



TERN OF EVENTS



Presque Isle Audubon Society Membership Newsletter

August 2008

Issue 08:06

Our mission is to promote the conservation and protection of wildlife, plants, soil, and water in relation to human activity, to initiate and carry out plans and activities which would contribute to the conservation and protection of these natural resources; and to provide opportunities to become more aware and appreciative of our physical and biological environment.

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

I have a deal for anyone reading this. I will provide a canvas bag (or other reusable material) to the first 50 people who will pledge to use them for purchases instead of a plastic bag. I realize that you'll probably need two or three or four bags depending on the size of your shopping list. Personally, I own four although I rarely use all of them at the same time. But **you** might have to. I'll provide the starter bag and then maybe you can spend two or three more dollars to compete your set. All you have to do is sign the pledge on page seven (7) of this issue of the Tern of Events and either send it to me by snail mail or email or bring it to one of our monthly meetings. The only way you can claim your bag is to see me at one of the meetings or make arrangement to see me at some other time. Why am I doing this? Because I was overwhelmed by the number blue plastic bags being placed in shopping carts at the twelve or so checkout counters at a local grocery store. There was "blue" all over the place!!!! I myself had used the store's reusable bags and so did one other customer. Ironically, the store had the bags for sale right at the check out counter but no one seemed inclined to purchase one and use it. I also am aware of the huge negative impact the millions of "blue bags" floating around have on the environment. Here are some facts for you to peruse and digest.

- Less than 1% of bags are recycled.
- It costs more to recycle a bag than to produce a new one.
- It costs \$4,000 to process and recycle one ton of plastic bags.
- Plastic bags account for over 10% of the debris washed up on the U.S. coastline.

- Plastic bags photodegrade. Over time they break down into smaller, more toxic petro-polymers.
- These small, toxic particles eventually contaminate soils and waterways and eventually enter the food chain often causing death.
- If we use a cloth bag, we can save six plastic bags a week.
- That's 24 bags a month, 288 bags a year, and 22,176 bags in a lifetime.
- Canada, Bangladesh, China, and Rwanda have banned plastic bags.
- On March 27th, 2007, San Francisco became the first U.S. city to ban plastic bags.
- Plastic shopping bags are made from a thermoplastic made from oil.
- China will save 37 million barrels of oil each year due to their ban of free plastic bags.

~Janet Price, President of PIAS

AUGUST THINGS TO DO!

- August 9, Saturday** - Eagle Watching Field Trip at Roderick Wildlife Preserve (p. 6)
- August 13, Wednesday** - Conservation Committee Meeting, 5:00 PM at Quinn Firm
- August 15, Friday** - Deadline for registering for the PA Audubon Chapter Assembly in Harrisburg
- August 15, Friday** - Deadline for submission of articles for the newsletter

SAVE THE DATE!

September 19, Friday - PIAS Banquet (p. 2)

2008-09 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The *Tern of Events* is published by the Presque Isle Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society and a member of Audubon Pennsylvania serving northwestern Pennsylvania including Erie and Crawford counties.

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Erie, PA 16505

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Website: www.presqueisle.org/audubon

BANQUET 2008

Help us celebrate our 52nd anniversary as we kick off our 2008-2009 Audubon year.

Date: Friday, September 19, 2008

Place: Elk's Lodge #67
2409 Peninsula Drive, Erie

Time: 6:00 p.m. Social - Fruit Punch

6:30 p.m. Dinner Buffet

8:00 p.m. Program: "Birds Have Taught Me..."

Speaker: Jennifer Brumfield

Dinner Buffet Menu

Roasted Rosemary Chicken

Lemon Pepper Cod

Roasted Herb Pork Loin

Rigatoni with Marinara Sauce

Tossed Garden Salad Baked Rolls and Butter

Mixed Vegetable Medley Parslied Potatoes

Cake and Ice Cream Coffee, Hot/Iced Tea

Price: \$19.50 (payable at door)

Reservations are required by Sunday, September 14. Please call Marti Pastore (476-7029) or Kathy Kitchen (734-7188). If you are unable to honor your reservation, you must cancel by September 14 or you will be billed. Note: The Elk's Club requires a final reservation count earlier than usual, so I urge you to please reserve early. Thank you.

