

## **South Mountain Airs**

**The Newsletter of the South Mountain Audubon Society**

**April – June 2017, Volume XXXVIII #2 – The E-mail Edition**

### UPCOMING BIRD RELATED / OTHER EVENTS

#### **SMAS Annual Luncheon**

**It's Time** to sign up for the SMAS Annual Luncheon.

Those receiving this Newsletter may have received earlier emails regarding the SMAS Annual Luncheon with a sign up / information attachment flyer. That flyer is again provided here as a separate attachment to the email for this Newsletter edition.

The luncheon will be held at our traditional site, the Hickory Bridge Farm Restaurant located in Orrtanna, PA, on Saturday 22 April. Social time at 11:30 AM; meal at 12 Noon;.

Upon receipt of this, you should have time to return the sign-up form and make your payment. If it gets too close to the luncheon date to depend on the regular mail and you want to attend, you can also call the phone number on the flyer for the Point of Contact, Nancy Locher, to sign up and let us know you want to attend and are sending the form and payment to us. You may be able to make arrangements to pay at the door if you are a regular and we know you. We have to provide the restaurant a head count to allow the correct number of meals to be prepared and we are then on the hook to pay.

We will have a program presentation at the luncheon. More details below; sign-up flyer attached to this email.

All are cordially invited to attend.

#### **International Migratory Bird Day**

What is International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD)?

IMBD celebrates and brings attention to one of the most important and spectacular events in the Americas - bird migration. IMBD is a Western Hemisphere-wide event and is celebrated in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Held each year on the second Saturday in May, it will be on Saturday May 13 this year, 2017.

This IMBD date is also used for the Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC), Pennsylvania's way of celebrating IMBD. People all over the state count birds and the totals are collected to form a "Snapshot" of the great spectacle of migration across our portion of the Americas. Virtually every county and province in every country carry out some type of celebratory event, festival, or other undertaking on this day. No matter where you are on this day you can find an IMBD event taking place. Just go to your internet browser and type in International Bird Day (optionally add 2017 to limit the search to current time) and you can find myriad goings-on across the country and beyond. For more information on IMBD, the url for the IMBD Home Page is: <http://www.birdday.org/>

BUT, you can join us right here in the Gettysburg area. The South Mountain Audubon Society (SMAS) counts our local birds right here adjacent to downtown Gettysburg on the Spangler Spring portion of the Gettysburg National Battlefield and elsewhere across the region. See details below under field trips.

### Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22, this year, 2017. Founded in 1970 as a day of education about environmental issues, Earth Day is now a globally celebrated holiday that is sometimes extended into Earth Week, a full seven days of events focused on green awareness. The brainchild of Senator Gaylord Nelson and inspired by the antiwar protests of the late 1960s, Earth Day was originally aimed at creating a mass environmental movement. It began as a "national teach-in on the environment" and was held on April 22 to maximize the number of students that could be reached on university campuses. By raising public awareness of air and water pollution, Nelson hoped to bring environmental causes into the national spotlight. Earth day has continued to grow and is now recognized and participated in around the planet.

Please become more attuned to this area and its related issues. Just go to your internet browser and type in Earth Day and surf some of the wealth of available information.

### April is National Frog Month!

As a favorite animal of children and nature enthusiasts alike, frogs are common enough to be readily spotted in the wild, yet diverse enough to captivate interest. Frogs are bioindicators, which means a healthy frog population indicates a healthy ecosystem in general, and vice versa. In recent decades, many frog populations have been declining, and extinctions are becoming increasingly common.

National Frog Month culminates on April 29 with **Save the Frogs Day** For lots of information and other “frog stuff,” visit <http://www.savethefrogs.com/day/>

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

Unless indicated otherwise, all SMAS Programs are held on the third Monday of the month at the Adams County Agricultural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA beginning with Social time at 7:00 PM, followed by the program presentation 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

We do not have April Program meetings as we hold our annual SMAS club luncheon in April. It is held on a Saturday at noon, not a Monday evening. See general info on the luncheon above and on an attached or embedded flyer. We will have a program presentation at the luncheon. Greg Goldman, the new Executive Director of Audubon PA, will be our speaker.

**Monday May 15th** - “Birds of Honduras and Their Shade Grown Coffee Habitat”

Laura Jackson, President of Juniata Valley Audubon Society, will present a program describing how shade grown coffee provides improved habitat for these neotropical birds.

**Monday June 19th** - "Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey (PARS)"

Sue Muller, PARS coordinator for Adams County, will explain the purpose of this 10 year project (2013-2022) and will share information on how you can become involved as a citizen scientist by collecting important observations and photos in your backyard and/or throughout Pennsylvania.

