

# Pennsylvania Wildlife

FALL 2018

IN THIS ISSUE:

## Hunter at Heart

PA Wilds

Reflections of a Season

Women in Conservation

and more!







**Wildlife for Everyone Foundation**

341 Science Park Road, Suite 103  
State College, PA 16803-2287

(814) 238-8138

info@wildlifeforeveryone.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

CHAIRMAN

**Russ Schleiden**

VICE CHAIR

**Janet Nyce**

TREASURER

**Bill Bennett**

SECRETARY

**Michael Schaul**

**John Blaschak**

**Margaret Brittingham**

**Ashley Diehl**

**James Eckles**

**John Frailey**

**Mike Harpster**

**Gregory Isabella**

**Ralph Martone**

**Reed McCormick**

**Mike Mulvihill**

PRESIDENT

**Jerry Regan**

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

**Bryan Burhans**

**Thomas Grohol**

**Richard Palmer**

**PA Game Commission**

OFFICE MANAGER

**Judy Onufrak**

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

**Barb Schroeder**

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

**Suzanne Paterno**

**Tom Ridge**

**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Terry Brady**, *Press Secretary DCNR*

**Bryan Burhans**, *Executive Director PGC*

**Ralph Martone**, *WFEF Board Member and Committee Chair, NWTF and POWA Board Member*

**Mark Nale**, *Outdoor Columnist and Photographer*

**Lee Peterson**, *Naturalist & Author*

**Barb Schroeder**, *Editor*

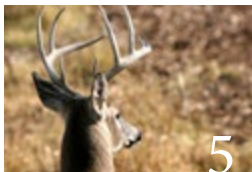
**SDPcreative**, *Publication Design*

The mission of the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation is to promote wildlife conservation and education in Pennsylvania.

www.wildlifeforeveryone.org



fall 2018  
CONTENTS



5



8



14

Cover photo: Pine Creek Ansonia, Curt Weinhold.

**FEATURES:**

**5 A HUNTER AT HEART**

*By Ralph Martone. Finding Value Beyond the Trophy.*

**8 WILDLIFE WATCHING IN THE PENNSYLVANIA WILDS**

*By Tataboline Enos. Your Destination for Wildlife Viewing.*

**12 SEEDLINGS FOR SCHOOLS**

*Connecting Youth to Nature.*

**14 A NEW SEASON OF REFLECTIONS**

*By Beth E. Sanders. Savor the Beauty of Autumn's Changes.*

**16 PROFILES IN CONSERVATION**

*By Barbara Schroeder. Featuring Janet Nyce. An Inspiration to Women & Youth.*

**19 EVENTS**

*Gala*

*Clay Shoot*

*Great Outdoor Picnic*

**20 NEW GRANT**

*All Systems Go for New Wildlife Center.*

**NEWS AND NOTES:**

**22 SUCCESSFUL BEETLE RELEASE**

*The Wildlife For Everyone Foundation has received a national APEX award for publication excellence for its magazine, Pennsylvania Wildlife.*



**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MAGAZINE SPONSORS:**



Jim and Janet Nyce



Photo © Janice Regan

## WHAT'S ON YOUR OUTDOOR BUCKET LIST?

Some of you might remember Marlin Perkins from Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom along with his able sidekick Jim Fowler. Our family looked forward to Sunday evenings and the many wildlife adventures they shared from around the world. That show started my "bucket list" 50 years ago by fueling my desire to explore these extraordinary places for myself. In July, I had the opportunity to check off two items on my bucket list when we visited my cousin and our son and his friend, who were working in Juneau, Alaska, for the summer. My first bucket item was to catch a King Salmon, and the second was to observe the brown bears at Katmai National Park.

Our son, Michael, scouted out some local spots to start our quest for the big kings; he had already caught a big one and missed a few others. We were fishing on our own with



*Brooks Falls with two bears*

Thunder Mountain as our backdrop along with several eagles waiting patiently for their turn at the table. Lady Luck was with me; just one hour into our morning my reel started singing as a magnificent dark, red-colored King Salmon was on my line. It was surreal as I watched the massive fish leap twice and then head back down into the deeper waters. We spent 25 minutes getting to know one another, and when I was unable to gain any line on him, I decided to apply just a little more resistance when it happened. My line

snapped, and the waters fell silent. I will never forget those 25 minutes, and yes, I was fortunate to land my first King Salmon later that day and take home the memory of the big one getting away with no regrets.

