



# Harbinger

2877 Creamery Road  
New Hope, PA 18938  
215-297-5880  
[www.bcas.org](http://www.bcas.org)

Newsletter of the  
Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey Hollow

Summer 2010

## Don't Miss the 2010 Barns of Distinction Tour

**Saturday, July 10, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

We are celebrating the eleventh anniversary of our very popular self-guided barn tour. Each barn is carefully selected by our nominating committee as exceptional for its type of construction. We select barns that have different architectural characteristics or have been skillfully adapted as living quarters or other uses. Every location will have a well-informed docent that can relate the history of that barn and its architectural details.

Barns on this year's tour are in Solebury, Buckingham, Plumstead and one near Perkasio that will be worth the trip! This converted barn is featured in the June issue of Architectural Digest. Two of the Solebury barns are considered among the most historic in Bucks County. Our media sponsor, Bucks County Herald, will feature a pull-out section on the tour in their July 1 issue.

An informative lecture on barns will be held on Friday, July 9, 7:30 PM at the Audubon Visitor Center. Sean Tracy of Bucks County TimberCraft, the tour's Presenting Sponsor, will provide an illustrated program on the reconstruction of historic barns. Refreshments will be served.

Tour tickets are \$25 in advance; \$28 on day of tour. A combination tour/lecture ticket is \$30. Get your tickets on our website, [www.bcas.org](http://www.bcas.org), or call 215-297-5880.



*The lovely barn at Cradle Valley Farm is the site of the Castles in the Fields reception on June 26.*

## BCAS Welcomes New Environmental Educator

The Bucks County Audubon Society welcomes Jaime Schoenfeld as the new full-time environmental educator at Honey Hollow. Jaime grew up as a ski racer in Vermont and graduated –longer ago than she cares to admit – from the University of Vermont's school of Agriculture and Life Sciences with a degree in biology. She is currently working on her Masters of Science in Education at Gwynedd-Mercy College. Jaime is Pennsylvania certified in both biology and general science and taught middle and high school science prior to joining the BCAS staff. When asked about her vision for the future of school aged education at Honey Hollow, Jaime had the following to say:

"I am grateful for the opportunity to teach hands on science outdoors and to share my love of ecology with the children of Bucks County. I hope to use what I've learned studying for my Masters to elevate the educational programs at Honey Hollow to a new level and to be more responsive to the educational goals of the schools that attend our programs. Additionally, I hope to reinvigorate the historic watershed education program at Honey Hollow and to reach new audiences with our programs, including high school students and schools from lower Bucks County."



*Jaime and her students enjoy exploring the out of doors.*

Jaime works together with Diane Smith, who has been the BCAS part-time educator for six years, and a group of enthusiastic Teacher Naturalists, to make science come alive for thousands of students each year.

## Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey Hollow

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### Board of Directors

Malcolm Crooks, President  
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Mary-Jo May  
Eve Minson  
Tess Present  
Leigh Smith  
Phil Witmer

### Mission

*The mission of the Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey Hollow is to generate awareness, education, and above all else, a sense of stewardship toward the environment.*

## President's Message

An organization is only as good as the people who run it. We have some new additions to our board and staff who I am confident will help Bucks County Audubon Society move forward with new vitality and innovative ideas.

First you have read on the first page that we hired Jaime Schoenfeld as our full time environmental educator. But the article doesn't begin to tell the whole story. Since joining us in March, Jaime has been in contact with the science coordinators in all school districts in the county, as well as the Intermediate Unit. She is working with the schools to develop BCAS programs that will enrich their specific science curricula. She is putting an emphasis on reaching underprivileged youth with an environmental message. Jaime has also secured interest from the senior community, as well as home-schooled children in our area. She has written several grant applications to help facilitate some of these programs.

Before I tell you about our new Board members, I want to sincerely thank Sara Webster, who has completed her two terms (6 years) as a Board member. An avid birder, Sara is an attorney and her counsel has been invaluable to us over the years. Happily, Sara has offered to stay on as our Legal Advisor.

Now I ask you all to officially welcome our new board members.

**Pat Antrobus** is a past BCAS board member. She is a trained Teacher Naturalist and is serving on our Education Committee. Her enthusiasm for our mission brought her back to us and we welcome her energy and foresight.

**Linda Brinker** is a long-time development director and administrator for historic sites throughout Bucks County. She has a lot of experience with non-profit organizations and is a member of the Association of Conservation Executives.

