In this issue: Audubon Gets Green(er), Get Outside this Fall and Winter

Fall/Winter 2015
Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania has a long history of championing green buildings and infrastructure. More than just promoting its use, we have tried to demonstrate green-ness whenever we can at our own facilities. The Beechwood Education Building, which opened in 1989, featured both photovoltaic and thermal solar panels, a wind turbine, and composting toilets—items all much more common now than they were 25 years ago.

The Audubon Center for Native Plants building is straw-bale construction with an on-demand radiant heating system, making it a very efficient building to heat. When we needed to put a new roof on the Marcraig House at Succop Nature Park a few years ago, we chose a shingle that resembles slate but is made from 80% recycled tires.

Now, we are excited to announce our next piece of green technology—a 40-foot tall vertical-axis wind turbine manufactured by WindStax, a Pittsburgh-based company. The turbine will be erected at Succop Nature Park this fall. Windstax builds and installs a unique style of vertical-axis wind turbine that is both aesthetically pleasing and safe for birds and other flying animals. We will be installing it in a temporary location at Succop Nature Park until we have completed the conversion of the historic barn into a full-service Environmental Learning Center.

The turbine is being made possible through a $50,000 grant from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund. Created 15 years ago, WPPSEF is one of four independent, 501 (c)(3) organizations formed as a result of the Electricity Generation Customer Choice and Competition Act of 1996. It has provided millions of dollars of loans and grants in support of sustainable energy programs throughout the state.

This project is one of many we have planned for the near future as ASWP begins to celebrate its 100th anniversary coming up in 2016. I look forward to sharing additional information on these projects as they develop both here in the Bulletin and online at www.aswp.org.
This Audubon View

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania has a long history of championing green buildings and infrastructure. More than just promoting its use, we have tried to demonstrate green-ness whenever we can at our own facilities. The Beechwood Education Building, which opened in 1989, featured both photovoltaic and thermal solar panels, a wind turbine, and composting toilets—items all much more common now than they were 25 years ago. The Audubon Center for Native Plants building is straw-bale construction with an on-demand radiant heating system, making it a very efficient building to heat. When we needed to put a new roof on the Marcraig House at Succop Nature Park a few years ago, we chose a shingle that resembles slate but is made from 80% recycled tires.

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—Jim

DIRECTIONS TO Our Reserves

**BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE:**
Take Route 28 north from Pittsburgh 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.

**SUCCOP NATURE PARK:** Take Route 8 North from Pittsburgh or South from Butler and turn on to West Airport Road. Once on West Airport Road, Succop Nature Park’s driveway will be the first road on your left.

**TODD NATURE RESERVE:** Take Route 28 North from Pittsburgh to the Butler/Freeport Exit 17. Turn right at Route 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.
“With her usual lucid and lovely prose, Elizabeth Kolbert lays out the sad and gripping facts of our moment on earth: that we’ve become a geological force, driving vast swaths of creation over the brink. A remarkable addition to the literature of our haunted epoch.”—Bill McKibben, author of Oil and Honey: The Education of an Unlikely Activist.


Audubon is a sponsor of Ms. Kolbert’s talk for Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures “Literary Evenings, Monday Night Lecture Series.” The talk will take place November 16 at Carnegie Music Hall (4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213), beginning at 7:30pm. To get your ticket to the event, please visit pittsburghlectures.org.

Kolbert’s 2005 three-part series on global warming, The Climate of Man, was published in The New Yorker and won the 2006 National Magazine Award for Public Interest, the 2005 American Association for the Advancement of Science Journalism Award, and the 2006 National Academies Communication Award.

The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History discusses five mass extinctions that have taken place over the last half-billion years.

These extinctions have suddenly and dramatically impacted the diversity of life on earth. Now, scientists across the world are monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs.

But as Kolbert, a writer for The New Yorker, explains, the next extinction won’t be caused by asteroids. It will be caused by mankind.

“Though it might be nice to imagine there once was a time when man lived in harmony with nature, it’s not clear that he ever really did,” she writes.

According to her book, human beings have altered life on the planet in a way no species has before. Kolbert utilizes research, information on species lost, and the history of extinction to bring home the concept that extinction is happening—often before our eyes.

“Right now, in the amazing moment that to us counts as the present, we are deciding, without quite meaning to, which evolutionary pathways will remain open and which will forever be closed. No other creature has ever managed this.”

