

The Gnatcatcher

Newsletter of Juniata Valley Audubon

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Published bimonthly (except for July and August)

as a benefit for members of the...

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY



President's Message

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-Laura Jackson

Do It For The Birds!

Don't forget to renew your chapter-only membership. Our membership year runs from January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016. We've included the form in this newsletter.

The Republican Party emerged in 1854 to combat slavery in the United States. Many generations of my family have been Republican and I've always been proud that this party was established to abolish slavery and that they continued after the Civil War to push for civil rights. The Civil Rights Act in 1964 was passed thanks to Republican support. Historically, Republicans have also supported businesses, banks, and the railroads, but Teddy Roosevelt added a new dimension, since he made conservation a top priority when he became the youngest U.S. President at the age of 42 in 1901. President Roosevelt established the United States Forest Service that governed 150 national forests. He also created 51 federal bird reserves (now called national wildlife refuges), 4 national game reserves, 5 national parks, and 18 national monuments. During his presidency, Theodore Roosevelt protected approximately 230 million acres of public land. Yes, Republicans did all this.

Now some Republicans want to take it from us, the public: the birders, campers, hikers, hunters, anglers, those who seek solitude and quiet in the wilderness, the artists, the philosophers - we all benefit from these public lands. Of course, the wildlife, the natural resources, including clean air and water, the open space, the forests - all benefit when lands are public and managed properly.

A major legislative assault aims to degrade the **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** that has successfully supported public lands for about 50 years. Additionally, this fund pays for parks, playgrounds, trails, and other open space projects. Funding for this initiative is paid for by oil and gas royalties, but now those entities want to shift that payment. Utah Republican Rob Bishop has introduced legislation that would divert about 45% of these funds back to the oil and gas industry. Why? According to the *Salt Lake Tribune*, Bishop has received almost \$300,000 from this industry during his career. Another supporter of the bill, Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, has received \$1.3 million from the oil and gas industry (1).

This assault on our wildlife and our public lands must be stopped. Please take a few moments to contact your federal representatives and ask them to stop this land grab and the assault on our birds and other wildlife. Call your legislator. Say you are against Bishop's bill, called the PARC Act (Protecting America's Recreation and Conservation). Explain that you support bills that would **not** gut the LWCF. **Urge your Senator to sign onto S.338 and S.890. Call your Congressman and ask them to sign onto H.R. 1814.**

Finally, go to the LWCF website and sign on to support it: www.lwcfcoalition.org/take-action

Do it for the birds!

1. www.sltrib.com/home/3196562-155/obama-administration-opposes-bishops-overhaul-to



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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A Walk in the Woods Field Trip Report

By Kristin Joivell

JVAS members recently attended a field trip designed and conducted in the spirit of the Appalachian Trail. The day's activities included a short walk in Hartley Wood, part of Penn State's Arboretum, a backpack demonstration to show what a typical Appalachian Trail hiker carries, and a viewing of the movie, "A Walk in the Woods." During the walk in Hartley Wood, participants found a cooler full of "trail magic," left by "trail angels." A special occurrence on the Appalachian Trail, trail magic is often found at road crossings and commonly includes food, drinks, and notes left for hikers by community members, otherwise known as trail angels. Participants on the hike were surprised at how heavy a typical Appalachian Trail hiker's backpack weighs. At between 35 and 40 pounds, a backpack can begin to feel heavier after each mile! Hopefully, viewing the movie inspired JVAS members to get out on the trails and explore the beauty in the Pennsylvania woods!



Hike leader Kristin Joivell points out that goldenrod does NOT cause hay fever. Ragweed is the culprit. It is a rather inconspicuous plant that blooms the same time as goldenrod. Goldenrod is one of the best native pollinator plants, according to expert Doug Tallamy. It also serves as a food source for a lot of pollinator larvae.



JVAS Winter/Spring Programs (Free)

Bellwood-Antis Public Library

526 Main Street, Bellwood, PA 16617

Phone: 742-8234

JVAS programs are presented on the third Tuesday of the month, except in June, July, August, and December. Programs begin at 7:00 PM in the meeting room of the Bellwood-Antis Library.