My other bucket item was to experience the brown bears at Brooks Falls in Katmai National Park. The only transportation was to take a float plane to the park for what would become one of our most amazing outdoor encounters ever. You have probably seen images of bears snatching salmon out of the air as they try to leap up Brooks Falls. To see it up close and personal is an entirely different perspective. After an extensive orientation by the rangers, who made it clear that we were the intruders and the brown bears have all right of ways, we started our hike on a shared and unsecured trail to the protected platforms at the falls. We were told to get no closer than 50 yards to any bear and step off the trail and let them pass if confronted. After spending a few hours watching these enormously large mammals claiming the best fishing spots at the falls, our group left the protected platform to venture back, when suddenly two bears came crashing through the dense brush.

The first one had a salmon in its mouth and was sprinting right toward my wife, Janice, Michael and Lydia, his friend, with an even bigger (and very agitated) bear chasing close behind it. It was so close that they could smell the salmon in its fur. Life doesn't get much more exciting than that!

While our group was having that heart-stopping moment, I had decided to sneak away for some private reflections alone on the beach, overlooking the snowcapped Katolinat Mountain and watched several brown bears walking along the beach. A few crossed the river toward me while others were content diving for sockeye salmon. As they were closing in on my prime viewing spot, a ranger discovered me and moved me along for my own safety. As I vacated my perch, I realized that I will never forget our walk with the Brown Bears at Katmai National Park. **So what is on your outdoor bucket list, and what are you waiting for?**

I hope you enjoy our nationally award winning magazine and share it with some friends. Take some time this fall to explore the Pennsylvania Wilds and experience elk and bears, rattlesnakes, birds of prey and the rich diversity of flora and fauna. There are many hidden mountain peaks to discover and explore as we continue on our journey of promoting wildlife conservation and education in the commonwealth. I sincerely thank you for your encouragement and continuing support of our wild places!

With my appreciation,



Jerry Regan, *President*



*Jerry and Michael with King Salmon*





# A HUNTER *at* HEART

by RALPH MARTONE

Perched atop the old Hotpoint refrigerator at camp is an item that seems oddly out of place. Resting in its place of honor is a wild cherry branch. Only fourteen inches long and an inch in diameter, the small piece of wood stands as a reminder that hunting is a sport of inches.

Drilled squarely in the center of the branch is a hole from a flintlock rifle.

The hole represents one of the biggest bucks I've ever seen while hunting. Each time I take the stick from its spot atop the refrigerator, I relive the hunt, the shot and the sight of that heavy-racked buck trotting off, headed for parts unknown. The small portion of sapling, containing a clean, round hole tinged in gray from the passing lead ball, is important to me.

It reminds me that hunting is more than just the sum of our successes; that trophies lie not



*Reminder of the one that got away...  
cherry branch with flintlock hole in center.*

in filled tags or mounted heads. Hunting is the extent of our experiences, interacting with nature and becoming part of a whole larger than ourselves where we neither control nor dominate. The outcome is the result of our preparation and planning coinciding with the lives and instincts of other equally endowed creatures.

As deer hunters, we watch intently for the movement that signals the coming of the buck we expect so much to see. When long minutes turn to hours and the day is wearing thin, our expectations are lowered. The buck needn't be so big, and the antlers can now be less than the trophies seen in calendars.

We are beginning to accept the worst; nothing will pass this way today.

Then without the warning or fanfare that such an event deserves, a deer materializes. Looking as if it has always been there, it fits into the surrounding landscape like a long lost piece of a puzzle. The deer by itself is enough to drain the breath from your lungs. But now that your eyes and mind see the antlers, there is no regaining the breath you've lost.

You try to react, but it's over and the deer is gone. You stare hard at the spot where the deer once stood. A spot that for a brief second held so much hope. Everything now



seems different. At the same time there are both more and less possibilities. As the buck proved, in hunting, anything can happen.

Even though the deer is gone, its ghost remains, standing in that very spot. If you look carefully and concentrate hard enough and long enough, you can still see it standing there. Now in your mind's eye, you raise your gun and fire, ending the hunt just the way you had planned.

It happens in all hunting. The gobbler that has been answering your calls from afar appears suddenly, putts and retreats, only to live on in our memories forever. Grouse hunters approach likely looking cover, ready, knowing what they must do at the first sight



and sound of a flush. And yet, at the flush, they are left staring at a small hole among the branches through which the bird has disappeared forever from our sight, but never from our minds.

In the beginning, days afield are measured in terms of game seen, shots taken and tags filled. In time, many hunters reach a new understanding about what it means to be successful. As the years pass and the hunter matures, new measures of the hunt develop.

