

Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society

Eco~Notes

Summer 2013

Volume 41, No. 2

Photo by Georgette Pascotto

ANOTHER GREAT ART AND CRAFT FESTIVAL COMING!

Mark your calendar for the July 20 and 21 NEPAS Art and Craft Festival at Wallenpaupack High School, near Hawley, PA. It promises to be better than ever, with wildlife art, top-notch crafts, and wonderful wildlife entertainment and education. This is an excellent event for the whole family, because in addition to the great art and crafts, there will be live animals, reptiles, and birds, as well as other educational exhibits that will entice and benefit everyone. It's also a great place to shop ahead for Christmas gifts.

To top it off, your admission to this event funds scholarships for young people to go to camp and to college. Look for the dollar-off coupons in the local papers and bring the whole family. Admission is \$5, kids under 12 free. See you there!

—Jim Sanders

Thanks to Cheryl Celeskey for her generous donation to the NEPAS Scholarship Fund.

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.



Photo © Michael Gadomski

This beautiful red-headed woodpecker made a rare appearance on May 16 at a backyard feeder in Sterling Twp., Wayne County. Photo by Michael Gadomski. www.mpgadomski.com

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.

On April 10, 2013 the Board of Directors sent a letter to the State Department expressing our concerns about the proposed Keystone XL-pipeline. The following is a summary of those concerns, which constitute our objections to the project.

It is stated by the US Department of State that the project will be evaluated on several factors and we chose to address only three: energy security, environmental impact, and economic impact. The emphasis on energy security is weak because our demand for oil has decreased while the production of domestic oil has increased and is expected to continue that trend over the next ten years. Most of the tar-sands oil finding its way to Texas will be exported. The environmental impact has far-reaching consequences. The tar-sands oil requires a great deal of energy to be extracted and monitored through the pipeline as bitumen, a mix of tar-sands oil and other volatiles that make it flow easily, and is the dirtiest of all combustible raw petroleum products. The cost of a spill to the environment is devastating, as evidenced by the spill in April in Arkansas. The displacement of 13 species of wildlife is unavoidable, according to the consultants and TransCanada Corporation, developer of the pipeline, and some of those species are near the point of extinction at the present time. We are also concerned about the disruption of Native American lands and the Ogallala aquifer. Lastly, the economic advantage over the long term is very small. The project will employ about 3,000 laborers over the construction phase and only 35 permanent and 15 part-time workers over the long term (50 years).

Our position was developed after reviewing the Second Environmental Impact Statement and conclusions drawn by the consultant. In summary, the Board's position is to reject the project in favor of energy conservation and investment in renewable energy.

You can read the complete letter on the NEPAS website, nepaaudubon.org. You can read the Executive Summary on the State Department website: keystonepipeline-xl.state.gov.

—Barbara Leo

Birds of South Africa

Northeast PA Audubon president and professional photographer Chris Fischer will present a program on the birds and wildlife of southern Africa. He will also speak about the conservation project he was involved with in South Africa and Botswana. The program is free to the public, Monday, July 1, 7 p.m. at the PPL Environmental Learning Center, Route 6, Hawley, Pennsylvania.

Learn more about Chris and see his photography at www.chrisfischerphotography.com.



Find lots more great information about birds, the environment, and upcoming programs at www.nepaaudubon.org. Join us on **Facebook** (search Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society) and follow us on **Twitter**: @AudubonNEPA.

Welcome, New Members

Kay Atwell	Nancy M. Cush	William J. Hartwell	Richard Laurito	Stephen A. Nezezon	Susan Thompson
Terry F. Brennan	Elsie A. Dalrymple	John R. Harvey	Mary Kay Logan	Gayle O'Brien	Daniel J. West
Joan Brown	Brooke Doherty	Ted Helcoski	Carl Lucas	Irmgard Roberto	Deborah Zehner
Jennifer M. Capkovic	Patricia Dunn	Diana Holmes	Sean Maloney	Tamara Robeson	Patty Zick
Nancy M. Carey	Richard W. Dunning	Edward A. Holzwarth	Delores Masters-Kacer	Rudy Ruedemann	
Thomas Carius	R. J. Elm	Joseph M. Keenan	Judith W. Millett	Katherine Shelly	
Joann Ceresi	James Flannery	Mary Klem	Helen Mulcahey	Jeffrey Slocum	
George Coutts	Gary Gardsy	Bill Ko	Ellen Muzi	Elizabeth Thomas-Richie	

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 Education Committee

Here is what our Bylaws say about the Education Committee: "The President shall appoint an Education Chair. It shall be the duty of this committee to further the Educational Services of the National Society, to promote the learning of natural history, ecology and conservation."



