



Upland Informer

Volume 33 Issue 1 Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Fall 2014

Editor- Nancy Baker

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www.facebook.com/Bartramian



Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

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.

October 13, 2014-Monday-"Whooping It Up"



Naturalist and photographer Jeffrey Hall will present "Whooping It Up" at our October membership meeting. One of the great conservation success stories of the past 70 years is the wild flock of whooping cranes at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, which has slowly recovered from a population low of only 16 survivors in the mid 1940's. This program highlights the recovery of these majestic birds from near extinction and shows many other birds and other natural delights that can be found in the "Coastal Bend" area of Texas—including a surprising visitor from even further south. Jeffrey Hall lived in New Jersey for thirty years before retiring from teaching and moving to Franklin. He has given over 100 programs for nature, conservation, and photography groups over the past two decades. Jeff is currently President of Bartramian Audubon Society, and is also active in Seneca Rocks Audubon Society and the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Slippery Rock University.

November 10, 2014-Monday-"In the Footsteps of Darwin, Landscapes and Life in Tierra del Fuego and Antarctica." by Dr. Patrick Burkhart, Professor of Geology at Slippery Rock University

Long intrigued by the thoughts of Charles Darwin and the exploits of Ernest Shackleton, Dr Burkhart has set about following in their footsteps. On numerous expeditions to Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, across the Drake Passage to the Weddel Sea and the Antarctic Peninsula, he has enjoyed the opportunity to explore these vivid landscapes and study their natural history. From whales, to mammals and birds, glaciers, climate, and rocks, he has learned immensely under the inspiration of these great icons. Come enjoy engaging photography, coupled to sometimes troubling thoughts, including one instance where Darwin was flat-out wrong!

December 8, 2014-Monday-Annual Holiday Potluck and Hog Island Presentation

Come enjoy good food and good company while hearing about Sue Gillespie's trip to Audubon Camp at Hog Island, Maine. Bring a dish to share and your holiday spirit.



Upcoming Field Trips/Activities

October 25, 2014-Saturday-Riverstone Estate

A special field trip in cooperation with Foxburg Tours is planned for visiting the remarkable Riverstone Estate from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. with its beautiful 1,200-acre landscape, 200-years old craftsmanship of outstanding architecture, and biodiverse natural and human history with local guides. Strictly limited number of visitors. Contact Dr. Gene Wilhelm after October 12 at genewilhelm@aol.com for details.

December 20, 2014-Saturday-Butler CBC

The center of the fifteen mile diameter of the count circle is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the junction of Lindy Road and Rt. 528. Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park, McConnell's Mill, Wolf Creek Narrows and the campus of Slippery Rock University are within the circle. If you are interested in participating, either by being a feeder watcher or field observer, contact Suzanne Butcher at 330-759-1945 (leave messages) or sarbird@hotmail.com.



Activities in Review

August 20, 2014-Wednesday-Chimney Swift Tower Dedication



Cathy Setzer, Kathie Goodblood, Sharon Thompson, Dr. Fred Brenner, John Relihan

Recently, several members gathered to officially transfer the "stewardship" of the Chimney Swift Tower to representatives from Grove City College. The tower is now a special part of the wildlife area of the lower campus of the college. The short ceremony was marked by great weather. A bitter-sweet moment came as we realized that the original chimney at the former middle school was demolished just a short time ago. With luck, the swifts will occupy this new habitat as they once did the school chimney. Pictured are Cathy Setzer, project coordinator, Kathie Goodblood, recent President of BAS, Dr. Fred Brenner of GCC, Sharon Thompson, and John Relihan, who managed this for his Eagle Scout project. We hope other members of the community and region will consider creating and preserving areas and habitats like this.

....Cathy Setzer

December 28, 2014-Sunday-Pleasantville CBC

The circle for this count encompasses the area approximately from Titusville in the northwest to Pleasantville to Tionesta in the northeast south to President east to Oleopolis and Rouseville and then north along the western edge of Oil Creek State Park. The count is centered on the historic ghost town of Pithole. Please feel welcome to participate in this count. Assignments can be made for an area easy to get to if you are unfamiliar with this count. Also needed are feeder watchers who live in the area. If you are unsure if you are in the count circle, call and ask. This is a more northern count than the Butler count, so expect some more northern species. If you are interested in helping, contact Russ States at 814-676-6320 (please talk to the machine), or pabirder@verizon.net.

Join Bartramian Audubon and Jennings for Citizen Science and Learning

Bartramian Audubon Society and Jennings Environmental Education Center will collaborate on two bird-related events this winter. These are ideal opportunities to learn about how individuals can assist researchers in gathering important data about bird population and migration trends, as well as to increase birding skills. Registration for these events will be available later this fall on DCNR's Calendar of Events at <http://www.apps.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp>. For more information call 724-794-6011 or e-mail jenningspp@pa.gov

- On **Saturday, December 20th** Jennings will provide an indoor observation station for the annual **Butler County Christmas Bird Count**. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend this free, informal birding session. Jennings staff and representatives of the Bartramian Audubon Society will be on hand to explain observing and recording procedures and to help identify birds seen at the outdoor feeders.
- On **Saturday, February 14th** during the annual **Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)**, a workshop and observation session will be offered **for any individuals, ages 12 and older**, who share an interest in birds. Participants will learn from Jennings' staff the basics of bird identification, observe and count birds at the feeders, and be introduced to the use of the GBBC website for submitting data and obtaining information. They will be encouraged to use their new skills to observe birds and submit their own data at home. Representatives of the Bartramian Audubon Society also will be there to help. This event is particularly recommended for teachers, youth leaders, parents or grandparents who want to involve their children in citizen science projects. Preregistration is required. In its 18th year, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is hosted by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology in partnership with Bird Studies Canada. Learn more at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>.



