

Valley Forge Audubon Society &
John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove



Calendar of Events
Bird Walks, Hikes & Programs

September 2011 – February 2012



Drawing by William Bourne, ©1985

1201 Pawlings Road, Audubon, PA 19403 • Phone: 610-666-5593
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The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove stands in the historic first U.S. home of John James Audubon. The museum features a unique combination of nature, art, and history and houses all of Audubon's major works including ***Birds of America***. The land surrounding the museum has been designated as a wildlife sanctuary and features five miles of trails where visitors may encounter some of the 175 species of birds and 400 species of plants that have been identified there. The museum also serves as the headquarters of the Valley Forge Audubon Society which strives to connect people and the community with nature and conservation through bird and nature walks, hikes, and special programs.

Museum Exhibits

“Animal Attractions — Birds and Mammals of North America”, original paintings by Steve Oliver

October 1 – December 31, Hours: Tuesday – Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.,

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Closed Mondays and Major Holidays Using acrylics, ink or colored pencils, Steve Oliver creates wildlife and nature art, that captures each animal's character and personality. His artwork is inspired by his love of wildlife and his travels throughout North America. Included with admission to museum. For more information call 610-666-5593 ext. 101.

Look for other events and programs at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove in the gray boxes on the following pages, including the Fall Over for Art Festival, the Tiny Tots Programs, Young Naturalist Programs, Astronomy Program, Holiday Open House, and Hawk and Winter Bird ID Programs.



Bird Walks, Hikes & Programs

September



Hike: Tyler Arboretum,

515 Painter Road, Media, PA 19063 (4-5 miles)

September 1, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Start the new hiking season at this popular arboretum. Guest passes available for non-members. Bring lunch and water. Directions: From the intersection of Route 476 and Route 1, take Route 1 south to Route 352. Turn right and drive north on 352 to the light at Barren Road. Turn right and drive past the high school to the stop sign. Turn left onto Painter Road and drive to arboretum on right. Meet at Visitor Center. OR, from the intersection of Routes 3 and 252 in Newtown Square, drive west to the next light and take Bishop Hollow Road to Barren Road. Turn right over the bridge and continue to the stop sign at Painter Road. Turn right onto Painter Rd, and drive to entrance on right.

Leader: Lois Brooks, cell: 610-952-6878, mbrooks@wcupa.edu



Bird/Nature Walk: Norristown Farm Park,

2500 Upper Farm Road,, Norristown, PA

September 3, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Join us for a morning bird walk. We'll meet at the main parking lot and then see what birds we can find in this unique park located behind the Barley Sheaf apartment complex just off of Germantown Pike. Open to children and beginners. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars and ID books.

Leader: Vincent Smith, 484-410-1157, nyctea34@aol.com



Hike: Binky Lee Preserve,

1445 Pikeland Road, Chester Springs, PA (4-5 miles)

September 8, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. This is a Natural Lands Trust Preserve with several types of woodland restoration in progress. Afterward, we will walk the Bridge to Bridge Trail and pick a spot to listen to the creek while we eat. Some spots may be muddy. Bring water and lunch. Directions: From the intersection of Routes 401 and 113, drive north on 113 two miles to Pikeland Road (Hallman's General Store is on the corner). Turn right and go 0.5 miles to preserve entrance on left. Follow drive and turn right behind large barn. OR, from Routes 23 and 113 (west of Phoenixville), drive south on 113 for 4.5 miles. Turn left on Pikeland Road and follow as above.

Leader: Esther Underhill, 610-827-7776, cell: 484-716-9036 (morning of hike only), underwalt@aol.com



Bird Walk: John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove,

Audubon, PA

September 11, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Grab your binoculars, ID books, and join us on a morning bird walk. Children and beginners are welcome. Extra binoculars are available for beginners. Directions at end of calendar.

Leaders: Joe Hudson, 610-489-1381, jchudson@comcast.net & Dan Sullivan, 484-919-0126



Hike: Horse-Shoe Trail Maintenance,
Rees Road, Charlestown, PA

September 15, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Join the semi-annual work trip to keep the trail corridor open. Wear old clothes, a long sleeved top and gloves. Bring clipping tools. There are no bathrooms. Bring lunch and water. Directions: From Route 202 take the Route 29 north exit. Take Liberty Blvd. to Route 29. Turn right onto 29. Immediately after driving under the PA Turnpike turn right onto Whitehorse Road. Drive 0.6 miles to top of hill. Turn right onto Rees Road. After a stop sign, drive a short distance to the H-ST parking lot on the right.

Leaders: Ed Green and Jim Morawski, cell: 610-745-4534, jmorawski@verizon.net



Wildflower Walk: Eva R. Meng Sanctuary,
Lower Frederick Township, PA

September 17, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Join us as we look for wildflowers and other plants at Valley Forge Audubon's Eva R. Meng Sanctuary. This is a joint wildflower walk with the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy. Directions at end of calendar.

Leader: Link Davis, entoman@comcast.net

Hawk Identification for Beginners at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Audubon, PA

September 17, Saturday, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Fall is raptor migration season and Pennsylvania offers many great hawk-watching spots. Join us for an introduction into some of the tips bird watchers use to identify hawks. Dress for the weather.