**Gene Gladston** is an ardent birder and also a former BCAS board member. He has been a strong financial and program supporter over the years. Before coming to Bucks County, Gene was active with New York Audubon. He says that even though New York Audubon has many more members than BCAS, they don't own one square inch of land – that is the real resource of BCAS.

**Dennis Mankin** has been a loyal supporter of BCAS for a number of years, both as a private citizen and as a Solebury Township supervisor. He began his career as an attorney, then moved into guiding and overseeing policy decisions in various federal agencies. He retired recently to a property in Solebury Township on the banks of the Delaware River.

**Mary-jo May** formerly served as the Development Director for BCAS, and has volunteered to help with our Barn Tour for many years. She currently serves as the Development Director for the Conservatory of Music in Doylestown.

**Phil Witmer** is a dedicated birder and has a great deal of interest in the environmental education programs carried out by BCAS. Phil founded The Mission Works, a management endeavor for strategic planning and program development for non-profit organizations.

These new board members join our existing active and dedicated members, and together with your support, we will take BCAS and its education programs to new heights.

*Malcolm P. Crooks*

*Malcolm Crooks (center) welcomed six new board members at the BCAS Annual Meeting on May 25. Pictured here are (l-r) Phil Witmer, Pat Antrobus, Linda Brinker and Dennis Mankin. Missing are Mary-jo May and Eugene Gladston.*



# BCAS Program Calendar: July - September 2010

## Environment for Your Future

The following educational programs are held at the Audubon Visitor Center, 2877 Creamery Road, New Hope, unless otherwise noted. To register for the programs, call 215-297-5880, email [bcas@bcas.org](mailto:bcas@bcas.org) or visit our website, [bcas.org](http://bcas.org).

Our extensive network of trails is open for your enjoyment daily from 9 AM - 5 PM. Free admission.

**Come and experience Honey Hollow.**

## Summer Ecology Camp at Honey Hollow Birds...bugs...animals...herptiles...

Children love to discover the great outdoors at our 110-acre campus near New Hope. Your kids will have fun exploring our streams, ponds and forest trails and creating unique craft projects. Varied programs for K through 5th grades. Week-long camp sessions run from June 28 to August 27.

Week of	Time	Topic	For Kids Entering
June 28-July 2	9-1	Honey Hollow's Neighborhood	K - 2
July 12 - 16	9-3	Going Buggy!	1 - 3
July 19 - 23	9-3	Nests, Holes and Burrows	2 - 4
July 26 - 30	9-3	Art and Nature	3 - 5
Aug 2 - 6	9-1	Plant-astic!	K - 2
Aug 9 - 13	9-3	Hooray for Herptiles	1 - 3
Aug 16 - 20	9-3	Animals and Habitats	2 - 4
Aug 23 - 27	9-3	Wild Watersheds	3 - 5

WEEKS OF JUNE 28 AND AUGUST 2 ONLY: **Members \$130, non-members \$200**

ALL OTHER WEEKS: **Members \$200, non-members \$275**

All non-members will receive a FREE family membership (\$60 value!)

*NOTE: Some camp weeks may be full by the time you receive this newsletter. Call for availability.*



## July

**July 9, Friday, 7:30 PM**

### Barn Tour Lecture

Join barn experts for a lecture on the adaptive reuse and preservation of barns. Learn about the architectural details and building methods used in the construction and renovation of Bucks County barns.

**July 10, Saturday, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

### Barns of Distinction Tour

We are celebrating the eleventh anniversary of our very popular self guided barn tour. Each barn is carefully selected by our nominating committee as exceptional for its type of construction. We select barns that have different architectural characteristics or have been skillfully adapted as living quarters or other uses. Every location will have a well-informed docent that can relate the history of that barn and its architectural details. Tour tickets are \$25 in advance; \$28 on day of tour. A combination tour/lecture ticket is \$30.

**NEW**

**Saturday, July 24 - Firefly Hunt! 7:30 - 9:00 PM**

Kids, bring your parents out to experience Honey Hollow in the evening! After a brief talk about these interesting animals and what makes them glow, we'll head outside to use our nets and bug containers to catch our special beetles, the fireflies! We'll end with a campfire and s'mores! (bring a folding/camp chair for the fire) Please register by July 21. Members \$10 per family, Non-Members \$15 per family



## August

**Saturday, August 14 - Beautiful Butterflies**

**10:00 - 11:30 AM**

Join us for a look at the butterflies of the area. There will be a slide show of butterflies and caterpillars, and then we'll head outside with butterfly nets to see what butterflies we can find. Information on plants for nectar and larval food will be provided. Please register by 8/12. Members \$10; Non-Members \$12.

