



THE DRUMMER



www.senecarocksaudubon.org

November/December 2010

Volume 27, No. 2



November 8 Program

The Appalachian Trail

Bert Nemcik

Bert was born in Youngstown, Ohio when the dinosaurs roamed the earth. He attended Ohio State, Clarion University of PA, Youngstown and Century America Universities. He's worked with troubled youth for four decades. Forty years ago he started backpacking and since then has completed hundreds of trips culminating in his 2002 thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail. A lifelong bicycle commuter, in 1995, Bert rode his bicycle across America from Oregon to New Jersey. He's been married for 38 years, has one son and one granddaughter. In a year he's preparing to retire and move to Colorado to pursue new adventures.

After seven years of dreaming, in 2002 Bert Nemcik set out to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail from

Maine to Georgia, a 2,175 mile hike that took him four months and three days. Along the way he met lifelong friends, trail angels and gathered enough memories to last a lifetime. Bert says, "Thru-hiking long distances is mainly a mental challenge. It's what takes place between the ears that determines success or failure. Without a positive mental attitude, most people will quit long before they reach their destination."

Join us at 6:30 p.m. on November 8 to hear Bert tell of his adventures. We can enjoy the Appalachian Trail without leaving the comfort of our chairs. Snacks will be provided by Mary Emerick and Hendricka Bohlen.

**Meetings – Rm 123, Science Technology Center
Social & Snacks – 6:30. Program – 7:00**

December 13 Program

Members' Night & Cookies for Students

Our December Meeting is traditionally our Members' Night, and a lot of fun. If you have trip photos, bird photos, any birding or nature item to share, please bring it. We will also be going over territories for the Christmas Bird Count.

December 13 is the beginning of Finals Week at the university, and we'd like to ask members to bring

cookies for the students, as we did last year. If you can, please bring a dozen cookies, four in a package.

Snacks for the December meeting will be provided by Kathy Pokrifka and Joan and Carl Rowe.



Card from Cara Cherico...

June 23, 2010

SRAS Members,

I wanted to thank you for your generous scholarship! My experience at Ornithology Camp in Maine was superb! I learned many things that I will be able to use in my classroom. The instructors were so very knowledgeable. And who knew? that learning could be so fun!

Thanks again!
Cara Cherico

Donation from Garden Club...

The Clarion County Garden Club has once again made a generous donation for nature materials for schools in the Seneca Rocks' membership area. Their thoughtfulness will enhance natural science experiences for our young people. We thank the Garden Club on their behalf.

~ Janice Horn

The *Drummer* is the bi-monthly newsletter of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society (SRAS), PO Box 148, Clarion, PA 16214. SRAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. The *Drummer* is published 4 times per year—September, November, February, and April.

The *Drummer* is available on our website in color in Adobe pdf and may be read or downloaded from the site – www.senecarocksaudubon.org.

Members are encouraged to contribute announcements, articles, photos, etc. to Editor Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353 (814 755-3672) or email at fmcguire1@verizon.net.

Christmas Bird Count Saturday December 18

Participants count every bird they see or hear in a designated 15 mile diameter circle registered with National Audubon. Participants either drive or walk certain territories within the circle and others who live within the circle count the birds at their feeders. The Seneca Rocks web site www.senecarocksaudubon.org has the circle on a map for the count as well as the data collection form. Just click “Bird Counts” on the homepage, then find “Christmas Bird Count”. The tally sheet is also included in the Drummer – pages 3 and 4.

All counters and teams should report using the same data collection form. This will be a huge help to our new compiler, Ray McGunigle. He will be submitting our count to the national data base. Ruth Schurr will continue to collect the feeder watcher counts. There is a \$5 fee to participate in the CBC for all field participants aged 19 or older. Seneca Rocks will pay the \$5 fee for all individuals and team members who are chapter members. Feeder watchers do not pay a fee.

If you are new to the Christmas Bird Count come to the November 8th program to join a team or claim an individually designated area. We'll all join up at 5:30 p.m. at BJ's Eatery at Knox Exit 53 on I-80 for a warm meal and to tally our data while we share stories from our day out in the field.

This year will be the 111th Christmas Bird Count. Lots of good information about the history and results can be found at <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>. Check the FAQ's to learn what the participation fees fund.

~ Deb Freed

Somewhere, always, the sun is rising, and
somewhere, always, the birds are singing.
- Donald Kroodsmma

Clarion County CBC (PACR)

Date _____

Route or time for this card:
(if doing more than 1 card)

			Name	Phone	
	Running Count	Total		Running Count	Total
Canada Goose			Horned Lark		
Tundra Swan			Black-capped Chickadee		
Mallard			Tufted Titmouse		
Common Merganser			Red-breasted Nuthatch		
Ring-necked Pheasant			White-breasted Nuthatch		
Ruffed Grouse			Brown Creeper		
Wild Turkey			Carolina Wren		
Great Blue Heron			Winter Wren		
Bald Eagle			Golden-crowned Kinglet		
Northern Harrier			Ruby-crowned Kinglet		
Sharp-shinned Hawk			Eastern Bluebird		
Cooper's Hawk			Hermit Thrush		
Accipiter sp.			American Robin		
Red-shouldered Hawk			Northern Mockingbird		
Red-tailed Hawk			European Starling		
Rough-legged Hawk			Cedar Waxwing		
American Kestrel			Yellow-rumped Warbler		
Rock Pigeon			Eastern Towhee		
Mourning Dove			American Tree Sparrow		
Eastern Screech-Owl			Field Sparrow		
Great Horned Owl			Song Sparrow		
Barred Owl			Swamp Sparrow		
Short-eared Owl			White-throated Sparrow		
Northern Saw-whet Owl			White-crowned Sparrow		
Belted Kingfisher			Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco		
Red-bellied Woodpecker			Northern Cardinal		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			Red-winged Blackbird		
Downy Woodpecker			Eastern Meadowlark		
Hairy Woodpecker			Common Grackle		
Northern (Y-S) Flicker			Brown-headed Cowbird		
Pileated Woodpecker			Purple Finch		
Northern Shrike			House Finch		
Blue Jay			Common Redpoll		
American Crow			Pine Siskin		
Common Raven			American Goldfinch		
			Evening Grosbeak		
			House Sparrow		

Hint: Mostly larger species on left; smaller on the right.
Put additional species and field notes on reverse side.

