



# BULLETIN

SUMMER 2019



*In this issue:* Native Plants add beauty to your yard while supporting local wildlife.

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# BULLETIN

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Want to see more birds and butterflies in your yard? Choose native plants! Our native plant nursery opens on May 4!

*Pictured: Bloodroot.*



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# This Audubon View

It is hard to believe it's been eight years since we acquired Succop Nature Park from Butler County Community College and five years since we started planning for the new visitor and education center there. Much like birds, time flies! I am excited to share that the renovation of the T. W. Phillips Barn is nearing completion and to invite you to join us at the Grand Opening on Saturday, June 1, 2019.



Anyone that has been involved with a construction project knows that delays, cost overruns, and surprises are inevitable. When you add in that you are starting with a structure that dates to the 1800s—and was originally designed to house animals and hay—you can expect even more.

While the building did provide some challenges, the weather proved even more of an obstacle. Last year's record rainfall delayed much of the site work and pushed the final paving and landscaping into this spring. But it has all been worth it. We've been able to integrate modern technology (like all LED lighting powered by a bird-friendly wind turbine) and visitor amenities (a nature play area, nature store, and lots of bathrooms!) while preserving the charm of a historic Pennsylvania bank barn.

While it is time to celebrate, it's not time to rest. As we complete the work in Butler, our full attention now turns to Buffalo Township, where we will be creating the Buffalo Creek Nature Center. This new facility will allow us to meet the environmental education and outdoor engagement needs of this growing community while preserving the low-impact nature of our nearby Todd Nature Reserve.

I hope you will join us on June 1st for a full day of fun activities in and around the new T. W. Phillips Barn. I was just looking at the upper level and I think it's time for an old fashioned square dance!

—Jim

## OUR RESERVES, NATIVE PLANT NURSERY, AND NATURE STORES

### BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE

614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

- Audubon Nature Store
- Native Plant Nursery

### SUCCOP NATURE PARK

185 W. Airport Road in Penn Township, Butler, PA 16002

- Audubon Nature Store COMING SOON!

### TODD NATURE RESERVE

367 Kepple Road, Sarver, PA 16055

- Buffalo Creek Nature Center: 154 Monroe Road, Sarver, PA 16055
- Audubon Nature Store: 612 South Pike Road, Sarver, PA 16055



*Todd Nature Reserve finally has an official address—and it only took 75+ years to make it happen! The address is 367 Kepple Road in Sarver.*



# GARDENING WITH *Native Plants*

## MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE FOR WILDLIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Your garden is your outdoor sanctuary. And if it includes native plants, it does more than just look beautiful. It attracts birds, butterflies, pollinators, and beneficial wildlife. Native plants are necessary for birds. They provide shelter and food—including the insects that many birds use to feed their young.

When you add native plants to your garden, yard, patio, or balcony, you create a vital recharge station for birds passing through. You also create a mini bird sanctuary that doubles as a pretty amazing human sanctuary where you may also recharge.

At Audubon, we see each native plant garden as an opportunity. Each little native habitat serves as a pocket of habitat in our increasingly developed landscape. When we join those native plant pockets together, we transform a patchwork of green spaces into a quilt of restored habitat.

See the box to the right for reasons why you should choose native plants!

Want to learn more? We have a number of native plant programs coming up this spring and summer to help you make the most of native plants in your garden. We also offer a Certified Backyard Habitat program that partners you with Audubon to create a backyard oasis utilizing native plants. It's simple and fun—we'll even create the action plan for you.

Visit [aswp.org](http://aswp.org) for a list of programs and to learn more about the Certified Backyard Habitat Program. And don't miss opening day at our native plant nursery at Beechwood on May 4 from 9am–3pm. After opening day, purchase native plants at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve any time our Nature Store is open: Tuesday–Saturday from 9am–5pm or Sunday from 1–5pm.

### WHY SHOULD YOU GO NATIVE?

Habitat destruction is considered the number one threat to birds. We can help by planting native plants to create habitat in our backyards. Native plants provide 4 food groups for birds, including berries and fruit, nuts and seeds, nectar, and insects, as well as shelter and nesting habitat.

Native plants don't just help birds. They help people. When you landscape with native species, you can spend more time with the birds and less time with the mower. How does that boost human health? Mowers and weed-whackers burn gasoline to the tune of 800 million gallons per year, contributing to the greenhouse gases that drive climate change. The less lawn you mow, the less air and water pollution you create. Less lawn also means less noise pollution.

Native plants require less water. Native plants have adapted to thrive in their regional landscape, without added water or nutrients. They can survive with significantly less added water than most common landscaping plants and lawns.

Native plants also help to reduce chemical use and can lessen flooding by absorbing water runoff.

They reduce maintenance needs because they take care of themselves.

