



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2013 ISSUE 13:07

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

Sitting on the deck, listening to the cicadas, pondering all the things I should be doing right now; including writing this article. I've recently heard a few people say that August is the month into which everyone tries to fit everything they planned to do all summer--but didn't. So true; at least in my case. Spring, burgeoning with rebirth and so much potential, placates us as our pent up need to get out there and play is finally fulfilled! As birders, we revel as the wonderful warblers and their winged brethren show up on our shores for a few fleeting weeks. We don't want to waste one minute more or let one opportunity fly by. We are out there in force, legions seeking, searching, twitching and hopefully not dipping, sun up to sundown. Then summer sneaks in and, perhaps spent from all the bird"y" revelry, the dearth of "new" birds, or the feeling of fulfillment that Spring has allowed, we are lulled into a sense of complacency. This, as many of us know, is not limited to our birding lives. So many plans, so many projects, so little time, or was there? What have I been doing with all this time? It seems, the anesthesia called "Summer" is beginning to wear off. Fortunately, Fall is nigh and with a renewed sense of urgency we set out to complete those projects and see those birds. The projects remain the same, but the birds, well, they are another story. Certainly, most of the same species will be arriving but many will be sporting a new set of plumage to challenge and consternate.

*"Hi, chickadee! Thanks for always looking the same!" Oh, sorry, just took a little break to check out my feeder.*



So now is the time! Stop procrastinating and get going on those long-delayed projects before those  
(Cont. on Page 2)



Bottle Gentian

## SEPTEMBER THINGS TO DO!

**Friday, September 20** - PRESQUE ISLE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY 57<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL BANQUET,  
Elks Lodge #67, 2409 Peninsula Drive, Erie  
**Speaker:** Ephraim Zimmerman: Clearing  
invasive plant species at Gull Point  
**SEE MORE THINGS TO DO ON PAGE 4.**

## 2013-2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

President	Michele Rundquist-Franz
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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 (Cont.)

warblers arrive on their return trip...but, wait...put down that paintbrush...It seems that right on cue some nice shorebirds have agreed to stop in and pique our appetites and ready us for what we are in for this fall. What, after all, is more confounding than a fall warbler? Perhaps a fall shorebird! Unquestionably. As I write this I have received updates that a red-necked phalarope and American golden plover have been spotted at Gull Point. We've also had sightings of several whimbrel, avocets, a variety of sandpipers, peeps and dowitchers in the past few weeks. The increase in sightings this year may be related to the habitat management undertaken by the DCNR, the relocation of the observation platform to a better vantage point, more people like Roger Donn who are out at the point almost every day (not only spotting the shorebirds but generously sharing their finds via improved reporting and networking mechanisms such as ebird, texting via cell phone and regional bird alerts as well as email and Facebook), but more likely a combination of all of the above. Aside from the increase in drop-ins that may be related to the improved habitat, I think that we can all agree that it is not because there are more birds overall, but that's another article for another time. So, sorry if you're still not caught up on those projects yet. You can always blame the birds! I do! Just tell your significant other to remember, there is always winter.



*Completing a summer project-rewarding; enjoying the beautiful fall foliage-delightful; identifying a fall warbler—priceless!*

~Michele Franz, President of PIAS

## BIRD SIGHTINGS

The following birds of note were reported from late July through August 19, 2013 from Presque Isle State Park and all but one sighting was from Gull Point.

**Tundra Swan**—3; to July 27; Gull Point; R.D.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron**—1; Aug. 9; Gull Point Trail; G.M.  
**Piping Plover**—1 unbanded adult; July 26 to 28; Gull Point; R.D.  
**Willet**—total of 11; July 23 to Aug. 9; Gull Point; R.D.



WILLET

**Whimbrel**—total of 20; July 27 to Aug. 19; Gull Point; R.D



WHIMBREL

**American Avocet**—1; July 26; Beach 7; V.K.  
5; Aug. 1; Gull Point; R.D. 1; Aug. 9; Gull Point; R.D.

**Red Knot**—1; July 28; Gull Point; R.D. (See below)  
**Stilt Sandpiper**—total of 8; July 24 to Aug. 11; Gull Point; D.M., R.D.



