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INTO AUTUMN

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BULLETIN

FALL/WINTER 2026

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OUR RESERVES

BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE

614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Dogs not permitted on trails

BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK

154 Monroe Road, Sarver, PA 16055

Dogs on leash are welcome

SUCCOP NATURE PARK

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

Dogs on leash are welcome

TODD NATURE RESERVE

367 Kepple Road, Sarver, PA 16055

No restrooms or other facilities / Dogs not permitted on trails

Accessibility Information: For accessibility needs or questions about any of our sites, please contact Brian Shema at (412) 963-6100 or at bshema@aswp.org. For accessibility needs or questions about any of our programs, please contact Chris Kubiak at (412) 963-6100 or ckubiak@aswp.org. All other questions regarding accessibility or inclusion can be directed to Chris Bason at (412) 963-6100 or cbason@aswp.org.

Cover Image: Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*)

Photo Credit: Dan Mendenhall



rad works here.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This was my first spring and summer in Pennsylvania, and I have to say it was one I'll never forget. What made it memorable? Probably no surprise here: it was the birds!

When my family and I moved here last fall, one item on our house-hunting wish list was a place with woods and, ideally, a stream. We were fortunate to find both in O'Hara Township. This spring, those mature woods came alive. My family tallied 10 species of warblers, along with many other neotropical migrants. Every day seemed to bring a new visitor or spectacle. Red-tailed Hawks nested in our neighbor's oak, and we watched the young fledge. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks camped out on our feeder. And now almost every day I'm hearing Wood Thrushes sing.

Many of us have a bird that connects us to someone special. For me, it is the Wood Thrush, which takes me back to my great-grandfather and his farm where I first heard its song. Hearing that flute-like voice drifting through the woods never loses its emotional power. We both had the opportunity to act as stewards for those birds.

What impressed me most this spring was just how rich Pittsburgh is in birds, and how much we owe that abundance to our forests. If we want future generations to enjoy these experiences, we have to protect those mature woods. And one of the best ways to inspire that protection is through birding.

Birding opens the door to conservation. It creates curiosity, builds connections, and helps people understand why healthy habitats matter. That is why ASWP is expanding its birding programs thanks to a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation. We are offering new opportunities designed to reach more people and welcome new birders into the fold, including a free city birding series that will introduce participants to birds in Pittsburgh parks and other landmarks in a fun and relaxed setting.

Through these experiences, we hope to grow a larger community of people who understand the challenges that birds and their habitats face and who are inspired to be part of the solutions. Several of these events are listed in the Programs section of the Bulletin, with more to be announced online. I hope you can attend and bring someone new along to share in the memorable joy of birding.

CHRIS BASON, *Executive Director*

CREATURES
OF THE
NIGHT

A Family-Friendly Halloween Adventure

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
IN OCTOBER

October 16, 17, 23 & 24 | 6:30, 7:00, or 7:30 Start Time
Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Delight in our annual autumn experience as fireflies guide you on our trails to encounter larger-than-life costumed nocturnal creatures. Register at aswp.org or by calling (412) 963-6100.

THE WETLANDS OF ASWP

When we host a school group to learn about wetlands at our reserves, we open this way: Think of synonyms for wetlands. What comes to mind? Bog, swamp, marsh, fen. If you visit one, what do you expect to encounter? Bugs, snakes, mud, dense plants, wet feet. These associations may have negative connotations at first. But if you are a birder, you know those same characteristics mean a rich habitat full of food, water, shelter and lots of birds.

Large, small and even artificial wetlands have great value. The unifying characteristic of all wetlands is saturated soils at least part of the year. Even wetlands that dry out for months at a time still provide the benefits. Artificial wetlands can mitigate the extensive abandoned mine drainage in coal country while still providing important habitat.

Western Pennsylvania's wetlands are more common and larger in the northwestern counties, thanks to the retreated glacial ice sheets that covered that corner from Lake Erie to Moraine State Park. Yet among the southwestern hills and valleys you will still find wetlands large and small. See *Ask the Naturalist* in this edition for suggestions for a waterfowl and wetland road trip.

Closer to home, the properties of ASWP have their own small but mighty soggy spots. The wet meadows of Beechwood are encircled by Goldenrod and Spring Hollow trails. Wet meadows appear throughout the "wild" back half of Succop beyond the pavilion, and near the front pond in your view as you drive in.

Todd Nature Reserve hosts wetlands around the pond as well as vernal pools in the uplands, especially along Loop Trail at its most southern stretch. For my favorite adventure at Todd, bring proper footwear to cross the creek several times on your way to the rich bottom lands at the farthest extent of Ravine Trail.