Native plants are beautiful. There are over 2,000 plants native to Pennsylvania—imagine the possibilities for your yard—tall, short, sun, shade—there's a native plant for any area.

*Adapted from National Audubon Society's Why Native Plants Matter*

# Summer

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS ONLINE AT [ASWP.ORG](http://ASWP.ORG)  
OR BY CALLING (412) 963-6100.

### Our Locations

Events take place at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve (BFNR), Succop Nature Park (SNP), Todd Nature Reserve (TNR), Todd Nature Store (TNS), or Buffalo Creek Nature Center (BCNC).

**BFNR:** 614 Dorseyville Road, Fox Chapel, Allegheny County

**SNP:** 185 W. Airport Road, Penn Township, Butler County

**TNR:** 367 Kepple Road, Sarver, Butler County

**TNS:** Yellow Jacket Square, 612 South Pike Road, Sarver, Butler County

**BCNC:** 154 Monroe Road, Sarver, Butler County

### Special Events

#### AUDUBON EARTH DAY OF SERVICE TO THE PLANET

*April 20, 9am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve,  
Succop Nature Park and Todd Nature Reserve*

Roll up your sleeves and help ASWP on the Audubon Earth Day of Service. We are inviting everyone to help celebrate with our Earth Day of Service, a morning of pitching in with friends and neighbors at each of our three locations to show some love to our little corner of the planet. Help us remove invasive species and return native plants and trees to the ecosystem, pick up litter, or help out on our trails. Help ASWP to beautify and improve our reserves and green spaces for birds and wildlife. Families and community groups are encouraged to participate. Free. Please register in advance.

#### NATIVE PLANT NURSERY OPENING DAY

*May 4, 9am–3pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve*

Native plants attract birds and butterflies to your garden—this year we're offering plant bundles to attract hummingbirds and Monarch Butterflies! On opening day, extra discounts will be offered. Can't make it on May 4? You can buy native plants anytime at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve from April to October.

#### T.W. PHILLIPS BARN GRAND OPENING

*June 1, All Day / Succop Nature Park*

Join us as we open the T.W. Phillips Barn at Succop Nature Park. The barn features classroom space, public restrooms, and a new nature store—as well as a Windstax turbine that helps to power the barn. To celebrate this addition to Succop Nature Park, we're holding an open house for the public to not only see the barn, but to experience trail walks and other activities throughout the day. Please visit [www.aswp.org](http://www.aswp.org) for a full event schedule.

#### PICNICS IN THE PARK

*July 18 & August 15, 6:30–8:30pm / Succop Nature Park*

Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy free live music at Succop Nature Park. See a list of bands that will be performing at [www.aswp.org](http://www.aswp.org).

### Birding & Nature Hikes

#### BIRDS & MORE NATURALIST LED MORNING WALKS

**Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve:** *Every Wednesday at 9am; Free.*

**Succop Nature Park:** *Every Thursday at 9am; Free.*

**Todd Nature Reserve:** *Every Friday at 9am; Free.*

#### FALL MIGRATORY HIKES

*September 7, 8–10am / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve,  
Succop Nature Park and Todd Nature Reserve*

Fall is coming and the birds know it. Join us for a naturalist-led hike where we'll be looking for birds that are ready to make their way south for the winter. Free.

## Audubon at Night

### NIGHT HIKE FOR ADULTS

May 11, 8:30–10pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve,  
Succop Nature Park and Buffalo Creek Nature Center

Come and enjoy a night hike on our trails in the twilight of spring and the dawn of summer. Participants will get to walk in the darkness while using your senses to experience nature in a uniquely different way. Adults only (18+). Space limited to 20 sign-ups. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

### EVENING WITH THE FROGS

May 18, 7–9pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Frogs and toads play an important role, serving as both prey and predator, in wetland ecosystems and are considered indicators of environmental health. Come learn about our fascinating local frog species and their sounds, then head down to the pond after sunset to listen. With support from Allegheny County Conservation District's Conservation, Leadership, and Innovation Program, this program is free to the public. Please register in advance.

### FIREFLY WATCH\*

June 9, 8:30–10pm / Succop Nature Park  
June 22, 8:30–10pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Learn about our local fireflies and how to count them. We will start with a presentation on fireflies, then go outside observing and counting them as night falls. This is a Citizen Science project suitable for all ages. You'll learn how to take this program home to continue in your own backyard. Space limited to 40 sign-ups. Free.

