

Upland Informer

Volume 33 Issue 1 Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Fall 2014

Editor- Nancy Baker

Check us out online at www.bartramianaudubon.org
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.

October 13, 2014-Monday-"Whooping It Up"



Naturalist and photographer Jeffrey Hall will present "Whooping It Up" at our October membership meeting. One of the great conservation success stories of the past 70 years is the wild flock of whooping cranes at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, which has slowly recovered from a population low of only 16 survivors in the mid 1940's. This program highlights the recovery of these majestic birds from near extinction and shows many other birds and other natural delights that can be found in the "Coastal Bend" area of Texas—including a surprising visitor from even further south. Jeffrey Hall lived in New Jersey for thirty years before retiring from teaching and moving to Franklin. He has given over 100 programs for nature, conservation, and photography groups over the past two decades. Jeff is currently President of Bartramian Audubon Society, and is also active in Seneca Rocks Audubon Society and the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Slippery Rock University.

November 10, 2014-Monday-"In the Footsteps of Darwin, Landscapes and Life in Tierra del Fuego and Antarctica." by Dr. Patrick Burkhart, Professor of Geology at Slippery Rock University

Long intrigued by the thoughts of Charles Darwin and the exploits of Ernest Shackleton, Dr Burkhart has set about following in their footsteps. On numerous expeditions to Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, across the Drake Passage to the Weddel Sea and the Antarctic Peninsula, he has enjoyed the opportunity to explore these vivid landscapes and study their natural history. From whales, to mammals and birds, glaciers, climate, and rocks, he has learned immensely under the inspiration of these great icons. Come enjoy engaging photography, coupled to sometimes troubling thoughts, including one instance where Darwin was flat-out wrong!

December 8, 2014-Monday-Annual Holiday Potluck and Hog Island Presentation

Come enjoy good food and good company while hearing about Sue Gillespie's trip to Audubon Camp at Hog Island, Maine. Bring a dish to share and your holiday spirit.



Upcoming Field Trips/Activities

October 25, 2014-Saturday-Riverstone Estate

A special field trip in cooperation with Foxburg Tours is planned for visiting the remarkable Riverstone Estate from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. with its beautiful 1,200-acre landscape, 200-years old craftsmanship of outstanding architecture, and biodiverse natural and human history with local guides. Strictly limited number of visitors. Contact Dr. Gene Wilhelm after October 12 at genewilhelm@aol.com for details.

December 20, 2014-Saturday-Butler CBC

The center of the fifteen mile diameter of the count circle is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the junction of Lindy Road and Rt. 528. Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park, McConnell's Mill, Wolf Creek Narrows and the campus of Slippery Rock University are within the circle. If you are interested in participating, either by being a feeder watcher or field observer, contact Suzanne Butcher at 330-759-1945 (leave messages) or sarbird@hotmail.com.

December 28, 2014-Sunday-Pleasantville CBC

The circle for this count encompasses the area approximately from Titusville in the northwest to Pleasantville to Tionesta in the northeast south to President east to Oleopolis and Rouseville and then north along the western edge of Oil Creek State Park. The count is centered on the historic ghost town of Pithole. Please feel welcome to participate in this count. Assignments can be made for an area easy to get to if you are unfamiliar with this count. Also needed are feeder watchers who live in the area. If you are unsure if you are in the count circle, call and ask. This is a more northern count than the Butler count, so expect some more northern species. If you are interested in helping, contact Russ States at 814-676-6320 (please talk to the machine), or pabirder@verizon.net.

Join Bartramian Audubon and Jennings for Citizen Science and Learning

Bartramian Audubon Society and Jennings Environmental Education Center will collaborate on two bird-related events this winter. These are ideal opportunities to learn about how individuals can assist researchers in gathering important data about bird population and migration trends, as well as to increase birding skills. Registration for these events will be available later this fall on DCNR's Calendar of Events at <http://www.apps.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp>. For more information call 724-794-6011 or e-mail jenningsssp@pa.gov

- On **Saturday, December 20th** Jennings will provide an indoor observation station for the annual **Butler County Christmas Bird Count**. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend this free, informal birding session. Jennings staff and representatives of the Bartramian Audubon Society will be on hand to explain observing and recording procedures and to help identify birds seen at the outdoor feeders.
- On **Saturday, February 14th** during the annual **Great Backyard Bird Count** (GBBC), a workshop and observation session will be offered **for any individuals, ages 12 and older**, who share an interest in birds. Participants will learn from Jennings' staff the basics of bird identification, observe and count birds at the feeders, and be introduced to the use of the GBBC website for submitting data and obtaining information. They will be encouraged to use their new skills to observe birds and submit their own data at home. Representatives of the Bartramian Audubon Society also will be there to help. This event is particularly recommended for teachers, youth leaders, parents or grandparents who want to involve their children in citizen science projects. Preregistration is required. In its 18th year, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is hosted by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology in partnership with Bird Studies Canada. Learn more at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>.