While we at ASWP cherish our small contribution to wetland stewardship, wider protection for wetlands is under a new threat. Federal protection has recently been reduced by a major Supreme Court case and the actions of regulatory agencies. Federal jurisdiction is now limited to wetlands connected to "navigable waters." This would not include ASWP's holdings, nor many of Western Pennsylvania's wetlands. The State of Pennsylvania's definition of wetlands remains much broader, as defined in Title 25, Chapter 105. However, some states have followed the lead of federal changes to reduce their own state-level protections. Nothing can be taken for granted. Nationwide, since the 1780s, half of the nation's wetlands in the Lower 48 have been lost, and Pennsylvania alone has lost 56%. What remains is precious.

In the end, wetland protection takes place at all levels of ownership and governance. The mission of ASWP to connect people to birds and nature reaches landowners, voters and community leaders. We encourage everyone to take our remaining soggy spots, small and large, seriously.

Widow Dragonfly
Scott Detwiler



Blue flag Iris
Scott Detwiler



HANDCRAFTED BIRD POTHOLDERS

100% hand crafted, fair-trade and adorable. Available species: Mallard, Northern Cardinal, Belted Kingfisher and Piliated Woodpecker. Purchase at our Nature Store to support ASWP!



ASK THE NATURALIST

WHERE CAN I SEE DUCKS AND OTHER WATERFOWL DURING THE WINTER?

Waterfowl are among the easiest birds to watch during the colder months. While many songbirds have migrated south, lakes, reservoirs, and rivers across Western Pennsylvania fill with ducks, geese, swans, and mergansers moving through the region.

One of the best places to observe them is Moraine State Park in Butler County, where the expansive waters of Lake Arthur attract thousands of migrating waterfowl each fall and winter. Birders regularly encounter Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Tundra Swans, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, and all three species of North American mergansers.

No matter where you live in the ASWP region, there is likely a waterfowl hotspot nearby. See the graphic for our recommendation of lakes and parks that provide excellent opportunities to enjoy these fascinating birds. Bring a pair of binoculars, dress warmly, and scan the open water. You never know what winter visitor might be waiting just offshore.

Sometimes these birds can be hundreds of yards away on the far side of a lake or reservoir. That is where a spotting scope becomes especially useful, allowing you to study field marks and identify birds that would otherwise be little more than distant silhouettes.



You can also join one of ASWP's waterfowl programs, where our naturalists provide scopes and guidance to help participants become more comfortable using them in the field.

Interested in learning more about the life history of these fascinating birds and taking your identification skills to the next level? Consider joining our **Advanced Birding: Waterfowl** series.

This four-week course is divided into two sessions, one in late fall and one in late winter, providing a comprehensive learning experience focused on the waterfowl of western Pennsylvania. Learn more in the Program Schedule section of this bulletin or by visiting ASWP.org.



NATURALIST TIP:

Waterfowl have exceptional eyesight. Move slowly and avoid sudden movements as you approach these often wary birds. Whenever possible, use shoreline vegetation, observation platforms, or other park structures as cover. If viewing from a lakeside parking area, consider staying in your vehicle. Parked cars make excellent mobile bird blinds and often allow for much closer views than approaching on foot.

Just remember to turn off your engine!

WATERFOWL VIEWING HOTSPOTS BY COUNTY:

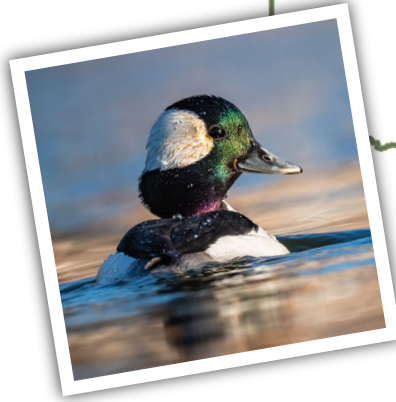
- 1. Allegheny:** North Park Lake
- 2. Armstrong:** Crooked Creek Lake
- 3. Beaver:** Raccoon Creek State Park
- 4. Butler:** Moraine State Park, *Waterfowl Observation Area*
- 5. Fayette:** Bridgeport Reservoir
- 6. Westmoreland:** Keystone Lake
- 7. Washington:** Cross Creek County Park

Common Merganser
Julie MacKinnon, Audubon Photography Awards

Red-breasted Merganser
Dan Mendenhall

Common Goldeneye
Susan Hodgson, Audubon Photography Awards

Bufflehead
Christopher Baker, Audubon Photography Awards



FALL TREE AND SHRUB SALE

OCTOBER 1-31 AT BEECHWOOD
FARMS NATURE RESERVE

Fall is a great time for planting! Planting in the fall helps plants establish strong root systems first, so they're ready to put their energy into flowering, fruiting, and growing come spring.

Members will receive a 25% discount, and nonmembers will receive a 15% discount. Need native trees, shrubs, or perennials before fall? Stop by our Nature Store Tuesday through Sunday all summer long!



