



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2009 ISSUE 09:08

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

Fall colors are starting to shine. And so did you at the annual banquet; it was so good seeing so many happy faces! Everyone in attendance enjoyed great food and a good time. I was privileged to share a table with, among others, our environmental award recipient Dave Skellie and our guest speaker, Dr. Elliot Tramer. Both had wonderful stories to tell of their travels and work. Dave and his family will soon be leaving for Africa and several at the table had recommendations and tales of their own. It was a wonderful night.



Paul Burroughs presents the 2009 Environmental Award to Dave Skellie

Congratulations to Dave Gustafson, one of our two new trustees, on winning the raffle, and many thanks to Jeanne and Chuck Kern and the banquet committee for their fine work in organizing the event. (Please see page 5 for a complete account of the banquet.)

Before all the revelry of the banquet, however, the Board met on Tuesday, September 15 and there are some things afoot that I want to share with you.

Our chapter has been asked to collaborate with the Lake Erie Regional Conservancy to determine a plan for a property that the Conservancy has acquired on West Rd in McKean Township. The board has approved the collaboration and the conservation committee will be meeting with members of the Conservancy next month to make preliminary plans. If anyone is interested in becoming involved in the project, you are most welcome! Please contact me or Conservation committee chair, Paul Burroughs.

Another plan that is taking shape is collaboration with the Bird Habitat Recognition program through PA Audubon at Home. You may recall that Steve Saffier gave a presentation about the program at one of our memberships meetings this spring. (Cont. on Page 2)

OCTOBER THINGS TO DO!

- October 11, Sunday** - Erie National Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest Awards Reception, 1:30 at the Refuge at Guys Mills (See Page 3)
- October 14, Wednesday** - Conservation Committee Meeting, 5:00 PM at Quinn Firm
- October 16, Friday** - PIAS Monthly Meeting And Program - "The Other Peninsula: Olympic National Park's Flora and Fauna (See Page 3) Social at 7:00, Meeting and Program at 7:30
- October 27, Tuesday** - First Responder's Class By Sue DeArment at Asbury Woods Nature Center - 6:30 to 8:30pm (See Page 7)

2009-2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

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

Board of Trustees

2007-2010	Toby Cunningham
2007-2010	Ruth Swaney
2008-2011	Linda Donati
2008-2011	Tracy Graziano
2009-2012	Dave Gustafson
2009-2012	Kathy Kitchen

Chairs of Standing Committees

Bird Records	Jerry McWilliams
Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Field Trips	Mary Birdsong
Grants	Marion Gallivan
Hospitality	Delores & Joao Taveres
Library	Marion Gallivan
Membership	Ron Intrieri
Nominating	TBA
Presque Isle	Paul Burroughs
Publications	Janet Price
Publicity	Susan A. Smith
Programs	Tracy Graziano
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

The model program—initiated right here in Pennsylvania—aims to get more people involved in creating wildlife habitat on their own property. Home owners, schools, municipalities and businesses are welcome to register their property and take the Healthy Yard Pledge. This involves promising to have a certain percentage of their properties planted with native species that are beneficial to birds and other wildlife, use no artificial fertilizers or pesticides and provide other amenities beneficial to wildlife. The best thing about the program is that no property is too small to participate.

Our chapter's involvement would be to arrange for Steve Saffier to provide training to individuals which would allow them to be ambassadors for the habitat recognition program. Once trained, they would then provide guidance to anyone who wanted to learn more about providing a safe and healthy environment for plants, animals and people. This is a great way for each of us to have a hand in making sure there is a good quantity of appropriate habitat right here in our own neighborhood and do some meaningful outreach in the community.

You will be hearing more about this in the months to come. But if you are interested in getting started right now, go to <http://pa.audubon.org> and click on the link "Audubon at Home" on the left side.

I am also happy to report that the audit committee has completed an audit of the chapter's books and confirms for us that everything is in good order. The committee, in their letter to the board of directors goes on to say "We commend Kel (McDonald) for his diligence and perseverance in his work as the treasurer for Presque Isle Audubon Society." I couldn't have said it better myself. I'm sure you would all agree when I offer our thanks to Kel for his service and also to audit committee members, Marion Gallivan, Ruth Swaney and Tom Wasielewski.

