

BULLETIN

VOLUME 81, NO. 3



In this issue: Audubon is working to tackle the problem of discarded fishing line.

Fall/Winter 2016

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Jim Bonner, *Executive Director*

Brian Shema, *Operations Director*

Chris Kubiak, *Education Director*

Rachel Handel, *Communications Director*

BEECHWOOD STAFF

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Scott Detwiler, *Environmental Educator*

Roxanne Swann, *Plant Center Coordinator*

Barbara Heck, *Office Manager*

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Taylor Lanier, *Store Associate*

SUCCOP NATURE PARK STAFF

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BULLETIN

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Audubon is planning to build and install containers like these to collect fishing line and keep it out of the environment where it could harm birds and other animals.



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This Audubon View

While our focus is usually on topics in southwestern Pennsylvania, or at least on issues impacting our flyway, we believe that program announced on the other side of the world deserves attention. New Zealand has long had a significant problem with introduced animals. Some, like rabbits, were introduced on purpose for both food and sport. Others, like rats, were introduced accidentally, as hitchhikers on ships. And others, like stoats, were purposely released in an effort to reduce the out-of-control rabbit population.



Regardless of how they arrived, these introduced species have caused tremendous problems for the New Zealand ecosystem. The introduced predators, in particular, have taken a toll on the nation's bird life. A number of native species have gone extinct and many more are currently endangered, including the island's iconic Kiwi.

New Zealand has been successful in ridding invasive predators from a number of smaller islands, but native species on the two main islands continue to be under major threat. This summer, the government announced adoption of a major new initiative with a very ambitious goal. Predator Free New Zealand plans to make the country predator-free by 2050, formally adopting a target date to eradicate all pests that threaten New Zealand's native birds.

In an interesting twist that we could only hope to see in America, the major opposition to the plan is that not enough money (\$28 million) is being allocated to kick-start the program. The opposing political party is asking for a much greater investment by the government and a long-term funding plan.

Let's hope that environmental issues some day get back to being a unifying issue in the United States—and that our political parties start arguing over which one wants to support them the most!

—Jim

DIRECTIONS TO *Our Reserves*

Trails are open year-round, 7 days a week, dawn to dusk.

BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE:

Take Route 28 north from Pittsburgh to Route 8 North/Butler exit. Turn right at first traffic light on to Kittanning Road, which becomes Dorseyville Road. Travel 4.3 miles and Beechwood will be on your left.

SUCCOP NATURE PARK: Take Route 8 North from Pittsburgh or South from Butler and turn on to West Airport Road. Once on West Airport Road, Succop Nature Park's driveway will be the first road on your left.

TODD NATURE RESERVE: Take Route 28 North from Pittsburgh to the Butler/Freeport Exit 17. Turn right at Route 356 North, and then right at Monroe Road. Travel about 2 miles, and make a right at Kepple Road. Travel 1.5 miles and Todd Nature Reserve will be on your right. Park in the lot and please sign in at the informational kiosk at the cabin. Trail maps are located at the kiosk.



AUDUBON IS *Working to Tackle*

THE PROBLEM OF DISCARDED FISHING LINE

Monofilament fishing line is an amazingly strong substance that can exist for a very long time in the environment. More than one million birds die each year from marine debris including discarded fishing line, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

When animals get caught in monofilament line, it's often a slow and often agonizing death. Starvation is the most common demise for these birds and animals as the line wraps around their neck or accumulates in the stomach, preventing the ingestion of food. It can also immobilize the animals by entangling the legs, securing them to stationary objects.

Audubon is taking the lead in addressing this serious environmental issue locally by enlisting the help from our inaugural Master Birder class. Participants in this course commit to volunteer a minimum of 50 hours to ASWP for at least each of the two years following the end of the program.

As part of their volunteer hours, these Master Birders will survey the extent of the problem across our region and inspect several local fishing areas and establish "hot spots" where abandoned monofilament line problem is significant. From these established hot spots, the Master Birders will choose locations for collection bins. They'll build and install the bins and collect the discarded line. Ultimately, the line will be sent to The Berkley Conservation Institute who recycles the discarded line into new products.