Shafts of sunlight, filtering down through the forest's canopy lighting up a distant hillside, take the place of game sighted. Encountering a red fox hunting mice in a hayfield or a goshawk cruising the timber in search of pine squirrels can more than make up for shots not taken. And finally, tags left unfilled are faced without regret as long as friends and young hunters return safe and happy from the day's hunt.

Only in one's dreams does every buck fall before the hunter's gun, every turkey answer the call with resounding double gobbles and each grouse take wing from the grapevines only to thud on the autumn leaves after the shot.

Watching a successful grouse hunter, I often think that it may be the moments just after the kill that are both the happiest and saddest. As the hunter reaches down for the fallen bird, there is a mixture of emotions. Success is blended with awe.

The love for the bird as it once was is not easily replaced by the stirring of success. I've never seen a grouse hunter pick up a fallen bird that they didn't smooth the feathers encircling the neck, running a large callused hand, scratched and bleeding from the push through the thickets that grouse call home, runs over the crown of the head and down the back with a touch so gentle even his wife might be jealous.

I never set out to be a hunter, but in the end, I can think of nothing better to be. Yes, I have other interests. I enjoy fishing, photography and golf. But, in reality, I am neither a fisherman, a photographer nor golfer. In the end, I am a hunter.

*Thanks to Ned Smith Center for providing imagery of Greenbrier Grouse.*





# Wildlife Watching in the Pennsylvania



*Kinzua Bridge State Park*

**B**ear!” my communications director says from the back seat as we exit Interstate 80 near S.B. Elliott State Park and head into the Pennsylvania Wilds.

It is May, and we are returning from a brainstorming session with partners in Harrisburg about how to inspire stewardship through pawilds.com and in advertising campaigns that promote visitation to this most rural part of the state.

The meeting went well, and now, like a good omen, this gift. I touch the breaks. My managing director watches from the front seat as the bear lumbers across the road and disappears into the woods.

“That was so cool,” she says.

This is not the first time this has happened to us. Our nonprofit, the PA Wilds Center, serves the 12 ½ counties of the Pennsylvania Wilds region, so we spend a lot of time on trails, waterways and country roads that snake through the region’s more than 2 million acres of public land. Two of us in the car today are fourth-generation locals, one of us a hunter, all of us enjoy the outdoors. But seeing wild things in the wild never gets old.

With the greatest concentration of public lands in the commonwealth, most of it forested, and more than 16,000 miles of waterways, there are few places better than the



# WILDS

by TATABOLINE ENOS  
*PA Wilds Center Executive Director*

Photo © Kyle Yates



Photo © Scott Dunkelberger

Bull Elk

Pennsylvania Wilds to spot deer, elk, turkey, eagles, fox, coyote and other animals in the wild. Ask us. We know. This is our office.

The Pennsylvania Wilds covers a quarter of the commonwealth. A hardy 4 percent of the state's population lives here. It takes four hours to drive from one side of our rugged region to the other. On one of my first road trips here, a decade ago, I came across half a dozen fawns playing near a swing set in a yard near Sinnemahoning State Park. The whimsical scene made me smile and laugh. I probably sat in my car for five minutes watching the fawns chase each other around the swings, all spots and clumsy legs.

Ask my staff about memorable wildlife moments, and they all have them. One of my favorites: On a drive north from Clarion County, an eagle decided to escort two of my directors home, soaring in front of their car for several minutes. "It was like it was leading the way for us," says my managing director.

It is hard not to be inspired by these moments. Whether you are coming specifically for the wildlife or just hope to spot some on your next business trip this way, here are a few places my staff and I would encourage you to explore. Enjoy!

# FUN PLACES TO EXPLORE



Photo © Allison Schimbacker

Nature Inn at Bald Eagle Birdwatcher



Photo © Piper VanOrd

Allegheny Outfitters River Tour

## THE NATURE INN AT BALD EAGLE STATE PARK

This 16-room inn, built by DCNR and voted USA Today's Best Eco-Friendly Lodge in the nation, is a birder's paradise. Its mountain ridges create flyways for migrating birds, and various species stop here to rest and feed. In spring, warblers, flycatchers, swallows and other songbirds display courtship rituals while nesting. "Boaters and beachgoers often spot bald eagles, herons, gulls, geese and osprey around the lake," the Inn's website says. "In fall, you can find migrating mergansers, cormorants and buffleheads on the lake. Year-round residents, including sparrows, finches and cardinals, are often seen during the winter in shrubby areas." Learn more at: [pawilds.com/landscape/i-80-frontier/](http://pawilds.com/landscape/i-80-frontier/).

