

# Seneca Rocks Drummer



October, 2006      Newsletter of the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society      Volume 23, No. 2  
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society      [www.senecarocksaudubon.org](http://www.senecarocksaudubon.org)

## NOTE – NEW TIME & PLACE FOR MEETINGS

Next Meeting – October 9  
Room 150, Becker Hall  
Social – 6:30 p.m. Program begins at 7:00 p.m.

### Frank Haas – “Adak – Gambling on Birds”

Our October program will be given by Frank Haas. Frank is a long-time birder and has been active in the birding community for many years. He and his wife, Barb, began "Pennsylvania Birds" magazine and Frank was Chief Editor of the journal from 1986 to 2000.

Frank and Barb recently published the Second Edition of an "Annotated List of the Birds of Pennsylvania" and in 2005, Frank and Roger Burrows published "Birds of Pennsylvania", a guide to birds and bird finding in the Commonwealth. Both publications will be available for purchase.

The program is titled "Adak - Gambling on Birds" and includes a brief history of the island along with a look at the birdlife and other wildlife observed during trips to this Aleutian outpost located 1,300 miles southwest of Anchorage, Alaska.      ☼☼



## Field Trips - Allegheny Front Hawk Watch

by Jim Wilson

### October 26-27, 2006

Jerry Stanley has agreed to join us at Allegheny Front to assist in hawk identification and generally help us get the most from the trip. This year we will meet at the parking lot at the Hawk Watch. You can arrive and leave anytime you wish; I will probably get there about 9:30 AM on Thursday and leave mid-afternoon on Friday. The trip takes about 2.5 hours from Clarion.

The parking lot at Allegheny Front is small so please consider car pooling with someone whose plans correspond with yours.

See our Fall Bird Seed Sale form on Page 7!

Some of us plan to stay overnight at the Shawnee, the phone number is 814-733-2828; prices are \$45 to \$47 (same as last year), depending upon the number of people and beds. The McGuires have experience with a motor-home site near Shellsburg; talk to them if you would like to try that option. We will probably go to the Jean Bonnet Restaurant about 5 miles east of Shellsburg on Thursday evening. The convenience store next to the motel opens at 7:30 AM, but the fresh donuts are often not done until 8:00.



## The Drumming Log

by President Deb Freed

The weather can be severe on the Allegheny Front and it can change quickly. We have had snow, intense fog, rain and wind, but most folks say that bad weather and good hawk watching go hand in hand! Since we hope to see lots of hawks, be sure to put your warmest and most water-repellent clothes in the car.

Two hundred red tails and a dozen golden eagles in a day at Allegheny Hawk Watch is not unusual. This trip is always an unpredictable adventure. It has always been fun. I hope you can join us.

Direction – From Clarion:

Take Route 66 South to Route 422; then take 422 East to Route 219 (just west of Edensburg). Go south on Route 219 to Route 56. Route 56 East will take you to Route 160. Take Route 160 to Central City. In Central City, Route 160 turns sharply Right. Don't follow. Go straight on Main Street 0.4 mi to T on Shaffer Mt Road. Turn left. Go one mile to first Right, which is Lambert Mt. Road. Follow Lambert three miles to "crossroad" where the main road goes left continue straight ahead for ½ mile to a driveway with a blue gate on the right. Follow the driveway to the parking lot.



*Please see page 6 for information on our Bluebird Box Repair Day at Beaver Creek.*

The Crow's Nest is being abandoned for The Drumming Log. I prefer to be on the ground. It's also where you'll find our mascot, the ruffed grouse, in future issues when we debut our new masthead now that we have an attractive new logo. The new logo was selected by special balloting that took place at the annual picnic and at the first meeting of the year. The members liked its strong conservation message, its representation of our three best habitats and its colorful presentation.

Our recent success in sponsoring a program and field trip on mushrooms was most encouraging. Seneca Rocks wants to reach out to a broad audience with all sorts of programs that will inspire and teach, inform and entertain. We welcome visitors and enjoy their participation, knowledge and enthusiasm. Perhaps our widespread advertising, our new accessible location, earlier meeting time and diversity in programming will help us to attract more people.

I came across this quote from African conservationist Baba Dioum that I find echoes our chapter's message to "observe and conserve".