The most immediate outcome will be the removal of large amounts of discarded monofilament fishing line from the environment, while significantly reducing threats to birds and wildlife. The collection of line and the established recycling bins by ASWP's Master Birders will also help to raise awareness of the threat, foster stewardship of our local environment, and help to save our local bird and animal populations.

If you'd like to help with his project, by building bins or donating materials, please contact Chris Kubiak at (412) 963-6100.

Our SUPPORTERS

ASWP gratefully acknowledges the generous support received from the following corporations, foundations and trust funds:

\$50,000+

Allegheny Regional
Asset District

The Heinz Endowments

Laurel Foundation

Richard King Mellon Foundation

\$10,000—\$49,999

The Ahmanson Foundation

The Double Eagle Foundation

The Florence
Boyer Foundation

The Pittsburgh Foundation

Redevelopment Authority
of Allegheny County

The White Pine Fund

\$5,000—\$9,999

Fox Chapel Garden Club

Penn Township
Commissioners

Shannon Wilson
Charitable Fund

\$1,000—\$4,999

Dollar Bank Foundation

The Garden Club of
Allegheny County

Margaret Evans
Tuten Foundation

PA American Water

PA Department of
Environmental Protection

\$500—\$999

Alice & Gibson
Buchanan Fund

Guyasuta Garden Club

Town & Country
Garden Club

Fall/Winter

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS ONLINE AT
ASWP.ORG OR BY CALLING (412) 963-6100.

Special Events

CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

October 21 & 22 / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
October 29 / Succop Nature Park
6:30, 7, or 7:30pm Start Time

Delight in our annual autumn experience! Fireflies guide you on our trails to encounter larger-than-life costumed nocturnal creatures. Hear stories from a Great Horned Owl, observe the acrobatics of the Flying Squirrel, go batty with Little Brown Bat, and more. Crafts and refreshments provided. Come in costume for twice the fun. This event takes place even if it's raining. Registration required. \$6 member; \$10 nonmember; under 2 is free.

MEMBERS' HOLIDAY SALE AT AUDUBON NATURE STORE: ASWP MEMBERS' EXCLUSIVE PRE-HOLIDAY SALE EVENT

November 19, 9am–5pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Attention ASWP Members! Start your holiday shopping with an extra 10% off at Audubon Nature Store! That's 20% off on birdseed, feeders, books, guides, journals, jewelry, personal accessories and toys as well as other items for nature lovers of all ages. Plus, get first dibs on our 2016 selection of holiday gifts, greeting cards, ornaments, home decor and more during this one-day event! Not a member? Join today and receive the 20% discount as well as a copy of ASWP's Western Pennsylvania Birding Trail Guide! Some restrictions apply.

GIRLS & DOLLS HOLIDAY TEA

December 3, 11am & 3pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Bring your favorite little girl, along with her doll, for a tea party fit for a princess! We'll have tea, snacks, holiday carols, and a craft. These events fill quickly, so register early. \$20 member; \$25 nonmember.

AUDUBON NATURE STORE HOLIDAY SALE

December 3, 9am–5pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Shop Audubon Nature Store during this one-day sale for special savings on all things holiday!

Calendars, cards, candles, decorations, ornaments, and more will be on sale throughout the day. Plus, don't forget to enter your chance to win an ASWP gift basket.

ASWP VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

December 7, 11am / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Our volunteers are the heart of our organization! Volunteers, please join us for our annual potluck luncheon that celebrates all of the amazing talents you bring to ASWP.

HOLIDAY TEA

December 10, 11am & 3pm / Succop Nature Park

Succop Nature Park is beautifully decorated for the holidays! Join us for tea, snacks, holiday carols, and a craft. Cost: \$20 member; \$25 nonmember.

KIDS' CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve: Check aswp.org for time and date
January 7, 10am–12pm / Succop Nature Park

Kids and parents are invited to participate in a family-friendly version of the Pittsburgh Christmas Bird Count. Our naturalist will guide you. This event is appropriate for school-age and up. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Advance registration is required. Free.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Call (412) 963-6100 to join one of our ASWP Christmas Bird Counts! Please visit our website, www.aswp.org for dates, times, and locations of these counts and others in our region.

