



Spring 2019

No. 84

Transition



Wildlife Activist



Summer and Autumn 2019 Calendar

*All activities begin at the Osprey House unless otherwise noted. For directions and more information on these events, and to find out about **additional activities**, contact the Center or visit lgnc.org.*

Watershed Camp

July 16-19 – For students finishing grades 6-12.
Registration required.

Contact the Nature Center for an application.

July 20, 10:00 a.m.-Noon – Pond Adventure

Join us for a dragon(fly), macroinvertebrate, and reptile/amphibian hunt at the Kittatinny Ponds!

August 12, 8:00-9:30 p.m. – Nature at Night

Search for moths, caterpillars, bats and other creatures of the night. Discover critters that glow in the dark with black light flashlights!

August 24, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Autumn Migration Birding Workshop

Learn why birds migrate and how to identify autumn migrants, before taking a field trip to Bake Oven Knob in search of songbirds, Bald Eagles, and Ospreys. Meet at the Osprey House.



Autumn Events and Programs

Autumn Speaker Series – Events to be announced. Check www.lgnc.org for more information.

September 8, Noon-4:00 p.m. – Lehigh Gap Bike & Boat

Explore the Lehigh Gap by bike and raft on a guided excursion hosted by LGNC and Pocono Whitewater/Pocono Biking. Registration required and limited to 18 participants.

August 15 - November 24

Bake Oven Knob Hawk Count

Join us on the lookout to help with the 59th annual Autumn Hawk Count as a volunteer counter or spotter, to learn about the raptors, their ecology and migrations, or just to enjoy the view and the spectacle of the hawk flight. The lookout is staffed daily by our research intern or by LGNC volunteers.



September 12, 7:00 p.m. – LGNC Program Update

LGNC staff will share the latest education, conservation, and research updates!

September 21, 9:00 a.m.-

3:00 p.m. – Migration Fest

Our annual celebration of hawk migration and Appalachian Mountain ecology. Learn about the annual fall spectacle of hawks and butterflies migrating along the Kittatinny Ridge and how to identify raptors. Activities throughout the day; schedule to be announced on our website.



October 12, 9:00 a.m.-Noon – Hawk Watching at Bake Oven Knob

Visit Bake Oven Knob to see migrating Sharpies and falcons. Meet at the Osprey House at 8:30 a.m. or at the Bake Oven Knob parking lot at 9:00 a.m.

October 26, 1:00 p.m. – Autumn Refuge Hike (with Allentown Hiking Club)

Hike with us along the Prairie Grass and Chestnut Oak trails. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. This will be a six-mile hike with a 600-foot elevation gain. Great views!

Lehigh Gap Nature Center Administration and Management

The day-to-day operations of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center are managed by the Executive Director, Dan Kunkle, the Director of Science & Education, Chad Schwartz, and the Director of Communications, Brian Birchak. Governance of the organization rests with the volunteer Board of Directors. A Board of Advisors serves in various advisory capacities on an as-needed basis to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. Bonnie Pancoast serves as our Volunteer Liaison. Anne Zagarella and Jane Borbe are the Information Specialist team leaders. Simon Molloy is our Trail Specialist. Lee Sivak serves as our Financial Secretary and Donna Gasser is our Membership Coordinator. *Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers!*

Board of Directors

Anita Collins, Ph.D., President	
Diane Husic, Ph.D., Vice President	
Ron Kline, Ph.D., Secretary	
Robert Hoopes, Treasurer	
George Beam	Jennifer Lansing, Ph.D.
Frederic Brock	Nelson Markley, Ph.D.
Barb Egerton	Janet Maurer
Towlene Jackson	Cheryl Novak
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WILDLIFE ACTIVIST

*A Newsletter Devoted to Wildlife and Habitat Protection and Restoration
at Lehigh Gap on the Kittatinny Ridge and Beyond.
Published by the Lehigh Gap Nature Center*

Spring 2019, Number 84

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Prairie Warbler, original painting by Brad Kunkle

Front Cover: Monarch Butterflies by Brian and Emma Birchak

Back Cover: Dan Kunkle Leads a Field Trip Through the Refuge

**PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU
THINK OF WILDLIFE ACTIVIST**

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Wildlife Activist (ISSN 0894-4660) is the newsletter of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center (Wildlife Information Center, Inc.), a member-supported, nonprofit, tax-exempt wildlife conservation organization whose mission is to “to protect the wildlife and enhance the habitats of our Refuge, the neighboring Kittatinny Ridge, and the Lehigh River Watershed through conservation, education, research, and outdoor recreation to improve the quality of life of present and future generations.” Members receive *Wildlife Activist* two times per year as part of their annual membership benefits. Send requests for permission to reprint items contained herein to: Lehigh Gap Nature Center, PO Box 198, Slatington, PA 18080-0198, 610-760-8889, mail@lgnc.org, www.lgnc.org. Single copy price, \$8. Copyright © 2019.