*In the end, we will conserve only what we love.  
We will love only what we understand.  
We will understand only what we are taught.*

Welcome members and visitors to a great new Audubon year!



## Mushrooms at Clear Creek 9/16/06

by Deb Freed

When it comes to mushrooms, I'm pretty much limited to the grocery store varieties. I found out, however, there are a lot of people with great interest in harvesting wild mushrooms and learning which ones are edible. Following the popular September program "Mushroom Madness", presenter Scott Stoleson and his wife Pam led a well-attended mushroom hunt and identification event at Clear Creek State Park. September rains provided great growing conditions, so collecting was easy and fun as everyone fanned out to go "shrooming". Thirty-five people gathered mushrooms for about 40 minutes, filling bags and baskets with samples. Scott then went to work identifying at least 46 varieties, adding interesting facts about their taste, smell, texture, and color while Pam labeled the samples by scientific and common names. Everyone was eager to know which ones were edible and good tasting. Check out the website for more photos.

## Chapter Leadership

by Deb Freed

**S**eneca Rocks will be electing new officers in the spring. The good news is that several people will continue to serve in leadership positions giving the new board a blend of fresh and experienced leadership. Please direct any inquiries about the position descriptions to one of the officers listed in the Drummer.

### President

1. List the agenda items and facilitate the membership meeting on program night.
2. List the agenda items and facilitate the board meetings.
3. Receive correspondence and direct it to the appropriate person.
4. Convene a planning meeting to map out the programs and field trips, chapter goals and budget needs for the coming year.
5. Complete a year-end report for Audubon PA.
6. Respond to a variety of requests and inquiries on behalf of SRAS.
7. Write a column or article for the Drummer.

### Conservation Chair

It is evident by visiting the state and national Audubon web-sites that conservation issues are important to our organization. We have our own local conservation issues and many local organizations that keep informed and active. The SRAS Conservation Chair should become familiar with the issues and help to inform our members about them. Current information is readily available on-line from Audubon. Audubon PA will prioritize conservation projects and efforts that our chapter should know about. Making announcements at our

membership meetings and submitting articles to the Drummer are two ways to inform our members.

## SRAS Treasurer -- Job Description

by Janice Horn

- Maintain the checking account and any savings accounts (e.g. CDs), paying bills and depositing receipts as needed.
- Prepare a Treasurer's report for each Board and membership meeting.
- Prepare an annual budget for the July Board planning meeting.
- Plan and carryout the semi-annual Bird Seed Sales, including notifying non-members of the event.
- Initiate additional fundraisers after planning with the Board.

## Clarion County Compiler

**A**s many of you know, Margaret Buckwalter has been the Clarion County Compiler for *Pennsylvania Birds*, the Journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, for many years. This quarterly publication includes a report from each county, photographic highlights, and interesting articles concerning birding in Pennsylvania. Reports are published on the Winter Raptor Survey, the PA Migration Count, and the Christmas Bird Counts. Formerly *Pennsylvania Birds* also included "Seasonal Occurrence Tables", a record of species abundance per county per quarter - these are still reported by each county compiler, but are now published only on the PSO web site, [www.pabirds.org](http://www.pabirds.org), to save printing costs. *Pennsylvania Birds* is written and edited entirely by volunteers.



Margaret has decided to retire from this position and is posting the following opportunity:

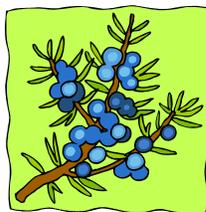
### Clarion County Compiler Job Description

1. Familiarity with Clarion County geography.
2. Computer literacy
3. Familiarity with Clarion County bird population
4. Familiarity with AOU order would be helpful but not necessary. You will learn on the job.
5. Spare time to do the job right.

Further information is available at the PSO web site: [www.pabirds.org/PSOPABirds.htm](http://www.pabirds.org/PSOPABirds.htm). Look under "Report Forms" and "Instructions".

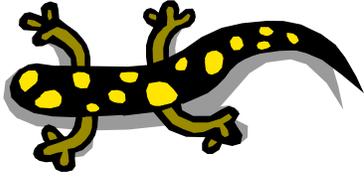
The County Compiler is responsible for seasonal quarterly narrative accounts and filling out Spring Migration, Breeding Bird and Fall Migration Forms, which can be done on the computer, or filled in by hand for others to process.