Kolbert asserts that this sixth extinction may be mankind’s enduring legacy and encourages—through her research, assertions, and words—as us all to think carefully about how we as humans are forever changing the future of our world.
Elizabeth Kolbert Visits Beechwood

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania welcomes author Elizabeth Kolbert to discuss her Pulitzer-Prize winning book, noted as one of The New York Times Book Review’s 10 best books of the year. The book is noted as one of the literature of our haunted epoch.” —Bill McKibben, author of Oil and Honey: The Education of an Unlikely Activist


“With her usual lucid and lovely prose, Elizabeth Kolbert lays out the force, driving vast swaths of creation over the brink. A remarkable addition to the concept that extinction is happening—often before the organisms are aware of it.”

“Right now, in the amazing moment that to us counts as human time, the next great wave of mass extinctions is under way. According to her book, human beings have altered life on the planet in a way no species has before. Kolbert utilizes research, monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most enduring legacy and encourages—through her research, assertions, and a National Books Critics Circle Award finalist.

Kolbert asserts that this sixth extinction may be mankind’s looming, unceded fate, wiping out the dinosaurs. It will be caused by human force, driving vast swaths of creation over the brink. A remarkable addition to the concept that extinction is happening—often before the organisms are aware of it.”

Our volunteers are the heart of our organization! Volunteers, please join us for our annual potluck luncheon that celebrates all of the amazing talents you bring to ASWP.

Bring your favorite little girl, along with her doll, for a tea party fit for a princess! We’ll have tea, snacks, holiday carols, and a craft. These events fill quickly, so register early. $15 member; $20 nonmember.

Shop Audubon Nature Store both Saturday and Sunday for special savings on all things holiday! Calendars, cards, candles, candle holders, decorations, ornaments, serving pieces and more will be on sale throughout the weekend. Plus, don’t forget to enter your chance to win an ASWP gift basket.

Succop Nature Park is beautifully decorated for the holidays! Join us for tea, snacks, holiday carols, and a craft. Cost: $15 member; $20 nonmember.

Dear ASWP Members! Jump start your holiday shopping with 20% savings at Audubon Nature Store! Enjoy light refreshments and get first dibs on our 2015 selection of holiday gifts, greeting cards, ornaments, home décor and more during this one-day event! Also save 20% on birdseed, feeders, supplies, books, guides, journals, jewelry and toys as well as other items for nature lovers of all ages. Not a member? Join today and receive the 20% discount as well as a copy of ASWP’s Western Pennsylvania Birding Trail Guide! Some restrictions apply.

AUDUBON NATURE STORE HOLIDAY SALE

A special 20% discount awaits you at our fully stocked nature store off the beaten path of the holiday shopping season. Join us for the Knoch Jazz Band starts at 7pm.

Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy free live music at Succop Nature Park. Picnic time begins at 6pm and live music by the Knoch Jazz Band starts at 7pm.

Delight in our annual autumn experience! Fireflies guide you on our trails to encounter larger-than-life costumed nocturnal creatures. Hear stories from a Great Horned Owl, observe the acrobatics of the Flying Squirrel, go batty with Little Brown Bat, and more. Crafts and refreshments will be provided. Come in costume for twice the fun. This event takes place even if it’s raining. Registration required. $6 member; $10 nonmember; under 2 is free. 6:30, 7, or 7:30pm start time.

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Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania welcome author Elizabeth Kolbert to discuss her Pulitzer-Prize winning book, noted as one of The New York Times Book Review’s 10 best books of the year.
KIDS’ CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
December 26, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
January 2, 10am–12pm / Succop Nature Park

Kids and parents are invited to participate in a family-friendly version of the Pittsburgh Christmas Bird Count. Our naturalist will guide you. This event is appropriate for school-age and up. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Advance registration is required. Free.

Birding & Nature Hikes

ADULT ECO-SERIES: GRAND TREE TOUR
October 3, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Do you know where to find Beechwood’s beech trees? Join our naturalist on a hike through the reserve to visit our favorite trees. Identification, natural history and usage will be shared. This program will take place on the trail for at least one mile. Appropriate for adults and interested youth. $6 per member, $10 per nonmember.

ADULT ECO-SERIES: SUCCOP ARBORETUM TOUR
October 24, 10am–12pm / Succop Nature Park

Did you know the family planted many interesting trees on the Succop property? Join our naturalist on a tour of these specimens, both exotic and native. Identification, natural history and usage will be shared. This program will be outside and is appropriate for adults and interested youth. $6 per member, $10 per nonmember.

WINTER WALKABOUT: SIGNS OF LIFE
January 17, 2–3:30pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Even in the midst of winter the forest is teeming with life! Join a naturalist for the subtle and not-so-subtle signs of animal activity on the Reserve. Program is outside. Adults and families. $6 per member, $10 per nonmember.

