



BULLETIN

— SPRING / SUMMER 2023 —



In this issue: Welcoming Back Spring Migrants

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Blackburnian Warblers will soon be returning from their overwintering grounds in Central and South America.

Photo courtesy of Ryan Leimbach, Audubon Photography Awards.



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This Audubon View

This spring, installation of solar panels on the T. W. Phillips Barn at Succop Nature Park will take place. It's part of a larger initiative that allows Audubon Society of Western PA to take another step toward net energy and carbon neutrality. Future phases will include additional panels on the garage at Succop Nature Park, as well as the barn, administration, and education buildings at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. The Buffalo Creek Nature Park site is not ideal for roof-top solar, but a ground-mount or offsite system is under consideration.



Although the installation is just beginning, plans have been long in the works. When we remodeled the T. W. Phillips Barn in 2019 and built the new Babcock Nature Center at Buffalo Creek Nature Park in 2021, we chose to go with all electric furnaces, heat pumps, and hot water equipment.

For the past five years, any time we needed to replace a furnace or other natural gas-powered piece of equipment, we've tried to do so with an electric one. New string trimmers, leaf blowers, and other trail and landscaping equipment have also gone electric. As our existing vehicles age out and need to be replaced, it will be with EVs. It may be a while before everything is converted, but every step is one in the right direction.

In addition to reducing our carbon footprint, we will also be saving money. ASWP spends around \$30,000 a year to heat and power our facilities. If we are able to generate the same amount of power we consume, we will be green and save some green!

Best,

-Jim

OUR RESERVES, NATIVE PLANT NURSERY, AND NATURE STORES

BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE

614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Audubon Nature Store & Native Plant Nursery / Dogs not permitted on trails

BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK

154 Monroe Road, Sarver, PA 16055

Audubon Nature Store / Dogs on leash are welcome

SUCCOP NATURE PARK

185 W. Airport Road in Penn Township, Butler, PA 16002

Audubon Nature Store / Dogs on leash are welcome

TODD NATURE RESERVE

367 Kepple Road, Sarver, PA 16055

No restrooms or other facilities / Dogs not permitted on trails

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION: For accessibility needs or questions about any of our sites, please contact Brian Shema at (412) 963-6100 or at bshema@aswp.org. For accessibility needs or questions about any of our programs, please contact Chris Kubiak at (412) 963-6100 or ckubiak@aswp.org. All other questions regarding accessibility or inclusion can be directed to Jim Bonner at (412) 963-6100 or jbonner@aswp.org.



Welcoming Back SPRING MIGRANTS



Cerulean Warbler

Spring—the glorious time of the year when winter (finally) fully releases its grasp and nature comes alive. It’s a time when so many things are changing, it’s impossible to take it all in without a deliberate slowing of life’s pace. As author Anne Lamott once said, “I am going to pay attention to the Spring. I am going to look around at all of the flowers and look up at the hectic trees. I am going to close my eyes and listen.”

While new life pops from the ground and year-round bird residents begin to sing Spring songs, there’s another change happening—the annual bird migration that takes place regardless of whether you notice it or not.

Our migrant birds overwinter in the warmer climates of Central and South America to escape the harsh weather and lessened food resources of the frozen north. But in early Spring, as day length increases, the birds’ hormones kick in and send a signal to return north and raise babies. Migration is a grueling journey filled with risk, but the reward is longer days in insect-filled summertime forests—where the birds’ chances of success are much greater.

So north they go, their wings carrying them perhaps hundreds of miles at a time until they reach their preferred breeding grounds. For some, this is a 3,000-mile journey in total.

The trip isn’t easy. To tip the odds in their favor, birds make a number of calculated decisions to lessen the risks. For starters, they migrate at nighttime which lowers their chances of being eaten by other creatures. (Most predators capable of catching a flighted bird are roosting at night). On clear nights, the celestial sky provides clues to the most direct path northward, and cool nighttime temperatures offer a welcoming environment for physically demanding exercise. Flying at night also presents the opportunity for daytime refueling.

Migrating birds may fly into the wee hours of the night, dropping into a local greenspace or woodlot to rest until the sun comes up. At daylight, they shift focus to finding the food needed to replenish energy reserves. These stopping points are known as stopover habitat and are a critically important component of a bird’s successful journey. Without stopover habitat, a bird struggles to find food to fuel its continuing trek. In the case of migrating songbirds, a local woodlot will contain vitally important insect larvae, the life blood of a songbird’s journey.

Stopover habitat comes in all shapes and sizes—and can include your own backyard. If you have mature trees, it’s likely that hungry songbirds have graced your yard in years past. Even better—if your property includes native species and vertical structures (mature trees, understory trees, and some shrub layer plants) you’re likely supporting migrant songbirds via the treat of healthy insects. When you consider that some of these migrating bird species have another 1,000 miles to go beyond your yard, it’s gratifying to know that you’ve provided a delicious smorgasbord to fuel them on!

