

Pennsylvania Wildlife

SUMMER | FALL 2020

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Appalachian Trail Hiking in PA

Moments on Target Grief Recovery Program

Mother Nature's Nighttime Symphony

Photographer's Search for the Ghost Deer

and more!





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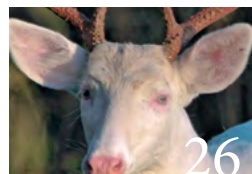
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The mission of the Wildlife for
 Everyone Foundation is to promote
 wildlife conservation and education
 in Pennsylvania.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MAGAZINE SPONSORS:



Fulton Bank

Jim & Janet Nyce

Cover photo: Male monarch butterfly on great lobelia. Mark Nale is an award-winning outdoor writer and photographer living in Centre County. He loves trout fishing, hiking, kayaking and observing nature. Mark has had more than 1,000 photos published during the past three years and he is a past president of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association.



Photo © Edith Peña

It has been a strange five months. The Foundation staff and volunteers were in the final push leading up

to the grand April Gala when life as we knew it came to a screeching halt. To keep our communities and staff healthy and safe, the executive committee of the Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cancel fundraisers through the summer.

Despite the setback, the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation is committed to continuing the good work we do to promote wildlife conservation and education throughout Pennsylvania. As I write this, staff and Board members are back to work, planning for the future, re-connecting to partners and getting the word out to the public that business at the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation has restarted.

Events have been rescheduled and work continues on our newly named **Soaring Eagle Wetland** project in Centre County. The burdensome permitting process is almost complete and a recommitment from the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority to construct an in-kind railroad crossing into the wetland will pave the way for the next step: bidding out contracts for construction. Late 2020 is the anticipated date for the start of construction on the ADA-compliant trail that will run through the wetland to the site of the future fully accessible fishing platform overlooking Bald Eagle Creek. It is exciting

to be this close to the beginning of a remarkable project that will meet the recreational needs of all

Pennsylvanians, notably those underserved due to physical challenges.

Half a million dollars in state funds have been granted for the development of the first phase of the wetland project. We are grateful for state and individual support of this undertaking but more financial support is needed to fulfill the dream of a first-class, fully-accessible outdoor learning space and nature observatory that will allow all persons to experience the restorative benefits of nature. We will continue to keep you updated and ask for your continued support to see this project to completion.

Yours in Conservation,

Janet Nyce, *President*
Board of Directors

ROCKSYLVANIA, WHITE BLAZES *and* FUN

A Day Hiker Shares Her Favorite PA Treks on the Appalachian Trail

by MICHELE COOK

The Appalachian Trail (AT) offers abundant choices for those looking for a day hike in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's 229-mile section includes state parks, state forests, state game lands and quaint towns. Having hiked this entire segment, I can attest that it has everything for a great day on the trail.

My goal to hike the whole Pennsylvania stretch came after meeting an inspiring group of women at a hiker-friendly trail race at Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Cumberland County. The women shared with me that they had taken one day a month to hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania until they completed all 229 miles. I was intrigued by their feat and resolved to do it as well.

I accomplished my goal with the help of my husband, Chris and friends who would

Michele Cook grew up in Northeast Pennsylvania and currently lives in York County with her husband Chris. Michele's next challenge is to hike the entire 798 miles of the State Forest Hiking Trail system and earn the State Forest Trails Award conferred by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Keystone Trails Association.

Photo © Chris Pichler

*The Pinnacle
near Hamburg,
Berks County*



Delaware Water Gap



THE APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL, known as the AT, is an approximately 2,200

mile white-blazed hiking trail running from Georgia to Maine in the Eastern United States. Two hundred twenty-nine miles of the Appalachian Trail cross Pennsylvania from Penn Mar (a community on the Pennsylvania/Maryland border in south central PA) to the Delaware Water Gap (where the Delaware River cuts through the Appalachian Mountains, forming the Pennsylvania/New Jersey border near Stroudsburg).

hike with me, shuttle me and pick me up at trailheads. I even met a woman on social media who was doing the same thing, and we hiked together often. We spent almost every other weekend hiking a new section.

On the first day of my hiking challenge, Chris and I set out from Penn Mar Park in Maryland and hiked about 1¼ miles into Pennsylvania before turning back. I was tired and questioned whether I could really accomplish my goal, but I persevered, and I've come a long way from that first day.

My favorite AT segment is part of the 14.7 mile section that runs from the **Old Forge Picnic Grounds to Caledonia State Park** in south central Pennsylvania. It doesn't offer a lot of spectacular vistas but affords the hiker beautiful endless woods along Rocky Mountain in Michaux State Forest. The forest canopy provides protection from sun or rain, ferns carpet the floor and streamside hiking is the norm. The foliage is incredible in the fall. The Chimney Rocks Trail leads to an excellent view of the Waynesboro Reservoir. The trail is rated moderate to difficult.

