Upcoming QAS Events – Join Us!

Program Meeting Location:  Visitors are Welcome!

The Quittapahilla Audubon Society holds its meetings in the Chapel of the Lebanon Valley Home at 550 East Main Street (Route 422) in Annville, PA. Programs are held at 7:30pm every fourth Wednesday of the month from September through April (with the exception of November and December). Our programs are free and open to the public. They are designed for a general audience and children are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

Lebanon Valley Home is located one half mile east of the intersection of Routes 422 and 934. There is limited parking in front of the Home with additional parking available on the adjacent streets. Please use the main entrance at the end of the covered walkway in the front of the Home. The Chapel is handicap accessible.

Upcoming Programs …

September 22, 2010
Adventures of our QAS Campers

Our 2010 campers (pictured above) will share the experiences they had at their respective camps. Come hear what they discovered about nature.

Month of October 2009
Annual Bird Seed Sale

Watch your mailboxes in early fall for a flyer on this annual event.

October 27, 2010
Ramsay’s Road Trip

Ramsay Koury will share about his 7,000 mile journey through 16 states in June 2009. See more details in the enclosed QAS brochure.

November 17, 2010
Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue Facility

Their motto is Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Release. Beth and John Carricato will talk about their work and bring some of their feathered and furry residents to show. So be sure to bring your children.

December 2-5, 2010
Festival of Trees at Lebanon Expo Fairgrounds

Thursday through Saturday – 10am to 8pm
Sunday – 10am to 5pm

December 15, 2010
Members’ Nature Slides and Digital Photos

QAS members will show their favorite slides and digital photos. This is our holiday social, so please bring a plate of holiday treats to share after the program. Drinks will be provided.
Field Trips at a Glance …

Fridays, weather permitting

QAS / Mt. Gretna Bird Club Nature Walks

Observation of flora and fauna. Meet Fridays at 9am at the Chautauqua parking lot off Route 117. Leader: Sid Hostetter, 964-3412

Sunday, September 19, 2010
Appalachian Trail, SGL 211 (Dauphin County)

Observe flora and fauna by an easy shaded walk. Meet 2pm at intersection of Routes 72 and 443. Leader: Fritz Heilman, 273-0487

Saturday, October 2, 2010
Memorial Lake and Second Mountain

We’ll observe late migrating birds at both areas. The Lancaster County Bird Club will join QAS for this field trip. Meet 7am along Rte. 934 just north of I-81. Bring lunch and a chair for the hawk watch at Second Mountain. Leader: Rosemary Spreha, 657-0271

Saturday, October 23, 2010
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

Observation of migrating hawks at lookouts and songbirds at the visitor center ($7 trail fee). Meet 8:30am at SW section of east Lebanon Weis Market parking lot. Leader: Fritz Heilman, 273-0487

December 18, 2010
QAS 31st Annual Christmas Bird Count

Event includes walking and driving to count birds within a prescribed area. Contact Fritz Heilman at 273-0487

HersheyPark Fundraiser

QAS is again participating in the HersheyPark Food Service fundraiser. Volunteers work at food booths in the Park, Stadium, or Giant Center. HersheyPark makes a donation to QAS for every hour worked and the volunteer receives a voucher good for a day pass at the park. Shifts are from 5 to 8 hours in length. If you are interested in helping with this fundraiser, please contact Rosemary Spreha at rspreha@excite.com or 717-657-0271.

Pennsylvania Migration Count

Lebanon County - May 8, 2010

Although we had rain at 8am and a great deal of wind from about noon until after dark, 18 people comprising ten teams found 141 species.

We only found one each of 25 species. Two new species were seen - a Glossy Ibis at Mt. Pleasant Road pond, which stayed only 15 minutes (JH), and a Yellow-throated Warbler at Camp Strause (GK).