Activities in Review

August 20, 2014-Wednesday-Chimney Swift Tower Dedication



Cathy Setzer, Kathie Goodblood, Sharon Thompson, Dr. Fred Brenner, John Relihan

Recently, several members gathered to officially transfer the "stewardship" of the Chimney Swift Tower to representatives from Grove City College. The tower is now a special part of the wildlife area of the lower campus of the college. The short ceremony was marked by great weather. A bitter-sweet moment came as we realized that the original chimney at the former middle school was demolished just a short time ago. With luck, the swifts will occupy this new habitat as they once did the school chimney. Pictured are Cathy Setzer, project coordinator, Kathie Goodblood, recent President of BAS, Dr. Fred Brenner of GCC, Sharon Thompson, and John Relihan, who managed this for his Eagle Scout project. We hope other members of the community and region will consider creating and preserving areas and habitats like this.

....Cathy Setzer



Audubon Adventures Available to Teachers

During the 2014-2015 school year Bartramian Audubon again will sponsor and fund, on a first-come, first served basis, a limited number of *Audubon Adventures* classroom kits for individual classes in grades 3-5 in schools in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango Counties. The newest *Audubon Adventures* classroom kit will be available in digital subscription format, presented exclusively on the *Audubon Adventures* website, where teachers can access all new student magazines, background information, hands-on activities, and much more! Subscriptions for the upcoming school year will include: "Wild About Birds," "The Buzz about Native Bees," "Birds & Other Wildlife of Our Towns & Cities," and a "Birds on the Move" bird migration poster. A one-year National Audubon Society membership for the teacher also is included. Newsletter issues in sets from past years are also available in print form, including a "Build Your Own Kit" option. Each kit contains sets of 32 student magazine issues, plus lesson plans and teacher resource materials designed to help bring the natural world into the classroom and to connect kids to the environment. The kits can be used across the curriculum and are correlated to national language arts and science standards. *Audubon Adventures* classes also will be invited to participate in a national citizen science effort (Great Backyard Bird Count) or bird-friendly habitat improvement project.

Learn more about *Audubon Adventures* at:

<http://education.audubon.org/audubon-adventures> . Then contact Becky Lubold, the chapter's Education Chair, at 814-330-2550 or watersinger2@yahoo.com to arrange to receive classroom kits.

Hog Island Audubon Camp Scholarship for Educators:

Each year Bartramian Audubon awards one scholarship for a local teacher to attend the "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week" session of Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. This session aims to inspire and empower both science and non-science teachers who seek practical approaches for integrating environmental education into their classes. Those who attend the camp become part of a legacy of Audubon education that began in 1936. Instructed by some of the most respected naturalists and environmental educators in the nation, they participate in interdisciplinary workshops and field trips that teach inquiry-based science in the context of the forest, intertidal and ocean ecosystems of the scenic Maine coast. Participants also find time to share ideas with fellow educators, enjoy the camp's delicious home cooking and explore the environs of historic Hog Island during this extraordinary learning adventure. The application period for the Hog Island scholarship for July, 2015 is now open, and will close on February 28, 2015. The application form is available on the chapter's website or by contacting our Education Chair at 814-330-2550 or watersinger2@yahoo.com . Teachers who would like to learn more about what this experience can be like, will want to see the presentation by Sue Gillespie, last year's scholarship recipient, at our December 8th meeting.



YOU CAN HELP !

You should be proud to be a member of the Bartramian Audubon Society—I certainly am! Although we're a small group, we accomplish so much. Our Sanctuary program has involved a remarkable number of your neighbors in hands-on protection of the natural values of their property. We provide, at no charge, environmental education materials that are used in many grade school classrooms throughout our region. Scholarships we award support the work of students at Slippery Rock University and Westminster College, as well as sending a local educator to Audubon camp in Maine every summer. Original research carried out with our participation aids in the conservation of our natural heritage. Monthly programs provide entertaining and informative talks about a wide variety of nature topics. Field trips take our members to fascinating local areas. And there's a lot more...None of this would happen without the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers...a congenial and interesting group of people who, in the past few years that I've lived in northwestern Pennsylvania, it has been my pleasure to get to know. But, as in any organization, there's always more to do...if only we had more people to help. You have talents that can make a difference—to Bartramian Audubon Society and to the environment. It might be something as simple as tallying birds at your backyard feeder during our Christmas Bird Counts or signing a petition in support of conservation or donating refreshments for an evening program. Or it might be more involved—contacting prospective speakers for our evening program or talking to landowners about becoming a Sanctuary or taking a position on our Board. Or something in between—as you can imagine, there's plenty to do. We'd love to have your help. If you are interested in helping make Bartramian Audubon Society an even more effective organization and an even more effective voice for the preservation of our natural world, please speak to me or any of our Board members at one of our monthly programs, or e-mail us at bartramianaudubon@gmail.com. Thanks!

