

South Mountain Airs

The Newsletter of the South Mountain Audubon Society

April – June 2016, Volume XXXVII #2 – The E-mail Edition

UPCOMING BIRD RELATED / OTHER EVENTS

SMAS Annual Luncheon

It's Not Too Late to sign up for the SMAS Luncheon.

Those receiving this Newsletter should have received earlier emails regarding the SMAS Annual Luncheon with a sign up / information flyer attachment. That flyer is again provided here as a separate attachment to the email for this Newsletter edition, or as a separate printed page for those receiving a regular USPS mail version.

The luncheon will be held at our traditional site, the Hickory Bridge Farm Restaurant located in Orrtanna, PA, on Saturday 23 April; social time at 11:30; meal at 12 Noon.

Upon receipt of this, you should have time to return the sign-up form and make your payment. If it gets too close to the luncheon date to depend on the regular mail and you want to attend, you can also call the phone number on the flyer for the Point of Contact, Nancy Locher, to sign up and let us know you want to attend and are sending the form and payment to us. You may be able to make arrangements to pay at the door. We have to provide the restaurant a head count to allow the correct number of meals to be prepared and we are then on the hook to pay.

We will have a program presentation at the luncheon. More details below; sign-up flyer attached to this email. All are cordially invited to attend.

International Migratory Bird Day

What is International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD)?

IMBD celebrates and brings attention to one of the most important and spectacular events in the Americas - bird migration. IMBD is a Western Hemisphere-wide event and is celebrated in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Held each year on the second Saturday in May, it will be on Saturday May 14 this year, 2016.

This IMBD date is also used for the Pennsylvania Migration Count (the PAMC), Pennsylvania's way of celebrating IMBD. People all over the state count birds and the totals are collected to form a "Snapshot" of the great spectacle of migration across our portion of the Americas. Virtually every county and province in every country carry out some type of celebratory event, festival, or other undertaking on this day. No matter where you are on this day you can find an IMBD event taking place. Just go to your internet browser and type in International Bird Day (optionally add 2016 to limit the search to current time) and you can find myriad goings-on across the country and beyond. For more information on IMBD, the url for the IMBD Home Page is: <http://www.birdday.org/>

BUT, you can join us right here in the Gettysburg area. The South Mountain Audubon Society (SMAS) counts our local birds right here adjacent to downtown Gettysburg on the Spangler Spring portion of the Gettysburg National Battlefield and elsewhere across the region. See details below under field trips.

Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22, this year, 2016. Founded in 1970 as a day of education about environmental issues, Earth Day is now a globally celebrated holiday that is sometimes extended into Earth Week, a full seven days of events focused on green awareness. The brainchild of Senator Gaylord Nelson and inspired by the antiwar protests of the late 1960s, Earth Day was originally aimed at creating a mass environmental movement. It began as a "national teach-in on the environment" and was held on April 22 to maximize the number of students that could be reached on university campuses. By raising public awareness of air and water pollution, Nelson hoped to bring environmental causes into the national spotlight. Earth day has continued to grow and is now recognized and participated in around the planet.

Please become more attuned to this area and its related issues. Just go to your internet browser and type in Earth Day and surf some of the wealth of available information.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

Unless indicated otherwise, all SMAS Programs are held at the Adams County Agricultural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA: Social Time at 7:00 PM; meeting and presentaion program at 7:30 PM. A room number for the SMAS meeting will be posted on the front lobby entry inner door.

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

UPCOMING SMAS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Saturday April 23th - **SMAS Annual Luncheon, 2016**

We do not have April Program meetings as we hold our annual SMAS club luncheon in April. It is held on a Saturday afternoon, not a Monday evening. Social time 11:30 AM; meal and program 12 Noon. See general info on the luncheon above and on an attached or embedded flyer.

We will have a program presentation at the luncheon. See attached flyer for info including sign-up and reply form.

Monday May 16th - **"Herpetology Program for Kids" - Kelsey Frey**

Kelsey Frey, a naturalist from Nixon Park in York County, will present a herpetology program where she will share many scaly and slimy friends including lizards, snakes, "Speedy" the tortoise, salamanders and frogs! Meet these critters from around the world up close and personal and learn what makes them so special and unique.

This program is free and geared toward children, but will be informative and interesting to adults as well. All children must be accompanied by an adult. The program begins at 7:00 PM and will last for about 1 hour.

Monday June 20th - "Stream Study: Who Lives in a Freshwater Stream?"