ASWP NEWS

NATURE IS THE BEST CLASSROOM

A partnership between ASWP and The Neighborhood Academy (TNA) continues to create meaningful opportunities for students to connect with the natural world close to home. TNA is a Pittsburgh-based college preparatory school that provides holistic education and works to remove barriers so all students can pursue higher education. The partnership with ASWP began in 2022 through an introduction by longtime ASWP member and former board member Jim Gockley, with initial funding made possible through the generosity of The Pittsburgh Foundation.

Through visits to Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve and participation in outdoor programming led by Ron Snyder and TNA's Outdoor Adventure Club, students gain hands-on experiences in nature. They explore local trails, observe birds, and learn about conservation alongside ASWP educators.

At ASWP, we believe that time spent outdoors fosters curiosity, confidence, and environmental stewardship. Our mission is to connect people to birds and nature through education, programs, and places that inspire lifelong learning and care for the environment. We are grateful for the strong partnership with The Neighborhood Academy and proud to support their holistic approach to education by helping students discover the beauty and importance of the natural world in their own community.



WE ARE "BIRDIFYING" PITTSBURGH!

Thanks to the support of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, we are excited to announce a newly expanded list of opportunities to get engaged with birds. Over the next 18 months, we will host participants of all ages and experience levels in programs aimed at connecting or reconnecting with birds. Here are some highlights to look forward to:

Children: Our 2027 Birdz Camps will inspire young nature enthusiasts to see the world through the eyes of a bird. These youth campers will be eligible to receive a pair of free binoculars.

Students: High School Connect will introduce soon-to-be graduates to career paths in nature-related fields. Meanwhile, our popular College Birding program returns to four area universities, helping students discover the many joys and mental health benefits of spending time outdoors and birding.

Adults & Families: The City Birding Series is an opportunity for anyone to join us for bird-themed activities at local establishments, parks and cultural locations. Whether you are new to birding or a seasoned enthusiast, our Birding 101 and Advanced Birding Series are multi-week workshops that offer opportunities to build skills, sharpen identification techniques, and deepen your understanding of birds. Even the most experienced birders will be able to brush up on their knowledge. And of course, ASWP will host week-long, immersive birding trips that venture beyond Pittsburgh to exciting destinations.

Thanks to the Richard King Mellon Foundation, most of these programs are offered free of charge, and where registration fees are required, costs have been discounted. Keep an eye on our events pages and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay apprised of these programs. We look forward to helping Pittsburgh and its surrounding communities discover the wonders of birds!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

TAMMY FRECH

Tammy Frech has been volunteering weekly in the Nature Store since early 2024. The Nature Store provides expert advice on bird feeding and transforming your yard into a habitat for wildlife. Visit on Tuesday afternoons to meet Tammy and talk birds!



What brought you to Audubon?

I wanted to be somewhere where I could talk to people about birds. I was recently retired and needed something to occupy my time. I saw in the newsletter that ASWP needed store volunteers and I thought, "Well, I can do that." I'm glad I did, because it really affords me time to talk to people about the birds in their yards and what they see. I really like being able to help them get the right feeders. If I can connect people to birds while I'm here, then it makes me happy. I look forward to coming every week!

What are some of your favorite things about volunteering in the Nature Store?

I like to unbox things and see what's new. I like to spend my money here! I enjoy talking with the people who come in. They are nature lovers, and I enjoy engaging with them.

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I'm planting all the plants I buy from the Native Plant Center! I garden, I'm a birder, and I go to baseball games with my husband.

Can you talk about your backyard habitat?

I can, it's a Certified Backyard Habitat! Our yard is a regular lawn, and then we have a wooded portion. Beginning last Spring, I started planting only native plants. Many of which I bought from ASWP, and it's just been a wonderful experience. I have things for the birds, things for pollinators, and I now have a little dish in the ground with water for the frogs and salamanders. I have several birdhouses and many bird feeders. This is our second season that we've had bluebirds nesting in the yard and have successfully fledged, so far, ten bluebirds with more on their way.

What is your favorite bird?

Owls. Owls have always been my favorite, because I've worked with owls, and I look forward to working with our ambassador owls as well. I got both of them on my glove today! I could talk about owls for an hour, easily. They have always been my favorite.

**Tammy recently began training to volunteer with our avian ambassadors, as well!*

Check out aswp.org for volunteer opportunities or reach out to us via email at volunteer@aswp.org.



CREATE A HOME FOR WOOD DUCKS

Wood Ducks nest in woodland areas along lakes, rivers, and vegetated wetland areas. If that sounds like your yard, consider adding a Wood Duck house along the water's edge. Constructed of long lasting Western Red Cedar and made in Missouri—a wood duck box may attract a nesting pair to your yard. Please reach out to learn more about these boxes and Wood Duck nesting needs. Purchase at our Nature Store to support ASWP!

