



[www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org](http://www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org)

January - March 2010

### **Greetings EVERYONE,**

We are an entirely volunteer-based organization in need of your help. All board positions are up for election in May. There are many opportunities to become involved. Contact any board member, come to board meetings, and come to programs to learn more.

Consider joining our **Reminder List** which is maintained by Bonnie Ingram. You will receive email reminders of programs, board meetings, and special events. If you would like to be added to this list please email Bonnie: [bingram@pct.edu](mailto:bingram@pct.edu)

**Mark's List** is maintained by Allen Schweinsberg as a means of informing people of regional bird sightings. You will also occasionally receive spectacular digital photos by Matt Levanowitz and Lauri Shafer. To be added to the list please email Allen: [aschwein@bucknell.edu](mailto:aschwein@bucknell.edu).

### **PROGRAMS & events**

**Where:** All activities below held at Kelly Township Supervisors' Building 551 Ziegler Rd Lewisburg

#### **MADAGASCAR: THE 8TH CONTINENT**

**Wednesday 20 January 7:30 P.M.**

**Presented by:** Dr. Owen Floody, Professor of Psychology at Bucknell University

Dr. Floody writes: "In this slide show we will describe a 17-day trip to Madagascar, the large island off eastern Africa that is both one of the most endangered and bio-diverse parts of the world. One goal was to increase our chances of seeing diverse flora and fauna by sampling several habitats, including montane rain forest, deciduous forest, and savanna. In each case, we were struck by the sheer beauty of these areas. But we also were fortunate to see some unusual birds and an impressive variety of the lemurs for which Madagascar may be best known and who will do their best to convince you that they're the cutest creatures you've ever seen."

#### **BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday 10 February 7:30 P.M.**

All members welcome. If you have something that you would like to bring to the group's attention please contact Bob Reyda, Vice-President, at [bereyda@verizon.net](mailto:bereyda@verizon.net) or 743.5551 at least one week ahead of time. In case there are any last minute changes in location please contact any Board member the day of the meeting. Please join us even if you would just like to come listen.

#### **ART AND SPORT OF FALCONRY OR ADVANCED BIRD WATCHING**

**Wednesday 17 February 7:30 P.M.**

**Presented by:** Mike Dupuy, North American Falconer

Mike has been conducting lectures and field demonstrations for over 10 years. Mike and his birds of prey have been featured in numerous newspapers and magazines including the *Washington Post* and *National Geographic*. Mike believes that people who witness the beauty of birds of prey and the 4,000-year-old interaction between a falconer and a bird of prey often discover their own connections to the natural world. The audience is encouraged to ask questions about any birds of prey.

#### **NOXIOUS WEEDS ON STATE GAME LANDS**

**Wednesday 17 March 7:30 PM**

**Presented by:** Steve Bernardi, PA Game Commission Land Manager

Steve manages game lands in our region. He will be reviewing the Game Commission's work on game lands and then will cover the most obnoxious, noxious weeds with which they deal.

## **FURNACE ROAD CLEANUP**

**16, 17 & 18 April**

**Where:** Furnace Rd Lewisburg between Old Schoolhouse Rd. and Dreisbach Church Rd. Volunteers needed anytime over the weekend to help collect trash along our 2 mile section of the road. Seven Mountains Audubon has been maintaining this section of Furnace Rd. for over 10 yrs. Vests, bags, and gloves provided by PennDOT. To help, contact: Bob Reyda: bereyda@verizon.net or 743.5551.

## **SPECIAL thanks**

**Roger Allison, Rich and Viv Bailey, Dick and Nancy Dagle, Alice Marquart, Debby Meade, Bob and Elena Reyda, and Allen and Joanne Schweinsberg** for helping with October Furnace Road cleanup.

**Judy Peeler, Bob Reyda, and Allen Schweinsberg** for leading First Saturday field trips.

### **Natural Food & Garden Store**

for donating a portion of birdseed proceeds to Seven Mountains Audubon.