Leader: Vincent Smith, 484-410-1157, nyctea34@aol.com



Bird Walk: Exton Park Pond,
Swedesford Road, West Whiteland, PA

September 18, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Once called Church Farm Pond and now a part of the new Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland has been a popular birding spot for years with many rare bird sightings for the area. Dress for the weather (may be muddy) and bring your binoculars and ID books. Children and beginners welcome. Directions: From the intersection of Routes 30 and 202, drive west along Route 30 and turn right on Valley Creek Blvd. At the end of the road, make a left on Swedesford Rd. Park in the gravel parking lot on your left where the perimeter trail starts.

Leader: Sue Lucas, 610-647-4779, conures@comcast.net

Fall Over for Art at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Audubon, PA

September 18, Sunday, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Join Mill Grove at this year's Fall Over For Art, on Sunday, September 18th from 1:00-3:00 pm. Fall is the perfect time of year to bring the family out for a free day of arts and crafts! Created especially with kids in mind, The Fall Over For Art Festival will be full of activities that promote understanding of our natural environment and conservation. The festival will include demonstrations given by local artists, craft tables for kids, live owl presentations, and music!

Eco-Exploration in the Back Yard

September 18, Sunday, 2:00 p.m. 34 Aldian Road, Phoenixville, PA 19464

People frequently think they have to travel to distant lands to find nature. Every backyard is an ecosystem where nature can be found. Join us on an exploration of Vince Smith and Sharon Burke's half acre property as they attempt to recreate a more natural environment more sensitive to the Piedmont forest ecosystem of our area. By allowing native plants and areas of natural succession to occur, Vince and Sharon have watched their property go from simply trees and suburban lawn, to a multitude of diverse plants and animals. Some areas are managed for human activity, while others are left to become a small meadow or successional forest. With a plant list at close to 200 species, a bird list approaching 80, and a mammal list at 14 species, the property continues to evolve into an ever changing, increasingly interesting new environment.

Please register for the event by contacting Vincent Smith at nyctea34@aol.com or 484-410-1157.



Hike: White Clay Creek Preserve (Address of nearby preserve office: 404 Sharpless Rd. Landenberg, PA 19350) (5-6 miles)

September 22, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. We'll walk along White Clay Creek into Delaware; then follow portions of the David English and Whitely Farms Trails. Bring lunch and water. Directions: From Route 1 south: Drive to the Route 841 exit. Drive south on 841 for 6.2 miles. Turn left onto Route 896 and drive 1.8 miles to Indiantown Road. Turn left onto Indiantown Rd. (it becomes London Tract Road) and drive 1.5 miles to intersection with Sharpless Road. Turn left onto Sharpless Rd. Do not park at the preserve office. Drive 0.3 miles to Parking Lot # 2 on your right. OR, from I-95 south: Drive to Exit 3 in DE (Route 273). Stay on west 273 through downtown Newark. Turn right onto Route 896 north. Drive 4.1 miles on 896 to South Bank Road in PA. Turn right and drive 1.4 miles to intersection of South Bank and Sharpless Roads. Turn right onto Sharpless Rd. and drive 0.3 miles to Parking Lot # 2.

Leader: Colleen McCubbin Stepanic, cell: 215-873-5678, colleenmccubbin@stepanic.net



Bird Walk: Green Valleys Association at Welkinweir, Chester County, PA

September 24, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. This 197 acre preserved estate includes gardens, wetlands, ponds, meadows, and woods, making it an excellent spot to find birds and other wildlife. Directions at end of Calendar

Leaders: Sarah Neto, 610-664-3895, SarahBN@aol.com and Noel Kelly



Bird Walk: Valley Forge National Historic Park, Montgomery County, PA

September 24, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Celebrate National Parks Day as we look for migrating and resident birds and other wildlife in one of the area's premier parks. Bring binoculars. Families and beginners welcome. Meet at the tents behind the visitor center.

Leader: Rob Evans, evans.robert.r@gmail.com



**Hike: Wolf's Hollow County Park,
Atglen, PA, 19310 (5-6 miles)**

September 29, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. A new western Chester County park with well maintained trails, several good hills to climb and a stream crossing. Portable toilet in parking lot. Bring lunch and water. Directions: Take the Route 30 Bypass west to Route 10. Turn left onto Route 10 at the West Sadsbury Commons shopping center. Drive south on Route 10 for about 3.7 miles to Highland Road. Turn right onto Highland Road and drive about 3.3 miles to the "T" intersection. Turn left onto Bailey Crossroads Road. Drive about 0.1 miles and turn right onto Schoff Road. Drive about 1 mile to park entrance on right. Drive down Wolfs Hollow Drive to parking lot on left. Park as close to other cars as you can (the lot is small).

Leaders: Martha Quigley, 484-948-0625 & Shethra Rigg, 610-212-3245

October



**Hike: Horse-Shoe Trail: Dutch Cousin Campground to S.
Cocalico Road, 2270 N. Reading Rd, Denver, PA 17517 (7 miles)**

October 6, Thursday, 9:00 a.m. Some woods, some roads, and some hills. We will meet at the Park Place Diner. Bring lunch, water, snacks. Directions: From the Valley Forge exit of the PA Turnpike, drive 39.9 miles to Exit 286 (Lancaster/Reading). Drive toward Route 222, but do not turn onto 222. Follow the signs to Route 272. Turn right onto Route 272 north and drive 0.4 miles. The diner is on your left.