*Wood Duck
Sandra Lapham, Audubon Photography Awards*

MEMORIALS + HONORS

Received through July 31, 2026



Monarch
Butterfly

MEMORIALS

Robert Jay Palmiter
Antoinette Riffer

Sylvia Wall

Kathy Koffler
Kristi Krcal
John + Carol Linkes
Greg Wall

Jan Slater

Jonathan Erlen

Trish Lane

Janice + Jeff Beyer
Katie Hoke

Joyce Hoffmann

Kathy Newmeyer

Lynn Hamilton

Rhonda Jones
Anne Kaull
Chris + Tom Murray

Carol Ann Scharf

Nancy Niemczyk

Ruth Weir

George Weir

Cyndi Hartwig

Cindy + Mike Cavanaugh
Robert Perkins
Randy + Beth Soergel + Family
The Soergel Staff
Larry + Linda Voll + Family
The Wilsons

Franklin Blackstone

Robert Tarhi

Lewis + Sally Johnson

Dana Martin

Marilyn Bruschi

John Totten + Linda Kramer

Jack C. Kleberg

Anonymous

Donald Huffman

Fred + Kathy Hirt
Marilyn Harter

Lillian Kiselica

Ray + Willa Eichenmuller

John Paul Wojtyna

Anonymous
Eddie Kapelewski

Margaret Diane Leadmon

American Eagle Outfitters Family

Lynn McCauley Hamilton

Kelly McNeil-Korba

Diane Gerlach

Harbeck Family Foundation

Edward Walsh

Book Lovers Book Club

Ron Asbury

Amy Jakubek
Craig Chvatal
Kristie Pentrack
Amelia Dickson

Bill McCormick

Mary C. McCormick

Dorothy Ralston

Wayne Federick

Barry Seth Sr.

Cherri Kessler

HONORS

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William McCrady

Larry Andersen

Gary Anderson

Gwil Price

Ruth Ann Pastorius

Deanna Purvis

Tria Dickerson

Tingle Barnes

John Culbertson
Sally Getty
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Karen Thomas
Carol + William Roth

John + Paulette

Colantonio
Barbara Witkowski

REMEMBERING TOM SUCCOP

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Thomas "Tom" Succop, whose vision and generosity shaped ASWP in many ways. Together with his wife, Jo Ann, Tom established Succop Nature Park, creating a lasting place for environmental education, conservation, and community connection that will benefit generations to come.

We are grateful to everyone who is making a tribute gift in Tom's memory. Memorial donations received in his honor will be recognized in our next Bulletin with a special article celebrating Tom's life and legacy.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS AT ASWP.ORG OR CALL (412) 963-6100

Events take place at **Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve (BFNR)**, **Succop Nature Park (SNP)**, **Todd Nature Reserve (TNR)**, **Buffalo Creek Nature Park (BCNP)**, or online via **Zoom**. Register online at aswp.org or call (412) 963-6100.

 Program is made possible by the Richard King Mellon Foundation

 Program is made possible by the Fox Chapel Garden Club

 Program is made possible by the Allegheny Regional Asset District

 Online Programs

SPECIAL EVENTS

Picnic and Music in the Park

Thursday, September 10, 6:30pm–8:30pm / SNP

Bring a blanket or comfy chairs and spread out on the lawn, or opt to sit under the pavilion at our tables and chairs, as you enjoy the beauty of the grounds and some great local talent! Pets on leash are welcome. ADA parking is available and is short distance to our large pavilion where the band will be located. Concerts run rain or shine. Free.

Creatures of the Night Family-Friendly Halloween Program

Fridays & Saturdays: October 16 & 17, 23 & 24 / BFNR
6:30pm, 7:00pm, or 7:30pm Start Time

Delight in our annual autumn experience as 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 meet a real-live creature of the night! Come in costume for twice the fun. This event takes place outdoors, even if it's raining. Registration required. \$10 member, \$15 nonmember, under 2 is free.

Christmas Bird Counts

Sunday, December 13 / Mon Valley

Saturday, December 19 / Buffalo Creek Valley (includes Todd Nature Reserve and Buffalo Creek Nature Park)

Saturday, December 26 / Pittsburgh (includes Beechwood)

Sunday, December 27 / South Butler (includes Succop Nature Park)

Join one of our free ASWP Christmas Bird Counts! For a list of local count leaders, please visit www.aswp.org.

Kids' Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 19, 10am–12pm / BCNP

Saturday, December 26, 10am–12pm / BFNR

Sunday, December 27, 10am–12pm / SNP

Kids and parents are invited to participate in a family-friendly version of the 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

Birds & More Naturalist Led Morning Walks

These free walks begin at 9am

BCNP: Every Tuesday (ends last Tuesday of October)

 BFNR: Every Sunday

 BFNR: Every Wednesday

SNP: Every Thursday

TNR: Every Friday (ends last Friday of October)

Fall Migration Celebration

Saturday, September 19, 10am–2pm / BFNR

Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day with a festival highlighting the incredible movement of birds through western Pennsylvania each fall. Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve sits along an important fall migratory pathway, offering a unique opportunity to experience a rich diversity of species as they journey south. This family-friendly event will feature guided bird walks, guest speakers, and partner organizations sharing ways to support birds at home and in your community. Meet ASWP's Raptor Ambassadors up close and learn about the challenges birds face during migration and how healthy habitats in our region play a critical role in their survival. Whether you are new to birding or a longtime enthusiast, this celebration offers a chance to witness migration in action and connect with others who care about birds and the places they depend on. Free.