### FIREFLY FAMILY FUN

July 19, 8:30–10pm / Buffalo Creek Nature Center

Did you ever watch and catch fireflies as a child? This family fun adventure starts with a short presentation and book on fireflies, and then we'll go outside observing and counting them as night falls. A campfire and s'mores follows. Space limited to 40 sign-ups. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

### FAMILY NIGHT HIKE

August 24, 8–10pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve,  
Succop Nature Park and Todd Nature Reserve

In the twilight of summer the katydids are calling and warmer days are winding down. Come and enjoy a fun, night-time hike with the family on our reserves trails. Participants will get to walk in the darkness while using your senses to experience nature in a uniquely different way. Limited to 25 participants. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

### CHIMNEY SWIFT WATCHES

September 6, 7pm / Church Brew Works (3525 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh)  
September 7, 7pm / Freeport Area High School (625 S. Pike Road, Sarver)

Like reverse smoke descending into the towers at dusk, come watch one of nature's most amazing spectacles as migrating Chimney Swifts roost for the night in one of our local swift hot spots. For the Church Brew Works event, meet at corner of 36th Street & Liberty Avenue. For the Freeport Area High School event, meet in parking lot. Free.

## Hands-on Evening and Weekend Programs

### COMMON NIGHTHAWK: NOT SO COMMON ANYMORE

May 16, 7pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve  
September 19, 7–9pm / Succop Nature Park

Most active at dusk and dawn, the "peent" call of Common Nighthawks was once a familiar sound in cities and towns throughout the region. But Nighthawks have declined substantially in Western PA over the last 30 years. Come learn about this amazing "crepuscular" bird, its life ecology, and the challenges it faces. Free.

### WETLAND WONDERS

May 18, 1–3pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

This course will take a closer look at the benefits wetland habitats provide for people and wildlife. We will investigate the incredible diversity of organisms and adaptations they possess to thrive in this unique ecosystem. Participants will learn to use water test kits to investigate water quality. With support from Allegheny County Conservation District's Conservation, Leadership, and Innovation Program, this program is free to the public. Please register in advance.

### SUPPORTING NATIVE BEES

May 18, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Native bee species are critical for pollinating many of our wildflowers and favorite garden plants. We will explore native plants and landscape concepts that will provide essential elements bees need to thrive. Participants will have an opportunity to make a mason bee nest block to take home or donate to ASWP. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

### THE BUTTERFLY MEMORIAL DAY COUNT\*

May 25, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Come count butterflies for science! This count will give butterfly enthusiasts throughout the area an opportunity to get out and enjoy butterflies while contributing to our growing knowledge of their distribution, flight times, and abundance. Adults or interested older children (8 and up). Free. Please register in advance.

## THE SINGING LIVES OF BIRDS

June 1, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Ever wonder why birds sing, and what they are trying to communicate? Come learn about how, why, and where birds sing and the beauty that is birdsong. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

## BIRDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

June 6, 7–9pm / Succop Nature Park

Global climate is changing in ways not seen for millennia, and we know humans bear at least part of the responsibility. How will birds in North America be impacted? This talk will cover the findings of Audubon's 2014 Climate Report and the challenges facing bird species across the continent. Free.

## BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY

June 22, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Discover the variety of life that may exist in your own backyard and how you can utilize native plants to create and maintain wildlife habitat. Participants will have an opportunity to plant native seedlings to grow in your garden. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

## THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

July 9, 7–9pm / Succop Nature Park

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fascinate us with their quick movements and vibrant color. Learn more about these amazing, tiny birds and their life history. Free.

## NATIVE PLANTS FOR CHALLENGING SPACES

July 20, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Wondering what to plant on that steep hillside or if there are plants that will work in an area that is always saturated with water? This course will introduce you to adaptable native plants for difficult landscape sites. Participants will have an opportunity to make seed balls using a variety of native wildflower seed. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

## CHIMNEY SWIFTS: LIFE ON THE WING

August 21, 7pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

August 24, 10am–12pm / Succop Nature Park

September 7, 10am–12pm / Todd Nature Store

A bird best identified by what looks like a cigar with wings, the smudge-gray Chimney Swift nimbly maneuvers over rooftops, fields, and rivers to catch insects. Learn about the life history of this enigmatic little bird that spends almost its entire life airborne, as well as ASWP's Swift conservation efforts across the region. Free.

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

## MONARCH LARVA MONITORING\*

July 20, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms & Succop Nature Park

July 21, 12–1:30pm / Todd Nature Store

The Monarch Larva Monitoring Project is a long term study of the distribution, breeding and mortality rates of Monarch butterflies as they have gone in steep decline. Participants learn how this Citizen Science project engages people in observing and studying the milkweed habitat, and identify all life stages of the Monarch butterfly in the field. Free.