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Executive Director's Message:

Transition Time

The Nature Center's Board and staff have been planning and dealing with the issue of transition for a long time. Ever since we had our first strategic planning sessions with consultant Roland Kushner in 1999, we have been thinking about long-term sustainability and "what if something happens to Dan?" Twenty years later, the transition we have been planning is finally taking place and I am happy to report that the future of Lehigh Gap Nature Center looks bright. All that planning has paid off.

When the Wildlife Information Center bought 756 acres of land on the Kittatinny Ridge at Lehigh Gap in 2002-03, the organization officially registered a "doing-business-as" name with the state, Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC). I left teaching in 2004 and became the full-time (mostly volunteer) Executive Director of the Center. That is when the "beer truck" discussions began.

As we contemplated the future back then, we realized we were too dependent on one individual – me. The Board started having "what if?" discussions. Bob Hoopes, long-time Board treasurer, would ask the question this way to lighten the mood about a serious topic: "What if Dan steps off a curb and is run over by a beer truck?" Why a beer truck? I don't know; ask Bob. But the topic ever after became known as our "beer truck" discussion.

Our first goal in those years was to build redundancy among our volunteers so that collectively, someone in the group would know how to do each task that I did. That led to having a volunteer financial secretary to process all donations and help with the banking. Next was a volunteer Membership Coordinator. These volunteers not only helped a great deal with the workload, but also learned aspects of our operation and gave us redundancy.

Several teachers helped with summer camps and education programs since we began these in the late 1990s even before we established Lehigh Gap Nature Center. After we moved to Lehigh Gap, we began school field trip programs and recruited retired teachers to help deliver programs. Over the years, more than a dozen have helped. Who better to help teach kids our environmental education messages than teachers with anywhere from 20 to 35 years of experience teaching students in classrooms.

With the construction of our visitor and education center, the Osprey House, we also were able to include Information Specialist volunteers working at the lobby

desk, trail crew members who build and maintain trails, and garden group volunteers who tend our native plant habitat gardens. Volunteers not only helped us with these tasks, but several stepped forward to lead these groups.

Even with all these people helping, there were many more tasks that still lacked redundancy. That led the Board to direct me to compile an Operations Manual for LGNC. In that manual, I was to describe everything that needs to be done to keep the Center operating. The manual was completed in 2015 and must be continually revised.

Of course, the best way to provide redundancy is to have more than one staff person. In 2008-09, we were fortunate to have a federal grant that allowed us to hire our first staff person, Maria Tranguch. It was funding that lasted only eighteen months, but it was a crucial time as we were fundraising and then building the Osprey House. Maria was a great help with the capital campaign. By 2016, our financial situation had matured and we added Program Specialist Chad Schwartz to the staff on a permanent basis. Thanks to continued growth in funding, in 2017 we were able to add Brian Birchak to the staff in the dual role of Communications and Program Specialist. This set the



stage for the transition we have been planning for two decades to take place smoothly.

The beer truck discussion is history now. Chad and Brian first took over responsibility for all programming and communications and are now preparing to become the new leaders of Lehigh Gap Nature Center. Anyone who has been around the Center in the past two years knows how competent these two young men are. Because they have done so well, care so deeply about LGNC, and are such capable leaders, I have the confidence that I can step back and let them take the reins. As I am approaching my 65th birthday this year, I have decided that I would like to turn over the daily operation of the Center to Chad and Brian.

The Board and I have planned 2019 as a transition year. In the first few months of the year, we conducted weekly seminars on non-profit management using a textbook recommended by Roland Kushner (yes, he is still advising us 20 years later!). We are also seeking other professional development opportunities for Chad and Brian, as well as making sure the Operations Manual is completely up-to-date. As the year progresses, several of our Board members have been involved in training sessions as well with the staff, and I have been spending less than full time in the office. For the past two years, I have been including Chad and Brian in meetings with key partners and foundations, and they have been writing many of the grant proposals that are so crucial to our sustainability.