Spore Explorers of Todd

Saturday, September 26, 10am–12pm / TNR

Take an exciting adventure into the beautiful Todd Nature Reserve and explore the fascinating world of fungi! Discover the hidden treasures of the forest floor and learn about the vital role fungi play in our ecosystems. Guided by an expert naturalist, you'll explore local habitats to identify mushrooms, understand their life cycles, and uncover their ecological importance. Bring your sense of adventure and get ready to become a spore explorer! Free for ASWP members, \$5 per nonmember.

Harrison Hills Bird Walk

Sunday, September 27, 9am–12pm / Harrison Hills Park

Join us at Harrison Hills Park, one of the region's most popular places to bird. We will meet in the parking lot at the Environmental Learning Center and bird some of the surrounding trails. Email Chris Kubiak at ckubiak@aswp.org for more details. \$10 per member, \$20 per nonmember.

Birding Trail Guide Series: Cross Creek County Park

Saturday, October 17, 8am–12pm / Cross Creek County Park

Join us for a guided birding walk at Cross Creek County Park in Washington County as we explore the diversity of birds present in late October. This is an exciting time of year, with lingering fall migrants, early winter arrivals, and resident species all sharing the beautiful landscape of this gorgeous park. Participants will look for waterbirds on the lake, migrating sparrows, raptors moving along nearby ridges, and other seasonal wildlife while learning tips for identification and habitat use. This relaxed field experience is suitable for beginner and experienced birders alike and will complement our online program on avian migration on October 14. Email Nick Stahlman at nstahlman@aswp.org for more details. Free.



Advanced Birding Series: Waterfowl

First Session October 28, 6:30–8:30pm

See the full schedule at aswp.org

BFNR + Various Locations

Join us for an in-depth exploration of the fascinating world of waterfowl. This four-week series combines classroom instruction with guided field experiences during both fall and late winter migration periods. Participants will investigate waterfowl identification, molt, migration, breeding behavior, habitat preferences, vocalizations, and other aspects of their natural history while observing a wide variety of species in the field. Whether studying distant flocks or close-up behavior, participants will gain the knowledge and skills needed to better understand and appreciate these remarkable birds. Email Nick Stahlman at nstahlman@aswp.org for more details. \$150 per member, \$200 per nonmember.

Owl Prowl

Saturday, November 7, 7–9pm / BFNR

Saturday, November 14, 7–9pm / BCNP

Learn about our local owls, meet a live screech owl, then search for them on the trails. This event is appropriate for all ages. We will meet participants in the parking lot of both reserves. Registration required. \$10 per member, \$15 per nonmember.

Understanding the Science of Bird Migration

Saturday, November 21, 10–11:30am / BFNR

Saturday, November 21, 1–2:30pm / SNP

Birds can cover some vast distances but sometimes things don't go as planned. This program will cover the science of migration, the causes and benefits, and how birds find their way. This program will start indoors and then we will head out for a short hike to look for local birds. \$10 per member, \$15 per nonmember.

Christmas Bird Count Warm Up with Coffee and Bagels

Saturday, November 28, 10am–12pm / BFNR

Saturday, November 28, 10am–12pm / SNP

Saturday, December 5, 2–4pm / BCNP

Want to participate in the world longest running citizen science program? Come enjoy coffee, bagels, and a bird hike as you learn how you can help count birds for science. Learn or review the birds most likely to be seen for Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Counts. Beginners welcome! This includes a classroom session and a short birding walk, conditions permitting. Appropriate for adults and interested youth. Free.

Common Winter Birds for Beginners

Saturday, December 19, 1–2:30pm / SNP

Sunday, December 20, 10–11:30am / BCNP

Join us at Succop Nature Park for a fun class on winter bird identification. This is a laid back experience for those who want to get started with the hobby of birding. Children are also welcome to attend. Loaner binoculars will be provided for the outdoor portion of the class. Free.

Winter Foods for Birds

Saturday, January 9, 10–11:30am / BFNR

Saturday, January 9, 1–2:30pm / SNP

While it seems that birds have it tough in the winter, if you have the right mix of native plants, the birds are just fine. This program will explore the various sources of food that nature provides to her feathered ones during cold weather. We will then go outside and take a quick inventory of such food sources. \$10 per member, \$15 per nonmember.

Moraine State Park Bird Walk

Saturday, January 16, 9am–12pm / Moraine State Park

Join us at Moraine State Park as we bird during the height of winter. We will focus on overwintering species, residents and other interesting birds. We will meet in the parking lot at McDanel's Boat Launch and bird several locations at Moraine. Bring your optics, water, and a snack and dress for the weather. Registration required. Email Chris Kubiak at ckubiak@aswp.org for more details. \$10 per member, \$15 per nonmember.

