

## South Mountain Airs

The Newsletter of the South Mountain Audubon Society

January – March 2017, Volume XXXVIII #1 – The E-mail Edition

### UPCOMING BIRD RELATED / OTHER EVENTS

Unless indicated otherwise, all SMAS Programs are held at the Adams County Agricultural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA at 7:00 PM. We usually have light refreshments before the program presentation begins. The program presentation starts at 7:30 PM. A room number for the SMAS meeting will be posted on the front lobby entry inner door.

We've posted the information on our total activities' schedule throughout the year at the end of this edition.

### UPCOMING SMAS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Monday January 16th

**January Winter Tree Identification** - Nathaniel Shank

The winter season is the most difficult time to identify deciduous trees, however there are still many different methods to correctly identify these trees without looking at the leaves. To the untrained eye it may seem nearly impossible and frustrating at times, but with a little training and knowledge of what to look for almost anyone can become an intelligent dendrologist.

Refreshments at 7:00 PM / Meeting begins at 7:30 PM

At the January meeting each year we hold the Election of Officers and assign various Board members.

Monday March 20th

**The Bug Man** - Ryan Bridge



This program is mostly a “show-n-tell” presentation where Ryan Bridge, “The BugMan,” uses a large variety of REAL insects and arthropods, many of which are the largest species in the world. Harmless LIVE bugs are also used and the audience is encouraged to touch or pet the mini-beasts. Motivational and informative, this program inspires young minds to pursue and experience the incredible world of insects and teaches many basic principles of Entymology. Free and open to the public.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. The program will last about 45 minutes to an hour.

Note that this program BEGINS at 7:00 PM to accommodate a school night schedule for children.

### UPCOMING SMAS FIELD TRIPS

Please let the Leader know in advance if you plan to attend any field trip, especially if you plan to go direct. Trips are subject to weathering out, especially in the colder months, or otherwise being changed. In addition, if we have only one or two known attendees, we may cancel or reschedule a given field trip. We cannot alert you unless we hear from you.

#### Friday January 20th - **Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve**

Meet at the pink cabin at 9AM. Carole Simon will lead a walk on the White Trail which will take about 1 hour. Afterwards, we can go inside the visitors center and warm up and watch the feeders.

If you have any questions contact Deb Siefken by phone at (717) 677-4830 or by email at [siefken@embarqmail.com](mailto:siefken@embarqmail.com)

#### Saturday February 4th - **Big Spring Bird Walk**

We will join the Big Spring First Saturday Monthly Bird Walk on Saturday, February 4, 2017. The walk is about 3 miles long and usually takes 3 to 3 1/2 hours.

The walk begins at 8:00 A.M. and it will be about a 50 minute drive to the Newville area meeting point, so our carpool will form at 6:45 AM at the Adams County Agriculture Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA.

Please contact Linette Mansberger at [southmountainaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:southmountainaudubon@gmail.com) or [717-495-8137](tel:717-495-8137) if you plan to attend or have any questions about this field trip.

Inclement weather could cancel this trip, so please be sure to register so you can be contacted if there is a cancellation.

#### Friday March 17th - **Oakside Park, Biglerville**

Meet at the parking lot off PA Rte #394 at 7:30 AM.

Contact Mike Bertram with any questions on this field trip via email at [mike@the2nomads.org](mailto:mike@the2nomads.org)

## **HEY!! Checkout our South Mountain Audubon Society Website!!!**

SMAS has a Website which is being added to on a regular basis.

The home page has some general information and synopses of Chapter activities as well as a number of links to other informational aspects. These include the Calendar, Board members and officers, Chapter meeting minutes, current and archival newsletter editions, and links to a number of other Adams County organizations as well as other county, state and national groups and organizations.

We are also working to put up some location specific area checklists. Many of these are in place. All are encouraged to offer suggestions on what you would like to see on the website. Contact info is on the site.

### Accessing the SMAS Newsletter

A great feature of having the Newsletter on-line and receiving it via e-mail, is that you can always access a misplaced or discarded issue at a future date. You can access the Newsletter in several ways.

First, if you do not routinely discard your emails or you retain selected items in your in-box or transfer them to a saved information folder or similar, you can always access them at a future date on your own system.

Second, we archive the electronic edition on the internet at the following url: [perch.es](http://perch.es)

Simply copy the url and paste it into your browser search box or just type it in (Clicking may not always work).