Both programs above will begin at 7:30 PM with refreshments and social time starting at 7:00 PM.

**FIELD TRIP and BIRD WALKS**

**Saturday April 8th** - Field Trip to the National Audubon Award-winning Nature Photographs Exhibit in Columbia, PA. (**Rain date** is Wednesday, April 12th)

Meet at the Burger King parking area on Rt. 30 east of Gettysburg at 8:30 am. We will carpool to Columbia, PA to see the National Audubon Award Winning Nature Photographs Exhibit sponsored by York Audubon Society and Susquehanna Heritage. This free exhibit is displayed at Columbia Crossings Center next to the Susquehanna River in Columbia.

Depending on time and participants, we can check out the river for waterfowl, gulls and the Peregrines that have nested for years on the Rt. 462 bridge, go to Shenk's Ferry, a bit downriver, to view native wildflowers and stop for lunch. We should return to Gettysburg between 3 & 4.

If you plan to attend this trip please inform Deb Siefken at 677- 4830 or email her at [siefkend@embarqmail.com](mailto:siefkend@embarqmail.com)

**Friday April 21st** - Bird Walk at Oakside Park, Biglerville, PA. Meet at the parking lot off route 394;  
Time: 8:00 AM.

For any questions or concerns – please contact Mike Bertram at [mike@the2nomads.org](mailto:mike@the2nomads.org).

**Saturday May 13th** - Spangler Spring Area At Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP)

Meet at 7 AM at the Spangler Spring area, GNMP. Turn right off Middle Street at its intersection with Liberty Street in Gettysburg and go one short block to a left at the park entry. Follow the one-way road to the Spangler Spring parking area. This outing is a SMAS tradition coinciding with International Migratory Bird Day (See above). Easy walking on mostly paved areas. We'll be there into the afternoon, so depending on your schedule, you can always join us anytime beyond the stated start time. Bring a chair if you wish and hang out.

Do not forget personal items including food, drink and appropriate apparel. This is prime spring migration time and we should see a good selection of passerines and near-passerines as well as a mix of other species. Call the leader for additional information, clarification, or with any questions. Facilities should be open.

**Tuesday May 23rd** - Bird Walk down Milesburn Road, Michaux State Forest.  
Joint event with York Audubon. Limited participation. Let Mike Bertram know if you wish to attend. Time: 8:00 AM. Any questions - contact Mike Bertram at [mike@the2nomads.org](mailto:mike@the2nomads.org) Mike will provide info on the meeting site.

**UPCOMING SMAS FIELD TRIPS and BIRDWALKS**

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.

### **Thursday June 1st - Pennsylvania State Game Lands #249**

Meeting time is 7:30 AM at the Gameland's entrance located on Game Lands Road (aka State Game Land Road depending on your map) off PA #234 about midway between Biglerville and US #15. Meet at the rustic sign for the Gamelands just down the entry lane from Rte #234. Depending on the current management configuration of the various areas at the time, we should be able to bird from our vehicles stopping at various vantage points. Some may choose to walk. The area is mostly flat with easy walking.

The area includes woods and fields, and there is a stream along part of the road we will drive / walk along. We will look for passage migrants and local resident and nesting species. Bring your optics, weather appropriate clothing and any food or drink you may need. No facilities.

### **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.

### **SMAS Annual Schedule Information**

Regular SMAS Monthly Program Meetings are usually held in Jan / Mar / May / June / Sept / Oct and Nov. Unless indicated otherwise, all meetings are held on 3rd Mondays 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. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM with Social Time / light refreshments; program presentation at 7:30 PM.

Field Trips are normally held monthly in Jan / Feb / Mar / April / May / Jun / Sept / Oct / Nov. In December we substitute the annual Christmas Bird Count for the monthly field trip.

Some of these monthly field trips traditionally repeat each year, such as the Christmas Bird Count and the PA 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 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. Drinks and some type of main dish(es) will be provided. See the summer Newsletter edition for details on times and directions.

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>	<u>Point of Contact</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Email address</u>
President	Deb Siefken	677-4830	<a href="mailto:siefkend@embarqmail.com">siefkend@embarqmail.com</a>
Vice-President	Linette Mansberger	495-8137	<a href="mailto:Lmcopperhead@aol.com">Lmcopperhead@aol.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>Directors At Large</u>	Nancy Locher	334-4768	<a href="mailto:nclocher@embarqmail.com">nclocher@embarqmail.com</a>
	Jon Griffiths	334-3824	<a href="mailto:griffjon306@gmail.com">griffjon306@gmail.com</a>
	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	<a href="mailto:Elizabeth.Griffiths@stockton.edu">Elizabeth.Griffiths@stockton.edu</a>
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>