



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2009 ISSUE 09:06

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

It is with equal amounts of delight and fear that I step up on this perch. I have very big shoes to fill. Our past president, Janet Price, had a large vision for the organization. She accomplished what she set out to do, the most visible of which was the creation of the Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle. This brought new energy and people to our chapter. I can only hope to do half as well.

I am still formulating what my vision will be. I know that conservation of habitat (including urban habitat) is critical in these times, that wind power is a hot (and often controversial) topic, and that engaging the public in dialogue about these issues is an important task. But I also want to make sure we have a little fun along the way, too.

One goal of Janet's that I would like to continue is getting more people involved in chapter activities. Our busy lives keep many from participating, and while we might read the Tern of Events (like you're doing now), all the upcoming events may slip away before we get them on the calendar. So one goal of mine is to create an e-list to complement what we read in the newsletter. Then, everyone who has agreed to be on the list will receive timely messages about events between newsletters. These e-mails will be only short and frequent enough to share the news. If you would like to join this list, email me at mary.birdsong@yahoo.com and I will add you to it.

I would also like to take a few inches of space here to honor outgoing Education Chair, Pat Howell. For many years, she has worked tirelessly to bring birding and the natural world to children

and adults alike. She deserves our congratulations and deep gratitude. I am saddened that she will not be serving on the board during my tenure as president, since she always brought such wisdom to the table. I am, however, looking forward to working with her successor, Michele Franz (who has also agreed to take on the role of Secretary) and the rest of the board. I am eager for their suggestions, ideas and wisdom.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Janet for easing my transition into this post, and all those who came before me for creating a meaningful organization of thoughtful, interesting people who care about our environment, both here and around the world. I look forward to serving and meeting more of you.

~Mary Birdsong, President of PIAS



EASTERN TAILED BLUE BUTTERFLY

AUGUST THINGS TO DO!

August 12, Wednesday - Conservation Committee Meeting, 5:00 PM at Quinn Firm
August 22, Saturday - Women in the Outdoors Event at Presque Isle, 8:00 - 4:30

IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER EVENT!!!

September 18, Friday - 53rd Annual PIAS Banquet at 6:00 PM at Elks Lodge #67. (P 5)

2009-2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President	Mary Birdsong
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
Secretary	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Treasurer	Kel McDonald
Retiring President	Janet Price

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2007-2010	Toby Cunningham
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Bird Records	Jerry McWilliams
Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	Michele Rundquist-Franz
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Library	Marion Gallivan
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Presque Isle	Paul Burroughs
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Publicity	Susan A. Smith
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Sales & Marketing	Jeanne Kern
Sanctuaries	Sue Murawski

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.

Address: 301 Peninsula Dr., Suite 8
Erie, PA 16505

Phone: 814-860-4091

Website: www.presqueisleaudubon.org

MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT!



MARY BIRDSONG

I would like to introduce you to Mary Birdsong who just took office after elections in June. Mary is an avid birder, gardener and co-owner of Naturally Yours, a creator of custom gift baskets. She and her husband, Mike, love the outdoors and spend what free time they have hiking, white water rafting, camping and birding to name a few of the activities that they enjoy. After serving as Vice-President, Mary has accepted the office of President enthusiastically and I welcome her to her new position. Be sure to keep up with what's on her mind as you read the President's Perch in each issue of the *Tern of Events*. She has some lofty goals for our organization and you can help to realize them.

~Janet Price, Editor

ABOUT THE ERIE COUNTY RECYCLING CONVENIENCE CENTER

Location: 1556 W. 12 St. (Enter from Greengarden Road)

Eligibility: Erie County residents are eligible to participate but must pre-register before dropping off items by calling (866) 815-0016.

Upcoming Collections: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, August 8 and 22; September 12 and 16; and October 10 and 24.

Electronics Accepted: TV's, VCR's, CD and DVD players, computer equipment, cellular phones, fax machines, stereos, tape players and copiers.

Hazardous Household Wastes Accepted: paint, cleaning, lawn and garden and automotive products including oil and batteries; thermometers and thermostats that include mercury; fluorescent lightbulbs and driveway sealers.

MEMBERS' NIGHT 2009

With six varied presentations, Members' Night was both informative and interesting.



Valerie ,Chuck, Jeanne, Virginia, Toni (Paul Burroughs absent)

Valerie Engelleiter began the evening with "The Hidden Zoo" showing aspects of the zoo which often go unnoticed such as the variety of colorful flowers, the ponds, the duck's nest, assorted little creatures, and the architecture. How many times have we entered the buildings and not noticed the motifs above and around the entrances and, once inside, some of the intricate wall details? Valerie notices. So many of us during the course of a day look but don't take the time to really see. Try it. It will open up new worlds.

We then listened as Chuck Kern talked about the first issue of the Audubon Magazine (February 1887) and showed a facsimile of same. The Audubon Society and, subsequently, the Audubon Magazine started as a result of the slaughter of birds as embellishments for women's hats. Hundreds of thousands of birds were killed in the United States, Africa, the Caribbean and South Asia for the millinery fashion centers of the world (New York, London, Paris) to satisfy the public's demand for feathers and taxidermy birds with which to adorn their bonnets. The first magazine also contained a children's section with the first stories being about a pet parrot and a nature fantasy tale.