Leader: Ingrid Cantarella-Fox, cell: 484-432-2150, ingridcf@verizon.net



**Hike (Alternate): Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve,
305-783 Swedesford Road, North Wales, PA 19454 (4-5 miles)**

October 6, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Hike several trails — some may be wet — in a 279-acre oasis of meadows, woodlands, and wetlands nestled among the highly developed suburbs of Montgomery County. Bring lunch and water. Directions: From Route 202 north of Norristown, drive past Morris Road to the next light at Township Line Road. Turn left onto Township Line Road. Take the 1st right onto Swedesford Road. Cross stone bridge and follow to preserve on your left.

Leader: Esther Underhill, cell: 484-716-9036 (morning of hike only), underwalt@aol.com

**Tiny Tots Program at the John James Audubon Center at
Mill Grove, Audubon, PA**

October 7, Friday This nature based series is designed for parents and child. Together you will explore the wonders of the natural world around you . Explore this world with hands on crafts, activities, and games that are fun for both of you! Free for members, \$5.00 nonmembers per program or \$10.00 for the series. The series continues on **Nov. 4** and **Dec. 2**. Must pre-register for these programs.

For more information, call 610-666-5593 ext 115.



**Bird Walk: Green Valleys Association at Welkinweir,
Chester County, PA**

October 8, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. This 197 acre preserved estate includes gardens, wetlands, ponds, meadows, and woods, making it an excellent spot to find birds and other wildlife. Directions at end of Calendar.

Leader: Bob Blye, rblye@normandean.com



**Bird Walk: Okehocking Preserve,
Willistown Township, PA**

October 8, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. This township-owned preserve is part of Upper Ridley/Crum Important Bird Area. Birds can be found in meadows, woods, ponds, and the riparian area along Ridley Creek. The leader has conducted a bird census and tallied 134 species. Be prepared for walking in wet areas. Directions at end of Calendar.

Leader: Edie Parnum, 610-964-8331, eparnum2@verizon.net



**Bird Walk: John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove,
Audubon, PA**

October 9, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Grab your binoculars, ID books, and interest in observing birds in their natural habitat and join us on a morning bird walk. Children and beginners are welcome. Extra binoculars are available for beginners.

Leaders: Joe Hudson, 610-489-1381, jchudson@comcast.net & Dan Sullivan, 484-919-0126



**Hike: New Cynwyd Heritage Trail, Bringham Funeral Home
at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, 225 Belmont Ave. Bala Cynwyd,
PA 19004 (5 miles)**

October 13, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. This is a recent “rail to trail” conversion that leads from Bala Cynwyd to Manayunk. The hike will include a visit to the cemetery. Bring water and lunch. Directions: Coming east on the Schuylkill Expressway, take Exit 338. Turn right and drive east on Belmont Ave. for 0.8 miles past three traffic lights. Cross the bridge and turn left at the entrance to the Bringham Funeral Home. Park behind the funeral home at the far end of the lot. OR, drive east on Route 23 to Bala Cynwyd. Turn left at Levering Mill Road. Turn right at the light onto Belmont Ave. Cross the bridge and turn left into the Bringham entrance.

Leaders: Arnold and Florence Lovitz, cell: 215-651-9821



**Plant Walk: Eva R. Meng Sanctuary,
Lower Frederick Township, PA**

October 15, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Join us as we explore the woods of the Eva R. Meng Sanctuary and examine its plant life and the role it plays in the greater ecology of the preserve. This walk will be lead by the Morris Arboretum’s Timothy A. Block, Ph.D. Directions at end of calendar.

Leader: Tim Block, block@exchange.upenn.edu



Bird Walk: Exton Park Pond, Swedesford Road, West Whiteland, PA

October 16, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Part of the new Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland has been a popular birding spot for years. Dress for the weather (may be muddy) and bring your binoculars and ID books. Children and beginners welcome. Directions: From the intersection of Routes 30 and 202, drive west along Route 30 and turn right on Valley Creek Blvd. At the end of the road, make a left on Swedesford Rd. Park in the gravel parking lot on your left where the perimeter trail starts.
Leader: Vincent Smith, 484-410-1157, nyctea34@aol.com



Hike: Urban Hike: Highlights of Center City, Philadelphia (3-4 miles)

October 20, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Take SEPTA and meet at the east entrance of 30th St. Station near the War Memorial statue. After learning about historical and architectural points of interest in a variety of neighborhoods, we will eat at the Reading Terminal Market and take the train home from the Market East Station. Train schedules and directions to free parking near the Paoli train will be sent later by email.
Leader: Gary Rigg, cell: 610-716-7654, gar.dean@verizon.net

Young Naturalists Program at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Audubon, PA

October 21, Friday This nature based series is designed for kids 3-5 years old. Come learn about insects, amphibians, mammals, and birds through songs, crafts, and stories. Free for members, \$5.00 nonmembers per program or \$10.00 for the series. The series continues on **Nov. 18th**, and **Dec. 16th**. Must pre-register for these programs.

For more information, call 610-666-5593 ext 115.



Bird Walk: Green Valleys Association at Welkinweir, Chester County, PA

October 22, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. The varied habitats of this 197 acre preserved estate, make it an excellent spot for birds and other wildlife. Directions at end of Calendar.
Leader: Sue Lucas, 610-647-4779, conures@comcast.net

Astronomy Program/Star Party at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Audubon, PA

October 22, Saturday, 7:00 p.m. Join us as we explore the night sky. This program is contingent upon weather, so please register so that you can be reached if the event needs to be canceled.