Birding Trail Guide Series: Keystone State Park

Saturday, January 30, 9am–1pm / Keystone State Park

Join us for a guided birding walk at Keystone State Park in Westmoreland County as we explore the park's diverse winter birdlife. We will begin by scanning Keystone Lake for waterfowl using the remaining open water before exploring a variety of habitats in search of the birds that spend the winter in Western Pennsylvania. This program is perfect for beginning birders and serves as an excellent companion to the online Winter Birds of Western Pennsylvania program on January 28. Email Nick Stahlman at nstahlman@aswp.org for more details. \$10 per member, \$15 per nonmember.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Fledglings Preschool Activities: Ages 3-5

Thursdays: Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 14 / BFNR

Tuesdays: Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Jan. 12 / SNP

Wednesdays: Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 13 / BCNP

All programs run 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. Themes: October–Chattering Chipmunks; November–Leaf Man; December–Holiday for the Birds; January–Who Gives a Hoot (with special animal guest!). A parent or caregiver must be present. Adult caregiver, please register using the "Free Adult" ticket. Advance registration is required. \$4 per member, \$6 per nonmember.

Beechwood After-School Series

Wednesdays: January 13 & 27, 4:30–6:00pm / BFNR

Want to get your child or student outside into nature this winter? This after-school program at Beechwood Farm Nature Reserve serves as the perfect respite from an overload of screen time. Winter at Beechwood has its own unique features and fascinating encounters with nature. Explore our meadows, forests and ecosystems for animals and their homes with an Audubon educator all the while having fun! Ages K-3rd grade. \$10 per member, \$15 per nonmember.

CERTIFIED BACKYARD HABITAT (CBH) PROGRAMS

CBH Lunch and Learn: Who's at Your Feeder This Winter?

Wednesday, October 14, 12–1pm / Online

As many birds migrate south this fall, join us to learn which species will be visiting your feeders and native plants this winter. This introductory program will explore common winter birds, their behaviors, and identification tips. We'll also discuss how you can contribute to bird conservation through participation in Project Feeder Watch. \$6 per member, \$12 per nonmember.

CBH Lunch and Learn: Winter Wildlife in Your Backyard Habitat

Wednesday, December 9, 12–1pm / Online

Winter may seem quiet, but your backyard habitat remains an important refuge for wildlife. Learn how birds, mammals, insects, and other creatures survive the colder months and discover how native plants, brush piles, seed heads, and other habitat features provide critical food and shelter throughout the winter season. \$6 per member, \$12 per nonmember.

INDOOR PROGRAMS

Hawks Up Close

Thursday, November 19, 6–7:30pm / BFNR

Learn about the hawks of western Pennsylvania in this indoor program exploring the natural history of local raptors, including identification, behavior, and ecological roles. The program will also highlight migration strategies, flight adaptations, and the seasonal movements of these birds. It will culminate in an up-close encounter with one of our Hawk Ambassadors. This program is geared toward adults and children with a special interest in birds. \$10 per member, \$15 per nonmember.

Hawks 101

Friday, January 8, 5:30–7pm / BFNR

Discover the amazing hawks of western Pennsylvania in this family friendly indoor program designed for younger audiences. Learn how hawks hunt, fly, and survive in the wild while exploring their unique adaptations and seasonal movements. The program includes fun natural history stories and will end with an up-close look at one of our Hawk Ambassadors. \$10 per member or \$30 per member family, \$15 per nonmember or \$45 per nonmember family.

Nature Game Night

Fridays: October 9, November 13, December 11 & January 8
5:30–9pm / BFNR

Spend a relaxing evening playing board games at your local nature reserve. We will have a wide assortment of nature-themed board games available to pick up and play, or you are welcome to bring your own. Whether you are building an avian sanctuary in Wingspan or creating a whimsical forest world in Everdell, there will be something for families and adults alike to enjoy. Light refreshments will be provided, and bringing food to share is encouraged. For more information, email Nick Stahlman at nstahlman@aswp.org. Free for members! \$5 per nonmember.

Succop Nature Park: Histories and House Tour

Saturday, January 23, 11am–1pm / SNP

Join us as we discuss the fascinating history of Succop Nature Park: from a working farm to the current park. This tour looks at Succop through the years and ends with a tour of the MarCraig House. Coffee and tea will be provided. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

HANDS-ON

Autumn Coconut Coir Doormat Workshop

Thursday, October 15, 6–7:30pm / SNP

*Registration closes October 1 at 6pm, sign up early!

Bring in autumn with a custom painted coconut coir doormat. We'll provide the supplies, you bring the creativity! Use natural materials to design your own personalized doormat. This event has a 25 participant limit. \$35 per member, \$45 per nonmember.