If learning about the birds’ journeys has you on the lookout for Spring migrants—including colorful warblers—we recommend that you find a forested edge, preferably one that faces the rising sun. These areas come alive with insect activity first thing in the morning. Watch the upper portions of the trees for movement and then try to track any birds you see. They’ll move fast so you also need to be pretty quick. When your efforts pay off, you’ll be rewarded with one of the best moments of Spring—the sight of vibrant birds sporting their bright, colorful plumage.

Photo: Mathew Malwitz, Audubon Photography Awards

WARBLERS TO WATCH FOR

During Spring migration, warblers head north as harbingers of the warmer days ahead. Want to see these beautiful birds in person? Pick up new binoculars at our Nature Stores and join us for Spring Migration Hikes (visit aswp.org for our calendar of events). Here are some of our favorite warblers that visit Western Pennsylvania:



BAY-BREASTED WARBLER *Photo: Dan Mendenhall, ASWP*

Overwinters in South America, the Caribbean, and Central America. Breeds in the boreal spruce-fir forests of eastern and central Canada.

Feeds primarily on insects and spiders, especially the spruce budworm. Nests are typically constructed in the lower portion of a spruce or fir tree.

Fun Fact: In autumn they closely resemble Blackpoll Warblers, despite looking unlike them in summer.



BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Photo: Kevin Sim, Audubon Photography Awards*

Overwinters in South America. Breeds in forests of northern North America, from Alaska to Canada to the mountains of New York and New England.

Feeds on insects and can catch bugs while in flight. One of the latest spring migrants, Blackpoll Warblers sing while searching for food, often hiding among leaves and branches in deciduous trees and shrubs. The song is a quick series of staccato “si” note, usually softer at the end.

Fun Fact: Its non-stop long-distance migration over open water—averaging 2,000 miles—is one of the longest distance non-stop overwater flights ever recorded for a migratory songbird.



BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER *Photo: Ryan Leimbach, Audubon Photography Awards*

Overwinters in Central America and South America. They breed in eastern North America, from southern Canada to the Great Lakes region and New England.

Nests in hemlock trees, which are facing decline due to the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The birds mostly eat insects but will also include berries in their diets. They forage in the treetops.

Fun Fact: During migration, Blackburnian Warblers often join local mixed foraging flocks of species such as chickadees, kinglets, and nuthatches.



MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Photo: Owen Deutsch, Audubon Photography Awards*

Overwinters in Mexico, Panama, and parts of the Caribbean. Breeding range is northern Canada, (Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec), Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Their main food source is caterpillars—but also consume beetles, butterflies, spiders, and fruit.

Fun Fact: Researchers have observed two different types of songs used by male Magnolia Warblers during the Spring migration season and the breeding season. One is used for courtship and the other is used to mark territory each day.



CERULEAN WARBLER *Photos: Mathew Malwitz & Gary Robinette, Audubon Photography Awards*

Overwinters on the eastern slopes of the Andes Mountains in South America. They breed in hardwood forests from Tennessee to Ontario—the majority of the population breeds in the forests of the Appalachian Mountains.

Are insectivorous and predominantly feed on insect larvae, though these warblers will take winged insects by foraging high in forest canopies.

Fun Fact: these birds display strong sexual dimorphism: Adult males have cerulean blue and white upperparts, with a black necklace across the breast and black streaks on the back and flanks. Females and immature birds have bluish-green upperparts, a pale stripe over the eye, no streaking, and are yellow below.



Startling Fact: This species is rated as near-threatened on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of endangered species, indicating it is under risk of becoming extinct in the near future. The population of the Cerulean Warblers has faced rapid decline, though in recent years this decline has slowed. Deforestation in its breeding and non-breeding range continues to reduce its available habitat.



NASHVILLE WARBLER *Photo: Gary Rasmussen, Audubon Photography Awards*

Overwinters in south Texas, Mexico, and Central America. Nashville Warblers breed in two distinct areas: Canada and the northeastern United States, and the western United States. The birds are also found less commonly in the Appalachians of Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

They consume mostly insects and forage by gleaning in the lower parts of trees and shrubs, frequently flicking their tails. In winter, they join together into loose flocks and sometimes join mixed-species feeding flocks.

Fun Fact: The Nashville Warbler was originally described by Alexander Wilson in 1811. Although named after Nashville, Tennessee, the Nashville warbler only visits that area during migration.

Spring/Summer

PROGRAM SCHEDULE



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

Events take place at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve (BFNR), Succop Nature Park (SNP), Buffalo Creek Nature Park (BCNP), Todd Nature Reserve (TNR), or online via Zoom. Register online at aswp.org or call (412) 963-6100.

SOME EVENTS WE JUST CAN'T PLAN IN ADVANCE!

If you're interested in getting on a list to be notified about pop-up events, please let us know by contacting us: register@aswp.org.

