

Spring
2019

the WING BEAT

Bucks County Audubon Society Newsletter

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
of Inspiring Action for the Earth



SOLAR

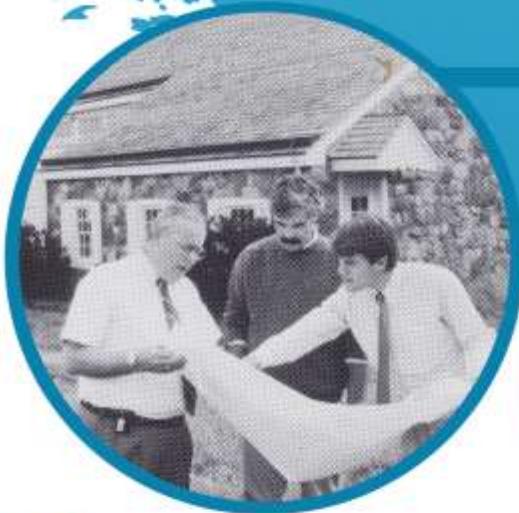
The Inside Details
how Bucks Audubon
“walks-the-walk and
talks-the-talk”!



October 1969 Honey Hollow Watershed Association celebrated getting named as a National Historic Landmark. To learn more about the amazing history of the Honey Hollow Watershed visit our education center and explore the history exhibit.



1970's Bucks Audubon had a huge focus on advocacy, developed a recycling program, and worked closely with National Audubon for speakers and films. Programs also included a Field Ecology Summer program in partnership with the Honey Hollow Watershed Association.



1990s Bucks Audubon expanded the center by purchasing the property on Creamery Road from PECO (left), followed by the renovation of the Audubon Barn. (right) Highlights included a yearly Watershed Festival and the publishing of the Birds of Bucks County.



6. Earth Day Festival What a great day! Participants enjoyed live animals, natural artisans, and a Solar Panel Discussion!

7. Spring Break School Holiday Camp

From our forests to our streams to our meadows, these kids explored it all!



8. Stay Tuned! Solar Tour Get inspired by the homes and businesses that have gone solar in Bucks County. May 4th from 10am-3pm! Tickets on sale online.



9. Stay Tuned! - BioBlitz NEW spring Citizen Science program to search for all forms of life at Bucks Audubon! More info on pg. 4

10.

**Stay Tuned!
Raptor Run 5K
& Family Fun Run**

Runners! Challenge yourself on our natural trails on June 5th at 6:30pm! Registration open online.



Pictures are Worth More than 1,000 Words

Our Top Spring Moments & Upcoming Highlights

1. **Forage Fish Advocacy** the VP of our Board of Directors attended National Audubon's D.C. Fly-In to learn about forage fish and their impact on sea birds!



2. **Birds & Climate Change Lesson** We taught local high schoolers about climate change and it's impact on healthy ecosystems! *(photo above)*



3. **Stay Tuned! - Birds & Beer Walks NEW** fall program featuring eco-friendly breweries.

4. **STEAM for Girls** Spending our afternoons with the girls of Poquessing Middle School was a blast! Who knew science could be so fun!?



5. **Teacher Naturalist Training** Our spring training was so fun! Thank you to those who help us make our school programs a success!

1969 - The Year that Started it All

When thinking about 1969, you might think about Woodstock or the moon landing, but here at Bucks Audubon we think about historic times in conservation and environmental education. Two very exciting things were happening simultaneously in 1969, the Honey Hollow Watershed Association was working to get the Honey Hollow Watershed designated as a National Historic Landmark and a group of environmentally minded people were getting together to form the Bucks County Chapter of the National Audubon Society. Bucks County Audubon Society formed in September of 1969, with a mission of education about the natural world, conservation of natural resources, and advocacy for a healthy environment.



1980s Bucks Audubon and the Honey Hollow Watershed Association partnered in the formation of the Honey Hollow Environmental Education Center and expanding programs for all ages. In 1980 the first staff was hired for the center, Bruce McNaught! In 1989, the two organizations officially merged.



2000s after more than 20 years, Bruce McNaught retired as Executive Director of Bucks Audubon! The annual Barn Tour began, and has become a great event and fundraiser. Bucks Audubon awarded yearly Environmental Action Awards.

