

# BULLETIN

— WINTER / SPRING 2018–19 —



*In this issue:* Common Ravens are often mistaken for Crows—learn to tell the difference!

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# BULLETIN

FALL / WINTER 2018-19

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Ravens have made a comeback in recent years, and can be found at our Todd Nature Reserve. Learn more about these intelligent and resilient birds.



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# This Audubon View

Over the past year, there have been a torrent of alarming environmental reports released, with many not generating the concern they deserve. In October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a report stating that effects of climate change will be more severe—and happen much sooner—than previously thought. According to the report, as soon as 2040 there will be worsening food shortages, significant changes to ocean ecology, and increased wildfires and other natural disasters. Given that the median age in this country is around 38, these changes will occur in many of our lifetimes.



Even with shorter timelines, it is natural to ignore things that may happen in the future. Harder to ignore are the things that have already happened. The decline in Monarch Butterfly populations and the plight of Honey Bees have been well reported, but studies on the overall drop in insect populations are even more alarming. One study out of Germany reported a 76% decline in the total seasonal biomass of flying insects over the last three decades. Losses exceeded 80% during the summer, when populations should be at their highest. Closer to home, I suspect you are seeing a similar thing. It's called 'windshield phenomenon.' When was the last time you remember needing to pull over to clean your car's windshield because of all the dead insects on it? Certainly, cars are a bit more aerodynamic these days, but the biggest reason for the change is the reduction in insect populations.

While fewer insects, particularly mosquitoes and ticks (which are actually arachnids, but we'll include them here), may seem like a good thing, their decline is not a good for any of us. They pollinate our plants. They are the sanitation workers of the world—breaking down and helping to decompose dead plants and animals. And they are the sole food source for many amphibians, reptiles, and birds. Almost every bird feeds insects to their nestlings.

So, I ask you, please consider reducing your use of pesticides. Plant a few more native plants. Let your yard become a little more *buggy*. The birds and other animals will thank you. And if it becomes a problem, I will happily clean your windshield.

—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 I7. 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.



# INTELLIGENT AND RESILIENT: *The Common Raven*



If one could travel back in time several hundred years ago, to the pre-settlement forests of Western Pennsylvania, the Common Raven (*corvus corax*) would have been an integral part of the avian landscape. The harsh, guttural croaks of this fascinating member of the corvid family would have been ubiquitous sound. Like a number of species of the eastern forests, ravens did not fare well with the coming of Europeans and subsequent landscape changes. By 1900, they had essentially vanished from the now-populous farms in our region and many other areas in the eastern part of their range. Crows on the other hand increased as humans urbanized the land surrounding Pittsburgh.

Known for their keen intelligence, Common Ravens often can work together to solve novel problems. Their intelligence and curiosity also helps them in their search for food. Recent studies indicate that ravens can have the intelligence and problem-solving skills of a seven year-old child.

Ravens are less common than their fellow corvids the American Crow and Fish Crow, and it can be easy to confuse them for one another. Both crow species are found here in western Pennsylvania and in and around ASWP's reserves.

One easy way to determine the difference between ravens and crows is size. Ravens are larger, nearly the size of a Red-tailed Hawk, while crows appear smaller. Common Ravens have larger curved beaks with a tuft of feathers on top, while crow bills are straighter and lacking feathers. You will also find ravens traveling alone or in pairs, flying in circles. Crows are often observed in much larger groups, flying straight.

Another difference—the birds' tails. Observe the tail as the bird flies overhead. A crow's tail feathers are basically the same length, so when the bird spreads its tail, it opens up like a fan. Ravens, on the other hand, have longer middle feathers in their tails, so their tail appears wedge-shaped when open. Another clue can be found by listening closely to the birds' calls. Crows give a cawing sound, but ravens produce a lower, guttural croak.

Once a bird of the remote mountain forests as late as the mid-20th century, the resilient and adaptable raven has increased substantially since the 1980s across western Pennsylvania. According to Breeding Bird Surveys, the species has increased by 6.5% per year since 1966 in the state. And local Christmas Bird Counts across our region reflect this trend. The Pittsburgh CBC has recorded Common Ravens since 2007, along with the Buffalo Creek Valley and Butler counts. Ravens have been recorded at all three ASWP properties as the regrowth of our forests and protection from persecution is probably the biggest reasons for their recovery.

