

The Gnatcatcher

Newsletter of Juniata Valley Audubon

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as a benefit for members of the...

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY



www.JVAS.org

Message from President Catie Farr

2020 is an ELECTION YEAR!

JVAS needs you! We have seats open on the board that need to be filled. The position of Secretary is open, we have a Director-at-Large position available, and the Publications/Communications chair is also available. All of these positions are responsible for attending the board meetings every other month from August through April for a total of 5 meetings. We usually meet the first week of August, October, December, February, and April. We rely on email for correspondence between board meetings.

The **Secretary** shall record the minutes of all proceedings of the Board and the Society. The Secretary shall conduct all correspondence of the Society, except such correspondence that, by instructions of the Board or at the discretion of the President, may be conducted by another officer of the Society.

The **Director-at-Large** position has no specific duty except to attend the board meetings and be a liaison to the general membership.

The **Publications and Publicity Committee** shall publish and mail a newsletter to every Chapter member at least five (5) times a year. It shall publish and mail two (2) brochures per year describing the Society's programs and field trips; that is, a spring brochure and a fall brochure. The Committee shall use newspapers, radio, TV, the Internet, and other publicity media to publicize the purposes, objectives, and programs of the Society.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please talk to any of the board members or email us.

On a side note, I wanted to share some Federal Duck Stamp information with you. I was listening to a conservation podcast the other day and the group was discussing the benefits of state run and nation run wildlife management. This podcast made mention of the Federal Duck Stamp. As you may know, "Federal Duck Stamps are conservation revenue stamps; 98 percent of the purchase price goes directly to help acquire and protect wetland habitat and purchase conservation easements for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Wetlands acquired with Duck Stamp dollars help purify water, aid in flood control, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities" (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services). In the podcast, one group member thought that everyone, hunter or not, should buy a Federal Duck Stamp for the year because of the 98% of revenue going to wetland protections etc. and I wondered what the JVAS members thought about that idea. I know many of you are not hunters, but would you be willing to buy Federal duck stamps to support the nations waterfowl? I welcome your thoughts and ideas on this, please email me at catiegk5059@gmail.com

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Juniata Valley Audubon Society Evening Programs

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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- ◆ John Carter

Our evening programs are designed for a general audience; all programs are free and open to the public. **A free dinner, including hot, shade-grown, organic coffee, starts at 6:00 PM, followed by the meeting at 6:45 PM.** We meet in the Bellwood-Antis Library at 526 Main Street, Bellwood, PA., except in December when we meet at the Altoona Library in the Theater room. Please join us!

Directions: Take Interstate I-99 to the Bellwood/Route 865 Exit (Exit 41). Follow Rt. 865 through the Sheetz/Martin's intersection. Proceed about 4 blocks and turn right at the "Business District" sign, just before the railroad overpass. Turn left at the "T" and travel to the stop sign. Continue straight a short distance; the library is on your right.

Program: Tuesday, January 21, 2020: Members' Night

Potluck Dinner begins at 6 pm: Bring a favorite dish to share, Catie will bring pulled pork sandwiches, hot Shade Coffee and Juice.

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 Program Chair Laura Jackson (jacksonlaura73@gmail.com) by Monday, Jan. 20, if you'd like to make a presentation, which should be no longer than 10 minutes.

Program: Tuesday, February 18, 2020: "Survival by Degrees" Presented by Laura Palmer

Menu: Ham and bean soup (gluten free). Rice, roasted veggies, salad, gluten free cookies, coffee, juice, tea.

North American birds are more vulnerable than ever from rising temperatures and climate-related events like sea level rise, droughts, fires, and extreme weather. The good news is that if we take action now we can improve the chances for the majority of species at risk from climate change. Our birds are telling us that it's time to act now.

Program: Tuesday, March 17, 2020: "Monarchs and Macaws" Presented by Laura Jackson

Menu: Taco Bar with pork & venison (gluten free). Rice, beans, & fixings. Cinnamon sugar chips and ice cream, coffee, juice, tea.

In 2019, a small group of travelers, led by Mark & Paola Bonta, visited Mexico to experience one of the greatest wonders on Earth: overwintering Monarchs. The group also explored a few of the natural wonders of the Sierra Gorda – a biological melting pot unmatched in North America for its biodiversity – and even found the endangered Military Macaws.

Program: Tuesday, April 21, 2020: JVAS Banquet & Silent Auction

**"A Pictorial Tour of South African Fauna:
Critically Endangered and Hanging on by Claw and Talon"
Presented by Don Bryant**

Save the Date – details in the next newsletter.

