



Kingfisher Courier

APRIL 2020

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

COVID-19 Updates

The Appalachian Audubon Society board is monitoring COVID-19 developments as they pertain to membership activities. We're listening to recommendations from the Governor, Pennsylvania Department of Health, the CDC, and the National Audubon Society. Currently we have canceled the April membership meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 16th in response to their recommendations. April field trips as well as the annual banquet in May are tentatively planned to occur as scheduled. If any field trip, program, or event is canceled we will notify membership via our Facebook page, membership-wide emails, and updated information on our website. If you have questions or concerns please reach out to President Chris Kemmerer at 717-571-7958 or at president@appalachianaudubon.org

MEETING CANCELLATION

The April 16th monthly membership meeting "Planting with Native Plants" has been canceled due to our effort to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

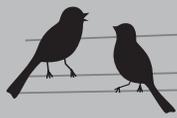
Native Plant Sale

Since 2016, Appalachian Audubon has partnered with Diakon Wilderness Nursery <https://www.diakon.org/youth-services/services/greenhouse-program/> near Boiling Springs to offer Native Plant Sales. Due to the threat of COVID-19 we will not be hosting the in-person sale on Saturday, April 18th. However, we are working with Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse to find an alternative way to conduct the sale. Please be on the lookout for Facebook posts, emails, and website updates to see how we will be conducting this year's native plant sale.



Photos courtesy Will Webster





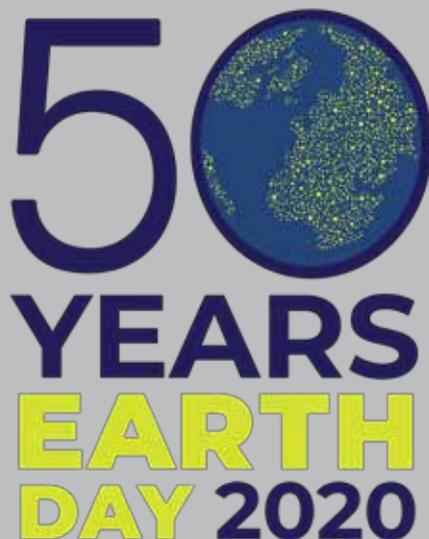
President's Perch



Earth Day 50 is on Wednesday, April 22nd. Many of us don't pay much attention to Earth Day. But if we look back on the last 50 years since the first Earth Day, we'll find many things happened that we all benefit from. Nationally, both the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Air Act were created partly because of Earth Day. These acts didn't simply improve the environment, they improved our health and made our communities better places to live. Here in Pennsylvania, the commonwealth ratified an Environmental Rights Amendment to our state constitution ensuring:

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

Think about the 100+ years of Christmas Bird Count data, the 1000s of acres preserved and protected by Audubon chapters across the country, and the community engagement of the Great Backyard Bird Count as Audubon's continuation of this great work. But it doesn't end there. Today, through the work of Audubon chapters, other non-profit environmental organizations, universities, and government agencies, work is being done to constantly preserve and protect our natural resources. Here in Pennsylvania we have 121 state parks, 2.2 million acres of state forest land, 1.45 million acres of game lands, 1,000s of local parks and over 10,000 miles of hiking and bicycling trails to explore, recreate in, or simply to enjoy. To celebrate Earth Day and to ensure we have another 50 years of protecting birds and their habitats, consider volunteering at an AAS event or in support of another local environmental organization. Think about how you could get more involved in Appalachian Audubon to bring your love of birds to more people, or take measures in your daily life to constantly improve our environment for each other as well as the flora and fauna that call Earth home. In these uncertain times I hope you still find opportunities to bird and enjoy the beauty of nature — even if it's just sitting on your back porch. If you do venture out remember to practice social distancing. I wish you all good health and happy birding!



Logo courtesy
earthday.org

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Vacant

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<https://appalachianaudubon.org>

JOIN US ON MAY 21ST FOR THE

AAS Annual Banquet!

Chasing Chickadees: Tracking Changes of a Northward Moving Hybrid Zone

Robert Curry, Ph.D. – Professor, Department of Biology, Villanova University

Why do some species hybridize? This is a fundamental topic in evolutionary biology. Additionally, concern is growing about new problems associated with hybridization as climate change causes shifts in geographic ranges and species interactions. Dr. Curry’s field studies of interbreeding between Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees have addressed related issues for more than two decades. His presentation will highlight his research over the last twenty years, and he will share what he has discovered as well as new questions that continue to arise. This research program is helping to advance chickadees as a model system for understanding hybridization and maintenance of species distinctions in birds.

Dr. Curry is a native of Massachusetts with family roots in Nova Scotia. He completed his undergraduate education at Dartmouth College (1979), followed by doctoral study at the University of Michigan (1987). He joined the faculty at Villanova University in 1991. Dr. Curry has mentored research by more than 70 Villanova Masters students and undergraduates, whose work has involved mockingbirds and their allies including some other Neotropical birds; scrub-jays; the world’s one herbivorous spider; and, especially, Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees and their hybrids. Dr. Curry served as President of the Wilson Ornithological Society in 2013-2015 and served previously on the Council for the former American Ornithologists’ Union and on the Board of Governors of the Society for Conservation Biology.

Enjoy this memorable evening for only \$32 per person!

When: Thursday, May 21

6:00pm Silent Auction, Appetizers, Cash Bar (Doors won’t open until 6:00 sharp!)
6:45pm Buffet Dinner, followed by a brief meeting and then the program

Where: West Shore Elks Club

108 N. St. John’s Church Road, Camp Hill, PA, 17011, 717-761-3904
(Just off the Carlisle Pike, near Liebman’s Furniture). You are encouraged to car-pool if possible.

Menu: Buffet dinner features Braised Roast Beef Burgundy, Grilled Chicken Breast with Greek Marinade, Rigatoni Marinara with Mushrooms & Fresh Basil, Fresh Steamed Vegetables, Mixed Greens Salad, Rolls, Beverages, and Dessert. Cash Bar.

REMINDER — We can accept cash, checks or credit/debit cards for auction item purchases.

COVID-19 Status
Notification of canceled activities will be through membership-wide emails, on the AAS Facebook page and website.

Reservations required by 5/14/20

AAS BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Must be received by Thursday, May 14th!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make reservations for _____ persons @ \$32 each \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal for Red Creek Wildlife Center’s Rehabilitation Projects. \$ _____

Total included \$ _____

Mail this form, along with your check payable to AAS (Appalachian Audubon Society), to: Appalachian Audubon Society, P.O. Box 234, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234.

2020 Annual Appeal

RED CREEK WILDLIFE CENTER: WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

In 1991, Red Creek Wildlife Center (<https://redcreekwildlifecenter.com/>) began offering a second chance to distressed Pennsylvania wildlife through rescue and rehabilitation, presenting public education, and providing training for wildlife rehabilitators. Today the center takes in and serves close to 4,000 animals annually, from the tiniest hummingbird to the largest eagle, from chipmunks to deer. Red Creek is dedicated to giving wildlife a second chance.

Red Creek believes that education is an important part of saving Pennsylvania's wildlife, the environment and the planet for future generations. Each year, tens of thousands of students enjoy a positive wildlife experience through Red Creek's LIVE RAPTOR programs and assemblies. They believe wildlife rehabilitation is a valuable service that should be available to everyone. Red Creek is helping others become wildlife rehabilitators through classes,

seminars and online training, expanding this service to new areas in Pennsylvania and nationally.

Red Creek does all of this work with four full-time licensed wildlife rehabilitators, about a dozen weekly volunteers, in addition to over ten college interns each summer, all cramped into a small modular home. The building is in need of repairs and space is severely limited.

Therefore, Red Creek has embarked on a fundraising campaign to build a new two-story building to adequately house staff and animals, provide an education space, as well as ensure room for future growth. Please help to make Red Creek Wildlife Center's new building a reality. This isn't just a benefit to them, but to all wildlife and people in the region.

Yes, I want to support the Annual Appeal:

(If you are attending our Annual Banquet, you may make your donation on the banquet reservation form.)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal for Red Creek Wildlife Center's Rehabilitation Projects. \$ _____

Total included \$ _____

Donation
deadline is
6/15/20

100% of your contribution is tax-deductible.

Mail this form, along with your check payable to AAS (Appalachian Audubon Society), to:
Appalachian Audubon Society, P.O. Box 234, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234

Board Nominations

The Appalachian Audubon Society's Nominating Committee (Alexandria Bowling, Chris Kemmerer, and Dan Kemmerer) is pleased to present this slate of candidates for consideration by members.

Vice-president: Alexandria Bowling
(1-year term)

Treasurer: Daniel Kemmerer
(1-year term)

Secretary: Betsy Riter (1-year term)

Director: Ann DePaulis (2-year term)

Director: Rich Riter (2-year term)

Director: Dale Rupert (2-year term)

Director: Zach Richard (1-year term)

Elections will be held at the Annual Banquet on May 21, 2020. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.



Appalachian Audubon Society welcomes people at all levels of experience. Birding with a group is a good way to improve your skills and confidence in birding.

APRIL 2020 FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, April 18, 2020

Wildflowers at Gifford Pinchot State Park with Dan Welte

Join naturalist Dan Welte on a trip to Gifford Pinchot State Park to search for early wild blooms. The program will begin at 10:00 am at the Conewago Day Use Area at the south end of the park (off Alpine Road.) There is a large parking lot there, and we will gather at the northeastern end. Many of the early wildflowers should be in bloom by this time. Contact Dan directly at dcmawelte@comcast.net for specifics.

