

The Wing Beat



"Autumn paints in colors that summer has never seen." - Anonymous

We're Social!

Painted Leaves = Unimaginable Trail Beauty!

Looking for some new scenery on your walks? Enjoy the turning of the leaves on our trails! We have 6+ miles of natural trails through forests, meadows, over streams, and around our pond! Feel free to bring your leashed pup!

Nature Lover's Book Club

Join our environmental and nature themed book club! We meets at the Doylestown Bookshop every 4th Thursday at 6:15pm. Check out the blog site, www.natureloversbookclub.blogspot.com to view the next book on the list, discussion questions, and helpful links!

Monthly Art Display—Featuring YOU!

Want to display and sell your nature-inspired work here at BCAS? Email Marissa, at mfarra@bcas.org today!

Interact with BCAS!



(215) 297-5880



www.BCAS.org



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Mission Statement

To educate the Bucks County region about our natural world with an emphasis on conservation, including birds, other wildlife and their habitats.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is fast approaching and everything is on the move!

I have been watching my hummingbird feeders and have noticed the increased activity in the past few weeks. All the families are busy fattening up for the long trip South. The Monarch butterflies also have all passed by and deer have been venturing closer to the house to grab some of the most tasty morsels of food from the summer flowering plants.

We here at BCAS are also on the move. While the spring brings the thousands of school kids for nature classes, the fall offers us a chance to show off our beautiful nature paths brimming with color.

In addition, we are preparing a wonderful Art of the Barn tour this year with some remarkably different barns and some very accomplished artists. If you have never tried the tour in the past, this would be a great year to start. Celebrate the amazing history of Bucks County!

Other staple events of BCAS are also planned. We are continuing our Speaker Series with an emphasis this fall on Ecology, Environmentalism and Advocacy. Our speakers are passionate about their topics and would love to have you come, learn and participate.

As always, we are preparing for our Haunted Trails Event. If you have young children, I recommend that you come and enjoy our alternative to a scary Halloween. Lighted pumpkins will guide you through the dark to stations where costumed characters will describe their importance to the natural environment. It is a wonderful event that is very popular year after year.

So let me recommend that you be on the move too. Check out our Event Calendar (*see pg. 4 or visit www.bcas.org/events*) and pick out some wonderful fall events for you and your family to attend. I guarantee that you won't be disappointed!



Enjoy the beauty of Bucks County Audubon Society during the colorful autumn season!



Bob Hennessy
Board President

Special Highlights in this Issue:

Deer Dilemma | Healing Garden | Legacy Gifts | Art of the Barn Tour Excitement | Summer Camp Follow Up

OH DEER!

The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is Pennsylvania's state animal and many of us enjoy catching a glimpse of these majestic and graceful animals as we travel the back roads and byways of Bucks County. Unfortunately, they are out of balance with their environment, having increased their numbers beyond the carrying capacity of the forest, encouraging them to invade our yards and gardens, eating crops and landscape plants and coming into conflict with automobiles. There isn't much sadder in the wildlife world than seeing a deceased animal on the side of the road. How do we know there are too many deer? Deer are an edge species, preferring the boundaries between a forest and a field. Historically edges were limited because there were large contiguous blocks of forest in "Penn's Woods". As development has spread throughout the county there are many more edges for them to inhabit while simultaneously reducing the areas for them to find food. Add the fact that top level predators that used to inhabit Pennsylvania such as wolves or cougars have been extirpated and you have a recipe for runaway population growth. Take a look at the two pictures below; which one looks like a healthy forest? The picture on the right is within deer "exclosure" area that has been off-limits to deer for the last 8 years or so. The regeneration of the understory is clear, while the picture on the left shows woods that have been subject to over-browsing and are surely unhealthy, with no seedlings, shrubs or grasses to be found.



On the left, there are very few new plants growing due to over-browsing. Once the established trees die, there will be no maturing trees to take their place. On the right many seedlings dot the landscape! This is inside the deer exclosure.

So, what's to be done? First off, don't put out food for deer! Research has shown that this does more harm than good, leading to increased risk of disease, more habitat destruction, more vehicle-deer collisions and abnormal behaviors.

For more information on this, visit: http://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeSpecies/White-tailedDeer/Documents/feeding_deer.pdf.

Then, consider whether your property is suitable for hunting and if so, think about joining the state's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) program: <http://www.pgc.pa.gov/INFORMATIONRESOURCES/GETINVOLVED/LANDOWNERPROGRAMS/DEERMANAGEMENTASSISTANCEPROGRAM/Pages/default.aspx>. Some townships, including Solebury where BCAS is located, may also have programs to match willing landowners with vetted hunters. Check with your township to see what may be available to you, either as a hunter or a landowner.



Diane L. Smith
Director of Education



A LEGACY OF GIVING

For almost 50 years, BCAS has been fortunate to benefit from the support and leadership of many talented and passionate people - leaders who were dedicated to the mission of conservation and education and to the rich history of the region. We were deeply saddened to hear about the loss of one of these people, Robert Stroup. While generous during his life, Robert made plans to further support BCAS by naming us as a beneficiary of his estate. BCAS was honored to receive a generous donation which will help to ensure the future of BCAS so that we can continue to educate people of all ages and inspire them to become stewards of our environment.

ART OF THE BARN TOUR

There is still time to purchase your tickets for the 18th Annual Art of the Barn Tour and Art Show! September 30th and October 1st from 10:00-4:00.

WHAT WILL YOU SEE?

- A brand new barn to house conversion
- Beautiful paintings, photographs and sculptures done by local artists
- A working barn, including chickens, ducks and a llama
- Red barns, white barns, stone barns and lots of wooden beams
- A barn that once housed elephants
- Fields, forests, streams and even a river as you drive lovely country roads
- A new barn that is home to two mules, Harry and Sally
- And amazing structures that have so much to tell us about history!



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Our membership has grown over the past year and we thank you all for your wonderful support!

I sincerely hope that the new members who have joined this year are taking advantage of all BCAS has to offer. Remember that we are not only for the kids but have many wonderful events for adults that are offered free to members or that carry a discount for showing your membership card. Our signature events like the Art of the Barn Tour and our Speaker Series at Delaware Valley University are great ways to enjoy everything that Bucks County has to offer and pick up some amazing facts about the history of this area and how you can help make a positive environmental impact. As an added surprise, you will have fun in the process!

If you are happy with your membership but want to do something more, we are constantly in need for volunteers to come out and help at our events. Whether acting as guides or just helping to park cars, your efforts will always be appreciated and you get the important feeling of helping keep your BCAS strong and vibrant.

Your continued support is so important for everything we do. Make sure you renew your membership as soon as it is due; donate what you can during our year end donation drive; volunteer to help out whenever you can, but most important, come out and enjoy our trails and events that you make possible.

Thank you for your membership with Bucks County Audubon Society.



Providing high-quality environmental education is what we do best! Your membership helps to steer the next generation towards a brighter future.



Bob Hennessey
Board President

TAKE ACTION WITH BCAS

As an Environmental Education center, we feel that it's our job to educate the public about ALL environmental topics— including how to advocate for nature! We will be holding action events throughout the next year, where participants will learn how to write a letter to government officials and then send those letters out so they will be heard!

Next event—November 2nd at 7pm at the Bucks County Audubon Society Visitor Center.