



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2011 ISSUE 11:07

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



This issue of the Tern of Events is dedicated to Jean Stull Cunningham, founder of Presque Isle Audubon Society and creator of the PIAS newsletter.

I write this "perch" with a feeling of sadness because I am missing Jean. At the same time, I also feel her spirit all around me so that makes me happy and inspired. I hadn't known Jean as long as many of you had, but, nevertheless, I greatly admired her and she was and is a forceful inspiration to me.

Many people knew Jean as an environmentalist and activist who tried undauntedly to preserve our natural world and who taught those around her to protect and love and appreciate nature. Her message was sent through her art and her many endeavors. Her actions spoke louder than her words although she was heard, as well. Her legacy and spirit is all around us and I hope this legacy serves to inspire all of us to make the effort to

continue the many efforts she made in her lifetime.

I am pleased to announce that, at our July PIAS board meeting, the members voted to rename the Presque Isle Audubon Society Environmental Award in honor of Jean. It will be henceforth known as the Presque Isle Audubon Society Jean Stull Cunningham Environmental Award.

(Cont. on P 2)

## SEPTEMBER THINGS TO DO!

**September 14, Wednesday** - Conservation Committee Meeting, 5:00 PM at Quinn Firm

**September 16, Friday** - PIAS Banquet at Elks Lodge, 6:00 Social.....(More on Page 5+)

**September 20, Tuesday** - PIAS Board Meeting at 7:00 in the TREC Board Room

**September 24, Saturday** - Field Trip -Erie National Wildlife Refuge, Guys Mills, at 9:00 a.m. (Details on page 4)

**September 27, Tuesday** - First Meeting of the Festival of the Birds Committee at 6:00 PM in the TREC Board Room



Butter and Eggs

## 2011-2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President	Janet Price
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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

**Phone:** 814-520-9456

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

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

The board members also voted to forego the June monthly meeting in the future and, instead, reinstate the January meeting as we've had it in the past. The general consensus was that people have other things to do in June such as being outside for a concert or walk or being on vacation. Sitting inside during nice weather was deemed an unpopular choice. On the other hand, January is usually cold and snowy and there aren't as many activities scheduled for that month so we concluded that our members wouldn't mind being inside for a meeting then.

If you read the last issue of the *Tern of Events*, you are aware that many of our members have been involved in a number of activities that at least partially fulfill our mission. I encourage you to stay involved if you have been or get involved if you haven't been. First of all, you can attend the annual September banquet that kicks off our new year. Next, you can visit Sarah Sargent and her environmentalists who are banding birds at least until October according to the following schedule:

Fry's Landing - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Niagara Boat Launch - Tuesday and Saturday

Erie Bluffs State Park - Thursday

Banding will take place from 7:00 am to approximately 2:00 pm. but will be cancelled if it is rainy or very windy conditions. Visitors are welcome to come and watch. Get more information at <http://pispbirdbanding.blogspot.com>.



Last but not least, you are invited to join the Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle Committee to help prepare for the 2012 festival that will be held May 11, 12, and 13. We will meet on Tuesday evening, September 27 at 6:00 pm in the Board Room at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. We will finalize "assignments" and determine specific tasks that need to be worked on first and then set up a time line for accomplishing those tasks. Hope to see you at these events!

~Janet Price, PIAS President

## NEWS FROM TAMARACK WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

### Wildlife First Responders Course Offered by Tamarack

Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center is offering a 3-day First Responders Class at Erie National Wildlife Refuge, 11296 Wood Duck Lane, Guys Mills on Wednesday evenings, Oct 12, 19 & 26 from 6 to 9 PM.

Registration is \$25, payable in advance.

Have you ever wished you'd known how to handle a wildlife emergency? A hawk hit by a car on a roadside? Ducklings stranded away from their mother? This course will teach you when to intervene and when not to, and how to capture, handle, stabilize and transport injured birds. Sue DeArment, the licensed wildlife rehabilitator for Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, will teach the class. In conjunction with Presque Isle Audubon Society and Erie National Wildlife Refuge, Tamarack seeks to train additional volunteers in these techniques in order to increase our capacity and to improve the outcomes for the many injured birds in our region. To register, go to our website at <http://www.tamarackwildlife.org> and click on the First Responders Registration button. Print the form, fill it out and mail it with your \$25 check to the address shown on the form. If the form is not available, call us and leave your name and address and we will mail you a copy of the form. Call Tamarack at (814) 763-2574.

