bring water. Questions: e-mail genewilhelm@aol.com or call 724-794-2434.

October 4, 2009-Sunday: Polk Wetlands SGL39, Venango County. This wetlands restoration area can be very good for migrating sparrows. Join us at 8:30 AM as we look for Lincoln's, White-throated, and Swamp sparrows as well as Yellow-rumped Warblers. Bring a scope if you have one, to view the pond for water birds. LeConte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows have been recorded at this site. As always, beginners are welcome. We will meet at the parking lot on Polk Cut Off Road near Polk. For more detailed directions contact Kathie at 814-432-4496 or larkwren@hughes.net.

Sanctuary News

.....Gene Wilhelm

An article written by Sandra Steingraber in *Orion Magazine*, and reprinted with permission in *Hemlock Pathways* (spring 2009) of the McKeever Environmental Learning Center, is titled "3 Bets on Ecology, Economy, and Human Health." It is shocking and should be read by all Audubon members and friends. Thirty years ago, Sandra was diagnosed with bladder cancer, technically called transitional cell carcinoma. It is a quintessential environmental disease, meaning that science has more evidence for a link between toxic chemical exposure and this particular kind of cancer than any other type with data going back a hundred years. She also discovered that the identification of bladder carcinogens does not preclude their ongoing use in commerce. Just because through careful scientific study, we learn that a chemical causes cancer doesn't mean that we ban it from the marketplace. Sandra's diagnosis, she suspects, had something to do with her environment as a child, specifically drinking water wells along the Illinois River bottomlands. These were in proximity to heavy industrial and agricultural chemical uses, including many with demonstrable

links to bladder cancer. Which brings up the questions: Do you know what's in your drinking water? What about the many chemicals used in keeping your lawn green? Are they safe for your children, grandchildren and pets to play on? Start NOW by getting answers from the sources. Ask for a chemical analysis and proof that they are safe in writing. Join me Monday 28 September and Wednesday 30 September 09 between 8:30-10:30 AM at the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center at Slippery Rock University to discuss these issues by calling 724-738-1604 for reservations. Also visit www.orionmagazine.org for more information.



Annual Awards Night, May 2009

.....Nancy Baker

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



William "Fred" Romeo and Doug Armstead

William "Fred" Romeo, a junior Environmental Science major at Westminster College, received the Helen R. Ferguson Scholarship. A graduate of Poland Seminary High School, Fred has excelled in his course work at Westminster. He has always been interested in issues related to energy and pursued a successful internship with first Energy Corporation working on alternative energy projects. Fred hopes to continue work in this field upon graduation.

Mike Alan Starker Ecology Scholarship at Slippery Rock University



Julie Snow and Danielle Cessna

Danielle "Dani" Cessna, a junior Environmental Studies major at Slippery Rock University, received the Mike Alan Starker Scholarship. Although her QPA ranks her among the highest in the department, she really stands out for the out-of-class opportunities she has discovered and pursued each summer. During the summer of 2008, Dani was awarded an internship at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where she worked with wildlife, including trapping and tagging black bears and elk. After graduating from SRU, Dani plans to enter a gradu-

ate program where she can pursue her interests in wildlife management.

Presentation of Sanctuary Signs

New sanctuary members were introduced and received their sanctuary signs. Twelve new sanctuaries protecting 260.431 acres were added in 2008-2009.



Robert Walczak, Janice McGlone, Allen Dale Dixie Reimold, Becky Burdick, Claire Schmieler, and Richard Eakin

BAS Receives Awards

The Bartramian Audubon Society was recognized for its conservation efforts by two separate Pennsylvania organizations this year. On May 16, we received the 2009 Conservation Award from the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. PSO is



a membership based state organization dedicated to bird preservation and distribution records. We received the award for our work in establishing wildlife sanctuaries in our area. PSO Awards Committee Chairperson Tom Kuehl

poses with BAS president Kathie Goodblood and board member Nancy Baker following the awards ceremony at PSO's twentieth annual meeting in Morgantown, Pa.

On May 27, 2009, we received an award from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Dominion. We were selected as a winner in the 2009 Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Program for our dedication to conservation and education in our community.



Sally Wiggin and Kathie Goodblood

Speaking of Awards

You may have noticed that at our annual awards night this year no individuals, businesses or organizations were honored. The board needs your help! We need nominations for next year. Please contact any board member if you have suggestions.

BAS Picnic June 28

Thirty-nine people enjoyed great food, company, and birds at our annual picnic. Slippery Rock Park was the setting and the rain stopped just in time for the festivities. We tallied thirty species of birds, with Veda DePaepe leading the effort. The birds: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Least Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Gray Catbird, American Robin, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue Jay, American Crow, European Starling, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Common Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, and American Goldfinch.