## SUSQUEHANNOCK TRAIL SYSTEM (STS)

If you like to see wildlife while hiking, this 85-mile loop in the Wilds' Dark Skies landscape is for you. The STS, which winds through forested valleys and over hills in Susquehannock State Forest, was developed by joining together a number of old and new foot trails, logging roads, and abandoned

railroad grades. Wildlife, including bear, deer, porcupines, raccoons, bobcats, ruffed grouse, turkeys and rattlesnakes (in the southern section), can be seen along the trail. Elk tracks have also been sighted! Learn more at: [pawilds.com/landscape/dark-skies/](http://pawilds.com/landscape/dark-skies/).

## NATIONAL WILD & SCENIC ALLEGHENY AND CLARION RIVERS

If paddling is more your style, find great wildlife watching along these two award-winning waterways. Named one of the nation's "40 Great Fall Weekend Getaways" and Pennsylvania's 2017 River of the Year, the Allegheny flows through PA's only National Forest. Kayak trips will yield sightings of deer, bear, blue heron, bald eagles, river otters and many other critters. If you start at Kinzua Dam (most do), be sure to visit the Eagle Viewing Platform. Learn more at: [pawilds.com/journey/national-wild-scenic-rivers/](http://pawilds.com/journey/national-wild-scenic-rivers/).

## QUEHANNA WILD AREA

The last time I drove through this 50,000-acre protected wild area, I had to drive about 25 miles per hour because the wildlife was so abundant. I stopped counting after eight elk





Photo © Scott Dunkelberger

Red-bellied Woodpecker



Photo © Kyle Yates

Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning State Park

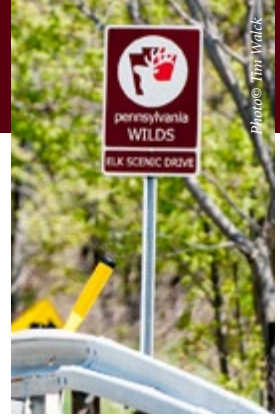


Photo © Tim Walick

Elk Scenic Drive

and two dozen deer. Home to a great trail system and off-the-beaten path waterfalls, the Quehanna Wild Area should be on the short list for any serious wildlife watcher. Learn more at: [pawilds.com/asset/quehanna-wild-area/](http://pawilds.com/asset/quehanna-wild-area/).

### BENEZETTE IN WINTER

Last year, 481,000 people flocked to the Elk Country Visitor Center to view our region's wild elk herd—the largest in the northeastern United States. Many of them came during the fall rut season. I'll be the first to say watching the male elk spar and hearing them bugle during the rut is spectacular, but my favorite time to visit Benezette is in winter, when the tourists are gone and the elk are easy to view with the foliage off the trees. "The bulls carry their antlers until March, and the lead bulls will hang with their harem of cows for much of the winter," says Doug Ruffo of Benezette Wines. Learn more at: [pawilds.com/landscape/elk-country/](http://pawilds.com/landscape/elk-country/).

### ELK SCENIC DRIVE

This 127-mile loop through portions of five counties is a drive-to-believe-it kind of experience. The distinct Elk Scenic Drive

road signs are your guide for this journey. Known for unparalleled wildlife and epic views, you can start from the west end (Rt. 144) or east end at Lock Haven (Rt. 120) via easy access points off I-80. Multiple drive stops not only include some of the best places to observe our region's awe-inspiring wild elk herd, but also help travelers experience the diversity and abundance of the region's wildlife and recreational assets that are hallmarks of this scenic and rugged landscape. These include five state parks and two major visitor conservation facilities that are great for children and adults—the Elk Country Visitor Center and Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning State Park. Learn more at: [pawilds.com/journey/elk-scenic-drive/](http://pawilds.com/journey/elk-scenic-drive/).

---

*Equipped with knowledge of some of the most beautiful destinations in Pennsylvania, make a commitment to carve out time to explore the PA Wilds this fall. The wildlife and scenery you'll encounter are sure to leave you with a sense of peace and wonder that will lift your spirit and revitalize your soul.*

# SEEDLINGS FOR SCHOOLS

*Making connections that will last a lifetime*

This program reaches out to school-age children throughout Pennsylvania to connect them with nature and teach the importance of conservation. **In 2018, we reached an additional 65,000 students.** Please consider making a donation.







