

Summer 2013

Bulletin

Volume 78
No. 2

newsletter

PITTSBURGH'S BALD EAGLE POPULATION GROWING

A NIGHT in
the WOODS
June 22nd

Staff

Bulletin

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ON THE COVER:

A pair of Bald Eagles in the Hays section of Pittsburgh recently became parents to eaglets. Photo credit: Robert Klaput



Allegheny Regional Asset District

This Audubon View

Over the past several years, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania has been working with Buffalo Township to jointly acquire a small parcel of land near our Todd Nature Reserve. Known for years as the Oregon Hunting and Fishing Club, the property has been in private hands since the club closed this location a decade ago. The property sits adjacent to the Butler Freeport Community Trail at the very popular Monroe Road trail head. If you've ever visited Todd, you have probably looked at and wondered what that long skinny building is to your left as you cross the bridge over Little Buffalo Creek.

A little over 5 acres in size, the property and former club banquet hall is being purchased with the help of a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources. The grant will cover approximately 50% of the acquisition costs, with Audubon and Buffalo Township providing the rest. We will subdivide the parcel into two halves, with the township receiving the portion with the former club. The township plans to renovate the hall—converting it into an open air picnic shelter for community use, while Audubon would like to develop a year-round center on the other half of the property to serve as the gateway for Todd Nature Reserve.

Why build a center here and not at the current entrance to the Reserve? There are a number of driving forces. Centers are for people, and this area is much more accessible to many more people. Thousands of trail users will pass by the building every year. Its ample parking will accommodate larger groups and school buses much more easily than our current parking lot, and the synergy with other township activities at their pavilion will expose new audiences to Audubon.

There's another reason – this one a bit more emotional. By developing the center here, we can meet the programmatic needs of this growing community while maintaining that special sense of isolation you get when visiting Todd Nature Reserve.

We have lots of heavy lifting to do yet before the center can be built (yes—that's another way of saying fund raising!), but we have just completed a site plan that the township has approved. You can see the plan—and follow all of the developments with this project—on our website at www.aswp.org/locations/todd.

Jim Bonner
ASWP Executive Director



A Friends of Audubon Membership Makes a Great Gift

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) is a nonprofit organization supported in large part through membership dues.

Membership Benefits • 10% Discount on Nature Store Purchases and Bird Seed • Subscription to Bulletin Newsletter • Library and Teacher Resource Center Lending Privileges • Tuition Discounts and Advance Notice on Education Programs • Invitations to Nature Store Open House and Special Events • 100% Good Feeling for Supporting Environment Education

[Join or renew your membership at aswp.org](http://aswp.org)

Household \$50 Individual \$35 Naturalist \$100 Ecologist \$1 New or Renewal Membership Gift Membership Conservationist \$50 Steward \$1000 Club Level \$100

Your Name _____ Phone _____

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Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**If this is a Gift Membership, please complete the above section and the following:*

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NOTE: Gift Memberships will be sent directly to the recipient How to list your recognition on the recipient note:

Payment by: Enclosed Check Credit Card (please complete following): Credit Card No.: _____ Exp. _____

Mail with payment to: **ASWP/Membership • 614 Dorseyville Road • Pittsburgh PA 15238**

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Bald Eagles Making a Comeback in Pittsburgh

For the first time in nearly 100 years, Bald Eagles are making their presence known in our city. Three pairs of eagles have begun nesting within miles of the Point – one near the Monongahela River in the Hays community, another near the Allegheny River in Harmarville and the third near the Ohio River. Viewing the nests has become an adventure for new and established birders alike. It's easy to see that people are excited to have these majestic birds back, sharing our community and waterways.

While the return of nesting eagles is a positive milestone for the restoration of the local ecosystem as well as the state's eagle population, the upswing came only recently. Despite the Bald Eagle being named our official national bird in 1782, eagle populations in Pennsylvania had been devastated due to widespread hillside tree removal in the 18th century, industrial river pollution in the 19th century, and the DDT crisis in the 20th century.

But disaster for the eagles didn't just strike in the Keystone State. Populations across the rest of the lower 48 states were also suffering drastically from similar issues, and by the time of our nation's Bicentennial in 1976, there were fewer than 1,000 nesting pairs left in the lower 48 states. However, the 1970s also became a time of promise for the Bald Eagle, when DDT was banned in 1972 and the Endangered Species Act was signed into law the following year.

