

Kingfisher Courier

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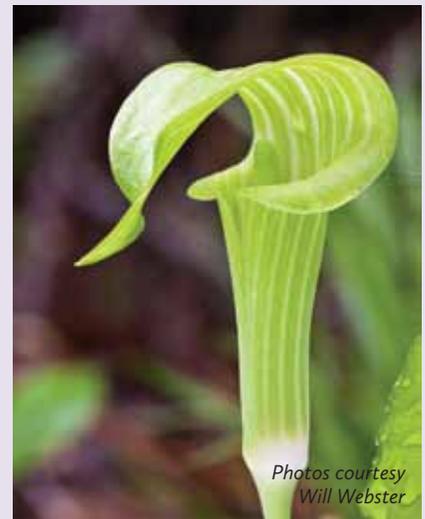
Vacant

Spring Native Plant Sale

Since 2016, Appalachian Audubon has partnered with Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse in Boiling Springs to offer Native Plant Sales. Due to the ongoing pandemic we will once again be hosting an online Native Plant Sale. Using the coupon code below will ensure that a percentage of your purchase benefits AAS.

Please visit: <https://the-wilderness-greenhouse.square.site/> to access the online sale. Upon check-out, you will be assigned a date and time to pick up your order at the nursery. If your assigned date and time will not work for you, please call 717-960-6740 or email PattenK@diakon.org to arrange a different pick-up time. Or, if you're local (within 20 miles of the nursery), you may choose to have your plants delivered for a \$25 fee.

Thank you for supporting native plants and wildlife habitats. Happy Planting!



Photos courtesy
Will Webster



AAS Annual Banquet

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Appalachian Audubon Society will not be hosting our annual banquet this year. However, we are planning an informal ice-cream social open to all members in May. In addition, we are hosting an online silent auction to support our educational scholarships.

Online Silent Auction — Friday, April 23rd through Sunday, May 9th

AAS will again hold a silent auction in support of our educational scholarships. However, instead of being held during our annual banquet, it will be held online from Friday, April 23rd through Sunday, May 9th utilizing the online auction platform Bidding Owl. All proceeds from the auction will support our scholarships for environmental and natural history camps. These scholarships have enabled many local young people to experience exciting and life-shaping educational opportunities.

Online Silent Auction website: <https://www.biddingowl.com/AppalachianAudubonSociety>

A highlight of the auction will be a print of the painting “Great Blue Heron, Mourning Cloak Butterfly, River Birch Tree, and Jewelweed Wildflower” by Jennifer Lynn Becker. Jennifer is a local artist who specializes in plant, insect, and bird images. Our own Trout Run Preserve was the inspiration for this painting, which she has generously donated to AAS to help raise scholarship funds. Be sure to visit the auction site often!

Ice-cream Social — Saturday, May 15th

We know we couldn't get together for our annual banquet this year. But we still wanted to find a way to gather safely and celebrate what was an interesting, and successful year for Appalachian Audubon Society. Join us at 4075 Lisburn Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 on Saturday, May 15th anytime between 1pm–3pm at the Fernlawn Pavilion at Lower Allen Community Park. AAS will be providing individually wrapped ice-cream bars, treats, and beverages. This will also be your first opportunity to pick up any silent auction items you may have won. In addition, we will be holding a small ‘yard sale’ of any items that were not bid on during the online silent auction. Oh! We'll also do some impromptu birding and have some of our wonderful coffee for sale too! Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted for all purchases.

Board Nominations



The Appalachian Audubon Society's Nominating Committee —
Chris Kemmerer, Ali Bowling, and Rick Price —
is pleased to present this slate of candidates for consideration by members:

President (2-year term) — *Alexandria Bowling*

Vice President (1-year term) — *John Latsha*

Treasurer (1-year term) — *Zach Richard*

Secretary (1-year term) — *Betsy Riter*

Director (2-year term) — *Georgia Kagle*

Director (2-year term) — *Mary Jo Zemitis*

Director (2-year term) — *Open*

Elections will be held online beginning Saturday, May 1st and will close on Friday, May 28th.

