

South Mountain Airs

The Newsletter of the South Mountain Audubon Society

October – December 2013, Volume XXXVIII #4 – The E-mail Edition

UPCOMING SMAS EVENTS

Saturday December 14th **SMAS Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC)** - Gettysburg Areas

All are invited and welcome to join the South Mountain Audubon Society (SMAS) for the 2013 CBC.

The SMAS 2013 CBC will be held Saturday December 14. SMAS seeks volunteers to participate in counting both species and individual numbers in the field, alone or on a team, as well as those wishing to count birds at their feeders and home property area.

Check out your calendar and mark us in. Contact Mike O'Brien, SMAS CBC Coordinator, to join us or for information for new participants or confirmation of areas/times for previous & returning individuals and team participants. Call, 717.642.6676, or Click, maddogobrien@gmail.com

This will be the 114th consecutive Christmas Bird Count and is an example of Citizen Science at its best. Click on the link below to learn more about the CBC at the Audubon CBC web-site. If you are receiving our hard copy newsletter in the mail or if clicking the link does not work, just cut and paste or type the link into your web browser and press enter. The CBC is in lieu of a December field trip.

<http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>

UPCOMING SMAS PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

Unless indicated otherwise, all SMAS Programs are held at the Adams County Agricultural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA at 7:30 PM. A room number for the SMAS meeting will be posted on the front lobby entry inner door.

We've posted information on our total activities' schedule at the end of this edition.

UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Monday October 14th - **“A Fledgling Experience – Inside the Nest Box”**

Ms. Nancy Putt, York County Coordinator for the Bluebird Society, presents: “A Fledgling Experience” - slide show / video “Inside The Nestbox” about bluebirds, and what we can do to promote nesting success for bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds.

Ms. Putt's interest in bluebirds started 15 years ago when she created a “Bluebird Trail” at Range End Golf Course, the Audubon Sanctioned Golf Course where she is employed as the horticulturist. This is when she joined up with the Bluebird Society of PA, serving currently as Secretary (and is a past President).

Monday November 11th - "From Idea to Icon: The Appalachian Trail"

Mr. Larry Luxenberg will cover a brief history of the Appalachian Trail, what it's like to hike the entire Appalachian Trail and the establishment of the Appalachian Trail Museum at Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

Larry Luxenberg thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail in 1980. He is the founder and President of the Appalachian Trail Museum and the author of "Walking the Appalachian Trail." Larry is also an honorary life member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association and a life member of the Keystone Trails Association. He is also a board member of the American Hiking Society and the Earl Shaffer Foundation.

There is no monthly SMAS meeting in the month of December.

UPCOMING SMAS FIELD TRIPS

Contact Mike O'Brien, Field Trip Chair, as necessary for more information on all Field Trips, the annual Christmas Bird Count and the Spring Migration Count: 717.642.6676 Res / maddogobrien@gmail.com E-mail.

Please let the Leader know in advance if you plan to attend any field trip, especially if you plan to go direct. Trips are subject to weathering out, especially in the colder months, or otherwise being changed. In addition, if we have only one or two known attendees, we may change, cancel or reschedule a given field trip. We cannot alert you unless we hear from you.

Wednesday October 9th - Codorus State Park / Lake Marburg

Pennsylvania's 3,490-acre Codorus State Park is in the rolling hills of southern York County about 3 miles southeast of Hanover, PA. The 1,275-acre Lake Marburg, is centered in the park with 26 miles of shoreline and is a rest stop for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. There is no entry fee for PA State Parks.

Meet in parking area between Burger King and CVS on US Rte #30 (York Street) near its intersection with US #15 in the shopping area where Staples and CVS are located - across the street from Walmart. We will carpool to the extent possible. Bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, snacks, drinks, lunch per personal choice and apparel as dictated by the forecasted weather. Meeting time is 8:30 AM with return in mid-afternoon.

Saturday November 16th - Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

We will travel to Blackwater NWR in Dorchester County, near Cambridge Maryland.

There should be early resident winter birds and late passage migrants including shorebirds, raptors and waterfowl. The refuge is billed as the largest Bald Eagle gathering spot in the Eastern USA outside of Florida.

Departure time is 6 AM.

The field trip will leave from the trip leaders home at #231 Carroll's Tract Road, a Tee intersection with PA Rte #116, at the Fairfield Post Office. #231 is about ½ mile down Carroll's Tract Road on the right, the second driveway on the right after crossing the intersection with Bullfrog Road and Mt. Hope Road; the house sets back several hundred feet from the driveway entrance. There is no mailbox. A standard green fire sign with 231 on it is attached to the lower trunk of a small tree where you turn in. Immediately beyond the driveway is a mail box displaying 75 Sugarloaf Lane for the next house, which also sets well back.