Today, the Bald Eagle continues to make a major comeback in the continental U.S., particularly in Pennsylvania. Eagle nest growth in the state spiked up to 214 nests last year, a major improvement from the total of three nests in 1963. The state's Bald Eagle population is also expected to continue increasing annually at an estimated rate of 15 percent.

Bald Eagles choose suitable grounds to build their nests, and expand them to become as large as several tons in weight. Nesting pairs of Bald Eagles will maintain territories that, on average, span a 3-mile diameter. For the pairs located near the Point, their territories likely span in an elongated fashion along the rivers because of the ideal conditions that the river areas offer for successful nesting—significantly cleaner water, and a greater amount of food resources.

Since the initial discovery of the eagles' nests in the county, ASWP has been assisting the Pennsylvania Game Commission in monitoring the Hays and Harmarville nests on a weekly basis. In April, the Hays Bald Eagles successfully hatched eaglets, creating a new generation of eagles and—at long last—hope and promise for the future of Bald Eagles in our region.

Andy Treese, who wrote this article, volunteered for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania as a Public Relations and Marketing Intern, and is a senior journalism major from Slippery Rock University.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Audubon is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us with everything from potting native plants to helping in the Nature Store.

We're also seeking Volunteer Naturalists. The training session takes place on Mondays from September 16 through October 21, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Volunteer Naturalists help with school field trips and assist in connecting students to nature.

If you have a special talent that you think could make a difference at Audubon, please contact us at (412) 963-6100.

Program Schedule

JUNE - AUGUST 2013

Register for programs online at aswp.org
or by calling (412) 963-6100

Birding and Nature Hikes Outdoor Adventures

Appropriate for people of all ages, unless otherwise noted.

Naturalist Led Morning Walks

Get out on Audubon's trails with these free programs, led by Audubon naturalists.
[Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve – Every Wednesday at 9am](#)
[Succop Conservancy – Every Thursday at 9am](#)
[Todd Nature Reserve – Every Friday at 9am](#)

Discovery Hike and Scavenger Hunt

(10am-12pm) Cost: \$6 member, \$10 non-member

There are hidden areas in our woods and places that most people never see. Join us for a unique scavenger hunt that will take us off the trodden path and into remote natural areas in search of tracks, bones, fungi, buck rubs, unique plants, flowers, rocks, and other quirky parts of nature. We will end with a fun craft to take home. Perfect for families and children of all ages; parent or caregiver must be present.

[Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve – July 6](#)
[Succop Conservancy – July 13](#)

Outdoor Adventure

(10am-12pm) Cost: \$6 member, \$10 non-member

Do you have your outdoor gear!? Come for a hike that outfits you as you go. We'll make a walking stick (out of sustainable birch wood) to help us along our path as we hike to a clearing. Then we'll turn the end of our walking sticks into

a whistle, attach a lanyard, and inlay a small compass. At the end of our hike you will take home a multiuse, field made, staff to use on your next adventure in the outdoors! Appropriate for all ages.

[Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve – August 10](#)
[Succop Conservancy – August 24](#)

Audubon at Night

(See location calendar for starting times)

Cost: \$6 member, \$10 non-member

Delight in the activity of the night! After dark nocturnal animals will be out and familiar surroundings take on a new appeal. Join us as we explore nature while it is lit only by the stars. Our reserves are normally closed at night so this is a rare opportunity. The campfire at Succop Conservancy is a potluck style campfire cooking session where we'll select kindling and start a fire with flint and steel. After a short hike, we'll cook our food, hear a story, and listen to live music. Once you sign up, you'll be contacted about what to bring for the campfire. *Appropriate for adults and interested older children. Space is limited.*

[Firefly Fun at Todd Nature Reserve – June 28](#)
[Full Moon Hike at Todd Nature Reserve – July 22](#)
[Gather 'Round the Campfire at Succop Conservancy – July 26](#)
[Night Hike at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve – August 2](#)

Naturalist Led Family Walkabout and Craft

(10am-12pm) Cost: \$4 member, \$6 non-member

Take a walk on the trails to experience the easily found – and sometimes hidden-treasures, like wildflowers, joe-pye weed, monarch larva, and caterpillars. During the walk we'll collect plant materials and end with a fun craft using what we collected to create bookmarks. Appropriate for families and children of all ages; parent or caregiver must be present.

[Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve – August 3](#)
[Succop Conservancy – August 10](#)

Children's and Preschool Programs

Babes in the Woods programs are for children under the age of 3, with a caregiver. Fledglings programs are for preschoolers and a caregiver. Most programs start at 10:00 and last an hour—see location calendars to verify times.

Babes in the Woods

Cost: \$4 member, \$6 non-member (price per person)

Parents and toddlers (2 and under) will delight in using sight, sound, touch and smell to discover the natural world. These naturalist led programs incorporate seasonally appropriate topics. Parent or caregiver must be present. Strollers/Baby Backpacks welcome.

[Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve – June 6 / August 1](#)
[Succop Conservancy – June 4 / July 2 / August 6](#)
[Todd Nature Reserve – June 19 / July 17 / August 21](#)

Fledglings

Cost: \$4 member, \$6 non-member (price per person)

Give your 3-5 year old a head start on a lifetime of loving the outdoors. These naturalist-led programs incorporate stories, activities and a trail walk on seasonally appropriate topics. Parent or caregiver must be present.

[Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve – June 13 / July 11 / August 8](#)
[Succop Conservancy – June 11 / July 9 / August 13](#)
[Todd Nature Reserve – June 26 / July 24 / August 28](#)

Hands-On Conservation and Lifelong Learning Programs

These citizen science programs, native plant and gardening programs, and educator workshops are appropriate for adults, unless otherwise noted in the program description.

Citizen Science programs allow people to participate in projects that monitor the health of our environment. The following programs are offered as part of our ongoing commitment to connect people to the natural world. Many of these programs are also being offered at locations throughout southwestern PA. Our citizen science programs are offered for free, through a generous grant from Dominion Foundation.

Firefly Watch Training

(8-10pm) Cost: Free

Watching fireflies is an annual rite of summer enjoyed by people of all ages. Now learn how you can participate in this Citizen Science Corps project that helps scientists to track fireflies around the world. You'll learn to report on our favorite nighttime insect from your own backyard. Perfect for adults and families.

[Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve – June 7](#)

[Succop Conservancy – June 14](#)

[Leechburg Public Library \(6:30-7:30pm\) — June 11](#)

[Westmoreland Conservation District \(7-8:30pm\) — June 13](#)

[Fern Hollow Nature Center \(7-9 pm\) – June 21](#)

[Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center \(8-9:30pm\) – July 31](#)

Lost Ladybug Project

(10am-12pm) Cost: Free

Over the past twenty years, several native ladybugs have become extremely rare. Ladybugs from other places have greatly increased both their numbers and range, and some ladybugs are found in new places. We're asking you to join this Citizen Science Project aimed at finding out where all the ladybugs have gone so we can try to prevent more native species from becoming so rare. This session will teach participants how to identify different species of ladybugs and submit what they find to scientists. *Appropriate for all ages.*

[Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve – July 14](#)

[Succop Conservancy – July 21](#)

[Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center \(2-3:30 pm\) – June 30](#)

[Westmoreland Conservation District \(9-10:30 am\) – July 13](#)

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project

(10am-Noon) Cost: Free

The Monarch Larva Monitoring Project is a long-term study of the distribution, breeding and mortality rates of monarch butterflies. Learn how this Citizen Science project engages people in observing and studying the milkweed habitat, and learn to identify all life stages of the Monarch butterfly in the field. Appropriate for adults and interested older children.

[Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve - June 29](#)

[Succop Conservancy - June 29](#)

[Fern Hollow Nature Center \(2-4 pm\) – June 16](#)

[Construction Junction \(11 am-noon\) – July 6](#)



Rain Harvesting

(2-4pm) Cost per family or group of 4 or less:

\$40 member, \$45 non-member

Learn about the environmental benefits, financial savings, and water conservation rain gardens and rain barrels offer. Each family/group will make one rain barrel or one chain. Pre-registration required.

[Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve – June 2](#)

[Succop Conservancy – June 9](#)

Native Plants to Attract Pollinators and Butterflies

(2-4pm) Cost: \$6 member, \$10 non-member

Learn how to increase butterflies, bees, and other pollinating insects using native plants. Presentation will focus on landscape concepts that will help provide essential elements insects need to thrive. Each participant will pot up various native perennials to support their own insect garden.

[Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve – July 7](#)

[Succop Conservancy – July 14](#)

Natural History for Educators and Naturalists Workshop

(9am-3pm) Cost: \$300 per person

Want to be a more knowledgeable—and more engaging—in teaching environment and ecology? Then join us for 4 days of exploring the natural habitats of western PA, discovering our region's plants and animals along the way. Identify species in the field, employing the resources and strategies that naturalists use. Learn about important adaptations, and the roles that plants and animals play in a natural community. Each participant will receive ASWP's Naturalist Backpack (a \$225 value). Act 48 credit available. Participants should dress to be outdoors in forests, fields, and aquatic habitats, and bring a bag lunch each day.

[Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve](#)

June 11-14 (Friday at Todd Nature Reserve)

BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE

JUNE

2 Rain Harvesting—Audubon Center for Native Plants (2-4pm)
Cost per family or group of 4 or less: \$40 member / \$45 non-member

5 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

6 Babes in the Woods (10-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member

7 Firefly Watch Training (8-10pm) Cost: Free

11-14

Natural History for Educators and Naturalists Workshop
(9am-3pm) Cost: \$300 per person

12 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

13 Fledglings (10am-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member

19 Free Naturalist Led Hike (9am)

22 A Night in the Woods Outdoor Cocktail Party
(7-10 pm) Special Event \$125 per person

26 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

29 Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (10am-Noon) Cost: Free

JULY

3 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

6 Discovery Hike and Scavenger Hunt
(10am-Noon) Cost \$6 member, \$1 Non-member

**7 Native Plants to Attract Pollinators and Butterflies —
Audubon Center for Native Plants**
(2-4pm) Cost: \$6 member, \$10 non-member

10 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

11 Fledglings (10am-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member

14 Lost Ladybug Project (10am-Noon) Cost: \$6 member, \$10 non-member

17 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

20 Member Picnic and Environmental Awards (11 am)

24 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

31 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

AUGUST

1 Babes in the Woods (10am-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member

2 Night Hike (9-10:30pm) Cost \$6 member, \$10 non-member

3 Naturalist Led Family Walkabout and Craft
(10am-12pm): Cost \$6 member, \$10 non-member

7 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

8 Fledglings (10am-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member

10 Outdoor Adventure (10am-Noon) Cost: \$6 member, \$10 non-member

14 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

21 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

28 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

SUCCOP CONSERVANCY

JUNE

4 Babes in the Woods (10-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member

6 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

9 Rain Harvesting—Audubon Center for Native Plants
(2-4pm) Cost per family or group of 4 or less: \$40 member / \$45 non-member

11 Fledglings (10am-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member

13 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

14 Firefly Watch Training (8-10pm) Cost: Free

20 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

27 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

29 Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (10am-Noon) Cost: Free

JULY

2 Babes in the Woods (10-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member

9 Fledglings (10-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member

11 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

13 Discovery Hike and Scavenger Hunt
(10am-Noon) Cost: \$6 member / \$10 non-member

**14 Native Plants to Attract Pollinators and Butterflies—
Audubon Center for Native Plants**
(2-4pm) Cost: \$6 member, \$10 non-member

18 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

21 Lost Ladybug Project (10am-Noon) Cost: Free

24 Gather 'Round the Campfire
(7-9pm) Cost: \$6 member, \$10 non-member

25 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

AUGUST

1 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

6 Babes in the Woods (10-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member

8 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

13 Fledglings (10-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member

15 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

22 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

24 Outdoor Adventure (10am-Noon) Cost: \$6 member / \$10 non-member

29 Naturalist Led Hike (9am) Cost: Free

TODD NATURE RESERVE

JUNE

- 7 Naturalist Led Hike** (9am) Cost: Free
- 14 Naturalist Led Hike** (9am) Cost: Free
- 19 Babes in the Woods** (10-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member
- 21 Naturalist Led Hike** (9am) Cost: Free
- 26 Fledglings** (10-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member
- 28 Naturalist Led Hike** (9am) Cost: Free
- 28 Firefly Fun** (8-9:30pm) Cost: \$6 member / \$10 non-member

JULY

- 5 Naturalist Led Hike** (9am) Cost: Free
- 12 Naturalist Led Hike** (9am) Cost: Free
- 17 Babes in the Woods** (10-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member
- 19 Naturalist Led Hike** (9am) Cost: Free
- 22 Full Moon Hike** (9-10:30pm) Cost: \$6 member / \$10 non-member
- 24 Fledglings** (10-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member
- 26 Naturalist Led Hike** (9am) Cost: Free