## MEET OUR RESIDENT COMMON RAVEN

Did you know that ASWP has its own Common Raven living at Beechwood? In May of 2017, we received a phone call from a family living near Todd Nature Reserve about a crow that wouldn't leave their home. The bird followed this family around, begging for food, and even trailed them into their garage. A staff member from ASWP came to check out—and found it was a juvenile Common Raven with a metal band attached to its right foot. The bird had likely been raised illegally as a pet and had either escaped or been released. Because this bird had been acclimated and imprinted on human beings, it would never be able to live in the wild.

That's where ASWP stepped in. The PA Game Commission gave ASWP the ok to recover the bird and house the raven in our mews at Beechwood, along with our other education birds. This extremely intelligent bird has been undergoing care and training to become an ASWP education bird. We hope in the near future to be able to add this Common Raven to our public education programs—highlighting the intelligence and beauty of our local corvids.

# Winter/Spring

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE



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

### Our Locations

Events take place at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve (BFNR), Succop Nature Park (SNP), Todd Nature Reserve (TNR), Todd Nature Store (TNS), or Buffalo Creek Nature Center (BCNC).

**BFNR:** 614 Dorseyville Road, Fox Chapel, Allegheny County

**SNP:** 185 W. Airport Road, Penn Township, Butler County

**TNR:** 347 Kepple Road, Sarver, Butler County

**TNS:** Yellow Jacket Square, 612 South Pike Road, Sarver, Butler County

**BCNC:** 154 Monroe Road, Sarver, Butler County

### Special Events

#### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Join one of our ASWP Christmas Bird Counts! For a list of local count leaders, please visit [www.aswp.org](http://www.aswp.org).

**Pittsburgh (includes Beechwood):** December 29

**South Butler (includes Succop Nature Park):** December 16

**Buffalo Creek Valley (includes Todd Nature Reserve):** December 15

**Christmas Bird Count Dinner at Beechwood:** December 30 at 6pm

**Christmas Bird Count Lunch, South Butler:** December 22 at noon at Hardwood Cafe.

#### KIDS' CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

*December 15, 10am–12pm / Buffalo Creek Nature Center*

*December 16, 10am–12pm / Succop Nature Park*

*December 29, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve*

Kids and parents are invited to participate in a family-friendly version of the 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.

#### MAPLE MADNESS

*March 16, 10am–1pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve*

*March 23, 10am–1pm / Succop Nature Park*

Last seating for pancake brunch is at 1pm. Last guided hike leaves after the 1pm brunch group has finished their meal.

Experience the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of Maple Sugaring as you take a trip through the history and science of maple syrup. Enjoy a pancake brunch, too! Registration is required, with brunch seatings every 30 minutes. Last seating for pancake brunch is at 1pm. Last guided hike leaves after the 1pm brunch group has finished their meal. Cost is \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

#### PYMATUNING BIRD OUTING

*March 24, 8am–12pm / Wildlife Learning Center in Pymatuning State Park*

Pymatuning State Park represents one of the best places in Pennsylvania to observe migrating waterfowl and raptors like Bald Eagles. Participants will meet at the Wildlife Learning Center on the Linesville side of the park, just up from the spillway. For more information, contact Chris Kubiak at [ckubiak@aswp.org](mailto:ckubiak@aswp.org). Free.

#### AUDUBON EARTH DAY: DAY OF SERVICE TO THE PLANET

*April 20, 9am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve,  
Succop Nature Park and Todd Nature Reserve*

Roll Up Your Sleeves and help ASWP on the Audubon Earth Day of Service. We are inviting everyone to help celebrate with our Earth Day of Service, a morning of pitching in with friends and neighbors at each of our three locations to show some love to our little corner of the planet. Help us remove invasive species and return native plants and trees to the ecosystem, or help out on our trails. Help ASWP to beautify and improve our reserves and green spaces for our birds and local wildlife. Families and community groups encouraged to participate. Free.

