



# THE DRUMMER

[www.senecarocksaudubon.org](http://www.senecarocksaudubon.org)



April/May 2011

Volume 27, No. 4



## Native Plants in Your Backyard

*April 11 meeting*

At our April meeting, Cecile Stelter of the Bureau of Forestry will be speaking about why native plants are important, why they are often out-competed by invasives, and what components are important in backyard habitat. She will also highlight some particular species of native plants that are well-suited for our area.

Cecile Stelter holds a B.S. and a MFR in Forest Management from Penn State University. Currently, Cecile is the District Forester for the Cornplanter Forest District – Bureau of Forestry, in Warren, PA.

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Our meetings are held on the CUP campus at the Science Technology Center, Room 136. Social & Snacks - 6:30. Program - 7:00.

## Members' Night

*May 9 meeting*

Since our December meeting was cancelled, we will have our members' night in May. Members are invited to share something of interest with the group that night. These are to be short presentations that may include: photos from trips, backyard pictures, book reviews, birding accessories, artwork, nifty feeders and baffles, recipes, stories or poems. As always, we look forward to your bird sightings!

We will also begin our discussion on shaping an appealing and active year for Seneca Rocks Audubon. We will look for input on areas like:

- What months do we want to meet?
- Where do we want to meet?
- What programs do we want to have?
- What activities do we want to schedule?
- Where do we want to go?
- What are our conservation interests?
- How should we reach out to our communities?
- What is most important to our members?

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## Native Plants, Continued

Cecile is a Life Member of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, a Certified Forester with the Society of American Foresters and a member of the Plateau Chapter of SAF. She is also a Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture, a Tree Farm Inspector, a lifetime member of the Girl Scout organization and serves on the PSU School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors.

This program will tie in with our First Annual Native Plant Sale, to be held in collaboration with C & A Trees in June. (see p. 4)

## Birdathon

The Birdathon, on the calendar for Saturday, May 7 to Sunday, May 15, 2011, is our largest source of funding and supports our programs, educational activities, and membership events. The chapter needs your participation.

There are two ways you can help:

- being an active birder by spending a day (and night) sighting birds and getting people to make pledges or donations for your efforts,
- donating to one of the people who will be going out. Every "Birdathoner" is anxious to get more pledgers.

The dates selected include the Migratory Bird Count on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. On that day you can go birding with two objectives: count *species* for the Birdathon and *individuals* for the Migratory Bird Count.

If you plan to participate let me know; I will supply you with pledge forms. Also, if you have any questions please contact me. This project provides funds for so much that we do.

~ Janice Horn



## Members' Night, Continued

A committee of volunteers will take your suggestions and build a year of programs and activities for the coming year. Care to join us? Talk with Deb Freed about our June planning meeting.

~ Deb Freed



Artwork by Steven D'Amato

## Field Trips

Our annual field trip to Conneaut Marsh and environs will be led by Mike Leahy on Saturday, April 2. This outing is always fun, with a nice variety of birds. We will meet at 9:00 at the causeway at Custards, which is 52 miles, or about 1 1/4 hours from Clarion. Please try to carpool - call Mike at (814) 229-1648 for more information on the outing or carpooling.

The annual Warbler Walk has been scheduled for Saturday, April 30 at Oil Creek State Park. Mike Leahy will also lead this outing - meet at 9:00 at the Blood Farm Day use area, which is less than a mile from the park entrance on Rt. 8 near Rouseville.

The Drummer is the bi-monthly newsletter of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society (SRAS), PO Box 148, Clarion, PA 16214. SRAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. The Drummer is published 4 times per year— September, November, February, and April.

The Drummer is available on our website in color in Adobe pdf and may be read or downloaded from the site – [www.senecarocksaudubon.org](http://www.senecarocksaudubon.org).

Members are encouraged to contribute announcements, articles, photos, etc., to Editor Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353 (814 755-3672) or email at [fmcguire1@verizon.net](mailto:fmcguire1@verizon.net).



*Gary (right) with Dan Brauning, at the 2006 dedication of the Piney Tract IBA*

## **PSO Selects Gary Edwards to Receive the 2011 Earl Poole Award**

The Earl Poole Award is presented annually by the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology to a person or persons who have made significant contributions to Pennsylvania's ornithology by increasing our knowledge and understanding of the birdlife in Pennsylvania. Past winners from Margaret Buckwalter in 2005, are Margaret Higbee in 2006, Doug Gross in 2007, Jack Holcomb in 2008, Nick Pulcinella in 2009 and Jerry McWilliams in 2010.

Gary's passion for birds spans over 28 years for those of us who know him through his leadership with Seneca Rocks Audubon. Gary is generous with his time and knowledge about birds. Throughout the community Gary is known as the "go to" guy for all things about birds. His efforts extend to beginning birders, feeder watchers, Audubon members, students, teachers and professionals in the fields of ornithology, ecology and conservation. Gary's website Venango County Birds is one of many self-initiated projects that benefit the public. With the help of some birding friends, Gary will soon provide Two Mile Run County Park with its first comprehensive bird checklist. Gary has grown the population of people in our area who are now aware of the joy, beauty and importance of birds.

We at Seneca Rocks are proud of Gary for his commitment to our organization and his dedication to the birding community. Congratulations Gary!

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual PSO Meeting will be held at the Bedford Elk's Country Club in Bedford, PA from May 20 to 22. For members who would like to share in the award ceremony on Saturday evening May 21, check the registration information at <http://www.pabirds.org/AnnualMeeting/AnnualMeetingDesc.htm> The registration deadline is May 6, 2011.

~ Deb Freed

## **SRAS Scholarship to Hog Island**

This year our scholarship will go to Carol Bernat, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade life science teacher in Punxsutawney. Carol has experience as a park naturalist and environmental educator. She plans to enrich the curriculum for her inquiry-based classroom.

Hog Island is home to the Audubon Camp and Project Puffin Seabird Restoration Program. It has been educating people in environmental and conservation camps since 1936. Carol will attend the Field Ornithology session in mid-June. Featured instructors will include Lang Elliott, Stephen Kress, Kenn Kaufman, Kim Kaufman, Sara Morris and Scott Weidensaul.

*We wish Carol safe travels and a grand week of learning and fun with the pros.*

~ Deb Freed

## **AVTA Wins Environmental Award**

Under the leadership of Peter Dalby SRAS nominated the Allegheny Valley Trails Association for one of the 2011 Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards. On March 25th Pete was notified that AVTA has been selected for an award. More details will be posted on the website as they become known

# Native Plant Sale

This year we plan to begin a new annual fundraiser, a Native Plant Sale. C & A Trees, located 2.5 miles south of Clarion Borough, is collaborating with us to provide perennials, vines, and shrubs for purchase on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Seneca Rocks will realize a profit of 20% of the sales through this agreement.

Plants that will be available are:

## Perennials

Meadow anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)  
Blue aster (*Aster azureus*)  
Bachelor's button (*Centaurea cyanus*)  
Common beardtongue (*Penstemon barbatus*)  
Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*) B, H  
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) B  
Fringed bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*)  
Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)  
Bluebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) H  
Blue flag (*Iris versicolor*) B, H  
Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) B, H  
Wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) H  
Pink coreopsis (*Coreopsis rosea*)  
Spike gayfeather (*Liatris spicata*) B  
Goat's beard (*Aruncus dioicus*)  
Gray goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*) B  
Seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*)  
Sweet goldenrod (*Solidago odora*) B  
Blue false indigo (*Baptisia australis*)  
Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*) B  
Wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) B, H  
Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnate*) B  
Evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*) B  
Garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) B, H  
Wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricate*) B, H  
Sundrops (*Oenothera fruticosa*)  
Swamp sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*)  
White turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)  
Common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)



## Vines

American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)  
Trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) H  
Trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*) B, H

## Shrubs/small trees

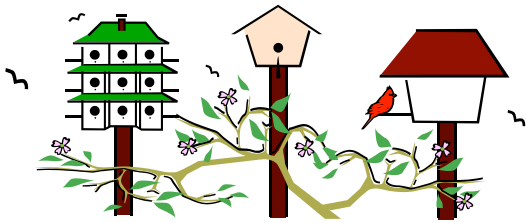
Arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*)  
Bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*)  
Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)  
Low blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)  
Burning bush (*Euonymus altopurpureus*)  
Butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*)  
Sand cherry (*Prunus pumilas*)  
Black chokecherry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)  
Red chokecherry (*Aronia arbutifolia*)  
Gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)  
Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) B  
Shrub dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)  
American elder (*Damucus Canadensis*)  
Common juniper (*Juniperus communis*)  
Meadowsweet (*Spiraea latifolia*) B  
Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)  
Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*) B  
New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) H  
Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)  
Raspberry (*Rubus sp.*)  
Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)  
Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)  
Arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*) B  
Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)  
Witchhazel (*Hammamelis virginiana*)

"B" or "H" following the plant signifies that it should attract Butterflies or Hummingbirds.

If there are plants that you would like to get that are not on the list ask about it and we will see if it is possible to have them available.

DCNR has a pamphlet, *Landscaping with Native Plants*, that has information for you to use to decide which plants are suitable for your site. For more information refer to *Landscaping for Wildlife in Pennsylvania* by Marcus Schneck, and *Wildflowers of Pennsylvania* by Mary Joy Haywood and Phyllis Testal Monk (2001).