Two of the most popular destinations for fall foliage viewing along the AT are **Pulpit Rock and the Pinnacle near Hamburg in Berks County**. These sites are busy, and it is rare to have these views to yourself. The 8.8 mile, difficult loop offers two rock outcroppings with breathtaking views of

Pennsylvania farmlands. Hikers walk along the rocky ridge line about 3 miles from Pulpit Rock to the Pinnacle to witness the second impressive vista of the Lehigh Valley.

In mid-July one of the sections not to miss is the flat portion from **Boiling Springs to Rt. 850**. The trail passes through the grounds of the Mid-Atlantic Appalachian

Trail Conservancy office in Boiling Springs. This moderately easy 16-mile trek takes hikers through cornfields and cow pastures with the last portion (heading north) transforming into woods. In the heat of summer, the raspberries and blackberries are plentiful – bring a bucket!

Rocks are everywhere in Pennsylvania. The most famous are those hikers encounter

coming out of the **Lehigh Gap** in Lehigh County. The 20.7 mile section of the AT from Lehigh Gap to Wind Gap features the ravages of the Palmerton EPA Superfund site, the result of environmental contamination left in the wake of 80 years of zinc smelting. This was the most challenging section for me. The rocky path climbed 1,000+ feet up the face of Blue Mountain. It was slow going, but once I reached the summit, the view down to the Lehigh River was amazing!

Chris and I disagree on our favorite views: mine was descending into the **Delaware Water Gap** on the last leg of my 229-mile challenge and his was the stunning view of the Susquehanna River from **Hawk Rock above Duncannon in Perry County**. Hawk Rock is a 1.6-mile, moderately difficult out and back trail that features green forest and beautiful wildflowers. It is rocky and steep, moderately to heavily traveled and well-liked by birders.

The day I crossed the Delaware River into New Jersey with my friends was exhilarating! Hiking the AT has taught me to make time for nature, share it with those I love, ask for help when I need it, and find contentment in taking it slow and enjoying the hike. I would do it all over again!

The Appalachian Trail provides all the ingredients for a perfect day hike: phenomenal views, wildlife sightings, hiking challenges...and rocks! I hope you take the time to explore the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania.

TRAIL TIDBITS

📍 The Federal Government named the Appalachian Trail a National Scenic Trail in 1968 and today the full length is maintained by a network of nonprofit groups and protected by the National Park Service.



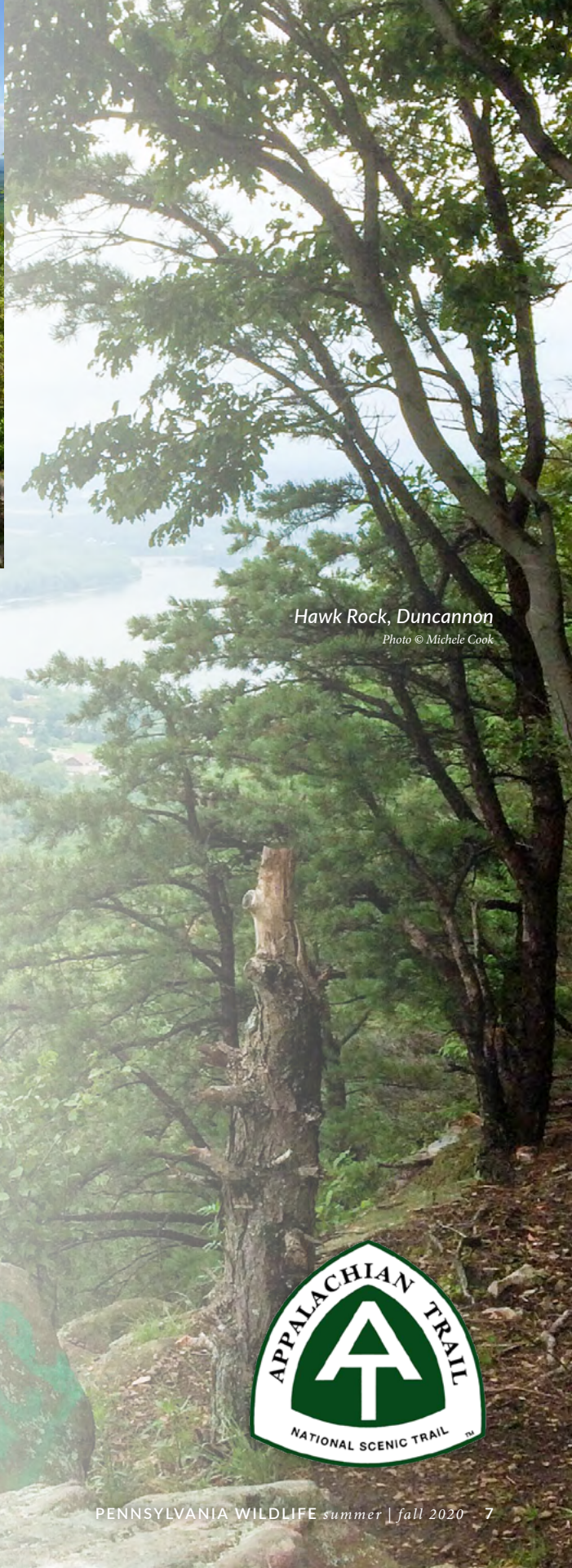
Climbing the Lehigh Gap

Photo © Grayle Ross

ROCKSYLVANIA is the nickname thru-hikers use to refer to Pennsylvania. The large number of trails that are paved with rocks and the extensive amount of rock piles that hikers must surmount have earned the state this distinction.