Following dinner, an individual will be honored with the annual P.I.A.S. Environmental Award.

For our fifteenth annual fundraiser, P.I.A.S. is privileged to have Lois Wiley, respected artist and educator, donate an original pastel, "A Spit on Presque Isle," a beautifully rendered landscape of shoreline, trees, sand, water and sky for which she was awarded the Erie Festival of the Arts Panorama 2008 U-Frame It and Poster Annex Gold Circle Award. Benefiting the P.I.A.S. education programs, the framed painting (20 1/2" x 17 1/2") is valued at three hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$325.00) and will be on display at the Bayfront Gallery, 17 East Dobbins Landing, Erie, during the

month of August through September 18. Tickets, (\$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00) will be available at the banquet, the Bayfront Gallery and Wild Birds Unlimited in Erie, Kelly Run Gallery in Cambridge Springs and by mail. To participate by mail, please send your check, payable to the Presque Isle Audubon Society, to banquet Fund Raiser, 6704 West Haskell Drive, Fairview, PA 16415 and your tickets will be sent by return mail. One need not be present for the drawing.

She began her art education in 1964 at the Art School, Erie, and in 1979 earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She is best known for painting still life and portraiture in oil, but also paints in watercolor, gouache and pastel and draws in graphite and colored pencil.

She is an active member of the National Association of Women Artists, Inc., New York City, Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association, Erie and Presque Isle Artists Association.

Ms. Wiley has exhibited in many local, regional, invitational and national shows in PA, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut including the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio and in juried shows such as Audubon Artists in New York City. Among her numerous awards are the National Association of Women Artists Annuals.

Ms. Wiley's honors include serving as juror in several local exhibitions and being listed in Who's Who in American Art, Who's Who of American Women and Who's Who in America. She writes regularly about art for the Erie Times-News Showcase and co-produced a video segment for PBS, "Heart of the Arts."

Lois Wiley's work, held in many private collections, can be seen at the Kada Gallery, the Bayfront Gallery, the Glass Growers Gallery and at her studio in the House on the Hill, Waterford.

We are delighted to have as our evening's speaker, Jennifer Brumfield, one of the workshop presenters and field trip leaders for our Festival of the Birds. Birding tour guide for Birding America and Tropical Birding, Jen is also a birding optics Prostaff rep for Nikon. As scientific illustrator and field naturalist, she has written and illustrated three field guides to the flora and fauna of Cleveland Metro parks where she serves as outdoor educator. Her illustrations have appeared nationwide including the American Birding Association's publication. Over one hundred of her detailed and colored pencil works will be featured in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's soon-to-be released second edition of The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Northeast Ohio.

Ms. Brumfield is quite serious when she tells us that she started her life list of "heard birds" while in utero. When she entered the real world, she really got down to business spending as much time in the field as possible learning about the natural history of the avian world. Avid birder, Jen, really brings a lifetime of field experience to this evening's presentation of "Birds Have Taught Me....." From the adorable to the silly, the nerdy and strange, this light-hearted presentation celebrates the real lives of birds. Are those late straggling migrants just plain lazy and not lost or slow as you may have thought. Do you have neighborhood gangs? -- of birds, that is! Come and find out what life lesson we can learn from "the feathered beasts of the air."

A membership to the national Audubon Society serves as the evening's door prize. Table centerpieces have been donated by Chuck Kern. You may be among those to take one home.

~Jeanne Kern, Banquet Chairwoman



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS AND THANKS TO THOSE WHO RENEWED!

A hearty welcome is extended to you all! Please join us at our monthly meetings and/or contact the editor/president if you want to know how to get involved in PIAS!