I will retire as Executive Director of LGNC on December 31. Chad and Brian will become co-directors of the Center on January 1, 2020. Just to be clear, I am not going away. According to the plan we have developed, I will remain the Director Emeritus and continue to represent LGNC in our two crucial alliances – Lehigh Valley Greenways and the Alliance for Watershed Education of the Delaware River. I will remain involved with the fundraising relationships, and most importantly will remain an advisor to the

new Co-directors. The Board has also invited me to become a member of the Board of Directors.

The day-to-day leadership of LGNC is being turned over to our Co-directors, Chad Schwartz and Brian Birchak, in a way that should be seamless and un-noticeable to most people. I ask that you all continue your strong and loyal support of LGNC. I thank each and every one of you, our members, for the financial and volunteer support you have provided over the past two decades. Thanks to all of you, during that time we have grown into a major environmental education organization in the region and created the Nature Center, which has become a tremendous local and regional asset as we transformed a federal Superfund toxic waste site into a valuable wildlife habitat and excellent outdoor recreational resource.

Chad and Brian are the perfect people to lead the Nature Center into the future and with your continued support, Lehigh Gap Nature Center has a bright and prosperous future.



NOTE: I would like to have named all the people who helped in so many ways. However, there are so many that I am sure I would miss someone and do not wish to slight anyone. Thanks to EVERYONE who has helped along the way.



President's Column

by Anita Collins

The Board of Directors has been focusing on making our organization more fit for the future since we began our Strategic Planning for the five year period we are in now, 2017 to 2021. Our goal is ALWAYS to stick to our mission of protecting wildlife and enhancing habitats of our Refuge, Ridge, and Watershed, through conservation, education, research and recreation. We want to keep up the good work that we are doing, but stretch to meet new opportunities and challenges, while keeping in mind limitations of our small staff and great volunteers. LGNC is a well-respected organization that does high quality work. We want to keep it that way.

The members of the Board and their skills are also on our minds. We continue to evaluate ourselves against our priorities and look for new members who might strengthen the Board. One of the areas where we have been fortunate to add expertise is in the long-term management of our Endowment. Nelson Markley has considerable experience in structuring such financial tools and making them work efficiently for an organization. We've met our first financial goals for this enduring resource earlier than we expected. As planned, we are now beginning to make a very small portion of our own fund and investment returns available for expanding each year's budget. There are still goals set for continuing to grow the Endowment as well.

This Board of Directors has evolved from the early members of the Wildlife Information Center who backed Dan in creating LGNC. Dan continually talks about how good this group is to work with. We are hard on ourselves, working to keep the vision fresh, relevant, and well targeted. To guide our

growth, we have developed five-year strategic plans since the beginning. But when decisions are made, even with heated discussion, everyone gets behind the result and supports its "being done."

What is transitioning is how the board itself operates. We were rather informal for many years, a few people stepping up to take on some task. Now we are working with several, more formal committees, including a Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Personnel Committee, and Communications Committee. These smaller groups examine an issue in more detail and then bring a recommendation or report to the full Board. More work gets done more efficiently but with attention to necessary detail.

Along the way, members have given extra time to projects of special interest. Bob Hoopes and Ron Kline have seen that the decades old Hawk Watch, its volunteers and records, mesh smoothly for some months in the fall. They have also integrated the work of the intern hired specifically to do a lot of the watching. During the expansion of the Osprey House, Michal Kubik, George Beam, and Fritz Brock contributed expertise in engineering, organization, and county level planning. A few years ago, it became clear

that a Research Committee was needed to vet on-site research proposals that came to us. Drs. Diane Husic, Marilyn Jordan, and I review proposals, the research, and the publication of results to fit our guidelines. Marilyn is also the force behind the installation of the solar panels on our roof.

Ed Newcomb's service on the Board contributed skills in development and fundraising. The native habitat gardens have benefited by guidance and planting by Kathie Romano, Barb Egerton, and, more recently, Cheryl Novak. Janet Maurer, retired biology teacher, has long experience with non-profits. Me...I get to keep the Board



meetings moving along, and got the Speakers Series, art show, and photo show going (with a lot of help from Kay Stauffer, watercolorist, Phil Campbell, photographer, two of our member volunteers, and Cheryl Novak, artist for fun). That's not all each of us does, but it gives you a flavor of the wide interests of the Board members that support our mission.