Please contact the trip leader if you plan on going on this trip so any questions may be answered and logistics such as carpooling can be arranged.

We will try to carpool to the extent possible depending on how many people sign up for the trip. If you wish to drive separately, or arrange for an overnight stay on your own, please let the leader know so arrangements can be made for meeting up with the group, and so you can be contacted if the trip is canceled, postponed or weathers out.

Bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, and lunch, snacks and drinks per personal preference. Bring appropriate apparel as dictated by the forecasted weather for the day of the trip.

This is an all day field trip. Tentative meeting time is 6:00 AM with return after dark. Travel time will be a bit over three hours – each way. We will likely stop on the return and eat dinner. This would likely be in Easton, MD. If you drive separately, the toll to cross the Chesapeake Bay Bridge was raised from \$4 to \$6 effective 1 July, this year. This is eastbound. There is no toll returning in the westbound direction.

There is an entry fee at the refuge of \$3 per car. Depending on who is attending that may have passes, all attendees may be covered. In any case, refuge personnel do not usually approach visitors in this regard, and it becomes up to all individually as to how to handle it.

Saturday December 14th - #114 Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) - Gettysburg Areas

All are invited and welcome to join SMAS for the 2013 CBC. This will be the 114th consecutive Christmas Bird Count and is an example of Citizen Science at its best.

Please note the annual SMAS CBC is traditionally in lieu of a December field trip. Complete information on the CBC is presented at the beginning of this newsletter.

Mark your calendars now for the #114th Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

Accessing the SMAS Newsletter

A great feature of having the Newsletter on-line and receiving it via e-mail, is that you can always access a misplaced or discarded issue at a future date. You can access the Newsletter in several ways.

First, if you do not routinely discard your emails or you retain selected items in your in-box or transfer them to a saved information folder or similar, you can always access them at a future date on your own system.

Second, we post the electronic edition on the internet at the following url: perch.es Simply copy the url and paste it into your browser search box or just type it in (Clicking will often not work).

The first header that appears is for the current (most recent) issue. In addition, there is a heading, by year, for past quarter issues which we archive on the site. We have put the past issues here since we started the electronic edition.

Third, you can access it on the internet at the Yahoo.com Chat Group site, Adams County Nature Chat (AdCoNaChat). Presence of the information on this site may lag the Newsletter somewhat.

We post our SMAS field trips, meeting dates and topics, special events like an annual picnic, annual luncheon, and other club news on the calendar. There are directions uploaded to the files section for some areas we have trips to, and also, we often upload the species list from completed field trips and Christmas Bird Counts on the Files area.

You can access the AdCoNaChat web-site at the link provided below. This is the link to the home page and from there you can access posts and messages by members, the Calendar and Files section, and much more. Copy and paste the following url into your browser search box:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AdCoNaChat/>

SMAS Annual Schedule Information

Regular SMAS Monthly Program Meetings are held in Jan / Mar / May / June / Sept / Oct & Nov.

Unless indicated otherwise, all are meetings are held on Mondays at 7:30 PM at the Adams County Agricultural Center. Please see complete information at the beginning of this and every Newsletter in case there is any variation by quarter. Please check individual programs in each issue in the event of a change in times and / or venue.

Field Trips are normally held monthly in Jan / Feb / Mar / April / May / Jun / Sept / Oct & Nov. In December we substitute the annual Christmas Bird Count for the monthly field trip. Some of these monthly field trips traditionally repeat each year, such as the Christmas Bird Count and the Migration Count in May. We usually go to a nearby hawk watch site in late September or early October.

The Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is held by design between 14 Dec and 5 Jan. For SMAS, this is in lieu of a regular field trip. We schedule our SMAS CBC on the first available Saturday after 13 Dec. In the event of really bad weather, we may cancel and reschedule.

The Annual Luncheon has been traditionally held in April, in lieu of, the regular monthly meeting.

Our SMAS Annual Picnic and get together is held in August on the second Monday. This is "Bring A Dish" to share and the kickoff is 5 PM with dinner at 6 PM. In addition to bringing a dish to share, attendees should bring their own place setting materials. Drinks and some type of main dish(es) will be provided. See the summer Newsletter edition for details on times and directions.

All meetings, field trips and other activities are subject to weathering out or other cancellation reasons. If you are on our email list (receiving our Newsletters and other information) you will get an email notification as soon as the decision is made. Otherwise, if there is some question based on the weather or some other issue, please contact the field trip leader or someone from the list of Board Members / Committee Chairpersons applicable to your question(s).

OTHER SMAS RELATED INFORMATION

<u>Board Members</u>	Point of Contact	Telephone	Email address
President	Deb Siefken	677-4830	siefkend@embarqmail.com
Vice-President	Carole Simon	337-1662	carolesimon@embarqmail.com
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