Toni Kelly (new presenter) was up next with "A Work in Progress -- Loggerhead Shrike". It was

most interesting to learn about the various procedures that lead up to the finished product. There was much interest in the work which she displayed.

We then joined Paul Burroughs (new presenter) on some of his camping trips to Yellowstone, Glacier and Zion National Parks and also Alaska. The scenery was spectacular -- nature at its finest. Back home, he got the ultimate "I can't believe it" kind of surprise when, looking out his back window, he saw perched on his tree branch an immature Long-eared Owl! And, it didn't stay for just a day or two -- it hung around a while. WOW!

Virginia Zahner had been absent from Members' Night for some time and we were happy to welcome her back. Virginia's lovely poetry has always been beautifully descriptive and her current offerings were no exception -- "Winter Bog" "White Caps on the Bay" and "Sunset Symphony".

For a host of reasons, this year I had a number of cancellations. To round out the evening, Chuck Kern told another of his true stories, a humorous account of "All in the Family". One afternoon, he witnessed the mating ritual of a pair of chickadees, after which the female landed on his head scratching and pulling his hair while constantly "whispering". He wondered what she was saying. Was he now part of the family -- perhaps, the godfather?

I sincerely thank all of our presenters for a delightful evening. My appreciation to Valerie Engelleiter for efficiently manning the equipment.

~Jeanne Kern, Coordinator of Members' Night

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PIAS FIELD TRIP TO RODERICK WILDLIFE REFUGE

On Saturday, June 13, a group of Auduboners met at State Game Lands #314 for a morning of doing what they love: hearing, spotting and identifying the variety of birds that pass through and nest in those gamelands.



Joao Tavares, John DePaul, Carolyn Baxter, Pat Howell, and Dick Farver

Pat Howell and Janet Price decided to have a field trip to our Important Bird Area, Roderick Wildlife Refuge, State Game Lands #314, since we weren't doing a series of point counts this year. So we set a date and met at the "Rock" (above) for a look at the Eagles that are usually there as well as the blue herons and belted kingfishers.

Then we proceeded on to the many different habitats that exist there (wetlands, shrublands and meadows, and old growth forests) before coming back to the "Rock" for donuts. We never go to the "Rock" without a supply of donuts for the birders.



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Dick Farver kept a record of the more significant birds we all saw of which there were about forty. Obviously there were sightings of a number of other more "common" birds that we didn't record. Here is that list in the order in which they were seen: Bald Eagle, Belted Kingfisher, **Great Crested Flycatcher** (see below)



Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, 3 Swallows (Tree, Bank & Rough Winged), Baltimore Oriole, Towhee, Redstart, Rose Breasted Grosbeak, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Ruby Throated Hummingbird, Black-Billed Cuckoo and a **Blue Winged Warbler** (see below).



All in all everyone enjoyed the day very much as you can see by the smiles in the picture below.



Jim Baxter, Pat Howell, Dick Farver, John DePaul, Carolyn Baxter and Janet Price

PIAS BANQUET 2009

Join us as we celebrate our 53rd Anniversary which begins our 2009-2010 Audubon year.

Date: Friday, September 18, 2009

Place: Elks 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: "Marvelous Journeys:
Migrants Going Back to the Tropics"

Speaker: Dr. Elliot Traman

Program and speaker information will be detailed in our September newsletter.

Dinner Buffet Menu

Roasted Rosemary Chicken

Lemon Pepper Cod

Italian Sausage w/ Onions and Peppers

Rigatoni with Marinara Sauce

Tossed Garden Salad

Parslied Potatoes

Mixed Vegetable Medley

Baked Rolls with Butter

Cake and Ice Cream

Coffee, Hot/Iced Tea

Price: \$19.50 (payable at the door)

Reservations are required by Sunday, September 13. Please call Marti Pastore (476-7029) or Kathy Kitchen (734-7188). If you are unable to honor your reservation, you must cancel by September 13 or you will be billed. Note: The Elks Lodge requires 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.

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.

For our 16th annual fundraiser, P.I.A.S. is pleased to have Toni Kelly, water-colorist and mixed media artist, donate an original watercolor of one of our feathered friends. Which one will be revealed in our September newsletter and at the Bayfront Gallery, 17 East Dobbins Landing, Erie, where the painting will be on display during August up through September 17. Benefiting our education and conservation programs, 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.



Toni Kelly

As a water-colorist, Toni's work reflects nature and botanical art while her mixed media art combines nature, calligraphy and collage. She owns Kelly Ink Studio designing painting and creating commissions for individuals and business clientele.

Toni has taught classes in watercolor, calligraphy and book making from Erie to

Pittsburgh and has attended workshops throughout the U.S. by noted calligraphers from the U.S., Canada and England. She also participated in Calligraphic Conferences in San Diego, San Francisco and Boston.

