

Birds & Nature Festival

Friday - Sunday May 1, 2 & 3, 2009

In the Oil Heritage Region of NW Pennsylvania

“The Valley That Changed the World”

Bird Walks - Nature Hikes - Workshops



By Briann Marchand, grade 8

Friday, May 1, 2009

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

“The Birds & The Trees” *

With Kathie Goodblood & Ty Ryen

Meet at the Franklin Trailhead for a leisurely walk along the Allegheny River while learning to identify some of the trees in our region. Ty Ryen, Service Forester with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, and Kathie Goodblood, President of the Bartramian Audubon Society and an avid birder for 20+ years, will lead this walk. Bring your binoculars, so we can look for birds in the trees. Trees can be identified by their leaves and yes, even without them. Knowing tree species can improve your ability to track birds and other wildlife.

8:00 p.m.

Program on Owls & Owl Prowl at Two Mile Run County Park *

With Gary Edwards

Meet at the Nature Lodge near the beach at Two Mile Run County Park to hear Gary Edwards, Past President of the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society and an avid birder with over 20 years experience, as he presents this program on the seven species of owls that have been recorded in Venango County. Learn to distinguish the calls of the four most common species.

Saturday, May 2, 2009

7:30 a.m.

Guided bird walk at Two Mile Run County Park *

Gary Edwards, leader

Join us at the shallow end of Justus Lake, at the main boat launch at Two Mile Run County Park as we look for spring migrants. We will look for water birds on the lake in addition to warblers and thrushes on the nearby wooded trail. This park offers a variety of habitat, with easy access.

or

Guided bird walk at Oil Creek State Park *

Kathie Goodblood, leader

Meet at the Park Office. Expect to see 15-20 species of warblers including Canada, Black-throated Green, American Redstart, and Magnolia, along with a variety of other passerines such as Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting. Oil Creek meanders through the park and may produce a few water birds such as Common Merganser and Hooded Merganser. Walking will be along paved roads or easy-walking foot paths.

Lunch - on your own

On-site registrations accepted from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the Quality Inn & Conference Center

Workshops at the Quality Inn & Conference Center, 1411 Liberty Street, Franklin, PA

1:15 p.m.

“Developing and Improving Your Birding Skills”

With Kathie Goodblood

If you are new to birding or nature watching, knowing how to properly use your optics and field guides can improve the experience. This workshop presented by Kathie Goodblood, the President of the Bartramian Audubon Society with 20+ years of experience, will help you develop skills you can build on, later watching birds and other wildlife. This will be a hands-on learning experience. Bring your optics equipment and field guides to the workshop.

Or

“Bats of Pennsylvania”

With Tim Hoppe

Bats rank among the most misunderstood and least studied group of animals, despite the fact that they have been on our planet for over 50 million years. Tim Hoppe, Wildlife Diversity Biologist with the PA Game Commission, will present an introduction to the bats of Pennsylvania, solving human bat conflicts, and bat box design and placement.

Saturday, May 2, 2009

All events at Quality Inn & Conference Center

2:30 p.m.

“The Wonderful World of Warblers” *

With Gary Edwards

If you've never seen a Blackburnian Warbler singing from the top of a pine tree in full sunlight, you're missing a spectacular sight. As a group, warblers are far and away the most colorful and diverse group of woodland birds in the Eastern U.S. and yet, with a few exceptions, they're seldom seen by non-birders. This workshop will introduce you to about 30 of these “splashes of color” seen yearly in Venango County. Presenter Gary Edwards will touch on where and when to find them, where they nest, and where they go when they leave.

or

“Alien or Native Species?” *

With Ty Ryen

As nonnative species increase in frequency and abundance, landowners face an ever-growing challenge to preserve native plant communities and their associated wildlife. Ty Ryen, Service Forester with the PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, will provide information about native plants and backyard habitat that can be used to meet the needs (aesthetically pleasing, wildlife benefit) of a natural backyard habitat.

3:45 p.m.

“An Introduction to Pennsylvania’s Amphibians and Reptiles” *

With Dr. Kurt Regester

Dr. Kurt Regester will present a slide show tour that will guide participants through wetlands and forests teaching basic skills for identifying salamanders, frogs, toads, turtles, lizards and snakes. He will discuss the critical ecological roles these animals play in the environment and steps we can take to help conserve them for future generations. Live specimens will be on-hand for a close-up look at species from around the commonwealth.

or

“Butterflies” *

With Chuck Tague

To gardeners, butterflies are the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of insects. The adults are gentle, colorful creatures that bask in the sunlight and flit gracefully on gentle breezes. Not only do they add joy, beauty and whimsy to gardens, they are crucial pollinators to many plants. However their voracious larvae, the caterpillars, pillage leaves and blossoms. Naturalist Chuck Tague will present a photo essay on the complex life history of the beautiful and diverse butterflies of western PA and discuss their evil and beneficial relationship to plants, both wild and cultivated.

5:00 p.m.

“Flock & Mingle”

At the Quality Inn

Just like the title says, now's the time to flock and mingle with the other birders at this reception to be held at the Quality Inn & Conference Center. Light refreshments will be served. A cash bar will be available.

6:00 p.m.

Birder's Banquet

At the Quality Inn

Don Riepe was named the “Jamaica Bay Guardian” by New York State for his extensive experience as a naturalist and guardian of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. An avid birder and naturalist, Don has written many articles on natural history subjects and his photographs have been published in many journals including *Scientific American*, *National Wildlife*, *Audubon*, *Defenders*, *Underwater Naturalist*, *Parade* and *The New York Times*. The topic of this program will be “the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, an Urban Oasis for Wildlife & People.”