### **Great Backyard Bird Count 12 - 15 February**

Anyone may participate. Details at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

**Lewisburg Christmas Bird Count** details on SMA website secondary to weather delay until 2 January.

The **first Saturday of each month**, January through December, Seven Mountains Audubon provides a local field trip. All trips **depart 7:30 AM** in Lewisburg at the CVS side parking lot on SR 192, just west of US 15. Everyone is welcome. Trip leadership rotates informally and the site is usually announced a few days in advance via our **Reminder List**.

## **WELCOME 48 new members**

Dianne Sheesley - Mifflinburg  
David B. Kyle - New Columbia  
Michael & Joyce Wilson - Lewisburg  
Donna Outt - Danville  
Dianna Roberts - Danville  
Mabel R. Smith - Lewisburg  
Christy Emigh - Lewisburg  
Eugene Smierciak - Lewisburg  
Nicole Weber - Lewisburg  
Nelson Reitz - Sunbury  
George Riggs - Middleburg  
Donald Moyer - Lewisburg  
Emma K. Zechman - Middleburg  
James Chamberlin - Turbotville  
Ethel Stuck - Selinsgrove  
Mark Haussmann - Lewisburg  
Cindy Arbogast Royer - Selinsgrove  
Angela Jones - Middleburg  
Frances McDaniel - Lewisburg  
Loma Randk - White Deer  
Melissa Marquette - Sunbury  
Robert Burns - Danville  
David Lightman - Winfield  
John Hanson, Jr. - Milton  
Graham - Mt. Pleasant Mills



Elizabeth Minnier - Sunbury  
Lisa Wolf - Mount Pleasant Mills  
Sue Chervanik - Sunbury  
Wendy Snyder - Beaver Springs  
Roy Burns - Selinsgrove  
Tanna Stenger - Beaver Springs  
Patricia Carl - Milton  
Keith S. McNeil - Winfield  
Stephen Jacobsen - Lewisburg  
Joan E. Miller - Lewisburg  
Lloyd & Verna Zimmerman - Danville  
Judith Fausey - Danville  
Larry Moyer - Selinsgrove  
Keith Landis - Beavertown  
Carl Bonnell - Northumberland  
William Nunn - Lewisburg  
Donald Ernst - Middleburg  
Paul Ezdebski - Danville  
Mifflinburg Middle School Library - Mifflinburg  
Jason Weller - Selinsgrove  
Danville High School - Danville

## Gardening for Birds: Winter Planning written by Jim Green, Lycoming Audubon

January nights are long. The Sun, when it breaks through the clouds, is still low in the sky, even at midday. Ice covers our ponds and lakes. Yet we notice daylight extending longer and longer during the late afternoons, and we know it won't be too long before Cardinals, Tufted Titmice, and other birds start revealing their musical wonders.

In spite of the winter chill, now is a great time to think about our yards and gardens. What can **you** do to make your property naturally more attractive to birds year-round? Are large parts of your property the monoculture that pervades our society: grass? As we know, frequently mowed grass does not provide a good food (or cover) source for most species of birds. Oh yes, Robins, Starlings, Cowbirds and a small number of other species regularly forage on mowed grass, but for the vast majority of birds, lawns might as well be deserts. Pennsylvania Audubon's Bird Habitat Recognition Program, a component of the Audubon at Home Program, recommends (as do many naturalists) reducing the size of your lawn. The more we see our properties as habitat for birds and other wildlife, the more we can visualize how to improve what we have.

Walk around your property one day when the Sun is shining and the wind is light. Visualize from the perspective of birds that need cover, food, and safe nesting locations. Then draw a map of your property on paper. Where can you add more trees, shrubs and wildflowers? Plan now, but start slow. Don't try to make too many changes at once. I've been doing this at my house for 7 years, and though I've added dozens of native plants over the years, it remains a work in progress (and yes I still have some grass!)