STILT SANDPIPER

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—1; July 28; Gull Point; J.B.  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**—1; July 28; Gull Point; record early in Erie County by about three weeks; R.D., D.M.



BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

**Laughing Gull**—1; Aug. 9 & 10; Gull Point; S.T.  
**Great Black-backed Gull (leucistic)**—1; Aug. 1; Gull Point; J.M.

Contributors: J.B.-Justin Bosler, R.D.-Roger Donn,  
V.K.-Vicki Kensinger, G.M.-Geoff Malosh, J.M.-  
Jerry McWilliams, D.M.-Drew Mortensen, S.T.-  
Shannon Thompson

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Records Chairman  
814-240-8594 [jerrymcw@aol.com](mailto:jerrymcw@aol.com)

## WELCOME TO NEW PIAS MEMBERS!

The Presque Isle Audubon welcomes all of our new members, and we do have quite an extensive list. Glad to see more people taking an interest in Audubon.

**Erie:** Shelly Noel, Barb Hood, Dianne Connors, Angela Heher, Kristine Balinski, Jason Fidorra, Patricia Wilcox, Katherine Kershaw, Sandra Kozloff, Ed Strong, Joyce Lee, Wally Faas, Richard Menosky, Angela Ketrick, Kathleen LeBer, John Graham, Cynthia Stiles, Patricia Libengood, Dolores Krein, Ed Meyer, Ruth Bertelsen, Callie Arney, Kathy Lutton, Linda & Ron McElderry, Stephen Volk and William Nagy

**Cambridge Sps:** Moni Doubet

**Centerville:** Melvin Bergstrom

**Cochranon:** Jo Potvin, Diane Dickson, Yetime Marie McComas

**Conneautville:** Mike Hague

**Edinboro:** Patricia Hitchins, Larry Pulling

**Fairview:** Chris Caldwell

**Girard:** Ellen McMahon, K. Bowen, William Pangratz, Kathleen Degaris, L. Weidler, Karen Johnson

**Jamestown:** Brenda McClimans, James Chubeck

**Lake City:** Cheryl Hammer

**Linesville:** Karen Mathers, Nina Sindlinger, Bernard Juracko

**McKean:** Hugh Vroman, David Kuchinski, Peter & Lorraine Danielewski, Patty Almeda

**Meadville:** Dale Bean

**North East:** Judy Graham

**Saegertown:** Sharron McMillin

**Spartansburg:** Leslie Baker

**Titusville:** E.A. Kurschinske, Katherine Wescoat, Erma Bean

**Warren:** Patricia Watsson, Jayne Schuler, Mary Laurich, Charlotte Brown, Craig Tidrick, Stacy McNeal, Katherine Bowsley

**Waterford:** Kathe Bryson, Dan Tech

**Chapter renewals:** Suzanne Winterberger

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chair

[membership@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:membership@presqueisleaudubon.org)



Bottle Gentian

### MORE SEPTEMBER THINGS TO DO!

**Wednesday, September 11** - Strategic Planning Committee Meeting at 6:00 PM in Room 112 at the TREC

**Tuesday, September 17** - PIAS Board Meeting at 7:00 PM at the TREC

**Wednesday, September 18** - Weed Warrior Workday at 4:00 PM at the Stull Center

**Wednesday, September 18** Audit Committee Meeting at 6:00 PM

### OCTOBER THINGS TO DO!

**Tuesday, October 1** - Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at 6:00 PM at the TREC

**Wednesday, October 2** - Strategic Planning Committee Meeting at 6:00 PM at the TREC

### A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!!

The **Festival of the Birds** will be reinstated this year after a one year hiatus and we will be needing a fistful of volunteers to continue the success we've had in the past. You can either be a leader or a helper in any of these areas: handling registration records, conducting registration during the event, preparing welcome bags, organizing and running the Chinese auction, introducing speakers, recruiting sponsors, serving at hospitality events at the Rotary Pavilion (continental breakfasts and Sunday lunch), providing publicity, helping with field trips, and guiding tours at the TREC to summarize. If you are interested, please contact Janet Price at [jrplkm@aol.com](mailto:jrplkm@aol.com) for information and to volunteer or just show up for our first meeting on Oct. 1