Pittsburgh (includes Beechwood): TBD

South Butler (includes Succop Nature Park): January 7

Buffalo Creek Valley (includes Todd Nature Reserve): December 17

Birding & Nature Hikes

BIRDS & MORE NATURALIST LED MORNING WALKS

Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve: Every Wednesday at 9am; Free.

Succop Nature Park: Every Thursday 9 am; Free. (No walk November 24)

HARRISON HILLS PARK BIRD OUTING

October 1, 8am–10am / Harrison Hills Park

Join an Audubon naturalist in a birding excursion at Harrison Hills Park. Free.

BIRDING 101

November 5, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Birdwatching is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the United States. Come learn the basics of birding and why watching our feathered friends is such a captivating hobby. We will cover binocular use and calibration, choosing a field guide, and birding ethics. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

WINTER BIRDING WITH AUDUBON

December 3, 12–2pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

December 3, 12–2pm / Succop Nature Park

What birds are showing up this year at Beechwood and Succop? How do birds survive the cold of winter? Come explore with our naturalists and observe what species of birds are to be discovered and some of their strategies of survival. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

WINTER WALKABOUT: SIGNS OF LIFE

January 14, 2–3:30pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

January 15, 2–3:30pm / Succop Nature Park

Even in the midst of winter the forest is teeming with life! Join a naturalist for the subtle and not-so-subtle signs of animal activity on the Reserve. Program is outside. Adults and families. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

Audubon at Night

OWL PROWL

October 14 & November 19, 7pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

October 15, November 5, 7pm / Todd Nature Reserve

Learn about our local owls inside, then search for them on the trails. Appropriate for all ages. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

WOLF MOON HIKE

January 21, 5:30–7pm / Succop Nature Park

The wolf moon is named for the lean, dead-of-winter times of January—but survival never takes time off.

Search the landscape for resources for a cold winter's night under a full moon. Eat supper before you come! We'll warm up around the campfire at the end. This is an outside program and is appropriate for adults. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

Preschool Programs

FLEDGLINGS: AGES 3-5

Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8, Jan 12 / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13 / Succop Nature Park

Program runs 10–11:15am

Give your 3-5 year old a head start on a lifetime of loving the outdoors. Fledglings programs incorporate stories, a walk, and activities to introduce new and fun nature themes to young participants. Parent or caregiver must be present. \$4 member; \$6 nonmember.

October: Chattering Chipmunks **December:** Holiday for the Birds

November: Leaf Man

January: Sensational Snow

Hands-on Programs:

Family, Lifelong Learning, Educator, & Citizen Science

PROJECT WET

October 1, 9am–3pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Project WET is an interdisciplinary water education program that provides K-12 teachers and other educators with hands-on classroom activities through training workshops. The activities incorporate important environmental lessons into all disciplines including the sciences, mathematics, fine arts, social studies, language arts, and music. They are perfect for use in formal and non-formal settings. Participants will receive the 600-page, 64-lesson plan guide. \$60. Act 48 hours available.

NATURAL SKINCARE & MEDICINAL PLANTS WORKSHOP

October 8, 2–4pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

October 9, 2–4pm / Succop Nature Park

For countless generations indigenous people used plants to cure and prevent illness. This workshop will explore the historical uses of native plants in healing. We will then create a natural plant based skin care product for participants to take home. \$12 Member; \$15 nonmember.

***The information in this workshop is meant to be educational only and not intended as medical advice or diagnoses for health problems.*

GLACIATION

October 15, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

October 8, 10am–12pm / Succop Nature Park

This program will help you imagine what Pennsylvania was like during the last Ice Age. We will also explore unique glacial features and use Google Earth to locate them.

Just a geologic instant ago, our state was alive with megafauna; we will also attempt to understand why these creatures disappeared so quickly. \$6 members, \$10 non-members.