Additional nominations will be accepted via an online voting platform (to be announced).

2021 Annual Appeal

Appalachian Audubon Society will be supporting two local wildlife rehabilitation centers through our Annual Appeal this year. They are Red Creek Wildlife Center in Schuylkill County and West Shore Wildlife Center in York County. Your donation will help both centers rescue and rehabilitate Pennsylvania's injured wildlife.

Red Creek Wildlife Center

Red Creek Wildlife Center began in 1991 to offer a second chance to distressed Pennsylvania wildlife through rescue and rehabilitation, public education and by providing training for wildlife rehabilitators. Today the center takes in and serves close to 4,000 animals annually, from the tiniest hummingbird to the largest eagle, from chipmunks to deer. Red Creek is dedicated to giving wildlife a second chance.

Red Creek believes that education is an important part of saving Pennsylvania's wildlife, the environment and the planet for future generations. Each year, tens of thousands of students enjoy a positive wildlife experience through Red Creek's LIVE RAPTOR programs and assemblies. Red Creek believes wildlife rehabilitation is a valuable service that should be available to everyone. Red Creek is helping others become wildlife rehabilitators through classes, seminars and online training, expanding this service to new areas in Pennsylvania and nationally. The work the center does is truly a benefit to both humans and wildlife!

West Shore Wildlife Center

Founded in 2019 by Emily Garrigan, West Shore Wildlife Center's mission is "inspiring coexistence between humans and wildlife." With the decline of wild, natural spaces, more and more wild animals are living in our neighborhoods and cities. This close proximity of wildlife to humans causes a variety of conflicts. Through their programs, the Center hopes to ease the tensions between humans and wildlife in a way that works for all of us. They hope to inspire everyone to be better neighbors for our health, the animals, and our planet.

As the Center plans strategically for the future and even larger impact, they hope that the local community joins them on their journey. The Center continues to expand the number and variety of species that they are able to care for and continues to expand their library of resources for individuals, government agencies, and corporations.

Yes, I want to support the Annual Appeal:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to donate:

- Red Creek Wildlife Center & West Shore Wildlife Center \$ _____
- AAS Educational Scholarships \$ _____

Donating Options:

MAIL

Mail this form, along with your check payable to AAS (Appalachian Audubon Society), to:
Appalachian Audubon Society
P.O. Box 234,
Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234

CLICK

Click on the [Donate](#) button on our website and use your credit or debit card to pay. Add a comment that your donation is for our Annual Appeal.

Total included \$ _____

DONATION DEADLINE
6/15/21

100% of your contribution is tax-deductible.

Wildlife Leadership Academy

The following is an article written by Melinda Jin, who attended the Wildlife Leadership Academy, Bucktails camp, this past summer. The mission of the Wildlife Leadership Academy is to engage and empower high school age youth to become Conservation Ambassadors to ensure a legacy of sustained wildlife, fisheries and natural resources for future generations. The Academy offers high-achieving youth, ages 14–17, a comprehensive study of specific wildlife species, including classroom and field-based, hands-on education. Led by experts, including biologists and educators from across the state and beyond, the program also engages participants in teamwork, friendly competition, and an awareness of their natural world.

The Wildlife Leadership Academy has opened its exclusive Youth Conservation Ambassador nomination process to the public and is currently seeking referrals of motivated students ages 14–17 to become Certified Conservation Ambassadors. Nominations for the 2021 summer camps are now being accepted online at wildlifeleadershipacademy.org/nominate. Appalachian Audubon Society supports Wildlife Leadership Academy by providing scholarship money.

..... Nature's Architects

by Melinda Jin

Hi, I'm Melinda and I've been interested in nature throughout my life, which is why I attended Wildlife Leadership Academy. I enjoy watching shows, reading books, and learning. Eventually, I think I want to find a career in STEM.