Into the Delaware Water Gap



Hawk Rock, Duncannon

Photo © Michele Cook

- 📍 **Keystone Trails Association (KTA)** is a volunteer organization dedicated to providing, preserving, protecting and promoting hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania. Visit www.kta-hike.org for info.
- 📍 Pine Grove Furnace in Cumberland County, PA is the halfway point of the Appalachian Trail.
- 📍 The trail was the idea of Benton MacKaye, a New England regional planner whose vision was for people to renew themselves in nature. The first portion of the Appalachian Trail was opened in New York in 1923, and the full trail was completed by 1937.
- 📍 A thru-hiker is someone who hikes the entire AT in 12 months or less.
- 📍 In 1948 Earl Shaffer, a native of York Springs, Pennsylvania, was the first to walk the entire length of the AT from Georgia to Maine in one season.
- 📍 A cairn is a Gaelic word that means “heap of stones.” Cairns help mark trails to keep hikers from getting lost. They can last for decades if properly built.



MOMENTS ON TARGET

*Grief recovery program
connects families to nature*

by BARBARA SCHROEDER



Nutrition and gardening event

Moments on Target is for kids and caregivers who have experienced the death or long-term incarceration of a loved one.

Sitting in a blind less than 2 weeks after the funeral of her husband, Kristen Schnepf-Giger and her daughter, Jennifer, watched as her 6-year old son, Timmy (mentored by his uncle), shot his first deer. This was a defining moment for Kristen, a wildlife biologist for the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Overloaded by the emotions of the previous weeks, this singular moment and the feelings of accomplishment, pride, and an intense family connection sparked a revelation that was the genesis for Moments on Target, the grief recovery program that Kristen initiated. “This experience demonstrated the level of importance of hunting for me,” says Kristen. “The entire outing was therapeutic,” she recalls.

Benefiting from the wisdom of other widows, Kristen came to understand that taking care of oneself in times of grief makes coping easier. “I learned that when it comes to grief, you can’t move on, but you can move forward.” Kristen also realized she had to take care of herself if she wanted to parent effectively.

So, she started working out again and eating better. Kristen capitalized on the restorative benefits of being in nature. “I always liked being outdoors and especially hunting and fishing,” she states. “Our origins as human beings are rooted in hunting and gathering to survive,” she



Trout fishing

At the end of January, the group met to learn how to cast a fly rod. In February, they learned how to tie flies and had COVID not interfered, the group would have fished for bluegills this past spring.

explains. “When we go back to these basics, we are able to put our lives in perspective.”

Working from these basic beliefs, Kristen set out to create a program to help families work through the grief of losing a loved



one by connecting them to the outdoors. She sought the help of mental health professionals who shared her belief that engaging with nature can reap therapeutic benefit for those struggling emotionally.

In the spring of 2018, a little over one year after her husband passed away, Kristen started the group, Moments on Target. With the help of mental health professionals, Facebook and word-of-mouth, Kristen attracted two families in addition to her own to the first group meeting. Today, over two years later, the group numbers 20-30 depending on the event and time of year.

The Moments on Target program is based on four pillars: nutrition/gardening, fitness, hunting and fishing. Outdoor activities and events that include the entire family are planned around each pillar. To be clear, fitness does not imply 45 minutes on a treadmill in a gym. The variety of fitness that Kristen promotes is less goal oriented.

“It has helped each of us by opening lines of communication around grief topics.”

-David Durnell

“We want participants to actively experience nature through activities like hiking, skiing or kayaking,” adds Kristen.

Every program year begins with an annual cook-out that includes activities for the entire family: fishing, BB gun shooting and kayaking. “It’s important to get the parent or adult caregiver involved,” notes Kristen. “If they don’t, the kids will get lost in the shuffle.” Throughout the summer, the group meets once a month to garden, fish, attend a shooting event and kayak on a large body of water. After a “Friends-giving” in



November, the group parts ways until after the holidays. Group activity in the winter months is determined by the weather. “If the snow falls, we’ll gather the group for cross-country skiing or sledding,” says Kristen.

David Durnell can speak to the value of Moments on Target. He and his 15-year old son Brayden lost their wife and mother eight years ago. A counselor referral led the two to Kristen’s group back in 2018. “Brayden and I have made a lot of friends through this group,” says David. The structure of the program gives participants a chance to do things that normally they would not do. “We kayaked down the river in Warren and viewed elk up close from a wagon in Benezette. Brayden fished and shot a gun for the first time.” The environment is supportive. There is never any pressure to try something new. “In all things, the leaders educate,” adds David.