Please contact Vincent Smith at nyctea34@aol.com or 484-410-1157



Hike: Pennypack Preserve Trail in Bryn Athyn, 2955 Edge Hill Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006-5099 (5 miles)

October 27, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Hike on many trails at the Pennypack Ecological Restoration. We will cross Pennypack Creek on the second and third oldest bridges in

Montgomery County and enjoy spectacular views of the region, including Bryn Athyn Cathedral. There are restrooms in the Visitor Center where we will meet. Bring lunch and water. Directions: Take PA Turnpike east to Exit 343 (Route 611). Turn onto 611 south/Easton Rd. toward Willow Grove. Drive 2.8 miles and turn left onto E. Moreland Rd and drive 0.6 miles. Turn left onto Edge Hill Rd. and drive 1.3 miles to the preserve entrance on right.

Leaders: Carol Votto, 610-220-7835 & Carolyn Woyak, 267-210-5070 (day of hike only)



Bird Walk: Black Rock Sanctuary, Phoenixville, PA

October 29, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Join us at Black Rock Sanctuary for a morning outing to explore the meadows and wetlands of this unique site along the Atlantic Flyway. Come out and see fall leaves and the fall bird migration. This walk expects migrating raptors, the arrival of our winter sparrows, as well as the beginning of the waterfowl season. Learn about fine-feathered friends that inhabit the wetland and meadow areas and those who just stop-by for a visit. Directions at end of calendar.

Leader: Vincent Smith, 484-410-1157, nyctea34@aol.com

November



Hike: The Willows,

490 Darby Paoli Road, Villanova, PA 19085 (4 miles)

November 3, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. The Willows is a public park with a mansion. It has wooded hill trails and stream trails and a beautiful pond with picnic tables for lunch. Bring lunch and water. Directions: from the intersection of Routes 3 and 252 in Newtown Square, take Route 252 north. Turn right onto St. Davids Road at the traffic circle. Turn right onto Darby Paoli Road and drive to the entrance of Willows Park. Follow the park road to a right turn and park in the mansion parking lot. OR, from the corner of Lancaster Ave. and Aberdeen Ave. east of Wayne, turn south onto Aberdeen Ave. (St. Katherine of Siena Church is on the SW corner). Drive across Conestoga Road at the light onto Church Road. Drive to Brook Road and turn left at the stop sign. Drive to Darby Paoli Road and turn left. Make an immediate right into the park entrance. Follow as above.

Leader: Rhea Richardson, 610-687-4267, rhealight2@gmail.com



Hike: Horse-Shoe Trail: S. Cocalico Rd. to Segloch Rd., Middle Creek WMA, 100 Museum Rd., Stevens, PA, 17578 (6.6 miles)

November 10, Thursday, 9:00 a.m. Some roads, lots of woods and hills. We will meet at the Middle Creek Visitor Center. Bring lunch, water, snacks and sticks. **Wear ORANGE.** Directions: Drive west to PA Turnpike Exit 286. (See 10/6/11 hike for directions to Route 272.) Take Route 272 north for three miles to Route 897. Turn left onto Route 897 and drive about 14 miles to the village of Kleinfeltersville. Take the first left after the stop sign onto Hopeland Road. Drive 2 miles down Hopeland Rd. to the Visitor Center.

Leader: Ingrid Cantarella-Fox, cell: 484-432-2150, ingridcf@verizon.net



Hike (Alternate): Crabby Creek, 373 Hilltop Road, Paoli, 19301 (3-4 miles)

November 10, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Crabby Creek is a fragile but important stream in the Valley Creek Watershed. We will explore some of its branches and see the restoration efforts spearheaded by Trout Unlimited. Bring lunch, water and poles. Prepare to get your boots wet. We will meet at the leader's house. Directions: Southbound on Route 202: Take the exit for Route 252 south towards Paoli. Follow 252 south to the 4th traffic light. Turn left onto Friendship Drive. Take the 1st right onto Hilltop Road and drive to # 373 on your right (blue mailbox; camper van in driveway). Park on the street. OR, northbound on Route 202: Take the Swedesford Road exit to Route 252 south. Turn right off exit ramp, then right again at traffic light. You will be on Route 252 south. At the next light, turn left onto Friendship Drive and follow as above.

Leader: Barbara Bushman, phone: 610-644-5715, cell: 484-881-2173 (day of hike only)



Bird Walk: Black Rock Sanctuary, Phoenixville, PA

November 12, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Join us at Black Rock Sanctuary for a morning outing to explore the meadows and wetlands of this unique site along the Atlantic Flyway. Come out and see fall leaves and the fall bird migration. This walk expects migrating raptors, the arrival of our winter sparrows, as well as the beginning of the waterfowl season. Learn about fine-feathered friends that inhabit the wetland and meadow areas and those who just stop-by for a visit. Directions at end of calendar.

Leader: Vincent Smith, 484-410-1157, nyctea34@aol.com



Bird Walk: Green Valleys Association at Welkinweir, Chester County, PA

November 12, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. This 197 acre preserved estate includes gardens, wetlands, ponds, meadows, and woods, making it an excellent spot to find birds and other wildlife. Directions at end of Calendar.

Leader: Rick Keyser, 610-933-3709, rick.keyser@verizon.net



Hike: Valley Forge National Historic Park, (5-6 miles)

November 17, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Fall is a great time to walk on a variety of trails — some paved, some not — in VFNHP. Bring lunch and water. Many restrooms in the park are open year round. Directions: We will meet in the parking lot east of Washington Memorial Chapel on Route 23.

Leader: David Martin, 610 659-4945

Winter Bird ID Class at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Audubon PA

November 19, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Join us for a winter bird identification class. This class is for beginners looking to learn about the birds that come to our area in winter. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather.