Nature Journaling Course

Saturdays: October 31, November 7, 14, & 21 / BFNR

All sessions run 10am–12pm

Write, draw, label list! A journaling practice is wonderful way to connect with nature on a regular basis. It allows you to slow down, observe closely and develop thoughts and questions. And best of all, there is no wrong way to do it. But sometimes it's hard to get started. Join us for this four-session course where we'll explore different techniques in media, and journal style, and spend time outdoors practicing. There will be plenty of inspiration from nature and each other. This program is designed for adults. \$100 per member, \$125 per nonmember. Program fee is for four sessions total and covers materials.

Decorate a Mini Tree

Saturday, December 5, 10am–12pm / BFNR & SNP

Saturday, December 12, 10am–12pm / BCNP

*Registration closes 1 week prior to workshop at 10am, sign up early!

Get into the holiday spirit by decorating a mini tree using natural materials. \$45 per member, \$60 per nonmember.

Yule Log Hike and Craft

Saturday, December 5, 10am–12pm / BCNP

Saturday, December 12, 10am–12pm / BFNR & SNP

*Registration closes 1 week prior to workshop at 10am, sign up early!

Hike out into the woods to gather natural materials to decorate a birch Yule log. We will drill candle holes and level your log so that it will stay in proper position when you use it to decorate for the holidays. Registration required. \$20 per member, \$30 per nonmember.

Winter Firecraft

Saturday, January 23, 10am–12pm / SNP

*Registration closes January 16 at 10am, sign up early!

Cold weather can make it difficult to get a fire going; however frozen conditions make for very dry tinder! In this program we will learn how to find natural fire making materials in winter and make ferrocerium rod fire kits for you to take home. If the sun is out we can use lenses to ignite our fires! This event has a 12 participant limit. \$20 per member, \$35 per nonmember.



Holiday
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**BEECHWOOD FARMS
NATURE RESERVE**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 &
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

You are sure to find something
for everyone on your list!
Different vendors each day.

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SUSTAINABLE,
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shop consciously
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For more information and a full vendor list,
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SCOUT PROGRAMS

Complete a nature-related achievement, badge, patch, etc. with your den or troop! Cub and Girl Scout programs are 90 minutes, \$10 per scout, booked by group, available at all three properties. Merit badge workshops (6 hours) available, too. See www.aswp.org/our-programs/scouting/ for topics. Group leaders, contact Scott Detwiler at sdetwiler@aswp.org to book.

NATIVE PLANT PROGRAMS

Bird Friendly Plants for Fall

Saturday, September 26, 11am–12:30pm / Online

Native plants in your home landscape support birds during fall migration and overwintering. We will look at bird feeding strategies as well as landscape concepts and specific plants that will provide critical resources for birds in the months ahead. Free.

Seed Collecting

Saturday, September 26, 11am–1pm / BFNR

Learn how to harvest native seed while you help the Audubon Center for Native Plants replenish its stocks and add to your own plant collection. Participants will get hands on experience collecting, cleaning and storing a variety of native plant seed. 15 participant limit, registration is required. Free.

Native Plant Fall Seed Sowing

Saturday, October 11, 11am–1pm / BFNR

Unlike common vegetable and herb seed that we typically sow in spring, fall and winter are the best times to plant native perennial seed for spring germination. Join us for a basic lesson on collecting, cleaning and sowing some of the Pittsburgh area's classic native landscape plants. Participants will sow 8 different high-wildlife value native species to take home. 15 participant limit, registration is required. Free.

Nurse Logs & Nurse Trees

Saturday, October 24, 11am–1pm / BFNR

Trees constantly contribute to the forest, even when they appear dead they are still providing resources to the ecosystem. Discover the amazing ecological benefits nurse trees and logs provide the forest. 15 participant limit, registration is required. Free.

Winter Seed Sowing Workshop

Saturday, November 14, 11am–1pm / BFNR

Unlike common vegetable and herb seed that we typically sow in spring, late fall and winter are the best times to plant native perennial seed for spring germination. Join us for a basic lesson on collecting, cleaning and sowing some of the Pittsburgh area's classic native landscape plants. Participants will sow 8 different high-wildlife value native species to take home. 15 participant limit, registration is required. Free.

Winter Fun-Family Seed Cleaning

Saturday, January 16, 11am–1pm / BFNR

Seed cleaning is the process of removing debris, dirt, unwanted plant material, weed seeds, and damaged kernels from harvested seeds or grains. It improves crop quality, reduces disease, and ensures smooth planting, storage, and distribution. Come bring your kiddos (age 6 and up) and help us prepare the next generation of native plants. Free.

Bird Garden from the Window

Saturday, January 23, 11am–12pm / BFNR

Ever wanted to create a native plant garden focused on attracting birds? This program helps you understand the best native plants and their connections to our avian friends you can enjoy from your window. Free.