### Campbell Pottery Art Exhibit to Aid Tamarack

Help Tamarack raise funds.

"For the Birds" Invitational Show to Benefit Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center will exhibit in the Stonewall Gallery 40 artists' original works inspired by birds. Make a purchase at Campbell's Pottery, 25579 Plank Road, Cambridge Springs, during August 13<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup> and a portion of the sales will be donated to Tamarack Wildlife.

## LEARN ABOUT BIRDS WHILE TOURING FLORIDA

Spring Break: Feb 22 - March 2, 2012

Mercyhurst College Biology Department will be offering a field course in Ornithology this coming winter, and has invited members of the Presque Isle Audubon Society to consider joining Dr. Mike Campbell and his students on their birding adventure. Campbell will be offering participants a guided tour of the rich bird fauna of Florida near the beginning of the spring migration period, as well as a chance to escape Erie's winter for a while.

You don't have to pay tuition to tag along on the field trip, unless you are interested in the full course experience, which will include a single late afternoon/evening class each week during the winter term (December through February).

### Ornithology and Lab (3+1 credits)

Winter Term Wednesday 3:30-5:00

The trip is scheduled to take place during Mercyhurst's term break from February 22 through March 2, 2012. The preliminary itinerary has scheduled stops at Tugaloo State Park (Georgia), Sarasota FL and Myakka River State Park (2 nights), the Naples/Marco FL area and Seminole State Park, Homestead area and Everglades National Park, and Fort Pierce Inlet State Park. (See below)

For more details, contact Mike Campbell at [jcampbell@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:jcampbell@mercyhurst.edu).



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## BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported for about mid-July to August 22, 2011 from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**—1; Aug. 7; Presque Isle Bay from Erie side; M.W. 2; Aug. 15; Head of Presque Isle Bay; M.W. 2; Aug. 19; Wastewater Treatment Plant; J.D. (See below)



**Red-breasted Merganser**—2; July 31; Gull Point; S.T.

**Peregrine Falcon**—1 or 2; through the period; downtown Erie; M.W.

**Merlin** —The pair occasionally being seen and heard through the period in east Erie in the vicinity of East 37<sup>th</sup>; J.B.K., M.B.

**American Golden Plover**—1; Aug. 13; Gull Point; S.T.

**Piping Plover**—1 juvenile; August 13 & 14; Gull Point; B.B.; (color bands on legs) (See below)



**Western Sandpiper**—1; Aug. 20; Gull Point; M.W.

**Willet**—1; July 16; mouth of Sixmile Creek, Harborcreek; J.C. (fide S.S.) 1; August 13 & 14; Gull Point; B.B., S.T., resp.

**Whimbrel**—2; Aug. 14; Gull Point; J.M. 1; Aug. 20; Gull Point; D.W. (See below)



Contributors: B.B.-Brian Berchtold, M.B.-Mary Birdsong, J.C.-Jane Cowell, J.D.-John DePaul, J.B.K.-Joe and Bonnie Klan, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, S.S.-Susan Smith, S.T.-Shannon Thompson, M.W.-Mike Weible, D.W.-Dave Wilton

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Records Chairman  
814-868-3059 [jerrymcw@aol.com](mailto:jerrymcw@aol.com)

### FIELD TRIP - ERIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, GUYS MILLS September 24 at 9:00 a.m.

Meet at the refuge headquarters near Guys Mills about 1/2 mile east of town on Wood Duck Lane off of Rt. 198. We'll decide then where we'll drive and/or walk to. We anticipate seeing migrating waterfowl and autumn wildflowers. This will be a group-led trip: we'll share our knowledge of nature as we explore the refuge! Everyone is welcome to jump in with comments, IDs, questions, etc. to share. Read the info on the ENWR website and let us know where you'd like to go:

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/erie>.

This is a joint trip with the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society: <http://www.senecarocksaudubon.org>.

For info, email or call the trip coordinator:

Lee Ann Reiners

[larch@zoominternet.net](mailto:larch@zoominternet.net)

814-282-1512

## BANQUET - 2011

Please help us celebrate our 55th milestone anniversary which kicks off our 2011-2012 Audubon year.

