



TERN OF EVENTS



Presque Isle Audubon Society Membership Newsletter

September 2008

Issue 08:07

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

Do you remember my offer to provide canvas or cloth bags to the first 50 people who contacted me with a pledge to use them instead of plastic bags? Well, not one person responded. Someone said I shamed everyone into buying their own. I hardly believe that so I'm asking you to contact me if you're at all interested in a free bag. I need to know before our banquet so I can purchase enough bags to distribute that evening. Please email me your pledge or send it in the snail mail as soon as you can. The pledge form can be found in the August issue of the Tern of Events.



THIS!

Not long ago I completed and submitted Presque Isle Audubon Society's Annual Report. It's quite a lengthy report and includes questions about almost everything we did (and didn't do) in the past year.

Once the report is submitted, it is reviewed by State and National Audubon personnel. If we pass the mustard, our chapter is renewed for another year and we are eligible to receive funds from the national office.

Included in the report is the Annual Plan which consists of our major goals for the 2008-2009 year. With input from board members and committee chairs, I outlined ten major goals. I



NOT THIS!

want to share them with all of you so that you are aware of what our chapter is attempting to do during the coming year and, hopefully, you will be inspired to help us in achieving those goals. We do have to account for the goals in next year's report, so I'd like to report a 100% success rate. You will find detailed information about each goal as the year goes on and the committees get into their work. The first goal listed will be introduced and explained in the October TOE and materials will be distributed at our monthly meeting before the program begins. Here are our goals.

1. To promote Audubon at Home among our members
2. To partner with Erie-Allegheny Earth Force in bringing about the reduction of pesticide use in the area
3. To increase the awareness of the negative impacts that climate change/global warming has on the environment and what can be done about it
4. To work to reduce the use of plastic bags at stores and supermarkets (Cont. on page 2)

SEPTEMBER THINGS TO DO!

September 6, Saturday - Lake Erie Arboretum Festival, Frontier Park

September 12, Thursday -Erie County Coalition Meeting, 7:00 pm at the TREC

September 13, Saturday - Wildlife Festival, 10 am to 5 pm at the TREC

September 16, Tuesday - Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 pm at the TREC

September 17, Wednesday - Conservation Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm at the Quinn Law Firm

September 18, Friday - PIAS Banquet (p 5)

2008-09 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President	Janet Price
Vice-President	Mary Birdsong
Secretary	Bonnie Ginader
Treasurer	Kel McDonald
Immediate Past President	Paul Burroughs

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2006-2009	Marion Gallivan
2006-2009	Terry Lobdell
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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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THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

5. To develop and maintain a nature garden at Scott Park in partnership with elementary school Students
6. To continue to promote public awareness of environmental issues and how the public can help
7. To monitor the Bald Eagle population in the immediate area
8. To cooperate with Allegheny Front Audubon Society in getting wind regulations passed in Pennsylvania
9. To cooperate with the superintendent of a local golf course in establishing that venue as a certified wildlife habitat
10. To conduct field trips on an ongoing a regular basis throughout the year

Along with listing the major goals, I had to explain how the chapter would accomplish these goals. As I mentioned before, I and others will keep you up to date on the primary actions and activities that take place. Remember our mission statement. We are an organization that pledges TO DO SOMETHING about our environment rather than sit back and let others deal with pertinent issues. So please consider spending some active time with one or more of our committees. Your reward will be a great satisfaction knowing that you helped!

~Janet Price, President

Meadville's Seton School 5th Grade Class

As most of you know, the fifth grade class at Seton School in Meadville has been very active in birdwatching and other nature related activities, for example, its on-going project and relationship with Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. The class, under the direction of its teacher Marcia Carone, could use your help this year. That assistance could be in the form of birdseed donations; landscaping assistance for the school's nature sanctuary; and other items, such as bird feeders, bird houses, and nature books. Please contact Marcia Carone, also a PIAS member, at 814-336-2320 if you would like to help out.

~Wendy Campbell, Director

Wild Wings Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

THE ADVOCACY CORNER

Water quality and availability are the linchpins upon which rests, not only our civilization, but the entire living world. If anything demonstrates how all things in nature are connected it is water. Even now in the human community there are portents of strife, possibly even future wars to be fought over water

We live in a region where it is easy to take for granted an unlimited supply of water. The Great Lakes make up the largest body of freshwater in the world. Yet even that is subject to threat. Recently you have read of a compact among the states and provinces bordering the Great Lakes which will protect the waters from being tapped by other regions deficient in water for one reason or another. And many of us remember when Lake Erie was proclaimed dead back in the 1960s and 1970s because of the industrial and household pollutions dumped thoughtlessly into the lake and its tributaries.