Directions: Take Interstate Rt. 99 to the Bellwood/Route 865 Exit (Exit 41). Follow Rt. 865 through the Sheetz/Martin intersection. Proceed about 4 blocks and turn right at the BUSINESS DISTRICT sign. Turn left at the dead end and travel to the stop sign. Continue a short distance; the library will be on your right.

January 19, 2016: Member's Night

Our annual Member's Night is always a good time, with lots of socializing and an impressive assortment of slideshows, videos, wildlife art, nature poetry, nature crafts, and other by-products of our on-going fascination with the natural world. Contact Programs Chair Mark Bonta (mab86@psu.edu) by Tuesday, January 12, if you'd like to bring something to share.

February 16, 2016: "Black Hills Paleontology in Parker's Pit" presented by Kristin Joivell

Learn about how fossils get from the mud of an underground cave into the hands of scientists from Kristin Joivell, volunteer on a paleontology dig at Parker's Pit in the Black Hills of South Dakota last summer. On this paleontology dig, led by Dr. Russ Graham from Penn State's Earth Sciences Department, Kristin experienced each step in the process of retrieving fossils in the field. She will share photographs of the process with you in addition to reporting on inferences about climate change made by the scientists on the dig. Additionally, Kristin will provide samples of material from the site for a fossil picking activity for participants. Come prepared to look for and find actual fossils of prehistoric animals, mostly small mammals, in this interactive presentation!

March 15: "Allegheny Front Bird Research" presented by Kim Van Fleet

Nesting warblers like the Cerulean Warblers and Louisiana Waterthrush were documented by Kim Van Fleet and her students. This data will be used to nominate the Allegheny Front for redesignation as a global IBA.

April 19, 2016: JVAS Spring Banquet

"The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) Bird Research Projects" presented by Doug Gross, PGC Bird Biologist

Silent Auction 5:30 PM Dinner 6 PM at Hoss's Steak & Sea House, 110 Patch Way Rd. Duncansville, PA 16635

The PGC has done some remarkable work to help birds like the bald eagle, osprey, sandhill crane, golden-winged warbler, and many others increase their populations in Pennsylvania. Join us as we celebrate another year of commitment to bird conservation by both the PGC and Juniata Valley Audubon Society.

May 17, 2016: "Pueblos and Pinyons" by Jeffrey Hall, president of Bartramian Audubon Society

This program shows how nature and wildlife, archaeology and ancient cultures, scenery and geology all come together to justify New Mexico's claim to be a "Land of Enchantment."

June 21, 2016: Maxine Leckvarcik Memorial Picnic 6 P.M.

Pine Hill Picnic Area Rothrock State Forest

Participants should bring a covered dish to share. A nature walk will follow the picnic.

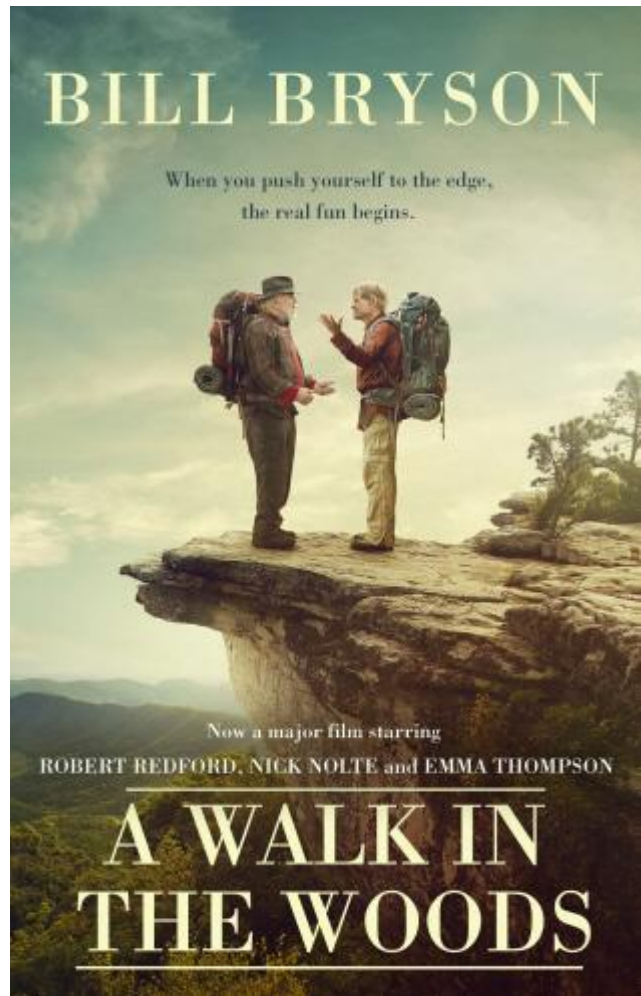
Join us to celebrate the first full day of summer!