The next opportunity for us to gather is on Friday, October 16 for the next general membership meeting where we will hear about the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. Some of our PIAS members have recently spent time there enjoying the birds, (Cont. on Page 3)

flowers, animals and people of that unique area and they will share their experiences with you. Like our annual banquet, these membership meetings afford us the opportunity to join together with people who share our interests and concerns, and probably learn about something new. I don't know about you, but that makes me shine. Have a fabulous October!

~Mary Birdsong, President of PIAS

ERIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 12TH BIENNIAL NATURE PHOTO CONTEST

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

The deadline for photo contest entries has come and gone but you can still enjoy the talents of the many competitors who have submitted entries in ENWR's photo contest. Judging will take place early on Sunday, October 11 and the winners will be announced and awards presented at a reception at 1:30 at the Wildlife Refuge at Guys Mills. The photographs will remain on display there from October 11 through November 13 so if you cannot attend the awards reception, I encourage you to make the trip to view the winners at a later date. I've attended the event in the past and was most impressed by the beautiful and spectacular photos taken by our local artists.

Awards will be given in three major categories: Plant Life, Wildlife and Landscape. First and Second Place winners in each category will receive monetary awards of \$50.00 and \$25.00 respectively. Third Place winners and Honorable Mentions will receive ribbons. The best student (under 18) photo overall will be presented with a \$25.00 cash award and a \$75.00 cash award will be given for the best photo taken on the Erie National Wildlife Refuge overall.

~Janet Price, Editor

TRIBUTE GIFTS

A gift to the Presque Isle Audubon Society is a wonderful way to honor or remember a relative or friend. A special acknowledgement will be sent to the family of the person honored or memorialized.

PIAS OCTOBER PROGRAM "The Other Peninsula: Olympic National Park's Flora and Fauna"

The differences between our peninsula in Erie, Pennsylvania (Presque Isle State Park) and the peninsula in the far northwestern section of the United States (Olympic National Park) will be made evident during a PowerPoint presentation made by members of Presque Isle Audubon Society when the organization has its meeting and monthly program on Friday, October 16 at 7:30 pm in Room 112 at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.

Several members of PIAS traveled to the Olympic Peninsula in the state of Washington in July and September and they are excited to share their experiences with those who attend the meeting. Janet Price, Linda McWilliams, Ruth Swaney and Jan Lutz have gathered pictures from Sam Stull, Barbara Mitchell and Pat Howell to add to their own to create the presentation.



Mount Olympus in Washington

You'll see and hear about the unique geography and culture of that area along with the various birds, mammals, plants, trees, and aquatic creatures found in the rainforests and mountains and along the shores of the Pacific Ocean. There will be time for questions and discussion after the presentation if necessary. So if you've never physically traveled to the Olympic Peninsula, be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to visit it vicariously through the PIAS members who did.

~Janet Price, Editor

BIRD SIGHTINGS FOR AUGUST THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 2009

The following birds of note were reported from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Mute Swan—up to 4; Aug. 19 to at least Sept. 19; throughout the park; m.ob.

Tundra Swan—1; through the period; east end of the park; J.M.

Great Egret—1; Aug. 1; Cranesville, Crawford Co.; C.N.

Black-crowned Night-Heron—2; Aug. 25; Wastewater Treatment Plant; J.D. 1; Sept. 14; Thompson Bay (in duck trap); S.T.

Sandhill Crane - 4 (2 adults, 2 juv.); Sept. 5; northern Crawford Co.; C.G.

Peregrine Falcon—2; Aug. 28; Gull Point; M.W.

White-rumped Sandpiper—1; Aug. 28; Gull Point; M.W.

Baird's Sandpiper—3; Aug. 28; Gull Point; M.W.

Western Sandpiper—1; Aug. 28; Gull Point; M.W.

Whimbrel—1; Aug. 23; Gull Point; T.J. 1; Aug. 28; Gull Point; M.W. (See below)



Prairie Warbler—2; Aug. 29; banded at the Niagara boat launch; fide A.R.

Black-and-white Warbler—1; Aug. 1 (early); one of the trails on the Park; M.F.

Contributors: J.D.-John DePaul, M.F.-Michele Franz, C.G.-Chuck Gehringer, T.J.-Tom Johnson, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, C.N.-Clare Nicolls, A.R.-Andrea Reinhart, S.T.-Steve Tucker, M.W.-Mike Weible, m.ob.-many observers

~Jerry McWilliams (Bird Records Chairman)
814-868-3059 jerrymcw@aol.com

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Once again we want to say Hello to our new and renewal members. Each National member is automatically a member of our local chapter, and is welcome to all of our membership meetings and field trips.