The first header that appears is for the current (most recent) issue. In addition, there is a heading, by year, for past quarter issues which we archive on the site. We have put the past issues here since we started the electronic edition.

Third, you can access it on the internet at the Yahoo.com Chat Group site, Adams County Nature Chat (AdCoNaChat). Presence of the information on this site may lag the Newsletter somewhat.

We post our Smas field trips, meeting dates and topics, special events like an annual picnic, annual luncheon, and other club news on the calendar. There are directions uploaded to the files section for some areas we have trips to, and also, we often upload the species list from completed field trips and Christmas Bird Counts on the Files area.

You can access the AdCoNaChat web-site at the link provided below. This is the link to the home page and from there you can access posts and messages by members, the Calendar and Files section, and much more. Copy and paste the following url into your browser search box: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AdCoNaChat/>

And, of course, per information above re the new SMAS Website, you can reference current & past issues there.

### **SMAS Annual Schedule Information**

Regular SMAS Monthly Program Meetings are usually held in Jan / Mar / May / June / Sept / Oct / Nov. Unless indicated otherwise, all meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Adams County Agricultural Center. Please see complete information at the beginning of this and every Newsletter in

case there is any variation by quarter. Please check individual programs in each issue in the event of a change in times and /or venue.

Field Trips are not normally held in July or August. In December we substitute the annual Christmas Bird Count for the monthly field trip and in May we substitute the Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC)..

Some of these monthly field trips traditionally repeat each year, such as the Christmas Bird Count in December and the Migration Count in May. We usually go to a nearby hawk watch site in late September or early October.

The Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is held by design every year between 14 Dec and 5 Jan. For SMAS, this is in lieu of a regular field trip. We schedule our SMAS CBC on the first available Saturday after 13 Dec. In the event of really bad weather, we may cancel and reschedule.

The Annual Luncheon has been traditionally held in April, in lieu of, the regular monthly meeting.

Our SMAS Annual Picnic and get together is held in August on the second Monday. This is "Bring A Dish" to share and the kickoff is 5 PM with dinner at 6 PM. In addition to bringing a dish to share, attendees should bring their own place setting materials as well as their drink(s) of choice. Complete information to include the picnic location is provided in the 3rd Quarter newsletter.

All meetings, field trips and other activities are subject to weathering out or other cancellation reasons. If you are on our email list (receiving our Newsletters and other information) you will get an email notification as soon as the decision is made. Otherwise, if there is some question based on the weather or some other issue, please contact the field trip leader or someone from the list of Board Members / Committee Chairpersons applicable to your question(s)

#### OTHER SMAS RELATED INFORMATION

<u>Board Members</u>	Point of Contact	Telephone	Email address
President	Linette Mansberger	495-8137	Lmcopperhead@aol.com
Vice-President	Deb Siefken	677-4830	<a href="mailto:siefkend@embarqmail.com">siefkend@embarqmail.com</a>
Secretary	Kathy Gelner (202)	471-0300	<a href="mailto:klgelner@hotmail.com">klgelner@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Mike Bertram	352-7936	<a href="mailto:the2nomads@centurylink.net">the2nomads@centurylink.net</a>
<u>Director At Large</u>	Nancy Locher	334-4768	<a href="mailto:nclocher@embarqmail.com">nclocher@embarqmail.com</a>
	Jon Griffiths	334-3824	Elizabeth.Griffiths@stockton.edu
	Cy Deitz	253-0297	<a href="mailto:sdeitz1630@comcast.net">sdeitz1630@comcast.net</a>
	Carole Simon	337-1662	<a href="mailto:carolesimon@embarqmail.com">carolesimon@embarqmail.com</a>
<u>Committee Chairs</u>			
Conservation	Vacant		
Education	Betsy Griffiths	334-3824	Elizabeth.Griffiths@stockton.edu
Field Trips	Please see trip leader info associated with the field trip you are interested in.		
Hospitality	Vacant		
Membership	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	<a href="mailto:maddogobrien@gmail.com">maddogobrien@gmail.com</a>
Programs	Vacant		
Publicity	Cynthia Chambers	624-5504	<a href="mailto:cynthiachambers@embarqmail.com">cynthiachambers@embarqmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	<a href="mailto:maddogobrien@gmail.com">maddogobrien@gmail.com</a>