## FORAGING YOUR BACKYARD

August 17, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms & Succop Nature Park

Discover native plants that not only provide beauty and resources for wildlife in the landscape but are also a delight on the dinner table. We will have a cooking demo and sample a taste of what an edible backyard can offer us. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

## TALKING TREES

September 21, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

We will explore recent research on the amazing Underground Communication network within a forest. Then we will visit Audubon's Native Plant Nursery to learn ways to grow some important tree species from seed. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

## PROJECT BUDBURST\*

September 21, 10am–12pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, Succop Nature Park and Todd Nature Store

Project BudBurst participants make careful observations of the timing of leafing, flowering, and fruiting phases of plants (plant phenophases) throughout the year. Spring, summer, fall, and winter phases are all valuable. Learn how scientists and educators can use the data to learn more about how plant species respond to changes in climate locally, regionally, and nationally. Free.

## Preschool Programs

FLEDGLINGS: AGES 3–5

May 9, June 13, July 11, August 1, September 12 / Beechwood Farms

May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10 / Succop Nature Park

May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11 / Todd Nature Store

All programs run from 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.

**May:** Puddles & Ponds      **August:** Dragonfly Jewels

**June:** You Little Stinker      **September:** Cricket Cacophony

**July:** Monarch Babies

## BABES IN THE WOODS

June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, 10–11am / Succop Nature Park  
June 6, July 3, August 1, September 5, 10–11am / Beechwood Farms

Bring your toddler to our DiscoverGround for a special nature play session. A naturalist will be on hand with age-appropriate nature activities and touchables to encourage exploration at your child's pace. Free. Ages 0–2 with caregiver present; siblings welcome to help. Beechwood: Meet in DiscoverGround. Succop: Meet at the Chimney Swift Tower in the parking lot. Free.

## Volunteer Events

### DUCK HOLLOW CLEAN UP

April 28, 10am–1pm / Duck Hollow Pier, end of  
Old Brownsbill Road, Pittsburgh, 15217

Join ASWP and Allegheny Cleanways as we pick up litter in Duck Hollow. Duck Hollow is a popular spot for birding, fishing, and hiking—help us ensure that it's clean for birds, wildlife, and people to enjoy. All materials will be provided.

### BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE

Help Audubon as we work to make Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve even more bird-friendly! Our projects enhance the natural environment and help keep it healthy for years to come. Join us as we work in forest, meadow, and pond habitat. Your work will make an impact today and in the future. Groups are welcome—please register at [www.aswp.org](http://www.aswp.org) or call Sarah, Conservation Director, at (412) 963-6100.

### Tree Plantings: April 27 and May 11, 9am–12pm

Thanks to **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's** Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant for supporting this forest enhancement initiative.

### Meadow Planting: May 18, 9am–12pm

Thanks to **Patagonia Pittsburgh** and **Wild Ones Lorrie Otto Seeds** for Education for their support of this meadow habitat enhancement project.

### Pond Planting: June 1, 9am–12pm

Thanks to **Allegheny County Conservation District's** support of this pond habitat enhancement project.

### Meadow Enhancement: June 22, 9am–12pm

Help us continue our work to enhance the meadow habitat.

## Scouts

### SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR SCOUTS

May 18, 9am–12pm / Todd Nature Reserve

These are the skills you need to know now! Learn to recognize the best plants to use when building proper shelters and fires, then build them! Secure your shelter with knots using natural fibers, and cook over an open fire like a pro. Orient yourself with just nature as your guide. Limit to 25 kids and must have scout leader/parent with group. Contact Ryan Stauffer at [rstauffer@aswp.org](mailto:rstauffer@aswp.org) for more information.

Join us as we Celebrate the Grand Opening  
of our New Visitor & Education Center

# THE T.W. PHILLIPS BARN AT SUCCOP NATURE PARK!

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019  ALL DAY

We'll have a full day of activities and the barn will be open to showcase the brand new spaces for programs, events, our nature store—as well as a Windstax turbine that helps to power the barn.

All events are free. Please RSVP and see an events listing on [aswp.org](http://aswp.org).





# SUMMER 2019 *Calendar of Events*

## *Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve*

### APRIL

- 20 Earth Day of Service to the Planet
- 27 Volunteer Tree Planting Day

### MAY

- 1 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 4 Native Plant Nursery Opening Day
- 8 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 9 Fledglings Preschool Program
- 11 Volunteer Tree Planting Day
- 11 Night Hike for Adults
- 15 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 16 Common Nighthawk: *Not So Common Anymore*
- 18 Volunteer Meadow Planting Day
- 18 Wetland Wonders
- 18 Supporting Native Bees
- 18 Evening with the Frogs
- 22 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 25 The Butterfly Memorial Day Count
- 29 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

### JUNE

- 1 The Singing Lives of Birds
- 1 Volunteer Tree Planting Day
- 5 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 6 Babes in the Woods Toddler Program
- 12 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 13 Fledglings Preschool Program
- 19 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 22 Backyard Biodiversity
- 22 Firefly Watch
- 22 Volunteer Meadow Enhancement Day
- 26 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