Other highlights:

Ruddy Duck-1 Hooded Merganser-2
Ruffed Grouse-1 American Woodcock-2
Bald Eagle-6 Common Nighthawk-1
Caspian Tern-3 White-crowned Sparrow-1
Barn Owl-1 Blackburnian Warbler-3
Barred Owl-2 Blue-winged Warbler-27
Whip-poor-will-6 Blue-headed Vireo-1
Common Raven-1 Brewster’s Warbler-1
Barn Swallow-1 Yellow-breasted Chat-3
Winter Wren-1 Grasshopper Sparrow-2
Veery-12 Common Yellowthroat-89
Gray Catbird-235 American Bittern-1
American Pipit-1 Red-eyed Vireo-93
Dark-eyed Junco-2 Cerulean Warbler-1
Baltimore Oriole-65 Lincoln’s Sparrow-1

Thanks to everyone for your help and I hope the weather is better next year: Chuck Berthoud, Greg Burgdorf, Angel Croll, Jarrod Derr, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller (JH), Joe Hovis, Gary Kinkley, Jim and Kitty Logan, David McNaughton, Randy C. Miller, Bob Peda, Art Schiavo, Rosemary Spreha, Mark Swartz, John Taucher, and Susan Wheeler.
Welcome to our new QAS members . . . Hope to see you at many of our events!
Harold Blackburn, Ced & Brer Blanchard, Timothy Craig, Ralph Forester, Ernesto Gutierrez, Christine Hackman, Michael Hoch, Nancy Hower, Carol Kerkeslager, Joyce Kunkle, Galen Martin, Myrtle Rodkey, Taylor Slusser.

Fall Flower Bulb Sale
It is again time for the Lebanon County Conservation District’s Annual Fall Flower Bulb Sale! Go to their website at www.lccd.org for color photos, descriptions, combination ideas, and an order form. You can also get a coupon for 10% off all orders $50 or more! The deadline for orders is the first week in September. Please include payment with your order. Bulbs may be picked up September 30th and October 1st from 9am-4pm at the LCCD office, 2120 Cornwall Road, Suite 5, Lebanon, PA.
All proceeds from the Fall Flower Bulb Sale go towards environmental education events in Lebanon County. Thank you for your support.

QAS Is Interested in YOU! -Ruth Krebs
Please tell us of YOUR efforts toward the improvement of our fragile world or to increase awareness of issues affecting our environment. Really, what YOU do matters! Be it volunteer or paid, extensive or one-time, local or global, every bit is so important. Please take credit for what YOU do. Perhaps you have suggestions for action, for future reading, or for ways to spread the word. By sharing, you may inspire others to take steps...
Drop a note into our “collection basket” at the door upon arrival at our next QAS program. Or, if you prefer, send an e-mail via our QAS website: www.QASAudubon.org.
Could we mention your efforts in an upcoming QAS newsletter? You’ll need to tell us either:
1. Yes, OK to use my name; 2. Yes, but without my name, or 3. Nope, it’s just FYI.
Thanks!

Annual Bird Seed Sale -Jim & Kitty Logan, Seed Sale Coordinators
Watch your mail this fall for the brochure announcing our 32nd Annual Wild Birdseed Sale this October. We will again provide the same great variety of high quality birdseed at competitive prices. All of our profits will support local QAS projects for youth and environmental education. When you get your flyer, please invite your friends, neighbors, and other bird lovers to also take advantage of this sale. The birds thoroughly enjoy the seeds!

Open House and Plant Sale
You are invited to MAEscape’s Fall Open House and Native Plant Sale on Saturday, September 11, 2010 from 9am until 1pm at the York County Annex, 112 Pleasant Acres Rd., York. Master Gardeners will be available to help you with plant selection from a wide variety of native trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, and ferns. You can also shop their tool, book and stepping stone area. This event will be held rain or shine.
Free presentations:
9:45 Native Grasses in the Landscape
10:45 Fall Plant Combinations for Fall Color

QAS Honors Randy Miller
At our annual banquet held at the Friendship Fire Company in Lebanon on May 26, 2010, QAS presented Randy Miller with a plaque in recognition of his many years of contributions and faithful service to the ideals and purposes of the Quittapahilla Audubon Society and the birding community as a whole. We are so blessed to be able to glean from his birding expertise.