BIRDS & MORE NATURALIST-LED MORNING WALKS
Beechwood Farms: Wednesdays at 9am; Free
Succop Nature Park: Thursdays at 9am; Free (No walks December 24 or 31)

Audubon at Night

OWL PROWL
November 6, 7pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
November 7, 7pm / Succop Nature Park

Learn about our local owls inside, then search for them on the trails. Appropriate for all ages. $6 per member, $10 per nonmember.

GEMINID METEOR SHOWER WATCH
December 12, 8:30–9:30pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Bundle up and bring a lawn chair for one of the best meteor watching opportunities of the year! We will begin with a short night hike, and then settle in to watch the sky. Appropriate for all ages. $6 per member, $10 per nonmember.

WOLF MOON HIKE
January 23, 5:30–7pm / Succop Nature Park

The wolf moon is named for the lean, dead-of-winter times of January, but survival never takes time off. Search the landscape for resources for a cold winter’s night under a full moon. Eat supper before you come! We’ll warm up around the campfire at the end. This is an outside program and is appropriate for adults. $6 per member, $10 per nonmember.

Preschool Programs

FLEDGLINGS: AGES 3–5

Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 7 / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
10–11:15am

Give your 3–5 year old a head start on a lifetime of loving the outdoors. Fledglings programs incorporate stories, a walk, and activities to introduce new and fun nature themes to young participants. Parent or caregiver must be present. $4 member; $6 nonmember.

October: Chattering Chipmunks
November: Leaf Man
December: Holiday for the Birds
January: Sensational Snow

Hands-on Programs:
Family, Lifelong Learning, Educator, & Citizen Science

PROJECT LEARNING TREE

October 17, 9am–3:30pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Earn 6 hours Act 48 credit becoming familiar with Project Learning Tree, a rich resource for environmental education lessons that integrate math, science, art, language arts and more. Visit plt.org for more information about the curriculum. PLT is aligned to PA state standards. Lessons written for Pre-K through 8. Open to teachers, scout leaders and other community leaders. Free for active and pre-service teachers, $75 for all others.
Learn how to harvest native seeds for propagation while you help the Audubon Center for Native Plants replenish its stocks. Appropriate for adults and families. This event is free for ASWP and Fox Chapel Garden Club members; $6 per nonmember.

NATURAL PAPER GIFT TAGS
November 14, 2–4pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
Using papermaking from recycled and natural materials you will make your own gift tags. Add something wild to your holiday gift giving! $10 per member, $15 per nonmember.

CITIZEN SCIENCE: WINTER BIRD COUNT TRAINING*
December 5, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms and Succop Nature Park
Learn or review the birds most likely to be seen for both Project Feederwatch and Audubon’s annual Christmas Bird Counts. Beginners welcome! Act 48 credit available. Classroom session and a short birding walk, conditions permitting. Appropriate for adults and interested youth. Free.

HOLIDAY DECORATING WITH NATURE
December 5, 2–4pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
December 6, 2–4pm / Succop Nature Park
Make a rustic, wall-mounted vase to fill with holiday greens. This program is appropriate for adults and advance registration is required. $10 per member, $15 per nonmember.

RAISING FERNS, A WORKSHOP
January 23, 2–4pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
January 24, 2–4pm / Succop Nature Park
Learn how to propagate native ferns from spore (the fern version of seeds) in a hands-on workshop. Participants will be able to take home their project. This program is appropriate for adults and advance registration is required. $10 per member, $15 per nonmember.

CITIZEN SCIENCE: FROG WATCH*
January 30, 2–4pm / Succop Nature Park
Learn how to identify local frogs and submit your counts to the Frog Watch citizen science data collection. Also, watch the calendar in April for an evening session at the pond and certification opportunity. Appropriate for adults and interested youth. Free.

FIREBUILDING
January 23, 2–3:30pm / Succop Nature Park
Learn how to make a fire from the natural materials around you. This is an outside program and is appropriate for all ages. $6 per member, $10 per nonmember.

*Citizen Science programs are offered for free through a generous grant from Dominion Foundation.

**Native plant programs are discounted through a grant from Fox Chapel Garden Club

Scout Programs

SCOUT BADGE DAY
October 10, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms and Succop Nature Park
This program is for Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts and is booked by group or den. Contact Scott Detwiler at (412) 963-6100 to make your reservation. $7.50 per scout.

BOY SCOUT MERIT BADGE: WILDERNESS SURVIVAL
January 9, 9am–3pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
Work toward completion of your Merit Badge in Wilderness Survival. We will cover all requirements except the requirement of an overnight experience. Individuals and small groups may register online. Large groups should call in advance for arrangements (412) 963-6100 and advance registration required. Please contact Scott Detwiler at the number above for more information.

