John Porcino Presents One Earth: A Program of Environmental Stories and Songs

Each year John Porcino spins some 200 performances, workshops, and in-service trainings throughout the Northeast and beyond. His stories and songs are sparked to life with warmth, humor, a playful touch of audience participation, a twist of music from around the world, and a message of caring for our planet and each other. John is co-editor of the book *Spinning Tales, Weaving Hope: Stories of Peace, Justice and the Environment*.

Be sure to join us on Saturday, November 9, at 1 p.m., for this family-friendly program of stories, songs, and music that celebrates the beauty of the natural world, explores our interconnections with that world, and empowers people to take small (or large) steps in their lives to care for the environment. The program, co-sponsored by NEPAS and PPL, takes place at the PPL Environmental Learning Center in Hawley, PA.

Upper Delaware Bioblitz

Northeast PA Audubon was a sponsoring member of the first Upper Delaware Bioblitz, held on June 28 and 29. 50 scientists and amateur naturalists from across Pennsylvania and New York took part in the 24-hour survey of all living things located on a 63.5-acre property located just below Hancock, NY. In all, there were 1,034 different species identified, which included 55 bird species. More information on this event can be found at [www.upperdelawarebioblitz.com](http://www.upperdelawarebioblitz.com).

—Barbara Leo

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.
Observing Nature Up Close and Personal

In 2012 I was invited to volunteer as a remote-cam operator observing ospreys on Hog Island. It was something new and different, so I accepted. I had no idea how to operate a remote camera, which is done via computer, but all the volunteers were given a crash on-line course.

My first attempts were a bit awkward. The slightest movement of your mouse sends the camera running wild. But I eventually got the knack of it. The camera was set up on Hog Island, off the coast of Maine, and was focused on a large nest used by Steve and Rachel, our osprey couple. This was their second year to return to the nest.

Each volunteer had a two- to three-hour shift, sometimes morning and sometimes afternoon or evening. We started out watching eggs, observing the daily routines of Steve and Rachel, and recording notes. Watching these magnificent birds and their instinctive routines became the highlight of my day. I saw one chick emerging from its shell, I saw them with hardly any feathers, and observed the advances they made with each passing day, eventually emerging into fledglings. I could see the differences in each chick and how they advanced at different paces. I observed the care Rachel took of her chicks, and how she made sure each chick got ample food, paying special attention to the weakest. I saw her shield her chicks from the heat of the sun by keeping her wings open to provide shade. I observed Rachel calling out to Steve to let him know that it was time for him to catch a fish to feed everyone. And I saw each one of the chicks grow and take to the air when they fledged. I felt like part of the family and found myself cheering them on.

While I was getting attached to this family and logging my observations, the remote images the other volunteers and I were capturing on the video cam were being shared worldwide in real time on explore.com. We were raising awareness worldwide of the beauty and uniqueness of ospreys, hopefully increasing understanding of the importance of protecting each species that shares this earth with us. What a wonderful use of technology.

—MaryAnn Lunnis

Father's Day River Trip a Success

Eleven adventurous people braved the high, fast-moving water on the Delaware River for the Father's Day river trip. A trip that usually takes more than two hours was done in less than one hour. A delicious potluck meal was enjoyed by all, following the trip. Special thanks to our three Audubon members, Bob Campbell, Barbara Leo, and Georgette Pascotto, who performed the vehicle shuttle so that we could proceed to the food as soon as we got off the river.

—P H Snyder

Welcome, New Members

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<th>Rachel Bartron</th>
<th>Rosalind Dichter</th>
<th>Fred Garm</th>
<th>Sandra Kazinetz</th>
<th>Gail Meyers</th>
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<td>Joseph Cherney</td>
<td>Beth Dillenbeck</td>
<td>Robert Gercken</td>
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<td>Anala Miller</td>
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<td>Thomas Clewell</td>
<td>Jennifer Dougher</td>
<td>Rosemary Green</td>
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<td>Cindy Collins</td>
<td>Marie Drobnicki</td>
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<td>Catherine Craig</td>
<td>Alice Edwards</td>
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<td>Carol Crossen</td>
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<td>John Cruger</td>
<td>Janice Farley</td>
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<td>Nancy Cruger</td>
<td>Diane Fugel</td>
<td>M. L. Jones</td>
<td>Jeanne D. Martin</td>
<td>Amy Spunar</td>
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Find lots more great information about birds, the environment, and upcoming programs at www.nepaaudbon.org. Join us on Facebook (search Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society) and follow us on Twitter: @AudubonNEPA.
Editor's note: Your Board works hard throughout the year carrying out the mission of the Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society. For the next few issues, we will look at the different committees of the Board and the contributions they make.

