

Kingfisher Courier

Newsletter of Appalachian Audubon Society

September 2009

September 17 “Images from Penn’s Woods”

The 2009-2010 Program year kicks off with Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Education Specialist **Joe Kosak** offering some of the best of his digital photography work with the Game Commission.

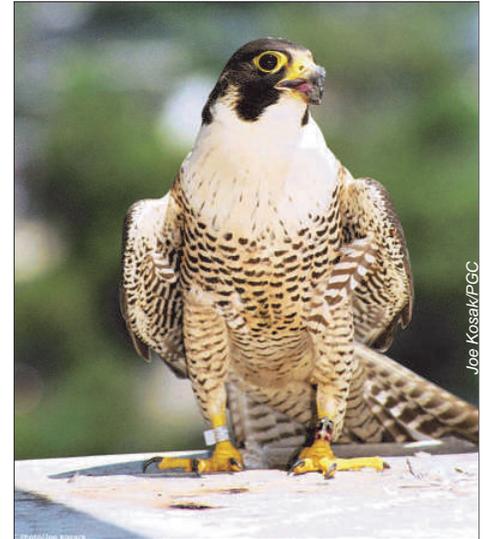
Much of the work is relatively recent and includes his work with the Peregrine Falcons on the 15th-floor ledge of the Rachel Carson Building, and being 300 feet underground in the Canoe Creek Mine to monitor bats.

Joe’s photographic journey will cover Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, including snow geese; whitetails; local birds and migrants; reptiles and amphibians; and, of course, a smattering of off-

the-wall stuff that always makes any program interesting and exciting.

Expect to see a fast-moving program of outstanding photography that is delivered by a man who has been writing about and photographing Penn’s Woods for more than a quarter century.

*Appalachian Audubon monthly programs (September—May) take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the **Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Road, in the Allendale neighborhood of Camp Hill.** Join us at 7:00 pm for refreshments and conversation. The program begins at 7:30.*



Joe Kosak/PGC

The Peregrine Falcon nesting project first mounted cameras on the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg in 2000 when a pair of nesting falcons produced four eggs.

The live webcam coverage marked perhaps the biggest single environmental event ever presented through live video on the web, attracting over 34 million hits.



Ed Smith

Pennsylvania native plants provide essential food, shelter, and nesting sites for native birds, butterflies, and beneficial pollinators at just the right time in their life cycles.

Native plants are adapted to our climate, soil, and moisture levels, and offer you beautiful outdoor spaces with little maintenance.

Join us on Sunday September 13 AAS Annual Native Plant Sale

Appalachian Audubon Society will host its 4th Annual Native Plant Sale on **Sunday, September 13th from 11:00 am to 4 pm.**

The sale will take place at Meadowood Nursery in Hummelstown, rain or shine. Meadowood carries over 300 varieties of native plants - trees, shrubs, perennials, and more. More info at: www.meadowoodnursery.com.

Steven Saffier, Audubon at Home Coordinator for Audubon PA, will be on hand to provide immediate Audubon recognition to those homeowners who already provide healthy bird habitat. To qualify, a property should include 25% or more native plants, as well as sources of

Continued on page 3

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President's Perch

Paul Zeph

Meaningful Things

This is our 35th year as an Audubon chapter. As I take over as president and look back over our history, it's amazing to see what a dedicated group of volunteers can accomplish. We've always done meaningful things. We buy habitat. We connect people with nature. We remove invasive species. We touch children's lives. We use our collective voice of 1,300 local members to tell our elected officials what is important to us, and to help make policies that protect and improve our environment.

Due to our chapter's work through the 35 years – individual efforts as well as our collective group endeavors – we have made a positive contribution to many aspects of the environment of south-central Pennsylvania. We'll continue to seek ways to do this, and welcome your suggestions. Each of us can also examine our individual behavior to find things to do in our lives and around our homes that are meaningful.

Look for action ideas in upcoming issues of the *Kingsfisher Courier*. One opportunity is fast approaching on September 13 -- our annual Native Plant Sale. We learned last year from Dr. Tallamy's work that native plants support many, many more native insects than non-native plants, and our birds cannot survive without the native insects. So, by adding more native plants to your yard, you can directly help songbirds!

Invite Birds, Bats, and Butterflies to YOUR YARD

- 1** This poster can be a great first step for making your yard a bird-friendly haven. **BIRDHOUSES** offer a place for birds to nest, hide, and raise their young. They also attract birds that are looking for a place to roost at night. **WATER** is essential for birds, and a small birdbath or water feature can attract birds to your yard. **PLANTS** that provide food and shelter are also important.
- 2** Consider **BIRD FEEDERS** and **WATER** to attract birds to your yard. **BIRD FEEDERS** should be placed in a safe, open area where birds can see you. **WATER** should be placed in a safe, open area where birds can see you.
- 3** **NATIVE PLANTS**, including trees, shrubs, and ground cover, provide a source of food and shelter for birds. **WATER** is essential for birds, and a small birdbath or water feature can attract birds to your yard.
- 4** **WATER** is essential for birds, and a small birdbath or water feature can attract birds to your yard. **PLANTS** that provide food and shelter are also important.

BIRDS TO HELP IN YOUR YARD

When designing and installing your yard, try to provide food, shelter, and water for the birds that are most important to your region of the country. For help in this, visit the www.audubonathome.org website. To see more about the birds that are most important to your region, visit www.audubonathome.org.

