

Upland Informer

Volume 33 Issue 3 Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Summer 2015

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.

September 14, 2015-Monday-Insect Threats to our Native Trees

October 12, 2015-Monday-River of Raptors Veracruz

November 9, 2015-Monday-Ecology of Bats

More information about these programs will be provided in the next newsletter.



Upcoming Activities

June 20, 2015-Saturday-Annual Picnic

This year's picnic will be held at the Jennings Environmental Education Center, one of our foremost Wildlife Sanctuaries. Arrive at 4:00 p.m. for a walk on the trails (or earlier to explore on your own). We plan on grilling at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your place setting. We provide the hot dogs and drinks. Picnic tables are on site, but a folding chair might come in handy. Our picnic will take place in the pavilion near the prairie, across the road from the Center building in which we have our evening program meetings. A parking lot is on site, and additional parking is available at the Center, a very short walk away.

July 25, 2015-Saturday-Spring Yard Sale/ Fundraiser

The Bartramian Audubon Society will be hosting a late spring yard sale at The Bird Watcher's Store on Route 108, Slippery Rock. Keep us in mind as you are doing your spring cleaning. If you have items for donation or are a local crafter/ artist interested in participating, contact Kathie Goodblood at 814-432-4496 or at larkwren@hotmail.com.



Activities in Review

May 11, 2015-Annual Awards Night

Helen B. Ferguson Scholarship in Environmental Science at Westminster College

Presented to
CHRISTINA MAURI



Dr. Helen Boylan, Christina Mauri, Evann Garrison

Christina Mauri ('16), an environmental science major at Westminster College, has been selected by the Environmental Science Committee as this year's Helen R. Ferguson Scholarship recipient. Christina is the daughter of Douglas Mauri from Meadville, PA, and a graduate of Meadville Area Senior High School. She is active in campus activities, serving as Westminster's Green Party president. Christina engages in community outreach through her work with the water quality monitoring program ALLARM and through Habitat for Humanity. Christina would like to work for the EPA someday and would like to pursue graduate school after working in the real world for a few years.

Mike Allen Starker Ecology Scholarship in Environmental Studies at Slippery Rock University

Presented to
OLIVIA DANYLKO



Jeffrey Hall, Olivia Danylko, Dr. Heike Hartmann

Olivia Danylko from Waterford, PA finished her Junior year majoring in Geography-Environmental Studies at Slippery

Rock University (SRU). Olivia loves nature; she volunteered at a wildlife reserve in Savannah, Georgia in April 2014 and frequently helps cleaning up trails and highways. Recently, she was elected the environmental volunteer coordinator for SRU's Center for Student Involvement and Leadership and the president of the Leave it Green group, which focuses on making campus more sustainable and "green".

Gene and Joanne Wilhelm Scholarship to attend the Coastal Maine Avian Studies Program for Teens

Presented to
BRENDYN MICHAEL BAPTISTE



Joanne Wilhelm, Brendyn Baptiste, Dr. Gene Wilhelm

This new BAS scholarship specifically targets 14-17 year old teens with an avid interest in wild birds, giving them the opportunity of studying birds at the National Audubon Society's Hog Island, Maine, Ecology Camp. Brendyn is the chapter's first participant for the scholarship. The Moniteau High School student has had a passion for birds since the age of six and taught himself how to identify birds by eye and ear. Brendyn participates in BAS meetings, the Christmas Bird Count, and BAS field trips. His goal while at Hog Island is to learn more about wild birds, their habitats, and conservation issues, then return home with positive suggestions for protecting common birds. Brendyn states: "Eventually, I want to become a professional ornithologist and will work hard and long to meet that goal. The Hog Island Audubon Camp and its Coastal Maine Avian Studies for Teens session will be my first step in this educational process."

Hog Island Audubon Camp "Sharing Nature; an Educator's Week" Scholarship

Presented to
DENISE CHYBRZYNSKI



Denise Chybrzynski and Becky Lubold

Each year Bartramian Audubon awards a scholarship to a local teacher to attend "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week" at Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. Denise Chybrzynski has received the scholarship for 2015. Denise is a fourth grade teacher at South Butler Intermediate Elementary School in Saxonburg and is very excited about attending the camp. She plans to use what she learns in helping to rewrite a comprehensive K-5 science program for her school district this year, as well as in sharing her experience with students. She also will offer a presentation about her experience at Bartramian Audubon's December meeting. We congratulate Denise and wish her well in her travels to the Maine coast.

Outstanding Pennsylvania State Park Award in Sustainable Conservation

Presented to
JENNINGS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
Wil Taylor, Manager



Wil Taylor, Jeffrey Hall

Jennings Environmental Education Center is a three hundred acre State Park with twenty acres of relict prairie, and five miles of trails. Its consummately professional staff offers a wide variety of activity oriented programs for students, teachers, adult groups, and individuals.