### JULY

- 3 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 3 Babes in the Woods Toddler Program
- 10 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 11 Fledglings Preschool Program
- 17 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 20 Native Plants for Challenging Spaces
- 20 Monarch Larva Monitoring
- 24, 31 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

### AUGUST

- 1 Fledglings Preschool Program
- 1 Babes in the Woods Toddler Program
- 7, 14 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 17 Foraging Your Backyard
- 21 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 21 Chimney Swifts: Life on the Wing
- 24 Family Night Hike
- 28 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 5 Babes in the Woods Toddler Program
- 7 Fall Migratory Hike
- 11 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 12 Fledglings Preschool Program
- 18 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 21 Talking Trees
- 21 Project Budburst
- 25 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

## *Succop Nature Park*

### APRIL

- 20 Earth Day of Service to the Planet

### MAY

- 2, 9 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 11 Night Hike for Adults
- 14 Fledglings Preschool Program
- 16, 23, 30 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

### JUNE

- 1 Open House: *Succop Barn Grand Re-opening*
- 4 Babes in the Woods Toddler Program
- 6 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 6 Birds and Climate Change
- 9 Firefly Watch
- 11 Fledglings Preschool Program
- 13, 20, 27 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

### JULY

- 2 Babes in the Woods Toddler Program
- 9 Fledglings Preschool Program
- 9 The Life History of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- 9 Firefly Watch
- 11, 18 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 18 Picnic in the Park
- 20 Monarch Larva Monitoring
- 25 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

### AUGUST

- 1 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 6 Babes in the Woods Toddler Program
- 8 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 13 Fledglings Preschool Program
- 15 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 15 Picnic in the Park
- 22 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 24 Family Night Hike
- 24 Chimney Swifts: Life on the Wing
- 29 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 Babes in the Woods Toddler Program
- 5 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

- 7 Fall Migratory Hike
- 10 Fledglings Preschool Program
- 12, 19 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 19 Common Nighthawk: *Not So Common Anymore*
- 21 Project Budburst
- 26 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

## *Todd Nature Reserve*

TNR: 367 Kepple Road, Sarver, Butler County

TNS: Yellow Jacket Square, 612 South Pike Road, Sarver, Butler County

BCNC: 154 Monroe Road, Sarver, Butler County

### APRIL

- 20 Earth Day of Service to the Planet

### MAY

- 3 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 8 Fledglings Preschool Program (TNS)
- 10 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 11 Night Hike for Adults (BCNC)
- 17 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 18 Survival Skills for Scouts (TNR)
- 24, 31 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

### JUNE

- 7, 14 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 12 Fledglings Preschool Program (TNS)
- 21, 28 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

### JULY

- 5 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 10 Fledglings Preschool Program (TNS)
- 12, 19 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 19 Firefly Family Fun
- 21 Monarch Larva Monitoring (TNS)
- 26 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

### AUGUST

- 2, 9 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 9 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 14 Fledglings Preschool Program (TNS)
- 16, 23 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 24 Family Night Hike (TNR)
- 30 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

### SEPTEMBER

- 6 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 7 Fall Migratory Hike (TNR)
- 7 Chimney Swifts: Life on the Wing (TNS)
- 11 Fledglings Preschool Program (TNS)
- 13, 20 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk
- 21 Project Budburst (TNS)
- 27 Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk

# Nature Store NEWS

## AUDUBON NATURE STORE IS GEARING UP FOR SPRING!

- Get your garden ready with Swiss-crafted Felco Tools.
- Keep tabs on your herbs and veggies with beautiful metal plant picks from Freeport's Statesmetal.
- Add bird-friendly features including handcrafted metal birdbaths from Ancient Graffiti. Add on a bird raft, water dripper or water wiggler to keep mosquitoes from breeding.
- Don't forget our fresh, premium birdseed—including Beechwood Blend and our popular Patio Blend, which keeps the area under your feeder free of seed and sunflower shells.



## AUDUBON NATURE STORE AT BEECHWOOD

Tuesday through Saturday: 9am–5pm; Sunday: 1–5pm

## AUDUBON NATURE STORE IN SARVER

Wednesday through Friday: 12–7pm; Saturday: 9am–5pm

Visit [www.aswp.org](http://www.aswp.org) for store addresses and pop-up sales information.



## JOIN US FOR THE Native Plant Nursery OPENING DAY

MAY 4, 2019 AT BEECHWOOD  
FARMS NATURE RESERVE

Choose plants that attract birds, bees, beneficial insects, and wildlife to your backyard. Special plant bundles will be available to make it easy to attract Monarch Butterflies and hummingbirds! Extra discounts will be offered during opening day.



