Located along the Appalachian flyway near Kempton, PA, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is the world’s oldest wildlife sanctuary exclusively committed to protecting and observing birds of prey. With an average of 18,000 hawks, eagles, and falcons annually passing its lookouts, Hawk Mountain is an international conservation training site and one of the best places in North America to view raptor migration. But until 1934, Hawk Mountain attracted hunters who daily shot hundreds of raptors for sport and profit. Unbelievably, this was condoned by the Audubon Society, as well as the Pennsylvania Game Commission, which paid hunters to eradicate predatory birds.

Bill Anderson, a retired physician and director on the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary board, will tell us about the sanctuary and its intriguing history. We’ll hear about three conservationists who were instrumental in creating the sanctuary, including Rosalie Edge, whose dramatic fight with the Audubon Society brought about its reform and stopped the persecution of birds of prey.

This fascinating program will be a great way to prepare for our field trip to Hawk Mountain on October 25. We hope you’ll join us!

---

AAS Fall Native Plant Sale
at Meadowood Nursery
Saturday, September 15  9 AM – 1 PM

Fall is a great time for planting! Cooler temperatures allow plants to get established and grow new roots without the stress of summer heat. Our annual native plant sale will again be held at Meadowood Nursery, which grows approximately 300 species of herbaceous and woody plants native to our geographic region.

Native plants need less water than non-natives, don’t require fertilizer or pesticides, and provide food for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife that pass through or nest in our neighborhoods. Restoring plants that are native to a given region contributes to re-establishing a healthier ecosystem. All Meadowood plants are container grown; none taken from the wild. Enjoy browsing the nursery where volunteers will help you make selections for your yard.

Meadowood Nursery Location:
24 Meadowood Drive, Hummelstown, 17036
Directions: From Hershey Park Drive in front of the Giant Center, follow Route 39 north/west approximately 3 miles and turn left on Red Top Road. Proceed 1 mile and turn right on Long Lane Drive. Turn left on Meadowood Drive and proceed to the end where two driveways split into a “Y”. Stay to the left up the hill and follow signs to the nursery. Learn more at: www.meadowoodnursery.org
President’s Perch

Hello and welcome to the 2012/13 season of the Appalachian Audubon Society! Once again we’ve worked hard to bring you programs, field trips, and other events to entertain and educate you about birds and our natural world. We’ve packed our programs with Snowy Owls, Golden Eagles, Henslow’s Sparrows, and Regal Fritillary butterflies. We’re going to Hawk Mountain, Waggoner’s Gap, Hershey Gardens, the New Jersey Shore, the Tuscarora Forest, and the Conowingo Dam.

We kick off the season on September 15 with our Annual Fall Native Plant Sale at the delightful Meadowood Nursery in Hummelstown. Native plants are THE way to attract birds and pollinating insects to your yard and ensure the preservation and diversity of our natural heritage. You'll find that, besides looking gorgeous, native plants will bring a sense of comfort and serenity to your landscape—you just know they belong there.

September 28-29 is our Annual Birdseed Sale, a 34-year tradition for Appalachian Audubon and our major fundraiser of the year. Last year many of you took advantage of ordering your seed online—give it a try—it’s easy, convenient and secure. Saturday, September 29, will feature activities for the kids, tips on bird feeding, a bake sale from Brownie Troop 796, and lots of other goodies. Come out and see our large and carefully selected inventory of bird feeders that we sell below retail. Seed prices, unfortunately, remain high due to continuing severe weather conditions that again have caused major crop failures for Midwest farmers. But our seed prices are competitive, and the birds are worth it, don’t you think?

This year we’re stepping up our effort to attract eligible students and educators to our scholarship program to the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. If you are a teen or educator with a passion for birds and the environment, be sure to apply (see page 3 for details). Hog Island is open to anyone, and after you read Maia Paddock’s account of her experience at the teen camp at Hog Island this past June, you’ll be packing your binoculars in your duffle bag and heading Down East!
Report From Hog Island

On June 23rd, AAS president Annette Mathes received the following message from this year’s Hog Island scholarship recipient, 15-year old Maia Paddock. Below the message is a report of Maia’s camp experience.

I just got back from Hog Island and wanted to tell you what a wonderful experience it was. I’ve never learned more in a week! Thank you again to Appalachian Audubon for making it possible for me to go. Also, I saw someone I think you know there - Tom Johnson. He gave one of the nighttime lectures. [Editor’s note: Tom is a previous AAS Hog Island scholarship recipient and son of members Jan Getgood & Ernie Johnson.]

The first bird I saw after arriving at Hog Island was a Black Guillemot. It was far out in the Muscongus Bay, and I was exceedingly excited. By the end of my short week at Hog Island, I had seen guillemots, Atlantic Puffins, and Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns no more than five feet away. Apart from the fantastic birds I was offered the chance to see, I learned more about birds during the daytime workshops and evening lectures than from all of the books I had read before camp.

Each day we would take at least one trip out on the Snowgoose III, the island’s boat. Flocks of Common Eiders, some with chicks, were never far from the boat. Harbor seals were also abundant, basking on rocks and sticking their heads out of the water. Twice we made landings on islands without docks. To get to the island, we rowed out on a small Maine fishing dory. The dory would rock side to side dangerously but, to our relief, never tipped over.

The highlight of the trip was, of course, the puffins. On the last day of camp we sailed out to Eastern Egg Rock, the sight of the first puffin colony established by Project Puffin. Last year Eastern Egg Rock had 123 confirmed breeding pairs of puffins. When we arrived, we broke into small groups of one to five campers that set up in blinds all across the island. Getting to the blinds was tricky. Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns nest on Eastern Egg Rock along with the puffins and guillemots. However, unlike the puffins and guillemots, the terns nest in the open and sometimes on the paths. Therefore, while crossing the island, I had to be very careful where I was stepping while dodging protective tern parents attacking my head with their pointy beaks. We had a little over two hours in the blind. From my blind I could see five puffin burrows, one of which was definitely in use. I also saw a pair of guillemots carrying their favorite food, red eels, into a burrow for their chicks. Look-}

Hog Island Scholarships

Once again this year AAS will be sponsoring two scholarships to Audubon Camps at Hog Island, Maine. The Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens camp is June 16-21, 2013, for teens between the ages of 14-17 years old. The Sharing Nature: An Educator’s Week camp, for conservation and science educators, is scheduled for July 18-23, 2013.

AAS will pay the full price of tuition ($995) for the student scholarship, which covers room, board, and fabulous seminars and field trips; applicants must provide their own transportation. AAS will pay $500 toward the educator’s scholarship. To apply for the 2013 AAS scholarships, please complete the scholarship application form available on the AAS website at www.appalachiaudubon.org. Return by email to Arlene Buchholz, AAS Education Chair, at abvetlab@yahoo.com. Preference in awarding scholarships will be given to AAS members. For more information on how you can participate in this truly unique and special experience, visit the Hog Island website at www.projectpuffin.org/ornithcamps.html.

Thank you to our sponsor:
Middle Creek for food and rest during their 3,000-mile migration from the coastal marshes of Virginia and North Carolina to the tundra of northern Alaska and Canada.

The May 2012 annual banquet was more than just a fun and delightful evening of good food, socializing with fellow members, and a great program on the birds of Cape May. Members also contributed $1,081.50 to our silent auction, the proceeds of which have been dedicated to fund scholarships to Hog Island. Added to an extra $252 that members designated for our scholarship fund as part of the annual appeal, we’re off to a great start for the new year.

Thank you AAS members! You’re the best!