

# BIRD TOWN FLYER



Audubon PENNSYLVANIA

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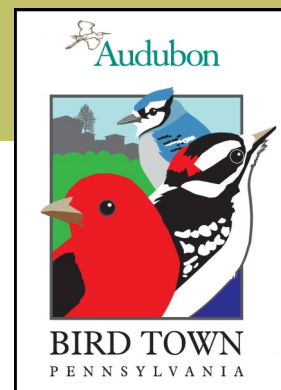
Welcome New Readers!

May 2014

## Red, White and Blues



July 4th has come early to Pennsylvania as Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings are showing up in more backyards and feeders than in previous years. The phenomenon accompanies an incredible warbler migration season—nature in its finest form. Orioles add a vibrant flame to mix so be sure to keep an eye (and ear) out for them at this time of the year as well.



## At Home in Newtown



By Autumn Thomas

The Newtown Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) and Bird Town was pleased to participate in the annual Earth Day Celebration sponsored by Newtown Township, Middletown Township and Bucks County Parks & Recreation at Core Creek Park in Langhorne on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The EAC distributed free birdhouses to interested children and community members. With generous donations of materials and time, there were a total of 75 birdhouses available to assemble and paint.

Thank you to Lumbermen Associates, Inc. for the donation of wood and to Mr. Islinger's Council Rock South Wood Technology II class for taking on the project of cutting all of the wood and pre-assembling the houses. Volunteers for the day included members of the EAC; students from Council Rock North, and Mr. Easterly of Council Rock South. The booth was set up to provide all necessary supplies and equipment to complete each birdhouse.

The project highlighted the benefits of attracting backyard birds - including pest control, flower pollination, weed control, environmental conservation, and even stress relief! Sometimes the best benefit of attracting birds is simply being able to enjoy them. Having a birdhouse is a great start to realizing all the benefits that come with our winged friends.

## BCAS Birdathon Weekend is May 16 & 17!

Birdathon is a weekend birding adventure where birding enthusiasts of all levels count bird species and get pledges to benefit Bucks County Audubon Society's mission to preserve birds and their habitats. Get together with your birding friends and family and get outdoors for a good cause! Prizes will be awarded for the teams with the most pledges and most species in various categories, such as: Novice, Family, and Expert. Two Options: 24 Hour Marathon or Mini 4 Hour Marathon. Rules and pledge forms can be found at: [www.BCAS.org](http://www.BCAS.org) or come by Bucks County Audubon Society's Honey Hollow Environmental Education Center any week day between 10am and 5pm.



BirdTownPA



Bucks County Audubon Society  
Honey Hollow Environmental Education Center

## Audubon PA's Birdathon Team in Western PA

The Timberdoodles will take to the field on May 20, 2014 under the leadership of Sarah Sargent for the benefit of the Important Bird Areas program. The Timberdoodles will again cover selected IBAs in northwest PA, including Presque Isle and Conneaut Marsh. The Direct Link to donate is listed below.



Audubon At Home  
John James Audubon Center  
at Mill Grove  
1201 Pawlings Rd.  
Audubon PA 19403  
610.666.5593 x112

### Backyard Conservation Design

To date over 42 Backyard Conservation Designs (BCD) have been completed and 15 are in the process. Designs have been done for residences, train stations, parks, schools, and municipal buildings. Each of the 22 people who have taken the BCD advanced class has offered to volunteer to do a free design for any municipal property in any active Bird Town. If you are interested, please contact John Rogers at [jrogers@keystoneconservation.org](mailto:jrogers@keystoneconservation.org).



### Bird on a Wire Awards

Jeannine Mitchell won the first monthly "Bird On A Wire Award" for her Backyard Conservation Design of The Native Plant Demo Garden in **Doylestown** Townships Central Park. She wins \$100 and a certificate. Congratulations.

The site is perfect for a demonstration garden: there's an existing bird blind and a small outdoor classroom area. The township has been very supportive of the project. Phase I of the project was completed on April 10: altogether 8 volunteers cleared out multiflora rose, oriental bitter-sweet, and rampant wild grape. Phase II was completed last Friday, April 11: we had 10 PECO community service volunteers help us prepare the area for planting by laying down layers of newspaper and 33 cubic yards of composted leaf mulch. We also installed one canopy tree. Phase III will begin soon: volunteers will plant understory trees and shrubs. Then we'll continue by underplanting with ferns, groundcover, and perennials. Local gardeners are stepping up and potting some of their native perennials for inclusion in the garden.