Erie: Marilyn Woznicki, Angela Pasquarello, MaryLinda Jacky, Joe Jannuzzi, Bernard & Janet Pelkowski, Elizabeth Frankowski, Ruth Viall, Robert Giffin, Susan freed, Thad Heinlein, Joice Titus, RuthAnne Allgeier, Susan Hilbrich, Gary Moore, Edward Tynecki, Frank Marucci, and Sue Fitzgerald, Marian Cain, Ene Cronk, Audrey Callista, Michael Cafini, Brian Gray, Michael Hooker, Wanda Luce, Amy Luce, Gary Moore, Edward Tynecki, Frank Marucci, Sue Fitzgerald, Doris Riekert, R. Patrick Rodgers, Mac Elder

Albion: Mildred Doritty, Rebecca Walters

Atlantic: Arlan Horne

Cambridge Springs: Sandra Pietrzak

Columbus: Angela Kerchak

Conneaut Lake: David Glenn

Conneautville: Alisha Wolf

Edinboro: Jean Snyder, Margo Roberts, Jean Snyder, Betty Zerby

Fairview: Candy Tompkins

Girard: Loreta Britton

Guys Mills: Thomas Ross

Jamestown: Andrew Moreland

Meadville: Lois Vaclavik, Marcia Carone, Kenneth McGill, John Bowler, Samuel Davis, Katherine McGill, Elli Tinko, Paul Gookin, Betty Cole,

North East: Doris Turner

North Springfield: Sally Lund

North Warren: Alinda Ambrose

Titusville: Mike Connell, Carma Walters

Waterford: Charles Wykoff, Joyce Deibel

West Springfield: Tom Tressler

Warren: Patty & Rick Sherbondy, Arlyene Menard

Renewals: Dorothy Farnstrom, Eugene Martin and Lora Caldwell

THE STATE OF VIRGINIA: Wouter Vanderwal and Wendy Swanson, both decided to join our chapter after attending the birding festival! They loved the area and get up here often enough that

they want to participate in our organization! Join us any time you're in the area!

REMI NDER!

I would like to remind everyone that if you join the National Audubon, are automatically a member of our chapter, and it is not necessary to join as a chapter member.

~Ron Intriери,
Membership Chair
ronrxi@roadrunner.com

PIAS NATURE GARDEN AT SCOTT PARK

Many new plants were added to the Nature Garden at Scott Park to supplement those already established from last year. The first set of native plants were added on May 30th with help from the Villa Maria Elementary students who also watered them and cleaned out broken branches and invasive honeysuckle from the area. A couple weeks later, Pat Howell and Janet Price spent an afternoon planting an SUV load of more native plants and spreading some whitish pea gravel to indicate the paths that will eventually lead through the garden.

A huge cache of plants was supplied by Opie Wunschel, an avid nature lover. We met her when we were doing the Breeding Bird Atlas count one day and went to ask for permission to enter her property. Not only did she invite us on but was our guide through much of the habitat surrounding her home. When we were finished with our tour, Opie brought out chocolate cake and ice water!!! What a lucky day it was for us. As we sat on the back deck and watched more birds, we got to talking about all her plants and she mentioned that they were moving and wondered if we wanted to take any with us. (Cont. on p. 7)



MEMBERS NIGHT - 2008

With seven varied presentations, Members' Night, as always, did not disappoint. The evening got off to a great start with **Marion and Bob Gallivan's** "Pandas" from their trip last year to the Wolong Panda Research Center in China. What is more adorable than a cuddly panda? An area full of cuddly pandas! How do they reproduce? While some pandas do mate, the window of time is so limited that, as a rule, the method of reproduction is through artificial insemination. Marion got the thrill-of-a-lifetime when she was able to pet one - - but, not before she and Bob (he was the photographer) entered a sterile room and donned protective clothing. Not to protect them. To protect the pandas!



Note: Due to the damage at the center, which was the epicenter of this year's earthquake (miraculously only one panda was lost), Marion suggests logging on to the National Zoo website to learn how you can donate to the Wolong Research Center.