**57<sup>TH</sup> PIAS BANQUET - 2013**  
**Friday, September 20**

Help us celebrate our 57th anniversary as we kick off our 2013-2014 Audubon year.

**Date:** Friday, September 20, 2013

**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: Restoration Project at  
Gull Point

Speaker: Ephraim Zimmerman

**Dinner Buffet Menu**

Roasted Rosemary Chicken

Italian Sausage with Onions and Peppers

Baked Rigatoni with Sauce

Vegetable Lasagna

Roasted Red Skin Potatoes

Tossed Garden Salad

Baked Rolls with Butter

Cake and Ice Cream

Coffee, Hot/Iced Tea

**Price:** \$15.00 (payable at the door) To make the banquet more affordable, PIAS is once again underwriting it.

Reservations are required by Sunday, September 15. When reserving, please give full name and telephone number. No Mr. and Mrs. Please call Ruth Swaney (456-8103) or Ron Intrieri (899-6023). If you are unable to honor your reservation, you must cancel by Sunday, September 15 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.

Please remember the Sunday, September 15 reservation deadline.

**SPEAKER AND PROGRAM**

Our speaker, Ephraim Zimmerman is an Ecologist with the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and has conducted inventory, assessment, and restoration projects across Pennsylvania since 2003, including projects at Presque Isle State and Erie Bluffs State Parks. He holds a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University and an M.S. in Forest Ecology from the University of Michigan.

His presentation at the banquet will focus on the work conducted by partners from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Audubon PA, Presque Isle State Park, and Cleveland Museum of Natural History funded by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. That work is to clear invasive exotic and aggressive native plant species from approximately 30 acres of sand plain habitat at Gull Point at the tip of the Presque Isle peninsula to improve conditions for Piping Plovers and other shorebirds.

**FUND RAISER**

For our 19th annual fund raiser, Jan Lutz, our area's foremost artist, is honoring us with her original watercolor "Stretching". (Cont. on Page 6)



## FUND RAISER (Cont.)

This 16x22 framed painting depicting a grizzly bear stretching valued at \$400, will be on display at the Bayfront Gallery 17 East Dobbins Landing, Erie, during the month of August through September 19. 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 and Framing in Cambridge Springs and by mail. To participate by mail, please send your check made payable to the Presque Isle Audubon Society, 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.

Jan has had a life-long interest in art beginning her art studies as a child and continuing them through various workshops and classes in the area including summer study in Italy. She received her BS in Art Education from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 1974. Her award-winning paintings (watercolor and oil) have been juried into local, national and international exhibits including the 2000, 2010, 2013 Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, 21<sup>st</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> International Exhibition and the American Watercolorists of 1998 (juror McStephen Doherty, Editor-in-Chief, American Artist Magazine).

Jan's awards and honors include 2009 Featured Artist, "MS Lottery," , Erie; third place , "Colors of Music," Erie Art Museum of Erie Philharmonic; 2003 Best of Show Panoramic Erie Festival of Arts; 1998 American Artist Magazine Award, PA Watercolor Society 19<sup>th</sup> Nat'l Exhibition.

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She is a signature member of the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society and a member of the

Northwest Pennsylvania Artists Association and the Meadville Council on the Arts.

Jan's work may be purchased at area galleries and at Kelly Run Gallery and Framing in Cambridge Springs of which she and her husband are the owners.