Award for Sustainable Conservation by a Business

Presented to
THE BIRDWATCHERS STORE
Cathy Setzer, Owner
Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania



Jeffrey Hall, Cathy Setzer

The Birdwatchers Store is a full service shop for birding, bird feeding, and nature supplies, from books and binoculars to unique gifts. The knowledgeable staff is available to answer questions. The store is located in a repurposed century old

schoolhouse on an Audubon certified four acre sanctuary. Many outside bird feeding stations are visible from within the store.

Award for Sustainable Conservation by an Individual

Presented to
SUZANNE BUTCHER



Jeffrey Hall and Suzanne Butcher

Long time board member, newsletter editor, and past president of the Bartramian Audubon Society Suzanne Butcher received this award primarily for her service as compiler for the Butler County Christmas Bird Count for nineteen consecutive years. The CBC is the longest running citizen science project in history, started in 1900. It provides invaluable data on bird populations and distribution and allows analysis of long range trends. It takes a major effort to organize and compile, especially for nineteen years! (17% of all the CBCs ever.) Many thanks to Suzanne for her dedication and hard work.

Recognition Certificate for Wildlife Sanctuary

Presented to
BECKY SHEELER



Dr. Gene Wilhelm and Becky Sheeler

Becky Sheeler is a lover of all things outdoors and she has spent much time there, be it horseback riding, skiing, hiking, canoeing, or birding. In the mid-to late 1980s, Becky and her late husband, Brad, were very active in BAS. Becky volunteered as *Upland Informer* newsletter Editor and later President of the chapter while Brad was Conservation Chair of the Board of Directors. Her rich biodiverse twenty-acre property in West Liberty, Butler County, with fields and forest habitats and their wildlife is located just above Slippery Rock Creek. That marvelous land parcel now joins the long list of BAS Wildlife Sanctuaries. We congratulate Becky Sheeler for her fine preservation gesture in becoming the 59th BAS Wildlife Sanctuary.

Recognition for Bird and Butterfly Sanctuaries

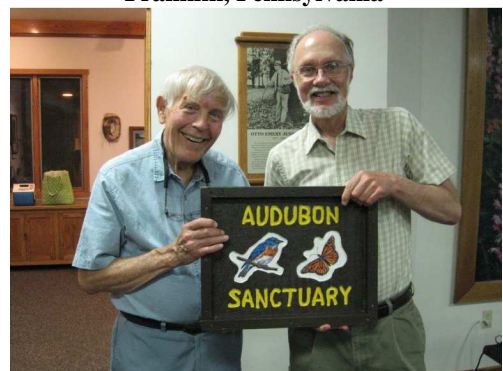
Presented to
GROVE CITY COLLEGE
Grove City, Pennsylvania

Dr. Fred J. Brenner, Professor of Biology

This new Bird & Butterfly Sanctuary is a model of conservation process at its very best. It is a brief but continuing story of a neotropical species, the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), which over-winters mostly in South America and breeds throughout Pennsylvania. Originally nesting in hollow trees and cliff crevices, the species today is almost completely dependent upon human-made nest sites: chimneys. In early 2013, an elementary school whose chimney a colony of swifts had used for breeding and migrating purposes for decades was slated for destruction. An artificial nesting tower was constructed on a lower campus two-acre wetland of Grove City College through the combined efforts of Sharon Thompson, John Relihan, BAS, and Grove City College. (See the story in *Upland Informer* vol 32 issue 3.) Grove City College not only agreed to the tower/kiosk site but also financed the completion of the kiosk itself and will maintain the site under the watchful eyes of Dr. Fred Brenner, Professor of Biology, Grove City College. The award was accepted by Dr. Brenner's wife, Pat, as Dr. Brenner was unable to attend the ceremony.

Recognition for Bird and Butterfly Sanctuaries

Presented to
DIANNE AND JEFFREY HALL
Franklin, Pennsylvania



Dr. Gene Wilhelm and Jeffrey Hall

Jeff and Dianne Hall's love of nature and avid interest in cooking have combined to help the transformation of their yard in downtown Franklin into a true Bird & Butterfly Sanctuary. Much of the lawn has been replaced by raised beds for organic vegetable and herb gardening and many of the ornamental plants have been replaced by native shrubs and wildflowers.

**BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 315
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 and mailed to The Bartramian Audubon Society, Sanctuary Program, P.O. Box 315, Slippery Rock, PA 16057

**Bartramian Audubon Society
Associate and Newsletter Application**

Please check below

- _____ \$15.00 BAS Membership fee- includes newsletter
- _____ \$10.00 Electronic Student Membership

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**

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