Mary Ronan, a York County Parks naturalist and avid fly fisher, will share information on the many small inhabitants of a freshwater stream in Pennsylvania. She will bring live specimens for observation and explain the life cycles and habitats of many small animals that call this environment their home.

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 cancel or reschedule a given field trip. We cannot alert you unless we hear from you.

Saturday May 14th - Spangler Spring Area At Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP)

Meet at 7 AM at the Spangler Spring area, GNMP. Turn right off Middle Street at its intersection with Liberty Street in Gettysburg and go one short block to a left at the park entry. Follow the one-way road to the Spangler Spring parking area. This outing is a SMAS tradition coinciding with International Migratory Bird Day (See above). Easy walking on mostly paved areas. We'll be there into the afternoon, so depending on your schedule, you can always join us anytime beyond the stated start time. Bring a chair if you wish and hang out.

Do not forget personal items including food, drink and appropriate apparel. This is prime spring migration time and we should see a good selection of passerines and near-passerines as well as a mix of other species. Call the leader for additional information, clarification, or with any questions. Facilities should be open.

Thursday June 2th - Pennsylvania State Game Lands #249

Meeting time is 7:30 AM at the Gameland's entrance located on Game Lands Road (aka State Game Land Road depending on your map) off PA #234 about midway between Biglerville and US #15. Meet at the rustic sign for the Gamelands just down the entry lane from Rte #234. Depending on the current management configuration of the various areas at the time, we should be able to bird from our vehicles stopping at various vantage points. Some may choose to walk. The area is mostly flat with easy walking.

The area includes woods and fields, and there is a stream along part of the road we will drive / walk along. We will look for passage migrants and local resident and nesting species. Bring your optics, weather appropriate clothing and any food or drink you may need. No facilities.

Checkout our South Mountain Audubon Society Website!!!

SMAS has a Website which is being added to on a regular basis.

The home page has some general information and synopses of Chapter activities as well as a number of links to other informational aspects. These include the Calendar, Board members and officers, Chapter meeting minutes,

current and archival newsletter editions, and links to a number of other Adams County organizations as well as other county, state and national groups and organizations.

We are also working to put up some location specific area checklists. Many of these are in place. All are encouraged to offer suggestions on what you would like to see on the website. Contact info is on the site.

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 archive 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 may not always 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.

And, of course, per information above re the new SMAS Website, you can reference current & past issues there. The url is: <http://southmountainaudubon.org/>

SMAS Annual Schedule Information

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

Unless indicated otherwise, are all meetings are held on Mondays at the Adams County Agricultural Center; Social time 7 PM, meeting and program presentation 7:30 PM. 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 December field trip. Occasionally there may not be a trip for any particular month.

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

SMAS Board members - 2016

<u>Officers</u>	Point of Contact	Telephone	Email Address
President	Linette Mansberger	495-8137	Lmcopperhead@aol.com
Vice-President	Deb Siefken	677-4830	siefkend@embarqmail.com
Secretary	Kathy Gelner	(202) 471-0300	klgelner@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Mike Bertram	352-7936	the2nomads@centurylink.net

Members At Large

Director At Large	Nancy Locher	334-4768	nclocher@embarqmail.com
Director At Large	Carole Simon	337-1622	carolesimon@embarqmail.com
Director At Large	Jon Griffiths	334-3824	griffjon630@gmail.com
Director At Large	Cy Deitz	253-0297	sdeitz1630@comcast.net

Committee Chairs

Education	Betsy Griffiths	334-3824	elizabeth.griffiths@stockton.edu
Field Trips	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	maddogobrien@gmail.com
Membership	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	maddogobrien@gmail.com
Publicity	Cynthia Chambers	624-5504	cynthiachambers@crosskeysvillage.net
Newsletter	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	maddogobrien@gmail.com



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY'S
ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

**April 23 at 11:30 am
Hickory Bridge Farm in Orrtanna**

- Cost - \$18.00/person includes tax & gratuity
- Roast beef with dressing & oven fried chicken plus all the trimmings
- Vegetarian, gluten free or other dietary needs available upon request
- Local wines & ales available at cash bar

*Speaker – Carolyn Mathur,
York Audubon Society*

“Magee Marsh Memories – 2015”



Please fill out the form below, include a check,
and send to: **SMAS, P.O. Box 3671, Gettysburg, PA 17325**

DEADLINE: April 14th

Name _____

Attending _____ Phone Number _____

Vegetarian, gluten free or other special diets – please specify:

\$18.00/person x _____ = \$ _____

Questions? – call Nancy Locher at 717-334-4768