The Scholarship Committee

Funding for the $4000 college scholarship is raised each July at the Art and Craft Festival. In January, the scholarship committee sends a cover letter and a copy of the scholarship application to approximately 30 high-school principals in Lackawanna, Pike, Susquehanna, and Wayne counties. We send a press release to local newspapers to announce the scholarship and to let folks know that the application is available on our website.

Scholarship applications are due at the end of April. The scholarship committee convenes in early May to review the applications and select a winner. We typically receive about 15 applications and it is a fun but difficult process to narrow them down to one winner.

Applicants are evaluated based on high-school grades and accomplishments, environmental activities, a personal essay, and two recommendations from teachers or other adults. Financial need is also considered. The scholarship winner is asked to provide college information so that the first $1000 installment can be mailed directly to the school. Each subsequent summer, the scholarship winners submit their report card or transcript to the scholarship committee so we can verify their progress and the fact that they have continued in the same major of study.

Funding for up to three summer-camp scholarships is also raised by the Art and Craft Festival. Students 14 to 17 years old are eligible. The winners are chosen based on grades, teacher recommendations, school and extracurricular activities, and a personal essay. This year the scholarship recipients attended the prestigious Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. NEPAS Audubon furnished transportation to and from the camp.

—Chris Weigand and MaryAnn Lunniss

Want to get involved? Anyone who is or becomes a member of our Audubon chapter is eligible to serve on a committee. Chairs of committees, appointed by the president and ratified by the board, are voting members of our Audubon board. There are many ways you can help. If you would like to join a committee, just let us know. Email us at audubonworks@gmail.com or call us at 570-253-9250.

2013 NEPAS Scholarship Winners Announced

Carmen Francesco of Beach Lake is this year’s college scholarship winner. The daughter of Joe and Allison Francesco, Carmen is a 2013 graduate of Honesdale High School. She will be attending Prescott College in Prescott, Arizona, to pursue a double major in environmental studies and cultural and regional studies. Carmen’s goal after finishing college is to teach people how to live sustainably.

Terry Yarbrough and Julius Holbert were the winners of this year’s Audubon Camp Scholarship awards. Terry is 14 years old and attends Mountain View Junior-Senior High School in Kingsley, PA. Julius, age 15, is a student at Honesdale High School. Both boys attended “Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens” on Hog Island from June 23 to 28. This program includes the opportunity to observe Audubon’s seabird-conservation field research in action, and is the only Hog Island program that lands participants on Eastern Egg Rock during the puffin-breeding season.

If you have a child between the ages of 14 and 17 with an avid interest in the outdoors, nature, and conservation, and a desire to apply for the 2014 camp scholarship, drop an e-mail to MaryAnn Lunnis at mlunniss@ptd.net.
Mark Your Calendars

**Friday, October 25, 8 p.m.** SAW-WHET OWL BANDING. Revel in the migration of the smallest nocturnal raptor in the eastern US. Witness its capture in mist nets, collection of data, and the release of this little 8-inch owl. A few lucky attendees may be able to hold and release one. Call Bob for further information and reservations at 570-676-9969.

**Saturday, November 9, 1 p.m.** STORYTELLER JOHN PORCINO. Audubon and PPL are co-sponsoring this playful participatory program of stories, songs, and music for all ages that celebrates the beauty of the natural world, explores our connections with that world, and empowers people to take small (or large) steps in their lives to care for the environment. At PPL Environmental Learning Center, Route 6, Hawley, PA. Call Audubon at 570-253-9250 for information.

**Monday, December 2, 5:30 p.m.** AUDU-BONDING. Join in the festivities at our holiday potluck board meeting. All members are welcome. Please bring a covered dish to share. Call Audubon at 570-253-9250 for details and directions.

**Sunday, December 15.** AUDUBON’S 114TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. This survey provides critical data to scientists who study the 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, PA. For more information, call Barbara at 570-253-2364.