When I walk around my neighborhood in winter, one of my favorite things to do is look up at the trees and see nests that would usually be hidden by leaves. It's always amazing to spot a new nest settled between some branches above your head and think about the birds that made it. So many little architects fly through our skies and build homes out of twigs, leaves, and grass that are strong enough to support them and their families. These architects exhibit great workmanship, using only their beaks as tools to carry and weave their materials together.

The nests that I see in my neighborhood are cup or cupped nests, which are shaped like cups, as the name suggests. Of the many types of nests, cupped nests tend to be the strongest, warmest, and most complicated. These nests are situated on the tree branches; some are supported by branches beneath the nest while others are suspended by branches on the side of the nest. Usually, cupped nests are made of grasses, twigs, leaves, and other flexible materials, but some birds use mud, saliva, hair, or spiderwebs as well to build their nests in order to make them more sturdy.

Birds begin building their nests by bringing materials to the base and laying them on top of each other. A crucial part of this process is turning in the nest to tuck the material into the cup. As birds continue weaving new materials into their nest, a cup shape will form. The outer part of the nest



Photos courtesy
Melinda Jin

tends to be more compacted to keep the nest durable, and the inside is usually made of softer material. Some birds such as hummingbirds will use saliva to help anchor their nests to trees and spider silk to keep the nest flexible and help it stick to branches.

Birds are truly nature's architects, creating sturdy homes and using materials that will best benefit them. Although I've seen dozens of nests around my neighborhood, I can't wait until spring when I can see some birds building new nests and witness the architects at work.

Native Plant Spotlight

By Zach Richard

We often think of our native Asters as summer and fall bloomers, but this member of the Aster family puts on a magnificent spring display. It is tough to rival a drift of Golden Groundsel (*Packera aurea*, formerly *Senecio aureus*) in profuse bloom, not only for its cheery hue of yellow, but also for its vigor and endurance.

Individual plants form clumps and actively grow and spread by rhizomes in the cooler months to achieve an exceptional groundcover. Relatively large, heart-shaped basal leaves persist through the winter. In spring, a flower stalk with purple buds develops in the center of each rosette, rising above the mat of foliage to attain its maximum height of ~2'. Leaves along the flower stalk are pinnatifid, markedly different from the basal leaves. In most of Pennsylvania, *P. aurea* reliably flowers from April through June, though sometimes begins as early as late March. This plant can be grown in a variety of conditions,

though it performs best in moist, shady locations in soils with abundant organic matter. If grown in full sun, consistent moisture is necessary. It can be found naturally in wet meadows, low woodlands, along waterways, and ditches.

Because of its early, prolific, and long-lasting bloom period, *P. aurea* provides a generous source of pollen and nectar for many small native bees and flies. The bee *Andrena gardineri* is a *Packera* pollen specialist; it cannot survive without plants from this genus. Several caterpillars utilize the foliage as a host plant, including the Gem Moth (*Orthonama obstipata*) and Northern Metalmark Butterfly (*Calephelis borealis*). Because it begins to set seed in June, hummingbirds, among others, are known to use the fluffy pappus as nesting material. Granivorous birds will also enjoy the seed.

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Golden Groundsel • *Packera aurea*

Aster Family (Asteraceae)

Size: 0.5–2 ft • Light: Part sun to shade • Soil: Acidic (pH<6.8)

Water: Moist to wet



While the shallow roots of River birch (*Betula nigra*) are not conducive to growing many plants under their canopy, Golden Groundsel thrives.

Keep Your Favorite Birding Hot Spot Litter Free

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful invites you to join **PICK UP PENNSYLVANIA** and remove litter from your favorite bird habitat. Birds often mistake litter for food, use it as nesting material or become entangled, all with devastating results.