Fall Tree and Shrub Sale

October 1–31 / BFNR

Fall is a great time for planting! During the month of October, an extra 15% discount will be offered on all native trees and shrubs—that's a total of 25% off for members and 15% off for nonmembers.

ONLINE NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

Birds and Climate Change: A Warmer and Uncertain Future

Tuesday, September 8, 7–8:30pm / Online

Audubon's findings show that nearly two-thirds of North America's bird species are severely threatened by climate change. What is the evidence and how will birds in North America be impacted? This talk will cover the findings of Audubon's Survival by Degrees Report and the current research showing the challenges facing bird species across the continent. \$6 per member, \$12 per nonmember.

Popular Press and the Rise of Environmentalism

Wednesday, September 23, 7–8:30pm / Online

Major new stages in environmentalism in America were accompanied by and arguably encouraged by important published books, magazines and art. We will start with the art of Audubon and end with Silent Spring, visiting New England ponds, sequoia trees and Wisconsin shacks along the way. \$6 per member, \$12 per nonmember.

The Last Dragonfly

Wednesday, October 7, 7–8:30pm / Online

Summer may end, but not the dragonfly season which lasts into early autumn. We will review dragonfly and damselfly ecology and common species with an emphasis on the late-season fliers. \$6 per member, \$12 per nonmember.

Avian Migration

Wednesday, October 14, 7–8:30pm / Online

Fall migration is upon us here in western Pennsylvania. Join us to explore how and why birds move south in the fall, what triggers migration, and the navigation tools they use to complete their journeys. Participants will learn how researchers study and track migration during this critical season and what individuals can do to support ongoing conservation efforts. This program will prepare you for the migration walk at Cross Creek County Park on October 17. \$6 per member, \$12 per nonmember.

Unexpected Journeys: Unusual Migrants in Pennsylvania

Wednesday, November 11, 7–8:30pm / Online

Migration isn't just for birds. Let's follow some lesser-known travels, including dragonflies, bats and a few surprises. \$6 per member, \$12 per nonmember.

The Birds and The Beans: Why Shade Grown Coffee Helps Birds (And Tastes Better!)

Wednesday, December 9, 7–8:30pm / Online

Bird-friendly coffee is shade-grown, meaning it is grown and harvested under the canopy of mature trees, a process that parallels how coffee was historically grown. But with most farms converting to full-sun operations, crucial habitats for migrating and resident bird species are being lost. This program will discuss how shade-grown coffee helps birds, where to find it, and why it tastes better. \$6 per member, \$12 per nonmember.

Pennsylvania's Ice Age Past

Wednesday, January 13, 7–8:30pm / Online

Just a geologic instant ago, portions of Pennsylvania were covered in massive glaciers. There are still many signs of this violent age written into our landscape. In this program, you will learn how to identify weathering patterns and rock types that are indicative of glacial activity. \$6 per member, \$12 per nonmember.

Winter Birds of Pennsylvania

Thursday, January 28, 7–8:30pm / Online

With no leaves on the trees and fewer species to confuse beginners, winter is one of the best seasons to observe birds in western Pennsylvania. Join us to learn about the species that spend the colder months in our region, from chickadees and woodpeckers to finches and waterfowl. We will cover identification tips, winter behaviors, and the remarkable adaptations that help birds survive harsh conditions. This program will prepare you for the winter walk at Keystone State Park on January 30. \$6 per member, \$12 per nonmember.

AUDUBON NATURE STORE

Members' Sale and Holiday Shopping Kickoff at the Nature Store

Saturday, November 7, 9am–5pm / BFNR

ASWP members—this day is for you! Get a head start on your holiday shopping and find the perfect gifts for all the nature lovers on your list—and maybe an item for yourself, too! During the sale, ASWP members receive 20% off* merchandise in The Nature Store, free gift wrapping available. Not a member? Join to take advantage of the extra discount!

**20% discount excludes optics, birdseed, and select artwork.*

Holiday Eco-Market (Two-Day Event!)

Saturday & Sunday, November 21 & 22, 10am–4pm / BFNR

Recycled, sustainable, re-purposed—shop consciously at our Eco-Market! From nature-themed fine art to hand-crafted home goods, vendors will offer a wide array of styles and media. You're sure to find something for everyone on your list! Different vendors each day. Bring the whole family: Santa will be onsite from 1–4pm both days. Please bring non-perishable food or hygiene products to support the Sharpsburg Food Pantry. For full details and a list of participating vendors please visit our website: aswp.org.

ORGANIC, FAIR-TRADE NATURE SOCKS

In addition to supporting ASWP, each pair supports the National Parks Conservation Association. Available patterns: mallard, bats, foxes, bluebirds, moths, river otters, and owls. Purchase at our Nature Store to support ASWP!





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STORE HOURS _____
TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY
FROM 9AM TO 5PM

*Visit aswp.org to learn more about our
Nature Store, located at Beechwood
Farms Nature Reserve.*



*Carolina
Wren*