Jeffrey Hall
President

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 but mailed to Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145

Bartramian Audubon Society Associate and Newsletter Application

Please check below

_____ \$15.00 BAS associate fee- includes newsletter

_____ \$5.00 newsletter only

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 _____

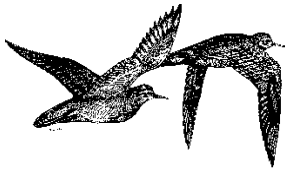
Please send this form with payment to

**National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
PO Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

**Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them
by NAS**

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March 9, 2015-Monday-“The Realities and Opportunities of Using Native Plants”

Mark Brownlee, principal and head propagator of ArcheWild Consulting, Design and Native Nurseries, will present. Gardening with native plants to promote ecological health turns out to be much more complex than switching from mums to asters. Our local birds, butterflies, beetles and pollinators of all sorts have close relationships with the 3,000 plus native plants growing in Pennsylvania. Yet fewer than five percent of Pennsylvania native plants are in cultivation. We'll talk about the unique opportunities for us to help change this and the realities of using native plants.

April 13, 2015-Monday-“Climate Change 2015: The Science, the Impacts, and the Projections”

Dr. Julie A. Snow will present an overview of the science of climate change, go through current impacts, and offer projections for the future. She will provide a special focus on threatened birds and their habitats. Dr. Snow is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment at Slippery Rock University, where she has been teaching for eleven years. She earned her B.S. in Chemistry from Wittenberg University and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Oceanography from the Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island. Dr. Snow's current research focuses on trends in mercury deposition levels and their relationships to atmospheric transport over the last fifteen years in the United States.

May 11, 2015-Monday-Annual Awards Night

The Bartramian Audubon Society will be honoring our new Bird and Butterfly and Wildlife Sanctuary owners. We will also be awarding scholarships. Join us for an evening of recognition and refreshments.



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.

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. For the yard sale date check our website www.bartramianaudubon.org.



Activities in Review

December 20, 2014 –Butler CBC

...Suzanne Butcher, Compiler

After the amazingly high count of species in 2012 and the underwhelming low count in 2013, this year's count of 75 species was well – fairly average. Count day with temperatures recorded by compilers as between 25° and 32° was nestled between the first freeze of winter and the deep freeze of early January. The day was generally overcast with no appreciable snow cover and with Lake Arthur still providing some open water waterfowl were tallied albeit not in the greatest of numbers. Food was still present for some of the field observers attracting collections of feeding birds but northern species such as siskins and redpolls had not yet put in an appearance in our area. Owls were fairly represented including this one Gene, Nancy, and I discovered while driving down a country road.



.....photo by Suzanne Butcher

The Birds:

Canada Goose-394, Cackling Goose-1, Tundra Swan-3, Gadwall-11, American Black Duck-2, Mallard-76, Redhead-8, Ring-necked Duck-55, Lesser Scaup-4, Bufflehead-38, Common Goldeneye-1, Hooded Merganser-18, Common Merganser-14, Red-breasted Merganser-4, Ruddy Duck-75, Ring-necked Pheasant-2, Wild Turkey-143, Common Loon-1, Pied-billed Grebe-1, Horned Grebe-2, Great Blue Heron-2, Bald Eagle-6 (4adults, 2 immature), Northern Harrier-5, Sharp-shinned Hawk-3, Cooper's Hawk-8, Red-shouldered Hawk-5, Red-tailed Hawk-39, Rough-legged Hawk-1, American Coot-134, Black-headed Gull cw, Bonaparte's Gull-8, Ring-billed Gull-356, Herring Gull-5, Rock Pigeon-107, Mourning Dove-248, Great-horned Owl-2, Barred Owl-1, Eastern Screech-Owl-5, Northern Saw whet Owl-1, Belted Kingfisher-4, Red-headed Woodpecker-3, Red-bellied Woodpecker-46, Downy Woodpecker-74, Hairy Woodpecker-27, Northern Flicker-5, Pileated Woodpecker-18, American Kestrel-8, Blue Jay-263, American Crow-174, Common Raven-1, Horned Lark-120, Black-capped Chickadee-215, Tufted Titmouse-113, Red-breasted Nuthatch-1, White-breasted Nuthatch-82, Brown Creeper-11, Carolina Wren-16, Golden-crowned Kinglet-4, Eastern Bluebird-46, American Robin-34, Gray Catbird-1, Northern Mockingbird-3, European Starling-871, Cedar Waxwing-145, American Tree Sparrow-104, Chipping Sparrow-1, Fox Sparrow-cw, Song Sparrow-36, Swamp Sparrow-2, White-throated Sparrow-24, Dark-eyed Junco 314, Northern Cardinal-184, Brown-headed Cowbird-1, Purple Finch-4, House Finch-49, American Goldfinch-152, House Sparrow-151.

