



May Program Banquet – We Are All in This Together



**Presenter: Marcus Schneck
Thursday, May 22nd at 6:00 pm**



Birders, hunters, hikers, trappers, campers, anglers... We all share a love and respect for the same things that are threatened daily by other interests. Time is running out and we must look beyond our differences and tap into our commonalities to unite us in an all-encompassing conservation movement. Come hear this program by Marcus Schneck, an outdoor and nature writer for *The Patriot-News* in Harrisburg, Outdoor Adventures columnist for *PennLines* magazine, frequent contributor to many other publications, and author of more than two dozen books on nature, the outdoors, gardening and pets. Dinner, a silent auction, and a chance to socialize with friends are three additional reasons to attend the banquet. Return the completed form below to reserve your seat at this entertaining and educational event! (*Additional information on page 3*)

HURRY, TIME IS RUNNING OUT! RSVP TODAY!



AAS Annual Banquet – May 15, 2008

Please make reservations by May 8, 2008



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please make reservations for _____ Adults at \$16.00 each
and _____ Children (under 12 yrs) at \$12.00 each

Send this form along with your check payable to AAS or Appalachian Audubon Society to:

Appalachian Audubon Society
c/o Ellen Zeph
18 Glendale Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055




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 15th of the month prior to desired publication (files <100KB requested; otherwise contact editor). Editor & Board reserve publication decisions, per chapter mission/space available.

AAS WEBSITE:
www.appalachianaudubon.org/

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Vice-President— Paul Zeph: 691-0288
Secretary— Jon Dale: 432-0335
Treasurer— Ellen Zeph: 691-0288

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Term Ending May 2008

Gary LaBelle: 233-1371
Nancy Juris: 564-1479
Ed Smith: 960-9441

Term Ending May 2009

Ed Chubb: 233-4807
Jean Graybill: 737-4611
Sue Strassner: 243-5731

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Conservation—Paul Zeph: 691-0288
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Field Trips—Ed Chubb: 233-4807
Hospitality—Sue Strassner: 243-5731
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Kathy Kuchwara: 319-0828
Youth Coordinator—Hannah Plumpton: 796- 2396
Webmaster—Brandon O'Neill

President's Perch

I can't believe another Audubon year is coming to a close. It has been an exciting year and our chapter has accomplished much. We've had terrific, well-attended programs and field trips and read interesting and educational issues of the monthly newsletter. A successful native plant sale and bird seed sale provided us the funds to grant 10 scholarships this summer for various environmental camps! Our members have been extremely generous in their donations to the Annual Appeal for the Waggoner's Gap property, allowing our chapter to maximize our matching donation of \$5,000! Great job!

We've sent a Membership Survey to get your input, added name-tags at meetings, and changed the format of our membership meetings a little bit so we can get to know one another better and share the bird and nature sightings that excite us.

I want to thank the Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs and Members who work hard to make our chapter successful. They give of their time and talents to spread the message of hope for wildlife and make the natural world a better place. I feel very fortunate to work alongside such a talented, knowledgeable, and friendly group of people.

Thank you to all of our members for your support, participation, and smiles through the year, as well. It's been fun! I hope you can all join us at the Annual Banquet on May 15th, which is always a great time. Have a wonderful, nature-filled summer, and we'll see you again in September!

For the birds and butterflies,

Lorrie Preston

Editor's Note

In April's issue of *Kingfisher Courier*, Paul Zeph's email was spelled incorrectly. His email address is ehzeph@verizon.net.

Please Join Us for the Annual AAS Banquet

Thursday, May 15, 2008 (Reservations Required! Return form by May 8th)



Appetizers: 6:00 p.m.
Buffet Dinner: 6:45 p.m.
Program: 8:00 p.m.

Location – Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Rd., Camp Hill, PA 17011

Banquet attendees are encouraged to help the environment by bringing their own permanent plates, silverware, and glasses from home, along with newspaper to wrap dishes in for transport after use.