That this image has been largely overturned can be attributed to the many professionals and volunteers who have over the years studied root causes of the pollution and have proposed and had implemented remedial steps necessary to clean up the lake. But this isn't the last word. Nor should it be, since assaults on it and all bodies of water continue as humankind increases and with it demands for space and resources. It is heartening to be able to report that there is a plan to confront these demands before they inflict irreversible damage to the lake and the streams that supply it.

Unbeknownst to most of us a coalition of dozens of scientists, educators, environmental organizations, and individuals have been working for five years on such a plan. Funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, it is now available for perusal by citizens before being implemented. The plan is known as The Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan. Notice that the study does not stop at "Lake" but includes "Watershed." A watershed includes all of the land areas drained

by streams flowing into the lake. In the case of Lake Erie that includes all of the streams that flow north from the Ridge that runs east and west across Erie County and into Ohio and New York. This shows the interconnectedness of all things in nature. What happens on land and upstream affects the lake.

The planners to their great credit have proposed to follow three modes of attack: to develop **outreach** to the people and organizations with a stake in the area, to inform them through meetings and workshops; to invoke **restorative actions** to those areas that have the most negative impact on the watershed; to undertake **protective actions** by establishing partnerships with municipalities, landowners, and businesses to develop ongoing protection to the watershed.

The three most important threats to the watershed that this plan will attack are: **non-point source pollution, urban sprawl, and climate change (global warming)**. This is a fine and comprehensive report that the public may view at:

- Blasco Library 160 East Front Street
- Tom Ridge Environmental Center (second floor library)
- Headwaters Park Natural Resource Center 1927 Wager Road (I-90 and Rte 8)

~Toby Cunningham, Advocacy Writer

BIRD BATH WIGGLERS

I don't keep my bird bath full of water all the time because of the mosquito problem. I used to tip the bath, drain the water and then refill it. I was about to do the same thing this year, but first I wanted to take a closer look at the little wigglers. Yep, there they were. Dozens of them. All sizes, but look, there were other "things" down there too. Wow! The birds' "pool" was crawling with aquatic activity. There were even miniature cocoons made up of pool waste that moved mysteriously with something starting to exit only to quickly retreat. I drained the bath thoroughly, but, let's take another look. What a surprise! Very little draining water was left but, the place was still crawling. The remaining film "sparkled" with activity. (Cont. on p. 7)

BIRD SIGHTINGS for JULY and AUGUST

Great Egret—1; Aug. 12; Edinboro; D.S
Little Blue Heron—1; Aug. 7; Gull Point; M.V.
Black-crowned Night-Heron—1; Aug. 19; west
Erie; B.C.
Peregrine Falcon—1; July 7; SGL #314; T.W.
1; July 23; Beach 10; J.M.
Willet—1; Aug. 7; Gull Point; M.V.
Whimbrel—1; Aug. 7; Gull Point; M.V.



WHIMBREL

White-rumped Sandpiper—1; Aug. 7; Gull Point;
M.V.

Sedge Wren—1; July 6; SGL # 277, Crawford Co.;
J.F.



SEDGE WREN

Pine Siskin—1; July 27; Waterford; J.H.

Contributors: B.C.-Ben Coulter, J.F.-Jim Flynn,
J.H.-James Hill, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, D.S.-Don
Snyder, M.V.-Mark Vass, T.W.-Tom Wasilewski

~ Jerry McWilliams, Bird Records Chair
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THE GREAT LAKES COMPACT

Some great news for those of us choosing to live within the Great Lakes watershed. All 8 Great Lakes states and 2 Canadian provinces bordering on the Great Lakes have now each approved the Great Lakes Compact which has the stated purpose of protecting the Great Lakes from withdrawals and diversions outside of the basins of the lakes except as strictly permitted. It is important to note not only that the Great Lakes contain 20% of the world's fresh water and 84%-95% of the United States fresh water depending upon information sources but also that only an average of 1% per year is new water, the rest being existing water. Sustained withdrawals and diversions would have a catastrophic effect on lake levels and availability to serve the needs of those within the basins. In addition to conservation, protecting the existing supplies from leaving the area is critical to our health. Several years ago a plan to send millions of gallons to Asia galvanized the provinces and states to act against such diversions. A recent presidential candidate suggested Great Lakes water could supply the needs of the Colorado River. The Compact is intended to protect against such actions.

As noted by Governor Rendell when signing the legislation, the Compact states:

- Continued sustainable, accessible and adequate water supplies for the people and economy of the basin are of vital importance;
- Future diversions and consumptive uses of basin water resources have the potential significantly to impact the environment, economy and welfare of the region;
- Regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency will be developed and reviewed every five years. Each state will develop and implement a water conservation and efficiency program;
- Collecting and sharing technical data by compact states will improve the scientific base of information, which will improve decision-making by the governments; and (Cont. on p. 6)

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 Parslied Potatoes
Roasted Herb Pork Loin Mixed Vegetable Medley
Rigatoni with Marinara Sauce
Lemon Pepper Cod Baked Rolls and Butter
Tossed Garden Salad
Coffee, Hot/Iced Tea Cake and Ice Cream

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 Lodge requires a final reservation count earlier than usual, so I urge you to please reserve early. Thank you.