Photo by Katharine Dodge

Education and fun: Children got to make and wear bird hats at the 2013 Wayne-Pike Earth Day Festival.

How the committee fulfills this mandate has much to do with the persons involved. We always welcome members to join our committee and bring their own ideas. If we have people who like to design programs and enjoy teaching, then we have built-in presenters who can go to community groups and schools to give programs. Programs we present include the Wonders of Wetlands,

Birding workshops, and Backyard Habitat programs.

We also invite outside experts to present programs that promote understanding of our environment. For example, on November 9th, NEPAS and PPL are co-sponsoring the wonderful storyteller, John Porcino. Please mark your calendars!

Current committee members are Lindsay George, Sarah Hall, and Kathy Dodge. Lindsay is an author and an illustrator, Kathy is an illustrator and naturalist, and Sarah is a biologist. The three of us are designing a program to present at Lacawac Sanctuary in August. We will lead a nature walk and then help the participants create books about who lives where in this habitat.

We strive to help people realize that although humans are only one species in this fantastic system, we have the capability to seriously alter the balance of that entire system. Through good environmental education that fosters curiosity and builds knowledge, understanding, and respect for Nature's power, beauty, and amazing intricacies, we can gain the wisdom to temper our actions upon this earth to live within Nature's bounds.

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.

—Katharine Dodge

Great Turnout for Adopt-a-Highway Day

We had a great turnout of volunteers including Shirley Chmielewski and the Giddy-up and Tally Ho 4-H group: Becky Singer and Lucas, Chris Black and Darlene, Alexis Roussiau and Justin, Jason and Miranda, Cindy Minew and Karli, Barbara Hutchins and Angelic, Jessica, and Jonathan; also Albertine Falkenhein, Carol and Roger Homeyer, Kathy Dodge, and Marge Brion. We collected 19 bags of garbage and 9 bags of recycling. Thanks to our volunteers and to all the people who don't throw trash out of the car window. You are also part of our team keeping the highway looking good. Audubon treated us to breakfast at Liberty Restaurant afterward. Penn Dot supplied bags, vests, and gloves.

—Marge Brion

New Book by Michael Gadomski

A breathtaking new book by photographer Michael Gadomski, **Reserves of Strength, Pennsylvania's Natural Landscape**, by Schiff Publishing, will be available in June. Here is an excerpt about the book from Amazon.com: "Often regarded as a highly industrialized state, Pennsylvania contains some of the most unique and pristine natural and wild areas in the northeastern United States. Through magnificent nature photography, see the diversity of nature that awaits visitors at locations as diverse as the tidewater of the Lower Delaware River and the old-growth forests that support trees that were alive when Columbus first landed in the New World." Watch for a review of the book on our web site, nepa-audubon.org.

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The date on the address label is the date your national and/or local chapter Audubon membership expires. National Audubon will send you reminders well before your national membership expires.

Editor: Marileta Robinson

Contributors: Marge Brion, Kathy Dodge, Chris Fischer,
Michael Gadowski, Barbara Leo, Jim Sanders

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, June 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. POCONO WATERFALL TOUR. Join naturalist Sue Thompson for a tour of our area's lovely waterfalls. Trails to falls will be easy to moderate walks. Wear hiking shoes, bring a picnic lunch. Rain or shine, unless pouring! Meet at and return to PPL Environmental Learning Center off Route 6, Hawley, PA. Adults \$5, children 5-12 \$3. Registration required. Contact Sue at 570-253-4006.

Sunday, June 16, Noon. FATHER'S DAY CANOE AND KAYAK TRIP. See the Delaware and get some exercise, too! A covered-dish supper at a nearby cabin will follow the trip. Don't have a boat? A limited number are available, but reserve early. Call Pete at 570-253-9250.

Monday, July 1, 6 p.m. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS. The floor is open for nominations of officers and directors. NEPAS president and professional photographer Chris Fischer will present a program on his travels in southern Africa at 7 p.m. All members welcome. PPL Environmental Learning Center, Route 6, Hawley, PA. Call 570-253-9250.

Saturday, Sunday, July 20-21, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. AUDUBON ART AND CRAFT FESTIVAL. Juried artists from several states and Canada, exhibits, live nature programs. Admission \$5, kids under 12 free. Wallenpaupack High School, Route 6, Hawley, PA

Saturday, August 3, 5 p.m. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS PICNIC. We'll usher in new officers while enjoying an evening of swimming, grilling, and fun! All members welcome. Bring a dish to share, hot dogs and burgers provided. Call Sue for registration and directions at 570-253-4006.