



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2009 ISSUE 09:07

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

As you read this, we may be still enjoying some fine summer weather or already turning our thoughts to fall chores. But whatever we are doing, the outdoors still beckons and nature—no matter what the season—always guarantees a good time. A few shore birds might still be found, the songbirds are making their way through and waterfowl can't be too far behind. So take this as a strong recommendation from your president---get out there and enjoy!

The only time I ask you to be indoors is the evening of Friday, September 18, for our annual fall banquet. This year's event, once again at the Elks Club on Peninsula Drive (you could go birding at PI beforehand!) promises good food, company and enrichment. We will be honoring David Skellie with our Environmental Award and hearing Dr. Elliot J. Tramer explain how avian migrants meet the challenge of traveling thousands of miles and changing habitat as they make their annual pilgrimage south.

As usual, Jeanne and Chuck Kern have persuaded a member artist to donate a work for the fundraiser associated with the banquet. Toni Kelly's work, "Bay Breasted Warbler," a watercolor on canvas, should attract many with its fine colors and elegant composition. Even if you don't plan to attend the banquet, please consider buying a raffle ticket or three, as you need not be present to win. Remember, all proceeds of the fundraiser supports the chapter's education and conservation programs.

(Please see pages 4,5,6 for more information about the banquet and the fundraiser.)

To write this Perch, I have referred to our website, [www.presqueisleaudubon.org](http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org) several times. Newly and beautifully designed by Joan Howlett with contributions from Toni Kelly and Michele Rundquist Franz, it holds a wealth of information. One particularly key element of it is access to our monthly newsletter, the Tern of Events. If you signed up to receive the newsletter via e-mail, you know that Joan alerts you to its presence every month with a short email and a link to the site. I find this a rather handy and green way to receive my mail. I think you should, too. (Cont. P 2)



Canada Darner

## SEPTEMBER THINGS TO DO!

- September 9, Wednesday** - Conservation Committee Meeting, 5:00 PM at Quinn Firm
- September 15, Tuesday** - PIAS Executive Board Meeting at 7:00pm in the Board Room at the TREC
- September 18, Friday** - 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual PIAS Banquet at 6:00 PM at Elks Lodge #67. (P 4)
- September 27, Sunday** - *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* on PBS. Check time on [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org)

## 2009-2010 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.

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

**Phone:** 814-860-4091

**Website:** [www.presqueisleaudubon.org](http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org)

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Continued)

If you are still receiving a paper copy of the newsletter in the mail and you have the technological ability to receive it electronically, I strongly encourage you to do so. Printing fewer paper copies reduces the chapter's expenses for paper, printing and postage, saves time for the volunteers who prepare, sort and mail them and reduces our use of natural resources.

Another nifty benefit of acquiring the newsletter electronically is that it is in color! To save cost, we have always printed in black and white. If you read online, the color photographs accompanying the articles are much richer and dynamic and really enhance the pleasure of reading. If you must read the newsletter in print, the online option allows for downloading and saving as well as printing. The easy instructions for doing so are at the site.

To make it painless for you to make the switch, I have asked Joan Howlett to add a quick sign up link on the website newsletter page. Go there today and do your part to for the planet! And while you're browsing the site, be sure to check out some of its new features. The first and most exciting is the associated blog that was recently inaugurated. Just click on "blog" in the top right corner of the website to take a peek. The first post is a video from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology on the "State of Birds."

The second feature I want to point out is the "About Us" page. Here you can find all kinds of contact information for the chapter as well as our bylaws. The new feature is the easy links to me and all the other members of the executive board. If you have a thought, idea or concern, just click on the link of your choice and you can send us an email. When you make the switch to an electronic newsletter, drop me a line and let me know. I will report next month how we did.

One last thought: If you have any inclination, don't miss entering a piece in the Erie National Wildlife Refuge 12th Biennial Nature Photo Contest. The deadline is September 28. See page 6 for details.

Now, I'm going to step away from the keyboard and go outside!

~ Mary Birdsong, President

**NEW MEMBERS OF PRESQUE ISLE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

We welcome the new members listed below into our chapter. It's a great time to join with the fall migration just beginning.

**Erie:** Joanne Griebel, Diane McLaughlin, Bill Hess, Mary Gott, Blasco Library, Elaine Richter, Judith Johnson, Robert Maxa

**Albion:** Howard Smock

**Edinboro:** Carol & Ward Sanders, Alfred Riccomini

**Girard:** L. Weidler, Lloyd Weidler, Shirley Struchen

**Cambridge Springs:** Sally Luce

**Centerville:** Ruth Cammon

**Conneaut Lake:** Virginia Criss

**Meadville:** Jerome Sawtelle, Peggy Bell, J.L.

Barretta, Barbara Hoover, Emily Ryan

**Saegertown:** Mildred Warden, Mary Mahoney

**Titusville:** Valerie Lamont

**Union City:** Union Central High School

**Warren:** Kenneth Breitenstein

**Waterford:** Les Malinowski

We also welcome our new "chapter only" members:

Chris Priano from **Monroeville, Pa.**

Wendy Swanson from **Falls Church, Va.**

Ludy Lipsitz and Dorothy Farnstrom from **Erie.**

~Ron Intriери, Membership Chair

**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.



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**FIELD CLASSES/BIRD IDENTIFICATION**

Fall Migration, September 2009

**Instructor, JERRY McWILLIAMS**

Hello fellow birders,

There will be four classes this season. There will be a class every Saturday morning beginning on Saturday September 5 and ending on Saturday September 26. **PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGES.** Since the days are getting shorter in September it doesn't get light until later, so I decided to make the adjustment. This is also works better for those who have to drive long distances to get to class.