# AUDUBON ANNOUNCES MORE *Habitat Enhancement Grants*

We are excited to announce that we have received several grants to continue habitat enhancement at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve and in the Buffalo Creek Watershed. We are excited to work with volunteers and partners to continue our habitat enhancement work across the region

**PROJECT:** Buffalo Creek Riparian Buffer Restoration

**FUNDER:** Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/PennVest Multifunctional Riparian Buffer

In partnership with the Butler-Freeport Trail Association, ASWP will work to restore 6 acres of riparian buffers throughout the Buffalo Creek Watershed. The Buffalo Creek Watershed is a high-quality watershed and an Audubon-designated Important Bird Area (IBA). We are looking for landowners in the watershed who are interested in planting on their property—contact Sarah at skoenig@aswp.org or 412-963-6100 if you'd like to learn more!

**PROJECT:** Meadow Habitat Enhancement

**FUNDERS:** Patagonia Pittsburgh and Wild Ones Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education

With this funding, ASWP will work to enhance the 5-acre meadow at Beechwood by increasing plant diversity and removing invasive species. In the fall, an additional 1.5 acres of meadow will be created to further support birds, pollinators, and wildlife with this valuable habitat type. Over 500 native plants (and a lot of seeds!) will be planted as part of this effort. We can't wait to see even more milkweed, Joe-pye weed, Ox-eye sunflowers, and other species with high wildlife value at Beechwood!

**PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON OUR  
CALENDAR FOR OPPORTUNITIES  
TO SUPPORT THIS!**

## *Our* SUPPORTERS

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

### \$50,000+

Fred J. and Shirley H. Jordan Foundation  
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund

### \$10,000–\$49,999

Allegheny Regional Asset District  
Clapp Charitable and Educational Trust  
Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds  
Fox Chapel District Association  
National Audubon Society  
The Florence Boyer Foundation

### \$5,000–\$9,999

Allegheny County Conservation District

Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation  
Fidelity Charitable  
Fox Chapel Area Rotary  
Milton G. Hulme Charitable Foundation  
NexTier Bank  
The Burke Foundations  
The Fund for Charitable Giving  
The Pittsburgh Foundation  
The White Pine Fund

### \$1,000–\$4,999

Alice and Gibson Buchanan Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Aphelion Capital  
Ball Corporation  
BE Galleries  
Charles Schwab & Co. Inc.

Clark Hunter Foundation  
Dollar Bank Foundation  
Fox Chapel Garden Club  
Mary E. Cole Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Mathieson Family Foundation  
Milestone Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Patagonia  
Penn Township Commissioners  
Piccadilly Herb Club  
The Rockwell Foundation  
Shannon Wilson Charitable Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation  
The Forward Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Volunteer Trail Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation

### \$500–\$999

Butler Garden Club  
Church Brew Works Foundation  
Jack Buncher Foundation  
Margaret Evans Tuten Foundation  
Mark MacTaggart State Farm  
National Financial Services LLC  
Penn Township Women's Club  
Seattle Audubon Society  
Students of Penn Christian Academy  
Vanguard Charitable

## VOLUNTEER AT AUDUBON'S

# Native Plant Nursery!

PLAY IN THE DIRT WHILE HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT!

With the help of volunteers, Audubon propagates and grows thousands of native plants from hand-collected seed each year—this includes over 100 species of plants. These native plants are used to improve habitat in backyards, patios, community spaces, parks, and on Audubon's reserves. We are looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks to help us grow the impact of our native plant nursery. Please contact Roxanne, Native Plant Center Coordinator, at [rswan@aswp.org](mailto:rswan@aswp.org) or (412) 963-6100 for more details.

*Note: Audubon's Native Plant Nursery is located at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve.*

### REGULAR VOLUNTEER POSITIONS (APRIL – OCTOBER)

**Shop Volunteers:** Re-occurring, weekly 3-hour shifts to help with display, maintenance, and watering of plants in the native plant retail area plus helping customers choose the right plants for their project. Training will be provided—some native plant/gardening knowledge is preferred.

**Watering Volunteers:** Re-occurring weekly shifts open from 9am–noon on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. No experience is necessary.

### OPEN WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

Join us weekly on Tuesdays from 4–6 pm to help with native plant propagation, re-potting, and other general nursery tasks. No experience is necessary, all materials will be provided. Meet at the Audubon Center for Native Plants on the north side of the parking lot at Beechwood. Sessions run from April 23 through October 29.

**Landscape Volunteers:** Join us on Thursdays from 11am–2pm to help with native plant demonstration garden beds and habitat enhancement projects around the native plant nursery.