International Vulture Awareness Day

- Gary Kinkley

Our January 26, 2011 QAS meeting will highlight the efforts of Hawk Mountain researchers trying to learn more about our most common vulture – the Turkey Vulture. Unfortunately, around the world, vultures of several species are becoming less common every year. Three species in Asia have suffered population declines of over 95%! The widespread use of an anti-inflammatory drug on livestock has been shown to be a major factor in their decline. The vultures ingest the drug when feeding on the carcasses, and it is highly toxic to them.

Meanwhile in Africa, vulture species have suffered serious declines due to poisoning and other human related activities. Often livestock carcasses are poisoned to kill predators and the vultures are unwitting victims. Several vulture species in Europe as well have experienced declines, and the fate of our California Condor is well documented. In fact, the seemingly healthy populations of Turkey and Black Vultures represent more of the exception than the rule as vulture species struggle worldwide.

International Vulture Awareness Day has been created as means for highlighting these serious threats to vulture populations around the world. Locally, Hawk Mountain will be participating in the international effort. They will be presenting a day-long program of activities for all ages on Saturday, September 4th. The activities will focus on the positive role that our avian scavengers play in the environment as well as the challenges they currently face. Learn more about the activities at Hawk Mountain’s website: www.hawkmountain.org. You can also visit Hawk Mountain’s blog about their vulture research efforts and the efforts of researchers in East Africa and the Falkland Islands at www.hawkmountain.wordpress.com. Lastly, you can visit www.ivad10.org to learn more about International Vulture Awareness Day and all of the events that are planned for September 4th.

Ricochet Area Munitions Site Meeting

The next Community Interest Group meeting for the Ricochet Area Munitions Response Site project on State Game Lands 211 will be held on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 from 6:30-8:30pm in the East Hanover Township Building at 8848 Jonestown Road, Grantville. These meetings are sponsored by the National Guard Bureau and Pennsylvania Army National Guard. If you have questions regarding the meeting, please contact Jo Anderson at 717-861-8181 or Deb Volkmer at 610-701-3913 or email Deborah.Volkmer@westonsolutions.com. For further information, go to the Ricochet Area Project website: http://www.dmva.state.pa.us, click on “Featured Topics”, then click on “Ricochet Area”.

Audubon Chapter Services Needs You

Please help Audubon secure a $200,000 grant for its Gulf response efforts. Register for American Express Members Project®, then vote for Audubon today and once a week through August 21. Register at http://www.takepart.com/membersproject/vote.

Federal Stimulus Funds Aid Ag Conservation and Water Quality

- from CBF’s Bay Bound e-newsletter, July 2010

Forty-four farms in Pennsylvania are benefiting from federal stimulus funds made available through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST). Program participants receive support to install conservation measures through a $14.2 million PENNVEST grant to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). CBF estimates the farm practices will reduce more than 838,000 pounds of nitrogen pollution; 286,000 pounds of phosphorus pollution; and 678 tons of sediment pollution. To participate, landowners were required to restore or protect forested buffers at least 35-feet wide on all streams on their farm.

More than half of the state lies within the watershed. Pennsylvania contains two major Bay watersheds: the Potomac, with 1,600 square miles; and the Susquehanna, with 21,000 square miles. Together, they total 40% of the entire watershed.

Additional partners include the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, county conservation districts, Red Barn Consulting Inc., and TeamAg Inc.
Chapter-Only Membership Application Information

-Jim M. Logan

Quittapahilla Audubon Society offers a local Chapter-Only membership that differs from the current National Audubon membership in these ways:

1. The annual fee of $20.00 will go directly for QAS activities only.

2. The membership period runs from July 1st to July 1st, regardless of when you join.

3. You will receive the chapter newsletter informing you of upcoming events, but you will not receive the Audubon magazine.

If you are interested, please issue a check to QAS for $20 and mail to: Chapter-Only Membership, c/o Jim M. Logan, Chairman, 810 Hill St., Lebanon, PA 17046. Do not mail to the National membership address in Palm Coast, FL.

Some members tell us that they don’t get time to read the Audubon magazine but want to support the local chapter. Audubon has drastically cut back the dues share per member they remit to QAS, so this allows more of your money to be spent on local conservation education and efforts.

Thank you for considering this option.

New Hot Tip Line for Oil and Natural Gas Drilling

Due to public concern about the impact on the environment caused by oil and natural gas drilling (especially Marcellus Shale drilling), EPA has set up a new hot line called “Eyes on Drilling”. E-mail eyesondrilling@epa.com or call 1-877-919-4EPA toll-free to report activity you think is suspicious or if you see waste being disposed of illegally. Give the location, time, and date of this activity, as well as the materials, equipment and vehicles involved and any observable environmental impacts. You do not have to give your name. In the event of an emergency, such as an oil spill, you are advised to call the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.

Instructions for the tip line can be found at: www.epa.gov/region03/marcellus_shale/tipline.html

“Did you send for our QAS Chapter-Only membership yet? And when are we going to go and get that gift annuity set up so we can help support their programs and still get a monthly income? Well, what are you waiting for, Whiskers … Christmas?”

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR QAS

You, as a member or friend of QAS, can leave a legacy that will help save the special areas you have explored and loved long after you are gone. Remember Quittapahilla Audubon Society, your LOCAL Audubon connection, through a bequest in your Will or through a gift annuity that will specifically support QAS programs while paying you a monthly income for life.

To learn more about how you can make a bequest and create a permanent legacy in your name or in someone’s memory, as well as tax bene-fits for planned giving options, please contact your attorney or financial advisor.

In supporting a cause that you hold dear, you can have peace of mind that your time on this planet has mattered.
Highlights of Various Field Trips

March 21st field trip to observe the Timberdoodle at Memorial Lake led by Gary Kinkley

An unseasonably warm day, which was thankfully rain-free, drew a very large crowd to the Timberdoodle field trip at Memorial Lake today. We had 34 attendees - thank you to all who attended.

The birds did not disappoint. At around 7:30pm, when all of the birds were in the "heard-but-not-seen" category, I was beginning to get a little bit nervous. Shortly thereafter, however, they began displaying right over the assembled crowd. We were all afforded good looks of the "dancing" males. After we watched a few flights, Fritz suggested moving into the field toward one of the "peenting" (singing) males. We were able to quickly get a spotlight on one of the singing males who then returned for three more performances. I was initially a little nervous with the big crowd, but I don't think anyone will ask for their money back.

Before the woodcocks began to display, we scoped the lake and had a few nice birds there as well - I have included a list here: Canada Goose, Mallard, Bufflehead-1 male, Common Merganser-1 male, Ruddy Duck-1, Wild Turkey 6 + 32 by Fritz on Utility Road, Pied-billed Grebe-1, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret-1, American Coot, Killdeer, American Woodcock-5-7, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Sparrow

April 24th field trip led by Jim M. Logan to observe spring wildflowers on State Game Lands 80 and an adjacent area of Camp Strause

The 21 persons present on this 2-hour field trip saw over 25 species of wildflowers, including among others: wild geranium/cranesbill (from the bill-like capsule); black mustard; dog violet (leaves and flowers on same stalk); jack in the pulpit/Indian turnip (American Indians gathered taproots as a vegetable – after processing out calcium oxalate crystals); Solomon seal (leaf stalk scar said to resemble seal of King Solomon); showy orchids (one of about 54 species of orchids in Pa.); dwarf ginseng (tuber can be eaten raw or cooked); fringed polygala/gaywings/milkwort (resembles tiny tailless airplane) – neat wildflower with pink flowers – several groupings of this fascinating plant observed; trout lily (a few still blooming); hepatica/liverleaf (an example of the “doctrine of signatures”); wild ginger (with the unusual brown flowers); and coltsfoot (dandelion like flowers first, then leaves appear about a week after flowers gone – an extract of leaves can be used to make cough drops and the leaves can also be burned and the remaining powder used for a salt substitute).

Additional details for some of the wildflowers listed above were taken from: “Medicinal Plants” by S. Foster and J. Duke, and from “A Forager’s Field Guide” by K. Henning.

July 18th field trip to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area to observe butterflies and dragonflies led by Fritz H

Seven participants spent about two hours around the grounds of the visitor center (the great butterfly garden between the visitor center entrances) and below by the sunfish pond. Butterfly numbers were very good this year. At one small section of what appeared to be wild bergamot (Monarda fistulosa) we counted approximately 30 tiger swallowtails. The total number of tiger swallowtails seen for the day was perhaps 60. Other butterflies included great-spangled fritillary, red admiral, several dark phase of the clouded/orange sulphur (only females show this phase), and a ragged example of what is one of the most spectacular swallowtails – the pipevine.

Numerous hummingbird (clearwing) moths were also observed and hummingbirds as well with one male ruby-throated and two females.

Dragonflies observed at the sunfish pond included common green darner, eastern amberwing, common whitetail, widow skimmer, spangled skimmer (a neat variety), and the blue dasher (very common).

A notable damselfly observed along the spillway was the ebony jewelwing. This species is spectacular for its iridescence and is fairly common.
October 4, 2009 field trip to Memorial Lake State Park and Second Mountain Hawk Watch led by Rosemary Spreha

Our count of four participants for the morning walk at Memorial Lake grew to nine until the end of our day. A total of 55 species were observed. Some of the best included a fly-by by a peregrine falcon, hundreds of migrating robins and blue jays, great egret, singing field sparrow, 3 palm warblers, black-throated blue warbler, pine warbler, and a yellow-billed cuckoo.

We viewed good accipiter flights mostly by sharp-shinned hawks, a couple cooper’s hawks, one broad-winged hawk, red-shouldered hawk, male northern harrier, and a couple osprey.

Also of interest at the lake were a deer, box turtle, and a red-striped turtle.

Bird Treks Tours

If you would like to take a birding vacation, but are at a loss as to where to go, Bird Treks could be your answer. Bird Treks is a wildlife tour company operated locally out of Peach Bottom, PA by Robert M. Shutsky. The extensive list of trips available is listed at www.birdtreks.com or call 717-548-3303.

Innovative Birding Application

BirdsEye is a fairly new birding application for the iPhone® and iPod touch® developed by Birds in the Hand, LLC, of Virginia, and brings together content from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and Kenn Kaufman, renowned birder and author. It’s like having birding experts at your fingertips whenever needed. Portions of BirdsEye sales go back to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to carry on their work. For more information visit BirdsEye at www.getbirdseye.com or the Cornell Lab at www.birds.cornell.edu.

OFFICERS and CHAIRPERSONS for 2010-2011

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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Gary Kinkley</td>
<td>832-7727</td>
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<td>Vice Pres.</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Evelyn Koppel</td>
<td>964-3412</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Steve Holzman</td>
<td>964-3266</td>
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<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Art Schiavo</td>
<td>533-1978</td>
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<td>Field Trips</td>
<td>Fritz Heilman</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
<td>Jim M. Logan</td>
<td>273-8438</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Dottie Leach</td>
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<td>Publicity</td>
<td>Ruth Krebs</td>
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Butler</td>
<td>867-4377</td>
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<td>Vera Freed</td>
<td>838-0223</td>
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<td>Sidney Hostetter</td>
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<td>Rosemary Spreha</td>
<td>657-0271</td>
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<td>Fritz Heilman</td>
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<td>Open (2012)</td>
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The QAS Board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday in January, March, May, July, September, and November at the Lebanon Valley UCC Home, Annville, PA. Meetings are open to interested persons. If you would like to attend a meeting or are interested in finding out about any of the open positions listed here, please contact Gary Kinkley, President.

Please send ADDRESS changes and corrections to Jim M. Logan, 810 Hill St., Lebanon, PA 17042
Yes, I would like to join. Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and my local chapter at the INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP cost of $20. Please send AUDUBON magazine, my membership card, and the chapter newsletter to the address below.

Name: ________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________
City_____________________________State_______Zip________________

Introductory Membership $20.00. My check for $ ________ is enclosed.

Please make all checks payable to: National Audubon Society
PO Box 422250
PALM COAST FL 32142-2250 C9ZU16OZ