I've long felt blessed that my career has given me the opportunity to live in many different ecosystems in the Americas and Africa. Various geographic races of honeybees and now native bees. Scores of birds, from anis (an all-black bird whose habits reminded me strongly of Red-winged Blackbirds of Ohio), and macaws in Venezuela, to Green Jays and chachalacas in southern Texas, back home to cardinals, phoebes, and owls in PA. Throw in tapirs, red foxes, palm trees, elephants, and little forest cats for spice, and you see what I mean. Somehow despite that, a lot of the friends I made outside of work were non-nature-lovers. "Go camping? no way!" "I like my critters in zoos." "Sit in the woods and watch birds...ick."

Now I have many friends and casual acquaintances who really understand the joy I get from nature – not just understand, but dive in themselves to adore birds, worship plants, savor the fresh air and physical challenges of hiking trails. The group of enthusiasts who came to my bi-weekly Very Basic Biology classes even got excited about DNA, mammalian organ systems, plant cell function, and the like. I wasn't sure how this class would be received but we all had fun with it! 🐾



Anita Collins



Donna Gasser and Anita Collins enjoy a beautiful day at the ArtsQuest Step Outdoors event at the Steel Stacks in Bethlehem, PA

END OF AN ERA

Dan Kunkle To Retire as Executive Director of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center

by Robert E. Hoopes, Treasurer

December 31, 2019, Dan Kunkle will retire as the long-term Executive Director of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center. The Center's mantle of leadership will pass at that time to Co-directors Chad Schwarz and Brian Birchak. Both Chad and Brian have gradually assumed more duties at the Center and currently manage the entire education and communications programs on their own with minimal guidance and direction from Dan. The recent addition of part-time Administrative Support Coordinator Stacy Hein rounds out the Center's management team. The year 2019 is a transition year for the Center's management team as Dan works to train them on the remaining aspects of Center operations prior to his departure.

The really good news for the Center is that Dan's retirement/departure is more in name only. As he resigns at the end of this year from his long-term role as the Center's Executive Director working for the Board of Directors, he will then become a member of the Board on January 1, 2020 with the assigned duties of providing operational oversight to the Center's management team of Chad, Brian and Stacy. In effect, the Center's members, stakeholders and the general public should notice little change in the Center's operations during and after this transition as a result of the Board's well-developed and implemented succession plan.

Dan has served in the Executive Director capacity since 1998 when he assumed the leadership role for the (then) Wildlife Information Center operating out of a storefront in Slatington. Over his long tenure as the leader of this organization, Dan has been integral in its transformation from a small conservation-minded organization with fewer than 50 members to

a nationally-recognized conservation, education, and research organization with more than 750 members.

Along the way, Dan has led the organization through this transition as it purchased 750 acres of land in the Lehigh Gap, revegetated this barren landscape with warm-season prairie grasses and opened it to the public as the Lehigh Gap Wildlife Refuge. Dan led the move of the Center's operation from the Slatington storefront to its current location in the Lehigh Gap, revised the IRS chartered name of the organization to Wildlife Information Center d/b/a (doing business as) Lehigh Gap Nature Center, raised the funding and oversaw the construction of the current Osprey House (the Center's headquarters and base of operations), and accelerated the growth of the Center's Endowment Fund to the point where annual withdraws are now being made from this fund to support ongoing operations.

Dan has been the public face of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center for many years. His efforts have gained local, state-wide and national acclaim.

His accomplishments are rooted in the warm-season prairie grasses that now vegetate the former moonscape in the Lehigh Gap, in the pleasurable experiences of the many visitors to the Center for passive outdoor recreational activities, and in the minds of the many children, adolescents, and adults that have participated in the numerous conservation, education and research activities conducted by the Lehigh Gap Nature Center since its inception.

In addition to being the public face of the Center, Dan has also been instrumental in the development and maturation of a strong Board of Directors and its operational and strategic focus over the last 15 years.



Under Dan's leadership, the Center's Board has grown from a group of dedicated members following his leadership to a mature organization in its own right, assuming the leadership mantle for the organization and providing oversight and direction to Dan, the Center's



Executive Director. This transition was significant in that it went from the Board members essentially working for Dan in the early years, to Dan working for and taking direction from the Board of Directors.

As Dan focused on the day-to-day operations of the Center, the Board focused on strategic planning for the future. The Center's first five-year strategic plan was developed in 2005 and

dubbed the *Master Site Plan*. Most of the elements of this plan were completed well in advance of the five-year mark. The Center's second five-year strategic plan, *Renewing Our Vision*, was developed in 2011 and, by 2013, one of the most important aspects of this strategic plan was underway: *succession planning* by the Board of Directors. Effective succession planning is a hallmark of strong, agile, sustainable organizations. Simply put, this is the concept of the continued effective leadership of the Center after the Dan Kunkle era. It has been well understood by the Board for many years that Dan would not serve in the Executive Director capacity forever. This meant that new leadership would need to be hired, trained and groomed to one-day take over the management of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center under the guidance and direction of the Board of Directors. With Dan's decision to retire from his Executive Director role, this date has been set as January 1, 2020 when the new leaders of the LGNC step into the big shoes left by Dan.