A silent auction of nature-related items will take place during the banquet. Proceeds from the auction support our many educational activities, including scholarships to Hog Island environmental camps. Past auction items have included binoculars and scopes, field guides, artwork, guided field trips, plants that provide food for wildlife, nature jewelry, books and a few surprises. If you have any new or gently used nature-related items to donate for the

auction, please contact Susan Miller at 697-6696 or millerscorner@msn.com by May 13th.



REMINDER - Payment for auction purchases must be by cash or check, so come prepared to take home some treasures!

AAS Elections to be Held at Banquet on May 15th

In accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Appalachian Audubon Society, the Nominating Committee submits the following slate of Officers and Directors for your consideration to serve our chapter in the coming year and throughout the terms of office.

* Nominees up for election in May 2008

Officers –	President	Lorrie Preston
	Vice President	Paul Zeph
	Treasurer *	Ellen Zeph
	Secretary *	Steven Horner

Directors –	<i>Term Ending May 2009</i>	Ed Chubb
		Jean Graybill
		Sue Strassner

	<i>Term Ending May 2010</i>	Marie Bernard *
		Jon Dale *
		Ed Smith *



Suggestions for nominations of Officers or Directors may be submitted to any member of the Nominating Committee (Jon Dale, Kathy Kuchwara, and Lorrie Preston) at any time, up to and including from the floor at the time of the elections, in accordance with the By-Laws.

AAS Field Trips



Annual Warbler Walk in Stony Creek Valley – Saturday, May 3 (*New trip!*)

This trip, led by Tom Smith, has been added to our field trip line up. You may contact Tom for more info at 921-2461. This will replace the **Spring Migrants for Beginners** field trip, which has been canceled.

PA Migration Count Annual Survey – Saturday, May 10

This annual trip provides an excellent opportunity for birding and learning while contributing to a scientific effort. Various leaders scour the Tri-County area in order to count as many species as possible within the day.

Contact County Coordinators for more details:

Dauphin County – Carl and Nancy Juris, 564-1479, hbgrdrs@verizon.net

Cumberland County – Ramsay Koury, 761-1871

State Gamelands 230 Warbler Walk – Sunday, May 11

This popular walk near Carlisle Springs will be hosted by Pete Lusardi. Join Pete as he searches for wandering warblers, furious flycatchers and tremendous thrushes. Call Pete at 243-6419 for last minute details prior to the trip.



Manada Conservancy Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 3 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Meadowood Nursery, Hummelstown

www.manada.org



Upcoming AAS Community Events—Please Volunteer!

In the coming months AAS will be present at the following events. We hope you will come out for a day of fun and stop at the AAS booth to say hi. If you can volunteer at the AAS table for a couple of hours at either of these events, please contact:

Lorrie Preston, mitandpak@aol.com or 732-5615.

Sunday, May 18

Environmental Earth Education Day (E-Day)

Trails and Trees Environmental Center, Mechanicsburg.

1-5 p.m.

Volunteers needed to staff booth.

Saturday, July 26

Ned Smith Nature Festival in Millersburg

Volunteers needed to staff booth

Approximately 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Paul Zeph will present a program on the Kittatinny Ridge/
Susquehanna Water Gap



Young AAS members getting up close and personal at March's very successful ZooAmerica program.

Save the Dates in 2008



Saturday, September 13 – AAS Native Plant Sale at Meadowood Nursery
Watch for more info in the September Kingfisher Courier.
Please contact Lorrie Preston if you can volunteer that day.