Yard Sale

The June 14th yard sale was a success, bringing in more than \$500.00. Many thanks to all who participated, especially Cathy Setzer for allowing us to use the parking lot of her business, The Birdwatcher's Store in Slippery Rock. By the way, Audubon members get a 10% discount on most items by showing a membership card or a newsletter with your name on it.

7th BAS Sponsored NABA 4th of July Butterfly Count, July 11, 2009

.....Suzanne Butcher, compiler

The seventh BAS sponsored North America Butterfly Association 4th of July Butterfly Count was held on July 11th. Known as the Sandy Creek Count, the count center is at the intersection of Griffin and Rowitsch Roads in Mercer County. The area encompassed by the 15 mile diameter circle includes the Troyer property in Mercer County on one side and the Polk Wetlands of SGL 39 in Venango County on the opposite side. Sandy Creek flows through the upper aspect of the circle which also contains parts of Goddard State Park and the lower aspect of Lake Wilhelm. Count participants in field party #1 - Suzanne Butcher, Curt Lehman, Bob Machesney, James Mo-



Baltimore Checkerspot

and Dana Shaffer, Steve Todor, Harvey, Jerry, Neil and Samuel Troyer started their day at 9:00am at the Triple Link Road parking lot of SGL 130 in Mercer County, and walked the abandoned RR bed along tree lined Sandy Creek until about noon. The skies were mostly overcast but by midday, thunderstorms were approaching. Butterfly numbers were down probably because of both the overcast conditions of the day and the cooler and wetter summer weather of late June and early July. For the second year in a row, the sought after Broad-winged Skipper was not located. The group joined to eat lunch and once again thanks must be given to Dana Shaffer for providing the makings of great sandwiches,

chips, and drinks. When the heavy downpour began, some left for home while Suzanne, Curt, Walt, and Dana went back to the Troyer's to get in out of the rain. With the darkened skies in the west continuing, soon the others also called it a day and headed for home. However, as the sun re-appeared, Suzanne now with Gene Butcher went back to the Troyer's to once again pick up Jerry, Neil, and Samuel Troyer and as field party #2 under warm and sunny conditions drove to the Polk Wetlands to complete the count. Being managed by the game commission, one never knows what vegetation might be here. Buckwheat in flower and sunflowers not yet in bloom, were planted in plots and once again this summer there was a mowed path from the road down to the ponds making walking much easier. Luckily uncut groups of thistles remained along the way and the group immediately was able to find the sought after Baltimore Checkerspot. Other targets here, the Black Dash and the Bronzed Copper were not however found. After driving along the wooded part of Reed Furnace Road in SGL 130 and making several stops along the way Suzanne and Gene again headed for home while Neil and Samuel, field party #3, continued to count on the Troyer property. The total count of 23 species (not counting caterpillars or the single pupa), ties the low number of the 2003 count and the individual count of 182 is barely above the 170 total from this first count. The complete list includes the following-**Black Swallowtail-(1 cat), Eastern Tiger Swallowtail-6, Spicebush Swallowtail-2, Cabbage White-20, Clouded Sulphur-5, Orange Sulphur-1, Striped Hairstreak-2, Eastern-tailed Blue-9, Summer Azure-2, Great Spangled Fritillary-19, Meadow Fritillary-13, Pearl Crescent-31, Baltimore Checkerspot-11, Eastern Comma-1, Painted Lady-2, Red Admiral-3, Red-spotted Purple-(1 pupa), Viceroy(1 cat), Appalachian Brown-5, Common Wood Nymph-20, Monarch-2 (4 cats), Silver-spotted Skipper-1, European Skipper-13, Peck's Skipper-1, Little Glasswing-4, Dun Skipper-9: Total 23 Species, 182 individuals.**



Jerry explaining the finer points of gardening

July 25 Field Trip

Twelve people enjoyed the tour of the organic gardens at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary. Owners Kathie Goodblood and Jerry Stanley explained the methods they use to grow a wide variety of vegetables without using pesticides. Jerry explained the difference between open hybrids and heirloom varieties, and the benefits of growing open pollinated plants.

**BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Paper-Free Newsletter

Starting with September 2008 the Upland Informer will be available online. It can be viewed at our website www.bartramianaudubon.org by clicking on the newsletter link and then clicking on the issue you wish to view. The newsletter is in the PDF format, so you must have a PDF program on your computer. Read only programs are available free at Adobe.com and other sites.

Bartramian Audubon Society would like to encourage its members to begin to receive the Upland Informer online. As each newsletter is published, members who have elected to do this will receive an email informing them that the next issue is now available online, and they can then view it at their leisure. For the Bartramian Audubon Society, this will mean a savings both in paper costs and postage costs. For our environment it will mean less paper and less fuel usage in delivery.

To enroll in this program, please email our Membership Chair, Russ States at pabirder@verizon.net.



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Membership Reminder

.....*Russ States, 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, Russ States - pabirder@verizon.net.

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
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