

**2011 APAS Spring /Summer Programs and Outings and a tribute
To Lee Tosh from Karen and Bill Parker**

Meetings are held at UPJ Engineering and Science Bldg. Room 200 at University of Pittsburgh in Johnstown at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of March and April.

February 22 to May 10---Allegheny Hawk Watch Spring Count—We strongly encourage members to enjoy the Spring Flight by visiting the Hawk Watch. Our count in spring is usually the second or third largest in the Eastern US. It's also a good time to see migrating waterfowl and passerines.

March to May 5—Waterfowl Outings-- Join Tom Dick for this seasonal phenomenon! Tom visits the Wetlands and Shawnee State Park three times weekly, spending about three hours on each survey. It's a great way to learn to ID waterfowl. There are days when the number of waterfowl exceeds 2000. Call Tom at 814-754-5727

March 17 Meeting----“**New Dragonfly Records for Bedford Co. and Dunnings Creek Wetlands**” - by Dennis McNair Ph.D. and Lane Loya Ph.D. This includes several years of summer field study and illuminates our chapter's effort on understanding these beautiful insects.

April 21 Meeting “Delmarva Peninsula's Little Known Rocky Shoreline,” A PowerPoint presentation by Tom and Sally Dick. Learn how the state of Vermont may have shaped the sandy beaches of the Delmarva Peninsula and inadvertently lured arctic birds to its shore.

April 23---Earth day at the Wetlands---This is a covered dish affair at Dunnings Creek Wetlands with numerous outings planned including netting aquatic invertebrates, nature trails (botany, birds, invertebrates), and a swimming hole for kids. This outing is to celebrate and enjoy the fruits of our labors from prior years of planting, and to celebrate Mother Earth. Please let **us know of your attendance** so we can better plan for a successful time. (814-754-5727)

May - August --- Moth Lighting at night- Another way to appreciate biodiversity! Setups will be at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch. This event was highly successful last year. Contact Dennis McNair at 255-4088 and get on his list.

April TBA - Wilmore Dam - Join Debbie Bodenschatz on an outing to Wilmore Dam to search for the many species of salamanders and frogs. Wilmore is rich in wetlands, and Debbie knows the frogs and salamanders extremely well. This is also a great outing for kids and grandchildren. This will be a night foray and boots, flashlights, and rain gear are usually in order. Call Debbie at 814-495-5252 or email debbodenschatz@hotmail.com. When the weather is just right, she will notify us

May 7—Pa. Migratory Bird Day—Throughout the state birders search their counties for migrant birds and all this information becomes part of the state's monitoring program. Our county is Bedford where we send out teams throughout the county. It's a peak time of birding where resident and migratory birds are all present. Contact Tom Dick (754-5727) for information.

May 20 to 22—“Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology” Meeting in Bedford Co.---Tom Kuehl, a member of APAS and current president of the PSO, has brought the PSO annual meeting to Bedford Co. Our Chapter will be helping to host this meeting by providing outings. Up to 120 members attend this meeting.

June TBA kayaking--- There will be kayak/ canoe trips to local lakes and dams and possibly a river trip. Kayaking is a good way to get close to aquatic nature and many of our kayakers are good naturalists. In the past we've inspected old beaver dams, shoreline botany, observed Black-crowned Night Herons and spawning carp, saw large colonies of encrusting bryozoans on submerged logs and many other aspects of nature that only be seen by a canoe or kayak. Contact Jack Julian at 814-242-5131 for details

July 3- Annual Bog Outing on Shaffer Mt.---In this outing we will be looking at several sphagnum bogs with their associated carnivorous plants, dragonflies and birds. We will also discuss when and how the bogs may have developed. If time permits we will visit some of the string bogs lining creeks. Call Tom Dick for details at 814-754-5727.

July 10-- North American Butterfly Count (NABA): This is one of our hot specialties where we look for butterflies in an area similar to a CBC circle. Our area includes the high Allegheny Plateau and the lowlands of Bedford. It is one of largest counts in the Northeast. This count is good for both novices and pros.

August 7- Annual Picnic at Hidden Acres Farm---Usually the most attended outing of the year!! We strongly encourage bringing children and grandchildren. For kids and adults we net butterflies and dragonflies and catch snakes, all of which are released where we found them. We have natural history hikes on more than 4 miles of groomed trails... The Allegheny Front Hawk Watch is just down the road.

2010 Fall Hawk Watch Results

Black Vulture (23), Turkey Vulture (280), Osprey (116), Bald Eagle (84), Northern Harrier (77), Sharp-shinned Hawk (774), Cooper's Hawk (233), Northern Goshawk (11), Red-shouldered Hawk (91), Broad-winged Hawk (2886), Swainson's Hawk (1), Red-tailed Hawk (1554), Rough-legged Hawk (1), Golden Eagle (150), American Kestrel (78), Merlin (38), Peregrine Falcon (20), Unidentified Accipiter (28), Unidentified Buteo (33), Unidentified Falcon (9), Unidentified Eagle (1), Unidentified Raptor (158) for a total of 6651.

