**Thank You, Volunteers!**

Our 26th annual festival was again a success. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make it happen! That includes those who sold tickets, greeted visitors, set up and took down displays, hosted the craft table, gave the vendors a lunch break, and helped out in so many ways. A special thank-you to those who designed, fabricated, and managed our Audubon booth. It would not have happened without all of you pitching in! Because of you, we can continue to offer young people environmental scholarships to colleges and camps. We heartily thank the Wallenpaupack administration and staff for the use of their facilities and for their help. Dave Fooks is our talented and diplomatic festival manager who sees that we have high quality vendors and keeps everything running smoothly. His is an almost year-round job. He reports that we had one hundred more visitors than last year. Thanks, Dave!

The theme of this year’s festival was “A Sense of Wonder—celebrating the life of Rachel Carson.” Her game-changing book, *Silent Spring*, was published 50 years ago, launching the modern environmental movement. Because of her warnings about DDT and other chemicals being pumped into our environment, DDT was finally banned in this country in 1972. Because of this, we can still see osprey, eagles, peregrines, and song birds. We featured a game at our booth to illustrate how harmful substances can accumulate as they move through the food chain. This was enhanced by a live feed from an osprey camera at the Audubon camp at Hog Island, Maine.

We also featured a letter-writing campaign at our booth, calling on President Obama and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to stop the imminent drilling for oil in the fragile Chukchi and Beaufort Seas in Alaska, especially by Shell Oil, a company with an abysmal pollution record and cruel human and environmental rights violations. Twelve hand-written letters were sent. That does not sound like much, but hand-written letters are rare today and pack an extra punch. National Audubon president David Yarnold, in a May 24, 2012 letter to the New York Times, said, “…The administration is ignoring warnings from the Coast Guard, the United States Geological Survey, the Government Accountability Office and hundreds of scientists. All say the industry is not prepared to drill safely in Arctic waters. Their nightmare scenario: a BP-like blowout in an ice-locked sea…”

—Katharine Dodge

**Eco-Notes by E-mail**

*Eco-Notes* is available by e-mail. It appears in the same colorful, easy-to-read format as the paper version, but without the cost, paper, or ink. Go to our website, nepaaudubon.org, to sign up.

**Our Mission Statement**

Our goal is to conserve and restore our environment to benefit humanity as well as birds and other wildlife through education, action, and advocacy.
National Is Leading on the Conservation Front

David Yarnold, president of National Audubon, has been bringing bird conservation and environmental issues to the forefront of items that need immediate attention. He has championed more “take action” positions on a myriad of issues including the BP oil spill, the siting of wind turbines, and the recent campaign to stop drilling in the frozen Arctic, only 15 miles from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

On this last topic he showed his Pulitzer Prize-winning skills with a strong and clearly written editorial to the nationally distributed McClatchy news organization. His article points out the lack of veracity on the part of Shell Oil in confronting the contingencies for cleaning up an oil spill in this fragile, frozen environment. Their 37-year-old drilling rig is touted to be able to withstand the force of a once-in-a-hundred-years storm in the ocean, but this is the rig that somehow lost its moorings on the Alaskan coast and nearly grounded. While Shell says it feels confident that it can drill safely and without mishaps, BP has announced that it is abandoning its planned $1.5 billion project to drill the Arctic because the project “does not meet our test” for safety standards and would cost too much to make it so.

Yarnold asks, “If Shell’s ships can’t meet pollution standards, if its rescue barges are substandard for Arctic conditions, if it can’t control a drilling rig in a calm harbor and if it can’t come clean about its ability to play by the rules, how can Shell possibly guarantee it can handle an oil spill in a notoriously hostile environment with massive waves and gale-force winds?”

The Interior Department appears to be re-examining their consideration of this project. Those of you who receive Audubon alerts may have responded to the recent call to action on this issue. We applaud you and have renewed confidence that our national organization is doing a truly diligent job in getting the issues right for birds and conservation.

—Barbara Leo

Brian Mattern Winner of NEPAS College Scholarship

Each year the Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society presents a $4000 scholarship to a graduating senior who plans to pursue a career in an environmental field. The funding for the scholarship is generated from the annual Art and Craft Festival. Brian Mattern of Clarks Summit is this year’s college scholarship winner. He is a 2011 graduate of Abington Heights High School and will be attending the University of Delaware to major in environmental engineering. Brian commented, “My goal is to help develop new ways to help the environment. I’m very grateful to the Audubon Society. I hope to represent them well in my studies and career.”

