

# BULLETIN

— SPRING / SUMMER 2021 —



*In this issue:* Bumblebees live in harmony with native plants—  
learn how you can support both!

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# BULLETIN

— SPRING / SUMMER 2021 —

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with native plants—learn how  
you can support both!



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# This Audubon View

With the way the past year has been going, we can all use some good news. We got that in early March when we learned that the world's oldest-known wild bird hatched another chick. "Wisdom, a 70-year-old Laysan Albatross hatched what is at least her 40th chick on a tiny island that is part of the Midway Atoll in the north Pacific. First banded by the great Chandler Robbins back in 1956, she has been able to withstand ocean storms and predators for longer than I have been alive. More recently, she has been able to avoid consuming any of the plastic that litters our oceans and has killed thousands of her species."



That was not the only good news we received at that time. Here in the US, we had some wisdom of our own when the Fish and Wildlife Service, under the new Biden Administration, announced that it would delay implementation of new rules promulgated under the Trump Administration—changes that redefine the meaning of “take” under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The new rules adopted in January 2021 reinterpreted the 100-year-old law to define “take” as applying only to willful and intentional killing of a migratory bird. It would have excluded prosecution for disasters like the Deepwater-Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the levying of fines that were used to clean up that environmental catastrophe. It would be much like saying you couldn't prosecute a drunk driver for hitting and killing a pedestrian just because they did not have an intent to harm anyone.

But it is just a delay to seek additional public comment. Because the January rules went through the formal rulemaking process, the Biden Administration cannot simply reverse them. What is ultimately needed is Congressional action to clarify the original 1918 act and to provide migratory birds the protection that so desperately need. There seems to be little that Congress can agree on anymore—but birds should be one of them.

—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

### BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK

154 Monroe Road, Sarver, PA 16055

### SUCCOP NATURE PARK

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

• Audubon Nature Store

### TODD NATURE RESERVE

367 Kepple Road, Sarver, PA 16055

**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](mailto: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](mailto:ckubiak@aswp.org). All other questions regarding accessibility or inclusion can be directed to Jim Bonner at (412) 963-6100 or [jbonner@aswp.org](mailto:jbonner@aswp.org).



# THE DELICATE DANCE OF THE *Bumblebee*



In *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, Harry has to find one particular door key. The keys from which he must choose have wings and are flying in a cloud above his head. Which of the flying keys will fit the lock?

This is a metaphor for the relationship between flowering plants and insects. Flowering plants and insects have co-evolved over the last 100 million years or so to form specific relationships to assure the other's survival. The flowers use the insects to carry pollen from flower to flower for sexual reproduction. Having pollen carried by an insect is more efficient than casting pollen to the wind and hoping for the best.

Flowers reward the insects with nectar and the protein-rich pollen itself. The insects have come to depend on this high-quality food source to reinforce the relationship. Because the flower needs its pollen to reach the same species, many flowers have evolved to favor visits by a reduced list of insects. For example, deep flowers favor longer tongues. (For more about these fascinating relationships, join our program, "Sex Lives of Flowering Plants" via Zoom in April).

Many insect families including beetles, flies, butterflies, moths, wasps, and ants participate in this delicate dance. Perhaps the most intricate and dependent relationships in our region are between flowers and bees. Bees have the particular advantage of flower constancy, which means they tend to favor one blooming species at a time. For example, when the Ironweed is blooming at its peak, bees will prefer to visit the ironweed to the exclusion of other species that might be blooming even nearby.

The bees optimize their effort by knowing that species will be full of rewards. The flowers get expedited pollen transport among its own species.

## HONEYBEES AND BUMBLEBEES

While honeybees get all the press, they are not native to our area. Much of the work of pollination of local native flowers involves their larger cousins, the bumblebees.

There are about 45 species in North America.

### *Bumblebee versus Carpenter Bee: How can you tell the difference?*

Carpenter bees make nests in dead wood. In particular, they like the exposed wood under open roofs. They excavate long tunnels with openings no larger than a penny. Bumblebees usually nest in the ground. Away from the nest, look at the bee's abdomen. Carpenter bees have very little hair on their abdominal segments. This gives them a "shiny butt." Bumblebee abdomens are fuzzy, lacking the metallic gleam.



*Bumblebee*



*Carpenter Bee*

Bumblebee “special powers” for visiting flowers include long tongues to reach deep nectar wells and strong bodies to push into tightly closed flowers like Bottle Gentian. Bumblebee size and strength also allow the ability for “buzz pollination.” In some flowers, pollen is released by vibration of a certain frequency; honeybees can’t do that.

Most bumblebees are eusocial like honeybees. Their colonies are much smaller, with members in the dozens or hundreds rather than thousands. But they have a caste system with a queen, workers, and male drones. The colonies do not persist through the winter, however.