### Birding & Nature Hikes

#### BIRDS & MORE NATURALIST LED MORNING WALKS

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

**Succop Nature Park:** Every Thursday at 9am; Free

**Buffalo Creek Nature Center:** Starting February 1, 2019. Every Friday at 9am along the Butler-Freeport Trail; Free

## WINTER WALKABOUT: SIGNS OF LIFE

February 9, 2–3:30pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve,  
Succop Nature Park and Buffalo Creek Nature Center

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. Cost is \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

## SPRING MIGRATORY HIKES

Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve: April 27 and May 4

Succop Nature Park: April 27 and May 4

Todd Nature Reserve: April 27 and May 4

## Audubon at Night

BIRD TRIVIA NIGHT AT  
FULL PINT BREWERY IN LAWRENCEVILLE

January 24, 7–9pm / Full Pint Brewery, Lawrenceville

So you think you know birds! Head to the Full Pint Brewery in Lawrenceville and put your bird knowledge to the test. Enjoy fellow birding enthusiasts as they answer bird trivia. Adults only. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember. Cost is for program only; participants are responsible for the cost of their food and drinks.

## NIGHT CAMPFIRE AND HIKE

March 2, 6:30–8pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve,  
Succop Nature Park and Buffalo Creek Nature Center

Enjoy a warm campfire, a story or two, and a hike under the stars. Cost is \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

## Preschool Programs

FLEDGLINGS PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES: AGES 3–5

Dec. 11, Jan. 9, Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr. 9 / Succop Nature Park  
Dec. 12, Jan. 10, Feb. 13, Mar. 13, Apr. 10 / Todd Nature Store  
Dec. 13, Jan. 11, Feb. 14, Mar. 14, Apr. 11 / Beechwood Farms  
All programs run 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.

**December:** Holiday for the Birds      **March:** Down the Maple Trail

**January:** Who Gives a Hoot      **April:** Spring Peepers

## Hands-on Programs

YULE LOG HIKE AND CRAFT

December 15, 4–6pm / Succop Nature Park

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. Cost is \$6 per member, \$10 per non-members.

## CO-EXISTING WITH THE WHITE-TAILED DEER

January 19, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms and Succop Nature Park

January 19, 2–4pm / Todd Nature Store

White-tailed Deer are our largest native grazing mammal. Deer greatly impact our environment and our yards and gardens when they are out of balance with the ecosystem. This program will teach you about the ecology of this abundant species, how to plant and garden with deer-resistant native plants, and other tips to coexist.

## CITIZEN SCIENCE: CHIMNEY SWIFT MONITORING

January 26, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms and Succop Nature Park

Our Chimney Swift Towers are located across the region—and we need your help letting us know if birds are using them! Come learn the life history and ecology of this amazing “cigar with wings” and how to help monitor Chimney Swift’s nesting activities. Free.

## CITIZEN SCIENCE: GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT TRAINING

February 2, 10–11:30am / Beechwood Farms and Succop Nature Park

February 9, 10–11:30am / Todd Nature Store

The Great Backyard Bird Count takes place Presidents day weekend and can be done anywhere there are wild birds. Get ready to count with this training reviewing common species and reporting procedures. Visit GBBC.org for details about the count. Great for scout leaders, parents, and others who want to learn about the count and get tips for getting their groups involved. Act 48 hours available. This event is free!

## HUMMERS AT HOME

February 2, 1–3pm / Beechwood Farms and Succop Nature Park

February 9, 1–3pm / Todd Nature Store

To live such high energy lifestyles, hummingbirds must sync their migration and nesting times with the flowering of nectar-bearing plants. Learn how climate change threatens to throw off this delicate balance, with unknown repercussions for hummingbirds. Free.

## CERTIFIED BACKYARD HABITATS FOR 2019!

We’re taking reservations for our Certified Backyard Habitat program! Get in on this initiative that helps you create habitats for birds, butterflies, and wildlife—right in your own backyard. We’ll be starting up the site visits in the Spring of 2019, so contact us today to get your yard on the list to become a Certified Backyard Habitat! Learn more by visiting [aswp.org](http://aswp.org).

## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT WALK

February 16, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve,  
Succop Nature Park and Buffalo Creek Nature Center

Join the ASWP naturalists for our annual Great Backyard Bird Count walk on Audubon's trails.

## BIRDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

March 7, 7–8:30pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Global climate is changing in ways not seen for millennia, and we know humans bear at least part of the responsibility. How will birds in North America be impacted? This talk will cover the findings of Audubon's 2014 Climate Report and the challenges facing bird species across the continent. Free.

## MASTER BIRDER PROGRAM

Class Thursday evenings from 6:30–8:30pm at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. Outings on Saturday or Sunday. Audubon's Master Birder Program is for the intermediate birder who would like to take his or her birding knowledge to another level. Outings are designed to reinforce class subject matter and to get firsthand experience with the breadth of birds that occur in Western Pennsylvania. Graduates will have a detailed understanding of local habitat, bird identification, and behavior along with the desire to share their learning through an ongoing volunteer commitment to the ASWP. Contact Chris Kubiak at [ckubiak@aswp.org](mailto:ckubiak@aswp.org) for more info. Cost is \$400 per member; \$450 per nonmember.

## AUDUBON VOLUNTEER NATURALIST TRAINING

Six Mondays, March 25 through April 29 from 9:30am–2:30pm at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. Audubon Volunteer Naturalists lead small groups of school students on field trips on the trails at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, primarily spring and fall. This training will provide teaching techniques and basic natural history. This is class will meet every Monday for six weeks March 25 through April 29. Sign up for the first session, March 25, to register for the series. Contact Scott, [sdetwiler@aswp.org](mailto:sdetwiler@aswp.org), for complete details about the Audubon Volunteer Naturalist program.

## HUMMERS AT HOME AND PROJECT NESTWATCH

April 13, 12–2pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve,  
Succop Nature Park and Todd Nature Store

This combined Citizen Science program looks at two important citizen science programs you and your family can participate in. Hummers at Home monitor hummingbirds and how they must sync their migration and nesting times with the flowering of nectar-bearing plants. Nestwatch is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. Free.

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

## Native Plants

### NATIVE MEADOWS FOR ANY SPACE

March 23, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Meadows provide food and shelter for birds and pollinators. Learn tools and techniques for creating meadows in any size space. Attendees will make their own native wildflower seed mix. Cost is \$6 for members, \$10 for non-members.

### WOODLAND WILDFLOWERS: NATIVE PLANTS OF SPRING

April 27, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Get to know southwestern Pennsylvania's amazing native spring wildflowers. Learn how you can incorporate these native plants into your yard to support birds, pollinators, and wildlife then take a walk around BFNR to see them in their natural setting. Cost is \$6 for members, \$10 for non-members.

## Scouts

### MAPLE FOR SCOUTS

March 9, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms and Succop Nature Park

Experience the science and history of Maple Sugaring. Groups or individuals welcome; advance registration is required. Contact Scott Detwiler at (412) 963-6100 or [sdetwiler@aswp.org](mailto:sdetwiler@aswp.org) to make your reservation. Cost is \$7.50 per scout.

### SCOUT BADGE DAY

April 6, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

April 6, 12–2pm / Succop Nature Park

Earn a nature-related badge of your choice. Arrangements are by den or troop and must be made in advance by contacting our education department. Contact Scott Detwiler at (412) 963-6100 or [sdetwiler@aswp.org](mailto:sdetwiler@aswp.org) to make your reservation. Cost is \$7.50 per scout.

## AUDUBON'S Eco-Tours

Looking to cross more birds off of your life list? Join us for Eco-Tours across the country and around the world. Members get to sign up for two weeks prior to the registration opening to the general public. Wondering where we're headed? These trips are either already planned or we're working on them. Please contact Brian Shema for more information at (412) 963-6100.

**Ecuador:** Late Winter 2019

**Peru:** Winter 2019

**Maine:** Summer 2019

**South Florida and the**

**Southeast Arizona:** Fall 2019

**Dry Tortugas:** Spring 2020

# WINTER/SPRING *Calendar of Events*

## *Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve*

### DECEMBER

- 12 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 13 Fledglings
- 19, 26 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 29 Christmas Bird Count
- 29 Kids' Christmas Bird Count
- 30 Christmas Bird Count Dinner

### JANUARY

- 2, 9 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 11 Fledglings
- 16 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 19 Co-existing with White-tailed Deer
- 23 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 26 Chimney Swift Monitoring
- 30 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk

### FEBRUARY

- 2 Great Backyard Bird Count Training
- 2 Hummers at Home
- 6 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 9 Winter Walkabout
- 13 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 14 Fledglings
- 16 Great Backyard Bird Count Walk
- 20, 27 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk

### MARCH

- 2 Night Campfire and Hike
- 6 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 7 Birds and Climate Change
- 9 Maple for Scouts
- 13 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 14 Fledglings
- 16 Maple Madness
- 20 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 23 Native Meadows for Any Space
- 27 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk

### APRIL

- 6 Scout Badge Day
- 3, 10 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 11 Fledglings
- 13 Project Nestwatch
- 17 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 20 Earth Day, Day of Service to the Planet
- 24 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 27 Spring Migratory Hike
- 27 Woodland Wildflowers: Native Plants of Spring

## *Succop Nature Park*

### DECEMBER

- 13 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 15 Yule Log Hike and Craft
- 16 South Butler Christmas Bird Count
- 16 Kids' Christmas Bird Count
- 20 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 22 Christmas Bird Count Lunch
- 27 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk

### JANUARY

- 3 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 9 Fledglings
- 10, 17 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 19 Co-existing with White-tailed Deer
- 24 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 26 Chimney Swift Monitoring
- 31 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk

### FEBRUARY

- 2 Great Backyard Bird Count Training
- 2 Hummers at Home
- 7 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 9 Winter Walkabout
- 14 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 16 Great Backyard Bird Count
- 21, 28 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk

### MARCH

- 2 Night Campfire and Hike
- 7 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 9 Maple for Scouts
- 12 Fledglings
- 14, 21 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk
- 23 Maple Madness
- 28 Birds and More Naturalist Led Walk

### APRIL

- 6 Scout Badge Day
- 9 Fledglings
- 13 Hummers at Home and Project Nestwatch
- 20 Earth Day, Day of Service to the Planet
- 27 Spring Migratory Hike

## *Todd Nature Reserve*

### Todd Nature Reserve: TNR

347 Kepple Road, Sarver, Butler County

### Todd Nature Store: TNS

Yellow Jacket Square, 612 South Pike Road,  
Sarver, Butler County

### Buffalo Creek Nature Center: BCNC

154 Monroe Road, Sarver, Butler County

### DECEMBER

- 15 Christmas Bird Count (TNR)
- 15 Kids' Christmas Bird Count (TNR)

### JANUARY

- 10 Fledglings (TNS)
- 19 Co-existing with White-tailed Deer (TNS)

### FEBRUARY

- 1, 8 Birds and More  
Naturalist Led Hike (BCNC)
- 9 Great Backyard Bird Count Training (TNS)
- 9 Hummers at Home (TNS)
- 9 Winter Walkabout (BCNC)
- 13 Fledglings (TNS)
- 15 Birds and More  
Naturalist Led Hike (BCNC)
- 16 Great Backyard Bird Count Walk (BCNC)
- 22 Birds and More  
Naturalist Led Hike (BCNC)

### MARCH

- 1 Birds and More Naturalist Led Hike (BCNC)
- 2 Night Campfire and Hike (BCNC)
- 8 Birds and More Naturalist Led Hike (BCNC)
- 13 Fledglings (TNS)
- 15, 22, 29 Birds and More  
Naturalist Led Hike (BCNC)

### APRIL

- 5 Birds and More Naturalist Led Hike (BCNC)
- 10 Fledglings (TNS)
- 12 Birds and More  
Naturalist Led Hike (BCNC)
- 13 Hummers at Home  
and Project Nestwatch (TNS)
- 19 Birds and More  
Naturalist Led Hike (BCNC)
- 20 Earth Day, Day of Service  
to the Planet (TNR)
- 26 Birds and More Naturalist Led Hike (BCNC)
- 27 Spring Migratory Hike (TNR)

# Nature Store NEWS

Our Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve store is now carrying a selection of Liberty Graphics T-shirts. Liberty Graphics feature a design emphasis on the wonders of the natural world and production methods that meet rigid ecological standards. They use water-based ink and are printed in the USA.