*(continued)*

## BCAS Programs

**September 25** **NEW** **Harvest Festival**  
2:30-4:30 PM

It's harvest time at the Audubon garden. Bring the whole family to this afternoon of fun. Activities will include hay rides, cider pressing and fishing. Members free, guests over 12 years of age, \$5.

**After School Program - for children ages 6 – 8**  
**Members \$8, non-members \$12.**

**September 15, 4:00 – 5:30 PM** **Turtle Time!**  
Meet our resident wild and indoor turtles.

**September 29, 4:00 – 5:30 PM** **Signs of Fall!**  
Fall is here! Learn what changes with the season here at Honey Hollow!

**PreSchool Explorers - for children ages 3 to 5**  
**Members \$8, non-members \$12.**

**September 14, 10 - 11:30 AM** **Creek Critters!**  
**September 15, 1-2:30 PM**

Prepare to get your feet wet and let's explore Honey Hollow Creek to see who lives there!

**September 28, 10 - 11:30 AM** **Preying Mantises!**  
**September 29, 1:00 -2:30 PM**

We'll search for the preying mantises that call Honey Hollow home.

*A full Fall Program listing will be in our next newsletter.*

## Gulf Coast Oil Disaster: How You Can Help

### VOLUNTEER

National Audubon is working with many other public and private conservation organizations to coordinate volunteers and connect them with oiled-wildlife response leaders to help in the recovery effort, in the event that the oil spill reaches the gulf coast marshes, beaches, barrier islands and other ecologically sensitive areas. Hands-on work to protect and save birds and other wildlife will be a complex and potentially dangerous process, and first and foremost it is important that only trained volunteers participate on the front lines. For details and a volunteer registration form, visit [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).

### TAKE ACTION

Urge Congress to fully fund restoration efforts in Coastal Louisiana. Restoring habitat is key to the survival of that region's wildlife and all the people who depend upon it.

### DONATE

Your donation to National Audubon will help the organization address the oil spill's affect on birds and other wildlife in the Gulf Coast's already-fragile ecosystem.

Visit [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) for details.

## Water Quiz

Water is a precious resource that you might not think about too much until it's a hot sunny day! See how much you know about water!

1. True or False? Humans can live without water
2. How much marine (ocean) life lives in the waters near coast? Choose: 20%, 40%, 75%, 90%?
3. Which of these continents is the driest? Choose: Australia; Antarctica; Africa; Europe
4. How much water does the average American use in a day? Choose: 50 gallons, 70 gallons, 85 gallons, 100 gallons?
5. True or false? Only a tiny fraction of the water on Earth is usable by humans.
6. Which of these can contribute to water pollution: Sewers; Farms; Street runoff; All of them
7. True or false? There are mountains in the ocean.
8. In which of these places is water found? Choose: On the Earth's surface, Under the ground, In the air, All of these
9. How much of the Earth's surface is covered in water? Choose: 50%, 75%, 80%, 90%
10. True or False? Rainfall is made up of new water?

### ANSWERS

1. False – All humans need water to live. Over ¾ of the human body is made up of this life-sustaining liquid.
2. 90% - most of the ocean's life is in the shallow water near the coasts.
3. Antarctica – Even though it is covered in ice, Antarctica is the driest continent on Earth, so dry, that it is considered a desert! 100 gallons – an amazingly large amount. In some countries the average water consumption is only 40 gallons or less! Cut back on your water usage by turning off the faucet when you brush your teeth and when you do the dishes by hand.
5. True – only 1% of the Earth's water is water you can drink. The rest is either salt water in the oceans or frozen in glaciers and polar ice.
6. All of them – Pollution can come from many places, even ones we don't normally think of like farms
7. True! There's a whole landscape under the waves! Mountains, volcanoes, plateaus and trenches are found on the ocean floor.
8. All of these – Water is all around us, even if you can see it.
9. 80% of the Earth's surface is covered in water
10. False! The Earth has pretty much all of the water it has ever had or is ever going to have. Rainfall is "recycled" water – water that has evaporated from the surface and is falling back to the ground.

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## A Garden with a Mission

Local food is popular topic these days, and as people become more educated about the need for healthy local food, the demand is growing. Opportunities for participating in a local food system are getting easier to find. From Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and farm-based education programs, to backyard gardens everywhere, farm awareness is sprouting all around us. We are fortunate here in the Delaware Valley, an area that is home to a diverse variety of farms and acres of productive agricultural land, but the abundance does not reach everyone.