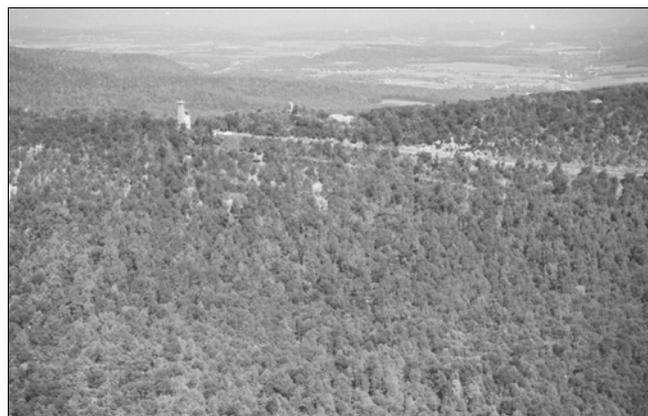


Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4th – AAS Annual Bird Seed Sale
Watch for your Bird Seed Order Form in the September Kingfisher Courier.
Volunteers will be needed for this event, as well.

Update on Waggoner's Gap Appeal and Planned Site Improvements

Waggoner's Gap is an important place to our chapter, and personally important to many of our members. Located on the Kittatinny Ridge just north of Carlisle, this hawk-watching, migration-monitoring, scenic vista-viewing pile of rocks has been a destination for generations of central Pennsylvanians for recreation, science, education, and spiritual renewal.

This year's spring fundraising appeal has been to raise funds to help the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC) purchase a ridge-top property that adjoins Audubon PA's Waggoner's Gap property (*see photo on right*). Donations from AAS members have been coming in at a record level, and to date we have surpassed \$5,000! Combined with the additional \$5,000 match from chapter savings, we will be able to contribute to CPC a gift of more than \$10,000 toward the property purchase. Checks are still arriving, and a grand total will be announced at the annual chapter banquet in May. Donations will continue to be collected for this great project until our new fiscal year starts in September.



Once the loan to purchase the tract is paid off, the property will be transferred to Audubon PA to enlarge and enhance the current education, science and recreation activities of the site. Starting this fall, AAS volunteers will be able to assist with new trail construction and maintenance, and on-going education activities at the Gap.

In conjunction with the acquisition of the new property, Audubon PA has launched an initiative to enhance the facilities and public use of the site. Expanded parking is being planned on the west side of Route 74 at the top of the ridge, with a new pedestrian bridge across the highway to make it easier for people with walking limitations to safely enjoy the site. An additional nature trail looping through the forest on the east side of the property, along with an outdoor classroom facility and picnic glen will further enhance the site and make it more useful for school and youth group field trips. All these improvements are all part of an initiative called "The Cliff Jones Field Station at Waggoner's Gap." For more information on this initiative, check out the Audubon PA website (www.pa.audubon.org) and click on the Kittatinny Project, then Waggoner's Gap; or call their office for a brochure: 213-6880 ext, 14.

Maine Bound



Falling to sleep to the call of the loon. Wading waist deep into water to collect a sample. Holding a sea star in the palm of his/her hand. Watching the antics of puffins.

These are just a few of the experiences five Appalachian Audubon scholarship winners will have during their week at the Audubon Camp in Maine, Hog Island. This year the chapter awarded one adult educator and four youth scholarships.

Jane Webster, environmental educator at Wildwood Lake Sanctuary, travels to Maine in July for the educator's workshop. Jane, a Harrisburg resident, plans to use the knowledge she gains to increase the versatility of and reenergize her teaching.

Four youth award winners – Cameron Frassetta, Camp Hill; Graham Cassel, Mechanicsburg; McKenzie Smith, Millersburg; and Ryan Parpagene, Etters – travel to Maine in August to attend youth camp. These aspiring young people understand and practice conservation, such as recycling, walking instead of driving, spending time outdoors, creating wildlife habitat, and talking to others about such practices. In addition, they plan to document their experiences at camp to share with family, friends and Audubon members upon their return.