Clarion County CBC (PACR)

Date _____

Additional Species

Field Notes

1	
2	
3	
4	

The following relates to daylight & nocturnal field birding only. Feeder watchers use a different form.

Maximum Observers:

Daylight	
Nocturnal	

Party hours* and distances (daylight only)

	Hours	Miles
On foot		
By car		

Party hours* and distances (nocturnal only)

	Hours	Miles
On foot		
By car		

* Party hours is the time one person or a group birds as a unit. If x and y bird together for 3 hr in the AM and z joins them for 4 hr in the PM, party hours =7. If z had also birded by herself for 4 hr in the AM, the total party hours = 11.

Participant Name	Member?		Address
	Y - pd	N - \$5	

For members, the \$5 fee will be paid by our chapter. Non-members, please include a \$5 fee. Participant fees will be accepted at BJ's during the tally dinner or can be sent by check made out to SRAS.

**Send completed form and fee if needed to:
Ray McGunigle, 427 Ridgewood Road, Shippenville, PA 16254**

Hog Island Scholarships

Seneca Rocks will be sponsoring two area teachers to attend Ornithology/Nature camps at Hog Island in Maine during the 2011 summer sessions. One scholarship will be funded by donations made to Seneca Rocks Audubon in memory of Margaret Buckwalter. Schools in Clarion, Forest, Jefferson and Venango counties will be notified of the scholarships and application process.

You'll find an on-line application at www.senecarocksaudubon.org by clicking "Educational Opportunities" and then "Ornithology Camp". The application deadline is December 15, 2010. All applicants including the two scholarship recipients will be notified by February 1, 2011. To read more about Hog Island and Project Puffin go to <http://www.projectpuffin.org/OrnithCamps.html>
~ Deb Freed

Margaret Buckwalter Birdsong Learning Center

On October 14 Ernie Aharra, a nature writer for the Clarion News, wrote a tribute to Margaret and described in detail the then planned Learning Center at the Clarion Free Library. While further enhancements are planned, the Center is now in place and operational. It is a dedicated library carrel in the center portion of the library toward the back. Stop in and try it.

Besides purchasing additional materials yet this year, we also plan to construct a bulletin board to display photographs and other materials to attract attention. We are anxious that the Learning Center actually be used to bring the joy of birding and bird songs to community members as Margaret did. Follow-up actions to draw attention to the Center and its potential are planned for the next several months, but anyone with additional ideas are encouraged to action. At a minimum, please spread the word.

~ Ron Montgomery



Photo of a blockbusting outing in 2006 – Margaret is 3rd from right.

Margaret Buckwalter Birding Trail

Mike Leahy has another great idea to honor Margaret: to establish a Birding Trail in her memory. It will involve write-ups of local birding locations, including directions, the best seasons to bird, and what species to expect.

Anyone else who is interested in this project should contact Mike. We will have a planning meeting in mid-November to discuss this trail.

Proposed locations to be included are:

- 1. Piney Tract/Mt. Zion**
Stops - Clay-colored Sparrow Road, Elliot Road, Limestone Flat Road, possibly Mt. Airy
- 2. State Game Lands #63**
Stops - Bryners Mills, The Refuge, Station Road, Olsen Farm.
- 3. Kahle Lake**
Stops - South boat launch (Clarion Co.)
The area below the dam, North boat launch (Venango Co.) and The Rhoades Farm.
- 4. Beaver Creek Nature Area**
- 5. Cook Forest State Park – Several stops.**

We welcome input from the membership.

In the woods, too, a man casts off his years,
as the snake his slough, and at what period
soever of life is always a child.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Feed the Birds & Support our Chapter!

Don't forget to pick up your
bird seed at Clarion Agway
November 15 through 20.



Upcoming meetings -

- ❖ Bert Nemcik, Hiking the Appalachian Trail, November 8
- ❖ Members' Night, December 13.

We appreciate our Hostesses -



November Hostesses
will be Mary Emerick
and Hendricka Bohlen.
In December, treats
will be provided by
Kathy Pokrifka and
Joan and Carl Rowe.
Thank you!

SRAS meetings are held on the second Monday of
each month on the Clarion campus
Room 123, Science Technology Center
Social & Snacks – 6:30 p.m.
Program – 7:00 p.m.



SRAS Board Members

Vice-president - Pete Dalby	782-3227
Treasurer, Birdseed, Birdathon - Janice Horn	226-7367
Website, Drummer Editor - Flo McGuire	755-3672
Field Trips, Events - Jim Wilson	676-5455
Secretary, Membership - Deb Freed	226-4719
Community Programs - Ron Montgomery	764-6088
Education - Paulette Colantonio	797-2031
History - Pat Conway	849-6315
Beaver Creek - Walter Fye	797-1019

Clarion, PA 16214

P.O. Box 148

Seneca Rocks Audubon Society