As mentioned earlier, this new management team consists of Chad Schwartz, who was hired in 2016, Brian

Birchak, who joined the team in 2017, and Stacy Hein, who recently came on board this year. Chad quickly established himself as a dynamo, taking over the Center's education programs and becoming a favorite with the students visiting the Center as well as those whose school classrooms he visited for program presentations. His quick grasp of the Center's mission and understanding of its unique position in supporting the local teachers in their environmental education efforts, along with his superior organization skills, has made Chad a tremendous asset in the education of the many students who participate in the Center's programs.

When Brian was asked to join the Center's management team, he was considered an augmentation to Chad's educational program efforts. In addition, he came with superior IT and communication skills which he quickly put to use improving the Center's capacities in both of these areas. Together, Chad and Brian form a symbiosis where their combined production is much more than two individuals working separately.

As Dan watched the development of these two young dynamic education professionals at work, he realized that they were the next generation of Center leadership...but which one would emerge as the leading candidate for the Director position? And would naming one of them as Director disrupt this remarkable symbiosis they had developed where they work together in tandem, feeding off each other to expand their creativity and productivity? The answer to Dan's questions was in the long-term leadership model of Bethlehem's Just Born Candies, where co-CEOs Ross Born and David Shaffer successfully managed this well-run company for many years. With this concept in mind, Dan approached the Board of Directors with the



proposal to name Chad and Brian as Co-directors for the Lehigh Gap Nature Center. The Board embraced this concept and made it a key element of the Center's succession plan.

Dan also realized that the administrative burden of Center operations was something that needed to be addressed prior to his transition to the Board of Directors.



While Chad and Brian focus on education and communications, much of the administrative work at the Center was still being handled by Dan and several volunteers. A part-time, paid Administrative Support Coordinator was needed to standardize operations in this area and make

the Center's management team self-sufficient. Enter Stacy Hein, an individual with sound organizational skills, including marketing, public relations, payroll and communications experience. She is a certified yoga teacher, runs her own small studio and desires a part-time position to supplement her income...a perfect match for the Center. She began work as the Center's Administrative Support Coordinator in June of this year. Stacy's broad experience also suggests that over time, her role at the Center could expand into other areas.

From a historical perspective, back in the year 2000, when Dan Kunkle was leading the Board in its quest to locate and purchase property that could be used as an environmental education center, three parcels of land were identified in the Lehigh Gap to create the Lehigh Gap Wildlife Refuge. At that time, the Board faced many obstacles to fulfilling Dan's dream of teaching young children and adults about caring for the environment. For example,

- About half of the 750 acres of this land was highly contaminated with heavy metals and part of a federal Superfund site;
- Nearly \$1 million dollars would be needed to purchase this land;
- More than another \$1 million dollars would be needed to build an education center;
- And more than another \$1 million dollars would be needed to fund an endowment that could eventually help support continued long-term operation of this environmental education center.

Oblivious to these impossibly long odds, Dan and the Center's Board persisted and made it all happen. In the shadow of these challenging and wonderful accomplishments, the pending transition of Dan Kunkle from Executive Director to member of the Center's Board of Directors and the continued successful operation of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center by Co-directors Chad and Brian seems doable. Continue the journey with us into this next generation of LGNC leadership. You will enjoy the ride. 🌲



Chad Schwartz, left, and Brian Birchak, right, will serve as the new Co-directors of LGNC when Dan retires at the end of 2019.

Historical Notes from Past Issues of WILDLIFE ACTIVIST

compiled and edited by Robert E. Hoopes



Summer 2016 Activist:

“We now embark on the next five-year strategic planning cycle with optimism and confidence. In this strategic plan, we continue our drive toward sustainability as we transition the operation of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center to meet the challenges of the future. We took a major step in this direction in September 2015 when we hired a part-time Program Specialist to assist Executive Director Dan Kunkle. We envision adding a third staff person in the near future, funding permitted, to fill the role of Assistant Director. This new position will be developmental in nature, enabling the training and development of the next Director for the Center. As we successfully move through this transition Dan will gradually turn over the daily operation of the Lehigh Gape Nature Center to a new Director thereby permitting Dan to concentrate his focus on strategic issues.