*Thank You to our Seedlings for Schools Sponsors:*



- Anonymous Foundation*
- Janet and Jim Nyce*
- Galen and Nancy Dreibelis*
- Holleran Donor-Advised Fund of Berks County Community Foundation*
- The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation*
- Jennifer Speers*
- The Sourbeer Family*
- Howard Nursery*

— a new season of —  
**REFLECTIONS**

by BETH E. SANDERS

I am thankful that I grew up in a time when my parents encouraged me to explore the natural world beyond our back door. As a result, I love being outdoors—especially in the fall of the year. Autumn’s sunny, warm day-time temperatures give way to fading daylight hours and cool, crisp evenings. These conditions cast familiar shades of brilliant yellows, honey golds, deep oranges, crimson reds and tawny browns on the Pennsylvania landscape. Slight breezes will

cause the leaves to quiver as they gracefully tumble to the ground, painting the forest floor in vibrant colors evident only in autumn.

Fallen leaves crunch under the weight of my boots, releasing the earthy fragrance that emerges from the sun-drenched woods when I stroll through the forest. I savor the colors, the textures, sounds and smells of the forest’s message that each deciduous tree is silently preparing for the coming of winter.







*Emmalyn catching her first leaf with her dad.*

In a very impactful way, as a child, I found that the more I learned about the natural world, the more I learned about myself and my place in the world. It was the changing of the seasons that I grew to love, especially autumn. As a perpetual student of natural history and environmental education, I was inspired many years ago to keep a nature journal, where I documented observations from my explorations. The pages of my journals help me to track and recall the familiar indicators that autumn is approaching.

Having recently retired from a fulfilling career in the field of environmental education, I now find myself rediscovering the enjoyment of everyday living where ordinary moments become spectacular. Today, my spectacular moments are ones spent with my family in the outdoors—especially when our grandchildren are leading the explorations. Children add a contagious sense of creative