Program: Tuesday, May 19, 2020: "Use of Electric Transmission Line Right-of-Way by breeding birds in central Pennsylvania: species richness and nest productivity" Presented by Carolyn Mahan

Menu: Chili (gluten free and vegetarian), rice, cheese and beef quesadillas, chips and salsa, black bean cupcakes (gluten free), tea, juice, coffee.

JVAS Field Trips Spring 2020

Field trip chair is Susan Braun: braun3112@gmail.com (814)574-0795

Check our Facebook page for updates or contact Susan.

Saturday, March 7 – Whitetail Wetlands 8:30 – 11am

Meet at the Live Well Chiropractic (formerly Eat 2 Live Bistro) on Rt. 56 at 1634 Quaker Valley Rd, New Paris, PA 15554 at 8:30 am. We will carpool a short distance to the wetlands. The hike will last about 3 hours. Wear waterproof boots, bring binoculars, listen to the forecast, and dress accordingly. Trip Leaders: Mike and Laura Jackson 814-652-9268. Optional Lunch at Ed's Steakhouse 4476 Rte. 220 Business, Bedford, PA 15522. Call Mike and Laura to confirm this trip, as we often have to cancel due to icy conditions. *Did you know? Whitetail Wetlands is named after the common whitetail dragonfly.*

Saturday/Sunday, March 7 and 8 - Weekend trip to Middle Creek and Conowingo Dam

Join JVAS for a weekend trip to see snow geese and bald eagles. Meet at **11am** at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area [visitor center](#), 100 Museum Rd, Stevens, PA 17578. We'll drive the wildlife drive and walk out to Willow Point. On Sunday, we'll head to Conowingo Dam, Shuresville Landing [parking area](#) in Darlington, Md. This is one of the best places to see bald eagles. Plan to overnight in Lancaster if you want to participate both days. Contact Susan Braun braun3112@gmail.com or call 814-574-0795 if interested to arrange carpooling and for hotel information.

Saturday, March 14 - Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch (rain/snow date Sunday March 15)



Tussey Mountain is a spring hawk watch that focuses on Golden Eagle migration. Meet in the parking lot at Jo Hayes Vista at the top Route 26 where it crosses the top of Tussey Mountain (locally called "Pine Grove Mtn"). It is a 2/3 mile flat walk on the Mid-State Trail to the site. Dress warm, bring a folding chair, snacks and water. There are no facilities. For information, and specific directions, visit the Tussey Mt. Spring Hawk Watch [website](#). Contact: Susan Braun: braun3112@gmail.com (814)574-0795

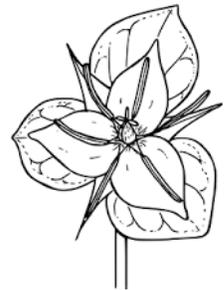
Saturday, April 4: Greenwood Furnace Adventure 11am - 4pm

Join Randy Caber for a visit to historic Greenwood Furnace and a hike to the Greenwood Furnace Fire Tower. This is an out and back 5.6 mile hike. The trail is steep, but we'll take our time to explore and catch our breath. Wear sturdy shoes, bring snacks, water and a hiking stick. Meet by the Blacksmith Shop which is on the same side of the road as the park office. This hike is moderately strenuous. Directions: Greenwood Furnace State Park along PA 305, about 5 miles west of Belleville. [Blacksmith Shop](#) Contact: Randy Caber 814-207-4893 for information.

Saturday, April 18: Trillium Hike 9am - 12pm

Let's walk along the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River on the Lower Trail to look for spring wildflowers. If our timing is right, the slopes will be covered with red trillium and other spring ephemeral wildflowers such as Dutchman's breeches and bloodroots in bloom along the trail. Bring snacks and water to enjoy along the way. This is an easy walk of 3 to 4 miles and hikers are welcome to set their own pace.

Contact: Susan Braun braun3112@gmail.com (814)574-0795 for information.



Sunday, May 17: Shaver's Creek Walk & Live Raptor Tour 10am – 3pm \$3.00 per person.

We will take a nature walk focusing up at birds and down at wildflowers and eat a picnic lunch before enjoying a guided tour of the Raptor Center at 2pm. Bring lunch, water, binoculars. We will meet in front of the Center at 10am. The nature walk is free, but the Raptor Center tour is \$3 payable to Shaver's Creek. **Location:** 3400 Discovery Rd, Petersburg. Contact Laura Jackson for more information.