THE SIBERIAN CRANE

October 25, 7pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Working with conservationists in Russia, China and Iran, John Canter discusses the life history and challenges that face the critically endangered Siberian Crane. Free.

WINTER BIRD FEEDING: FOOD, FEEDERS, WATER & SHELTER

November 5, 12–1pm / Audubon Nature Store at Beechwood Farms

Winter winds and cold nights can be challenging for our fine feathered friends. Come join ASWP's Education Director, Chris Kubiak, to learn what types of seed and feeders are best for feeding birds during the winter months. Chris will also discuss ways to provide water and shelter for our resident birds.

WINTER BERRIES FOR BIRDS

November 13, 2–4pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

November 12, 2–4pm / Succop Nature Park

When winter sets in birds depend on plant resources to provide critical nutrients as insects become scarce. We will discuss native plants that help sustain birds during the harsh winter months. Participants will then be guided on a short hike to observe many of the plants discussed in a natural setting. \$6 members, \$10 nonmembers.

CITIZEN SCIENCE: CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT & PROJECT FEEDERWATCH TRAINING*

December 3, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

December 3, 2–4pm / Succop Nature Park

Learn or review the birds most likely to be seen for both Project Feederwatch and Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Counts. Beginners welcome! Act 48 credit available. Classroom session and a short birding walk, conditions permitting. Appropriate for adults and interested youth. Free.

DECORATE A MINI TREE

December 4, 2–4pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Get into the holiday spirit by decorating a mini tree using natural materials. \$35 members, \$40 nonmembers. Registration required 1 week prior to workshop for gathering of materials.

YULE LOG HIKE & CRAFT

December 10, 4–6pm / Succop Nature Park

We will take a hike out into the woods to gather natural materials to decorate a birch Yule log.

We will drill candle holes and level your log so that it will stay in proper position when you use it to decorate for the holidays. \$6 members, \$10 non-members.

ICE FISHING

January 14, 10am–12pm / Succop Nature Park

Try your hand at ice fishing with one of our educators on the Succop Nature Park pond. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember. Please note: this program is weather dependent.

CITIZEN SCIENCE: FROG WATCH

January 29, 2–4pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve & Succop Nature Park

Learn how to identify local frogs and submit your counts to the Frog Watch citizen science data collection. Also, watch the calendar in April for an evening session at the pond and certification opportunity. Appropriate for adults and interested youth. Free.

*Citizen Science programs are offered for free through a generous grant from Dominion Foundation.

Scout Programs

CUB & GIRL SCOUT BADGE DAY

October 8, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms & Succop Nature Park

Choose your nature-related badge or activity! This program is for Cub Scouts and elementary Girl Scouts and is booked by group or den. Contact Scott Detwiler at (412) 963-6100 to make your reservation. \$7.50 per scout; one adult chaperone (free) required per den. (Other dates available by arrangement, subject to minimum fees.)

BIRD STUDY MERIT BADGE

November 12, 9am–3pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Earn your Boy Scout Bird Study Merit Badge. We will complete all the requirements. Bring your lunch and Blue Card. Be dressed for inside and outside in any weather. \$25 per scout.

Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
OCTOBER 21 & 22
Succop Nature Park
OCTOBER 29

CREATURES OF THE NIGHT
A Family-Friendly Autumn Event

COME IN COSTUME FOR MORE FUN!

Take a guided evening walk outdoors and meet larger-than-life costumed nocturnal creatures.
Register at aswp.org or by calling (412) 963-6100

FALL/WINTER 2016 *Calendar of Events*

Beechwood

OCTOBER

- 1 Project Wet
- 5 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 8 Natural Skincare & Medicinal Plants Workshop
- 8 Cub & Girl Scout Badge Day
- 12 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 13 Fledglings
- 14 Owl Prowl
- 15 Glaciation
- 19 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 21–22 Creatures of the Night
- 25 The Siberian Crane
- 26 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike

NOVEMBER

- 2 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 5 Birding 101
- 5 Winter Bird Feeding: Food, Feeders, Water, & Shelter
- 9 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 10 Fledglings
- 12 Scouts: Bird Study Merit Badge
- 13 Winter Berries for Birds
- 16 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 19 Members' Holiday Sale at Audubon Nature Store
- 19 Owl Prowl
- 23, 30 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike

DECEMBER

- 3 Audubon Nature Store Holiday Sale
- 3 Winter Birding With Audubon
- 3 Citizen Science: *Christmas Bird Count & Project Feederwatch Training*
- 4 Decorate a Mini Tree
- 7 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 7 Audubon Volunteer Luncheon
- 8 Fledglings
- 14, 21, 28 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike

JANUARY

- 4, 11 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 12 Fledglings
- 14 Winter Walkabout: Signs of Life
- 18, 25 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 29 Citizen Science: Frog Watch

Succop Nature Park

OCTOBER

- 6 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 8 Glaciation

- 8 Cub & Girl Scout Badge Day
- 9 Natural Skincare & Medicinal Plants Workshop
- 11 Fledglings
- 13, 20, 27 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 29 Creatures of the Night

NOVEMBER

- 3 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 8 Fledglings
- 10 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 12 Winter Berries for Birds
- 17 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike

DECEMBER

- 1 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 3 Girls & Dolls Holiday Tea
- 3 Winter Birding With Audubon
- 3 Citizen Science: *Christmas Bird Count & Project Feederwatch Training*
- 8 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 10 Holiday Tea
- 10 Yule Log Hike & Craft
- 13 Fledglings
- 15, 22, 29 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike

JANUARY

- 5 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 7 South Butler Christmas Bird Count
- 12 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 14 Ice Fishing
- 15 Winter Walkabout: Signs of Life
- 17 Kids' Christmas Bird Count
- 19 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 21 Wolf Moon Hike
- 26 Birds & More Naturalist Led Hike
- 29 Citizen Science: Frog Watch

Todd Nature Reserve

OCTOBER

- 15 Owl Prowl

NOVEMBER

- 5 Owl Prowl

DECEMBER

- 17 Buffalo Creek Valley Christmas Bird Count

Harrison Hills Park

OCTOBER

- 1 Bird Outing

AUDUBON NATURE STORE

Special Events

MEMBERS' HOLIDAY SALE

Join us on November 19 from 9am–5pm for a Members Only holiday shopping experience! Members take an extra 10% off at Audubon Nature Store, including birdseed, feeders, books, guides, journals, jewelry, personal accessories and toys as well as other items for nature lovers of all ages. You'll also be the first to see our 2016 selection of holiday gifts, greeting cards, ornaments, home decor and more during this one-day event! If you join as a member on that day, you'll receive the 20% discount as well as a copy of ASWP's Western Pennsylvania Birding Trail Guide! Some restrictions apply.

WINTER BIRD FEEDING: FOOD, FEEDERS, WATER & SHELTER

Winter winds and cold nights can be challenging for our local birds. So join us in the Audubon Nature on November 5 from 12–1pm to learn what you can do to help them out.

Chris Kubiak, Audubon's education director, will be on hand to show the types of seed and feeders that are best for birds during the winter months. Chris will also discuss ways to provide water and shelter for our resident birds.

HOLIDAY SALE

On December 3 from 9am–5pm, we'll hold a one-day sale featuring special savings on all things holiday! Calendars, cards, candles, decorations, ornaments, and more will be on sale throughout the day. And while you're here, register for a chance to win an ASWP gift basket.

ONLINE FEATURES: FREE DELIVERY TO SUCCOP NATURE PARK

Visit our online store at aswp.org to order bird seed and feeders to keep the birds happy all winter long. Simply place your order and we'll have your merchandise available at Succop Nature Park on the following Monday. Audubon Nature Store is located at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, 614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel.