# Ask the NATURALIST



## Q: WHAT'S THE BUZZ ON 17-YEAR CICADAS?

*A:* It's time for the 17-year periodical cicada (*Magicicada* spp.) to make its next appearance! We hear the familiar “dog day” annual cicada buzz every summer. The annual species emerge every July and August after only two to five years underground. However, the 17-year cicadas emerge in May to June. Of the many kinds of cicadas, seven species have these dramatically synchronous emergence patterns of 13 or 17 years. (The 13-year species do not occur in Pennsylvania.) The annual dog-day cicadas are green and larger. Periodical cicadas are smaller, black with distinctive red eyes.

Seventeen broods of periodical cicadas are identified in the United States. One brood is emerging somewhere almost every year. The western edge of our region hosted an emergence of 2016's Brood V. But the entire seven-county service area of ASWP will be within this year's brood, Brood VIII. Chances are you will not notice them that much, though, unless you are lucky to be in one of the localized hotspots.

During “off” years, the cicadas live underground in a wingless nymph stage, attached to plant roots. During the “on” year, thousands—possibly up to 1.5 million—will occupy an acre at the same time, feeding, calling, flying, mating and depositing eggs. Their call is a loud, prolonged “buzz.”

Adult cicadas feed by piercing twigs with mouthparts (they are harmless to humans). The female uses its ovipositor to cut a groove in a twig, and then lay eggs inside.

Cicadas can cause visible damage to trees or shrubs if too many feed or lay eggs. The damage is called “flagging,” where the outer ends of twigs break and hang down. Small trees can be protected with screening. Mature trees and shrubs usually survive even dense emergences of cicadas as this natural pruning beneficially encourages new growth.

The timing of periodical cicadas is a boon to birds and many other insectivorous animals right in the middle of prime nesting season. But the extended time underground is also beneficial to the cicadas themselves. One advantage of the long period is to prevent predators' evolution from catching on. It is very difficult for a predator to time its evolution (for example, a robin to lay extra eggs only every decade and a half) to take full advantage of the cicadas. The predators must be content merely to have a lucky feast once in a great while.

P.S.—The term locust is a misnomer: locusts are grasshoppers; cicadas belong in a family with aphids and leafhoppers.

## Call for Fishing Line RECYCLING BIN STEWARDS

We need your help to keep wildlife safe by keeping our waterways fishing line-free! Improperly discarded fishing line can seriously injure or kill birds and wildlife. ASWP has installed fishing line recycling bins throughout the City of Pittsburgh and our region to help reduce threats to birds and wildlife. We are looking for stewards to regularly empty and maintain this bins. Please contact Lauren at [lbrush@aswp.org](mailto:lbrush@aswp.org) to get involved.

# Memorials AND Honors



## Memorials

### Elizabeth Worley

*Ellen and David Deninno*

*Virginia Fisher*

*Molly and Ferd Sauereisen*

### Sheldon Adler

*Ellen Lazar, Debbie Amster,  
Charna Geller and Families*

*Ellen Geller*

*Nancy and Chien Ho*

*Toby and Martin Adler*

*Joan and Sidney Morris*

### Arlene Stanish

*Deborah McMabon*

### Helen Langenhahn

*James Langenhahn*

### Darlene Ryan

*Katie Ryan*

### Quinn Peyton

*M/M Rudolph Maceyko*

### Ann Boyles Watson

*Nancy and Dan Fales*

### Sara Gibbs Casey

*Corinne and John Babson Jr.*

### Mary Plank

*Dr. and Mrs. John Costello*

### Lewis K. Johnson

*Diane Stewart*

*Joan Sieber*

*Dana Martin*

*JFS Wealth Advisors*

*Mary Ann and Verne Koch*

*Alice Foster*

*Cheryl LaFleur*

*Jacquelyn Hill*

*Ellen DeNinno*

### Jeanine Richey

*Hobart Richey*

### William F. McCrady

*Andrea McCrady*

### Martha McKay

*YMCA Central  
Stark County*

*Cindi Ebert*

*Brenda Davison*

*Debbie Sharkey*

### John Clark Hanna

*Ginny and Gil Glenn*

### John Plischke

*Western PA Mushroom Club*

### Farley Whetzel

*Helen F. Mathieson*

## Honors

### Mary Tucker

*Omar Badran*

### Brian Shema

*Susan and Jack Solomon*

### Alex and Chris Scott

*Lindsay Scott*

### Dave and Emily Scott

*Lindsay Scott*

### Dr. Andrea McCrady

*William McCrady*

### Roxanne Swan

*Hillcrest Garden Club*

### Scott Detwiler

*Gail and Tom Litwiler*

### Jo Ann and Tom Succop

*Amy, Michael, Craig  
and Wills Millin*

### Kathy and Gwil Price

*Ruthanne and Jay Pastorius*

### Harry Shipman

*Susan Bonitsky*

### Joy Borelli-Edwards

*Paula Lockhart*

*Jamini Davies*

*Sybil and Kevin McKeegan*

### Larry Laude

*Sandy Laude*

### Jim Bonner

*Mary Phan-Gruber  
and Michael Gruber*

### Beth Choset

*Howie Choset*

### Barbara Rice

*David Rice*

## Best Bets for Wildlife: 10 NATIVE PLANTS TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT

Planting native plants in your yard or in your patio containers is an easy way to make an immediate positive impact for birds, insects, and wildlife. Be sure to include layers of native plants to add even more habitat value. To the right, you'll find a list of suggested plants that will provide food, shelter, and nesting space for our local birds throughout the year.