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Special Events

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY OPENING DAY SALE

Saturday, May 13, 9am–5pm / BFNR

Native plants attract and support birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects—and they're beautiful, too! We'll have a wide selection of true western Pennsylvania native perennials, shrubs, and trees available and staff on hand to help you choose the right native plants for your yard. An extra 10% discount will be offered— that's 20% off for ASWP members and 10% off for non-members. Can't make it on the sale date? Native plants will be available for sale at the Beechwood Nature Store through October.

BIRDS AND BLOOMS HIKE + ASK THE EXPERT

Thursday, May 18 / BFNR

Hike: 9–11am; Ask the Expert: 11am–1pm

Did you know that May 18 is Pennsylvania's Native Species Day? Join Audubon for a special naturalist-led hike to explore the connection between birds and native plant species. Then stop by the "Ask The Expert" table in the native plant nursery to learn more about improving habitat by gardening with native plants. This event is free.

PICNICS IN THE PARK

Thursdays, June 8 & July 13, 6:30–8:30pm / SNP

Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy free live music at Succop Nature Park. Check the website for the most up-to-date listing of who is playing. There's also limited seating under the pavilion. This event is free.

BUFFALO CREEK FORESTED LANDOWNER RESOURCES OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, June 7, 6–8pm / BCNP

You're invited to connect with experts and explore resources that are available to help private landowners improve forest health and wildlife habitat on their property. Experts from Audubon, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be on site to provide technical assistance and showcase helpful programs, including funding that is available for Buffalo Creek landowners with one acre or more of forest, or any size farm. Refreshments will be served and the event is free.

MOTH MANIA

Wednesday, July 26, 9:30–11:00pm / BCNP

Let's go mothing! Join Audubon during the 12th annual National Moth Week (July 22–30) for a night of black lighting. Pennsylvania is home to over 600 species of moths ranging from inconspicuous micro-moths to large silk moths. We will begin the evening with a short presentation on the various moths and other insects you may see and then go out to test various lighting techniques to attract moths. This event is intended for adults and children 10 years or older. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please dress accordingly for weather and the potential of biting nocturnal insects. This event is free thanks to support from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Environmental Stewardship Fund; registration is required.

Birding & Nature Hikes

BIRDS & MORE NATURALIST-LED MORNING WALKS

Join us for free guided walks through our properties.

BFNR: Every Sunday at 9am

BCNP: Every Tuesday at 9am

BFNR: Every Wednesday at 9am

SNP: Every Thursday 9am

TNR: Every Friday at 9am

POP UP MIGRATION BIRD HIKES

Migration timing in the Spring is often variable, and we like to host migration bird walks at our reserves when the birds are at their peak. If you would be interested in joining this Spring for Migratory Bird Hikes, please check our website for updates on hike dates and times—they'll take place in April and May.

Hands-on Learning

LIVE STAKING: AN EASY, LOW-COST WAY TO IMPROVE STREAMSIDE HABITAT

Saturday, April 1, 1–3pm / BFNR

From small streams that flow through our backyards and community parks to the Pittsburgh region's three rivers, the ways in which we manage local waterways impacts water quality and habitat value. The presence of vegetation along a waterway—also called a riparian buffer—can improve water quality, provide habitat, reduce erosion, beautify a landscape, and much more. Live staking is a low-cost, easy way to establish riparian buffers. Participants will start in the classroom to learn more about live staking techniques and appropriate species, then have the opportunity to apply those skills in the field at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve alongside ASWP conservation staff. *This program is offered free of cost through generous support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star and Urban Waters Grant program.*

DIY REUSABLE BAG WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 22, 10am–2pm / BCNP

Saturday, April 29, 12–4pm / SNP

Stop in anytime during the times listed

Shoppers worldwide use approximately 500 billion single-use plastic bags per year. Join us in reducing, reusing, and recycling to transform unwanted t-shirts into reusable shopping bags! During this program in our Nature Store, you'll sew your own bag or try a no-sew method. Materials will be provided but participants are encouraged to bring a shirt (or a few) to transform. Please note: heavier weight cotton shirts work best, but practically any shirt can be used. Go green, get creative, and take your new skills home with you! This event is free and fun for the whole family!

Community Science

Get involved in science—right in your own backyard. These programs are offered free of charge.

BUDBURST

Saturday, April 8, 10–11:30am / BCNP, BFNR, and SNP

BudBurst participants make careful time observations of the leafing, flowering, and fruiting phases of plants (plant phenophases) throughout the year. Spring, summer, fall, and winter phases are all valuable information to collect. Learn how scientists and educators use the data to learn more about how plant species respond to changes in climate locally, regionally, and nationally.

NATIVE POLLINATORS

Saturday, May 6, 10–11:30am / BCNP, BFNR, and SNP

Pollination is an essential part of a well-functioning and productive ecosystem. Pollinators play a key role in the development of over 150 food crops in the United States. However, scientists have noted long-term declines in pollinator population trends for some North American pollinators, including our native bumble bees. This program discusses our native pollinators and how you can help them—including a primer on Bumble Bee Watch, a community science program designed to track and conserve North America's bumble bees.

