

THE GNATCATCHER

Newsletter of Juniata Valley Audubon

VOL. XLVI, NO. 2 — MAR / APR 2014



Our Annual Banquet:

Trish Miller on Golden Eagle Migration

4/15/14

Did you know that Pennsylvania provides a home to many Golden Eagles each winter, and that these are the largest birds in the state? Our banquet presentation will feature Trish Miller, who is conducting ground-breaking



research on Golden Eagles. Trish is a member of the Eastern Golden Eagle Working Group, an international collaborative of scientists and wildlife managers,

who have been tracking Golden Eagles in eastern North America since 2006. Trish Miller will present information that the group has learned about the ecology, behavior, and conservation of this enigmatic bird. We will also have a special visitor: a live Golden Eagle will be on display so you can get a close look at these magnificent birds.

About the golden eagle that we will meet at the JVAS banquet:

She was hatched in 1990 at Hershey Zoo America to injured, non-releasable

parents. When she was old enough, she was released with support of a hacking tower organized by the PA Game Commission, Hershey Zoo and Shaver's Creek and she

was fitted with a radio tracking mechanism so that they could watch her movements. They found that the movements stopped and discovered that she had been electrocuted by landing on a power line. She is missing a talon and a segment of bone in her left wing. In addition, a large hole was burned in her throat and part of her lower mandible was burned away. It took several surgeries to repair the hole by pulling the skin from one side to the other which leaves her with a crooked beak and unable to tear apart her food. Hence, her stay at Shaver's Creek. This spring she will be 24 years old.

Banquet room
at Hoss's Steak
and Sea House,
170 Patchway Road,
Duncansville
5:30 PM to
9:30 PM

Please contact JVAS Hospitality Chair Marcia Bonta by phone at (814) 684-3113 or by email at marciabonta@hotmail.com ~ to advise her of the total number of your party.

photo by Mike Lanzone

More about the banquet on pages 3 and 6

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JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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The Juniata Valley Audubon Society (JVAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society and is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the Earth's biological diversity. Juniata Valley Audubon accomplishes its mission through advocacy, science, land stewardship, and education — working directly with Audubon Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania state office of the National Audubon Society.

The JVAS is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit, educational organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts are deductible for income tax purposes (Tax ID # 25-1533496).

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JVAS PROGRAMS

*Our programs, designed for a general audience,
are free and open to the public.*

Directions: Take Interstate Rt. 99 to the Bellwood/Route 865 Exit (Exit 41). Follow Rt. 865 through the Sheetz/Martin's intersection. Proceed about four blocks and turn right at the "Business District" sign just before the railroad overpass. Turn left at the dead end and travel to the stop sign. Continue straight forward a short distance; the library will be on your right.

March 18:

Natural History and Conservation of the Eastern Hellbender Salamander

After the long, hard winter we've had, do you feel like you've been living under a rock? I know I have, but maybe I'm not alone. Dr. Peter Petokas, a Freshwater Ecologist and Research

under large, flat rocks in fast moving mountain streams! We were informed about the habits and travels of some nearby hellbenders, and we even got to meet a live hellbender salamander ~ because three dimensions are better than two. Historical documentation revealed the ignorance and brutality towards these unique, large and rarely seen amphibians in days past. We also learned of the efforts underway to create new habitat and to restore declining and extirpated populations. Pennsylvania's Eastern Hellbender salamander can grow up to 24 inches in length. ~ Editor



Associate with the Clean Water Institute at Lycoming College, gave us an enlightening presentation on the Eastern Hellbender salamander, who lives



Program meetings begin at 7 PM in the meeting room of the Bellwood-Antis Public Library, 526 Main St., Bellwood.

Online at
JVAS.org



or visit JVAS on Facebook

Apr 15:

Annual Banquet ~

Trish Miller on Golden Eagle Migration

At Hoss's
Steak & Sea
House, Dun-
cansville, PA
5:30 PM to
9:30 PM

Trish Miller has a long-standing interest in bird conservation and spatial ecology. During her career she has worked for several state and private conservation organizations where



she studied eagles and other birds. Trish currently works as a Wildlife Biologist at West Virginia University where she studies movement ecology and conservation of eagles. Her work focuses on the small population of eastern North American Golden Eagles and, more recently, Bald Eagles in the Chesapeake Bay region of VA. Trish is a member of the Eastern Golden Eagle Working Group, an international collaborative of scientists and wildlife managers, who have been tracking Golden Eagles in eastern North America since 2006.