**Date:** Friday, September 16, 2011

**Place:** Elks Lodge #67

2409 Peninsula Drive, Erie

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. Social - Punch (non-alcoholic)

Drinks and soda available for purchase

6:30 p.m. Dinner Buffet

8:00 p.m. Program: To be announced

**Speaker:** Kim Todd

### Dinner Buffet Menu

Roasted Rosemary Chicken

Italian Sausage with Onions  
and Peppers

Baked Rigatoni with Marinara Sauce

Lemon Pepper Cod

Parsley Buttered Potatoes

Vegetable Medley

Tossed Garden Salad

Baked Rolls with Butter

Cake and Ice Cream

Coffee, Hot/Iced Tea

**Price:** \$20.50 (payable at the door)

Reservations are required by Sunday, September 11. Please call Ruth Swaney (456-8103) or Kathy Kitchen (734-7188). If you are unable to honor your reservation, you must cancel by September 11 or you will be billed. Note: The Elks Lodge requires a final reservation count earlier than usual, so I urge you to reserve early. Thank you.

Following dinner, the annual P.I.A.S. Environmental Award will be presented for exceptional work in the conservation/environmental field.

**Note:** On July 19, the award was renamed the Jean Stull Cunningham Environmental Award. In 1956, Jean, through her Sunday Times-News Nature column, brought together nature and bird aficionados and founded the Nature Group which has ultimately become the 900 member (Ron's latest figure) Presque Isle Audubon Society. Jean was a lifelong advocate for the conservation, preservation and protection of the natural world.

Sadly, she passed away on July 30. She will be greatly missed.

Our speaker will be Kim Todd, professor at Penn State Behrend and an award winning science and nature writer. She is the author of Chrysalis, Maria Sibylla Merian; Secrets of Metamorphosis; and Tinkering with Eden, Natural History of Exotics in America. Her essays and articles have appeared in many publications including the Sierra Magazine. Her latest book, Sparrow, will be published in October.

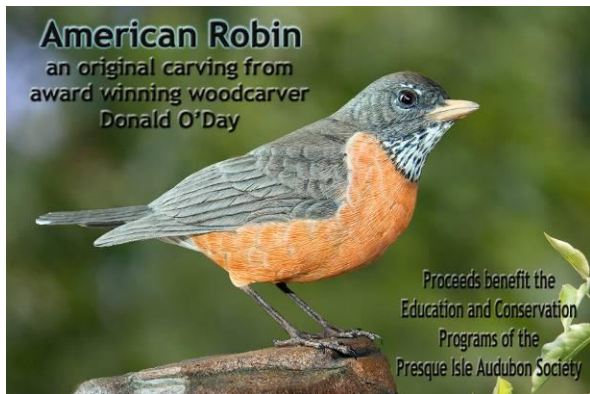
In her talk, Ms Todd will explore both old world and new world sparrows, looking at the birds' complex history, biology and literary tradition. She will tell us about the 19th-century Sparrow War in the United States (a battle over the introduction of the sparrow) which precipitated decades of discussions about invasive species. She will also examine the recent decline of house sparrows in cities globally. This disappearance of a bird that seemed hard-wired for success remains an ornithological mystery.

Ms. Todd will remind us that sparrows are everywhere and wear many guises -- innocent, invader, lover, thief. Able to live in the Arctic and the desert, from Beijing to San Francisco, the house sparrow is most ubiquitous wild bird in the world. They are the subject of elegies by Catullus and John Skelton and listed as "pretty things" in Sei Shonagon's Pillow book but they're also urban vermin with shocking manners that were so reviled that Mao placed them on the list of Four Pests and ordered the Chinese people to kill them on sight.

This promises to be an extremely interesting program. You will not want to miss it.

For the second consecutive year, P.I.A.S. is honored to have award winning woodcarver, Mr. Donald O'Day, donate our banquet fundraiser. This year's 17th annual fundraiser, the American Robin, hand-painted and carved expressly for P.I.A.S. is valued at \$550.00. We thank Mr. O'Day for his generosity. Benefiting our education and conservation programs, the meticulously-carved robin perched atop an unbelievably realistic "stratified rock" will be on

display at the Bayfront Gallery 17 East Dobbins Landing, Erie, through September 15.



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 made 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.