SUMMER NIGHTS AND FIREFLIES

Friday, June 30, 8–10pm / BCNP, BFNR, and SNP

Few things are as enjoyable as summer nights filled with fireflies. Did you know that some fireflies can synchronize their flashes? Or that others trick different fireflies and lure them to become an evening snack? Learn about our state insect, its interesting life, and how to count fireflies in your backyard. We will start with a presentation then go outside observing and counting them as night falls.

MONARCHS AND MILKWEED

Saturday, July 22, 10–11:30am / BCNP, BFNR, and SNP

Learn about the critical importance of milkweed as a butterfly habitat and food source. Hear about Monarch conservation challenges and how you can help by planting milkweed in your backyard. We will also discuss the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, which is a long term study of the distribution, breeding, and mortality rates of Monarch Butterflies. This community science project engages people in observing and studying the milkweed habitat, and identifying all life stages of the Monarch butterfly in the field.

For the Kids!

YOGA BUNNY AND EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 1, 9:30–11:00am / BCNP

Begin your day with some stretching as Sylvia Maxwell, Founder of Sol Power Yoga Sarver, reads and enacts the story of Yoga Bunny by Brian Russo. Children ages 3–5 will start with yoga followed by an egg hunt. Children ages 6–10 will start with an egg hunt followed by yoga. Bring the whole family and enjoy both yoga, an egg hunt, and some surprise activities. We will have child floor mats and bunny ears and tails to get you in character. \$5 member; \$10 nonmember.

FLEDGLINGS: AGES 3–5

Wednesdays, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, 10–11:15am / BCNP

Thursdays, April 13, May 11, June 8, 10, July 13, 10–11:15am / BFNR

Tuesdays, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, 10–11:15am / SNP

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.
Program themes: April – Bunny Hop; May – Trillium and Toadstools;
June – Swimmy the Fish; July – Monarch Babies.

Native Plant Programs

These programs are offered free of cost thanks to generous support from the Fox Chapel Garden Club.

RAIN GARDENS

Saturday, April 15, 10am–12pm / BFN

Learn green solutions to address climate change—which is affecting weather patterns across the globe including more intense rainfall events in the Pittsburgh region. Excess precipitation generates more stormwater, resulting in flooding, poor water quality, and erosion. Participants will learn to create rain gardens, then tour several rain gardens and other green stormwater infrastructure solutions onsite at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve.

PERMACULTURE

Saturday, June 10, 10am–12pm / BFN

Permaculture is a creative and artful way of growing food that benefits people and nature. As grocery prices soar, there is no better time to start an edible food garden. Thoughtful planning combined with careful use of resources, creates productive, diverse and resilient systems with a respectful approach to life. We will discuss concepts, techniques, and native plants that are ideal for use in any size permaculture garden. Participants will sow seeds of edible plants to take home with them.

Online Natural History Programs

These programs are offered free of charge via Zoom. All programs run from 7–8:30pm.

MEADOW ECOLOGY

Tuesday, April 4 / Zoom

What makes a meadow a meadow? Why do we have grasslands instead of massive forests in the central United States? What plants and animals live in meadows and how do they contribute to the environment's overall health? These questions and more will be explored as we examine unique ecosystems.

SEX LIVES OF SPRING FLOWERS

Wednesday, April 19 / Zoom

Woodland wildflowers have one thing on their minds. We'll review the common but fleeting spring flowers of our local woods and fields, and how their shapes, colors, and smells lead to the next generation.

CHIMNEY SWIFTS: LIFE ON THE WING

Tuesday, May 9 / Zoom

Chimney Swifts are birds that look like a cigar with wings. They're smudge-grey and nimbly maneuver over rooftops, fields, and rivers to catch insects. Learn about the life history of this enigmatic little bird that spends almost its entire life airborne. You'll also learn about ASWP's regional Swift conservation efforts.

HUMMINGBIRD HABITAT IN OUR BACKYARD

Wednesday, May 17 / Zoom

Get ready to welcome one of our favorite seasonal birds back to the Pittsburgh region. In this program, you'll learn some design concepts and native plant species that can be combined to create a blooming buffet in your landscape—a feast for our tiny, feathered hummingbirds.

POLLINATOR POWER!

Tuesday, June 6 / Zoom

Which of our local pollinators might visit your backyard? Learn to identify the most valuable players on your pollination team, and get tips on how you can support them with your plantings and practices.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUMBLEBEE

Tuesday, June 20 / Zoom

Honeybees may get all of the buzz, but it's our native bees that are the real heroes to our wildflowers. This program will introduce you to the life history of our native bees (bumble, mason, and more) along with good practices to support them. We'll also talk about community science opportunities to observe them.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Tuesday, July 11 / Zoom

Invasive species are introduced, non-native species (whether plants or animals) that can severely degrade our local habitats. This program discusses the impact of invasive species and how native plant replacement strategies can combat them.

THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

Tuesday, July 25 / Zoom

The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive species, native to Asia, that arrived in Pennsylvania in 2014. It has since spread to multiple counties including Allegheny and Beaver. In addition to damaging trees and affecting quality of life, the Spotted Lanternfly is a huge threat to Pennsylvania's agriculture industry. Learn about this new pest's ecology, how to identify the lanternfly, and how you can help stop its spread.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN AT [ASWP.ORG](https://www.aswp.org)

DO YOU LIVE IN THE BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED?

The municipalities that make up the watershed are—Townships: Brady's Bend, Buffalo, Clearfield, Clinton, Concord, Donegal, East Franklin, Fairview, Harrison, Jefferson, North Buffalo, Oakland, South Buffalo, Sugarcreek, Summit, West Franklin, and Winfield. Boroughs: Chicora, Freeport, Saxonburg, and Worthington.



BUFFALO CREEK COALITION

Working together for water, wings and wildlife

Buffalo Creek Watershed & Important Bird Area Series

The following programs are open to anyone for free. For some programs, residents of the Buffalo Creek Watershed and Important Bird Area in Allegheny, Armstrong, and Butler Counties are eligible for free trees or pollinator plants (depending on the program). Contact buffalocreekcoalition@aswp.org to learn more. *These programs are offered free of cost by ASWP and the Buffalo Creek Coalition with support from PA DCNR Environmental Stewardship Fund and and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Fund.*

BUFFALO CREEK PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, April 19, 6:30–8pm / Hybrid: BCNP and Online

Do you live, work, or play in one of the 21 municipalities that make up the Buffalo Creek Watershed? We want to hear from you! Join Audubon and Ethos Collaborative to shape the Buffalo Creek Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). The WIP will build off of previous planning efforts, identifying solutions to pollution and helping to preserve Buffalo Creek for wildlife and people. Share your priorities, local knowledge, and learn more about the WIP planning process. Refreshments and open discussion from 6:30–7pm, followed by the meeting.

BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED FORESTED LAND WORKSHOP: ONLINE SERIES

Calling all landowners in the Buffalo Creek Watershed! This free, online workshop series will focus on what landowners can do to help protect and enhance forest habitat on their property. This series has been designed for landowners with wooded property, but the information will be useful for anyone. Buffalo Creek residents will receive one free tree per workshop, thanks to generous support from the Keystone 10M Trees Partnership.

Participate in all three to receive three free trees. Tree pickup will take place on April 29 or 30 from 10am–2pm at Buffalo Creek Nature Park (154 Monroe Road, Sarver, PA 16055).

Workshop #1: Preventing The Spread of Invasive Plants in Woodlands

Tuesday, April 11, 6:30–8:00pm

Join ASWP and ecologist Kelly Sitch from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to learn about the spread of invasive plant species in our forests. This workshop will focus on identification of invasive plant species, how to treat for them, and the use of native alternatives.

Workshop #2: Forested Land Resources & Private Landowner Assistance Program (PLAP)

Tuesday, April 18, 6:30–8:00pm

Join ASWP, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Forestry Bureau, and Pennsylvania Game Commission to learn about resources available for creating, preserving, or enhancing wildlife habitat on your property.

Workshop #3: What is a Healthy Stream?

Tuesday, April 25, 6:30–8:00pm

Join ASWP and Penn State Agriculture and Environment Center Program Manager Kristen Koch to learn how land use impacts stream health and restoration approaches used to reduce contamination to our waterways.

SUPPORTING WILDLIFE ON YOUR PROPERTY: ONLINE SERIES

This free online series focuses on the variety of methods you can use to enhance wildlife on your property. Residents of the Buffalo Creek Watershed will receive two native pollinator plants per program, thanks to the generous support from our funders. Participate in all three workshops to receive six pollinator plants. Native pollinator plants can be picked up on May 27 or 28 from 10am–2pm at Buffalo Creek Nature Park (154 Monroe Road, Sarver, PA 16055).

Workshop #1: Planting to Support Birds

Tuesday, May 9, 7–8:30pm

Uncover the amazing connection between native plants and birds, then learn more about what to plant to attract a diversity of birds to your yard.

Workshop #2: Bees for The Trees and Garden

Tuesday, May 16, 7–8:30pm

Bees are always a welcome guest in the garden. Join us to learn about the diversity of our native bee community and the plants and trees they pollinate. Using native plants and eco-friendly landscape practices provide essential elements that insects need to thrive.

Workshop #3: Native Plants for Challenging Spaces

Tuesday, May 23, 7–8:30pm

Western Pennsylvania has soils and topography that make our area distinct. This program tackles some of our areas most difficult places to landscape including slopes, erosion, invasive patches, small spaces, and wet spots. By using native plants and sustainable landscape techniques, we can turn these challenging spaces into unique garden features that support wildlife.

Volunteer Opportunities

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY WORK SESSIONS AT BEECHWOOD

Every Tuesday from April to June / BFNR
10am–12pm, 12–2pm, and 4–6pm

Choose one of three sessions each Tuesday and get your hands dirty while learning new skills and making a difference for local habitat! Volunteers are needed to help with native plant nursery tasks such as transplanting seedlings, watering, and sowing seed. Space is limited; registration is required so that we can plan accordingly.