These classes are informative and fun. They are paced to suit everyone's learning skills. There will be no written examinations, but everyone should be willing to participate in discussions. I will send a list of all species we find on each field class to all participants following each class. The walks are easy and comfortable, with frequent stops. All classes will meet on Presque Isle State Park. The meeting place for each class will be at Vista 2, the second parking lot on the right after you enter the park.

**Something new:** If you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or friends who are in grade school, high school, or college, they are welcome to attend the classes with you for **FREE**.

**Schedule:**

Saturdays: September 5, September 12, September 19, September 26

**Time:** All classes are from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon

**Cost:** \$30.00 per class or \$100.00 for all four

**For more information:** call Jerry at 814-868-3059 or email at [jerrymcw@aol.com](mailto:jerrymcw@aol.com)



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## PIAS BANQUET 2009



Help us celebrate our 53rd anniversary as we kick off 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 Home to the Tropics"

**Speaker:** Dr. Elliott Tramer

### Dinner Buffet Menu

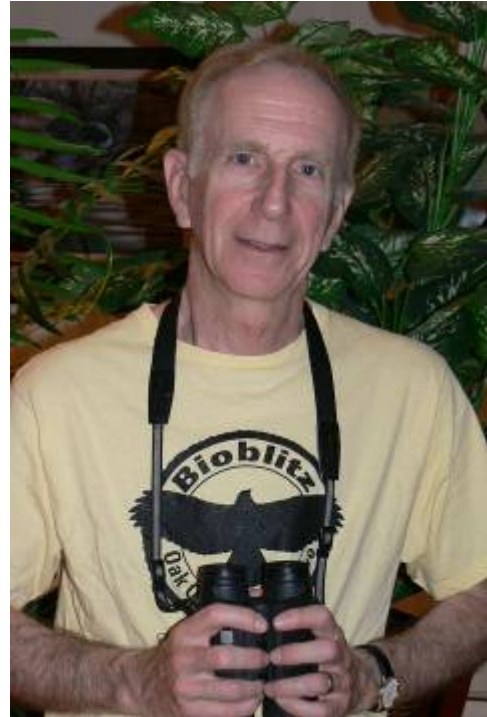
Roasted Rosemary Chicken  
Mixed Vegetable Medley  
Italian Sausage with Onions/Peppers  
Lemon Pepper Cod  
Rigatoni with Marinara Sauce (also served as  
a vegetarian entree)  
Parslied Potatoes  
Tossed Garden Salad  
Baked Rolls with Butter  
Coffee, Hot/Iced Tea

**Price:** \$19.50 (payable at the door)

**Reservations** 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. **Important Note:** **The Elks Lodge requires an early final count. They may not accept late reservations. Please reserve early. Thank you.**

We are pleased to have as our evening's speaker, Dr. Elliott Tramer, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Services at the University of Toledo. While at the university, he founded the Environmental Science Program and served as its director until his retirement in 2007. Dr. Tramer

has been an avid birder since he was ten years old. He is a co-author of 2002's Birds of the Toledo Area, a book familiar to many Ohio birders and has served on the Ohio Bird Records Committee. Dr. Tramer has traveled to Central and South America numerous times and has many publications to his credit, including papers on patterns of bird species diversity and the lives of migrant birds on their tropical wintering grounds.



**Dr. Elliot Tramer**

Dr. Tramer's program focuses on long-range migrants. Many of the land birds that nest in eastern North America, are long-range migrants, traveling hundreds or, in some cases, thousands of miles between their nesting areas and wintering grounds in the tropics. During their travels, they may cross large expanses of open ocean with no access to food or water. As they travel, they must adapt instantaneously to changes in vegetation, available food and potential competitors and predators. How do they cope with these challenges? Come and learn how through Dr. Tramer's special program.

Following dinner, Mr. David Skellie, coastal land use and economic specialist, will be honored with the P.I.A.S. Environmental Award. Mr. Skellie has

35 years of land use experience within Erie County, PA, having served as County Planner/Planning Director for Erie County government for 29 years. During his tenure as director, the county became a leader on environmental and conservation issues. His leadership role continues with Penn State University's Pennsylvania Sea Grant Program where he has been employed since 2003. Areas of technical specialty include comprehensive planning, land use regulations, the Coastal Zone Management Program and farmland and open space preservation. Mr. Skellie's current activities include serving as a liaison with watershed and governmental organizations; serving as chair of the Seaway Trail Scenic Byway Committee; nonpoint source pollution prevention education; sustainable land use development initiatives; conservation design for suburban development and open space preservation.