Audubon Adventures Available to Teachers

During the 2014-2015 school year Bartramian Audubon again will sponsor and fund, on a first-come, first served basis, a limited number of *Audubon Adventures* classroom kits for individual classes in grades 3-5 in schools in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango Counties. The newest *Audubon Adventures* classroom kit will be available in digital subscription format, presented exclusively on the *Audubon Adventures* website, where teachers can access all new student magazines, background information, hands-on activities, and much more! Subscriptions for the upcoming school year will include: “Wild About Birds,” “The Buzz about Native Bees,” “Birds & Other Wildlife of Our Towns & Cities,” and a “Birds on the Move” bird migration poster. A one-year National Audubon Society membership for the teacher also is included. Newsletter issues in sets from past years are also available in print form, including a “Build Your Own Kit” option. Each kit contains sets of 32 student magazine issues, plus lesson plans and teacher resource materials designed to help bring the natural world into the classroom and to connect kids to the environment. The kits can be used across the curriculum and are correlated to national language arts and science standards. *Audubon Adventures* classes also will be invited to participate in a national citizen science effort (Great Backyard Bird Count) or bird-friendly habitat improvement project.

Learn more about *Audubon Adventures* at:

<http://education.audubon.org/audubon-adventures> . Then contact Becky Lubold, the chapter’s Education Chair, at 814-330-2550 or watersinger2@yahoo.com to arrange to receive classroom kits.

Hog Island Audubon Camp Scholarship for Educators:

Each year Bartramian Audubon awards one scholarship for a local teacher to attend the “Sharing Nature: An Educator’s Week” session of Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. This session aims to inspire and empower both science and non-science teachers who seek practical approaches for integrating environmental education into their classes. Those who attend the camp become part of a legacy of Audubon education that began in 1936. Instructed by some of the most respected naturalists and environmental educators in the nation, they participate in interdisciplinary workshops and field trips that teach inquiry-based science in the context of the forest, intertidal and ocean ecosystems of the scenic Maine coast. Participants also find time to share ideas with fellow educators, enjoy the camp’s delicious home cooking and explore the environs of historic Hog Island during this extraordinary learning adventure. The application period for the Hog Island scholarship for July, 2015 is now open, and will close on February 28, 2015. The application form is available on the chapter’s website or by contacting our Education Chair at 814-330-2550 or watersinger2@yahoo.com . Teachers who would like to learn more about what this experience can be like, will want to see the presentation by Sue Gillespie, last year’s scholarship recipient, at our December 8th meeting.



YOU CAN HELP !

You should be proud to be a member of the Bartramian Audubon Society—I certainly am! Although we’re a small group, we accomplish so much. Our Sanctuary program has involved a remarkable number of your neighbors in hands-on protection of the natural values of their property. We provide, at no charge, environmental education materials that are used in many grade school classrooms throughout our region. Scholarships we award support the work of students at Slippery Rock University and Westminster College, as well as sending a local educator to Audubon camp in Maine every summer. Original research carried out with our participation aids in the conservation of our natural heritage. Monthly programs provide entertaining and informative talks about a wide variety of nature topics. Field trips take our members to fascinating local areas. And there’s a lot more...None of this would happen without the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers...a congenial and interesting group of people who, in the past few years that I’ve lived in northwestern Pennsylvania, it has been my pleasure to get to know. But, as in any organization, there’s always more to do...if only we had more people to help. You have talents that can make a difference—to Bartramian Audubon Society and to the environment. It might be something as simple as tallying birds at your backyard feeder during our Christmas Bird Counts or signing a petition in support of conservation or donating refreshments for an evening program. Or it might be more involved—contacting prospective speakers for our evening program or talking to landowners about becoming a Sanctuary or taking a position on our Board. Or something in between—as you can imagine, there’s plenty to do. We’d love to have your help. If you are interested in helping make Bartramian Audubon Society an even more effective organization and an even more effective voice for the preservation of our natural world, please speak to me or any of our Board members at one of our monthly programs, or e-mail us at bartramianaudubon@gmail.com. Thanks!

Jeffrey Hall
President

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SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057

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Paper-Free Newsletter

The Upland Informer is now 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.



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 are handled by the sanctuary chair in June each year. The \$15.00 or more per sanctuary checks should be made payable to BAS but mailed to Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippy 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, address, and e-mail** with payment to the:

Bartramian Audubon Society
PO Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

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 422250
Palm Coast, FL32142-2250

Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them by NAS

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