During **PICK UP PENNSYLVANIA**, from **March 1 through May 31**, thousands of Pennsylvania families and friends will participate in litter and illegal dump cleanups, community greening and beautification, such as tree and flower plantings, recycling collections and public education programs. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful partners with the Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), PennDOT and Keep America Beautiful to provide free trash bags,

gloves, and safety vests to registered participants, as supplies last. As part of this event, the PA DEP and Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association are sponsoring trash disposal at a free or reduced cost for registered program participants at participating landfills from **April 1 through April 30**, with prior approval.

Your help is needed more than ever. The results of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Pennsylvania Litter Research Study identified an estimated 500 million pieces of litter on roadways. This unsightly litter is estimated to be comprised of over 37% cigarette butts and over 30% plastic items. Among other things, this litter pollutes our environment and affects our quality of life.

Register at <https://gacofpa.org/>. Questions can be answered by Michelle Dunn, PICK UP PENNSYLVANIA Program Coordinator, at 877-772-3673 ext. 113 or mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org.

Registered events can also win cash for a nonprofit or charity by entering the PICK UP PENNSYLVANIA Video Contest. Visit gacofpa.org and choose video-contest for details.

The organization's newest initiative, Leaders for a Beautiful Pennsylvania, encourages legislators or public officials to "lead the way" in keeping our communities clean and beautiful. Share this information with your public officials: <https://www.keeppabeautiful.org/keep-it/leaders-for-a-beautiful-pa/>.



Trash by the Numbers



JOIN KEEP PENNSYLVANIA BEAUTIFUL'S

PICK UP PENNSYLVANIA

Join thousands of Pennsylvanians for PICK UP PENNSYLVANIA and help keep your favorite birding spot clean and beautiful!

Native Plant Spotlight *continued*

Some gardeners may be taken aback by the spreading nature of this plant, but it is relatively easy to control and divide. Functionally, *P. aurea* makes a good soil stabilizer and effective weed competitor and suppresser (goodbye mulch!) while still allowing established, taller plants to grow through. Consider companion planting with Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) or Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*) for an impressive spring combo, or with any array of native moisture-loving perennials to follow in consecutive bloom. If you want a low-maintenance show-stopper, this plant is for you.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments at zachrichard021@gmail.com.

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Because of its early, prolific, and long-lasting bloom period, *P. aurea* provides a generous source of pollen and nectar for many small native bees and flies. Because it begins to set seed in June, hummingbirds, among others, are known to use the fluffy pappus as nesting material. Granivorous birds will also enjoy the seed.

— Zach Richard

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By late spring and early summer, flowers give way to puffy seedheads



Field Trips

Appalachian Audubon Society welcomes people at all levels of experience. Birding with a group is a good way to improve your skills and confidence in birding.

Reminder: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic Appalachian Audubon Society will continue to limit field trip registration to a maximum of 10 people. Participants will be required to wear a mask; scopes, binoculars, and other equipment will not be shared; and we will not be organizing carpooling to and from field trips nor will we be carpooling during field trips. All questions may be directed to AAS President Chris Kemmerer at president@appalachianaudubon.org or 717-571-7958.

APRIL FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, April 10, 2021

Wildflowers at Gifford Pinchot State Park with Dan Welte

Join naturalist Dan Welte on a trip to Gifford Pinchot State Park to search for early wild blooms. The program will begin at 10:00am at the Conewago Day Use Area off Alpine Road at the south end of the park. We will gather at the north end of the large parking lot. Many of the early wildflowers should be in bloom by this time. Contact Dan directly at dcmawelte@comcast.net for specifics.

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Waterfowl and Early Warblers at Memorial Lake

New!

Last year at about the same date, Memorial Lake was host to several Common Loons, a pair of rare White-winged Scoters, Hooded Mergansers, a Redhead Duck, and lots of Buffeheads, Ruddy Ducks, and Bonaparte's Gulls. In addition, we found some early warblers including Pine, Palm, and Yellow-rumped Warblers in prime breeding plumage. Feel free to bring your own scope. We will meet at the Upper Road parking lot off Boundary Road at 7:30am. Contact Rick Price at rprice210@comcast.net or 717-657-1950 to register.