The males are produced at the end of the season. They eat up all the nectar stores, disrupting the colony, then leave to mate with young queens. The young queens fatten up on nectar, then hibernate in leaf litter to begin the colony anew in spring. Bumblebees do make honey but in small quantities because they do not support a colony over winter.

## POPULATIONS IN DECLINE

Bumblebee populations have declined significantly in recent years. Agricultural changes seem to be a primary cause. Mechanized, herbicide- and pesticide-supported agriculture have eliminated the clover fields that once fed working horses as well as the wildflowers that once grew among the crops and along the edges of the fields.

Meanwhile, native wildflower meadows have given way to development. And, even in our gardens, the use of non-native flowers disrupts the relationship between bee and flower. Those non-native flowers don’t follow the rules on which our native bees depend. Some species are already identified as endangered, such as the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.

## *Is it really impossible for bumblebees to fly?*

There’s a bit of long-lasting folklore that somehow bumblebees defy the known laws of physics to fly. The mathematics of flight supposedly can’t account for that hefty body to be supported by such tiny wings. Fear not, this pressing problem has been studied with computer models, small mechanical bees, and real bees using high-speed cameras.

The mathematics behind the initial question came from the earlier days of flight when fixed-wing aircraft were a new thing. A bumblebee does not use fixed wings. Its wings flap at 200 times per second. This creates certain air currents that dramatically increase lift.

If you want to help us learn more about changes in our native bumblebee populations, consider participating Bumblebee Watch, [www.bumblebeewatch.org](http://www.bumblebeewatch.org).

This community science initiative can be done in your own back yard. If you want to help bumblebees directly, it’s pretty simple: Do the same things that support native birds and native butterflies. Plant native species and reduce the use of chemicals in your gardening and landscaping. ASWP’s guides and programs on pollinator gardens will help to get you started.

*Contributed by Environmental Educator Scott Detwiler.*

## HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT BUMBLEBEES

These native plants support bumblebees—pick some up at Audubon’s Native Plant Nursery, opening for the season on May 8.

- Wild bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*\*^
- Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum virginianum*
- Milkweed, *Asclepias* spp
- Goldenrod, *Solidago* spp\*
- Joe Pye Weed, *Eutrochium* spp\*
- Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
- New England Aster, *Symphoricarpos novae-angliae*\*
- Coneflowers, *Native Echinacea* spp\*