More on p. 6

*Trish Miller with a golden eagle
photos by Mike Lanzone*

OUTDOOR PAINTING

Images and story by Sam Dietze

Outdoor painting is a wonderful activity. Any artist with an interest in the outdoors, conservation, and nature can try it regardless of experience. The subject matter is varied and endless, from street scenes to the woods, gardens, the ocean, sunsets, pretty much anything. Painting supplies can be kept simple, and should include several different bottles or tubes of paint, three or four different sized brushes, a palette, water or paint thinner, depending on the medium of your choosing, and paint rags. You can also include an easel if you prefer standing, but I usually just sit on the ground. As for painting surfaces, stretched canvas or canvas boards or masonite are preferred, although mat board or even cardboard can be substituted for these. If working on masonite, the surface should be primed first. Primer or regular house paint will suffice. A camera should also be included with the supplies, and money, keys, a cell phone, etc. You could also take an iPod, if you like listening to music while painting, but I prefer to be aware of the surrounding sounds.

As for colors, the primary colors, red, yellow, and blue are essential, as well as white. I can do a lot with just

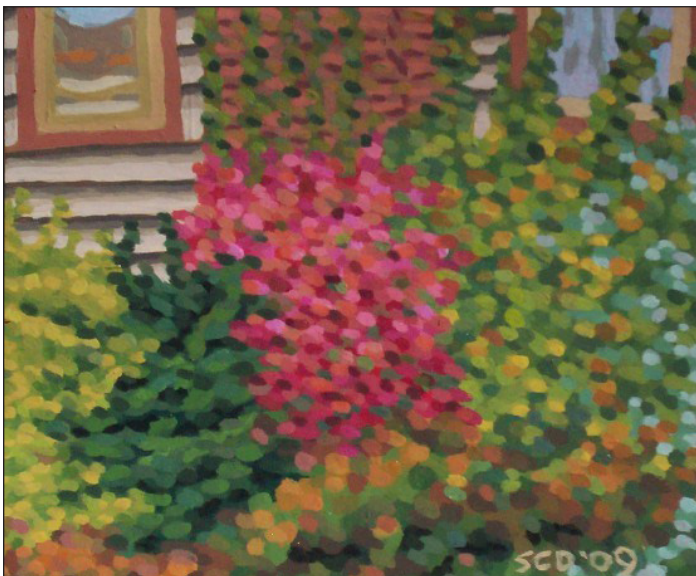


these four, but it helps to maybe include a green and brown or red ochre. White is for mixing with colors and making them lighter, and for mixing several colors together along with white to make new colors. The idea here is to observe the colors in nature and to

try and reproduce them on the painting surface. It's a challenge and the colors of landscapes are always changing with sky conditions and time of day, but give it a try. That's why I prefer working on location to painting from photographs,

Title: Blue Mushroom
Medium: acrylic
Dimensions: 13"x16"
Year: 2008
(sold)

because changing light conditions can make new things pop out in a landscape that weren't apparent fifteen minutes earlier, and they can be included in your painting. You're working in real time instead of from a photograph. A few words about black: don't bother. Simply stated, you can make your own "black" with the colors above. I rarely use it, and the same goes for gray. Blue and red mixed together along with white produce different shades of gray, some leaning more towards the violet, some to the red. Add a little green or yellow to get different effects. This is important for painting clouds in both cloudy or partly cloudy skies. Test your color on scraps of cardboard or masonite.



Title: Burning Bush
Medium: acrylic
Dimensions: 10"x12"
Year: 2009
(sold)

I like working with acrylics when working outside, but that's just my personal preference. I know artists who prefer oils. It's really more what you're used to. I like the convenience of acrylics. They dry fast, usually, the cleanup is with water, and you don't need any paint thinner. This works well for me, because I carry my stuff in a backpack, including my finished painting, which hopefully is dry by the time I'm done painting and am ready to go home. I usually go off on a bicycle with my backpack. You can get into places where you can't with a car, if you happen to spot an interesting scene. Or, I go off on foot, and walk around my neighborhood looking for interesting scenery which depends on the time of year. I also take my art supplies with me on vacation and on hikes. I have a backpack which can hold a 12"x16" canvas, but nothing larger. I can work for about two hours outside before getting tired which is enough time to get down what I need and then finish it at home. A larger size painting might require more than one trip on another day with similar time of day and weather conditions.

bloom with their white, pink, red, and purple blossoms. Young colors are most impressive with the big pink flowers on rhododendron, the yellow forsythia bushes, and the pale green leaves coming out on the trees. Fall

landscape and towards blue at midday. Atmospheric effects, such as haze, make objects look further away: like the graying of distant mountains in a summer landscape when the air is heavy and moist, which is unlike the bright blue skies of spring and early fall where far away objects appear clearer and more colorful. The hazy humid



Title: Wild Mustard
 Medium: acrylic
 Dimensions: 8"x9"
 Year: 2006
 (sold)