Leader: Vincent Smith, 484-410-1157, nyctea34@aol.com



Bird Walk: Green Valleys Association at Welkinweir, Chester County, PA

November 19, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. The varied habitats of this preserved estate, make it an excellent spot for birds and other wildlife. Directions at end of Calendar.

Leaders: Joe Hudson, 610-489-1381, jchudson@comcast.net & Dan Sullivan, 484-919-0126



Bird Walk: Exton Park Pond, Swedesford Road, West Whiteland, PA

November 20, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Formerly known as the Church Farm Pond and now a part of the new Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland has been a popular birding spot for years with many rare bird sightings for the area. Dress for the weather (may be muddy) and bring your binoculars and ID books. Children and beginners welcome.

Directions: From the intersection of Routes 30 and 202, drive west along Route 30 and turn right on Valley Creek Blvd. At the end of the road, make a left on Swedesford Rd.

Park in the gravel parking lot on your left where the perimeter trail starts.

Leader: Sue Lucas, 610-647-4779, conures@comcast.net

December



Hike: Wissahickon Creek Gorge, Philadelphia, PA (5-6 miles)

December 1, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. If it's dry, we'll hike the upper trail to Valley Green and return on Forbidden Drive. If it's wet, we'll just stroll the Drive. Restrooms available near Valley Green Inn. Bring lunch and water or eat at Valley Green Inn. Directions: Take the Blue Route (476) to Exit 19 (Germantown Pike - East). At the end of the ramp turn right onto Germantown Pike and drive 3.2 miles to Northwestern Ave. Turn right and park at end of street.

Leader: Lyn Hedrick, cell: 215-264-7927

Annual Holiday Open House at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Audubon, PA

December 4, Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. A host of free, family friendly activities will be featured in the John James Audubon Center's historic house museum on Sunday, December 4, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm, during the Center's Annual Holiday Open House. This event is free and open to the public as the usual admission fee is waived for the day. Many activities await families and children. They can visit a real owl during a live owl presentation and then make their own "Owl Teasel Critter" to take home, using natural materials. More fun and unique "teasel critters" are tucked into the festive decorations found throughout the museum, awaiting discovery by children participating in the Scavenger Hunt. Hot mulled cider and homemade cookies, along with live music provided by flute students of Veronica Mascaro, offer seasonal nourishment for spirit and body!



**Hike: French Creek / Kennedy Bridge,
Kimberton, PA (6 miles)**

December 8, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. A hike on country roads, through fields on Camp Hill property, and along wooded trails above French Creek. Bring water, lunch and/or lunch money to purchase lunch at the Camp Hill Coffee Shop. Directions: From the intersection of Routes 23 and 113 west of Phoenixville, take Route 113 south 1.2 miles. After Rapps Dam Road, bear right onto Kimberton Road. Drive to the stop sign at Prizer Road. Turn right onto Prizer Road. Drive to Hares Hill Road and turn right. When you see 2 red signs indicating a stop sign ahead, slow down and take an immediate left onto Mill Lane. Drive down Mill Lane and park on shoulder of road near bridge. OR, if coming from the SW on Route 113, turn left at the light onto Coldstream Road. Drive to Hares Hill Road, turn right and follow as above.

Leader: Gary Rigg, cell: 610-716-7654, gar.dean@verizon.net



**Bird Walk: Black Rock Sanctuary,
Phoenixville, PA**

December 10, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Join us at Black Rock Sanctuary for a morning outing to explore the meadows and wetlands of this unique site along the Atlantic Flyway. Come out and see our winter birds. This walk expects winter sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. Learn about fine-feathered friends that inhabit the wetland and meadow areas and those who just stop-by for a visit. Directions at end of calendar.

Leader: Vincent Smith, 484-410-1157, nyctea34@aol.com



**Bird Walk: John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove,
Audubon, PA**

December 11, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Grab your binoculars, ID books, and interest in observing birds in their natural habitat and join us on a morning bird walk. Children and beginners are welcome.

Leader: Rob Evans, evans.robert.r@gmail.com



**Hike: Coventry Woods,
1954 St. Peters Road, Pottstown, PA 19465 (5-6 miles)**

December 15, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. This 600+ acre preserve has been called North Coventry Township's natural wonder. Bring lunch and water. Directions: Take Route 422 west to the Route 724 exit. Drive west on Route 724 for 4.7 miles. Shortly after crossing into Berks County, turn left onto Unionville Road (no light at the corner). Drive south for 2.1 miles. Turn right onto St. Peters Road for 0.4 miles. Turn left onto Fernbrook Lane and into parking area. OR, from the intersection of Route 23 and St. Peters Road, drive north on St. Peters Road to the "T" at Harmonyville Rd. Turn right and make an immediate left staying on St. Peters Rd. Drive 2.8 miles to Fernbrook Lane and turn right into preserve.

Leader: Ingrid Cantarella-Fox cell: 484-432-2150, ingridcf@verizon.net



Bird Walk: Schuylkill River in Valley Forge National Historic Park, Montgomery County, PA

December 18, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. We will walk along the Schuylkill River in Valley Forge National Historic Park where we hope to spot waterfowl and other winter birds. Meet at the trailhead and park entrance off of Pawlings Road, next to the bridge over the Schuylkill River, between Mill Grove and Phoenixville.