According to David, the program’s benefit comes through the common experience of the group. Not officially a mental health session, kids and caregivers gain strength from the relationships that are formed. “The kids are getting counseling, but they don’t know it,” quips David. “It has helped each of us by opening lines of communication around grief topics,” he adds.

“My wife loved to fish. When we go out on a fishing excursion, we take some of her equipment. The program has given us time and words to talk about his mother as well as other things. It’s helped set our relationship right.”

The program is open to anyone who is experiencing the death or long-term incarceration of a loved one. Currently,



Kristen and daughter

In November 2019, Kristen Schnepf-Giger was appointed to the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s Board of Commissioners, overseeing the northwestern counties in District 1. She hopes to offer a unique perspective as a woman and mother of young children. One of her objectives is to attract and keep youth interested in hunting amid their chronically active lifestyles. She aspires to create a culture where hunting is a more relevant part of our lives and communities.

the program is restricted to the immediate area of Warren County where Kristen lives. “Families who need this help are everywhere and the program can be replicated in other geographic areas,” states Kristen. All that is needed is a leader with a lot of energy, time and commitment ... a leader like Kristen Schnepf-Giger.



Around *the* Next Bend

by FRANK NALE

Photo © Frank Nale

I grew up in rural northern Bedford County in the 1960s and 1970s. Times were much simpler then for a kid. Whether it be taking a bike ride to the local country store to cash-in some two-cent pop bottles for penny candy and a popsicle, or walking down the railroad tracks to Beaverdam Creek or Smoky Run to dunk some worms, I always had something enjoyable to look forward to.

Of all the things I had done in my childhood, trout fishing fascinated me the most. Each year prior to the mid-April season opener, my older brothers Mark, John, Paul and I explored the two local creeks near our home to locate where the most stocked trout had congregated so that we would know the best pools to fish on the First Day.

Anticipation built for a couple weeks leading up to the magic morning. My goal was always to catch a few trout, put them in a bucket and then release them in the two, small spring-fed ponds we had dug near an old spring house behind our

home. For a couple years I had a pet trout named “Orangie,” a male brookie with dark vermicular markings across his back and unusually brilliant orange flanks. It was here, sitting on the old wooden fence overlooking the ponds, that I spent umpteenth hours observing trout behavior, no doubt planting the seed in my brain that would later germinate into a lifelong passion for trout fishing.

As I got older and went off to college, I realized that many of the things I had once looked forward to no longer held the same appeal for me. (Part of the reason for this likely had to do with my two older brothers moving out of the area). The excitement of Christmas and Easter had long since vanished, and about the only days I truly anticipated each year were the first day of

Frank Nale is a retired hospital controller and avid outdoorsman from northern Blair County. He spends his spare time fishing for wild trout in the mountains and valleys of central Pennsylvania with his camera ready to capture the next beautiful stream, trout or wildflower.



Photo © Frank Nide

Native brook trout

buck season and the opening day of trout season. To be honest, I had even skipped trout fishing for a few years in the late 1970s.

It was about this time that one of my philosophies of life came into focus. I recognized that the anticipation of doing something was almost as much fun as doing it. I realized that the more days I had to look forward to that special day or that favorite activity, the happier I would be.

So, at the age of 21, I decided to get back into trout fishing. I started out bait fishing, and then one evening, I switched to a spinner and caught three trout in no time. I knew instantly that I had found what I was searching for. What I did not realize was that trout fishing would blossom into a lifelong passion, giving me about 100 days to look forward to each year.

Spinner fishing is easy to learn and catching lots of trout follows naturally.

Finding creeks to fish, though, can be a challenge. Luckily, Pennsylvania is blessed with a plethora of trout streams. In the olden days I pored over topo maps and often blindly explored to find wild trout streams. Today, the best source of information is the interactive “Trout Streams” map found on the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission’s website, www.fishandboat.com. This interactive map identifies streams by classification, such as Class A, Stocked Trout, Wilderness, Natural Reproduction, etc. Equally important, it shows where Pennsylvania’s State Game Lands and State Forests are located.

If you have not tried wild trout fishing you could be missing the opportunity for an enjoyable lifetime hobby. You never know what lies around the next bend, whether along the stream or in life!

Mother Nature's Nighttime Symphony


by MARK NALE

My home is in a rural part of central Pennsylvania, and I enjoy being surrounded by Mother Nature. I relish the seclusion (which really came in handy this year), the sights, the smells and especially the natural sounds.

The forest is filled with sounds in the spring — the cascading brook that flows past my home, the dozens of different bird songs, as well as the spring peepers and wood frogs calling from my small wetland.

However, at this time of year there are long periods of quiet. Long silenced are the frogs and peepers. The stream, once noisily rushing toward the ocean, has diminished to a quiet trickle. Most birds are silent, too — no longer defending nesting territories. Sure, the chatter of a chickadee, the call of a blue jay or the raspy croak of a raven sometimes punctuates the still, but there is more quiet than singing.