~ Janice Horn



## Third Annual "Funky Nests in Funky Places" Contest

*Thanks to Pat Conway for calling our attention to this contest - info from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology.*

The Celebrate Urban Birds project at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is bringing back its "Funky Nests in Funky Places" environmental challenge for the third year - the most popular of its seasonal challenges. Participants have sent in hundreds of images over the past two years showing nests in wreaths, shoes, signs, farm equipment, traffic lights, and many other funky places. Celebrate Urban Birds is a free year-round citizen-science project focused on birds in neighborhood settings.

For the 2011 Funky Nests in Funky Places challenge, participants may take photos, do a painting, write a story, or shoot a video showing a bird's nest built in some out-of-the-way or out-of-this-world place.

"We've had such fun with this challenge," says project leader Karen Purcell. "The theme really struck a chord with people. You wouldn't believe how many people showed us bird nests in barbecue grills, garages, garden tools, and signs. We've seen bird nests on statues, windchimes, a cannon, and even on bathroom fixtures. I can't wait to see this year's entries!"

Prizes include bird feeders, nest boxes, sound CDs, guides, posters, and books including Nests: Fifty Nests and the Birds That Built Them, by Sharon Beals. The first 50 entrants will receive a copy of our "Silhouette" poster and selected images and videos will be posted on the Celebrate Urban Birds website. Deadline for entries is June 1, 2011.

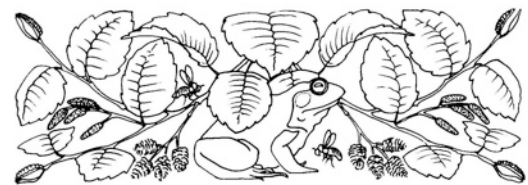
Please go to the Celebrate Urban Birds website for more information: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/challenge/funky-nests-2011>

## Bird Walks/Tours in Foxburg

May 7th, Saturday- Bird Walk/Tour at Riverstone Farm 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Limited number. \$15.00 per person includes lunch. To register call 724-290-2095.

May 14, Saturday-Bird Walk/Tour in Foxburg along the Allegheny River 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Weather permitting, tour by boat. Limited number. \$20.00 per person includes lunch. To register call 724-290-2095.

~ Jack Williams



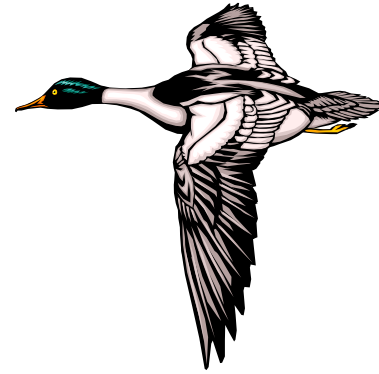
## EARTH WEEK EVENTS SCHEDULE

The public is invited to the following events, planned at the Clarion University campus by the BIOS Club.

- **Friday:** April 15th, **Nature Themed Art Show** Opening Exhibition, 5:00-7:00 p.m. - First Floor Lobby of STC
- **Open Mic Night** 7:00-9:00 p.m - Gemmell Lawn
- **Monday:** April 18th, Ryan Miller, **Saving Our Endangered Species**, 7:00 p.m. - Room 122, STC
- **Tuesday:** April 19<sup>th</sup> **Skyles-Spirit Birds of Prey** 7:00 p.m. - Room 122, STC
- **Wednesday:** April 20th, **Wild world Animals Animal Show**, 7:00 p.m. Gemmell Student Center Multi-Purpose Room
- **Thursday:** April 21<sup>st</sup>, Claire Orner, **Worm Composting Seminar**, 4:00 p.m. -Room 207,STC  
Julie Graf, **Sustainable Living**, 7:00 p.m. - Room 122 of STC
- **Friday:** April 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Eco Jeopardy with Tarzan** (Nature Jeopardy),4:00 p.m. - Room 120, STC

~ Alysha Cypher, President, BIOS Club

SRAS meetings are held on the second Monday of each month on the Clarion campus  
**Room 136, Science Technology Center**  
Social & Snacks – 6:30 p.m.  
Program – 7:00 p.m.



## We appreciate our Hosts & Hostesses –

April - Joan Magistrella and Carol Riffer.  
May - Ruth Schurr.

Thank you!



Field Trips -  
April 2, Conneaut Marsh  
April 30, Warbler Walk

Birdathon - May 7 through 15.  
Migration Count - May 14



## SRAS Board Members

Membership & Secretary, - Deb Freed	226-4719
Vice-president - Pete Dalby	782-3227
Treasurer, Birdseed, Birdathon - Janice Horn	226-7367
Website, Drummer Editor - Flo McGuire	755-3672
Field Trips, Events - Jim Wilson	676-5455
Community Programs - Ron Montgomery	764-6088
Education - Paulette Colantonio	797-2031
History - Pat Conway	849-6315
Beaver Creek - Walter Fye	797-1019