Leaders: Joe Hudson, 610-489-1381, jchudson@comcast.net & Dan Sullivan, 484-919-0126



Bird Walk: Exton Park Pond, Swedesford Road, West Whiteland, PA

December 18, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Part of the new Exton Park, this pond and wetland area has been a popular birding spot for years. Dress for the weather (may be muddy) and bring your binoculars and ID books. Children and beginners welcome. Directions: From the intersection of Routes 30 and 202, drive west along Route 30 and turn right on Valley Creek Blvd. At the end of the road, make a left on Swedesford Rd. Park in the gravel parking lot on your left where the perimeter trail starts.

Leader: Vincent Smith, 484-410-1157, nyctea34@aol.com



Hike: Longwood Gardens Walk,

1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348 (3 miles)

December 22, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. We will walk through the meadows and the outside gardens before lunch. After lunch in the cafeteria, take a self-guided tour through the Conservatory to see the beautiful Christmas display. Meet inside the Visitor Center. Admission Fee: \$16 (adults) \$14 (seniors 62+). Directions: Longwood Gardens is located at the intersection of Routes 1 & 52 north.

Leader: Charles Van Doren, cell: 610-745-9349

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 24 Join us for the 111th Christmas Bird Count. The Christmas Bird Count is one of longest continuous bird censuses in the new world. This census stretches from the high Arctic to South America. By volunteering with this event you are helping scientists determine the long term population trends for birds in our area. This annual event includes teams of birders surveying eleven sections within a prescribed fifteen mile diameter circle, the center of which is the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove. Beginning and experienced birders are welcome. Section leaders will notify past participants. New volunteers please register by December 17 to be assigned to a team.

Contact Vincent Smith at nyctea34@aol.com or 484-410-1157.

January



Hike: Wissahickon Creek Gorge,

Valley Green Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128 (7 miles)

January 1, Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Join us for our annual New Year's Day hike through this spectacular gorge. This is a combined hike with the BATONA Hiking Club. An optional

“Dutch Treat Dinner” at the Yu Hsiang Gardens, 7630 Germantown Avenue, will follow the hike. Directions: Meet at Valley Green Inn. From the west side of the creek, take Ridge Ave. east to Henry Ave. and drive about 1 mile. Turn left on Wise’s Mill Road to parking lot by creek. From the east side of the creek, take Germantown Ave. to Chestnut Hill and turn west on Springfield Ave. to Valley Green Road. Follow to parking lot on right and walk down hill to Valley Green Inn.

Leader: Michael Alper, cell: 215-534-3707, aniamike@aol.com



Hike: Norristown Farm Park and State Hospital,

2500 Upper Farm Road, Norristown, PA 19403 (4-5 miles)

January 5, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. This park is a pleasant mix of farmland, woodland and meadows and is crossed by both branches of Stony Creek. Bring water. We’ll eat lunch afterwards at a nearby restaurant. Directions: From King of Prussia: Take Route 422 west to exit for Route 363 north. Drive 3.9 miles north on Trooper Road. Turn right (east) on Germantown Pike and drive 2.1 miles to light at Barley Sheaf Drive. Turn right onto Barley Sheaf Drive. Stay to the right and go past “No Outlet” sign. At the “Y,” turn right toward the Visitor Center and parking lot. OR, from Norristown: From the Dannehower Bridge, drive straight ahead onto Swede Rd. (Do NOT follow signs to Route 202.) Drive 2.5 miles to Germantown Pike. Turn left and drive 0.9 miles on Germantown Pike to the 3rd light. Turn left onto Barley Sheaf Drive. (There’s no sign for the park if you’re travelling west.) Proceed as above.

Leader: Bob Miller, cell: 215-713-5957



Hike: Radnor Trail & Wayne,

135 Walnut Ave., Wayne, PA 19087 (5-6 miles)

January 12, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. We will walk from the leader’s house to the Radnor Trail, walk on the Trail and then loop back to the house to eat lunch. This is a pavement hike. Bring lunch and water. Directions: From Exit 13 on I-476 drive west on Route 30 to the center of Wayne. Turn right (north) and drive under the train tracks. Turn right at the 2nd street north of the tracks (at the pine tree) onto Walnut Ave. Drive down one block. 135 Walnut Ave. is on the NW corner of Walnut and Woodland Aves. Park on Woodland Ave.

Leader: Lois Brooks, cell: 610-952-6878, mbrooks@wcupa.edu



Bird Walk: John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Audubon, PA

January 15, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Grab your binoculars, ID books, and interest in observing birds in their natural habitat and join us on a morning bird walk. Children and beginners are welcome. Extra binoculars are available for beginners.

Leaders: Joe Hudson, 610-489-1381, jchudson@comcast.net & Dan Sullivan, 484-919-0126



Hike: Audubon Loop Trail, Audubon, PA (5 miles)

January 19, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Hike along Perkiomen Creek, over a highway, into a cemetery, and through the grounds of Mill Grove, J. J. Audubon’s first home in the

US. This hike is partly on pavement. Bring lunch and water and, as usual, enjoy special winter treats provided by the Greens. Directions: Take Route 422 west to the Oaks exit. At the bottom of the ramp turn right onto Egypt Road. Make an immediate right into Lower Perkiomen Valley Park. Follow New Mill Road to the end. Turn left at the sign for Park Entrance and park near the office.