Through the course of the day, all is relatively mute; that is until the sun sets — then the calm is overpowered by a wall of “night sounds.” It starts with a few melodious chirps and escalates as the evening progresses. The wall of sound can be so intense that an evening city-dwelling



A fork-tailed bush katydid rests on a purple coneflower. Most of the katydid species in Pennsylvania are green and look like leaves.

This helps to camouflage the insects when they are resting or feeding on leaves or grass.

Crickets in our area are found at ground level in weedy fields, in rotting logs and even in caves. They can be herbivorous like katydids or omnivorous — eating a wide variety of organic material, both plant and animal.



Photo © Mark Nale

visitor once asked (actually yelled), “How can you stand all of this noise?”

Not only do I stand it, I savor it. The sounds that fill the night from late July through the first heavy frost are primarily made by two groups of insects — katydids and crickets.

The sound wave usually begins in late July with the chirp of a single cricket. In July, you can actually pick out the individuals from their intermittent sounds — not so at this time of year. Hundreds of crickets have now been joined in their night symphony by hundreds, if not thousands of katydids. The warmer the night, the louder the “music.”

Although true crickets and katydids are related, they are in different taxonomic families. They do share many characteristics, one of which is their noise-making abilities. There are 19 species of crickets, katydids and grasshoppers in Pennsylvania, including six species of crickets and seven of katydids. These numbers pale in comparison to the over 6,400 species of katydids and 900 species of crickets that are found worldwide — most in the warmer regions of the globe.

With many, but not all species of crickets and katydids, it is the male that makes

most of the noise — a call used to attract females and repel other males of the same species. The matchmaking ritual is called stridulation — the act of rubbing two specially-textured limbs together. A serrated section on the insect’s forewing (the scraper) is rubbed against a file-like structure on an adjacent limb. Other body parts often amplify the sound. Thanks to this remarkable phenomenon of nature, we are treated yearly to a spectacular late summer performance.

I encourage you to find a less-traveled path and enjoy nature’s nighttime soundtrack, for it will not be around for long. As evening temperatures cool, the night sounds will decrease. Sometime between mid-September and October, the soundtrack will end and the night will again become still.

Mark Nale is an award-winning outdoor writer and photographer living in Centre County. He loves trout fishing, hiking, kayaking and observing nature. Mark has had over 1000 photos published during the past three years and he is a past president of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association.

WETLAND *poised for* TRANSFORMATION

Two recent developments have moved the Wildlife for Everyone-owned wetland closer to the realization of a fully accessible natural area and ideal destination for outdoor lovers.

New Name Reflects Area's History and Ecology

The Board of Directors announced the name **Soaring Eagle Wetland** as the new designation of its wetland in Centre County. The name draws on the area's rich native American history and visitors are often thrilled to see bald eagles soaring over the wetland. In addition, a record migration of

golden eagles was counted along the adjacent Bald Eagle Ridge which lies to the southeast. Over 300 golden eagles were counted in fall 2019, a seasonal record in the eastern United States.

Improved Railroad Crossing Will Provide Easy Access into Wetland

Thanks to the in-kind gift of SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority, a new railroad crossing will be constructed into the Soaring Eagle Wetland. "The railroad crossing is in disrepair and has inhibited access to the wetland," states Jerry Regan, WFEF Board member and chair of the wetland design committee. A new railroad crossing is the first step in opening up the wetland to a greater number of people," he adds.

Directions to the Soaring Eagle Wetland are found at wildlifeforeveryone.org/wildlifecenter/.

Passive recreational opportunities such as nature walking, fishing, birding, wildlife viewing, photography and picnicking beckon visitors to the Soaring Eagle Wetland.



Jeff Stover, SEDA-COG JRA executive director; Kyle Postupack, JRA principal program analyst; Zac Mahaffey, JRA director of maintenance and way; Tom Levine, Levine Engineering president

and connect to nature for rejuvenation and recreation. Currently, a grass trail encircles the wetland running alongside the Bald Eagle Creek. The first phase of the project will open up accessibility and make the wetland's passive recreational opportunities available to everyone. An ADA-compliant trail through the wetland will lead to a handicapped accessible fishing platform overlooking Bald Eagle Creek. Wildlife viewing areas, pavilion, restroom, parking lot and educational signage are part of phase one.

Permits are in the final review stage and the bidding process is on schedule to begin this fall. A 2021 dedication is anticipated.

The Foundation Board approved an \$825,000 budget for the first phase of the project. Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources have supported the project with grant funds totaling \$500,000. Individual donations are being sought to complete the project as designed.

The Joint Rail Authority has a longstanding commitment to partnering with the community on betterment projects. Jeff Stover, Executive Director of the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority, was inspired by the project's objective to build an accessible nature trail through the wetland so everyone can enjoy its value, notably those with physical limitations. "SEDA-COG will pay for materials and our operator, the Nittany and Bald Eagle Railroad, will provide in-kind labor to make the entrance over the railroad tracks easier and safer to cross," comments Stover.

The Soaring Eagle Wetland has seen increased foot traffic since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. Individuals are searching for opportunities to get outside

If you'd like to make a donation to the Soaring Eagle Wetland, go to www.wildlifeforeveryone.org and link to Make A Donation or call the office at 814-238-8138.