Cindy Nuss won the Bird on a Wire award for Best Backyard Conservation Design for April (photo right). Cindy is a biologist and nature lover. She has worked diligently for the past 29 years to make her yard as natural as possible while utilizing the resources on her property to be as sustainable as possible. She now has shade gardens, great habitat, seasonal color and curb appeal.



### Busy Spring for Audubon At Home

We were invited and did presentations for some fantastic groups this spring including: the **Warrington** Garden Club, the **Doylestown** Nature Club, the **Radnor** Historical Society, **Jenkintown** Elementary School, Radnor Elementary, and **Lower Gwynedd** Township. We also had presence at the **Lancaster** Native Plant and Wildlife Festival, the Unitarian Universalist Native Plant Sale in the **Lehigh Valley** and the TTF Buffer Dedication in **Abington**.

Please share this newsletter with your friends!! Do not want to receive the *Bird Town Flyer*?? No prob. Please reply to this email with request to cancel.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2014

### BIRD TOWN EVENTS

May 22: 7pm **Doylestown EAC** meeting - John Rogers talks about conservation design and green corridors

May 26: Memorial Day Parade, **Doylestown Borough** (Bird Town float)

Ongoing: Birdseed Sale at **Bucks County Audubon** BCAS.org



### NATIVE PLANT SALES!

**MAY 10—JUNE 1, 10-4: BOWMAN'S HILL WILDFLOWER PRESERVE NATIVE PLANT SALE**

**MAY 17, 11AM—4PM—COLLINS NURSERY OPEN HOUSE, GLENSIDE**

**MAY 17—18: HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY PLANT SALE**

**MAY 17, 8AM—1: PLANT FEST AND SALE, MASTER GARDENERS CUMBERLAND CO., 310 ALLEN RD., CARLISLE**

**JUNE 1—ARTS IN THE PARK, FRIENDS OF HIGH SCHOOL PARK, ELKINS PARK, 10AM—5PM PLANT SALE INCLUDED**

**JUNE 6,7—MILLERSVILLE NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE AND SALE [WWW.MILLERSVILLENATIVEPLANTS.ORG](http://WWW.MILLERSVILLENATIVEPLANTS.ORG)**

\* **DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT [PA.AUDUBON.ORG/SAVE](http://PA.AUDUBON.ORG/SAVE) TO LEARN ABOUT DISCOUNTS AT NATIVE PLANT NURSERIES AND OTHER VENUES IN PA! GET YOUR "HABITAT DISCOUNT CARD" BY REGISTERING (OR RE-REGISTERING IF YOUR BIRD HABITAT PROPERTY WAS RECOGNIZED PRIOR TO 2013, AT [PA.AUDUBON.ORG/REGISTER-YOUR-PROPERTY](http://PA.AUDUBON.ORG/REGISTER-YOUR-PROPERTY)) EMAIL ME IF YOUR SALE IS NOT LISTED. CLICKABLE LINKS BELOW!**

### OTHER EVENTS

Ongoing—**Gardening with Nature Series**, Master Gardeners of Cumberland County (see clickable link below, lots of great programs!!)

### WILD SUMMER CONSERVATION FILM SERIES IN WAYNE

WEDNESDAYS, 6/25, 7/30, 8/27 @ 7PM

This new conservation film series will inform, engage and empower all of us about the need to protect not only the birds and the bees, but strengthen biodiversity that is critical to the survival of our planet. Three wildlife films will be screened on Wednesday evenings in the summer. It is free, no registration is required and refreshments will be served.

**June 25: The Lost Bird Project (2012)**

**July 30: Vanishing of the Bees (2009)**

**August 27: Birders: the Central Park Effect (2012)**

At the screenings, guest speakers/local experts will be present, including Phil Wallis of Audubon PA and Phil Witmer of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. We'll have an opportunity to discuss what we can do to help. The film series is presented by Radnor Memorial Library, Radnor Conservancy, **Radnor Bird Town**, and Radnor Township's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC).