



Kingfisher Courier

MAY 2020

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Harrisburg Falcon Watch

Volunteers will have the opportunity to observe and help young Peregrine Falcons at the Rachel Carson State Office Building in downtown Harrisburg. As the young fledglings attempt their first flight, the Harrisburg Falcon Watch team is on the lookout for mishaps or injuries.

For more information, contact Sue Hannon at hbgfalconwatch@gmail.com. Information on dates will become available after the eggs have hatched.

*Photo courtesy
Rick Price*



Field Trips

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.

All field trips for May have been canceled due to COVID-19. We are following the actions of the National Audubon Society as well as considering what is in the best interest of our membership. National Audubon Society and Audubon Pennsylvania have been streaming online field trips and presentations. To view these virtual field trips please visit: <https://pa.audubon.org/events> or <https://www.audubon.org/news/13-virtual-bird-and-conservation-events-tune-spring>.

Saturday, May 2, 2020

Warbler Walk in Stony Valley CLASSIC!

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Warbler Walk at PA State Game Land 230

Saturday, May 9, 2020

Annual Spring Migration Count

Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17, 2020

Birding Presque Isle



President's Perch

I'm pretty sure, back in January, none of us thought that this Spring we would be under a stay-at-home order due to a worldwide pandemic. But here we are, trying to flatten the curve, slowing the spread, and helping our medical professionals handle this life-altering event. Through all of the uncertainty and disruption to daily life, I've been finding comfort in nature. The natural rhythms that steadfastly march forward bring a sense of normalcy and predictability that is a salve for the soul. The growing grass, the blooming flowers, the budding trees, and the return of our neo-tropical migrants are all proof that nature, and humans, are resilient.

Over the last several weeks I've read amazing stories of the good in people and the remarkable adaptability of nature. People are hearing birds, or should I say, mentioning that the birds seem louder this spring than in the past. The birds are not louder. It's that we as humanity are more quiet — there's less of us moving around making noise — and since our lives are in a forced slowdown we have more time to actually hear nature. Air pollution has dropped over much of the world. People are venturing out and visiting parks and going for walks in numbers not normally seen. This all brings me hope. It makes me hope that all these folks paying attention to nature and spending more time in nature will continue to do so after we've handled the pandemic and our stay-at-home orders are lifted.

I read an interesting article from Medium the other day. The author mentioned this time as "A Great Pause." A silver lining in these difficult times. It is giving us the ability to see the world — nature — healed. It's allowing us to refocus on family, friends, and being connected to those that we love and are important to us. It's showing the importance of community and the remarkable strength we have when we stand together and support each other. I challenge all of us to view this Great Pause as an opportunity. In the words of the article's author "... think deeply about what you want to put back into your life. This is our chance to define a new version of normal, a rare and truly sacred (yes, sacred) opportunity ..." I hope that you, your family, and friends are healthy and well and that you too are able to find comfort and solace in nature. Happy Birding.

ANNUAL BANQUET — CANCELED

It was with much deliberation and sadness that the board decided to cancel the 2020 Appalachian Audubon Society Annual Banquet. We know that this is a time for members to socialize, network, and reflect on the year we had together. It is also an opportunity to raise funds for our educational scholarships and to vote for incoming board members and officers. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, our requirements for social distancing, and out of abundant caution for our members, we made the difficult decision to cancel.

However, we do not want the excitement of the annual banquet nor the joy of getting together with other Audubon members to simply vanish until next year. We are working with our keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Curry, to host an online version of his presentation. Be on the lookout for Facebook posts, emails, and website updates with the date and time for his presentation.

Until we see each other again in September, we hope that you stay well, stay active, and enjoy the beauty that nature gives us every day.

Kingfisher Courier

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Introducing Our 2020 Hog Island Teen Scholarship Recipient

((Note: We have recently learned that this camp was canceled because of COVID-19. We hope that Lydia will be able to attend next year))

Lydia Klunk is our AAS scholarship recipient this year, and she was planning to attend Hog Island Audubon's Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens camp. Our camp scholarships are possible thanks to donations by generous AAS members and fundraising activities (e.g., silent auctions, birdseed and native plant sales) by the chapter and the Board.

Lydia is from Carlisle and is currently in the 8th grade at Yellow Breeches Middle School. She has always had a love of animals. After reading the Project Puffin book, Lydia has had a particular interest in puffins and has wanted to see them for herself. This, of course, is something she would have been able to do at the Hog Island camp.

Lydia has a junior ranger badge in 12 national parks, and she loves hiking and being outdoors. With her family she has visited 42 states. She hopes to inspire others to spend more time outdoors and to take measures to protect our planet. With her knowledge gained about birds at Hog Island, she plans to lead a group birding at Wildwood.

We wish Lydia the best of luck over the coming year and hope that she and her family will enjoy other nature experiences as she looks forward to attending Hog Island in the future. Congratulations Lydia!



*Photos courtesy
Alura Neumyer*

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, and 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/>.



AAS Awards Given to Science Fair Winners

Appalachian Audubon Society members, Dale Rupert and Rich Riter judged projects at this year's Capital Area Science & Engineering Fair. The fair was held on March 10, 2020 at H.A.C.C. There were over 350 projects by high school and junior high students. AAS gave special awards in the area of environmental science. The top award was a \$100 cash award and a certificate for excellence in scientific research in natural ecosystems.

The top award winners were Dominic Mirarchi and Isabella Mirarchi, who each received \$100 and a certificate. They did a team project which examined: Which type of seeds do various bird species prefer? Another winner was Zhiyun Yu, who did a project on the effect of climate change on bird migration. She received a certificate for honorable mention. Congratulations to all award winners!



Native Plant Sale

Since 2016, Appalachian Audubon has partnered with Diakon Wilderness Nursery near Boiling Springs to offer native plant sales. These sales are wonderful opportunities to beautify your backyards and gardens and improve wildlife habitat. Due to COVID-19 we were unable to host our normal Spring native plant sale in late April. However, through the work of Diakon Wilderness Nursery, we're able to continue this partnership. Only this year it will be online. Beginning May 1st thru May 15th Appalachian Audubon members will be able to use coupon code BIRD20 to receive \$5 off your purchase. Using this coupon code will also ensure that a percentage of your purchase goes back to AAS. To access the online sale, please visit: <https://the-wilderness-greenhouse.square.site/>. Upon check-out you will be assigned a date and time to pick-up your order at the nursery. If your assigned date and time will not work for you, please call 717-960-6740 or email PattenK@diakon.org to arrange a different pick-up time. Or, if you're local (within 20 miles of the nursery) you may choose to have your plants delivered for a \$25 fee. Thank you for supporting native plants and wildlife habitats. Happy planting!

Photos courtesy Will Webster



To access the online sale please visit: <https://the-wilderness-greenhouse.square.site/>. Thank you for supporting native plants and wildlife habitats.

Happy planting!

2020 Annual Appeal

RED CREEK WILDLIFE CENTER: WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Red Creek Wildlife Center began in 1991 to offer a second chance to distressed Pennsylvania wildlife through rescue and rehabilitation, public education and by 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, 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:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

I would like to donate to the AAS Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Total included \$ _____

**Donation
deadline is
6/15/2020**

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 done electronically May 1st thru May 10th.

Please follow this link to vote: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PJCXTGM>. Members may only vote once. Members may include a write-in candidate for any board position.

MAY 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>

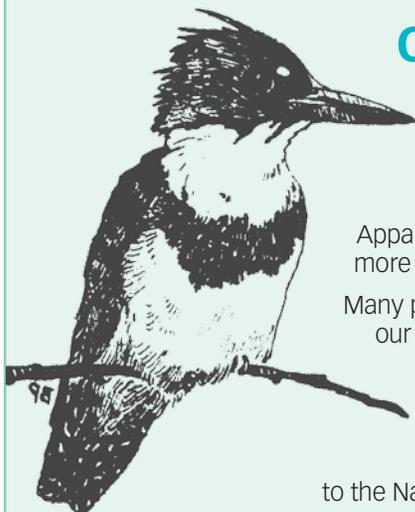
Are you missing the Organic, Habitat-Friendly Coffee the Chapter Sells at Our Meetings?

We need your help to eliminate our inventory!

The cancellation of our AAS activities for the remainder of the season caught all of us off-guard. We had just accepted a bulk delivery of freshly ground and whole bean organic coffees from the Ragged Edge Roasting Co. of Gettysburg when the PA "Stay-at-Home" order was issued. We now realize it will be September, at the earliest, before we are able to meet again.

AAS Coffee Coordinator, Lorrie Preston, is willing to deliver coffee orders of two bags or more to a mutually agreeable time and place on the West Shore, practicing social distance rules. Cost is \$10 per 1-pound bag. Payment must be made by check payable to "AAS." Coffees are organic, shade-grown, Rain-Forest Alliance certified, and provide healthy habitat for birds. We have ground or whole-bean options in either Swiss Decaf or Regular. Email lpreston5156@gmail.com with "AAS Coffee" in the subject line to make arrangements. Thank you for your support.

Illustration:
Getty Images



Chapter Support Membership Renewals

Appalachian Audubon Society (AAS) is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS). Members of NAS are automatically assigned to a local chapter based on zip codes, so all NAS members are automatically full-fledged members of AAS and receive all benefits of our organization.

Appalachian Audubon Society offers a Chapter Support Membership to anyone who wants to be more involved locally with or without necessarily joining the National Audubon Society.

Many people maintain both local and national memberships to give additional support directly to our chapter. The Chapter Support Membership is an annual donation that runs from July 1 through June 30. The suggested donation is \$15 for adults and \$5 for students (a great gift!). You may join at any time, but all memberships must be renewed on the following July 1.

Your membership in National Audubon Society strengthens its voice in nation-wide environmental affairs and provides you with the beautiful quarterly Audubon magazine. Go to the National Audubon website to renew your annual membership there.

Since only about \$4 of your annual National Audubon membership comes to us for our local functions, your Chapter Support Membership makes a big difference in the things we can do. The entire \$15 annual donation for this membership is retained by Appalachian Audubon for scholarships, education, field trips, programs, newsletters and conservation in your local area. Consequently, many people have decided to have both memberships, and we thank them. (You may choose one or both memberships, but please note that you will receive the Audubon magazine and mailings from NAS only if you are also an active member of that organization.)

Please consider helping your local chapter by becoming an AAS Chapter Support Member today.

And now it's easy to join and/or renew your AAS Chapter Support membership using a credit card online. Of course, you may also mail a check. See details on the Membership Page of our website: <https://appalachianaudubon.org/membership.html>.

And thanks again. Your local membership makes a big difference.