Congratulations Winners!



Meandering Creek

Chad Warner, Port Matilda (Adult Winner)



Hidden Frog

Matt Benz, State College (People's Choice Winner)



Last Snack Before Migrating

Lucas Wagner, Port Matilda (Youth Winner)

Three winning images from last fall's amateur photography contest, Autumn in the Wetlands, sponsored by the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation and *The Centre County Gazette*, are pictured above. Participants took photos in the Soaring Eagle Wetland during October. The images were posted on Facebook and the People's Choice Award was given to the photo receiving the most "likes." Fifteen judges selected an additional youth and adult winner.

JOHAN M. FRAILEY, former president and board member of Wildlife for Everyone Foundation, passed away this summer, leaving a profound void in the organization's leadership and in the hearts of those who knew him. John never took his responsibilities lightly as is evident by his many involvements and the numerous accolades he received. John was a second generation owner of Frailey Insurance Agency in Stroudsburg, earning many company and industry awards. He was very active in civic and religious organizations, fulfilling leadership positions in all of them. An outdoorsman, John committed his time, expertise and treasure to the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation since its early years.

"The Foundation was in his soul," reflects Russ Schleiden, chairman of the Board. "He never turned down a request for help and always offered wise advice

during meetings. He even attended a Board meeting three weeks before his death. That's the kind of guy John was. We'll miss him."

John was a leading supporter of the Sporting Clay Classic that has become a popular fundraiser for Wildlife for Everyone. In the future, the event will be called The John Frailey Memorial Sporting Clay Classic in honor of his many contributions to the Foundation.

"JOHN WAS
A WONDERFUL FAMILY MAN
A GREAT BUSINESSMAN
A CONSERVATIONIST
A HUNTER
A FINE GENTLEMAN
I AM HONORED TO HAVE KNOWN HIM."

-JIM ECKLES, BOARD MEMBER




John Frailey (left) and his son, Mike, at Seven Springs Clay Shoot.

IN MEMORY OF
**JOHN
FRAILEY**

ABOUT THOSE FLOWERS on the side of the road...

by FRANCESCA RAMOS



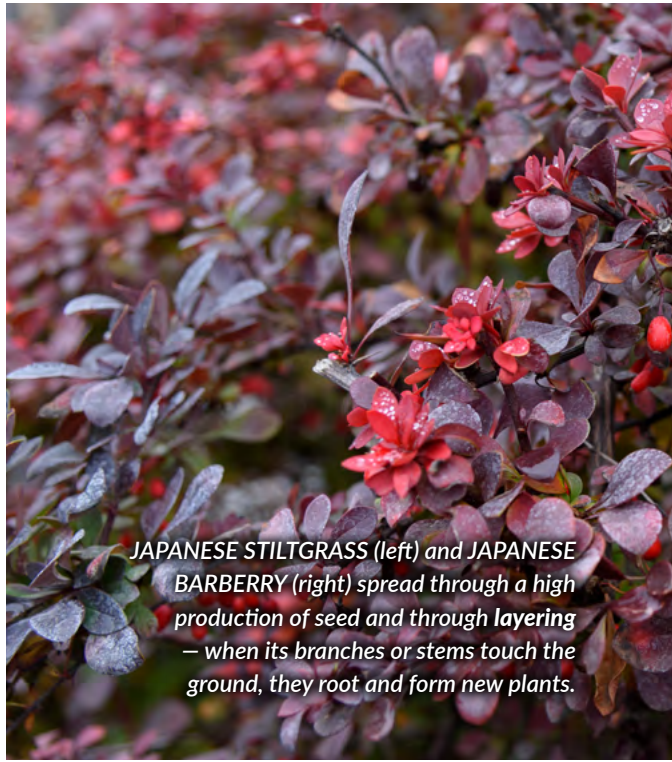
INVASIVE SPECIES are exotic plants and animals that have been introduced into native ecosystems. They displace native species which can impact the diversity of native plants and animals, reduce wildlife habitat and disrupt important ecosystem functions.

Have you ever thought about those plants on the side of the road — the wildflowers? Did you ever imagine they could be dangerous for our environment and the animals that live among them?

During my time at the Wildlife Leadership Academy, I have had the opportunity to learn about numerous plants and their purpose in nature. What intrigued me about the plants was the fact that many of them are not supposed to grow here and, in turn, they can destroy the habitats of wildlife like deer, grouse and birds. These plants are called invasive and rightly so because of the vigorous and effective way they take over the forests and areas surrounding them, even your backyard.

Although it may come as a surprise, Queen Anne's Lace, a beautiful plant that many children pick to give to their mother, is a poisonous weed that is harmful to Pennsylvania's environment. At the Wildlife Leadership Academy, I was tasked with finding and pressing a series of individual plants. While picking the plants, I realized that Queen Anne's Lace was everywhere. It grew in abandoned fields, on the sides of roads, and pretty much anywhere there is room for it to grow. Native to temperate regions of Europe and southwest Asia, this subspecies of wild carrot has been carefully monitored here so that it does not take over too much forest land where trees and other

A biennial plant, QUEEN ANNE'S LACE will bloom and set seed in the second year. One plant can produce up to 40,000 seeds that can be transferred on coats or dog's fur.