---

***“I encourage you to invite the companionship of a loved one as you explore this season of beauty...”***

***–Beth E. Sanders***

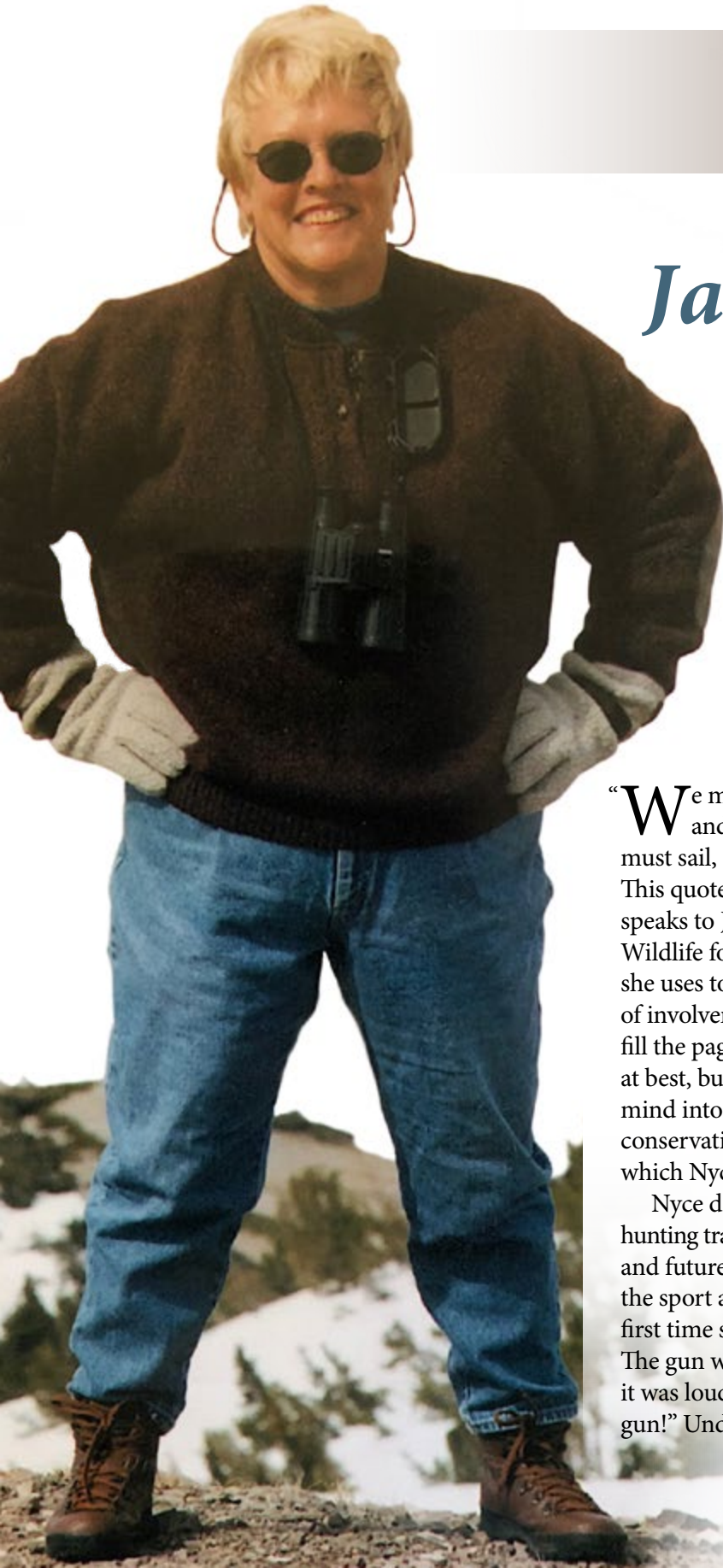
---

curiosity and excitement to every adventure through which we can relive many of the autumnal changes from our own childhood.

This is the time of year that children get to play a game that has been played for many generations, but remains as

fresh for them as though they were the ones to have invented it. The game, *Catch a falling leaf before it reaches the Earth*, is harder than it sounds, as the simple child-created rule requires that the players must catch the fluttering leaves before they land on the ground. Many lessons are quickly learned, as each player realizes that it takes great hand-eye coordination to successfully catch the myriad of leaves in all shapes and sizes that are coming at them from all directions. With faces beaming, youngsters raise their outstretched arms skyward as they dance in little pirouettes, attempting to catch the cascade of falling leaves in their excited little hands. This activity is guaranteed to be laced with high-pitched squealing and laughter for all who are involved. What a wonderful opportunity to capture with your camera—priceless images will chronicle your family in the soft glow of the autumn light with warm forest hues in the background.

Our lives are busy and the demands on us are numerous, but, with nature journal and camera in hand, I encourage you to invite the companionship of a loved one as you explore this season of beauty that is waiting for you to discover. A new season will be unfolding very soon. Enjoy it and live gently!



## PROFILES IN CONSERVATION

# Janet Nyce

*Vice Chair of the Wildlife for  
Everyone Foundation*

by BARBARA SCHROEDER

“We must sail, sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it,—but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor.” This quote from Oliver Wendell Holmes, speaks to Janet Nyce, vice chair of the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation, and one she uses to inspire others. Reading the list of involvements and accomplishments that fill the pages of Nyce’s CV is overwhelming at best, but a few salient areas draw one’s mind into focus...women, youth, hunting, conservation—these are the directions to which Nyce has set her sail.

Nyce didn’t grow up in a family with a hunting tradition. Her high school sweetheart and future husband, Jim, introduced her to the sport at the age of 15. Nyce recalls the first time she shot a gun... “It was awful! The gun was huge and heavy and long... it was loud and it recoiled. I dropped the gun!” Undaunted, Nyce agreed to the next





Janet Nyce instructing woman.

the proper technique and an understanding of the unique mindset and physical differences of women shooters, Nyce carved a niche for herself as a much-sought-after firearm instructor for women. In the 1990s, the Pennsylvania Game Commission asked Nyce to become an instructor in their fledgling program, *Becoming an Outdoor Woman*. After 37 years, Nyce's special talents continue to be in high demand; she still teaches firearm classes to women and youth at her local Ickesburg Sportsmen's Association.

In her current role as co-chair of the Women's Leadership Forum of the NRA, Nyce lends support to women interested in firearms. "We provide women with options for involvement and help them gain the skills

hunt—squirrels, and then advanced to grouse hunting on their honeymoon!

A defining moment and one that informed Nyce's direction in hunting and conservation was the experience of shooting her first deer sometime in her mid-20s. "It was disastrous," she recalls. Nyce shot the deer, but it wasn't a clean shot. Mortified, she sought the help of her husband who ended the debacle. There and then, Nyce vowed to learn what it takes to be a good and ethical hunter. She read pamphlets from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, she asked questions and she enrolled in local firearm classes. From there, the rest is history.

Kindled by repeated requests to teach women, Nyce became a Certified Firearm Instructor through the NRA. Armed with

and training to do that," she states. Always humble about her role in the advancement of women and shooting, Nyce simply states, "Women always had the inclination. I just opened the door."