\*Bumblebee superfood    ^Supports Bumblebee immune systems

# Memorials AND Honors

**Alex and Cris Scott**  
Lindsay Scott

**Alexis and Jay Sharrer**  
Lindsay Scott

**Alice Reed Buchanan**  
Joan Sieber

**Arlene Sloan**  
Lee Gerster  
Amy Schreckengost  
Teresa Steigerwalt  
Andrea Richko

**Barbara Yaunt**  
Piccadily Herb Club

**Benjamin Byrer**  
Lili Byrer

**Carly Ann George Voigt**  
Regina George

**Cathy Davis**  
Susan Smith

**Cathy Ondo**  
Bob and Wendy Evans

**Charles Prenn**  
Matthew and Melissa Orehowsky  
Joanne and Dick Harrison

**Danforth Fales**  
Howard and Marnie Owens

**Dave and Emily Scott**  
Lindsay Scott

**Dr. John Jacob Duda, Sr.**  
Matt and Ken Banks

**Eleanor Dussling**  
Piccadily Herb Club

**Ellen Broadley**  
Friends at West Penn Hospital  
Walter Norkus

**Ellen Kight and Steve Woods**  
Victoria Lish

**Elliot and Audrey Bush**  
Gail Haynes

**Elmer and Judy Ealy**  
Laurie Bartolotta

**F. Walter Jones**  
John and Nancy Artz

**Frances Zele Peternel**  
Marlene Parrish

**Francis Rifugiato**  
Gina Rifugiato

**Frank and Nancy Bodnar**  
Gary Bodnar

**Frederick Sphar**  
Holly and Susan Sphar

**Gerard Condron**  
Rebecca Decker

**Gregg Scott**  
Lindsay Scott

**H. Ward and Jane S. Ewalt**  
Henry and Mary Ewalt

**Harry and Alexis Shipman**  
Susan Bonitsky

**Helen Mathieson**  
Bob and Sally Tarhi

**James F. Williams**  
Paul and Kathy Jacobs  
Gail Oberkircher  
Kazuko Maeshiro

**Jane Hawkins**  
Piccadily Herb Club

**Jeff Nixon and Mary Bollman**  
Elizabeth Markhart

**Jim Saylor**  
Carolyn Fronapel

**Joy Borelli-Edwards**  
Kevin and Sybil McKeegan

**Kate Scott**  
Lindsay Scott

**Lee Alan**  
Molly Walsh

**Lewis and Sally Johnson**  
Dana Martin

**Lori Flower**  
Global Access Control Systems

**Maurico Rosellini**  
Linda and Doug Roth

**Max Myint**  
Julia Meade and Alex Myint

**Miriam Angel**  
Jonathan and Coleen Fleischman

**Nancy Eddy**  
David Hounshell

**Neil Harrison**  
Janice Harrison

**Quinn Peyton**  
Rudolph Maceyko

**Rik Rodefer**  
Alexis Rodefer

**Robin Dean**  
Janet Sieff

**Rose and Peri Nevi**  
Mary Jo Santmyer

**The Western PA Unit of  
The Herb Society of America**  
Corinne Babson

**Tom Walman**  
Janice Trapuzzano

**Wayne Roberson**  
Piccadily Herb Club

**William F. McCrady**  
William McCrady  
Andrea McCrady

## Audubon Nature Store: FOCUS ON SUPPORTING BEES & INSECTS

Audubon Nature Stores have the advice and items you need to attract native pollinators to your gardens. The simple process of setting up an insect house in your yard can encourage many beneficial insects including the native Mason Bee. Did you know that each Mason Bee can do the pollinating job of close to 100 honeybees? In addition to supporting the bees, you can taste the sweet rewards of honey bees' work! Our Nature Stores carry locally harvested honey all year round, featuring honey from Country Barn Farm honey (O'Hara Township) and Bedillion Honey Farm (Washington County). We have everything from wildflower honey to hot-pepper infused honey. Stop in!



# Spring/Summer PROGRAM SCHEDULE



REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS ONLINE AT [ASWP.ORG](http://ASWP.ORG) OR BY CALLING (412) 963-6100.

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

**BFNR:** 614 Dorseyville Road, Fox Chapel, Allegheny County  
**BCNP:** 154 Monroe Road, Sarver, Butler County  
**SNP:** 185 W. Airport Road, Penn Township, Butler County  
**TNR:** 367 Kepple Road, Sarver, Butler County

## Special Events

### THE CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

*May 1, Session 1: 10am–12pm, Session 2: 2–4pm / BFNR*

Who said rivalries are only on the football field? The City Nature Challenge is an international event where people find and document plants and wildlife in cities across the globe. Cities compete against each other to see who can make the most observations of nature, who can find the most species and have a lot of fun doing it! Join other Community Scientists and ASWP staff to record as many species as possible. Participants are encouraged to bring a smartphone with the iNaturalist app loaded on their phone for their group, or a digital camera. Feel free to bring your favorite field guides, as well. Smartphones and/or digital cameras are strongly encouraged. Before the event, learn how to use iNaturalist and help Pittsburgh to beat our friends in Baltimore and Cleveland. Registration is required. Free.

### NATIVE PLANT NURSERY OPENING DAY

*May 8, 9am–5pm / BFNR*

It's the opening day at our Native Plant Nursery at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. Can't make it in on that day? The nursery is open Tuesday–Saturday from 9am–5pm.

### MINI BIRDING CAMP FOR ADULTS

*June 2, 3 and 4, 8am–12pm*

Birding is one of the fastest-growing outdoor activity in America. The primary objective of this camp is for every participant to emerge from the course with a lasting knowledge of and appreciation for birds, particularly the birds of Western Pennsylvania. Campers will develop their birding skills by spending time in the field observing species with one of our expert guides and Master Birder graduates.

Included are visits to Todd Nature Reserve (June 2nd), Moraine State Park (June 3rd), and Harrison Hills (June 4th). \$100 for members; \$125 for non-members.

## Birding & Nature Hikes

### BIRDS & MORE NATURALIST LED MORNING WALKS

**BFNR:** Every Wednesday at 9am; Free

**SNP:** Every Thursday 9am; Free

**TNR:** Every Friday 9am; Free

### BEGINNING BIRDING HIKE

*May 8, 9–11am / BFNR, SNP, and BCNP*

Ever wanted to go bird watching, but you didn't know where to begin? This program focuses on beginning birders to get their feet wet in one of the fastest growing outdoor activities—birding! This program will show you how to use binoculars and field guides and discover the secrets of becoming a better birder! Free.

## Online Nature Series



### LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: LIFE HISTORY AND ECOLOGY

*April 6, 7pm / Zoom*

Did you know that the Louisiana Waterthrush is our earliest arriving neotropical migrant, arriving the beginning of April in wooded streams across our region? This amazing bird (it's not even a thrush but a warbler) is founded in healthy wooded streams in the Northeast. Sensitive to water quality issues, this program will follow the amazing life history of this species, tracing them from their overwinter homes in the tropics, to their lives here in Western Pennsylvania. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.