JAPANESE STILTGRASS (left) and JAPANESE BARBERRY (right) spread through a high production of seed and through layering – when its branches or stems touch the ground, they root and form new plants.

native plants can potentially grow.

Two other invasive plants I found are native to Japan: Japanese Barberry and Japanese Stiltgrass. They can be found in home landscapes and forests. Although the Japanese Barberry may be an excellent plant for landscape designers because it “...exhibits a high ornamental value and responds well to pruning...” according to the Ecological Landscape Alliance, it offers no benefit to the wildlife here in the U.S. It grows and spreads, taking over and killing native species of plants that are supposed to

flourish and provide for the various animals in the area.

Japanese Barberry shrubs can grow to be quite tall compared to Japanese Stiltgrass, the small grass plants that can be found nearly everywhere in the forests around northeastern and central Pennsylvania. Japanese Stiltgrass creates an inhospitable environment for native species, animals and plants alike, because it alters the natural soil conditions.

It would be almost impossible to remove all invasive species. Careful attention to the spread of invasive species and regular removal are needed to continue to provide for the needs of wildlife.

GO NATIVE IN YOUR GARDEN! Native plants grew here before Europeans arrived, therefore they are perfectly adapted to the Pennsylvania ecosystem. Native species are hardy, easy to grow and provide the best possible habitat and food for local wildlife.

Francesca Ramos is a sophomore at North Pocono High School. She is a 2019 alumnus of the Drummers Field School of the Wildlife Leadership Academy.



Seedlings for Schools & Pollinator Garden

Cut Short by COVID



Two annual programs that educate Pennsylvania school students about the interrelationship of plants and animals abruptly came to a halt when schools closed in March.

The Seedlings for Schools program provides curriculum and hands-on learning that reinforce students' understanding of wildlife's reliance on trees for food and shelter. The Pollinator Garden program emphasizes the role that pollinator-friendly plants play in providing a food source for insects who transfer pollen to plants which is critical to the survival of food crops as well as wild plants. These are important lessons. Ideally, a conservation ethos will grow from these experiences and today's youth will enter adulthood more enlightened about their responsibility for environmental stewardship.

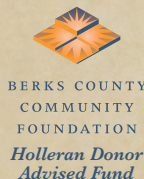
The Seedlings for Schools and Pollinator Garden initiatives are programs of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, supported by the fundraising efforts of the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation. We thank our 2020 sponsors and look forward to their continued support.

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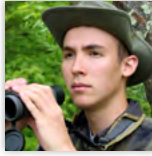
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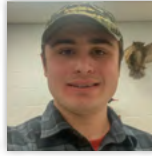
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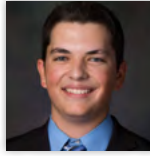
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The Wildlife for Everyone Foundation was honored to help six university students advance their career goals. The Wildlife Scholarship Fund benefits students interested in advancing their career interests in a wildlife or conservation field. Five students received scholarships.

MARY ANN BOGERT (Wilkes Barre, PA) is pursuing a master's degree in Biology at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. She received a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and a minor in Chemistry from Keystone College in northeastern PA. Mary Ann is currently researching the short-eared owl, a migratory bird of conservation concern. She is a member of The Wildlife Society, Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology and The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Mary Ann plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Wildlife Conservation and work in the field of raptor conservation.

PETER LIVENGOOD (Dunbar, PA) is pursuing dual bachelor degrees in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology and Jurisprudence at the California University of Pennsylvania (CUP). He is involved in migrating raptor research projects with the Hawk Migration Association of North America and as part of his undergraduate research at CUP. Peter plans to obtain a master's degree in Legal Studies: Law and Public Policy at California University upon completion of his undergraduate studies. He intends to embark on a career in environmental education and migratory bird research.

ELIJAH DEPAULIS (York Springs, PA) graduated from Penn State, Dubois campus this spring with an associate degree in Wildlife Technology. He will pursue a B.S. in Forest Ecosystem Management at Penn State, University Park campus this fall. Elijah is a conservation volunteer for the Pennsylvania

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in Sinnemahoning State Park. He is a board member of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. His future goal is to become a land manager.

RICHARD NOVAK (Pittsburgh, PA) graduated from Penn State, University Park campus in May with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. He will continue at Penn State to complete a M.S. in Ecology. Richard is a member of the Endangered Species Program Team of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he is a student trainee. He is a member of the Penn State chapter of The Wildlife Society. Upon graduation, Richard plans to become a natural resource professional in a state or federal agency.

EMILY RITTER (Beach Lake, PA) is a rising senior at Millersville University of Pennsylvania majoring in Biology with a concentration in Animal Behavior. She has researched invasive species, analyzing their impact on endangered animals and trapped Walnut Twig beetles for observation. Emily is vice president of the Entomology Club at Millersville University. She hopes to pursue a career as a field biologist and conservationist.