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN & LANDSCAPING SUPPORT AT BEECHWOOD

Every Thursday from April to June, 11am–2pm / BFNR

Volunteers are needed to help ASWP maintain demonstration gardens and other landscaped areas around Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. Materials and training will be provided. Registration is requested.

SPRUCING UP SUCCOP NATURE PARK

Saturday, April 1 & Wednesday, April 12, 9:30am–12pm / SNP
Raindates: April 4 & 19

Spring has sprung and the weather is warming up—sounds like the perfect time for some volunteer projects at Succop Nature Park. We will focus on mulching garden beds. No experience is necessary. All tools provided, including gloves, shovels, and wheelbarrows. Individuals and groups welcome—we will meet by the Red Barn. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Registration is requested.

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AT TODD

Tuesday, April 11, 10am–12pm / TNR

Invasive plants degrade ecosystems and displace native species. It's best to get them under control when they're just becoming established—and even easier with extra hands. Volunteers are needed to help remove garlic mustard and Spindletree at Todd Nature Reserve. All materials will be provided and no experience is necessary. Registration is requested.

TREE PLANTINGS AT BEECHWOOD

Saturdays, April 1, April 15, and May 6, 9am–12pm / BFNR

Help to make Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve even more bird-friendly and improve local water quality by planting native trees and shrubs. All materials will be provided and no experience is necessary. Groups are welcome; registration is requested. *Special thanks to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star and Urban Waters grant program for their support of habitat enhancement efforts at Beechwood in 2023.*

EARTH DAY LITTER CLEANUP: BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK

Saturday, April 22, 10am–12pm / BCNP

Celebrate Earth Day by helping us with litter pick-ups near our nature reserves. Picking up litter is an easy way to make an immediate positive impact on local habitat and waterways. All materials will be provided, including gloves, trash bags, and safety vests. Meet at BCNP pavilion at 10am; groups will disperse from there. Please wear long pants, sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Registration requested.

LET'S PLAY: VOLUNTEER DAY AT SUCCOP

Saturday, May 6 (Raindate: May 20), 9:30am–12pm / SNP

The Nature Play Area at Succop Nature Park needs a spring spruce-up! We will be weeding around the structures and play spaces, cleaning up the sand area in preparation for some new sand and turning the water on, plus working on replanting the willow tunnel area. If you love spending time in this play space, grab the kids and come help us make it even better. Individuals, families, and groups welcome—we will meet at the Red Barn. Please wear sturdy shoes. Registration requested.

PLEASE REGISTER TO LET US
KNOW YOU'RE COMING SO THAT WE
CAN PLAN FOR REFRESHMENTS!

YOUR COFFEE BUZZ
**CAN BOLSTER
THE BIRDS!**

Support warblers and other migratory birds by switching to bird-friendly coffee! Audubon Nature Stores carry Building New Hope & Rockin' Cat coffees—both certified Smithsonian Bird Friendly!



AUDUBON News

ASWP RECEIVES \$300K TO FUND MON VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION INITIATIVE, LAUNCH BIRD FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Audubon recently received \$200,000 from the Richard King Mellon Foundation's Invasive Species Program and \$100,000 in federal funding to connect people to birds and nature, deliver environmental education, and reduce invasive species in the Mon Valley. The program will serve as a launching point for ASWP's Bird-Friendly Communities program, which helps municipalities and communities to create and enhance habitat areas that support birds and other Pennsylvania native species.

This initiative will result in:

- Enhanced bird-friendly greenspaces, improved habitat, and reduced invasive species.
- Two new SchoolGround Habitats featuring native plants that support birds and beneficial insects—and complementary in-school programs and teacher trainings.
- 160 new Certified Backyard Habitats.
- Bird murals to be painted in participating communities.
- Distribution of 4,000 native plants that help Pennsylvania wildlife to thrive.
- Community programming including a Master Birder program, birdwatching walks, and habitat gardening classes.
- Collaborations with area plant nurseries to reduce sale of invasive plant species while expanding offerings of native, pollinator- and bird-friendly plants.
- Transformation of a vacant lot into a bird- and pollinator-friendly habitat in partnership with the Tri-COG Land Bank.

Registration is open for the 2023 Certified Backyard Habitat Program. Enroll now to secure your spot!

ASWP RECEIVES \$98K TO FOR HABITAT RESTORATION AND NATIVE PLANT NURSERY UPGRADES

With funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, ASWP will install 5 acres of riparian forest buffers, convert 1.2 acres of lawn to native meadows at Succop Nature Park and Buffalo Creek Nature Park, and increase native plant nursery capacity through infrastructure upgrades.

If you live in Allegheny, Armstrong, or Butler Counties and you have a stream that flows through your property that you'd like to plant with high-wildlife value native trees and shrubs, contact Sarah Koenig, Conservation Director, at skoening@aswp.org or (412) 963-6100 to learn more.