Looking for more options? ASWP grows over 100 species of native plants each year, including perennials, shrubs, and trees.

*Pinus strobus* – White Pine

*Amelanchier arborea* – Serviceberry

*Cornus racemosa* – Gray Dogwood

*Fragaria virginiana* – Wild Strawberry

*Aquilegia canadensis* – Wild Columbine

*Penstemon digitalis* – White Beardtongue

*Baptisia australis* – Blue False Indigo

*Monarda didyma* – Bee Balm

*Rudbeckia triloba* – Three-Lobed Coneflower

*Helenium autumnale* – Helen's flower

AN AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP  
*Makes a Great Gift!*

FOR MOTHER'S DAY (MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>)  
& FATHER'S DAY (JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>)

Mom and Dad can be hard to buy for. And before you know it, it's the Friday of Mother's Day or Father's Day weekend and you don't know what to get! Give the gift of birds and nature with a yearlong membership to Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. They will enjoy a 10% discount on Nature Store purchases and bird seed, advanced notice of sales and events, discounts on the nature programs they love, a subscription to our quarterly Bulletin, invitations to members-only events, and updates on important scientific, conservation, and legislative issues, all while you get the 100% good feeling of supporting the birds and environment of our region! Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) is a nonprofit organization supported in large part through membership dues. You can also join or renew your membership at [www.aswp.org](http://www.aswp.org).

- |                                                    |                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New or Renewal Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$35          | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecologist: \$250       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household: \$50           | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservationist: \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalist: \$100         | <input type="checkbox"/> Steward: \$1,000       |

Go online now or mail this form with payment to:  
ASWP Membership, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer (for matching gifts): \_\_\_\_\_

IF THIS IS A GIFT MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE COMPLETE ABOVE SECTION & THE FOLLOWING:

Recipient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Gift memberships will be sent directly to the recipient.

How to list your recognition on the recipient note:

\_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT BY:

Check Enclosed       Credit Card  
Credit Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

*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.*



## *Flying Solo* BONDS BIRDERS

Birdwatching is a very popular activity for people of all ages. But sometimes, birders find themselves in a position of going it alone—which presented an opportunity for local bird lover Linda Croskey. She knew that birders enjoyed birdwatching with others who enjoyed the hobby—so, with some help from Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, she created the group “Flying Solo.” Started in late 2018 with just eight participants, “Flying Solo” now has over 50 birders of all experience levels. Members share the joy of seeing a “life” bird or heading on a casual outing. “The group has built fast but strong friendships. We share birding enthusiasm and a passion for nature and the great outdoors,” says Croskey.

Audubon was excited to participate in the group's evolution—bringing more people the opportunity to enjoy birds and nature. Moving forward, Croskey hopes to expand the group, increase birders' knowledge, and enjoy meeting new Birding Buddies. Members participate in ASWP's weekly walks in addition to their planned outings, which Croskey describes as “fun and adventuresome.” This summer, Croskey plans a Birding by Kayak outing and an Afternoon for the Artists. If you're interested in learning more about “Flying Solo,” please contact us and we'll put you in touch with the group.



614 DORSEYVILLE ROAD  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15238



**SUMMER LIKE IT SHOULD BE!**

**AUDUBON**

**NATURE CAMPS**

**FOR KIDS AGES 5-18 AND A SPECIAL CAMP FOR PARENTS, TOO!**

**GET OUTSIDE AND BURN OFF ENERGY!**

**SEE BIRDS AND WILDLIFE!**

**AND BECOME A LEADER!**

**SUMMER IS A TIME TO EXPLORE, HAVE FUN—AND LEARN ALONG THE WAY.**

Audubon's summer camps get kids into nature. No screens, no devices. Build friendships, make memories, and connect with the outdoors.

Camps take place at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve (Fox Chapel) or Succop Nature Park (Penn Township, Butler County). Register today at [aswp.org](http://aswp.org) or (412) 963-6100.

**NEW THIS YEAR!**  
Adults Camp—a week in nature because mom and dad need a break, too!

Evening camp for kids at Succop Nature Park.