Results of the 2010 Butterfly Count

The results of the July 11th North American Butterfly Count are as follows: Pipevine Swallowtail 1, Black Swallowtail 24, Giant Swallowtail 4, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 106, Spicebush Swallowtail 11, Cabbage White 229, Clouded Sulfur 105, Orange Sulfur 63, American Copper 40, Coral Hairstreak 5, Striped Hairstreak 1, Eastern Tailed Blue 47, Summer Azure 46, Spring Azure 1, Great Spangled Fritillary 507, Aphrodite 68, Atlantis 37, Meadow Fritillary 11, Mourning Cloak 3, Milbert's Tortoiseshell 1, Pearl Crescent 432, Question Mark 3, Eastern Comma 1, Gray Comma 4, American Painted Lady 10, Painted Lady 3, Red Admiral 21, Common Buckeye 1, Red-spotted Purple 43, Viceroy 7, Northern Pearly-eye 9, Common Wood Nymph 154, Appalachian Brown 1, Little Wood Satyr 9, Monarch 102, Silver spotted Skipper 168, Wild Indigo Dusty Wing 18, Juvenile's Duskywing 1, Least Skipper 18, European Skipper 22, Peck's Skipper 40, Tawny-edged Skipper 6, Crossline Skipper 12, Northern Broken Dash 56, Little Glasswing 10, Dun Skipper 83, Delaware Skipper 22. Total Species **47**, Total Number **3526**.
Butterfly Counters: George Bercik, Tom Bodenschatz, Debbie Bodenschatz, Sally Dick, Tom Dick, Kevin Georg, Steve Johnson, Tom Kuehl, Janet Kuehl, Kurt Lehman, Dennis McNair, Pauline Petrucci, Walt and Dana Shaffer

Summary of count: It was an exciting count, which provided us with two new butterflies to our lepto-fauna: Milbert's Tortoiseshell (Hidden Acres Farm) and the Great Swallowtail (Dunnings Creek Wetlands).

In Memoriam

Lee Tosh

Sadly, one of Audubon's, and our best known friends and members, Lee, passed away in October, leaving us to mourn our loss at every turn. Lee was at nearly all our functions, feeding us at picnics and making sure the hawk watch counters had a hot lunch. She was our good will ambassador and wherever we went, she would find new friends and encourage them to visit the hawk watch or join an outing. She was feisty and wonderful, kind, and talented, and loved everything in nature, and people, books, politics, football, and especially her "cabin" at Lake Stonycreek where she spent time feeding birds, friends, and saving wildflowers. Having known Lee was a special gift.

Karen and Bill Parker now live in Washington State, but spent a lot of time with Lee, after she had invited Bill to show some of his photos at one of our meetings. Karen shares some of that with us:

Lee Tosh embodied *joie de vivre*. As Bill and I neared retirement and more frequently enjoyed the road less traveled, we found our paths converged more and more with Lee, during Wissahickon nature rambles, botanical hikes, birding outings. More and more, we were drawn to Lee's magnetic personality.

Soon we were among the fortunate who were favored with her soup, sandwiches, and cookies during daytrips. Lee perfected her hot soup system, first with space blankets and then the addition of hot ceramic tiles. I recall one Blizzard Birding trip; Tom Dick was standing in a snow shower at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland, enjoying steaming soup that had been packed earlier that morning in Chincoteague.

Lee especially enjoyed embroidering vests and jackets for naturalist Esther Allen. Lee glowed as she described the last jacket she painted (with her computerized sewing machine) for Esther: 13 shades of green as a base for many flower colors. Esther received that jacket at the dedication of Esther's trail at Raccoon State Park, an idea launched at early morning coffee at Lake Stonycreek; Lee suggested we write a newspaper article to get recognition for Esther; Bill countered, "Why not a trail? Her mother has a trail."

Lee opened her home and summer cottage to us, but, most importantly, she generously shared her family and her friends. How we did laugh during a week of botanical study at the Bruce Peninsula in Canada! And that first trip with Lee and Sally was the gateway to many more adventures with Allegheny Plateau Audubon. Lee hosted us to include us in Allegheny Plateau meetings and activities at Earth Day, Dunnings Creek wetlands, Hawk Watch, butterfly counts and summer Audubon picnics. We so enjoyed our adult summer camp days.

Bill and I laughed and laughed with Lee, as we wandered the highland hills. Food was always on the agenda, and shopping at Fishers and the Little Barn near Bedford were incorporated into our routes. We cooked many dinners at the cottage, enjoying our wine at sunset on the front deck. Lee taught us how the summer sunset progressed across the lake; she expressed sadness that one direction closed her cottage days for another season; we have watched the sun's seasonal trek across the Strait of Juan de Fuca (leading into Puget Sound), and know that same feeling when Washington's summer ends.

We flew to Pittsburgh to take Lee to her beloved cottage for 5 days last September. She took food to Hawk Watch counters each day. We visited Fishers and Little Barn and the local Amish store and hardware store. Lee's Hawk Watch photo hangs on her fireplace mantel. And I realized then, that

photo is her tombstone: her ashes will swim in her beloved Lake Stoneycreek in July and fly at hawk watch in October.

Lee lived and brought to us all joy, love, and feasts. And now, her life is reflected in our hearts.

APAS 2011

Spring and Summer Programs and Outings

Allegheny Plateau Audubon
Society
1003 Eisenhower Blvd.
Johnstown, PA 15904

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