A marketing/communications internship was presented to a student during the spring semester.

AMIYA JENNINGS (Stillwater, NY) will be a sophomore at Penn State, University Park campus majoring in Public Relations. She is pursuing two minors: Digital Media Trans Analytics and Political Science. Amiya is an active member of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). She was the 2019-20 PRSSA acting chair for THON, the Penn State student-run dance marathon which raises funds for childhood cancer. Amiya's career goal is to work in the Public Relations field.

SUPPORT THE WILDLIFE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

3RD ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE GALA

Featured Speaker: **SCOTT WEIDENSAUL**, Internationally Known Ornithologist

► **FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021** ◀

Wyndham Garden, State College

Photo © Beth Smuders



SCOTT WEIDENSAUL is an acclaimed writer, lecturer and field researcher on topics of ornithology and natural history. He directs the Northern Saw-whet Owl project and helped to establish Project SNOWstorm, which tracks the migratory patterns of the

snowy owl into North America. Weidensaul has authored over two dozen books including *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, which earned him the distinction of Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2000. He is a contributing author to the *New York Times*, *Smithsonian*, *National Wildlife*, *Nature Conservancy* and *Audubon*.

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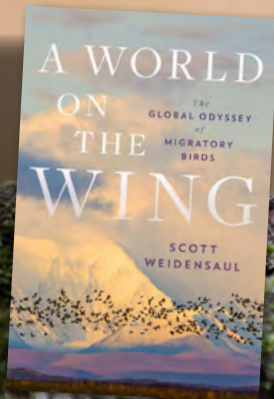
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All proceeds benefit
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HOT OFF THE PRESSES!

Signed copies of Weidensaul's new book, *A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*, (release date 3/30/2021) will be available for purchase to Gala attendees at a "Meet and Greet the Author" reception following the Gala.



**WILDLIFE FOR EVERYONE
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EVENTS



SPORTING CLAY CLASSIC

Friday, September 18, 2020

Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays

Teams compete on a course carved out of an abandoned 1800s quarry. Stunning grounds with a variety of target presentations. For novice and competitive shooters of all ages.



PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE GALA

Friday, April 23, 2021

Wyndham Garden, State College, PA

Guest Speaker: Scott Weidensaul, Renowned Owl Expert and Pulitzer Prize finalist. Join us for a festive evening in support of Wildlife for Everyone's mission of promoting wildlife conservation and education.



SPORTING CLAY CLASSIC

Friday, May 7, 2021

Seven Springs Sporting Clay Facility

Teams compete on a nationally rated course nestled in the scenic Laurel Highlands. The challenging course is perfect for novice and competitive shooters of all ages.



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Saturday, June 26, 2021

Penn's Cave & Wildlife Park

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Please sustain our efforts of conserving wildlife in Pennsylvania by including the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation in your estate planning. Call 814-238-8138 for more information.

A Photographer's Search for the GHOST DEER

by RICHARD BEVEVINO



Photo © Richard Bevevino

For some time, I had been hearing tales of a “ghost deer” in an area just northwest of Pittsburgh. More reliably, my daughter and son-in-law who live in that area also told me they had on a few occasions spotted an antlered albino deer at the edge of their property. As an avid photographer, this confirmation piqued my interest in recording this so-called “ghost deer” on film!

So, I solicited the help of my son-in-law, John, to devise a simple plan to locate the animal based on the time and location of his previous encounters. We opted to head out in late afternoon and select a spot where John had observed the deer multiple times. The plan was for John to move left of the deer’s previous location and I to the right until out of sight from one another. If either of us spotted the animal, we would alert the other using our cell phones.

The following day, we left the house as planned and hunkered down in our covert locations. It didn’t take long before John texted that he had spotted the albino deer! I immediately started in his direction. I saw John waving to me, directing me to the location of the animal down field of us. Arriving at John’s side, I caught sight of this beautiful white creature grazing in a partially fenced-in field about 50-75 feet away.

I was ready! Before we left the house, I attached a 400mm lens to the camera and adjusted the settings to allow magnified views of the animal from a distance. I slowly approached the deer, aware of his every twitch and glance. Each time that the deer bent his neck to munch on grass, I took two steps closer. And when the animal stopped eating to look around, I halted, slowly raising the camera and began to snap away. This start and stop routine allowed me to get within 30 feet of this beautiful animal. At one point, the deer jumped the fence, and feeling a safe distance away from me, began eating again. Then the animal must have sensed my presence. At last this “ghost deer” bounded away as I stood and watched, ecstatic at what just occurred. What a gift! At that moment I felt like I was the luckiest person in the world.



Photo © Richard Bevevino

Richard Bevevino is a former professor at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. During his 40-year teaching career, he published several articles dealing with history, numismatics and his personal observations. He and his wife divide their time between Lexington, KY and Arizona where Richard enjoys photographing wildlife.

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