Total Species: 75 + 2cw and Total Individuals: 5096

The Observers:

36 in 11 field parties totaling 17 hours and 21.5 miles on foot and 45 hours and 377.5 miles by car plus 5.5 hours and 8 miles owling; 23 watchers at feeders for 60.5 hours.

Total Party Hours: 62 and Total Party Miles: 399

We are most grateful to the those dedicated volunteers who faithfully reserve the date, year after year, to offer their services in a most co-operative way to cover the circle and make the count a resounding success. Thanks to each and every one but special recognition goes to our long time volunteers with twenty to thirty plus years- Ruth Crawford, Debra Darney, Helen Ferguson, Gene and Joanne Wilhelm, and Gene and Suzanne Butcher. We also greatly appreciate the help offered by John Stehle and the members of the Butler Outdoor Club (BOC) and Becky Lubold, and Eric Best and the watchers at Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC) and Cathy Setzer and workers of the Birdwatchers Store (BWS). We also extend a hearty welcome to all the new participants and especially young birder-

Brendyn Baptiste. Thanks also is to be given to Joanne Wilhelm for her financial support.

The Counters -with their years() of participation:

Dave Adams (5-BOC), Jean Adams (1-BOC), Rayanne Aiken (1-BOC), Betty Antal (5), Nancy Baker (13), Brendyn Baptiste (1), Beverly Barnett (7), Tom Baumgardner (8-BOC), Eric Best 1-JEEC), Steve Bickel (9- BOC), Grace Bickert (3), Larry and Marcia Brown (5), Gene (21) and Suzanne (30) Butcher, Lauren Collier (1), Mike Conlon (1-JEEC), Bob and Deanna Clouse (4), Don Cratty (1), Ruth Crawford (32), Dave(19) and Debra (20) Darney, Sheree Daugherty (1), Barbara Davis (16), Charles and Sharon Davis (13), Barb Dean (19), Helen Ferguson (39-JEEC), Candy Gonzales (9), Kathie Goodblood (4), Jeff Hall (1), Margaret and Roger Higbee (10), Debbie Kalbfleisch (2), Mary Alice Koeneke (1), Glenn Koppel (1), Becky Lubold (3-JEEC), Robert Madjarec (12),Reenie Merlino (3-BWS), Richard Nugent (9), Dan Roenisk (1-JEEC), Frederick Schwartz (1-BOC), Paula Sekeras (1-JEEC), Cathy Setzer (8-BWS), Becky Sheeler (9), Ann Souzar (1-JEEC), John Stehle (14-BOC), Theresa Stouffer (1), Mark (17)and Sandee (16) Swansiger with Bernie, Christy Tichy (6), Bob VanNewkirk (6), Tammy Veloski (1-BOC), Linda Wagner (14), Barb Wiles (1), Gene (33) and Joanne (21) Wilhelm and Dave Zell (1).

On a more personal note- My first introduction to a CBC was here in Trumbull County, OH but in 1982 I joined my sister Ruth Crawford in doing the Butler Count. Thank you all for your help over the many years since 1996 when Ruth and I first became your compilers and for the continued help when I began as solo compiler. You have been a dedicated group attested by the fact of the many years so many of you have devoted to our count. While I still plan to be counting next year, primary compiler duties will be taken over by Mary Alice Koeneke and Glenn Koppel. We welcome them and with your help look forward to the continued success of the Butler CBC.



CBC participants at Moraine

...photo by Jeff Hall

Many Thanks to Suzanne Butcher for serving as the Butler Christmas Bird Count Compiler for nineteen years!