CITIZEN SCIENCE: GEMINID METEOR SHOWER WATCH
December 12, 8:30–9:30pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
Bundle up and bring a lawn chair for one of the best meteor watching opportunities of the year! We will begin with a short night hike, and then settle in to watch the sky. Appropriate for all ages. $6 per member, $10 per nonmember.

CITIZEN SCIENCE: WINTER WALKABOUT: SIGNS OF LIFE
January 17, 2–3:30pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
This program will be outside and is appropriate for adults both exotic and native. Identification, natural history and usage will be shared. This event is free for ASWP and Fox Chapel Garden Club members; $6 per nonmember.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE
October 23 & 24
Beachwood Farms Nature Reserve
October 30
Succop Nature Park
Take a guided evening walk outdoors and meet larger-than-life costumed nocturnal creatures.
COME IN COSTUME FOR MORE FUN!
Register at aswp.org or by calling (412) 963-6100

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania 7
### Audubon Nature Store Holiday Sale

- 20% savings at Audubon Nature Store! Join us on November 21 from 9am–5pm.
- Enjoy light refreshments and get first dibs on our 2015 selection of holiday gifts, greeting cards, ornaments, home décor and more!
- You can also save on Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) merchandise and we'll have your merchandise available at Succop Nature Park on the following Monday.
- Plus, don’t forget to enter your chance to win an ASWP gift basket.

### Memorials & Honors

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### Audubon Nature Store Members’ Holiday Sale

- 25 Birds & More Naturalist Led Morning Walk

### Succop Nature Park

#### OCTOBER

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<td>Birds &amp; More Naturalist Led Morning Walk</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Scout Badge Day</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Fledglings: Chattering Chipmunks</td>
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<td>Fledglings: Leaf Man</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Author Elizabeth Kolbert</td>
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<td>Raising Ferns Workshop</td>
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### Todd Nature Reserve

#### NOVEMBER

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AUDUBON NATURE STORE
Special Events

SWAROVISION SAVINGS PROMOTION
Take advantage and save big on SWAROVSKI OPTIK EL binoculars now through November 15. The SWAROVISION technology redefined the concept of optical quality. Field flattener lenses provide unprecedented peripheral definition, fluoride-containing HD lenses minimize color fringing, while optimized coatings ensure maximum color fidelity. The large eye relief offers a full field of view for spectacle wearers. Stop by Audubon Nature Store for additional details.

NATURE STORE MEMBERS’ HOLIDAY SALE
ASWP Members! Jump start your holiday shopping with 20% savings at Audubon Nature Store! Join us on November 21 from 9am–5pm.

Enjoy light refreshments and get first dibs on our 2015 selection of holiday gifts, greeting cards, ornaments, home décor and more during this one-day event! Also save 20% on birdseed, feeders, supplies, books, guides, journals, jewelry and toys as well as other items for nature lovers of all ages. Not a member? Join today and receive the 20% discount as well as a copy of ASWP’s Western Pennsylvania Birding Trail Guide! Some restrictions apply.

NATURE STORE HOLIDAY SALE
Shop Audubon Nature Store both December 5 and 6 (9am–5pm Saturday; 1pm–5pm Sunday) for special savings on all things holiday! Calendars, cards, candles, candle holders, decorations, ornaments, serving pieces and more will be on sale throughout the weekend. Plus, don’t forget to enter your chance to win an ASWP gift basket.

ONLINE FEATURES
Visit our online store at aswp.org to order bird seed and feeders to keep the birds happy all winter long. Simply place your order and we’ll have your merchandise available at Succop Nature Park on the following Monday.

Memorials & Honors

Memorials

FRAN HARTMAN
Sandy Goldsmith

BASHIE MEYER
Gloria & Donald Casey

SALLY JOHNSON
Sandy Goldsmith

ROBERT F. ARMSTRONG
Barbara Alcorn

WYNN E. HAMMOND
Ruth & Norman Stuessy
Walter Walsh Family

JANE TREESE
Marian Crossman

DANA MANGES
Nancy & Dan Fales
Helen F. Mathison
Gloria & Don Casey

ELEANOR BOWERS
Betsy Rial
Peggy & Bill Powers
Stringert, Inc.
Thelma McClendon
Debbie Sakellides
Cathy & Ed Boyd
Patricia Banyek
Dale Bowers
Sherron & Pat Lynch
Nicole & William Kinmonth
Mary Anne & Ron Kims
Robert Ge, Sr.
Nancy Eisel
Jean Redmerski
Ann Deley
Lynda Frank & Family
Donna Snyder
Teryllyn Bosie
Lynn & Robert Woodring
Alice & William Ogorodny