Erie: Caroline Wolff, Claire Kennedy, Josephine Krick, Herta Dankowski, Jacqueline Pierce, Mary Birdsong, and Lora Caldwell

Cambridge Springs: Paul Otto

Centerville: Fern Childs

Cochrannton: Valerie Tarkowski

Corry: Cecil Anderson

Edinboro: Laurie Parendes, Carlos Mamani

Meadville: Ruth Bywater, Marlene Gourley

Titusville: Jeffery Ames

Union City: Rose Briggs

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chair

PROJECT FEEDER WATCH The 2009-2010 Bird-Watching Days

If you have birds coming to your yard during the winter, please consider joining the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's annual event, Project Feeder Watch, that begins on Saturday, November 14, 2009 and ends on Friday, April 9, 2010. You can get information at www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw or by calling (607) 254-2427. Know the instructions before you say "No" because it's not as time consuming as you might think! Undertaking this project may even make your winter days more enjoyable!

THE 2010 FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS AT PRESQUE ISLE

Our committee will begin meeting regularly to plan the third Festival of the Birds. We invite anyone who is interested to join us. You don't have to have any special skills or experience to work with us so please consider being a part of this great event. Contact Janet Price if interested at jrplkm@aol.com or call 814-825-8394.

2009 PIAS BANQUET

Following a fitting invocation by Carolyn Baxter, a delicious dinner was enjoyed by all in the cozy dining room of the Elks Lodge.

Paul Burroughs' presentation of the Environmental Award to David Skellie preceded the moment we were all awaiting: the drawing for Toni Kelly's "Bay-breasted Warbler." The delighted winner was our new trustee, Dave Gustafson who immediately thanked Ruth Swaney for drawing his name. He told us that he has built a new house and has the perfect location for the painting. He also eagerly accepted the display sign which accompanied the painting saying, "This is a good item for my scrapbook." He was one happy man. The second drawing for attendees only, Birdfeeder Handbook - National Audubon, went to our Vice-President, Paul Burroughs.



DAVE GUSTAFSON, WINNER OF THE PIAS RAFFLE, ACCEPTING TONI KELLY'S "BAY- BREASTED WARBLER"

After a brief pause, Susan Smith introduced the evening's speaker, Dr. Elliott J. Tramer, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Sciences at the University of Toledo, with his program, "Marvelous Journeys: Migrants Going Home to the Tropics." His most informative program included showing the bird's anatomy (hollow bones make it lightweight) and telling us that its super-efficient respiratory system allows it to travel hundreds/thousands of miles across open ocean during migration. Some travel 500 miles across the Gulf of Mexico flying 20 hours at a time at 25

miles an hour. The black-poll travels fifteen hundred miles to Venezuela. (See below)



Dr. Tramer emphasized that the birds really fuel up before crossing as they may not have access to food or water. Having sufficient fat enables them to go without water. Of the 4.9 billion land birds nesting in North America, 29% migrate to the tropics. The improbable feat of these little creatures defies comprehension considering some weigh as little as a third of an ounce.

On the lighter side, Dr. Tramer showed how the Baltimore Oriole pokes a hole in an orange (still on the tree) just large enough to accommodate its head and proceeds to eat the entire orange leaving only the empty rind hanging on the branch. Can you envision the sight?

Ron Intrieri then held the drawing for the door prize (a membership to National for new members only) which went to Steve Danko. Since Steve is a member, he will give it to someone who wishes to become one. Lastly, Chuck Kern had fun giving away his birdhouse centerpieces to nine delighted individuals after which our president, Mary Birdsong, brought the festivities to a close bidding everyone a safe trip home.

~Jeanne Kern, Banquet Chair

INTERCOASTAL CLEANUP EVENT

Our Intercoastal Cleanup Event on September 19 netted approximately **10,500 lbs.** of trash, garbage and debris. About **56 miles** of City of Erie streets, stream banks and Lake Erie shoreline were cleaned, with **842 volunteers** participating. These are phenomenal numbers that don't yet include numbers from local schools.

~Don Benczekowski, ICC Chair

LETTER FROM AUDUBON PENNSYLVANIA'S GLOBAL WARMING COORDINATOR

Climate change poses an imminent danger to the survival of many species of birds and wildlife and the integrity of the ecosystems on which they depend. Recently over 100 of Audubon's state offices and local chapters endorsed a letter to the Senate requesting that they pass climate legislation that includes crucial funding to protect wildlife and natural resources from the ever-growing threat of climate change. Thanks to all for supporting this critical initiative!