We then traveled to New Mexico to bird and sight see with **Dennis and Kathy Kitchen**. We went to the famous Crane Festival at the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge south of Albuquerque where the sky was white with thousands of cranes and snowgeese. We also visited the White Sand National Monument and the Petroglyph National Monument which Dennis says is "like a different world." Among the many highlights was driving east to the snowy crest of the San Dia Mountains (altitude 10,000 plus) to see the rare Rosy Finch. Birders come here specifically to see this bird and

very often do not. We were lucky. With Dennis and Kathy leading the way, we saw them twice.



Grey Crowned Rosy Finch

There are three species of rosy finches (Black Rosy Finch, Grey-Crowned Rosy Finch and Brown-Capped Rosy Finch) in the southwest United States (New Mexico, Arizona and California) with overlapping but restricted ranges.

We then returned home to the Seton Sanctuary at the Seton Catholic School in Meadville where ten years ago, Marcia Carone and her fifth grade class started a bird sanctuary located right outside of their classroom windows. Miss Carone showed how the sanctuary has evolved from one feeder to fourteen feeders, baths (including one heated for winter and a solar-powered fountain) and numerous bushes and plants contributed by Miss Carone, students and parents. Each month during spring and fall, the students buy 350 pounds of birdseed to stock their feeders. They have taken their recordings of birds to a new level by recording the species and number of birds at the sanctuary for Cornell University's ornithology lab and contributing articles to BirdScope, Cornell's magazine for young birders. The dedication of Miss Carone, students and parents was rewarded this May when the sanctuary was recognized as a certified wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Congratulations!

Tracy Graziano, who produced the introductory film, "Wings, Sand and Song: Presque Isle's Habitat" for our Festival of the Birds, gave an informative presentation on coyotes and wolves, telling us about the genetic differences between eastern and western coyote. She also talked about her documentary, "Spirit Dog: America's Little Wolf." Obtaining permission from the Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario,

Tracy was able to film a pack of three wolves eating the carcass of a moose (road kill). Starting out at 4:00 a.m. in 25 degrees below zero weather wearing fifty pounds of camera equipment, Tracy waited three hours until sunrise to film this unique sequence.

Michelle Franz then treated us to a lovely presentation set to music of "Birding in Harborcreek, 6-mile Creek, Presque Isle and Arizona." We never would have known that, as she told us, she is new to birding. Her images were beautiful.

We then listened intently as Chuck Kern read another of his true stories. This time, it was the poignant and, at times humorous, story of his relationship with our neighbor's dog, Rambo.

Valerie Engelliter ended the evening with a presentation totally different than any we've ever had -- still photos taken with a digital microscope.



DIGITAL MICROSCOPIC PHOTO OF AN AGATE

The audience had to guess (Bob Gallivan was prohibited to do so) what the subjects were -- beautiful detailed images of rocks and minerals such as opal, agates and meteorites. We even got up-close and personal with a dinosaur bone. (Note: Bob is a member of the Gem City Rock and Mineral Club.)

I sincerely thank all of our presenters for an informative and entertaining evening. My appreciation to Ben Koncewicz and Valerie Engelliter for so efficiently manning the equipment.

Respectfully Submitted,
~Jeanne Kern, Coordinator, Members' Night

EAGLE WATCHING FIELD TRIP - AUG. 9

A field trip is planned for Bald Eagle watching at the Roderick Wildlife Preserve and possibly Conneaut Harbor. We will meet at Crazy Dave's restaurant off of US Route 20 at 8:30 am. Phone (734-3653) if you are interested in joining us - carpooling from Edinboro and Erie will be available.

~Tom Wasilewski - PIAS Eagle Watch Team

EDITOR'S APOLOGIES!

I want to sincerely apologize to the food donors whose names were not acknowledged in the bird fest program. I would like to acknowledge you in this month's PIAS newsletter, at least.

So many thanks to Michele Franz, Lora Haller, and Nancy Andersen for your homemade goodies!

I would also like to apologize to Ruth Swaney, Executive Committee member and food donor, who was not acknowledged in the bird fest program. Ruth contributed not only good food but a lot of hard work in getting donations and ads. Thanks, Ruth!