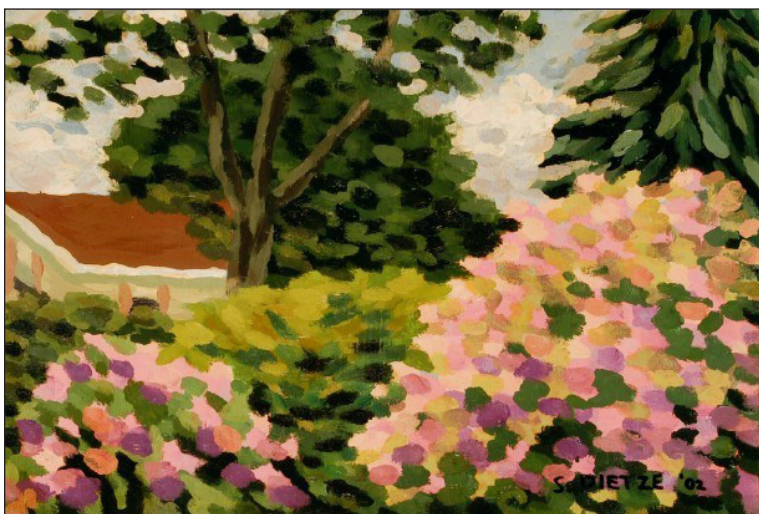
skies of summer make for very interesting interplays of pinks and white and pale blue and grays in painting skies compared to just blue.

I haven't said anything about winter painting yet, because I haven't completed many outdoor winter paintings because of our climate. But, I have done a few, and

what I can say about painting snow is that it is similar to painting skies or the ocean. All three are handled similarly, at least as far as color is concerned. You're generally working with whites and blues and adding bits of yellow, green, gray, or red to emphasize different areas. One problem with acrylics when the temperature gets below about 65 deg F -- they take a lot longer to dry. I've sat outside in cool cloudy weather and waited for a half hour for them to dry. One time I went to the grocery store and came back to my painting and it still wasn't dry. So, I packed up my stuff and went home and went back to the same place the next day when it was a little bit warmer but still cloudy and finished the painting. Another time I was sitting in the sand at Ocean City, MD, and painting the surf on a hot humid evening. The air was so thick with moisture it was like pea soup. The painting wouldn't dry, so I carefully carried it back to my air conditioned room where I was staying and it dried in five minutes! These are the trials and tribulations of an outdoor painter.

has a different palette leaning toward the yellow, gold, orange, and reds of the changing leaves, intermingling with the greens of the leaves that have yet to change. Interspace a few evergreen trees and you have a most impressive landscape full of fall color. Summer is the time of year when shades of green dominate the landscape. The color varies according to the time of day and the atmospheric conditions. Greens tend towards the yellow in a late afternoon

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Title: Rhododendron Bush
 Medium: acrylic
 Dimensions: 8"x12".
 Year: 2002
 (sold)

Color is the thing that inspires me. I'm always on the lookout for colorful trees and bushes. Spring and Fall are my favorite times of year to paint. I like spring because the trees are in



800 Acres to be added to SGL 147 in Frankstown Township, Blair County

Stay
tuned at
JVAS.org!

 642-acre tract in Frankstown Township, Blair County, is to be added to State Game Lands 147.

The option price is \$1,150,000 to be funded by habitat mitigation commitments for impacts to local, state and federally listed species. The eastern small-footed myotis, a Pennsylvania Threatened Species, and the Indiana bat, a state and federal Endangered Species, are the impetus for the mitigation funding. Both species have been harmed by local projects, including industrial windplants.



The property is forested with about 72 percent in mixed oak and the remainder in mixed hardwoods. There are two forest openings on the property, each less than an acre in size, and several intermittent streams cross the property.

In addition, last October the Pennsylvania Game Commission purchased three tracts totaling nearly 144 acres in Frankstown Township, Blair County, paying for the land with escrowed funds totaling \$294,000. The funds came from a prior land exchange with Penn State University on State Game Lands 176.

The tracts are adjacent to State Game Lands 147 and are within 5 miles of the Hartman Mine Hibernaculum, which is used by Indiana bats. The tracts are forested with mixed hardwoods with an understory of witch hazel at higher elevations.

Pennsylvania has close to 1.5 million acres of State Game Lands that are managed as wildlife habitat. 2013 saw the addition of almost 20,000 acres to the State Game Lands system, the largest annual purchase of land by the Pennsylvania Game Commission in decades.