### SEX LIVES OF SPRING FLOWERS

*April 21, 7pm / Zoom*

The woodland wildflowers have one thing on their minds. Let's 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. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.



## MUSHROOMS FOR MUGGLES

May 19, 7pm / Zoom

Don't know much about mushrooms and need a place to start? Join us for an overview of the major mushroom types and their critical ecological role. There is more to mushrooms than meets the eye! \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.



## CHIMNEY SWIFTS: LIFE ON THE WING

May 20, 7pm / Zoom

A bird best identified by what looks like a cigar with wings, the smudge-gray Chimney Swift nimbly maneuvers 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, as well as ASWP's Swift conservation efforts across the region. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.



## FOSSILS OF PENNSYLVANIA

June 10, 7pm / Zoom

Pennsylvania has a fascinating geological and biological past. This program will look at some of the different plants and ecosystems of Pennsylvania's past as presented through fossils. Our educator will examine some exciting fossilized flora from millions of years ago. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.



## THE RUFFED-GROUSE: PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE BIRD IN DECLINE

June 17, 7pm / Zoom

The Ruffed Grouse is Pennsylvania's state bird, and formally one of the most popular game birds sought after by hunters. Unfortunately it has declined by nearly ¾'s since the turn of the century. This program will discuss the ecology of this important avian species, its decline, as well as conservation steps being undertaken to save this keystone species. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.



## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUMBLEBEE

June 22, 7pm / Zoom

Honeybees may get all of the press coverage, but it is our native bees that are the real heroes of our wildflowers. This program will introduce participants to the life history of all of our native bees (bumble, mason and more) along with good practices to support them and community science opportunities to observe them. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.



## THE SINGING LIVES OF BIRDS

July 8, 7pm / Zoom

Ever wonder why birds sing, and what they are trying to communicate? Come learn about how, why, and where birds sing and the beauty that is birdsong. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.



## TICKS AND LYME DISEASE

July 22, 7pm / Zoom

Lyme disease has become a prevalent threat to those who venture outdoors. This presentation will explain the lifecycle of the tick and how the spirochete is transferred to humans. Do not let fear of Lyme disease keep you indoors; arm yourself with knowledge. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

## Hands-On Programs

### THE NIGHT OF THE LIVING AMPHIBIANS: 2 PART SERIES

- Part 1: Online Session—April 22, 7pm / Zoom (This session is online only!)
- Part 2: Outdoor Session April 24, 7–9pm / BFNR and SNP

Frogs, toads, newts, and salamanders all play an important role, serving as both prey and predator, in wetland ecosystems and are considered indicators of environmental health. Come learn about our fascinating local frog species and their sounds, then head down to the pond after sunset to listen. \$12 per member, \$20 per nonmember.

### THE BUTTERFLIES OF WESTERN PA: 2 PART SERIES

- Part 1: Online Session—July 15, 7pm / Zoom (This session is online only!)
- Part 2: Outdoor Session July 17, 10am–12pm / BFNR and SNP

Have you ever wondered about the butterflies in our region? Did you know that Western Pennsylvania is home to a dazzling array of different species? In this two part series, a Zoom program will discuss some of the most interesting butterflies along with their amazing life histories. In the second session butterfly enthusiasts will get the opportunity to get out and enjoy butterflies on our reserves and observe them first hand. \$12 per member, \$20 per nonmember.

### SPRING NATIVE EDIBLES

May 22, 2–4 pm / TNR

Native plants are good for birds, pollinators, and wildlife—but did you know that many can also be eaten by people? Learn how to identify and responsibly enjoy native edibles that founds in our region. *This program is being offered free of charge through PA DCNR/PENNVEST.*

### FORAGING IN THE FOREST: NATURAL RESOURCES FOR OUTDOORS-PEOPLE

June 5, 2–4 pm / TNR

When people think “foraging,” many focus on edible plants. There are many types of resources that go beyond edible. This hike will focus on useful rock types, the best woods to use for various purposes, and skill hacks to make outdoor life easier with local resources in a sustainable way. *This program is being offered free of charge through PA DCNR/PENNVEST.*

## Backyard Nature Series

This is a group of monthly nature programs each month from April to July. These programs combines natural history, ecology, and citizen science to use in your own backyard! Each month is a new seasonal topic; from fireflies and monarchs, to pollinators and flowers. Take home a wealth of information on making your yard a haven for birds and nature, while being an active participant in science.