“Effective succession planning is a hallmark of strong, agile, sustainable organizations. As we plan for the next five years, we recognize the need to expand and develop our operations staff so that the Lehigh Gap Nature Center remains strong, agile and sustainable.”

[Note: The third staff position referenced above was eventually changed to a second Program Specialist position and filled by Brian Birchak.]

Winter 2013-2014 Activist:

“The Board took another big step two years ago when they revised our strategic plan during an 18-month planning process. We had completed more the 95% of what we set out to do in our 2005 Master Site Plan, which was to establish an environmental education center and public access park on a Superfund site...The new strategic plan, *Renewing Our Vision*, deals directly with the issue of our second decade. We are no longer establishing a refuge and programs. Our future as an organization now depends on our ability to sustain what we have established.”

“We are already two years into the five-year period for our current strategic plan, *Renewing Our Vision*. [One of the] accomplishments with regards to the goals set in that plan [include]: Administration: Succession Planning begun by Board of Directors.”



My Journey to LGNC

by Chad I. Schwartz



My job at LGNC simply doesn't feel like *work* to me. Having spent my childhood exploring the woods, reading about bugs, birds, and other backyard critters, and even creating a "nature museum" in my garage, I had always dreamed I would someday be able to share my love for the natural world with others. Fortunately for me,

that dream became a reality when I joined the Nature Center staff in 2016. The past three years working alongside LGNC's staff and volunteers have been a blast and an incredible learning experience. I am honored and thrilled to have the opportunity to carry out LGNC's mission as a Co-director with Brian Birchak beginning in 2020.

My earliest memories of the Lehigh Gap date back to the years before LGNC was established. During the late '90s and early 2000s, I passed through the denuded mountain, along the rusted remnants of the New Jersey Zinc Company's West Plant, on my way to visit family in Weissport. I remember thinking that the land looked like photos I'd seen of the Grand Canyon and other weathered geologic features out West. My dad would tell me about the zinc company and the pollution that had inadvertently created the



Chad Schwartz receives LGNC's Student Ecologist Award from Dan Kunkle in 2011

moonscape before us. This scarred section of the Blue Mountain was also visible on the horizon north of my Whitehall home.

I first learned about Dan Kunkle and LGNC from newspaper clippings that my grandmother cut from the *Times News*. The Nature Center always seemed so cool to me, but I wasn't able to get involved when I was in grade school. During my years at Whitehall-Coplay Middle School, I learned more about the Nature Center's work from my guidance counsellor (Dan's brother), Bill Kunkle.

When I was in sixth grade, Bill challenged my class to envision what our future career might look like. I told him I wanted to be an entomologist (I was really into bugs at the time!). Long before I got to know Dan personally, Bill and my fifth-grade teacher, Mark Flisak, fostered my appreciation for nature through the middle school's Nature Study club. I fondly remember seeing Dan for the first time when he and his brother presented on their adventure retracing the route of Lewis and Clarke's expedition.

I first stepped foot inside the newly-renovated Osprey House as a student at Whitehall High School. Dan had just launched a new environmental club for local high schools, called E-7. The club, created





to connect fellow nature lovers from various local schools, met at the Nature Center for hikes and projects during my junior and senior years. I was also involved with planting a native garden at the high school and contributing to LGNC's phenological research.

While involved with E-7, I was also working on my own project to establish a state-designated Private Wild Plant Sanctuary on the Whitehall-Coplay School District campus in an effort to protect a threatened tree I had found. In 2011, I was honored to receive LGNC's Student Ecologist Award from Dan. I remember thinking how amazing it would be to work at the Nature Center.

My involvement with LGNC continued to grow while I studied environmental science and sustainability at Muhlenberg College. While I knew I wanted to pursue a degree in the sciences, I had considered attending more distant schools like Gettysburg College and Susquehanna University. I'm glad I decided to stay close to home, since I was able to visit the Gap on many college field trips for environmental science, geology, sustainability, and other classes. Each time, I learned a little more about the Nature Center's fascinating story.

I was so intrigued that, during the summer after my junior year, I emailed Dan to see if any internships were available with the organization. I admit I contacted Dan at the last minute, but he fortunately found a few ways for me to get involved. After helping with some arboretum maintenance, I assisted Diane Husic's Moravian students with three ecological research projects on the Refuge. In partnership with the Kittatinny Coalition, I also compiled a bibliography on the natural and cultural history of the Kittatinny Ridge in Pennsylvania.