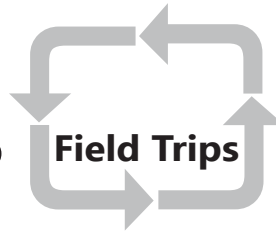
Photo courtesy of Dr. Stan Kotala

Banquet Our Annual Banquet, continued:

Our only fund-raiser of the year, is a “silent auction” held at the Annual Banquet. Members are asked to bring new or gently used nature-related items to donate for the silent auction. Books, artwork, food, bird houses, bird boxes, pottery, outdoor gear, home decor, native plants — anything related to nature will be accepted. Bring your checkbook or cash ~ all funds are used in conservation efforts supported by the JVAS. Contact Laura in advance at mljackson2@embarqmail.com or just bring the items to the Banquet before 5 PM.



Hamamelis virginiana. Witch Hazel, native to the eastern United States.
Image courtesy of Florida Center for Instructional Technology

Sunday, April 13

Annual Trillium Hike

Join Deb Tencer on an easy 2 mile walk to view the annual showing of thousands of trilliums and Dutchman's breeches along with many other early spring wildflowers. Meet at 1 PM at the Waterstreet entrance of the Lower Trail. Contact Deb at: naturehikergal@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 26

Millbrook Marsh Walkabout

Join us for a walkabout at Millbrook Marsh (Wetlands) at 2 PM in State College: another gem of nature surprisingly close to an urban area. Come along and discover our very own boardwalk, little huts tucked away for bird viewing, magnificent oaks and maybe a deer or two. Many amphibians, fish and birds should be heard and seen at this time of Spring and this time of day. We may debrief together at The Happy Valley Brewing Company for dinner, to continue in conversation and discuss our luck in having Millbrook Marsh for everyday walks and exploration. Trip leader, GerneyLee Carter: Gernilee@gmail.com.



Saturday, May 3

PSU's Arboretum Via Macro

We begin our journey at 1 PM. Get your hand lens ready for a closer look at the often unnoticed world around you at Penn State University's Arboretum. By focusing in on minuscule details, amazing scenes will open up before your eyes! Hike leaders Chet Gottfried and Kristin Joivell are your guides to getting close and personal with the world under your feet. Bring your magnifier: and your camera, macro lens and tripod if you wish to photograph what you find. Meet at PSU's Arboretum's main building at the H. O. Smith Botanic Gardens on Bigler Road at 1 PM. Contact Chet at 814-237-2580 or Kristin at 814-386-6267 for more details. Visit arboretum.psu.edu for more information. We will congregate afterwards at the American Ale House.

Sunday, May 4

Field Trip to Mike and Laura Jackson's property south of Everett, PA

The nature walk will last from 10 AM until noon. Highlights will include exploring the native wildflower gardens and bird watching along the trails. Participants will also see how a recent shelter wood cut will provide better habitat for early successional species such as woodcock, whip-poor-wills, and golden-winged warblers. Wear sturdy walking shoes, bring a lunch and drink. Directions: Take I-99 south to the Everett exit. Follow Rt. 30 east for about 8 miles. Take the exit for Business Rt. 30 into Everett. Turn right onto 5th Ave. and cross a bridge over the Raystown Branch. If you pass the Everett Foodliner you have gone too far. Then make an immediate right onto Black Valley Road. After 2.5 miles, turn right onto a gravel road labeled "The Jackson's." Follow this lane for 0.5 miles and watch for parking signs. Mike and Laura Jackson: 814-652-9268, 8621 Black Valley Road, Everett, PA 15537.

Saturday, May 10

Terry Wentz Memorial Hike

JVAS Secretary Dr. Alice Kotala will lead an easy 5-mile hike from Mount Etna to Alfarata on the Lower Trail. Meet in the Alfarata trailhead parking lot at 1 PM. Dr. Alice Kotala: 946-8840, or ccwiba@keyconn.net.

Sunday, May 11

Rocky Ridge Natural Area (Martin Gap)

Join Marcia and Dave Bonta for a slow walk through one of Central Pennsylvania's best spots for spring wildflowers — not to mention the Oriskany sandstone rock formations that give this state forest natural area its name. Pack a lunch and meet us at the parking area along the road at the intersection of Frew Road and the orange-blazed Standing Stone Trail at 10 AM. To whet your appetite, read Stan Kotala's "On the Trail" column about the place: pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon/OTT/OTT11-01RockyRidge. Contact Marcia at: 814-684-3113 or marciabonta@hotmail.com for more information.



Little Juniata River Association

10th Annual

2014 River Bank Clean-up **Saturday, April 5th, 9 AM To Noon**

Free Hot lunch served afterwards courtesy of the Spruce Creek United Methodist Church.

**Meet at the Spruce Creek United Methodist Church parking lot ~
We will clean-up river banks and parking areas from Bellwood to Barree.**

All bags and gloves furnished ~

Contact:

Bill Anderson 814-684-5922, bjuniata@verizon.net

www.littlejuniata.org

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