### APRIL: NATIVE POLLINATORS

April 17, 10am–12pm / BFNR  
April 17, 2–4pm / 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 shown 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 to help them, including a primer on Bumble Bee Watch, a citizen science program designed to track and conserve North America's bumble bees in your own yard. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

### MAY: BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY & BUDBURST

May 15, 10am–12pm / BFNR  
May 15, 2–4pm / SNP

Discover the variety of life that may exist in your own backyard and how you can utilize native plants to create and maintain wildlife habitat. This program will also discuss how to use these plants in your backyard while helping science. Participants will learn how to make careful observations of the timing of leafing, flowering, and fruiting phases of plants (phenophases) throughout the year through Project BudBurst. Learn how scientists and educators can use the data to discover how plant species respond to changes in climate locally in your own backyard. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

### JUNE: SUMMER NIGHTS AND FIREFLIES

June 12, 8–10pm / SNP  
June 25, 8–10pm / BFNR

Is there anything more enjoyable than a summer night filled with fireflies? Did you know that some fireflies can synchronize their flashes? Or that others trick different fireflies and lure them to be an evening snack? Come learn about our state insect and their interesting lives, as well as learning how to count them in your own backyard. We will start with a presentation then go outside observing and counting them as night falls. Space limited to 40 sign-ups. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

### JULY: MONARCHS & MILKWEED

July 11, 2–4pm / SNP  
July 17, 10am–12pm / BFNR

This program discussed the critical importance of milkweed in Monarch habitat and food source. Participants will learn about the Monarchs conservation challenges and how they can help by planting milkweed in their own backyards.

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 as they have gone in steep decline. Participants learn how this Citizen Science project engages people in observing and studying the milkweed habitat, and identify all life stages of the Monarch butterfly in the field. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

## Buffalo Creek Watershed Workshops



### FORESTED LANDOWNER WORKSHOP SERIES: 3 PARTS ONLINE

April 13, April 20 and April 27, 5:30–7pm / Zoom

This free, online workshop series will focus on what landowners can do to help protect and enhance forest habitat on their property. These workshops are free and open to everyone; participants living in the Buffalo Creek Watershed will get a free tree, thanks to a grant—participate in 3 workshops to get 3 free trees. Please note: free trees are only available to those living in the watershed.

**April 13:** Invasive Forest Insects: Updates on New and Established Pests in the Buffalo Creek Region

**April 20:** Importance of Forests for Water Resources & Private Landowner Assistance Program (PLAP)

**April 27:** Identifying and Controlling Common Invasive Plants

*Funding for this workshop series provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation's Environmental Stewardship Fund and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Special thanks to our guest speakers from Penn State Extension and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.*



### SUPPORTING WILDLIFE ON YOUR PROPERTY WORKSHOP SERIES: 3 PARTS ONLINE

May 11, May 18 & May 25, 7–8:30pm / Zoom

All participants get 2 native plants—participate in all 3 to get 6 native plants. This free, online workshop series will focus on what landowners can do to protect and enhance wildlife habitat on their property. These workshops are free and open to everyone; participants living in the Buffalo Creek Watershed will get 2 native plants—participate in all 3 workshops to get 6 native plants, thanks to a grant. Please note: free native plants are only available to those living in the watershed.

**May 11:** Planting to Support Birds

**May 18:** Gardening for Pollinators

**May 25:** Co-Existing with White-Tailed Deer

*Funding for this workshop series provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation's Environmental Stewardship Fund and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.*

## Kids' Programs

BEECHWOOD AFTER-SCHOOL SERIES:  
AGES K-3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

April 7 and 21, May 5 and 19, June 2, 4:30–6pm / BFNR

Want to get your child or student outside into nature this spring? This drop-off after-school program at Beechwood Farm Nature Reserve serves as the perfect respite from an overload of screen time. Spring at Beechwood has its own unique features and fascinating encounters with nature. Explore our meadows, forests and ecosystems for animals and their homes with Audubon educators all the while having fun! Every session has different activities. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember. Registration is required and space is limited.

FLEDGLINGS: AGES 3–5

April 8, May 13, June 10, July 9, 10–11:15am / BFNR  
April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, 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 per member; \$6 per nonmember.

April: Bunny Hop

June: You Little Stinker

May: Puddles and Ponds

July: Dragon Fly Jewels



Audubon's 2021 summer day camps are designed for kids ages 5–18. Campers explore the outdoors, visit the pond, make crafts, observe birds and other wildlife, and, of course, have lots of fun! This year camps will look at biomimicry, animal adaptations, and how humans got ideas from nature! STEAM programs will be incorporated into the curriculum.

Camps take place at **Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve (BFNR)**, **Succop Nature Park (SNP)**, and **Buffalo Creek Nature Park (BCNP)**.

Scholarships to our camps are available.

### AUDUBON EXPLORERS: AGES K-2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE

**BFNR:** June 21–25, June 28–July 2, July 5–9, July 12–16  
**SNP:** July 19–23  
**BCNP:** July 26–30

Jump like a toad, zing like a dragonfly, and sway like a tree! Explore forest, field, and pond for birds and bugs, frogs and foxes. Make nature crafts, play games, and get dirty along the way. Each week features a new and exciting nature theme. Each camp week has a morning (9am–12pm) session and an afternoon (1pm–4pm) session. Campers must provide their own lunches.