I recommend planting shrubs and trees that are native and relatively fast-growing. Doing so allows you to see major results in just two or three years, which encourages you to plan and plant even more. If you already have shrubs or trees that bear fruit in late summer, consider planting other species that bear fruit earlier, such as Serviceberry (*Amelanchier species*) which fruits in June and Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) which typically fruits in late June or July. The same is true for native perennials. Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), for example, is a great hummingbird attraction early in the growing season.

Once you have planned this year's planting, the next step is to find plants or seeds. If you have friends or neighbors that will gladly give you seeds or seedlings, fantastic; otherwise, you will need to purchase plants or seeds. For those who have a large property or have big plans for planting, you'll save money by buying seedlings in bulk. The Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) Howard Nursery is taking orders for their annual seedling sale. Contact them at 814-355-4434 for more information. County Conservation Districts (CCDs) also sell in bulk. In recent years, the local CCD that has had the best supply of native plants has been Columbia CCD, located just northeast of Bloomsburg. For online information about the various CCDs, go to <http://pa.cd.org/your-district/>.

For smaller quantities, keep your eyes and ears open for native plant sales. The Linn Conservancy in Lewisburg always has a spring native plant sale, as does the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society, whose sale is held near Centre Hall. Hawk Mountain near Kempton and the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art in Millersburg each have annual native plant sales in May. Locally, the Ironwood Acres Native Plant Nursery in Trout Run is a good source for many natives. Contact the nursery at (570) 998-2924 for more information on their 2010 selections.

An excellent book to learn much more about native plants and how they attract wildlife is [Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants](#) by author Doug Tallamy and published by Timber Press. Visit [www.plantanative.com](http://www.plantanative.com) for more information about the book.

Reprinted with Jim Green's permission. Thanks very much Jim.

Questions? Contact Debby Meade, a Master Gardener specializing in native plants, at [meade2.ptd.net](mailto:meade2.ptd.net). Whatever you plant, first check a reputable source to be sure the plant you desire is native to our area and not an invasive plant. One source is [The Plants of PA](#) by Ann Fowler Rhoads and Timothy A. Block.

### Saturday 6 March Home Gardeners' School

**Where:** Mifflinburg High School

**Please note:** Paid registration must be received by 26 February.

**Sponsored by:** Penn State Cooperative Extension and area garden programs

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Doug Tallamy, Professor and Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at University of Delaware. PA Audubon is delighted with Dr. Tallamy's book as it well explains the importance of native plants in sustaining such wildlife as birds. The event offers an informative day of gardening classes. \$30 fee includes a choice of four classes and lunch. Details at <http://censusmg.pbworks.com>





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**Board:** Vacant, President; Bob Reyda, Vice-President 743.5551; Ann Grundstrom, Secretary 524.0966; Warren Frantz, Treasurer 473.9913; Debby Meade, Newsletter Editor 523.7543; Jennifer Mattive 837.6019 & Joanne Schweinsberg 524.0432, Programs; Dave Vernon, Webmaster 524.2774; Rich Kuczawa, Publicity 524.0384; Bonnie Ingram, Membership/Mailings 584.4851; Allen Schweinsberg, Past President 524.0432; Roger Allison 524.2696, George Boone 743.5731, Rich Kuczawa 524.0384, Alice Marquart 522.0973, Jennifer Mattive 837.6019, & Wayne McDiffett 523.8311, At-Large Directors.

[Further contact info on SMA website.](#)

**National Audubon's Mission:** To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

<p><b>New Membership Form</b> —Seven Mountains Audubon will receive entire NEW membership fee when new members join through us.</p>	<p><b>Chapter Code C0ZU090Z</b></p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I want to join Seven Mountains Audubon and National Audubon Society at introductory rate of \$20 for first year or \$15 for senior citizen or student. <b>NOT FOR RENEWALS</b></p>	
<p><b>Name:</b> _____ New Member Only</p>	
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Place my name on electronic mailing list to receive all my newsletters online. My email address is _____</p>	
<p>My check for \$_____, payable to <b>National Audubon Society</b> is enclosed.</p>	
<p><b>Mail to:</b> Seven Mountains Audubon, P.O. Box 389, Lewisburg, PA 17837</p>	