Toni has also exhibited in juried shows such as Word for Word, Troy, OH 2003; Lily Fest , Cambridge Springs, PA 2006, 2004, 2003 and Panorama Erie including the juried traveling exhibit , Mail Art for the Postal Museum of the Smithsonian 2002-2005.

She was the featured artist for Heart Gala 2005 creating 'Many Faces One Heart,' had a one-person show at the Transit Fine Arts Gallery, Oil City, PA and was an invited exhibitor for the 2007 Christmas Season at Kelly Run Gallery. She presented Bookmaking and Creative Book Binding at Barnes and Noble, was one of the Erie, PA Go Fish and Leap Frog artists who created Fish Tales and Sleep Frog and created one of the sign sculptures celebrating the 100th anniversary of 4H.

Her awards include 1st place in Mail Art Competition for the 1st Australian MAP's Conference in 2002 and honorable mention in the 2006 Lily Festival Campbell Pottery, Edinboro, PA.

Toni's affiliations include Northwest Pennsylvania Artists Association, Pittsburgh Guild of Calligraphers, Allegheny Highland Botanical Artists Society, 2002-2003 Exhibition Director for the Association of Calligraphic Arts and Erie Art Museum.

Her published work and articles appear in Artful Blogging, Winter 2009; Bound and Lettered; Wire Bound; Letter Arts Review, 2004 Wedding Edition; Times-News 2006 Fall Bridal Guide; Leap Frog! The Ribbiting Tale and Go Fish! The Offishial Tale.

Toni's work, held in private collections, can be seen at several galleries including the Kada Gallery and Urraro Gallery in Erie.

She keeps a nature sketchbook journal and shares her artistic creations on her blog, "A Spattering," and on a team blog about Presque Isle State Park called "Presque Isle, Naturally." Toni also volunteers at the bird banding station on Presque Isle for PA Audubon.

-Jeanne Kern, Banquet Chairwoman

ERIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TWELFTH BIENNIAL NATURE PHOTO CONTEST



Sponsored by the Friends of Erie National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. and the Presque Isle Audubon Society

Entry Deadline: September 28, 2009

Judging: Sunday, October 11, 2009; Winners announced at 1:30 at an Awards Reception

Categories: Plant Life, Wildlife, Landscape

Awards in Each Category:

\$50 first place

\$25 second place

Ribbons for third place

Ribbons for Honorable Mention

Special Awards:

\$75 Best photo taken on the ENWR overall

\$25 Best student (under 18) photo overall

RULES OF COMPETITION

- Must be amateur photographer (make less than half of their living from photography)
- May enter up to 8 photos
- Entry Fee \$5.00 per photo - make checks payable to Friends of Erie National Wildlife Refuge and mail or deliver to: ENWR, 11296 Wood Duck Lane, Guys Mills, PA 16327 (Note: Call office to verify open hours at 814-789-3585)
- Photos may be digital or film prints in color or black and white
- Photos must be 8"x10", 9"x12", or 11"x14" matted and unframed
- Must be labeled on back as follows: name, address, telephone, age (if 18 or under), title of photo, entry category and specify if taken on the refuge.

Photos will be on display at the refuge from October 11 through November 13.

For more information call refuge staff at 814-789-3585

**WELCOME TO NEW AND RENEWED PIAS
MEMBERS!**



I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. We want to say welcome to all who joined us.

Erie: Leah Ball, Marianne Grucza, Ann Quinn, Karen Richter, Tom Minski, Judy Hansen, Frederick Evans, Marilyn Graves, and David Rinehardt

Cochran: Gerald Lang

Conneautville: Sheila Lutton

Jamestown: Molly Balunek

McKean: John Fette

Meadville: Lawrence Mincotti

Warren: Rosemary Taylor

Also, welcome for our new and renewal Chapter only members;

Corry: Ellis Miller

Erie: Harold Kelly

Meadville: Cynthia Stone

We do not have membership meetings in July and August. The first meeting of our year will be in September, with our annual banquet, which will be on September 18. Information on the banquet will be in this issue of the *Tern of Events*. Hope to see you there.

-Ron Intrieri, Membership Chair
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite #8
Erie, Pa. 16505
ronrxi@roadrunner.com

BIRD SIGHTINGS AT PRESQUE ISLE



BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO

The black-billed cuckoo is probably most renowned for, well, being heard and not seen. I can't imagine why this handsome bird would want to hide from the rest of the world! Despite its secretive reputation, Toni and I found this bird along Dead Pond Trail at Presque Isle on Saturday the 13th. At first I thought I was hearing a turkey in the brush but then this guy popped up much to our surprise (and delight!).

It is quite probable that this is one of a pair of cuckoos that may be nesting on the park. Cuckoos, black-billed and their yellow-billed cousins, aren't often seen on the park but are believed to nest there in some years. Cuckoos eat primarily caterpillars and the presence of the cuckoos is said to coincide with the availability of their food.

-Michele Rundquist-Franz

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.

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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

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