The following summer, I delved more deeply into the Lehigh Gap Superfund restoration as an ecological restoration intern with Cardinal Directions, the lead environmental consulting firm overseeing the revegetation of the Superfund site. As I assisted with maintaining the grassland, along with the thousands of trees planted atop the mountain between Little Gap and Lehigh Gap, I gained a true appreciation for the hard work involved with bringing the mountain back to life and sustaining the revitalized ecosystem. It is a pleasure to welcome my former boss Jen Lansing, ecologist and owner of Cardinal Directions, to LGNC's Board of Directors!

During the weekends when I worked for Jen, I also advised LGNC's Naturalist Club while they set up a watershed engagement display on the porch of the Osprey House. Aside from a few school programs I had led on behalf of Lehigh Valley Audubon Society, this was my first experience doing environmental education. I immediately loved it. So when the chance to do environmental education work full time came along at the end of the summer, I was eager to apply for the job.

...And I've been here ever since! In my role as Program Specialist for my first two years at LGNC, I focused on learning and absorbing as much information as possible and overseeing the growth of our education program. Now, as Director of Science and Education, I am involved with education and outreach, program management and development, some fundraising,

and many other day-to-day tasks. Each day of work at LGNC is a fun, new adventure.

Brian and I are sincerely looking forward to working with our Board to carry on LGNC's growing conservation legacy and to continue to serve as a leader in environmental education, research, and outdoor recreation. Brian and I undoubtedly have large shoes to fill with the retirement of Dan Kunkle. But with the continued support of our amazing members, volunteers, and community partners, we couldn't be more excited for the future of our organization. 🐾



Transition and the Board of Directors

by Dan R. Kunkle

Much is known among our members about the Lehigh Gap Nature Center's (LGNC) work, but few know the behind-the-scenes workings of the Board of Directors. There too, transition has been occurring and will likely continue as the staff transitions to new leadership.

In 2002, when the Wildlife Information Center was planning its bold project to restore Lehigh Gap and create a nature center out of a Superfund site, the Board of Directors was very different than it is today. Back



Michael Kubik and Kathie Romano

then, the Board played mainly a supporting role to help us plan and accomplish our dream of creating an environmental education center and refuge at Lehigh Gap. The Board members were loyal supporters willing to roll up their sleeves and help with various projects. They played a key role in our success of making that dream come true.

During the next 17 years to the present, five members have retired from the Board and three have sadly passed away while in office. Only two of those 2002 Board members remain – Bob Hoopes and Ron Kline, both of whom are serving as officers today.

For a long time, Board members were chosen from among the membership – people who had shown loyalty and support and who had the best interest of the Nature Center at heart. They came in various ways – teachers, scientists, trusted advisors. Kathie Romano came onto the Board in the 1990s before the Lehigh



Bob Hoopes

Gap Nature Center project began and retired from the Board just a few years ago after serving for 25 years. Kathie was a teacher and helped establish our education programs. Other current Board members that were teachers include Barb Egerton and Jan Maurer.

In 2004, we formed a committee to develop a Master Site Plan for LGNC. Bill Mineo from the D&L National Heritage Corridor led the process, and we tapped several members of the community to serve, including Fritz Brock and George Beam. All three of these gentlemen would eventually join the Board. Bill had vast experience in parks and recreation and was the D&L Trail Manager before retiring and joining our Board. (Bill passed away last year and we miss him a great deal.) Fritz spent his career as a planner for the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. George is still working and is an electrical engineer for PPL. Fritz and George remain on the Board.



Ron Kline

Because we were involved in some complex restoration work on our site, we attracted the attention of several Ph.D. scientists. These include our president, Anita Collins, our vice-president, Diane Husic, and Marilyn Jordan, who joined the Board a few years ago. Marilyn completed her Masters and Ph.D. work in the late 1960s and '70s researching the effects of the pollution from the zinc company on the mountain, including the area that would become Lehigh Gap Nature Center. Diane, a plant physiologist, brought students here as a professor from Moravian College and soon became involved with our work and joined the Board. Anita, a retired honey bee geneticist, came here first to work on a native bee project as a volunteer with the U.S. Geological Survey. It was not long before she, too, became a Board member, now serving as our president.

Another important acquisition was Nelson Markley, a trusted advisor to me as the Executive Director, and a Ph.D. mathematician with a great deal of experience in nonprofit finances.