Grand prize winners of the art contest for area students in grades four through eight will be announced. The contests were open to all area students and the theme for the contests was “Birds and Nature in Your Backyard.”

Finalists' entries will be displayed at the Quality Inn and Conference Center on Saturday afternoon and evening.

Sunday, May 3, 2009

7:00 a.m.

Guided bird walk at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS) *

Jerry Stanley, leader

Travel by bus from the Quality Inn to this 462 acre, privately-owned nature sanctuary in Venango Co., managed to maximize its attraction to birds and other wildlife. This property is home to many of the area's nesting warblers as well as migrants. Possible highlights on the walk will be cerulean warbler, hermit & wood thrushes, Louisiana water thrush, hooded warbler and yellow-throated warbler. This walk will be moderate on gravel roads and fields.

or

Birding Basics - a Guided Bird Walk for Beginners *

Kathie Goodblood, leader

Travel by bus from the Quality Inn to Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary, a 462 acre, privately-owned nature sanctuary in Venango County for an excellent follow-up to the “Developing and Improving Your Birding Skills” workshop offered on Saturday afternoon. This is also a good trip for those who have mobility problems. Watch and identify birds seen at the feeders and yard. We hope to see many of the early migrants feeding and interacting, including Baltimore Oriole, ruby-throated hummingbird, rose-breasted grosbeak, song sparrow and white-crowned sparrow.

or

7:30 a.m.

Guided bird walk at Two Mile Run County Park *

Gary Edwards & Don Riepe, leaders

See description on schedule for Saturday morning.

Birds & Nature Festival

Friday - Sunday

May 1, 2 & 3, 2009

Space is limited; reservations will be honored in the order that they are received. For events occurring concurrently, mark a "1" or "2" in the space provided to indicate if selection is your first or second choice. *Schedule may change.*

#	Cost	Event/Activity	Time	Site	Leader/Presenter	Choice?
		Friday, May 1				
	\$15	Guided Nature Hike *	2 - 4 p.m.	Franklin Trailhead	Kathie Goodblood & Ty Ryen	
	\$15	Program on owls & owl prowl *	8 p.m.	Two Mile Run Park	Gary Edwards	
		Saturday, May 2				
	\$25	Guided bird walk at Two Mile Run County Park *	7:30 a.m.	Meet at the boat launch	Kathie Goodblood	
	\$25	Guided bird walk at Oil Creek State Park. *	7:30 a.m.	Meet at parking area by park office	Gary Edward & Jim Wilson	
	\$15	Developing & Improving Your Birding Skills *	1:15 p.m.	Quality Inn-Franklin	Kathie Goodblood	
	\$15	Bats of Pennsylvania	1:15 p.m.	Quality Inn-Franklin	Tim Hoppe	
	\$15	The Wonderful World of Warblers *	2:30 p.m.	Quality Inn-Franklin	Gary Edwards	
	\$15	Plants - Native Species or Alien Invasive? *	2:30 p.m.	Quality Inn-Franklin	Ty Ryen	
	\$15	An Intro to Pennsylvania's Amphibians and Reptiles *	3:45 p.m.	Quality Inn-Franklin	Dr. Kurt Regester	
	\$15	Butterflies	3:45 p.m.	Quality Inn-Franklin	Chuck Tague	
	\$15	Flock & Mingle	5:00 p.m.	Quality Inn-Franklin		
	\$25	Birder's Banquet	6:00 p.m.	Quality Inn-Franklin	Don Riepe, speaker	
		Sunday, May 3, 2009				
	\$25	Guided bird walk at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS) *	7:00 a.m.	Bus from the Quality Inn & Conf. Cntr.	Jerry Stanley	
	\$25	Birding Basics - at BHNS * Designed for beginning birders or those with mobility problems	7:00 a.m.	Bus from the Quality Inn & Conf. Cntr.	Kathie Goodblood	
	\$25	Guided bird walk at Two Mile Run County Park	7:30 a.m.	Meet at the boat launch	Gary Edwards & Don Riepe	
	\$119	Package - All events		Savings of \$46!		
		TOTAL DUE/ENCLOSED				

Register early as space is limited. No refunds after April 15, 2009.

Please use a separate form for each registrant.

* Indicates that this field trip, tour, or workshop has been approved for Act 48 credit for educators.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

I am an educator, desiring Act 48 Credit: _____ School District: _____

_____ My check made payable to "ORA" is enclosed. Total Enclosed: \$ _____

_____ Credit card (Check one) _____ Master Card _____ Visa _____ Discover _____ American Express

Credit card number: _____

Credit card exp. date: _____ V-code (3-digit code on back of card) _____

Mail form to: Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism
P.O. Box 128
Oil City, PA 16301



(800) 483-6264, ext. 110

Third Annual Oil Region

Birds & Nature Festival

Friday through Sunday
May 1, 2 & 3, 2009



"The Common Snipe"

2008 3-D Art Winner by Briann Marchand, grade 8

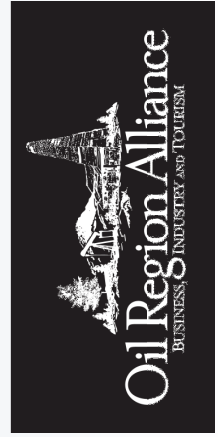
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"The Valley that Changed the World"

Guided Bird Walks
Nature Hikes
Workshops

Meet Don Riepe, Retired Manager
of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Major Credit Cards Accepted



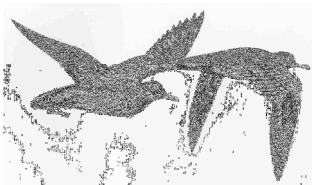
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Audubon IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