SPRING MIGRATION
IS THE PERFECT TIME TO
**UPGRADE YOUR
BINOCULARS!**

Visit our Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve store to try out all the best optics and to get expert help in choosing the right pair for you.



Ask the NATURALIST

HOW CAN MY YARD SUPPORT BIRDS?

You already feed the birds, but you're interested in doing even more to support them. How can your backyard support our local birds? It must provide the necessities of food, shelter, and water—and identify and eliminate threats.

THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE

Food: Birds eat insects, fruit, seeds, and nectar. If these are present in your backyard, then birds will come! You can support native insects—and the birds that rely on them—by gardening with native plants and reducing or eliminating the use of chemicals. Incorporate native plants like Serviceberries that produce fruit; Oak trees that provide seeds; and Cardinal Flowers that supply nectar to cover multiple bird food groups. When choosing native plants, be sure to select a variety of species that bloom from spring through fall.

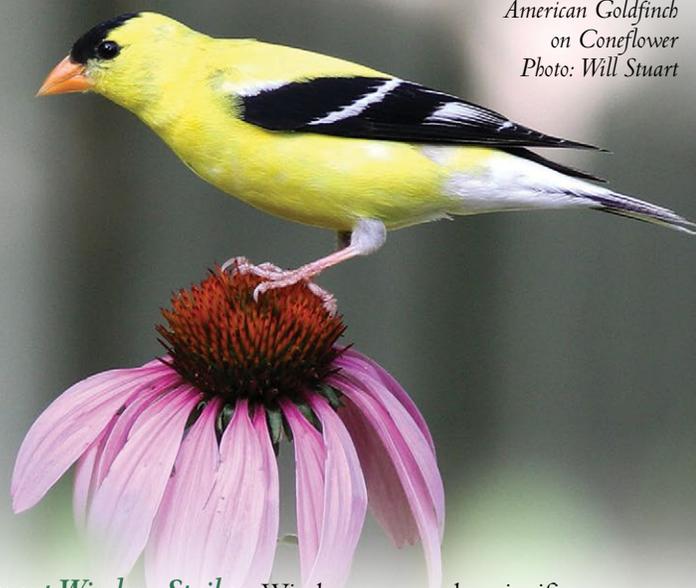
Shelter: Create a layered habitat that mimics a natural landscape to maximize the habitat value of your yard. Ideally this will include canopy trees such as Oaks and Tulip Poplars, understory trees such as Flowering Dogwoods and Redbuds, shrubs such as Spicebush and Ninebark, and herbaceous species such as Green-headed Coneflowers and Little Bluestem. If your space is limited, you can still help the birds by incorporating as many layers as possible. Remember to leave non-vegetable garden clean up until spring to maximize overwintering habitat for birds and native insects.

Water: Birds need water for drinking and bathing. If you don't have a natural water source, a bird bath is a great way option—just be sure to clean it regularly.

REDUCING THREATS

Outdoor Cats: According to the American Bird Conservancy, outdoor cats kill over 1 billion birds each year in the United States, alone. Keeping your cats indoors, in a catio, or on a leash will help reduce threats to birds.

American Goldfinch
on Coneflower
Photo: Will Stuart



Prevent Window Strikes: Windows are another significant threat for birds—up to 1 billion birds die annually from impacts with windows. When vegetation is reflected in a window, it can appear to birds to be an extension of habitat rather than a hazard. Identify problem windows and incorporate bird tape, dots, or patterns that help birds recognize the window—and avoid it. Need tips on preventing bird strikes? We can help you at Audubon Nature Stores, where we carry products that look good while helping the birds.

Keep your Feeders Clean: Cleaning your bird feeders bi-weekly in a 1:10 bleach to water solution is important to ensure that you aren't unintentionally spreading diseases to our feathered friends.

In an increasingly fragmented landscape, backyards are even more important to support birds. By incorporating prime necessities and reducing threats, your yard can provide important stopover, breeding, and overwintering habitat for your feathered friends.

WILD FOR WARBLERS?

Moving water is especially attractive to warblers and other migratory birds. Add a dripper, water wiggler, or bubbler to make your birdbath more enticing! We also carry a selection of other warbler products as well!



ASWP'S ECO TOURS ARE *Booking Now!*

We're excited to offer three eco-tours in the next year. These fill very quickly; if you're interested in learning more, please contact Brian Shema: (412) 963-6100 or bshema@aswp.org.

WASHINGTON'S PUGET SOUND AND CASCADES – JUNE 2023

The Pacific Northwest's raw and scenic beauty will be on full display during this late spring trip. There are not many places with a checklist as varied as this region. Join us to see everything from Tufted Puffin, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Marbled Murrelet along the coast to White-headed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, Townsend's Warbler, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and Evening Grosbeak in the Cascades.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS – NOVEMBER 2023

One of the premier birding destinations in the United States, the subtropical habitats along the mighty Rio Grande provide birders with dozens of birds not found anywhere else in the country. A trip here is a must for any avid birder. And, with a resurgence of Hook-billed Kite and Brown Jay sightings, now is the time to go!