“A Walk in the Woods” Movie Review

By David Hunter

As part of the field trip on September 13, JVAS members attended a screening of the new movie "A Walk in the Woods," starring Robert Redford and Nick Nolte, at the UEC Theatres 12 in State College. Loosely based on Bill Bryson's 1998 well-liked travel book, the film has a gentle, humorous approach that focuses on the misadventures and bonding two longtime friends have while hiking a portion of the Appalachian Trail. With Redford and Nolte older than the characters in the original, and the pace quickened and the story simplified in the fashion of Hollywood adaptations, the lightly entertaining "Walk" joins a growing list of backpacking films ("Wild," "The Loneliest Planet," "Into the Wild") that probably won't help the activity hit the mainstream, but are bound to inspire a few more daring individuals and twosomes to hit the trails.

The Broad Green Pictures release is directed by Ken Kwapis and co-produced by Redford. Diehard fans of the book and veteran AT hikers will notice the absence of many details of the experience that made Bryson's bestseller a must-read and that remain a big attraction on the actual trail. Kristen Schaal is suitably insufferable as a pesky know-it-all hiker they try to ditch; still fetching Emma Thompson is agreeable as Redford's wife; and Mary Steenburgen hints at cozy romantic possibilities when he and Nolte stay at an inn. As Katz, a reformed drinker and at first clueless outdoorsman, Nolte has the showiest role and bearishly grumbles and groans the whole way.



After the harrowing "All is Lost," a relaxed Redford deftly sails the relatively calm waters of this comedy. The JVAS members who saw it gave a collective Thumbs Up to "A Walk in the Woods!"





A Reminder to Renew Your Chapter-only Membership

In

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

Note: You are automatically a member of JVAS when you join National Audubon.

Chapter-only: All Chapter-only membership dues stay with the JVAS and are used locally in the Juniata Valley for conservation, education, and advocacy in Blair, Huntingdon, Centre, Bedford, and Mifflin Counties.

The JVAS is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization, so all donations are deductible (and gratefully accepted). JVAS membership provides you with the following benefits:

- Notification of the Juniata Valley Audubon's exciting activities, monthly nature programs, field trips, and other events.
- Subscription to the bimonthly chapter newsletter, *The Gnatcatcher*. (But we'd appreciate it if you're willing to forego the print edition and accept the digital version.)
- Opportunity to participate in local advocacy efforts to help make a real difference.
- Opportunity to aid in the preservation of the natural world.
- Opportunity to have fun in joining with fellow nature enthusiasts.
-

Become a JVAS Chapter-only member at one of the annual membership categories as follows:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership, \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of the JVAS, \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership, \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Membership, \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Membership, \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership, \$500 |

Make your check payable to the **JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY** and mail with this form to:

Charlie Hoyer, Membership Chair
Juniata Valley Audubon Society
P.O. Box 42
Tyrone, PA 16686-0042

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone No. _____ E-mail Address _____

- ☐ Yes, I will accept the digital copy of *The Gnatcatcher*. ☐ No, I prefer to receive a paper copy.



Poetry Corner

We all have moments that inspire us to transcribe our feelings – joy, hope, fear, despair, anticipation, gratitude...Whatever it is that pushes us to write is always better shared than kept in a dark box. Send your nature poetry to Laura Jackson for future issues of The Gnatcatcher.



WOLF FAMILY

BY TERRY CARNILA, BEDFORD PA

I AM ALPHA WOLF.