Environmental Award

Following dinner, Ms. Catherine L. Pedler will be honored with the annual P.I.A.S. Environmental Award. Catherine (Cathy) Pedler is currently receiving state funding to finish her Masters Degree in Applied Intelligence at Mercyhurst College. Cathy is pursuing this degree in order to facilitate the emergence of the new field of "environmental intelligence."

For the past four years, she served as the Sustainability Coordinator at Mercyhurst College to help to facilitate environmental awareness and sustainable practices at the college and in the community. In 1991, Cathy received a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh. From 1985 to 2003, she worked at the University

of Pittsburgh and Mercyhurst as an archaeological researcher. After spending several years studying Permaculture and Sustainable Systems at Slippery Rock University (1993-1996), Cathy began working with regional activists to form the Lake Erie Region Conservancy of which she has been vice president since 1999, the Gaia Defense League serving as coordinator since 2004 and the Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Association. She has been active in the Erie County Environmental Coalition, Lake Erie Allegheny Earth Force and sits on the boards of, among others, the Allegheny Defense Project and Great Lakes Aid.

Annual Fundraiser

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, 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.

Loise Wiley 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.

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 Home on the Hill, Waterford.

Keynote Speaker

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 publications.

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. An 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.

Please remember the reservation deadline is Sunday, September 14. Come, bring a friend(s) and enjoy the evening.

~Jeanne Kern, Banquet Chair

THE GREAT LAKES COMPACT (Cont.)



- The states and provinces have a shared duty to protect, conserve, restore, improve and manage the renewable, but finite, waters of the basin for the use, benefit and enjoyment of all citizens.

Yet to be finalized to make the Compact enforceable is ratification by Congress. As of this printing, the United States Senate swiftly passed the proposed legislation. The House may not take it up until the Fall. Both presumptive presidential candidates support its ratification.

~Paul F Burroughs, Conservation Chair

GLOBAL WARMING LEGISLATION A PRIORITY

Global warming legislation is one of National Audubon's highest priorities in the coming year. The scientific evidence indicates that global warming is one of the biggest threats to the survival of birds and their habitat. The good news

BIRD BATH WIGGLERS (Cont.)

is that the experts tell us that by reducing our CO2 emissions we can solve this problem. Audubon, as the one of the leading conservation organizations in the country, is bringing not only its professional expertise but also our collective experience as citizen scientists to the national dialogue on solutions for clean and affordable energy.

Our Members in the House of Representatives in Washington as well as Senators Specter and Casey must hear from us that we need strong climate change legislation to be among the top priorities in the 111th Congress in January, 2009.

Many different opinions are being voiced about how to address our energy needs. As Audubon members we must advocate for birds and their habitat so that new energy policies and laws protect them.

National Audubon recently hired Anne Crowley to lead the effort here in the Commonwealth to educate and activate members about global warming and related energy/conservation legislation. She will be a resource to our chapter and would like to recruit a person in each chapter to be a global warming contact for her.

Anne welcomes invitations to speak about global warming to groups you know - community, agriculture, education, labor and faith. She can be reached at acrowley@audubon.org or by phone at 610-640-3303.

In the meantime, you can log onto the Audubon website for more global warming information - <http://audubonaction.org/campaign/globalwarmingprinciples>.

My bath was slightly tilted and the water started to evaporate, but numerous little "sparkles" were left on the miniscule high points. Everything drained downward creating a tiny pool. There were not dozens but thousands of little aquatic "things." The bath water finally evaporated, but there at the low point were three or four gyrating yellowish balls of life about the diameter of a pencil. Not just wigglers now but numerous squirming worm like creatures. My disgruntled nut hatch and song sparrows let me know that they were waiting for their evening drink or bath, but they were out-of-luck. Fifteen minutes later the water was all gone, but not the wiggling masses which were now lying on the bottom of the bath. I checked fifteen minutes later and the ball masses -- were gone. My birds had dined instead of wined. It was late so I elected to let the bath dry thoroughly overnight. It was refilled the next morning and it remained crystal clear.

I've since learned that - yes, there are indeed numerous other aquatic forms of life that inhabit my birth bath, some of which are even helpful and provide an eventual food source. But I want the mosquitoes out. One could deter egg laying with a surface water agitator such as the "Water Wiggler" (Wild Bird has them). Mosquitoes need surface tension in their process. Yes, there are chemical means as well, but not recommended.

Me? Instead of making my bird bath available to amorous mosquitoes and their friends who want to start a midnight life cycle, I'm turning off their overnight water pillows. I'm going to drain and refrain.

~Chuck Kern, PI AS Member

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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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

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Please indicate your preference:

_____ Paper copy of *Tern of Events* OR

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

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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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