Margaret will be happy to assist her replacement. If interested, please email Margaret at [buckwalter01@alltel.net](mailto:buckwalter01@alltel.net).



Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.

~ Rachel Carson



## Seasonal Pools Project

*The following request/information about an interesting new citizen science project was received from Sally Ray of the Western PA Conservancy.*

I am contacting you to ask for your help with a new statewide initiative within the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. It is the Pennsylvania Seasonal Pools Project. Seasonal (or vernal) pools provide important habitat for a number of amphibian and invertebrate species. Other animals utilize and depend upon them as well. This is an effort to identify and map the locations of these pools statewide.

This registry is a citizen-scientist program. We are seeking contact with groups and organizations that may have members who would be willing to help identify and register seasonal pools. Public involvement is a way to maximize our resources. Getting information about known locations of pools can provide a great deal of information rapidly and can help us target areas that need further inventory. The information collected will help us characterize the plants and animals that depend on seasonal pools and examine patterns of regional variation or rarity. Ultimately, we hope that the information collected will be used to drive planning and conservation efforts in areas supporting these important wetlands.

We have developed a website to inform the general public about the project and have brochures available for distribution describing the project. You can view the Pennsylvania Seasonal Pools website at: <http://www.paconserve.org/rc/sp/>.

We are currently engaged in various outreach projects such as presentations and workshops to provide information on the Seasonal Pools Project. We are also looking for opportunities to team up or partner with other groups in doing these workshops and presentations. If your group is interested, please contact me so that we can discuss ways that we might work together or schedule a program for your organization. I look forward to hearing from you.

~Sally Ray, Seasonal Pools Project, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, 208 Airport Drive, Middletown, PA 17057

## Erie National Wildlife Refuge Needs Your Help!

*The following information is from the Presque Isle Audubon Society website*

The Erie National Wildlife Refuge is in trouble! This past year, due to lack of funding, ENWR lost its independence and has been assigned as an administrative unit of the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, which is 160 miles away in New York. The refuge manager position has already been eliminated and 40% of the remaining permanent staff positions are slated to be terminated by January 2007. You can help save the Erie National Wildlife Refuge and other refuges by writing to Representative Phil English and Senators Santorum and Specter. Action is urgently needed NOW. More information and sample letters can be seen on the website-

<http://www.presqueisle.org/audubon/> -- scroll down to "What's New".

### Beaver Creek Supporters

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Alliance Banquet will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2006 at the Traditions Banquet Center in Shippensburg. Tickets are \$40.00. Please contact any member of the Alliance for Wetlands and Wildlife for more information.

### Wildlife and Wind Energy Conference

There will be a major Wildlife and Wind Energy Conference at Kutztown University of PA on December 2, 2006. Twenty-five very well qualified speakers will take part in this forum, which is open to any interested party. Advance registration is due November 12. More information and a registration form can be found at:

<http://www.kutztown.edu/acad/geography/wildlif econf.htm> or email Donald S. Heintzelman at [dons@enter.net](mailto:dons@enter.net)

## Bluebird Box Repair at Beaver Creek

On October 10, 2006 (or October 11, 2006 - alternate date due to weather) we will meet at Beaver Creek to clean, repair and replace bluebird boxes. Time: 9:00 a.m. till (?)

**Directions:**

Beaver Creek is located approximately 3 miles West of Knox on route 208. The parking lot and picnic pavilion will be on the right side of the road.

**Materials supplied:**

Cordless Drill	Wire	Sledge	Steel Posts -6ft (?)
4ft stepladder	Bolts	Hammer	12 New Boxes
Wrenches	Nails/Screws		

**Material Needed:**

Stepladders	Hammers	Wrenches	Steel Posts- 6ft (?)
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Cordless Drills

Bring a lunch, gloves, blaze orange clothing and enjoy the fall season.