- Why water based ink? PVC-free water-based ink gives customers a soft-to-the-hand garment. Unlike conventional print shops, the only solvent needed is water. After printing, water is filtered and reused.
- The soft feel of the printed area is because water is absorbed by the fibers of the garment as opposed to petroleum-based ink, which sits on top of the product. The same characteristic, allows air to move freely through the garment's fibers when the active body heats up.

Liberty Graphics T-shirts are perfect for birding, gardening, hiking and simply day to day wear. Stop by Beechwood to see available styles!

## THE FINCHES ARE COMING – FEED THEM!

According to the Winter Finch Forecast, cone and birch seeds crops are poor to low in Ontario and throughout the northeast. This poor crop will force northern birds to move south in search of food this winter. This means we will host a larger than normal population of finches in southwestern Pennsylvania. This includes birds like Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and (for those that are lucky) Evening Grosbeak and Common Redpoll. Most of these birds will likely use natural resources when they first arrive, but they will eventually utilize available finch feeders. When this happens, feeding frenzies can occur. In 2004, the feeders at Beechwood hosted over 100 Pine Siskins! We encourage you to place finch feeders in your yard this season, filled with either finch mix or nyjer seed, such as the premium blends available in our nature store.



## AUDUBON NATURE STORE AT BEECHWOOD

614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
(412) 963-6100

### HOURS:

Tuesday–Saturday: 9am–5pm  
Sunday: 1–5pm

## AUDUBON NATURE STORE IN SARVER

612 South Pike Road, Yellow Jacket Square, Sarver, PA 16065  
(724) 295-0019

### HOURS:

Wednesday–Friday: 12–7pm  
Saturday: 9am–5pm

## Good News! IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER GIFTS ARE STILL HERE

While 2018 brought many changes to the federal tax code, IRA Charitable Rollovers (also known as Qualified Charitable Distributions) are still with us. If you are over 70½ and taking the required minimum distributions, this is an excellent way to support ASWP and avoid income and other taxes on the distributions. Check out the Support section of our website or call us 412-963-6100 for more information.

# Get to Know:



## THE BUFFALO CREEK VALLEY IMPORTANT BIRD AREA (IBA)

Did you know that Todd Nature Reserve falls within an Important Bird Area (IBA)? ASWP has an ongoing commitment to protect this amazing area. The Buffalo Creek Valley IBA contains exceptional bird habitat, is an area of high biological diversity, and is home to many species of conservation concern.

The IBA is made up of the Buffalo Creek watershed and Harrison Hills Park, covering 171.5 square miles in Butler, Armstrong, and Allegheny counties. The area is a mixing zone between southern fauna such as Yellow-throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Yellow-throated Vireo—and northern fauna including Magnolia Warbler, Brown Creeper, and Purple Finch.

It contains extensive areas of northern hardwood-conifer forest communities along steep and narrow ravines and large wetland areas in areas such as the floodplain of Little Buffalo Run. It even contains portions of two Important Mammal Areas! ASWP is proud to protect and preserve the quality and character of the Buffalo Creek Valley IBA.

*Photo: Magnolia Warbler, Owen Deutsch (Audubon Photography Awards)*

### SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK IN THE IBA INCLUDE:

Conservation of over 500 acres of property through ownership and conservation easements.

Partnership with Freeport Area School District to deliver environmental education curriculum in classrooms and as part of Citizen Science on the Schoolground initiative.

Development of the upcoming Buffalo Creek Nature Center.

Currently conducting a current 10-year update to the Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan. The updated Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan will identify restoration and partnership opportunities, inform future property acquisition, and enhance coordination with the IBAs 22 municipalities.

## Memorials & Honors

### Memorials

#### Doris Malter

Diana Lawry  
Peg Gardner  
Berta Kapoor  
Janis & Jonas Johnson

#### Rik Rodefer

Courtney Stein  
Sophia & Frederik Crawford  
Nancy & William Roderick  
Wendy & George Galleber

#### Sara Casey

The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co.