Passionate about nature and wildlife Mr. O'Day captures the beauty of God's creations through wood. Don has won countless blue ribbons and Best of Show awards at the Cook Forest Wood Carving Competitions, the Pymatuning Waterfowl Expos and the Great Lakes Outdoor Expo. One Cook Forest competition saw him sweep first, second and third places with his three entries. His American Tree Sparrow, pair of Kingfishers and Harris Hawk won above works by 115 of the nations top carvers. Among other Cook Forest competition blue ribbon winners were a magnificent life-size Great Blue Heron with Perch standing on a hand crafted habitat and an outstanding life-size fox. Don's not only an expert detailing feathers but also at carving fur. Don's expertise also extends to wildlife sketching, painting and photography.

Over the years, his work as been displayed at the Pastimes Gallery, the Meadville Galleria, Meadville Council on the Arts, the Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Erie and the Kelly Run Gallery in Cambridge Springs.

A membership to the National Audubon Society serves as the evening's door prize. There will also be a second door prize for attendees only.

Table centerpieces have been donated by Gerlach's Floral & Gift and Chuck Kern. You may be among those to take one home.

Please remember the September 11 reservation deadline. Bring a friend(s) and enjoy the evening. I look forward to seeing you.

~Jeanne Kern, Banquet Chair

## SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING CLASSES FOR HOMEOWNERS

Dear Audubon Member:

I write to let you know about some opportunities you might want to take advantage of at the Mercyhurst College West Campus in Girard.



There, you can take courses that include Introduction to Landscape Design and Plant Science with Lab that can be taken on their own or applied toward the new one-year certificate in Sustainable Horticulture and Landscaping.

The classes will cover organic horticultural and landscaping practices, green design and maintenance, water conservation, soil health and methods of achieving an exceptional level of aesthetic beauty. You'll learn from a pair of faculty members who have over three decades of experience in the field, and you can get your hands dirty learning about plants at Mercyhurst's farm in Girard or carrying out a real sustainable landscape planning project.

~Dr. Mike Campbell, Professor of Biology at Mercyhurst College

## WELCOME NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

The Presque Isle Audubon society wants to welcome all of its new members, as well as a welcome back for those that rejoined.

Our chapter has over 900 National Audubon members as well as 75 Chapter Only members. This is quite a legacy that Jean Stull-Cunningham has left to all of us.

Let us carry on her legacy with zeal and dedication.

New Members are:

**Erie:** Richard Bianocosino, Ewing Cole, Anne Hornyak, Kathleen Jenks, William Larsen, Helen Marasco, Nancy Meyer, Clyde Naylor, Mary Payha, Kathleen Shreffler, Jane Sturtevant, Harlan Terrill, and Beatrice Waibel

**Adamsville:** Jane Cooper

**Conneaut Lake:** Elizabeth Stephens

**Corry:** Marilyn Varrassa

**Guys Mills:** Elaine Gleeson

**Meadville:** Samuel Rappa

**Saegertown:** Heather Huya, Dixie Poraczky

**Spartansburg:** Jason Leonhart

**Warren:** M. Patton

Chapter only member who rejoined is Wendy Swanson from Falls Church, Va.

~Ronald Intrieri, Membership Chair  
[membership@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:membership@presqueisleaudubon.org)

## ERIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE PHOTO CONTEST

Don't forget about the thirteenth biennial nature photo contest to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week. Competition will be held in three major categories: plant life, wildlife and landscape.

- Entry deadline: Friday, September 30.
- May enter up to eight (8) photos.
- Entry fee \$5 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 before delivering to verify open hours.

For more info, telephone 814-789-3585 or go to [www.fws.gov/northeast/erie](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/erie) or [www.presqueisleaudubon.org](http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org)

## IN MEMORY

### JEAN STULL CUNNINGHAM

The Northwest PA Artist Association has made a donation as a memorial to honor Jean. They had this to say about Jean: "Her contributions to preserve the natural history and the environment of Presque Isle and her excellence in the fields of art and education has enhanced the quality of life in our region."

The Presque Isle Audubon Society members express their sympathy to Mary Birdsong, Past President and current Program Chair of PIAS and to Mike Plyler, PIAS Board Member on the death of **Agnis Mary Piotrowicz**, Mary's mother and Mike's mother -in-law.

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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PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
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ERIE, PA 16505

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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

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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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**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

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