**Camp Cost for Members:** Half Day–\$125; Full Day–\$275

**Camp Cost for Non-members:** Half Day–\$150; Full Day–\$300

### BIRDZ ONE-DAY CAMP

**AGES K-2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE**

**BFNR:** June 15, 9am–3pm

**SNP:** July 20, 9am–3pm

**AGES 3<sup>RD</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**BFNR:** Jun 17, 9am–3pm

**SNP:** Jul 22, 9am–3pm

Birding is cool, fun, and the fastest-growing outdoor activity in America. Campers will develop birding skills by spending quality time in the field with the correct equipment and with our expert guides. Also included is a lecture on birds of prey with an up-close encounter with Eastern Screech Owls.

**Camp Cost:** \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members

### AUDUBON TRAILBLAZERS: AGES 3<sup>RD</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**BFNR:** June 21–21, June 28–July 2, July 5–9, July 12–16  
**SNP:** July 19–23  
**BCNP:** July 26–30

Observe, identify, explore—and make a difference in the world. We will contribute to real-world citizen science by studying butterflies, birds, plants and more. Each week special projects will make our reserves better for plants, animals and people. For kids entering grades 3–6 this fall. Beechwood camp week has a morning (9am–12pm) session and an afternoon (1pm–4pm) session. Campers must provide their own lunches.

**Camp Cost for Members:** Half Day–\$125; Full Day–\$275

**Camp Cost for Non-members:** Half Day–\$150; Full Day–\$300

### WILDERNESS SKILLS FOR SURVIVAL: AGES 5<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**BFNR:** June 14–18, 9am–3pm  
**SNP:** July 26–30, 9am–3pm  
**BCNP:** August 2–6, 9am–3pm

These are the skills you need to know now! Learn to recognize the best plants to use when building proper shelters and fires, then build them!

## Volunteer with Us!

We need your help to make your reserves even more friendly for birds, bees, butterflies, native insects, and other wildlife! No experience is necessary to volunteer and all materials are provided. Call (412) 963-6100 to learn more.

### STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS AT BFNR

*April 10, April 24, May 15 and June 5, 9am–12pm*

Volunteers are needed to help make Beechwood even more pollinator and bird-friendly! Join Audubon to manage invasive species and plant high-wildlife value native species. All materials will be provided and no experience is necessary. *Special thanks to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Monarchs and Pollinators Conservation Fund for their support of ASWP's efforts to protect and enhance habitat for native pollinators.*

Secure your shelter with knots using natural fibers, and cook over an open fire like a pro. Orient yourself with just nature as your guide. This is an all day camp. Students must provide their own lunches.

**Camp Cost:** \$275 for members, \$300 for non-members

### WATERSHED ONE-DAY CAMP: AGES 12-17

**BFNR:** June 28, 9am–3pm

**SNP:** June 30, 9am–3pm

**BCNP:** July, 9am–3pm

Visit our pond for a fun, interactive experience learning about our local watersheds and their importance in our ecosystems.

**Camp Cost:** \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members

### MERIT BADGE WEEK SUMMER CAMP: AGES 12-17

**SNP:** July 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 9am–3pm

**BFNR:** July 26, 27, 28, 29, 9am–3pm

Want to develop your scouting skills over the summer while earning your Merit Badges? This camp is open to anyone age 12–17, even if you're not a Scout. Topics will include Bird Study, Geocaching (participants must bring a GPS-enabled smartphone or other device), Insect Study, Wilderness Skills, and Environmental Science. Please see MeritBadge.org for details on the material we will cover. Bring a lunch and a blue card. You must register for each day independently. You only have to register for the days you want.

### BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE

**Monday:** Bird Study; all requirements met

**Tuesday:** Geocaching (Participants must bring a GPS-enabled smart phone or other device); all requirements met

**Wednesday:** Insect Study; all requirements met except #9, Raise in insect

### FOREST FRIDAYS AT TNR

*April 23, May 28, June 4 and June 25, 11am–1pm*

Volunteers are needed to help Audubon to protect and improve forest health for birds, pollinators, and wildlife at Todd Nature Reserve. All materials will be provided and no experience is necessary. The Friday Todd Naturalist-led walks will take place just before these volunteer events, so join us for both if you're able! *Special thanks to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Monarchs and Pollinators Conservation Fund and Five Star Urban Waters Restoration Grant for their project support.*

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Audubon is happy to set up custom volunteer events for your group. We also offer independent volunteering opportunities. Contact Sarah Koenig, Conservation Director, at [skoenig@aswp.org](mailto:skoenig@aswp.org) to learn more.