AUGUST

- 2 Naturalist Led Hike** (9am) Cost: Free
- 9 Naturalist Led Hike** (9am) Cost: Free
- 16 Naturalist Led Hike** (9am) Cost: Free
- 21 Babes in the Woods** (10-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member
- 23 Naturalist Led Hike** (9am) Cost: Free
- 28 Fledglings** (10-11am) Cost: \$4 member / \$6 non-member
- 30 Naturalist Led Hike** (9am) Cost: Free



SUMMER CAMPS

Get Outside
with Audubon!

Kids have fun learning about birds and nature at Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania's Outdoor Discovery Camps! Designed for kids ages 5-14, our camps allow kids to explore the outdoors, visit the pond, make crafts, and observe birds and other wildlife. Visit aswp.org for a complete listing of our camp offerings at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve and Succop Conservancy.

(412) 963-6100
aswp.org

Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
614 Dorseyville Road :: Pittsburgh PA 15238

Succop Conservancy
185 W Airport Road :: Butler PA 16002



OUTREACH PROGRAMS: Bringing Audubon into Your Community

These free programs are made possible by a generous grant from Dominion Foundation.

FIREFLY WATCH

- Leechburg Public Library** (6:30-7:30pm) **JUNE 11**
- Westmoreland Conservation District** (7-8:30pm) **JUNE 13**
- Beaver Area Memorial Library** (6:30-7:30pm) **JUNE 19**
- Fern Hollow Nature Center** (7-9pm) **JUNE 21**
- The Outdoor Classroom** (7-8:30pm) **JUNE 28**
- Butler Area Public Library** (6:30-7:30pm) **JULY 11**
- Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center** (8-9:30pm) **JULY 31**

MONARCH LARVA MONITORING

- The Outdoor Classroom** (3-4:30pm) **JUNE 4**
- Fern Hollow Nature Center** (2-4pm) **JUNE 16**
- Beaver Area Memorial Library** (6-7pm) **JUNE 27**
- Construction Junction** (11am-Noon) **JULY 6**

LOST LADYBUG PROJECT

- Leechburg Public Library** (6:30-7:30pm) **MAY 23**
- Fern Hollow Nature Center** (2-4pm) **MAY 26**
- Butler Area Public Library** (10-11am) **JUNE 1**
- The Outdoor Classroom** (12:30-2pm) **JUNE 25**
- Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center** (2-3:30pm) **JUNE 30**
- Beaver Area Memorial Library** (10:30-11:30am) **JULY 8**
- Saxonburg Library** (10-11am and 11am-Noon) **JULY 11**

Audubon Society OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

A NIGHT in the WOODS

Outdoor Summer Cocktail Party

June 22nd

7pm

Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Music, art, food, signature drink and a silent auction to benefit Audubon's Shannon's Camp Fund

TICKETS: aswp.org or (412) 963-6100

Native Plants that Attract Butterflies

Butterflies are attracted to plants with flat topped or clustered inflorescence with short flower tubes. Adults are attracted to purple, pink, red, orange and yellow nectar sources.

Because butterflies typically prefer to feed in the warmth of the sun, we recommend that a butterfly garden contain plants that thrive in full sun. Butterflies will benefit from placing flat rocks in the garden that will provide a place for them to rest and warm their wings. A wet dish of sand, mud, can provide drinking water.

When choosing plants to attract butterflies, seek out a variety that blooms throughout the growing season, to provide a continuous food source.

To attract butterflies to your yard in Spring, choose *Allium cernuum* (Nodding Onion) and *Antennaria plantaginifolia* (Pussytoes).



Nodding onion is deer resistant and Pussytoes creates a groundcover that keeps weeds down while providing an early nectar source.

Summer is the time that Milkweeds are in bloom. Milkweeds are an important larval and nectar food source for butterflies. *Asclepias incarnate* (Swamp Milkweed) does well wet places. With its liner leaves and deep pink flower, it is perfect for the back of a perennial border. *Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly Weed), also a member of the milkweed family, is prized for its bright orange blooms and short, compact form.

Asclepias syriaca (Common Milkweed) is adaptable for the home landscape and can be found growing naturally in a variety of places. The round, powder pink flower clusters are a favorite of Monarch Butterfly adults and larva.