#### Elizabeth Worley

Hannah & Neil Van Horn  
Mary Louise McCune  
Maryanne Wiegand Hermann  
Margot Woodwell  
Alice Buchanan  
William T. Purdue  
Christopher Hardin

#### Elizabeth Worley

(continued)  
Nancy & Dan Fales  
Robert S. Worley  
Karen and Jack Meck  
Dorothy L. Sherrard  
Janet & George Gilmore  
Linda Colbaugh  
Carolyn & Scott Sanford

#### Elizabeth Stevenson

Ann Johnston

#### Arlene Stanish

Manuel Reich  
Janet Milan  
Kim and Neil Chrisman  
Giant Eagle Legal Department

#### Donna Anderson Stephens

The Lind Family –  
Ronnie, Lou, Julie & Laura  
Susan Anderson  
Sarah Cox

### Honors

Noah Yeich  
Erika E. Lauffer

# IT'S A VICTORY FOR BIRDS

## *Thanks to The University of Pittsburgh*

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) was recently alerted to a potential problem for migrating birds. The University of Pittsburgh's blue victory lights, which shine vertically from the Cathedral of Learning after a Panthers' football or national championship win, could trap migrating birds, disrupting migration and leading to bird deaths. The situation was brought to light by local birdwatcher Kate St. John, whose blog "Birds Outside My Window" mentioned Pitt's lights and compared them to the Tribute in Light at New York City's 9/11 memorial. In New York City, researchers found that thousands of birds were getting caught in the vertical light beams—and some were dying. Luckily, the quick action of simply turning off the lights caused the birds to fly free once more, away from the spotlights.

ASWP reached out to The University of Pittsburgh to discuss ways in which the lights could continue to shine—without harming birds. The University quickly indicated its willingness to cycle the lights on for 45 minutes, then off for 15 minutes. This schedule was created after consultation with New York City Audubon, which assisted in managing the Tribute in Light.

The lights will be monitored and adjustments made as necessary. ASWP thanks The University of Pittsburgh, Kate St. John, and the local bird lovers who not only brought this matter to our attention, but who worked to find a solution that's truly a win-win for birds and the Panthers.

### NEW GRANTS AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPTEMBER 31, 2018

#### \$5,000 AND UP

Anonymous (2)  
Clapp Charitable & Educational Trust  
The White Pine Fund  
Fox Chapel Area Rotary

#### \$500 TO \$1,000

Butler Garden Club  
Jack Buncher Foundation  
Penn Township Woman's Club  
Vanguard Charitable

## OVER 200 VOLUNTEERS HELP HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS AT BEECHWOOD

We've had a busy fall season, working on three separate habitat enhancement projects at BFNR. We've removed many invasive species and replaced them with hundreds of native trees, shrubs, and perennials that have high wildlife value. We extend our deepest gratitude to the 200+ volunteers who helped make this possible!

Next time you're at BFNR, be sure to check out the new plantings along Spring Hollow Trail, Pine Hollow Trail, and near the pond. Keep your eye on our calendar for more conservation volunteer opportunities in Spring 2019.



### WE'D LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING GROUPS FOR THEIR HELP IN THIS WORK:

Bayer Employees  
as part of Bayer Impact Day

Bidwell Training Center  
Horticulture Technology Students

Shadyside Academy

Fox Chapel Area High School  
Environmental Science Students

Fox Chapel Area Rotary Club

University of Pittsburgh Students  
as part of Pitt Make a Difference Day 2018

Duquesne Women's Tennis Team

HKN (the Carnegie Mellon Chapter of  
the IEEE Electrical Engineering Honor Society)

Bear Den Pack 65

Cub Scout Pack 625



614 DORSEYVILLE ROAD  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15238

## ASWP GIFT *Memberships*

Share your love of birds and nature! Looking for the perfect gift for that hard-to-buy-for person in your life? Your friends and loved ones will love receiving this thoughtful and personalized gift to help connect them to birds and nature! For only \$35, your gift recipient will be welcomed into Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania's family of dedicated individuals committed to conservation, birds, and a general love of nature! Need a gift for a whole family? Why not a Household Membership for only \$50! With so many programs to participate in and places to visit, a membership with ASWP is something the whole family will enjoy!

Give a gift membership today! Visit our website at [aswp.org/pages/giftmembership](http://aswp.org/pages/giftmembership) or call us at 412-963-6100. You can also mail this form with payment to: ASWP Membership, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

**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.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer (for matching gifts): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Individual: \$35     Household: \$50

**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.*