**Thursday:** Environmental Science; all requirements met

**Friday:** Wilderness Survival; all requirements met except #8 stay overnight in your natural shelter

### SUCCOP NATURE PARK

**Monday:** Bird Study; all requirements met

**Tuesday:** Orienteering; all requirements met except 7, 9, and 10

**Wednesday:** Soil & Water Conservation; all requirements met

**Thursday:** Environmental Science; all requirements met

**Friday:** Wilderness Survival; all requirements met except #8 stay overnight in your natural shelter

**Camp Cost:** \$25 per participant, per day

### AUDUBON-NATURALISTS-IN-TRAINING (ANTS): AGES 13-18

**BFNR:** June 18, 10am–2pm

ANTS, Audubon-Naturalists-in-Training, is for teens age 13–18 who love to be outside and work with children. ANTS assist our Outdoor Discovery Camp staff in leading our day camp of nature exploration, trail hikes, games, and crafts for kids ages 5–12. ANTS must attend this 1-day, 4-hour training course, and commit to a total of 30 hours of service during this summer's day camps in June and July. Teens may attend this ANTS training at either SNP or BFNR (you only need one) regardless of which property they choose to serve. Join the ANTS program by signing up for this training session or the session at our other property.

Questions and preferences for which camps you want to help with may be directed to Scott, [sdetwiler@aswp.org](mailto:sdetwiler@aswp.org). ANTs training is eligible for scholarships.

**Session Cost:** \$50



# AUDUBON *News*

## ASWP AWARDED \$191K TO SUPPORT MONARCH BUTTERFLIES AND BUMBLEBEES

ASWP was recently awarded two National Fish and Wildlife Grants that will help to restore and enhance habitats utilized by Imperiled pollinators, including Monarch Butterflies. The grants total \$190,983. In addition to Monarch Butterflies, the grants will support Rusty-Patched Bumblebees, Yellow Banded Bumblebees, and other imperiled bumblebees and pollinators. Project activities will take place on Rights of Ways, agricultural land, and ASWP's nature reserves.

The grants will also increase the native seed and seedling supply of milkweed—the plant that Monarch Butterflies use to lay eggs. Significant volunteer hours will be committed to the project, getting people outdoors to explore and engage with the natural world.

Project partners include Chatham University, Penn State Extension-Butler County, Pennsylvania Women's Agricultural Network, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, United States Army Corps of Engineers - Pittsburgh District, Allegheny County, Friends of the Riverfront, Rachel Carson Trail Conservancy, and agricultural landowners for these projects. Learn more about the specifics of the project at [aswp.org](http://aswp.org).

## AUDUBON ANNOUNCES OVER \$335K IN GRANTS TO EXPAND OUR CONSERVATION IMPACT IN THE BUFFALO CREEK IMPORTANT BIRD AREA AND WATERSHED

Audubon was recently awarded 3 grants to expand our conservation initiatives in the Buffalo Creek Important Bird Area and Watershed. These awards bring the total amount secured for Buffalo Creek enhancement and protection to over \$1.6M since 2019.



From the creation of the Buffalo Creek Watershed Coalition to tree plantings to farmland preservation, these projects will help protect habitat and water quality—benefiting birds and people.

Want to learn more and get involved? Contact our Conservation Director, Sarah Koenig, at [skoenig@aswp.org](mailto:skoenig@aswp.org).

With \$239k from the **Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (PA DEP) Growing Greener funds**, Audubon will conduct a comprehensive water quality assessment, education, and monitoring initiative.

The Louisiana Waterthrush Community Conservation in Buffalo Creek project will help to protect habitat and conduct monitoring for this important bioindicator species with \$32k in funds from the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program**. Project partners include the Butler-Freeport Trail, Pennsylvania Resources Council, Freeport Area Middle School, and Chatham University.

Extensive pollution modeling and water quality monitoring will be conducted with a \$65k award from **PA DEP's 319 Nonpoint Source Management Fund**. The resulting Buffalo Creek Watershed Implementation Plan will be an important tool to identify and secure resources to implement priority restoration projects.

# Thanks!

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania is grateful for the following governmental, organizational, and corporate support over the past year, that is helping us to connect the people of southwestern PA to birds and nature.