Food pantries are an important resource for struggling families to provide needed nutrition. They depend on the generosity of the individuals and agencies for food donations and funding. Because they need to rely on an inexpensive, shelf-stable and simple-to-prepare source of food, pantries are frequently filled with processed foods that are often high in salt, calories and preservatives. With that in mind, Bucks County Audubon has given its newly refurbished organic garden a new mission – to help grow fresh produce for those who need healthy food and can't get it. The goal is to provide fresh nutritious food to those who do not have access to it and educate the recipients about food production. This season the recipient organizations of the produce grown in the Audubon garden will be the Community Kitchen and Fisherman's Mark Pantry in Lambertville, NJ. These organizations serve residents of the surrounding communities from both Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Since BCAS's mission is conservation education, what better place to bring together eco-literacy, farm-based education and food production. With BCAS's commitment to educating the public, young and old, it makes perfect sense to collaborate with enthusiastic individuals who want to make a difference in the community. BCAS Board member and eco-designer/farmer, Eve Springwood Minson, has been providing programs about organic gardening at BCAS for several years. Sharing the vision with her friend, Sharon Shaw, a landscape designer and owner of Martin Shaw Landscape Design and Construction, an outreach program to provide fresh produce to those in need was developed.

Audubon's organic garden was created last year as a teaching garden for educational programs. Last fall it was beautifully expanded by Ian Antolik as an Eagle Scout project. This spring, donations of compost from Delaware Valley College, seeds from Burpee Seeds, plants from Eve Minson and Jenn McCracken from the Turnip Truck, and lots of volunteers, it has become an even more productive garden and fresh produce will be harvested soon.

It seems counter intuitive that it costs more to produce foods that have less added to them, (pesticides, fertilizers, fillers and preservatives) but that is the reality of organic farming — it is very labor intensive. The most affordable food is often the most processed and least healthful.

Volunteers are needed to help plant, maintain and harvest the garden. Participants will have an opportunity to learn as they go, working side by side with knowledgeable professionals. If you have an interest in participating, even once a month, please contact Eve Minson at [earthdreamingnow@yahoo.com](mailto:earthdreamingnow@yahoo.com). You'll find us there most Saturday mornings. We welcome your help, interest and support!

*Eve S. Minson and Sharon A. Shaw*

**DON'T MISS THE HARVEST FESTIVAL ON  
SEPTEMBER 25**

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## 2010 State of the Birds report

This report, published by a consortium of conservation organizations (including National Audubon) and government agencies, considers one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time, climate change. How will climate change affect birds and their habitats? Accelerated by human activities, climate change is altering the natural world as we know it and is diminishing the quality of our environment. Habitat loss and degradation not only threaten birds and other wildlife, but also threaten human and societal well-being.

Because birds are good indicators of environmental conditions, their predicted changes illustrate how ecosystems are likely to change and they are telling us an important story. Some bird species will adapt and succeed, others will struggle and decline, and some will disappear. Instead of describing what has happened to bird populations, this report presents the first systematic analysis of what may happen to bird populations in each major biome of the United States as a consequence of climate change.

This new assessment will aid in prioritizing and planning for conservation management. As the world works to stabilize climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing lands, immediate actions are needed to give birds a fighting chance to survive.

The report contains information about birds and their habitats, gives examples of what could happen due to climate change, and outlines suggested solutions and efforts needed to help address these issues. By following the conservation actions in this State of the Birds Climate Change report, together we can help ensure that future generations will enjoy the birds we are working to protect.

Birds in every terrestrial and aquatic habitat will be affected by climate change, although individual species in each habitat are likely to respond differently. The report assessed the relative vulnerability of each United States bird species, based on five biological aspects of sensitivity to climate change, as well as the exposure of each species' habitat to climate change in the near future.

The results indicate that a majority of birds dependent on oceans, and birds on Hawaiian Islands, are highly vulnerable to climate change. Birds in coastal, arctic/alpine, and grassland habitats, and those on Caribbean and other Pacific islands show intermediate levels of vulnerability. Most birds in aridlands, wetlands, and forests show lower overall vulnerability.

Across all habitats, species of conservation concern showed higher levels of vulnerability to climate change than species not threatened by other factors. Vulnerability to climate change may hasten declines or prevent recovery. At the same time, increased conservation concern may be warranted for groups of birds, such as waterfowl and aerial insect-eating birds that are abundant now but that will be increasingly stressed as climate change impacts.