RODERICK POINT COUNTS

We had a great group of people who helped with one or more of the 3 point counts conducted at Roderick State Gamelands, one of Pennsylvania's Important Bird Areas.

With the help of Chuck Gehringer, Linda Donati, Joao Tavares, Lindsey Duval, Tom Wasilewski, Tracy Graziano, Mary Birdsong, Mike Plyler, Ron Intriери, Janet Price, and Pat Howell we were able to record bird species seen or heard at 22 spots on June 8, 15, and 22. This data was reported for the PA Breeding Bird Atlas records and will also be used by PA Audubon as they monitor the IBA's across the state.

The most fun occurred shortly after 10:00 each Sunday morning when a mixed flock of homo sapiens gathered around the "rock" overlooking the lake. They all appeared to be feeding on H and K doughnuts!

~Pat Howell, IBA Coordinator

PIAS NATURE GARDEN (cont. from p.4)

We told her about our project at Scott Park and that was the beginning of our June planting. We dug up whatever plants we wanted and could fit into Pat's Subaru.



OPIE AND THE NATIVE PLANTS IN PAT'S SUBARU

Then we were on our way to plant them and carry water to give them a drink. We also planted some native species that were donated by Sue DeArment. After the planting and watering was done, we talked to one of the staff who was working at the park and got permission to use some of the pea gravel that was in a pile near the garden. We wanted to use the gravel to indicate where future paths would be

A few of the people who were walking in the park thanked us for helping to make "their" park more beautiful. There is still more work to do in creating the garden we envision and it will be an ongoing effort to keep it presentable as a place of beauty as well as an educational area.

We ultimately want to have a "sign" at the entrance, possibly a huge stone engraved with PIAS or a plaque of some sort bolted in. This is still in the minds of the creators at this point.

John Gregory offered us a "stone" but we haven't checked it out yet. Next is to get it transferred to the park and then engraved or whatever we plan to do. I hope that other PIAS members will join us. (Some have already indicated an interest.) We will continue to involve students from nearby schools to help with the project. If you stop at Scott Park take time to visit the area which is located about 200 yards straight down the road and about 40 yards in on the right side of the road. Let us know what you think and if you're interested in helping out. Any suggestions you have are welcome and if you have native plants that you want to share, they will be welcome, also.

~Janet Price and Pat Howell, Organizers

I PLEDGE TO USE A REUSABLE BAG OR BAGS WHEN I SHOP FOR GROCERIES OR ANY OTHER ITEMS WHENEVER IT IS FEASIBLE TO DO SO. I WILL ENCOURAGE MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO DO THE SAME.

SIGNATURE

IN LOVING MEMORY

Stella Reiners - a good member of PIAS and the wife of Bob, our late former president.
(Jeanne and Chuck Kern)

The Presque Isle Audubon Society's newsletter, the *Tern of Events*, is published monthly, except in July and January. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication. All published material subject to editing.

Send submissions to Janet Price, editor, via jrplkm@aol.com or 418 E. 36th St., Erie, PA 16504. If you have any questions, call Janet at 814.825.8394.

Printed on recycled paper.

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 8
ERIE, PA 16505

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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**Presque Isle Audubon Society
Chapter Only Membership Application**

Chapter only membership includes membership in the Presque Isle Audubon Society ONLY and the chapter newsletter *Tern of Events*.

Individual membership \$10.00/year

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Please indicate your preference:

_____ Paper copy of *Tern of Events* OR

_____ On-line *Tern of Events* with email notification

Please return this form with your check payable to the Presque Isle Audubon Society to:

Ronald Intrieri, Membership
Presque Isle Audubon Society
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8
Erie, PA 16505

National Audubon Society Membership Application

Please enroll me as a New member in the National Audubon Society. Membership includes membership in BOTH the National Audubon Society and the local Presque Isle Audubon Society. National members receive *Audubon Magazine* (6 issues per year) and the monthly newsletter *Tern of Events*.

Introductory membership \$20.00

Renewals \$35.00

Students and seniors \$15.00

Name _____

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Please mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to:

National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51101
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