While the letter is a great step in the right direction, it is essential that we continue to let our senators know that we strongly support climate legislation that provides for 5% of total revenues generated through the cap and trade program to go toward natural resources adaptation. A legislative approach to conquering climate change is not complete without provisions that help our wildlife survive a warming planet.



These funds would increase the coffers of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, the Endangered Species Act and other successful conservation programs. They would provide much needed resources to National Wildlife Refuge managers as they battle invasive species and other refuge threats that will only be exacerbated by climate change. Research, monitoring and education need to increase as well. A 5% dedication of funds to address the impacts of global warming will allow us to protect and expand crucial habitats and more thoroughly understand the effects that a climate change has on wildlife.

In September, the Senate will take up global warming legislation. Now is the time to voice your support for increased adaptation funding. A quick call or email to your senators will help us build

public demand for strong climate legislation and increased funding - 5% -- for wildlife.



To reach your senator please call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121, or find your senator's contact information online at: www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators.cfm.

If you prefer to send an email, you can do that at your senator's web site or through Audubon's Action Center, www.audubonaction.org.

Tell your senators that you want:
Strong climate legislation this year to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Legislation that protects birds, wildlife, natural resources and ecosystems by dedicating 5% of revenues for wildlife adaptation.



Audubon has always spoken for birds, wildlife and their habitats, no matter the threat. Now is the time to speak out for strong climate legislation and the resources we need to protect the birds and wildlife we love.



If you have any questions or if you want to do more to help, contact Audubon's Pennsylvania Global Warming Coordinator, Victoria Ford at vford@audubon.org.

**EMT FOR THE BIRDS:
WILDLIFE FIRST RESPONDERS
TRAINING**

At times our phones ring every day, especially during Spring & fall migration, with distress calls to come and rescue a hurt, abandoned or orphaned bird. Rescuing may only mean to return the bird to its nest or to a safe bush. It could also mean driving the bird(s) to Tamarack Wildlife Refuge or to Skye's Spirit Rehabilitation Center for the rehab experts to treat. The handling and care of the bird upon first contact can mean the difference between life or death and whether it arrives DOA at Tamarack or Skye's Spirit.

Presque Isle Audubon & Asbury Woods have partnered with Sue DeArment, licensed rehabilitator and President of Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center in Saegertown, PA., will be teaching a *Wildlife First Responders Class* for three weeks from 6:30-8:30 pm at Asbury Woods Nature Center to interested and committed adults.



Sue DeArment with a Permanently Injured Owl used for Education

There is a dire need to help injured birds get the care they need. There is no licensed wild bird rehabilitator in Erie County. A cooperative effort with Presque Isle Audubon Society and Tamarack Wildlife Center will train first responders to receive and transport injured birds to Tamarack Wildlife Center in Saegertown. Participants will learn when to intervene, safe handling, capture and re-introduction techniques for young birds, and how to stabilize and transport injured birds. This program seeks volunteers who have the time and ability to become a first responder. We need all the help we can get, so please seriously consider being an **EMT for the Birds!**

Dates: Tuesdays Oct. 27, Nov. 3 and 10

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Ages: Adults

Location: Asbury Woods Nature Center

Fee: \$20.00 includes workbook and materials

Register at Asbury Woods. For further information call Sue DeArment at Tamarack (814) 763-2574.



Wild Birds Unlimited
Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist

Come visit and take a nature break with us!

Birdseed • Birdfeeders • Birdbaths • Nature Gifts

Village West # 17 • 3330 W. 26th St.
Erie, PA 16506 • (814) 838-5145

Store Hours:
Mon-Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-8
Sat 10-5, Sun Closed

State Farm®
Providing Insurance and Financial Services
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710



Mathew D Phillips, Agent

1703 West 26th Street
Erie, PA 16508-1235
Bus 814-456-6138
Fax 814-456-3899
www.mathewdphillips.net



24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®

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 editor@presqueisleaudubon.org 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
TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 8
ERIE, PA 16505

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Erie, PA
Permit No. 238

**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 _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Chapter Code C9ZU150Z

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

**National Audubon Society
P.O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, Florida 32142-2250**

Renewal members will receive a coupon mailed to them
by National. Please write the code number **C9ZU150Z**
on your renewal application.