2010s- Present Day During the 2010s, Bucks Audubon began a yearly Earth Day Festival and Raptor Run 5K. Education programs are growing and we have reinvigorated our commitment to Advocacy and Citizen Science.

Wednesday, May 22nd at 6:30PM

50th Anniversary Meeting

Bucks Audubon
2877 Creamery Rd.
New Hope PA, 18938

Member's Meeting 2019

All members are welcome to attend!

IF YOU LOVE SEABIRDS, YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT FORAGE FISH: A CALL TO ACTION | BARBARA BECK

Did you know that almost half of all seabird populations are experiencing population declines? It's estimated that globally, populations have dropped 70%. Strong seabird populations require a healthy marine environment. The problem is that the ocean is under many pressures, including commercial demands for seafood. So, where do forage fish come into the picture?

Forage fish are those that seabirds and other large marine life depends upon. They include sardines, anchovies, and herring, and wildlife like Bald Eagles, Ospreys and Puffins, depend upon them as food. Simply put, to sustain flourishing seabird and marine life numbers, there needs to be enough forage fish available as prey on a sustainable level. The problem is that the forage fish are disappearing. They're used to make fertilizer, cosmetics, fish meal for livestock and fish farming. The commercial drain on these fish means fewer fish available for seabird populations.

You may ask, as a PA resident, with only 57 miles of coastline, why your support is needed, specifically to protect forage fish? The Delaware River is an important waterway for what are known as anadromous fish. These fish spend their lives in the

ocean, yet they come into freshwater to spawn. Overfishing in the ocean means fewer of them can come into the Delaware River to breed and populations continue to decline. Sustainable practices for the management of these forage fish is needed.

There is already some good fishery legislation out there, yet it needs to be enhanced. By keeping fish populations healthy, commercial fisheries would continue to benefit economically, and healthy seabird populations can be maintained. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) was a bipartisan effort enacted in 1976 and was reauthorized in 1996 and 2006. It is currently undergoing additional reauthorization and the National Audubon Society is seeking to strengthen provisions in several areas including: conserving forage fish; protecting fish habitat; creating fishery management plans; and minimizing bycatch.

In order to raise awareness about Forage Fish and the birds that need them, Bucks Audubon created Herrings that will be travelling with us to our programs! Take a selfie with them and share using #HugAHerring. Hug a Herring to Save Our Seabirds!



CAPTURE THE SUN—HELP BUCKS AUDUBON GO SOLAR! | STACY CARR-POOLE

Bucks Audubon has a long history of advocating for the environment, and our current advocacy work is going strong, including four areas of focus clean water, habitat protection, environmental education, and of course, climate change. Every day the news brings more evidence of our changing climate, from severe storms to wild fires to droughts; we are seeing the impact! However, there is hope that with a speedy transformation from fossil fuels to renewable energy, we can prevent the worst effects of climate change. Bucks County Audubon Society wants to be a part of that solution!

We are working to support renewable energy through education programs, encouraging personal actions. Because our individual actions matter, and together they matter even more! Our upcoming Solar Tour on May 4th will explore the importance of solar energy and also encourage people to make the switch at their homes, businesses or places of worship.

(continued on next page)

CAPTURE THE SUN—GOING SOLAR AT BUCKS AUDUBON (continued)

We also want to walk the talk by installing a solar array and educational signage at the education center. We will soon be launching a capital campaign to support this goal.

We are also working to promote legislation that will bring more renewable energy to PA. Including the support of Sierra Club's Ready for 100, which works with local municipalities to commit to being 100% Renewable by 2035. We are also excited to support the 100% Renewable legislation that is before the state legislature through the hard work of Penn Environment.

We can make a difference now and we hope you will join us! How can you help?