Saturday, May 23: Bird walk at Allegheny Portage Railroad 7:30am - 10:30am

If you are interested in learning and seeing more warblers during peak migration then join John Carter and Mark Nale on the historic 6 to 10 Trail in Duncansville. We will take a gentle stroll along this trail in hopes of finding spring gems like the Blackburnian, Chestnut-Sided, Cape May, and Hooded Warblers and many more.

What to bring: binoculars, comfortable walking shoes, drink and snack.

Directions: The trailhead for the Foot of Ten Trail is located at the parking lot on Dry Run Road, Duncansville, PA 16635. Coordinates: 40.4082394 -78.4602878 [6 to 10 Trailhead](#)

Sunday, June 7: State Game Lands 198 Time and Meeting Location To Be Announced

State Game Lands 198, consists of 8,604 acres, located in Blair and Cambria Counties near Tunnelhill and west of Duncansville. The terrain is mountainous and forested, but large areas of grasslands also exist.



**Tuesday June 16, 2020: Maxine Leckvarcik Memorial Picnic 6 PM - 9 PM
Canoe Creek State Park Pavilion #2 just off parking lot #6**

Click here for a map:

http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_004826.pdf

Our annual summer picnic has many eats and treats for all tastes and appetites! JVAS will provide roasted chicken for everyone. We hope everyone will bring a covered dish to share. Join us as we picnic together and celebrate another year of exploring and protecting nature in Central PA. After eating, we will have a nature walk from 7 to 8:15pm. **Be sure to let Hospitality Chair Catie Farr know what you plan to bring. Call her at 570-651-3839 or email [catiegk5059@gmail](mailto:catiegk5059@gmail.com)** We will end the evening with an optional visit to the bat church around 8:30 PM to see Pennsylvania's only flying mammals - bats!

“Managing Forests and Wildlife in a Changing World” Conference

JVAS Members are invited to attend a Forest Landowners' Conference on **Saturday, March 14.**

Where: Bedford American Legion. Address: 3721 US 220 Business (just south of Exit 1 on I-99.)

When: March 14 from 8:30am to 4:30pm, hot lunch included.

Cost: \$10 for members of Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies; \$15 for non-members.

Speakers will discuss impacts of climate change on forests, forest pests, and birds with an emphasis on how forest landowners can mitigate or lessen these impacts.

Contact Laura Jackson if you'd like to attend. **Registration is due by Saturday, March 7.**

SPECIAL EVENTS



The Great Backyard Bird Count is February 14 – February 17, 2020

Bird watchers of all ages count birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are. Go to birdcount.org to sign up.

Earth Week Birding Classic Friday April 17 – Sunday April 26, 2020

The 5th Annual Earth Week Birding Classic will be held from noon April 17 to noon on April 26, 2020. Registration is free. The goal is for teams in seven different categories to count as many species of birds as possible over a 24-hour period any time during the week beginning on April 17 at 12 noon and ending at 12 noon on April 26. This non-profit event is co-sponsored by the Environmental Studies program at Penn State Altoona and Juniata Valley Audubon Society. Pledges that team members garner will support bird conservation and education in central Pennsylvania. Teams of 3 or more (2 or more for Senior citizens) will count birds in Blair and surrounding counties, and prizes will be awarded during the closing ceremony at the Slep Center on the Penn State Altoona campus immediately following the event at 1 pm. **Registration deadline is April 16. To register and for more information, please contact Catie Farr at catiegk5059@gmail.com.**

Please give generously!



Saturday May 2, 2020 Central Pennsylvania Native Plant Festival

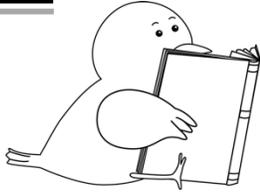
Boal Mansion, 163A Boal Estate Drive, Boalsburg PA 16827
JVAS plans to have a display at this event - contact Laura Jackson if you'd like to help.

You can order native plants in advance and pick them up at the Festival. Check out more details at <http://www.panativeplantsociety.org>. Click on Events.

CONSERVATION CROSSROADS is a section of *The Gnatcatcher* that features environmental issues across a spectrum of local, national, and global concerns. Contact JVAS Vice-President Laura Jackson, if you know of an issue that deserves our attention and subsequent action. More information on these concerns is found at www.JVAS.org Click on the Conservation tab.

