

THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

April 1988



THE APRIL MEETING

Be sure to join us for the annual dinner at Trinity Methodist Church, Main Street, Bellwood. Dinner will be at 6:00 PM, but come at 5:30 for Friendship Punch and Chapter Displays. There are a few spaces left, so if you have not yet signed up and paid the \$7 fee, contact Colette Heller at 742-8346.

The speaker will be Jerry Hassinger, Pennsylvania Game Commission Biologist. His speech is entitled: "Nobody Cries When Habitat Dies."

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Paula Ford

Mark your calendars. On Thursday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the VoTech cafetorium, JVAS will cosponsor a Recycling Forum. Other sponsors are the League of Women Voters, ATAC, and the Compost Patch.

Speakers will include Carl Hurst of DER, who will discuss the regulatory aspects of recycling; Dr. Raymond Regan, a professor of civil engineering at Penn State, who will discuss technological aspects of recycling--what's possible now and what we can look forward to in the years ahead; and representatives of successful recycling projects in Bloomsburg and Tyrone.

There will be time for questions and answers, and various brochures and booklets will be available. We hope to see a good turnout from JVAS.

Paula Ford attended a meeting of PennARC (Pennsylvania for Acid Rain Control) on April 9 in State College. PennARC supports state legislation (HB2226) and federal legislation (S1894 and HR2666) and will be participating in continuing discussions of the bills--we'll be suggesting some changes to strengthen the bills. If you are interested in acid rain, please contact Paula. You can help by writing letters to legislators and by testifying at hearings to be held later.

The billboard issue is heating up again. Freedom Twp. currently is considering a sign control ordinance and is being bombarded by the billboard companies. If you have thoughts on sign control, comment by writing to Freedom Twp. Supervisors, East Freedom, PA 16637.

If you regularly travel Rte 220 through Freedom Twp., how would a proliferation of billboards affect you? Do you prefer scenic trips or a proliferation of signs? Billboards are yet another symptom of a society that makes decisions without considering the natural world. Billboard companies claim that local businesses need billboards, but the fact is that 44% of billboards advertise cigarettes and alcohol, two products that can't be advertised on television or radio.

For more information contact Paula Ford or Steve Parks.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Bruce Bonta

Prof. Lakshman Yapa from the Geography Department at Penn State, an expert on economic and social conditions in the Third World who has a strong concern about environmental destruction in tropical countries, will be the featured speaker at the next meeting of the International Issues Group. The title of his talk will be "Ecology, Politics, and Poverty." From all reports he is an articulate speaker--anyone interested in attending this meeting, and considering participating in International

Issues activities is welcome to attend. The meeting will be held in the basement classroom of the Eiche Library, Altoona Campus, on Wednesday evening, May 18, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Our agenda will also include a review of current activities of the group and plans for the next year.

A CITY NURSERY
Jim Winsor

Shade trees are an essential part of a beautiful urban environment. In order to improve the condition of street trees in Altoona, the City of Altoona Shade Tree Commission will establish a nursery on City land. We will need help in planting the over 100 trees purchased for the nursery. Planting time is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of May 14. If you'd like to lend a hand, please call Jim Winsor at 943-8213.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
Marcia Bonta

ELECTION RESULTS--I am pleased to announce that we elected new officers at the March meeting under the leadership of our Nominating Committee. All will begin their two year terms at the April banquet. Congratulations to Wilson Kreitz, president, Dave Kyler, vice president, Jana Atwell, secretary, and Janet Neely, treasurer. I hope all of you will continue to support them as well as you have supported me over the last four years. We can only continue to have an active organization if everyone contributes.

PROGRAM AND FIELD TRIP IDEAS--Planning will soon begin for next year's programs and field trips. If you have any ideas, please give them to Dave Kyler. Or if you would be willing to lead a field trip, let him know. Also, volunteers are needed to serve on a program field trip committee. Speak to Dave or Wilson if you would like to help.

GNATCATCHER RETURNS--The first blue-grass gnatcatcher returned to our yard at 7:00 p.m. on April 16 in the midst of a snow flurry. If we show the same perseverance in the face of adversity as our "mascot" did this spring, JVAS should continue to thrive.

THANKS AND GOODBYE--I would like to thank all of you who helped to make my two terms pleasant, particularly the board members who faithfully attended the board meetings and carried out their duties without any prodding from me. That spirit of independence and initiative has really helped to improve our organization. I would especially like to thank the two people who, in effect, were my right hand helpers and without whom I could not have been president--Director Colette Heller and my husband Bruce. Both of them were tireless advisers when I was tired and supported me in everything I did. No one can do it all alone and I was lucky to have two people I could always count on to listen to my woes and help with the nitty-gritty. See you all at the banquet!

MISCELLANY

Board Meeting--The next meeting of the board will be held on May 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Altoona Public Library. All new officers should attend this meeting.

Field Trips--The field trip to Powdermill Nature Preserve is scheduled for Saturday, April 30; the trip to Presque Isle/Pymatuning is May 13, 14 & 15. There may still be time to sign up for the Presque Isle/Pymatuning trip. For further information, see Dave Kyler or call him at 643-6030. SOON.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please submit items for the May issue before May 16 to Jim Winsor, 102 Halleck Place, Altoona, PA 16602 (Note new address). Telephone: 943-8213.