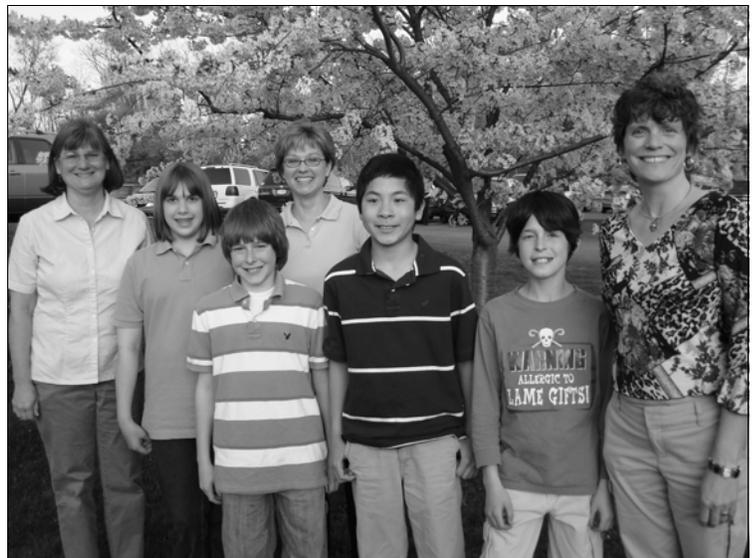
In addition, this year Appalachian Audubon is pleased to announce that we will be awarding five scholarships for Harrisburg youth to attend the nature camps at Wildwood Lake Sanctuary. Scholarship recipients have not yet been chosen.

All scholarship recipients – Maine and Harrisburg – will receive backpacks or fanny packs filled with items to enhance their experience – water bottles, journals, hand telescopes, field guides, and more. Items for the packs were provided by Appalachian Audubon, Audubon Pennsylvania, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation.

If you, the reader, are one of the many who purchase bird seed, native plants, or silent auction items from the chapter, we thank you! All proceeds from these fundraisers support the scholarship program. Applications for the 2009 camp season become available in January.

We wish all of our award winners safe travel, loads of fun, and memorable experiences.

Marci Mowery – AAS Education Chair



From left to right – Jane Webster, McKenzie Smith, Ryan Parpagene, Lorrie Preston (Chapter President), Graham Cassel, Cameron Frassetta, Marci Mowery (Education Chair)

Tips for a Greener World



In this month's edition of green tips we will address cleaning products. How can you keep a clean home AND protect the earth? These tips and resources should help.

- Just because a product says it's "natural" doesn't mean that it is "nontoxic." There are no standards to regulate that term, or others like "eco-friendly." You need to look at the ingredients to know whether or not something is safe.
- If health is your concern, steer clear of products that contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and phthalates (common in scented detergents and fabric softeners), which have been linked to several health problems.
- Products that contain phosphates may contribute to algal blooms that rob water bodies of their dissolved oxygen, thus killing aquatic life. Phosphates are still found in some dishwasher detergents.
- Having a clean and safe home and environment can be as simple as combining some baking soda, vinegar, and water. For more do-it-yourself cleaning product ideas and other ways to live green, visit National Geographic's site at www.thegreenguide.com.

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 Membership? _____ Student? _____
Is any of this contact information new? If so, place an X here: _____ **U07 7XCH**

Chapter-Only Membership: \$12.00 per year

Chapter-only members receive the *Kingfisher Courier* and support the local chapter. Make check payable to **Appalachian Audubon Society**; send to Appalachian Audubon, PO Box 15123, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123.

Chapter-Only Member's Name: _____ Today's Date: _____
Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____
Phone: _____
Is any of this contact information new? If so, place an X here: _____ **U07 7XCH**



May 2008

www.appalachianaudubon.org/

Appalachian Audubon Society
P.O. Box 15123
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FOR BANQUET!
DEADLINE MAY 8**



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MOVING? TAKING AN EXTENDED VACATION?

To receive AAS mailings when away on long vacations or after moving, PLEASE contact our AAS chapter Membership chair (see p.2) with your address change. This saves us money while keeping you current with our activities. Giving a change of address form to the US Post Office (USPS) **will NOT help**; our USPS addresses are handled by National Audubon. We incur a \$.41 charge per item for each piece of incorrectly addressed, returned mail.

Please help us help you!