We don't have any updates on conservation issues for this edition of the newsletter. We hope that no news is good news. Contact Laura if you know otherwise.

Off The Shelf



A Review of Alice Outwater's
**WILD AT HEART: America's Turbulent Relationship
with Nature, from Exploitation to Redemption**
St. Martin's Press, New York, 2019

submitted by Doug Mason

This infectious read is an exploration of our nation's environmental story. It starts with the premise that since Nature is beyond our control, the same holds true for human nature and we are thus wild at heart. The twelve chapters begin in pre-Columbian America, when more than 600 tribal nations populated our continent. It focuses in on three of those tribes - the Chinook, the Hopi and the Western Abenaki - and the sustainable lifestyles they practiced on their lands.

Next we move through the trials and errors of European colonialism. America was "discovered" when Europe was hitting its own ecological boundaries. If one considers how early European explorers were describing the New World's cornucopia of nature, you'd conclude that they thought they'd never run out of nature again. So, the notion of limitless nature is based on stories of our settler colonies, and resistance to climate change and other modern environmental concerns can be seen as a manifestation of a perceived threat to this national narrative.

The book moves through westward expansion, the debacle of our increasingly shortsighted industrialism, and other themes to the victories of modern environmentalism and its tenuous balance. The author roams through surprising details and history, then periodically grounds the book by looping back to her husband, Bob Lang, before soaring off again. While tracing the origins of American agricultural science, for example, Outwater shows how fertilizer became part of our national mythology. But she then dives into compost as a soil amendment, enriching the story with details of how Lang improved their land by starting out with mountains of manure that he composted and used in gardening.

Bound to be of interest to *Gnatcatcher* readers is the feather trade in the late 1800s and how that troubling fashion ties into the story of George Bird Grinnell and the founding of the Audubon Society in 1886. Grinnell was an expert on bison and indigenous peoples based on earlier adventures in the Wild West, and his friendship with Teddy Roosevelt included the shared conviction that market hunting had to be stopped or the country's native species would go extinct. Too bad there is not such enlightened leadership in these times of mass extinction and threats to the Endangered Species Act.

Modern environmentalists are different from conservationists like Grinnell and Roosevelt. Such conservationists wanted to protect beauty and resources from people who

would kill all the animals and cut all the trees for money. Today's environmentalists want to readjust the relationship between humans and the Earth. New activists reject the assumption that environmental degradation is a necessary corollary of affluence, Capitalism itself needs to be curbed to save the country.

Despite the current political atmosphere, we must remain optimistic and continue to fight for a world in which Mother Nature's bounty is shared by all. I am reminded of a quote from Arundhati Roy: "Remember we are many and they are few. Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day I can hear her breathing."

With admirable calm, Outwater depicts the depredations of today's corporate person as the unconscionable aberration that must be seen, if we are to survive as a civilization, a nation, an economy or a species. The climate emergency alone poses enormous challenges and we stand on the brink of disaster. Yet in this time of uncertainty, many Americans have embraced aboriginal attitudes toward wildness.

Like the Hopi, we must sign up to be Nature's guardians.

Like the Western Abenaki, we need to seek balance.

Like the Chinook, we should give thanks.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!!

Juniata Valley Audubon Society Chapter-only Membership

Chapter-only membership includes membership in the Juniata Valley Audubon Society ONLY. You will receive the chapter newsletter, *The Gnatcatcher*. It does not include membership in the National Audubon Society. If you want to join National Audubon, go to www.Audubon.org

**Chapter-only Memberships: Individual - \$15/year Family - \$20/year Supporting - \$35/year
Friend - \$50/year Corporate - \$100/year Life-time - \$500**

You can also renew via PayPal at: www.jvas.org/join-juniata-valley-audubon/

Name _____ Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone Number: _____

Please provide your e-mail address: _____

Would you like to receive a digital copy of *The Gnatcatcher*? _____ yes _____ no

Return this form with your check payable to **JVAS** to: **Juniata Valley Audubon Society**
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Petersburg, PA 16669

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Address Service Requested



Honduran Coffee for sale at JVAS meetings and on-line

Emilio Garcia, our partner who produces shade-grown coffee in Honduras, has expanded his coffee sales to include sustainably harvested, shade-grown coffee from other countries. You can order freshly roasted coffee from **Lenca Coffee Roasters**: <https://lencacoffeeroasters.com>

Emilio also sells his green coffee beans through <https://lencafarms.com>

Remember, shade-grown coffee is good for you and good for our birds!