HILL COUNTRY, TEXAS – APRIL 2024

This trip to Texas will explore the dry oak landscape of Central Texas, home to two specialties—Golden-Cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. Points west offer up a list of birds typical of the desert southwest. The trip will be offered during migration, when scores of birds are moving north through the central flyway.



NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

OPEN FOR THE SEASON MAY 13

**NURSERY HOURS:
TUESDAY – SUNDAY; 9 AM – 5 PM
GET DISCOUNTS ON OPENING DAY!**



Audubon's native plant nursery is open through October. We offer over 150 species of true Western Pennsylvania perennials, trees, and shrubs to attract birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects to your yard.

Thinking about this year's garden?

Visit aswp.org to see the list of native plants that we plan to have available for the 2023 season.

Photo credit: Dan Mendenhall



Memorials AND Honors

Memorials

Kerry, Betty & K Abbott
Thorne Abbott

Phyllis Gallo Allen
Christy Allen

Gerard Condron
Rebecca Decker

Edward & Sherley Craig
Karen & Kevin Brubaker

Laurie Culbertson
Lindy Butler

Jeanne Duss
Karen & Mike Ulrich

Carly Ann George Voigt
Regina & Doug George

Dolores Hankosky
Michele Hubert

C. Talbott Hiteshew
Matthew Niles

Robert W. Hodil
Terri Barnett
Mary Beth Hodil
Marilyn Hydeck
Mary Ann Klein
Donna & Larry Mattoon
Shannon Pingenot
Kelli Robinson
Denice Seifert

Thomas S. Lynch
Marie & Miles Jackson
Kelli Lees
Suzan & Bernie Renzelmann
Deborah Seguiti

Madeline Lyon
Melissa Fabian &
Jules Yancey

Louis C. Meyer
Carol & Thomas Hoburg

RuthAnn Molloy
Kris & Dan Charny

Audrey O'Rourke
David Rhing

James Ramage
Lynn Ramage

Susan Sphar
Marina Balko
Nick Beckwith IV
Leslie & Jim Bonner
Karen & Kevin Brubaker
Joshua Clark
Lucille Dabney
Nancy & Dan Fales
Stephanie Flannery
Sally & Don Foster
Kate Freed
Anne & John Harmon
Jessica Harris
Alice Jane Jenkins
Christine & Thomas Kobus

Susan Sphar (continued)
James Mohn
Susan Patrick
Anne Ringham
Bernie Robinson
Sandra Sauereisen
Cris & Alex Scott
Neatsie & Edward Seifert
Shore Corporation
Diane & Dick Viall
Paula Zawadzki

A. Ernest Succop II
Buth & Gus Succop

Ronald Zdrojkowski
Mary Ann Zdrojkowski

Kim H. Zimmerman
Barbara Zimmerman

Honors
Cynthia Adams
Paula Bester

Bett Beeson
Rosa Lynn Pinkus

Jim Bonner
Fox Chapel Garden Club
Mary Phan-Gruber &
Michael Gruber

Joy Borelli-Edwards
Sybil & Kevin McKeegan

Alissa Burger
David Reichbaum

Joanne Burzese
Joanne & Bob Burzese

Tom & Linda Evans
Karen Evans

Dennis & Bernie Evans
Karen Evans

Hedwig & Subhash Manoaaha
Kathleen Barge

Andrea McCrady
Rusty McCrady

Deborah McMahan
Laura Warren

Jennifer Novelli
Kimberlee Love

Suzan Obagi
Sally Wiggins

Olivia & Jack Oleson
Janice Kielty

Paul Pilkonis
Julia Bear

Gwil Price
Ruth Ann & Jay Pastorius

Cris & Alex Scott
Lindsay Scott

David & Emily Scott
Lindsay Scott

Gregg Scott & Pam Cleary
Lindsay Scott

Robert S. Scott
Lindsay Scott

Ruth Weir
Judy & Mickey Black

Received through March 8, 2023



Audubon's summer camps get kids into nature. No screens, no devices. Build friendships, make memories, and connect with the outdoors.

**SUMMER IS A TIME TO
EXPLORE, HAVE FUN—AND
LEARN ALONG THE WAY!**

Camps take place at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve (Fox Chapel), Succop Nature Park (Butler), and Buffalo Creek Nature Park (Sarver). Register today at www.aswp.org or by calling (412) 963-6100.

**Audubon Society**
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
www.aswp.org





614 DORSEYVILLE ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15238

SHOP AUDUBON NATURE STORES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO ENJOY THE BIRDS
THIS SPRING & SUMMER!

BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE
614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel · 412-963-6100
Tuesday-Sunday from 9am-5pm

BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK
154 Monroe Road in Sarver · 724-295-3589
Tuesday-Sunday from 9am-5pm

SUCCOP NATURE PARK
185 W. Airport Road in Butler · 724-586-2591
Tuesday-Saturday from 12-5pm



Northern Cardinal