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Beginners' Bird Walk: Spring Bird Walk at Trout Run Preserve

During spring migration, we never know what will turn up at Trout Run, Appalachian Audubon Society's own nature preserve. In the past we've seen Eastern Bluebirds, Belted Kingfishers, and Great Egrets. This short, easy walk will meander through meadow, forest, and wetland habitats. An experienced guide will help you build your bird identification and song recognition skills. Binoculars will be available to borrow, and we will cover the basics of binocular use. Bring a friend, bring a grandchild, bring yourself for a great time exploring a little-known treasure! Registration details will be shared closer to the field trip date. Check our website.



Photos courtesy Zonda/Pexels

Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17, 2020

Birding Presque Isle

When PA DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn was our keynote speaker at the AAS Banquet in May 2019, she recommended Presque Isle State Park near Erie as one of the must-visit places to bird in Pennsylvania. A review of the bird checklist put together by Jerry McWilliams of Presque Isle Audubon indicates that mid-May is an excellent time to see migrating birds before they continue on their route across Lake Erie to Canada. These birds include warblers like the Chestnut-sided, Mourning, and Wilson's. American

Woodcocks are common this time of year, and the Eastern Whip-poor-will can often be heard. Rarities like Mississippi Kite and Sandhill Crane are occasionally reported.

During our stay, we will also try to visit the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. Four double rooms have been reserved at the Comfort Inn Presque Isle for May 15th & 16th at \$79.99 per night, plus taxes and fees. All participants will be responsible for their meals, transportation, lodging costs, and other personal incidentals. Contact Rick Price at 717-657-1950 or rprice210@comcast.net to register or if you have additional questions.



Silent Auction

Once again, a silent auction will be part of our annual banquet on May 21. All proceeds from the auction will support our scholarships for environmental & natural history camps. These scholarships have enabled many local young people to experience exciting and life-shaping educational opportunities.

If you have a new or gently used nature-themed item to donate for the auction, please contact Susan Miller at 717-697-6696 or millerscorner@msn.com, or Jane Webster (Harrisburg/East Shore) at 717-756-6492 or willjaneweb@yahoo.com. Past items up for bid have included bird feeders & houses, outdoor clothing & equipment, books, binoculars & scopes, artwork, jewelry, native plants, and gift certificates.

This year we will be able to accept donations between April 23 and May 10.

Please note — we have very limited storage space. If an item does not receive a bid at the auction, we will ask that you accept it back or we may donate it to another community organization.

April field trips have been canceled to comply with the Federal Government's extended social distancing guidelines and extended Stay at Home orders for our area from Governor Wolf.

APRIL 2020

Except for the December program and the May banquet, AAS monthly programs take place on the third Thursday of each month at the **Christ Presbyterian Church** located at 421 Deerfield Road, Camp Hill, PA 17001 in the Allendale neighborhood of Camp Hill. Join us at 6:30 pm for socializing and refreshments. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

DIRECTIONS

I-83 southbound — take exit 40B towards New Cumberland. Stay straight, cross Carlisle Road to Cedar Cliff Drive. Turn left onto Allendale Way and turn left onto Deerfield Road. The Church is on the left. Park in the second lot.

I-83 northbound — take exit 40B, turn left onto Carlisle Road/Simpson Ferry Road and go under I-83. Turn left again at the light onto Cedar Cliff Drive. Turn left onto Allendale Way and turn left onto Deerfield Road. The Church is on the left. Park in the second lot.

**Facebook page**

<https://www.facebook.com/appalachianaudubon>

Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/515034908575016>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/appalachianaudubon/>

P.O. Box 234, Camp Hill, PA 17001

<https://appalachianaudubon.org>

AAS MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Photos courtesy
Susan Miller

Trout Run Original Watercolor Painting

Local artist Jennifer Lynn Becker is known for her botanical water color paintings. However, her interest in nature extends far beyond just trees and wildflowers. She also has a keen interest in insects, birds, and other wildlife. Last year, she approached past Appalachian Audubon Society president Jane Webster with an idea. She'd like to make an original painting (shown at right) inspired by her time at AAS's Trout Run Preserve with 40% of proceeds from the sale of the original and prints going to fund conservation work at the property. Jennifer collaborated with Eli DePaulis to choose four species that can be found at Trout Run:

- Great Blue Heron
- River Birch
- Mourning Cloak
- Orange Jewelweed

This particular work of art is part of a larger conservation initiative that Jennifer is pursuing. In her words "to bring awareness to the often overlooked yet very important organisms that play vital roles in a healthy ecosystem. This art is an educational tool with the goal of inspiring positive associations between native plants and the insects and birds that rely on them." You may purchase prints or notecards of the artwork from her website: <https://www.jenbecker.com/Shop/product-category/trout-run/> or bid on a donated print at our Annual Banquet in May.