The full report can be found [www.stateofthebirds.org/](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/)

*Excerpted from 2010 State of the Birds*

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# An outpouring of support from the community

Our heartfelt thanks to the many generous contributors to our Annual Appeal.

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Visit [bcas.org](http://bcas.org) for program and event updates

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## Bluebirds are hatching at Honey Hollow

Until the mid-1800, bluebirds were a common species in the United States. Unfortunately, habitat loss due to human development and the introduction of aggressive non-native species such as the House Sparrow and the European Starling severely affected the health of bluebird populations. Severe winter weather and pesticide use is also suspected of contributing to a decline in bluebird numbers. Even though the bluebird population has greatly decreased, the future is still promising! The construction of bluebird boxes has had a significant positive impact on bluebird populations and bluebird numbers are on the rise.

This March, a group of students from Bucks County Community College, led by Montessori educator Fred Van Duyne, embarked on an ambitious classroom project in partnership with BCAS to support and encourage the bluebird population at Honey Hollow. Fred and the BCAS staff, environmental educators Jaime Schoenfeld and Diane Smith, consulted with members of the Pennsylvania Blue Bird Society, [www.bsp.org](http://www.bsp.org) prior to placing and erecting the boxes to determine the best locations for all the boxes, about 100 yards apart in the meadows of Honey Hollow. Bluebird boxes need to be installed in February or early March as bluebirds start their courtship sometimes as early as February and in March and April and are on the lookout for suitable cavities created by others for their nests. Bluebirds are secondary cavity nesters.



*Fred Van Duyne monitors the bluebird houses at Honey Hollow*



*Bluebirds can fly up to 17 miles per hour.*

A female bluebird typically lays between three to five eggs. After laying the eggs, the female incubates them for about thirteen to twenty one days depending on the temperatures, while the male gathers food for her. When the naked chicks emerge from their shells, the female continues to brood them until their down is sufficient to keep them warm. The parents feed them at a rate of about once every fifteen minutes. When the young are fully fledged (15-20 days after hatching) the parents stop feeding them, sit nearby with an insect in their beak and call for the young to leave their nest. After the young fledge, the parents will continue to care for them

for a few more days before beginning a second brood.

In addition to cleaning out and refurbishing existing boxes, using reclaimed wood from an old barn, Fred and his classmates built twelve new ones. As a result of their efforts, Honey Hollow now boasts 36 bluebird nesting boxes. The efforts of these individuals were a great success and multiple pairs of bluebirds occupied the boxes almost as soon as they were installed. Fred continues to monitor the 36 nesting boxes at Honey Hollow several times a week. A bluebird information booth, produced by Fred and his students, cleverly shaped like a nesting box, is now on display at the Visitor Center. Special thanks to Lynn Fox, Kaitlin Doyle and Conrad Vogel for donating materials to build and erect the bluebird boxes.

## Thank you to our Business Partners

The following businesses have become BCAS Business Partners as of May 2010. We greatly appreciate their generosity and urge you to support them.

Bucks County Gardens, Doylestown, PA  
Bucks County Herald, Lahaska, PA  
Bucks County TimberCraft, Carversville, PA  
Delray Hardware, New Hope, PA  
First National Bank and Trust Company of Newtown, Newtown, PA  
Mancuso Show Management, New Hope, PA  
New Hope Crushed Stone, New Hope, PA  
Penn Color Inc. & Penn E&R, Doylestown, PA  
Wild Birds Unlimited, Buckingham, PA  
Ari Spectorman, Doylestown, PA  
Sylvan Stoltfus Builders, Paradise, PA  
Tinsman Brothers, Lumberville, PA

## Welcome new Teacher Naturalists



*(l-r) Teacher Naturalists Carol Cope, Ann Buckwalter, Heather Sherstad-Schaller, Dave Hughes, with Jaimie Schoenfeld, environmental educator*

Congratulations and welcome to these four fine folks who completed this spring's 6-week teacher naturalist training course. They join more than 20 other teacher naturalists as they provide support to our environmental educators to open the world of science and nature to thousands of students visiting the Honey Hollow Environmental Education Center.

BUCKS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY AT HONEY HOLLOW  
2877 Creamery Road  
New Hope, PA 18938

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**Don't Miss the  
exciting 2010 Barns  
of Distinction Tour,  
July 10, 2010**

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Lots of school children enjoyed exploring nature this Spring at Honey Hollow.



*A group of youngsters who are home-schooled and their parents spent an exciting day at Honey Hollow exploring nature. Here they are discovering various critters that inhabit the pond. The program is especially designed to enhance their home school experience.*