As autumn nears, butterflies seek Aster, *Vernonia noveboracensis* (Ironweed), and *Rudbeckia triloba* (Black-Eyed Susan) for late season food sources.

Learn more about plants that attract butterflies by visiting Audubon Center for Native Plants, located at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve.

Art in Bloom

For the first time, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania submitted a floral piece to Carnegie Museum of Art's "Art in Bloom." The event, held at the beginning of April, was a four-day celebration of timeless art and fresh flowers, presented by the Women's Committee of the Carnegie Museum of Art.

The submission was modeled after a wall sculpture by Donald Clarence Judd. Two types of flowers—both native to Western Pennsylvania and Judd's birthplace—were incorporated in the design and placed in a ridged arrangement to reinforce the form.

Kudos to ASWP employees Roxanne Swann, Craig Falatovich, and Gabi Hughes for their work to create this lovely arrangement!



Swarovski Optik

at
**Audubon
Nature Store!**



Audubon Nature Store is proud to add Swarovski Optik to its optic selection, which includes Kowa and other popular optics. Swarovski's EL line-up features two binoculars that combine functionality, innovation and design. The optical system, incorporating SWAROBRIGHT technology, improves color fidelity, brightness and contrast while eliminating color fringing. This advanced technology provides an incredibly crisp image that enables users to "see the unseen".

The Swarovski EL's are available in a compact and lightweight 8X32 and a full-size, class leading 8.5X42 model.

Succop Conservancy in Summer

Succop Conservancy is getting ready for a busy summer. If you are looking for a lovely place for a summer picnic, come explore our grounds and enjoy the day. The Conservancy offers hiking trails and hidden places to bird watch, identify our over 50 tree species, or take one of our classes. The meadows will be bursting with wildflowers and insect activity. Around every corner there is a story of the past; you can find remnants of the old apple orchard along our trails, try your hand at locating the holes from maple sugaring, or just relax in the shade of 150 year old oak trees.

In June, all junior outdoor enthusiasts report for our Wilderness Survival summer day camp. They can expect an adventure-packed week full of plant identification, improvising survival gear from natural materials, and delicious campfire cooked snacks! Summer camps run late June through mid-August.

See a full listing of activities at Succop Conservancy on page 7.

Members' Picnic JULY 20, 11am - 2pm Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve Fox Chapel

Join us for a picnic and to see who the winners are of this year's environmental awards!

**RSVP online at aswp.org
or by calling (412) 963-6100**



Memorials

Judith S. Ewing Garofalo
Elizabeth Monaco

Craigie Succop
Gus Succop

Ann Greulich
Helen Mathieson

David W. Hunter
Helen Mathieson

Adeline M. Popivchak
Patricia Lusk
Dan and Kris Charny
James and Melinda Higgins
James and Jane Finley
Janet Schumaker
Celeste and Robert Janosko
Amy and Terry Bilkey
Katherine Counihan and Frank Vertosick, Jr.
Lois Zahorchak
Dee and Tim Carroll
Linda and Rich Becker
Karen Fornari
Susan George
Kathy Gilliland
Lee Ann Kane
Ava Kilgore
Bonnie Killian
Jill Langue
Nancy Minton
Deb Nugara
Maggie Rice
Britney Robinson
Sandy Stewart
Rachel Stone
Jan Tommarello

Honor

Dan Fales
Jane Wentling

*Audubon Center
for Native Plants*
John Totten and
Linda Kramer

Tom and Jo Ann Succop
Natalie and WJ. Hoffman

ASWP gratefully acknowledges the generous support received from the following corporations, foundations, and trust funds:

\$50,000+

- ▶ Columbia Gas—NiSource
- ▶ Laurel Foundation
- ▶ PA Department of Environmental Protection
- ▶ Succop Family Charitable Trust

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- ▶ Fred J. and Shirley H. Jordan Foundation
- ▶ National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

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- ▶ PPG Industries Foundation

Q: Are the monarchs we see now the same individuals that migrated south last fall?

A: Many people are aware of the fall monarch butterfly migration. The last generation of monarchs in our area hatches in August, then makes the perilous journey to the mountains of Mexico. However, the journey back is generational for the monarchs that populate the northern parts of the North America, including Pennsylvania. The adults leave the Mexican mountains the second week of March. They proceed north, laying eggs as they go on fresh stands of milkweed plants across the southern U.S. (The milkweed can be of any species, not necessarily our Common Milkweed).