HOPE KING (CONT.)
Mary Larsen
Mary Lou & Andy Schreffler
Elizabeth & Hugh Murray
Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club
(in support of Home Is Where the Nest Is)
Betty Ann & Palmer Bannert
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brown
Kathy DiBiase
Judith Ruszkowski
Bob Van Newkirk
Donna & Bob Klaput
Joyce Rabinevitz
Kitty Hollerman
Pat Hare
Janet Kuebl
Alice Scott
Shelley Nilson
Mary Eyman
Nancy Patterson
Pat Cummermick
Liz Spence
Glenn Davis
Nancy Gelfuss
Kathy & Gary Klein

TIM MANNING
Marlene Parrish

JAMES VELTRI
Gloria & Don Casey

SAMUEL N. KOLMEN, PH.D.
Barbara K. Kolmen

JEANNE HELLER
Lori & James McDonnell, Jr.

Honors

NANCY & NORMAN KARP
Dr. Jordan Karp

NANCY & DAN FALES
Rhonda & Kerry Madden
Jani Wentling

BARB MURPHY
Celeste Janosko

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania
Q: SHOULDN'T I BE WORRIED ABOUT THE TREE PESTS FEATURED ON THE NEWS?

A: News reports continue to mention environmental pests and invasive species making their way into our area. But just how close are they to southwestern Pennsylvania?

We’ve talked with colleagues at other area nature centers and parks who agree that these pests may be closer than you think. Woolly Adelgid, an insect that attacks hemlock trees, has already caused extensive damage across Pennsylvania. These are the insects responsible for devastating the hemlocks at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. Local trees, including some at Frick Park, have also been effected by Oak Wilt, a disease that browns the leaves of oaks, leaving them unable to photosynthesize.

The Vibernum Leaf Beetle is another cause of trouble, skeletonizing leaves on viburnum, including Arrowwood.

But perhaps the largest amount of media attention surrounds the Emerald Ash Borer, responsible for ravaging the ash trees across northern Ohio on its eastward journey. It attacks living trees, leaving D-shaped exit holes in bark. First found locally in Cranberry Township, the Emerald Ash Borer has also been reported at Fern Hollow Nature Reserve in Sewickley.

If you find evidence of one of these pests, promptly seek advice in managing it to prevent spread. The Penn State Cooperative Extension’s Allegheny County office is a great source for information on environmental pests. Contact the Extension at (412) 473-2540 or visit allegheny.extension.psu.edu.
About the Tree Pests Featured

of oaks, leaving them unable to photosynthesize. Also been affected by Oak Wilt, a disease that browns the leaves. Nature Reserve. Local trees, including some at Frick Park, have been responsible for devastating the hemlocks at Beechwood Farms. These are the insects—pests and invasive species making their way into our area. But perhaps the largest amount of media attention surrounds the Emerald Ash Borer. Responsible for ravaging the ash trees across Pennsylvania. These borer beetles feed on the inner bark, creating tunnels that weaken the tree and eventually kill it. They have been spotted in multiple locations, from Allegheny County to southwestern Pennsylvania. And despite the efforts of the Naturalists and other experts, they continue to spread, posing a significant threat to local forests.

Should I Be Worried?

Nature reports continue to mention environmental pests. Contact the Extension at (412) 473-2540. The Extension’s Allegheny County office is a great source for information on environmental pests. Contact the Extension at (412) 473-2540. If you find evidence of one of these pests, promptly seek advice on how to address it.

Your tax-deductible donation to ASWP connects people to birds & nature.

As the leaves begin to change and there’s a slight chill to the air, it’s hard to believe that yet another year is winding down. With 2016 just right around the corner, there is no better time than now to make a donation to Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania!

Your end-of-the-year support makes a big difference in Audubon’s success. Not only do you get the satisfaction knowing that you help ASWP—but your donation, when received by December 31, can also be deducted from your 2015 income taxes.

This is a great way to help us connect the people of southwestern Pennsylvania to birds and nature while reducing your taxes at the same time. In addition to the feel-good knowledge that you’re supporting Western Pennsylvania’s premier environmental organization, consider the tax write-off to be our holiday gift to you!

Please contact Chris Kubiak, Development Associate, at ckubiak@aswp.org or (412) 963-6100 for further information.
Your holiday shopping can benefit ASWP! Register, then shop online through smile.amazon.com and .5% of your purchases will be donated directly to Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania.

It doesn’t cost you anything! Visit smile.amazon.com and when prompted to choose a charity, type in “Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania” to choose us as your charity.

You must shop through smile.amazon.com (not just amazon.com) for us to get this benefit.

Thank you!