**Mr. David Skellie**

Among the numerous boards and committees on which Mr. Skellie serves are the Presque Isle Bay Public Advisory Committee, Lake Erie Region Conservancy, Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Association (founding member), Lake Erie and Genesee Basin Regional Water Resources Committee (state water plan), Greater Erie Unity Committee, Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association and Millcreek Township Planning Commission.

In our August newsletter, I promised to reveal which of our feathered friends would be depicted in our 16th annual fundraiser. Toni Kelly, talented water-colorist and mixed media artist, has chosen the Bay Breasted Warbler. (Below)



The colorful original watercolor on canvas portrays a Bay-breasted Warbler, head cocked, amidst pine boughs covered with emerging pinecones. (Toni, accompanied by Michelle Franz, saw the warbler at Fry's Landing on Presque Isle during spring migration). Benefiting our education and conservation programs, the beautifully framed painting (17 x 14) is valued at \$250.00 and will be on display at the Bayfront Gallery, 17 East Dobbins Landing, Erie, through September 17. 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.

As a water-colorist, Toni's work reflects nature and botanical art while her mixed media art combines nature, calligraphy and collage. She has taught classes in watercolor, calligraphy and book making from Erie to Pittsburgh. Toni owns Kelly Ink Studio designing, painting and creating commissions for individuals and business clientele.

Toni has exhibited in juried shows on Ohio, Cambridge Springs, Erie and 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 and was one of the Erie, PA Go Fish and Leap Frog artists who created Fish Tales and Sleep Frog.

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

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

Her published work and articles have appeared in publications such as Artful Blogging, Wire Bound, Letter Arts Review, Leap Frog! The Ribbitting 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, "Presque Isle, Naturally." Toni also volunteers at the bird banding station on Presque Isle for PA Audubon.

- 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.

**Remember, please, the reservation deadline is Sunday, September 13. Come, bring a friend(s) and enjoy the evening.**

~Jeanne Kern, Banquet Chairwoman

## ERIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 12<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL NATURE PHOTO CONTEST

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

Entries are being accepted for the Erie National Wildlife Refuge's Nature Photo Contest now until September 28, 2009. Competition will be held 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.

### Rules of Competition:

- Entry deadline: Monday, September 28, 2009
- Must be amateur photographer (make less than half of their living from photography)
- May enter up to eight (8) photos
- Entry fee \$5.00 per photo - make check payable to Friends of Erie National Wildlife Refuge and mail or deliver entries to Erie National Wildlife Refuge, 11296 Wood Duck Lane, Guys Mills, PA 16327 (Call office at 814-789-3585 before delivering to verify open hours.)
- Photos may be digital or film prints in color or black and white
- Photos must be 8"x10", 9"x12" or 11x14" 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

Judging will occur on Sunday, October 11, 2009. The winners will be announced at an Awards Reception at 1:30 p.m. that same day. The photographs will remain on display at the refuge from October 11 through November 13. Entries may be picked up after that date. For more information call refuge staff at 814-789-3585.

## WILDLIFE FIRST RESPONDERS TRAINING

**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

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

There will be more detailed information in the October issue of the Tern of Events and on the PIAS website, [www.presqueisleaudubon.org](http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org).

Editor's Note: Since our local rehabilitation center has closed (Wild Wings), Bob Hartman has been transporting songbirds from Erie to Skye's Spirit. Presque Isle Audubon Society has been trying to defray his expense by reimbursing him part of his fuel expenses. If you find an injured or abandoned songbird, please contact Bob at 440-9416. You might consider making a small donation to Bob for his efforts or for the rehab center.

~Janet Price, Editor

## SKYE'S SPIRIT WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER

Skye's Spirit Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is located on 15 acres in Venango County, PA. Since opening in 1998, SSWRC has cared for and released hundreds of injured, sick and orphaned wild animals and birds. We accept Birds of Prey, Small Mammals, White Tail Deer Fawns, Waterfowl, Songbirds and Native Reptiles. We are open 7 days a week to intake wildlife for care. We are NOT state or federally funded to provide this care to the wildlife of our area. We are an all Volunteer 501(C)(3) Organization dedicated to helping wildlife in need.

*Skye's Spirit has joined up with an organization to recycle used ink jet cartridges to help raise funds for the wildlife. Don't throw away your used cartridges. Take them to Wild Birds Unlimited and they will see that Skye's Spirit gets them.*

### WANT TO HELP SETON SCHOOL'S 5TH GRADE CLASS?

As many of the PIAS members know, Seton's 5th Grade Class is heavily involved in bird watching/nature activities. For example, to name a few, they have a daily bird watching program with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and they maintain a sizable wildlife/nature sanctuary adjoining the school. This year's larger class could use donations of birdseed, new/used bird feeders, binoculars, field guides of birds and other wildlife etc. If you can help in anyway, please contact the teacher Marcia Carone, at Meadville's Seton School-814.336.2320.

~Wendy Campbell, PIAS 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 [editor@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:editor@presqueisleaudubon.org) 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 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

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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

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