Memorials & Honors

Memorials

DR. HERBERT LEVIT

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Obrien

Julie Marx

Beatrice (Bibe) Schlesinger

Larrimor's (Carl Slesinger, Lisa Slesinger,
Tom Michael, Ray Harney, Melissa Swenda)

Gail & Andrew Schmitt

Lyla Alcantara & Eric Marx

Judith Campbell

PAM LINHART

Dr. & Mrs. E. Reese Owens

Betty & Linwood Butler

JANE DYKE WENTLING

Dr. & Mrs. E. Reese Owens

Nancy & Dan Fales

Jane & Harry A. Thompson II

Leslie & Jim Bonner

Helen F. Mathieson

Stephanie & Thomas Flannery

Jeanie & Thomas Harbeck

JANE DYKE WENTLING

(CONTINUED)

Sally & Robert Tarbi

Laurel Foundation

Theresa & Edwin Scheetz

A. CRAIG SUCCOP & A. ERNEST SUCCOP II

Reverend Dr. Augustus &

Mrs. Succop

RONALD MORRIS

Lee & Richard Wilson

Barbara Todd

Cynthia & Bill Cooley

Mr. & Mrs. Verne Koch

Friends of the Kerr
Memorial Museum

Judith Wentz

Peggy Standish

Kathleen & Judson Morris

Ann Ostergaard

Tingle Barnes

Sue & Russell Orkin

Jan & Bob Shoop

RONALD MORRIS

(CONTINUED)

Nancy Brownell

Gloria & Donald Casey

ALVIN MILLER

PNC Data Center Engineers

NORMA CRESSMAN

Lisa Farabaugh

PAMELA LINHART

Betty & Linwood Butler

ANNA MAE

PATTERSON

Donna & Robert Neff

MARGARET KINGSTON

Laura Golensky & Anthony Seneca

JOHN BIONDA

Employees of Clean Air Engineering

BRUCE URTAN HILL, JR.

Kim Belfield

Jess & Betsey Owens

(Home is Where the Nest Is Campaign)

JOHN KURTO

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Fornadel

(Home is Where the Nest Is Campaign)

CAROLYN ARMSTRONG HITESHEW

Jo Ann & Tom Succop

Honors

BETSEY OWENS' VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Susie and Jim Parker

CONSTANCE MORRISON

Gail Holtz

NANCY FALES

Estate of Jane Dyke Wentling

JOANNE & DON LIGHTNER

Churchill Garden Club

News and PROGRAM UPDATES



CHIMNEY SWIFT TOWERS IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY PARKS

As we previously reported, Audubon continues to install Chimney Swift Towers in Allegheny County Parks. Thanks to Allegheny County Parks Foundation, The Pittsburgh Foundation, and the Allegheny County Parks, Audubon is in the process of installing 100 Chimney Swift Towers in nine county parks. The Chimney Swift Towers provide critical nesting and roosting structures for swifts in our area—they act as faux chimneys, which the birds use to raise young and to roost at night.

The first tower was installed in May 2016. Since then we have installed 22 towers in North Park, one in Harrison Hills Park, and 19 in South Park. We are now turning our attention to Boyce Park and Hartwood Acres. Each of these parks will get eight towers. Most towers contain a four-sided kiosk which features educational graphics that provide information on the importance of Chimney Swifts, and the reason for the towers. The towers have been met with interest and excitement by park users.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS & ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD WINNERS

Three new members officially joined ASWP's board of directors during our annual members banquet on July 14, 2016: James M. Gockley, Hiller Hardie, and Robin Zacherl.

That same evening we presented our environmental awards to: Peggy Perdue (Betty Abbott Excellence In Teaching Award), Three Rivers Birding Club (Trustee Award Winner), and Doug Gross of the Pennsylvania Game Commission (W. E. Clyde Todd Award Winner).

The winners of the Beulah Frey Scholarship were: Juliana Sandford, Jacob Seiler, and Harrison Smith.

Check out our website, www.aswp.org, to see photos from the annual members banquet.

REDUCING EMISSIONS WITH OUR NATURAL GAS POWERED CARS

As we finish what will be the hottest year globally on record, we know that the reality of climate change is here. What is Audubon doing to combat the problem? Audubon continues to lead by example. In the past year we purchased two compressed natural gas (CNG) Honda Civics thanks to generous grants from EQT and Honda North. These vehicles have been used for driving between our properties and to offsite educational programming.