**\$500,000 AND UP**  
Babcock Charitable Trust

**\$100,000 TO \$499,999**  
PA Dept. of Environmental Protection  
National Fish & Wildlife Fund  
Succop Family Foundation

**\$50,000 TO \$99,999**  
PA Dept of Conservation and Nature Resources  
Richard King Mellon Foundation  
Fred J. and Shirley H. Jordan Foundation

**\$10,000 TO \$49,999**  
Allegheny Regional Asset District  
The Florence Boyer Foundation

NexTier Bank  
Clapp Charitable and Educational Trust  
The Fund for Charitable Giving

**\$5,000 TO \$10,000**  
National Audubon Society  
The White Pine Fund  
Milton G. Hulme Charitable Foundation  
The Burke Foundations  
Allegheny County

**\$1,000 TO \$4,999**  
Piccadilly Herb Club  
Penn Township Commissioners  
Clark Hunter Foundation

Vanguard Charitable  
The Milestone Fund  
Town & Country Garden Club

**\$500 TO \$999**  
Fox Chapel Garden Club  
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund  
Fidelity Charitable  
Morgan Stanley GIFT  
National Philanthropic Trust  
Squaw Run Garden Club  
Western PA Mushroom Club  
South Butler Garden Club



## LOOKING FOR THE *Perfect Location*

FOR YOUR  
WEDDING, SHOWER,  
BIRTHDAY PARTY, OR  
OTHER EVENT?

Contact us at (412) 963-6100 to learn more about all of your rental spaces, surrounded by the beauty of nature. We offer rentals at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve and Succop Nature Park.

*Photo courtesy of Michael Will Photographers*

# Auduban NATURE STORE *Signs of Spring*

## IT'S TIME TO SET UP HUMMINGBIRD AND ORIOLE FEEDERS!

Hummingbirds love our hand-painted glass or sturdy BPA free plastic, dishwasher safe feeders. Attract Baltimore Orioles with a fruit or jelly feeder. We have more choices than ever before. Don't forget the Birdberry Jelly!

## PLANT A POLLINATOR GARDEN THE WHOLE FAMILY WILL ENJOY!

Check out our colorful four-piece Kid's Garden Tool Set. Made from carbon steel and hardwood, this set includes real kid-sized tools, perfect for ages 3-7.

### BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE

614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel · Tuesday-Saturday: 9am-5pm

### SUCCOP NATURE PARK

185 W. Airport Road in Butler · Tuesday-Saturday: 12-5pm

*We offer curbside pick-up on our bird seed, specially formulated for the birds in our region. Order online or call (412) 963-6100 to place an order; we're happy to help! Seed may also be purchased at many local Giant Eagle stores.*



### APRIL SPECIAL – 20% OFF

## COMPLETE HUMMINGBIRD PACKAGE

*Includes feeder, nectar mix, cleaning brush, and feeder pole for the discounted price of \$45. Price does not include sales tax. Redeem in Store.*

### MAY SPECIAL – 20% OFF

## ORIOLE ATTRACTOR PACKAGE

*Includes double hanging cup feeder, fruit jelly, and mealworms for the discounted price of \$39. Price does not include sales tax. Redeem in Store.*

### JUNE SPECIAL – 20% OFF

## BIRDBATH PACKAGE

*Includes birdbath, cleaning brush, and backyard bird guide for the discounted price of \$34. Price does not include sales tax. Redeem in Store.*

# CERTIFIED BACKYARD HABITAT *Update*

## THE MOVEMENT TO SUPPORT BIRDS AND POLLINATORS CONTINUES TO GROW

Now in its 4th season, Audubon's Certified Backyard Habitat (CBH) program has grown to over 500 program participants across the 7 counties of southwestern Pennsylvania and certified an area over 3 times the size of Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. From a balcony in Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood to a multi-acre farm in Washington County, we are honored to work alongside private property owners to create a distributed nature reserve to support wildlife. **Together, we are transforming the region.**

There are a limited number of CBH slots remaining for the 2021. Call (412) 963-6100 or visit [aswp.org](http://aswp.org) to learn more and enroll.



*Photos courtesy of Joe Morrison*

## HABITAT HERO SPOTLIGHT

*Lindsay Woge & Joe Morrison*

Lindsay and Joe have transformed their yard into a sanctuary for birds and pollinators. Over several seasons, they've planted a diversity of native species, reduced their lawn area, and created a nurturing environment for wildlife.

They've now reached the highest CBH certification level of Hero (platinum).

We would like to congratulate and extend our gratitude to Joe and Lindsay for their accomplishment and commitment!



## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for the grand opening the Babcock Nature Center at Buffalo Creek Nature Park.

**Saturday, June 12 • Ribbon Cutting at 10am**

Ribbon cutting at 10am with festivities throughout the day. A full list of activities and times will be posted online. We're excited to continue to expand our outreach into the community and welcome you to experience the new nature center's classroom, store, and outside learning and recreation areas.





614 DORSEYVILLE ROAD  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15238

*Spring is here!*  
**MAY 8<sup>TH</sup> IS THE  
NATIVE PLANT  
NURSERY**

**OPENING DAY!**

Stop by Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve to pick plants that will attract bees, birds, butterflies, and other wildlife to your backyard.

**Can't make it on that day?**

The nursery is open through October, Tuesday through Saturday from 9am to 5pm.