These overwintered adults only make it about half way to Pennsylvania. Their eggs hatch; the larvae feed and grow. After emerging from the chrysalis, these new adults complete the journey north, to our milkweed patches where their fall-migrating parents hatched. They arrive here roughly around Memorial Day as our Milkweed begins to gain some height. They have several generations over the summer. It is only the final, August generation that migrates to the south as the milkweeds senesce for the winter. Thus, the monarchs we see returning this spring are the children of those that left. Those that migrate this fall will be the grandchildren or great-grandchildren of the spring arrivals.

Nickels for Nonprofits at Whole Foods Wexford Benefits ASWP

What's the value of a wooden nickel? At the Wexford Whole Foods, it's a donation to Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Whole Foods in Wexford has generously included us in its Nickels for Nonprofits program through July 15th. When you bring your own reusable shopping bags to the store, Whole Foods will give you the opportunity to have five cents per bag taken off of your total sales—or offer you wooden nickels instead.

When you choose the wooden nickels, you can deposit them in the ASWP box as you exit the store. The total collected will be donated in cash to ASWP for the support of our programs, projects, and places.

Thanks in advance!

A Night in the Woods Presented by PNC Bank JUNE 22, 7-10pm Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, Fox Chapel

You're invited to spend a Night in the Woods under the stars at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. The elegant evening includes a signature cocktail, wonderful food, live music, and a silent auction—as well as visually striking woodwork by local Pittsburgh artists.

The event, presented by PNC Bank, features music by Paul and Jeff of Good Brother Earl, food by Andora Restaurant, and dessert from Bella Christie & Lil' Z's Sweet Boutique.

Join event co-chairs Libby Culbertson Ernharth, Rebecca Ringham Myerburg, and Sarah Perkins Stallings for this special evening that benefits Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania and Shannon's Camp Fund, which enriches the lives of area children by providing Audubon camp scholarships that spark a lifelong love of the natural world.

Tickets: \$125 per person; make your reservation by visiting aswp.org or by calling (412) 963-6100.



Monarch Butterfly Populations Declining

Reports are in from last year's butterfly census and the news is not good. The number of Monarch Butterflies successfully migrating to their winter grounds dropped by 59 percent for the winter 2012-13 season.

The numbers have been declining for six of the past seven years and the reasons for the decline aren't completely clear. Logging that had threatened the Monarchs has declined, leading to speculation that climate conditions and agricultural practices are to blame—particularly pesticides that kill Milkweed plants.

Environmentalists are calling for the United States, Canada, and Mexico to come together to protect Monarch Butterfly habitats. Do your part by planting Milkweed in your yard—it's available at Audubon Center for Native Plants at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve.



614 Dorseyville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-1618
aswp.org

NATURE STORE HOURS

Tuesday 9 am - 7 pm

Wednesday - Saturday 9 am - 5 pm

Sunday 1 pm - 5 pm

Trails open year-round.

7 days a week, dawn to dusk

(412) 963-6100

DIRECTIONS TO BEECHWOOD (FROM PITTSBURGH)

Take Route 28 north to Route 8 North/Butler exit. Turn right at first traffic light on to Kittanning Road which becomes Dorseyville Road. Travel 4.3 miles and Beechwood will be on your left.

For additional directions, visit us at aswp.org. Route 28 construction may cause delays.

Please allow additional travel time.

DIRECTIONS TO TODD NATURE RESERVE

Take Rt. 28 North to the Butler/Freeport Exit 17. Turn right at Rt. 356 North, and then right at Monroe Road. Travel about 2 miles, and make a right at Kepple Road. Travel 1.5 miles and Todd Nature Reserve will be on your right. Park in the lot and please sign in at the informational kiosk at the cabin. Trail maps are located at the kiosk.

DIRECTIONS TO SUCCOP CONSERVANCY (FROM PITTSBURGH)

Take Route 8 North from Pittsburgh or South from Butler and turn on to West Airport Road.

Once on West Airport Road, Succop Conservancy's driveway will be the first road on your left.

MISSION STATEMENT

Connecting the people of southwestern Pennsylvania to birds and nature through our programs, projects, and places.



Become a fan of Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania on Facebook and receive updates on Beechwood, Succop Conservancy and Todd Nature Reserve.

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