~Jim Wilson, Events Chair



*Seneca Rocks Audubon Society*

### National Audubon Society Membership Application Includes Seneca Rocks Audubon Society and Audubon Pennsylvania

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter U217XCH

- One Year new membership - \$20.00
- Annual renewal membership - \$30.00

Please make your check payable to  
*National Audubon Society* and mail to:  
National Audubon Society  
Chapter Membership Data  
P.O. Box 51001  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001



**"Chapter only" memberships in Seneca Rocks Audubon Society are also available.** "Chapter only" members do not receive National Audubon's magazine, but receive our newsletter, the *Drummer*, either by mail or on-line. The annual \$10 membership is sent to SRAS in a check made payable to *SRAS*. The Chapter membership supports the work of the local chapter. If you would like a "Chapter only" membership in **Seneca Rocks Audubon Society**, please send your name, address, and check for \$10 to: Deb Freed, 208 Briar Hill Drive, Clarion, PA, 16214

## SRAS Bird Seed Sale

This is your opportunity to purchase quality bird seed from our local Agway dealer and support the conservation, education and environmental activities of the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society. For your convenience, you will have a one week period to pick up your order by checking the SRAS order in the store. If there is any question about your order, please contact Janice Horn.

ORDER BY FRIDAY OCT 20 , 2006	PICK-UP from WEDNESDAY NOV 8 to SATURDAY NOV 18
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Mail this order form with check (payable to SRAS) to: Seneca Rocks Audubon Society  
c/o Janice Horn  
32 Barber St.  
Clarion, PA 16214

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ SRAS member Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity	Seed Type	Lbs	Unit Price	Total
_____	Classic Blend 50% sunflower	40 lb	\$18.75	_____
_____	Classic Blend	20 lb	\$ 9.75	_____
_____	Premium Blend 30% sunflower	50 lb	\$14.75	_____
_____	Premium Blend	25 lb	\$ 7.75	_____
_____	Deluxe Blend 25% sunflower	50 lb	\$12.00	_____
_____	Deluxe Blend	25 lb	\$ 6.50	_____
_____	Econo Mix 12% sunflower	50 lb	\$11.00	_____
_____	Econo Mix	25 lb	\$ 5.75	_____
_____	Sunflower Blend	50 lb	\$24.00	_____
_____	Black Oil Sunflower	50 lb	\$14.25	_____
_____	Black Oil Sunflower	25 lb	\$ 9.25	_____
_____	Grey-Striped Sunflower	50 lb	\$27.25	_____
_____	Sunflower Meats	50 lb	\$37.00	_____
_____	Sunflower Meats	10 lb	\$10.00	_____
_____	Cracked Corn	50 lb	\$ 8.00	_____
_____	Cracked Corn	per lb	\$ .30	_____
_____	Niger Seed	25 lb	\$20.00	_____
_____	Niger Seed	10 lb	\$ 9.00	_____
_____	Hanging Suet Feeder	28 oz	\$ 4.50	_____
_____	Hanging P-Butter Suet Feeder	28 oz	\$ 4.50	_____
_____	Beef Suet Cake	12 oz	\$ .80	_____
_____	Peanut Butter Suet Cake	12 oz	\$ .80	_____

**Make checks payable to:**  
**Seneca Rocks Audubon Society**

Subtotal		_____
6% tax		_____
Donation to Seneca Rocks Audubon		_____
<b>Total</b>		_____



New this year - Meetings will begin at 6:30, In Room 150, Becker Hall.

**Coming Up -**

- **November** - SRAS member and award-winning photographer Gil Twiest will present a program on his birding trip to Mexico.
- **December** will be Members' Night - bring your favorite slides, digital photos, or something else to share, and join the fun!

*Thanks to Deb Freed & Janice Horn for hosting our September meeting.*

**Hosts for Upcoming Meetings:**

- Oct 9 - Kathy Pokrifka
- Nov 13 - Linda and Gil Twiest
- Dec 11 - Shirley Monrean and Walt Fye



**SRAS Board Members**

<u>Deb Freed</u> , President, Membership	226-4719
<u>Gary Edwards</u> , Vice-president, Programs	676-3011
<u>Dennis Beaver</u> , Secretary/Publicity	676-6564
<u>Janice Horn</u> , Treasurer, Birseed, Birdathon	226-7367
<u>Flo McGuire</u> , Website, Drummer Editor	755-3672
<u>Ron Montgomery</u> , Community Programs	764-6088
<u>Jim Wilson</u> , Events, Field Trips	676-5455
<u>Paulette Colantonio</u> , Education	797-2031
<u>Pat Conway</u> , History	849-6315
<u>Margaret Buckwalter</u> , Mill Creek Coalition	782-3925
<u>Walter Fye</u> , Beaver Creek	797-1019

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