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

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

Table centerpieces have been donated by Chuck Kern. You may be among those to take one home.  
~Jeanne Kern, Banquet Chair

## ANOTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!!!

Marti Martz is planning a potential project at **Leo's Landing** in which volunteers can monitor the regrowth of plants in selected plots. Since most of the Phragmites have been cut down, there are hopes to see some new growth other than the invasive Phragmites come through the seed bank. We discussed that it would be hard to identify any regrowth during such a young stage and talked about using a camera to take snap shots of the plots and study the regrowth that way. Volunteers will probably be expected to monitor sites about twice a month during September and October of this year. If any volunteers are interested in something like this. We can coordinate with Marti to work on a monitoring schedule. Please contact me, Janet Price at [jrplkm@aol.com](mailto:jrplkm@aol.com) or Matthew Pluta at [mpluta@environmenterie.org](mailto:mpluta@environmenterie.org).



**TRIBUTE TO JOAN HOWLETT  
WEB MASTER FOR PIAS**

Many of you might wonder "Who is Joan Howlett?" and many of you are well aware of who she is and why this tribute is being written. Regardless, let me begin by reporting on my recent and very important working relationship with Joan.

As the editor of the PIAS newsletter who has very limited computer expertise, I have always counted on Joan to guiding me through using new processes or programs, reviewing forgotten old ones and making shining copy of my rough issues of the monthly Tern of Events.

For many years I have counted on Joan for her expertise, at first while she lived in the Erie area, and then, later, after she and her husband moved to Michigan. Joan wanted to continue to stay involved in the Presque Isle Audubon Society even though being so far away and PIAS deemed it right to award her a lifetime membership to the society. Needless to say, she continued to share her computer knowledge with us from a distance.

Recently, Joan's husband died from cancer and she has had to limit her involvement with PIAS, so she and I have worked on our last issue of the "Tern of Events" together, this September issue.

I, first of all, send her sympathy from me personally and from all the PIAS members on the death of her husband and then, secondly, say thank you sincerely for the opportunity for me and other PIAS members to work so closely with her all these years on computer projects.

Joan, we wish you all the best in the following years and, again, thank you for all you have done for our organization in the past and will continue to do in the future.

~Janet Price, Editor

**2013 ERIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
Nature Photo Contest**

The Erie National Wildlife Refuge, in cooperation with the Friends of Erie National Wildlife Refuge and the Presque Isle Audubon Society, announces the Fourteenth Biennial Nature Photo contest to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week. **Entries must be in by Friday, September 30, 2013.** Judging will occur on Sunday, October 20th. An open reception at the Refuge will be held to present awards at 1:30 PM that day. Refreshments will be served. The photographs will remain on display at the Refuge until the end of October. Entries may be picked up after then. For more information and complete rules see the contest flyer: [2013 ENWR photo contest flyer.pdf](#)

~Sue Murawski, Sanctuaries Committee

**NEW PIAS COMMITTEE AT WORK!**

Drew Mortensen, recently installed PIAS Trustee, is chairing the Strategic Planning Committee with the hope that our members might formulate such a plan for our organization. Five PIAS members, including Drew, make up the committee: Janet Price, Mary Birdsong, Michele Franz and Kel McDonald. Other members will be invited to share ideas at any of the monthly meetings which will be held on the first Wednesday of each month. Follow the progress of this committee by reading articles in the monthly newsletter.

~Janet Price, Editor

The Presque Isle Audubon Society's newsletter, the *Tern of Events*, is published monthly, except in January and July. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication. All published material is subject to editing.

Send submissions to Janet Price, editor, via [jrplkm@aol.com](mailto: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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PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 8  
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 \$15.00/year

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter only members, both new and renewal, will receive the online version of the *Tern of Events* unless they specifically request the paper copy. **Please provide your e-mail address for the online version of our newsletter or indicate that you want the paper copy.**

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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Return this form with your check payable to the Presque Isle Audubon Society to:  
**Presque Isle Audubon Society  
Ronald Intrieri, Membership  
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 which 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 local chapter newsletter. **Please include your e-mail address to receive the online version of the newsletter.**

Introductory membership \$20.00

Renewals \$20.00

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

**National Audubon Society  
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