One of Nyce's most satisfying endeavors was her eight-year appointment as adviser to the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation under Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell. She developed a comprehensive program to educate youth on conservation topics and develop them to be leaders in the field. When the program concluded at the end of Rendell's tenure, Nyce had mentored more than 200 youth! Ashley Gilliland Diehl, current foundation board

member, was one of those students who answered the conservation call.

“Janet has a gift for working with youth. She was able to motivate and inspire us to care about the future of our natural resources and the laws that protect them. That’s no small feat,” states Ashley. “She fostered my interest in conservation, wildlife and politics, which has driven most of my major decisions in life, from my choice of college course, to my job at the U.S. Senate, and now being on the board of the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation. She invested her time and resources in us with the hope that we would make the right choices for Pennsylvania as adults,” adds Ashley.

Of the many recognitions, one award that Nyce is particularly proud of is the Budweiser Conservation Award for the development of the *Wildlife in a Box* program. She developed a curriculum to connect youth in the Philadelphia School District with the Pennsylvania outdoors and wildlife. Items including pelts, paw print casts and scat were gathered into a box and used as teaching tools to reinforce the curriculum. *Wildlife in a Box* was so successful, the idea was adopted by almost every conservation organization in the nation.

Nyce has been a spokesperson for conservation for many years and on many fronts—the National Rifle Association, the Safari Club International (she was the first woman president of the Lehigh Valley Chapter), the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation, twice sitting on its 14-year old Board. Driving her involvement in these organizations is a concern about who will be tomorrow’s stewards of the Pennsylvania Wilds.

“My Dad preached that we have to get involved in an organization whose cause



---

***“My Dad preached that we have to get involved in an organization whose cause we believe in.”***

***–Janet Nyce***

---

we believe in,” reflects Nyce. The Wildlife Foundation’s proposed Wildlife Center, a fully accessible outdoor learning space and nature observatory, “is poised to create curiosity about the outdoors, to educate others on the ecosystems and wildlife that exist, and to offer nature accessibility for everyone,” she states. “If we draw people in through the Wildlife Center, we can set the hook and succeed in connecting our citizens to nature,” Nyce concludes.

Of all her accomplishments, Nyce is most proud of her three grown children and six grandchildren. Her husband, Jim, has been her partner in life and hunting since day one. Spending time afield with him and working their three Brittany Spaniels on their 125-acre property in Perry County is bliss. When asked about her prized trophy, Nyce’s response is not what you’d think. “The biggest trophy is any animal that is taken in fair chase with good skills and a clean shot.” She is first and foremost, a lover of wildlife and a conservationist at heart.



## EVENTS



Photo © Roy Kauffman



### **SPRING GALA**

*Friday, April 5, 2019*

Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA

Second annual PA Wildlife Gala. Join us for an evening of fun and education!



### **SPORTING CLAY CLASSIC**

*Friday, May 3, 2019*

Seven Springs Mountain Resort

Fun day of shooting on a competitive course in a beautiful setting. Dinner, awards, auction & raffles.

Photo © Chuck Musitano



### **GREAT OUTDOOR PICNIC**

*Saturday, June 22, 2019*

Penn's Cave & Wildlife Park

Fun Family Event—Build a bluebird box, try your hand at fly casting or archery, watch a dog demonstration, huge raffle & more.



### **SUPPORT THE WILDLIFE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*Advancing the future*

A permanent fund will generate yearly awards to students interested in wildlife conservation. Please consider supporting our scholarship fund.

*Please sustain our efforts of conserving Wildlife in Pennsylvania by including the Wildlife Foundation in your estate planning.*



*Foundation receives  
\$250,000 grant*  
TO LIFT OFF ITS NEW WILDLIFE CENTER

The Foundation received a \$250,000 grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development to kick off planning and construction of its highly anticipated Wildlife Center, located in Centre County, PA. The Foundation's

proposed Wildlife Center will be an ADA-certified, outdoor learning space and nature observatory that will feature a one-mile accessible boardwalk with benches and observation areas, educational pavilion with picnic tables, interpretive signage



*Future educational pavilion*





Accessible trail

not only encourages people to get out and experience nature, it makes experiencing the outdoors accessible to everyone. It's yet another example of why our community is a great place to live and visit."

This new cutting-edge Wildlife Center project addresses the shortage of accessible natural areas across the state **that have historically excluded persons with disabilities from connecting with nature and experiencing the restorative aspects of spending time outdoors.** This project will meet or exceed all ADA requirements and provide full accessibility, allowing persons with physical challenges to navigate easily from the parking lot to all features of the Center including the trail loop, picnic facilities and restrooms.