THESE WOODS, MOUNTAINS AND WATERS HAVE BEEN OUR HOME FOREVER.

**MY SPIRIT WILL BE REBORN, WHEN I LEAVE THIS BODY,
AS IT HAS BEEN SINCE TIME BEGAN.**

**OUR FAMILY VENERATES ALL LIVING THINGS.
WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER AND SEEK ONLY TO PROTECT OUR LAND.
WE ARE RESPECTFUL OF LIFE,
AND TAKE ONLY WHAT IS NEEDED TO SURVIVE.**

**OUR SONG FLOWS ACROSS THE LAND AS WE SING TO OUR SPIRIT FRIENDS,
WHO REST STILL ON HALLOWED GROUND.
THE PEACE WE LONG FOR HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO TAME.
WE ARE NOT DETERRED!
MANKIND MUST HELP US OR ALL IS LOST.**

**YOU WHO WORK MIRACLES SHOULD CONTINUE IN YOUR EFFORTS.
WE PRAY FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR YOU.
IT IS WELL DESERVED.**

**REMEMBER -
WOLF FAMILY LOVES YOU AND WILL ALWAYS BE NEARBY.**

JVAS Field Trips for 2016 and one last hike for 2015

Check our Facebook page for updates. If you aren't on Facebook, then join the JVAS Listserv - directions at www.jvas.org

December 31, 2015: 11am - 1:30pm Last Day Resolution Hike Peace Chapel Trails

Make your New Year's Resolutions early at the Peace Chapel Trails in Huntingdon as we leisurely hike approximately 3 to 4 miles together on the last day of 2015. Meet at the trail head on Peace Chapel Road in Huntingdon at 11am. Bring a snack and drink for the hike, we will visit the nearby Standing Stone Coffee Company for hot chocolate (or whatever else you would like) after the hike! Contact field trip leader, Kristin Joivell, if you have questions, at (814) 386-6267.

January 31, 2016: 11am - 2pm Blue Knob State Park Hike

Shake off the winter blues with this easy hike of about 3 miles. If there is enough snow, it will become a snowshoe hike (a few extra pairs may be available); check weather and travel conditions that day. Bring a drink and snack for the hike. Meet at Chappell's Field parking lot, across from the entrance to the camping area at Forest Road/Blue Knob Road (SR 4035). Contact hike leader, Dave Hunter, for more information and updates at (814) 317-7826.

February 13, 2016: 12pm - 3pm Walking in A Winter Wonderland

Come enjoy the winter wonderland of the Little Juniata Natural Area on this easy hike of 3 to 4 miles. Depending on the weather and snow conditions, we can hope to see large hillside ice formations, animal tracks, winter birds, and ice forming in the nearby Little Juniata River. We will stop at the "rock couches" and fire pit for hot chocolate and a winter treat midway through the walk. Don't forget to dress for the weather for this walk! Contact field trip leader, Kristin Joivell, if you have questions, at (814) 386-6267.

January or February: Homestead Trail Winter Hike

To be held based on the weather forecast, on a sunny weekend in winter with little or no snow. Led by Stan Kotala. More details to come soon!

March 19, 2016: 8:30am - 3 pm Bedford Co. Wetlands Birding Trip

Meet at Eat 2 Live Bistro on Rt. 56 at 8:30am to carpool to two very birdy Wetlands. Bring boots and binoculars, listen to the forecast and dress accordingly. After a morning of birding we will eat lunch at Eat 2 Live Bistro (optional), then drive to another wetlands for more birding. Contact trip leaders Mike and Laura Jackson if you have questions, at (814) 652-9268.

April 17, 2016: 8am - 5pm Periglacial and Proglacial Landscapes Driving Tour

During the last million years, and as recently as 12,000 years ago, central Pennsylvania experienced climates as cold as those of present-day Greenland, thanks to nearby continental glaciers. Ancient periglacial landscape features such as blockfields, fossil sand dunes, loess deposits, and palsa and pingo scars, are associated with pervasive cold and intense cycles of freeze and thaw, while proglacial features such as the boulder trains left by jökulhlaups (glacial lake outburst floods) are found on slopes near the Susquehanna River. We will visit a representative sample of these features and discuss parallels with what is happening in the Arctic today. We will meet at the municipal parking lot in front of 409 West High Street in Bellefonte, PA at 8am and carpool from there, returning by 5pm. Pack a picnic lunch and water. Contact Mark Bonta at markabonta@yahoo.com, for more details.