Leaders: Ed and Betty Jane Green, cell: 610-324-8715, bjedgreen@verizon.net



Bird Walk: Black Rock Sanctuary, Phoenixville, PA

January 21, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Join us at Black Rock Sanctuary for a morning bird walk to explore the meadows and wetlands of the unique site along the Atlantic Flyway. Learn about fine-feathered friends that inhabit our natural areas and those who just stop-by for a winter visit. Learn some of the techniques used to identify birds such as birding by color, shape, song, and habitat. Enjoy bird watching and outdoor exploration led by an experienced birder. Open to beginners. Directions at end of calendar.

Leader: Vincent Smith, 484-410-1157, nyctea34@aol.com



Bird Walk: Exton Park Pond, Swedesford Road, West Whiteland, PA

January 22, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Part of the new Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland has been a popular birding spot for years. Dress for the weather (may be muddy) and bring your binoculars and ID books. Children and beginners welcome. Directions: From the intersection of Routes 30 and 202, drive west along Route 30 and turn right on Valley Creek Blvd. At the end of the road, make a left on Swedesford Rd. Park in the gravel parking lot on your left where the perimeter trail starts.

Leader: Sue Lucas, 610-647-4779, conures@comcast.net



Hike: Morris Arboretum, 100 E. Northwestern Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118 (4-5 miles)

January 26, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, 100 Northwestern Ave We will walk through the public and non-public areas of the arboretum and see the new "green" building that received an environmental platinum rating. Bring water and you can bring lunch. However, I suggest we eat afterwards at the Persian Grill on Germantown Ave. Directions: From the intersection of Route 476 and Germantown Ave, go east on Germantown Ave to Northwestern Ave. Turn left, go about 500 yards and the entrance to the Morris Arboretum is on the right. Please tell the guard that you are with the Audubon hiking group.

Leader: Evamarie Malsch, 610-667-7196, cell 610-212-7186 (day of hike only)



Bird Walk: John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Audubon, PA

January 28, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Join us for a morning bird walk. Open to children and beginners. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars and ID books.

Leader: Vincent Smith, 484-410-1157, nyctea34@aol.com

February



Hike: Chester Valley Trail,

50 Foundry Way, Malvern, PA, 19355 (5-6 miles)

February 2, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. This year we'll walk east to explore an undeveloped section of the Chester Valley Trail and a spur trail to Cedar Hollow Preserve and back. Bring water and snacks. Lunch at Wegmans or bring your own. Directions: Meet on the south side of the parking lot at Wegmans on Route 29 between Routes 30 and 202. From southwest: Take Route 202 north to the Route 29 south exit. Turn right onto 29, drive one block south, and turn left into the Wegmans parking lot. From northeast: Take 202 south to the Route 29 north exit. Drive to the light at Swedesford Road and turn left. Drive to Route 29 and turn left. Drive south over 202 to Wegmans and turn left.

Leader: Ingrid Cantarella-Fox cell: 484-432-2150, ingridcf@verizon.net



Hike: Crosslands Retirement Community,

1660 East Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348 (5 miles)

February 9, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Crosslands was among the first continuing care retirement communities in the US. It has an unusually large amount of open space — including woodland, meadows, residents' gardens, and enough plowed paved paths to do a shorter hike if it snows. Bring water and lunch or money to buy lunch at the Crosslands Cafe. Directions: From the intersection of Routes 202 and 926 south of West Chester, take Route 926 west for 5.1 miles to the Crosslands entrance on your left (marked by a large sign). After turning in at the entrance, bear right as the drive divides. Take the first marked road to the right and follow signs to the Lucretia Mott House on your left. OR, take Route 1 south to the intersection with Route 52 north. Turn right and take Route 52 north to Route 926. Turn right and take Route 926 east for 0.4 miles to the Crosslands entrance on your right. Proceed as above.

Leader: Ann Lane, 610-793-6815, cell: 443-472-8716 (day of hike), lane822@verizon.net



Bird Walk: Black Rock Sanctuary,

Phoenixville, PA

February 11, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Join us at Black Rock Sanctuary for a morning bird walk to explore the meadows and wetlands of the unique site along the Atlantic Flyway. Learn about fine-feathered friends that inhabit our natural areas and those who just stop-by for a winter visit. Enjoy bird watching and outdoor exploration led by an experienced birder. Open to beginners. Directions at end of calendar.

Leader: Vincent Smith, 484-410-1157, nyctea34@aol.com



Hike: Smedley Park, Crum Creek,

Papermill Road, Springfield, PA 19064 (5-6 Miles)

February 16, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. We will hike a variety of trails in Smedley Park and along Crum Creek. Bring lunch and water Directions: From Exit 3 of the Blue Route (I-476) turn east onto Baltimore Pike (towards Swarthmore). Drive a short distance to Papermill Road and turn left into the Smedley Park entrance. Park on left about 0.2

miles after crossing trolley tracks.

Leader: Jim Morawski, cell: 610-745-4534, jmorawski@verizon.net

Great Back Yard Bird Count at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Audubon, PA

February 18, Saturday, 8:00-10:00 a.m. Join us as we take part in Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Great Back Yard Bird Count. This citizen science project is a nation wide program in which volunteers can help for an introduction into some of the tips bird watchers use to identify hawks. Program will take place mostly indoors, but will include a short walk so dress for the weather.

Leader: Vincent Smith, 484-410-1157, nyctea34@aol.com



Bird Walk: Schuylkill River in Valley Forge National Historic Park, Montgomery County, PA

February 19, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. We'll look for winter birds along the Schuylkill River. Meet at the trailhead and park entrance off of Pawlings Road, next to the bridge over the Schuylkill River, between Mill Grove and Phoenixville.