A birder destination, the Wetlands attracts more than 190 species of birds as migrants or breeding residents. The accessible Wildlife Center will capitalize on the beauty of the wetlands for the aesthetic, educational and recreational value it offers its visitors. If all goes to plan, construction will begin in the summer of 2019 with a grand dedication next fall.

"I am thrilled after 18 months of planning with our talented committee to receive this crucial grant for our new Wildlife Center project from the Department of Community and Economic Development," commented Jerry Regan, chair of the Wetlands Project for the Foundation. "We can now get to work on the detailed drawing and bid the project out this winter. Creating accessibility for everyone is the hallmark of this initiative, and when completed, it will become a crown jewel in our state's rich outdoor heritage."

and restrooms. A handicap-accessible fishing platform also is planned.

"The planned Wildlife Center will significantly improve the quality of life for our community and region by providing increased access to our natural resources," said Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman, who supported the Foundation's bid for state grant money. "This is an exciting project that

---

***"The planned Wildlife Center will significantly improve the quality of life for our community and region by providing increased access to our natural resources."***

***-Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman***

---

# SUCCESSFUL BEETLE RELEASE

*at Julian Wetlands*

by MARK NALE



Photo © Mark Nale

Purple Loosestrife

A small group from Wildlife for Everyone Foundation and members of the media gathered to watch more than 600 *Galerucella californiensis* beetles released at the Julian Wetlands this spring. The wetlands is part of a man-made marsh in Centre County that is owned by the Foundation and part of the highly-anticipated Wildlife Center that is set for groundbreaking in summer 2019.

The mitigated wetlands was being invaded by the alien purple loosestrife—a pretty but highly invasive wetland plant. Each plant can produce thousands of seeds a year, and the dense masses of stems make the wetland unattractive to waterfowl. It grows from three to ten feet high and is adaptable to many types of wet soils.

“Purple loosestrife is an invasive species that can entirely choke out the native plant community in a wetland and destroy the functions and benefits of that ecosystem,”



---

**“...loosestrife beetles were studied extensively and found to be safe. They provide a better alternative than chemicals or manual extraction.”**

**-Peter Backhaus, WHM Group Wetlands Scientist**

---

noted Colleen DeLong, habitat steward biologist for ClearWater Conservancy.

*Galerucella californiensis*, better known as the loosestrife leaf beetle, is one of two species of beetles used to control the invasive loosestrife.

According to WHM Group Wetlands scientist Peter Backhaus, who supervised the May 23 beetle release, loosestrife beetles were studied extensively and found to be safe. They provide a better alternative than chemicals or manual extraction.

“Our Wildlife For Everyone wetlands property has some wonderful biodiversity, and we want to continue enhancing the habitat for all wildlife,” president Jerry Regan commented. “If left unchecked, the non-native purple loosestrife will in time destroy the wetland. We elected to step out of the box and use a biological control to help us solve the problem, rather than chemicals.”

The beetles—housed approximately 105 per container—were released at three pre-selected locations on the wetlands. Almost immediately, they started eating loosestrife leaves and mating.

“They have reproduced several times this summer, and there should be thousands eating the loosestrife by the end of summer,” Backhaus remarked.

“The loosestrife leaf beetle, a native of Eurasia, has been released in at least 27 states and in Canada with no adverse affects,” Backhaus said. However, the beetles are expensive. According to Backhaus, more than 600 of them were shipped overnight from Montana and released at Julian Wetlands, costing about \$1.25 each.

“A few years ago, you could buy the beetles fairly cheaply, but there are fewer growers now, and they are quite expensive,” Backhaus stated.

Backhaus is making regular checkups on the beetles and reporting back to the Wildlife Foundation.

At his most recent visit in late August, Backhaus observed evidence of defoliation on most of the loosestrife plants, and even found some smaller plants that looked too damaged to bloom. He’s quick to note that the beetles are fighting an uphill battle this year. “It looks like the total area of loosestrife has expanded. I would attribute this to the recent record rainfall this summer in PA and State College.”

Regan commented that he is pleased with the effort. “Despite the loosestrife expansion due to the unusually high rainfall, it seems that our experiment is working, and those little beetles are doing their job eating away at the invasive loosestrife.”



Loosestrife Beetle Container



**Wildlife For Everyone Foundation**  
341 Science Park Road, Suite 103  
State College, PA 16803-2287  
[www.wildlifeforeveryone.org](http://www.wildlifeforeveryone.org)



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
State College, PA  
Permit #213



**Support PA Wildlife  
by becoming a  
member, JOIN  
TODAY!**