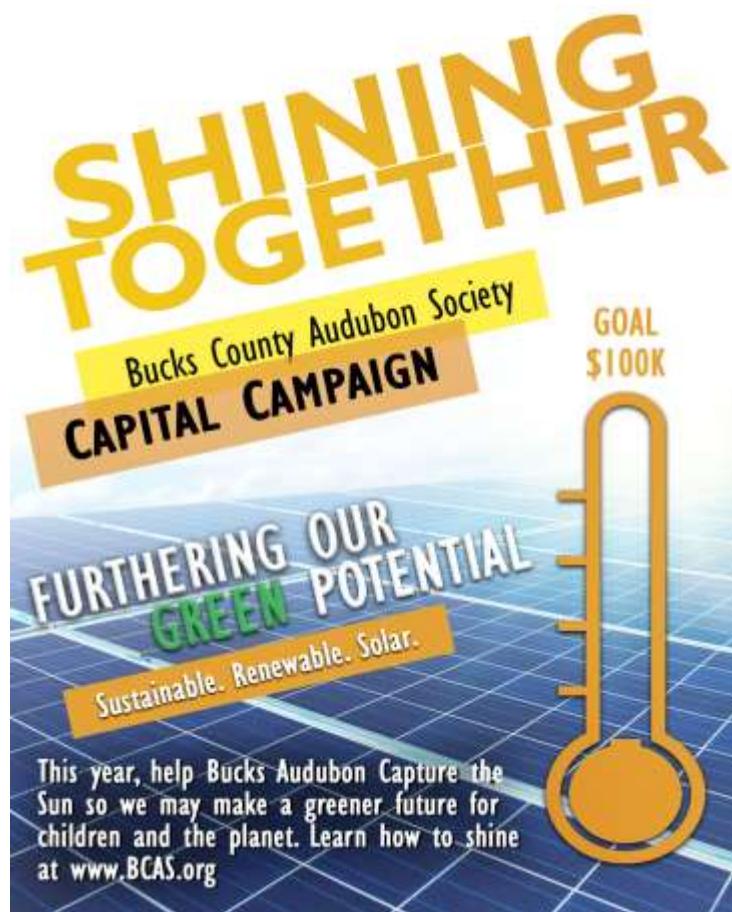
- Join Bucks Audubon's Advocacy Committee!
- Attend the Solar Tour on May 4th to learn more about switching to renewable energy.
- Support 100% renewable campaigns at the local and state level.
- Vote!
- Sign up for Advocacy Alerts from Bucks Audubon to stay informed.

BIOBLITZ—WHAT IS IT AND WHY HAVE IT? | ROBERT MCGARRY

On May 18th, from 8am to 4pm, Honey Hollow will conduct its first ever Bioblitz, a one day attempt to identify as many species as possible in the watershed. This activity isn't so different from other Citizen Science projects, like the Christmas Bird Count or the North American Butterfly Count- they all take a single day to survey for biodiversity and they all generate important data for biologists. However, unlike those examples, a Bioblitz is limited to a given area and all varieties of plants and animals are catalogued, not only birds or butterflies.

Just as the past century of Christmas Bird Count data has allowed ornithologists to study long-term changes in bird populations, including shifts in distribution due to climate change, the data generated by this Bioblitz will help naturalists understand the changes occurring in Honey Hollow. By comparing the species observed this May to previous records, including an inventory of plant and animal species found in the watershed that was compiled in the 1970s, we'll learn what species have joined us in Bucks County and which have grown scarce in recent years.

And there's one additional thing a Bioblitz has in common with other Citizen Science counts: they can be lots of fun! The Honey Hollow Bioblitz is open to everyone, and all are welcome to participate and learn about our region's fauna and flora from local experts. Additionally, volunteers will receive a tutorial for iNaturalist, a website and smartphone app that can help to record observations of species and even has the ability to suggest possible ID's for a plant or animal based on a photograph. There will also be prizes for the participant who observes the most species, as well as other accomplishments, so be sure to join us May 18th, rain or shine!



We Are Social!

Connect with Bucks Audubon!

Summer Camps at Bucks Audubon

This summer, don't miss out on the many Nature Camps that we offer! Children ages 4-10 will enjoy discovering our diverse ecosystems through our hands-on, enriching science activities. Full and Half-Day options available! Register online.

Self Service Birdseed Shed

Did you know we have a 24/7 self serve bird seed shed? Help support Bucks Audubon, while providing an important food source for our local birds! Visit our website for more information.

Bucks Audubon is on a Mission!

Bucks Audubon engages adults and children of the Bucks County region about our natural world with an emphasis on conservation and stewardship, including birds, wildlife and habitats.



(215) 297-5880



www.BCAS.org



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