Leaders: Joe Hudson, 610-489-1381, jchudson@comcast.net & Dan Sullivan, 484-919-0126



Bird Walk: Exton Park Pond, Swedesford Road, West Whiteland, PA

February 19, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. This pond has been a popular birding spot for years. Dress for the weather (may be muddy) and bring binoculars and ID books. Beginners welcome. Directions: From the intersection of Routes 30 and 202, drive west along Route 30 and turn right on Valley Creek Blvd. At the end of the road, make a left on Swedesford Rd. Park in the gravel parking lot on your left where the perimeter trail starts.

Leader: Sue Lucas, 610-647-4779, conures@comcast.net



Hike: Brandywine Creek State Park, 47 Adams Dam Road, Wilmington, DE 19803 (5 miles)

February 23, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Once a dairy farm owned by the du Pont family, this park now has 14 miles of trails and a remarkable diversity of habitats including a majestic stand of 190-year-old tulip poplar trees and a freshwater marsh. Bring lunch and water. Directions: From the intersection of Routes 202 & 1 in Delaware County, drive south on Route 202 for 3.6 miles to Delaware Route 92. Turn right onto Route 92. (Route 92 makes a sharp left 0.3 miles west of Route 202.) Drive 3.1 miles to Adams Dam Road. Turn left and follow to park entrance. Park at the Visitor Center parking lot.

Leader: Fran Demillion, cell: 610-316-2937

March



Hike: Betzwood Section Of Valley Forge National Historic Park (5 miles)

March 1, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Which trails we walk will depend on the weather. Bring water and money for lunch after the hike at Panera Bread on Trooper Road. Directions:

Take Route 422 west to the Route 363 exit (Trooper Road). Stay in the left lane. Take Trooper Road south on the ramp and turn left at the stop sign. Cross over Route 422 and double back toward the Schuylkill River. Turn right into the Betzwood Park entrance. Park in the lot immediately on the right.

Leader: Pat Leberman, cell: 484-868-8274 (day of hike only), patL10s@yahoo.com

Directions

John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove: 1201 Pawlings Road, Audubon, PA. The entrance is at the junction of Audubon and Pawlings Roads, in the village of Audubon. From Route 422 West: Follow Route 422 West to third exit, Rte 363 North – Audubon/Trooper. Bear right at the end of the ramp, and move into the left traffic lane. Turn left at the first light, onto Audubon Road. Follow to the end, to the Mill Grove entrance at Pawlings Road (approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile). From Route 30: Follow Route 202 North to exit for 422 West (Pottstown). Follow directions for “Route 422 West” above. Phone 610-666-5593 x101.

Black Rock Sanctuary: Located between Phoenixville and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission boat ramp about 1 mile north of Phoenixville on Route 113.

Okehocking Preserve: Going west on Route 3 (West Chester Pike) drive past the lights at Providence Road and Delchester Road. The Preserve entrance is on the right, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile past Delchester Road. If going eastbound on Route 3, because the highway is divided, you will need to make a U-turn at Delchester Road.

VFAS Eva R. Meng Wildlife Sanctuary: Take Route 29 north from Collegeville through Schwenksville. Turn left onto Meng Road. This will be the first road to the left, just beyond the traffic light north of Schwenksville, where the sign says Spring Mountain to the right. Meng Road bears right almost immediately. Follow Meng Rd. to Mine Hill Rd. on the right. (Mine Hill Rd. goes off to the left before this). Turn right onto Mine Hill Rd., and make a sharp left onto Delphi Rd., the first road off Mine Hill Rd. Continue on Delphi Rd. a couple hundred yards to the sign and parking lot on your right for the Meng Sanctuary. You are most welcome to visit the site and walk the trails, but keep in mind it is a nature preserve. **NO PETS OR WHEELED VEHICLES OF ANY KIND, PLEASE.** For questions, call Phil Smith 610-287-7217.

Welkinweir: From Downingtown exit of PA Tpk. (Exit 312), north on Route 100 for 6 miles. Left on Prizer Road for 0.8 miles. Or, from intersection of Routes 100 & 23 in Bucktown, south on Route 100 for 1.1 miles, right on Prizer Road for 0.8 miles. Go beyond the first driveway with a Welkinweir sign (which goes to the residence and Green Valleys Association offices) to the next driveway which is the one to the barn. Call Welkinweir at 610-649-4900 for more information.

General Information

For information and registration, call the event leader. For information on Thursday morning walks, call Lois Brooks at 610-293-0693. If extreme weather conditions are forecast the day of the event, phone the event leader.

Not a Member? Please Join Us!
**Valley Forge Audubon Society &
John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove
Joint Membership Application**

Yes, I want to join and support Valley Forge Audubon Society and the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove. I have enclosed my payment at the level checked below:

- ___ \$40 Individual Membership for 1 year. Seniors: \$35
___ \$55 Friends Membership for 1 year. Seniors: \$50
___ \$55 Family/Grandparent Membership for 1 year. Seniors: \$50
___ \$100 Supporter Membership for 1 year.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please mail this form with a check made payable to "Valley Forge Audubon Society" to: **Valley Forge Audubon Society**
1201 Pawlings Road
Audubon, PA 19403

Members receive free admission to the museum at Mill Grove, and reduced admission to special events.

Included in your membership are six issues of AUDUBON magazine. Your gift is tax deductible except for \$7.50 (which is allocated to AUDUBON magazine). AUDUBON is published six times a year. Please allow four to six weeks for the arrival of your first issue.



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