My name is _____ Address _____

Yards are personal havens for recreation, rest, and relaxation. Your yard can also become a sanctuary for wildlife!

As you create habitat that supports birds, butterflies, and other wildlife, you ensure that your yard remains healthy for you and your family.

Learn more at www.audubonathome.org and attend our native plant sale on September 13th!

Download and print your own "how-to" poster like the one at left or order one by mail at: www.audubonathome.org/yard/index.html

Native Plant Sale cont.

water, food, shelter, and nesting sites. A simple application can be filled out at the event. Official Audubon signs recognizing your bird habitat will also be available for approved properties. An online application for recognition, as well as further details are available at <http://pa.audubon.org/habitat>.

In addition, the top 10 plants for birds and wildlife will be showcased, and Dr. Douglas Tallamy's best-selling book *Bringing Nature Home; a Case for Native Gardening* will be available for sale.

Appalachian Audubon is a non-profit organization and all proceeds from the sale are used for nature & environmental education and scholarships in our community. Cash or checks only, please.

For more info, please visit: www.appalachianaudubon.org or phone 717-732-5615.

Directions to Meadowood Nursery
From Hershey Park Drive at Giant Center: Follow Rte 39 north about 3 miles. Turn left on Red Top Rd. Go 1 mile, turn right on Long Lane. Take first left onto Meadowood Drive to end.



Follow signs to nursery parking area.

From I-81: take exit 77 off from Rte 81, Take Rte 29 south. Go 3 miles, turn right on Red Top Rd. Proceed as above.

Used Battery Collection Discontinued

Regretfully, AAS will no longer be collecting used batteries at our monthly meetings. New rulings require batteries to be individually packaged in "baggies" or have tape placed over the terminals prior to transport. The Mechanicsburg Area Adult Environmental Club does not have the funds or volunteers to comply and is forced to discontinue the program.

We applauded MAAEC for their efforts, and thank everyone who joined this effort over the past year!

Note: due to changes in manufacturing, the following types of batteries may now be safely discarded in your household trash: Single use (non-rechargeable) AAA, AA, C, D, 6 volt, 9 volt.

The following types of batteries present a high-risk to our environment and should be taken to collection sites listed below— NOT discarded in your household trash:

- All rechargeable – many applications
- Lithium – computer back-up
- Lithium Ion – portable phones, computers
- Mercury - hearing aids, medical equipment
- Nickel Cadmium – portable phones, tools, appliances
- Nickel Metal Hydride – portable phones, computers
- Silver Oxide – hearing aids, calculators, watches, photography

Take these used batteries to collection sites: **Battery Plus**, 2501 Gettysburg Rd, Camp Hill; **PABattery Warehouse**, 5223 Simpson Ferry Rd, Mechanicsburg; **PABatteries Unlimited**, 1100 East Simpson St, Mechanicsburg.

Check www.depweb.state.pa.us or www.ccpa.net for other battery collection points.

Audubon Teen Program Launched



After months of planning, an Audubon teen group formed to explore natural areas in south-central Pa. and to help area schools and businesses become more "green." Tim Monko, at far right, watches fellow teens paddle on the Yellow Breeches Creek during the group's first official activity in June. The group learned about stream ecology in addition to having a fun afternoon on the water. For more information about the teen program, contact Paul Zeph, pzeph1@verizon.net; 691-0288.

We want to acknowledge Jessica Sprajcar who has done a terrific job as newsletter editor the last several years, but has now passed the editor baton to Holly Smith. Jessica has worked quietly behind the scenes making sure all the news fits, that it looks great, and that the *Kingfisher Courier* gets to the printer on time. Thank you Jessica!



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*Bird Seed Sale
order form inside!
Deadline Sept. 25*

Inside is your annual
**Bird Seed Sale
order form**
Order deadline Sept. 25

Also inside:

Programs and Field Trips
2009-2010 Brochure

Details on the AAS annual
Native Plant Sale
Sept. 13

Thursday, September 17th
Monthly public program featuring
renowned photographer
Joe Kosak and his
"Images from Penn's Woods"

Upcoming Field Trips

Saturday, September 26
*Annual Ralph Kinter Memorial
Wildflower Walk* — Contact Dan
Welte at 728-0421 or **dcmawelte**
@paonline.com for details.

Saturday, October 17, 2009
*Waggoner's Gap Raptor Migration
Watching* — Contact Pete Fox at 583
-2639 (before 9 PM, please) or
pfox@raiderweb.org.

N. A. Bluebird Society Conference
September 9-13, 2009
Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA
**[www.nabluebirdsociety.org/
convention.htm](http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/convention.htm)**
Advanced registration due Sept. 1

**York County Master Gardeners
Native Plant Sale Sept. 19** — 9AM
until plants are gone. Come early!
112 Pleasant Acres Rd, York
Presentations all morning plus Master
Gardener expert advice & help!

September Birding Tip

The hawks are now flying!
The nearby Kittatinny Ridge (Blue
or North Mountain) offers several
premier hawk watching sites.

To find a site near you, visit
[http://pa.audubon.org/kittatinny/
hawks.html](http://pa.audubon.org/kittatinny/hawks.html).

For raptor migration counts at
sites all over North America, visit
www.hawkcount.org

For information on the
Audubon HawkWatch at
Waggoner's Gap (just north of
Carlisle), check out the website
www.kittatinnyridge.org and
click on "Audubon HawkWatch at
Waggoner's Gap."