Welcome, New Members

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<tr>
<th>Kimberly Aldrich</th>
<th>Laurie Cassidy</th>
<th>Sarah Hall</th>
<th>Dale Lieberman</th>
<th>Elizabeth Slover</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jack Barnett</td>
<td>Glenn Caulada</td>
<td>Joseph Heitman</td>
<td>M. Long</td>
<td>Laura Sowpel</td>
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<td>James Bartholme</td>
<td>Diane S. Cavender</td>
<td>Dale R. Keeler</td>
<td>Vincent Maione</td>
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<td>Suzanne Bosco</td>
<td>Marlene Cours</td>
<td>Helen Kerr</td>
<td>Francis A. Pane</td>
<td>Patricia Walters</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Charles Briening</td>
<td>Arch Elving</td>
<td>Barbara Keyser</td>
<td>Michele Parzych</td>
<td>Patricia Wildenberg</td>
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<td>Irene Carey</td>
<td>Diane Fabbo</td>
<td>Ms. Arlene F. Kohl</td>
<td>Anna M. Price</td>
<td>Myrna Zielinski</td>
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<td>Myrtle W. Carlson</td>
<td>Edward Gasher</td>
<td>Mary Kolheffer</td>
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<td>Jeanne Carpenter</td>
<td>Frank Hehman</td>
<td>Michael Lacroix</td>
<td>Linda M. Sacco</td>
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2012-2013 NEPAS Board of Directors

Please meet the members of your board for the coming year:
Chris Fischer, President
Bob Campbell, Vice-President
Ronnie Fischer, Recording Secretary
Nancy Savage, Treasurer
Marge Brion, Adopt-a-Highway Chair
Kathy Dodge, Education Chair
Lindsay George, Director
Barbara Leo, Environmental Chair
MaryAnn Lunnis, Director, Scholarship Co-Chair
Marileta Robinson, Newsletter Editor
Jim Sanders, Art and Craft Festival Chair
Pat Sanders, Membership Chair
Pete Snyder, Director, Parliamentarian
Sue Thompson, Director
Chris Weigand, Scholarship Co-Chair

At the annual NEPAS Installation of Officers picnic:
Row 1, Kathy Dodge, Bob Campbell.
Row 2, Marge Brion, Barbara Leo, Sue Thompson, Chris Fischer,
Ronnie Fischer, Nancy Savage, Chris Weigand, Marileta Robinson.
Not pictured: Lindsay George, MaryAnn Lunnis, Jim and Pat
Sanders, Pete Snyder.

2012 Environmental Camp Scholarship Recipients

This year we had the pleasure of awarding two summer camp scholarships to attend the “Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens” program held the week of June 17 to June 22nd on Maine’s scenic Hog Island.

This year’s recipients were Reed A. Evans, 15, of Milford, PA, and Danielle J. Spewak, 16, of Newfoundland, PA. Both students attend Wallenpaupack Area High School.

These students had the privilege of being tutored by some of the country’s best known birders and ornithologists and had an opportunity to visit Eastern Egg Rock during the puffin breeding season.

NEPAS awards camp scholarships based on scholastic accomplishments and a demonstrated interest in the environment. Scholarships are funded by proceeds from the Art and Craft Festival. Learn more about available camp scholarships at http://www.nepaaudubon.org/about/scholarships.

—MaryAnn Lunnis


- Find a list of Audubon activities for the coming months and a downloadable Program Guide: http://www.nepaaudubon.org/events/
- Read about wild monk parakeets living in Wilkes Barre! http://www.nepaaudubon.org/2012/07/18/parakeets-in-pennsylvania/
- Learn about MaryAnn Lunniss’s experiences operating a live cam for Audubon’s Project Puffin. http://www.nepaaudubon.org/2012/08/29/are-you-for-the-birds/
- Read about Kelsey Kohrs, 2010 college scholarship winner, and her trip to the Gambia. http://t.co/lG29fZO1
- And there’s much more to explore on our website. Check it out at www.NepaAudubon.org. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
Mark Your Calendars

**Friday, October 19, 8 PM:** SAW-WHET OWL BANDING. Saw-whet owls are the smallest nocturnal raptor in the eastern US. Witness their capture in mist nets, collection of data, and their release. You might even be able to hold and release one. Call Bob for further information and reservations at 570-676-9969.

**Saturday, November 3, 1 PM:** BAT TALK. Bat Specialist Chris Sanders will tell us about bats, their habitat and habits, what is being done to protect them, and what is known about “White-Nose Syndrome,” the disease threatening most of our bats in the Northeast. PPL Environmental Learning Center, Route 6, Hawley, PA Call Jim at 570-253-3042 for information.

**Monday, December 3, 5:30 PM:** AUDUBON’S 113TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. This survey provides critical data to scientists who study long-term trends in bird populations. Participate and learn how we conduct this local bird count within a 7.5 mile radius of White Mills, Pennsylvania. For information, call Barbara at 570-253-2364.