December 28, 2014-49th Pleasantville CBC

Canada Goose – 148	Tufted Titmouse - 131
Am. Black Duck – 3	Red-breasted Nuthatch – 2
Mallard – 13	White-breasted Nuthatch – 129
Common Merganser - 90	Brown Creeper – 7
Ruffed Grouse - 13	Winter Wren 4
Wild Turkey – 52	Carolina Wren - 31
Pied-billed Grebe - 2	Golden-crowned Kinglet – 12
Cooper's Hawk - 1	E. Bluebird – 15
Bald Eagle – 15	Hermit Thrush– 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 11	Am. Robin - 7
Rock Pigeon – 79	Eur. Starling – 216
Mourning Dove – 50	Cedar Waxwing - 10
E. Screech Owl – 3	E. Towhee - 1
Barred Owl – 1	Am. Tree Sparrow – 46
Belted Kingfisher – 6	Song Sparrow – 10
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 20	White-throated Sparrow– 23
Downy Woodpecker - 56	Dark-eyed Junco – 366
Hairy Woodpecker – 24	N. Cardinal – 113
Pileated Woodpecker – 6	Red-winged Blackbird – 2
Blue Jay – 150	House Finch – 1
Am. Crow – 119	Pine Siskin - 32
Common Raven – 14	Am. Goldfinch – 111
Black-capped Chickadee – 436	House Sparrow – 138

Total 46 Species

2741 Individuals

Bold number indicates High count for that species.

Bold Species indicates new or unusual species for the count.

Notable species – E. Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird

Highest number ever for: Hairy Woodpecker, Common Raven, Winter Wren (ties), Carolina Wren

2nd highest numbers for: Bald Eagle, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch (ties)

3rd highest numbers for: Black-capped Chickadee

Unusual Species – E. Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird

Statistics: 8 species have been seen all 49 years, 8 species have been seen 48 of 49 years, 16 species have only been seen once.

Dec. 28, 2014: 7:15am to 5:15pm. Temp. 36-38F; Snow cover – up to 6", Still waters open, moving waters open; wind 0-5mph; rain a.m., overcast p.m.

Observers: 21 in field in 10 parties (the most we have ever had in the field).

Time/distance: 76.25 total party hours; 429 total party miles; including 23.25 hours & 25.75 miles on foot and 53 hours & 403.25 miles by car. Plus 1hrs and 2 miles owling.

Compiler: Russ States

111 East Fourth Street 814-676-6320

Oil City, PA 16301 pabirder@verizon.net

Count Circle includes area within 15 mile diameter circle, center 4 miles SSE of Pleasantville. Count area boundary includes Enterprise to the north, Tionesta to the East, Eagle Rock to the south, and Pa. Route 8 to the west.

*** Thanks to all who participated in the count this year.

Hope to see you again next year*** russ



Education News

Teachers: Apply NOW for Hog Island Audubon Camp Scholarship!

Each year Bartramian Audubon awards one scholarship for a local teacher to attend the "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week" session of Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. Scheduled for July 19-24, 2015, this session aims to inspire and empower both science and non-science teachers who seek practical approaches for integrating environmental education into their classes, and for engaging both children and adults with nature. Those who attend the camp become part of a legacy of Audubon education that began in 1936. Instructed by some of the most respected naturalists and environmental educators in the nation, they participate in interdisciplinary workshops and field trips that teach inquiry-based science in the context of the forest, intertidal and ocean ecosystems of the scenic Maine coast. Participants also find time to share ideas with fellow educators, enjoy the camp's delicious home cooking and explore the environs of historic Hog Island during this extraordinary learning adventure.

Applications for the Hog Island scholarship will be accepted until February 28, 2015. The scholarship application is available on our website bartramianaudubon.org or by contacting the chapter's Education Chair at 814-330-2550 or watersinger2@yahoo.com.

College/University Scholarships: Each year the chapter also awards two scholarships to deserving local college students in the field of Environmental Studies.

- The **Mike Alan Starker Environmental Studies Scholarship** is awarded to an undergraduate student at Slippery Rock University. Students apply in the spring of the year through the Department of Geography, Geology and the Environment. For more information click here: Mike A Starker Scholarship
- The **Helen R. Ferguson Fund Scholarship for Environmental Studies** is awarded to an undergraduate student majoring in environmental science at Westminster College, who has demonstrated excellence in the areas of environmental science and education. The awardee is selected by a faculty committee who oversees the environmental science major.

For more information about either of these scholarships contact the appropriate university departments.

**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.



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.....Russ States, Membership Chair

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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

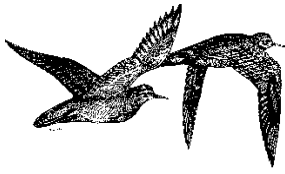
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send this form with payment to
**National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
PO Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL32142-2250**

**Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them
by NAS** COZU180Z
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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, FL 32142-2250**

Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them by NAS

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