One benefit of natural gas is that it produces lower carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions per vehicle mile traveled compared to gasoline. The Energy Information Administration estimates that CNG cars produce, on average, 27.5% less CO₂ emissions than diesel or gasoline car with minimal air pollution, or "smog." A single CNG truck will offset CO₂ emissions equivalent to 300 passenger cars over its lifetime.

From July 2015 to August 2016, ASWP educators and staff logged a total of 6,854 miles in our two CNG Honda Civics. A comparable gasoline powered Civic would have emitted 1.55 metric tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere with those number of miles. When you do the math, our CNG vehicles saved 0.43 metric tons of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere! Thanks to the generosity of EQT and Honda North, Audubon is well on its way to becoming carbon neutral and doing our part to mitigate our impact on the environment.

JOIN THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB FOR MEETINGS!

Join us at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve on
October 18 and November 15. Meetings start at 7pm.

*October: Photo Contest Winners & Election of Officers
November: Pot Luck Dinner & Member Photos*

AN AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP MAKES *A Great Gift!*

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) is a nonprofit organization supported in large part through membership dues. You can also join or renew your membership at www.aswp.org.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS: 10% Discount on Nature Store Purchases & Bird Seed, Subscription to Bulletin Newsletter, Library & Teacher Resource Center Lending Privileges, Tuition Discounts & Advance Notice on Education Programs, Invitations to Nature Store Open Houses & Special Events, and a 100% Good Feeling for Supporting Environmental Education.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New or Renewal Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservationist: \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household: \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Steward: \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalist: \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Level: \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecologist: \$250 | |

Go online now or mail this form with payment to:
ASWP Membership, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

Your Name: _____
E-mail: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Employer (for matching gifts): _____

IF THIS IS A GIFT MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE COMPLETE ABOVE SECTION & THE FOLLOWING:

Recipient's Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____

NOTE: Gift memberships will be sent directly to the recipient.

How to list your recognition on the recipient note:

PAYMENT BY:

Check Enclosed Credit Card
Credit Card No.: _____
Expiration Date: _____

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO ASWP *Connects People to Birds & Nature*

As the leaves begin to change and there's a slight chill to the air, it's hard to believe that yet another year is winding down. With 2017 just right around the corner, there is no better time than now to make a donation to Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania! Your end-of-the-year support makes a big difference in Audubon's success. Not only do you get the satisfaction knowing that you help ASWP—but your donation, when received by December 31, can also be deducted from your 2016 income taxes.

This is a great way to help us connect the people of southwestern Pennsylvania to birds and nature while reducing your taxes at the same time. In addition to the feel-good knowledge that you're supporting Western Pennsylvania's premier environmental organization, consider the tax write-off to be our holiday gift to you!

Please contact our Development Office at (412) 963-6100 for further information.



614 DORSEYVILLE ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15238

*Your Online
Holiday Shopping
CAN SUPPORT ASWP*

Your holiday shopping can benefit ASWP! Register, then shop online through smile.amazon.com and .5% of your purchases will be donated directly to Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania.

It doesn't cost you anything! Visit smile.amazon.com and when prompted to choose a charity, type in "Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania" to choose us as your charity.

You must shop through smile.amazon.com (not just amazon.com) for us to get this benefit.

Thank you!

Celebrate the Holidays
WITH AUDUBON!

Our holiday tea programs fill up quickly, so register today!

AUDUBON NATURE STORE MEMBERS' HOLIDAY SALE

November 19 at Beechwood

GIRLS & DOLLS HOLIDAY TEA

December 3 at Succop

AUDUBON NATURE STORE HOLIDAY SALE

December 3 at Beechwood

DECORATE A MINI TREE

December 4 at Beechwood

YULE LOG HIKE & CRAFT

December 10 at Succop

PRESCHOOLERS: HOLIDAY FOR THE BIRDS

December 8 at Beechwood & December 13 at Succop

HOLIDAY TEA

December 10 at Succop