April 23, 2016: 9am - 11am Bird and Wildflower Walk Mountain Meadows, Everett

Highlights will include exploring the native wildflower gardens and bird watching along the trails. Participants will also see how a recent shelterwood 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 Jacksons." Follow this lane for 0.5 miles and watch for parking signs. Trip Leaders: Mike and Laura Jackson 814-652-9268 Address: 8621 Black Valley Road Everett, PA 15537

April 2016: Trillium Walk Led by Deb Tencer. More details to come soon!

May 8, 2016: 1pm - 4pm Spring Wildflowers and Birds in Plummer's Hollow

The Bonta family invites you to a wildflower and bird walk up Plummer's Hollow on Sunday, May 8 at 1pm. We'll meet at the bottom of the mountain at their parking lot. The gate will be open. Pull into the parking lot on your right after crossing the railroad line. The walk will be slow and spring wildflowers should be at their peak. Contact trip leaders Marcia Bonta at marciabonta@hotmail.com or Dave Bonta at bontasaurus@yahoo.com with questions or if you need directions to the Bonta property.

May 15, 2016: 1pm-5pm Canoe Creek State Park Bird Walk and eBird Workshop

Canoe Creek Watershed IBA contains a jewel of a state park: Canoe Creek State Park, located at 205 Canoe Creek Road, Hollidaysburg, PA. Meet Mike and Laura Jackson at the park's Education Center in Canoe for a bird walk from 1 – 3 pm, followed by an eBird Workshop in the Education Center from 3 – 5 pm. Learn how to be a Citizen Scientist by entering your bird observations in eBird. Research scientists use eBird data to track migration and other really cool research, but you can use eBird to keep track of your bird observations. It's easy and fun to use, but a powerful tool for research. Bring binoculars. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Call Laura Jackson if you have questions: (814) 652-9268.

May 28, 2016: Exploring the Orchids and Plants of Black Moshannon Led by Mary Paoli. More details to come soon!

May 2016 Bluebird Trail Outing at Fort Roberdeau Led by Stan Kotala More details soon!

June 11, 2016: 9am - 11:30am Driving Tour of Historic Dutch Corner in Bedford County

Dutch Corner is a beautiful farming area of Bedford Co. that was recently placed in the National Register of Historic Places as a rural historic district - the largest in the state. We will meet at the Sheetz gas station located along Business 220 just north of the turnpike entrance. Take the turnpike exit off I-99 South just north of Bedford. We will carpool from there to Dutch Corner. Highlights will be a visit to Indian Eve's grave, scenic views of the valley and Evitt's Mountain, and roadside birding. Optional stop at Eat 2 Live Bistro for lunch. Contact trip leaders Mike and Laura Jackson if you have questions: (814) 652-9268.

June 2016 Art in Nature Led by Sam Dietze, local artist. More details to come soon!

July or August 2016 Pollinator Garden Outing at Fort Roberdeau Led by Stan Kotala when plants are in peak bloom. More details to come soon!

Other field trips to look forward to for the upcoming year: (More details to come soon!)

- **Amphibian and Reptile Survey with Travis Russell**
- **Studio Yoga and Yoga Hike with Bethany Stough**
- **Overnight Backpacking Trip with Kristin Joivell**
- **Plants of Shaver's Creek with Eric Burkhart**
- **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Project with Kristin Joivell**

Address Service Requested

TYRONE, PA 16686-0042

PO BOX 42

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON

Golden-winged Warbler T-shirts (Fundraiser)

Shirts are organic cotton and come in S, M, L, XL, and XXL. XXL is \$25, other sizes are \$20 if you buy one at a JVAS meeting. Order through PayPal at www.JVAS.org or save \$5 and buy one at the next JVAS meeting.

ALL proceeds are used to help Golden-winged Warbler Conservation Projects.



Please support our
fundraiser for Golden-winged Warblers.