Along the way, the Board began evolving as our transition discussions and plans proceeded. Instead of being simply a supporting body, the Board became more actively involved in its role as the governing body

of LGNC. The Board began setting policies and took a more active role in financial matters. They formed committees – Finance, Personnel, Development/Membership -- and began functioning more effectively in their fiduciary and governance roles.

In 2019, our Board development continues. This year, we have added three new members to the Board of Directors, each of whom brings a specific set of skills or experiences that help fill gaps in our collective Board knowledge and wisdom. The three new members are Cheryl Novak, Jennifer Lansing, and Towlene Jackson.

Cheryl lives in Jim Thorpe, Carbon County, an area where we had no Board representation in the past. She is retired from a career as a guidance counselor and came to us from North Carolina. During her career, she served extensively in professional organizations and nonprofit boards. She is an avid hiker and paddler and overall outdoor enthusiast, as well as an educator. Cheryl has been involved in numerous programs at LGNC, most notably as a planner for public events such as Migration Fest or Pollinator Day, and as a member of the Garden Group. She recently began serving as a co-lead of the gardeners. She is dabbling in fiber arts and is an avid reader and member of the Cabin Fever Book Club. Cheryl has been a strong supporter of LGNC for a decade.

Jen Lansing first came to Lehigh Gap as an ecological consultant for CBS, a responsible party for the Superfund clean-up. Jen is a Ph.D. ecologist (University of California, Davis) with over 20 years of experience, and she quickly became the lead ecologist

on the project for CBS for her former employer. In 2015, she formed her own consulting firm, Cardinal Directions LLC, and continues to implement and coordinate the remediation of the Kittatinny Ridge portion of the Superfund site, of which LGNC is a part. Jen brings to the Board not only restoration ecology experience, but also experience as a small business owner. While there are significant differences between running a nonprofit organization and a business, there are many areas of overlap that make having a business owner on the Board valuable.

If having one business owner on the Board is good, having two is even better. Enter our latest addition to the Board. Towlene Jackson was approved as our latest Board member at the May Board meeting. Towlene first came to us a few years ago as the owner and operator of the Kula Children's Center in Allentown. Having another Board member with business experience is valuable, and her Kula Center serves many of the same students we serve in the schools in Allentown. Many funders ask us if our Board members are representative of the constituents we serve. Towlene is our first Board member from Allentown where we serve a large number of students.

The Board meets six times per year, usually the last Monday of odd numbered months. Like so many others who provide tremendously valuable support for the Nature Center, Board members are volunteers and members of LGNC. We are happy to welcome our three new Board members and thank all of our Board members for their dedication, hard work, and financial support.



LGNC Board of Directors (from top left) Fritz Brock, Janet Maurer, Marilyn Jordan, and Nelson Markley (from bottom left) Anita Collins (President), George Beam, Ron Kline, and Diane Husic (Vice-President)

Meet LGNC's New Board Members!

Cheryl Novak



Cheryl is a recent addition to the LGNC Board of Directors, having served for the better part of the past year. An avid outdoors enthusiast, Cheryl has enjoyed backpacking and scuba diving for 20 years! Now hiking, canoeing, and mountain biking with her husband can be counted among her hobbies in nature.

When she is not on the trails or in the water, Cheryl's other interests include fiber arts and enjoying a good book.

Aside from her enjoyment of the outdoors, Cheryl also has a list of professional accomplishments and experiences. She has her M.S. from Indiana University, which she received in 1975. She also served as a school counselor and art teacher until 2011. Cheryl has also served as a board member for the Pocosin Arts Folk School. On top of all this, Cheryl has been a dedicated volunteer and member at LGNC for years.

There is much more to mention, such as various professional roles with a plethora of organizations and numerous awards she has received throughout her life.

Towlene Jackson



Towlene Jackson has been a part of our community for quite some time through various collaborations with LGNC. Towlene is a dedicated entrepreneur within the Lehigh Valley, having created a thriving early childhood learning center with her husband, Jim. A teacher for thirteen years, Towlene realized a need for quality early childhood education. The Kula Children's Center is the result of their hard work and dedication.

The growth of a child's mind, body, and spirit has always been important to Towlene and Jim. When their son was born prematurely, they were unable to find a daycare to provide the service and care he needed. They decided that they wanted to serve the families of the community better and provide quality child care.

As our communities grow, they want to be the stepping stone for education and early quality life experiences that enhance children's opportunities in the future. Towlene and her husband are invested in the future, and children are the key.

"We will continue to touch as many families and children as possible in our community to provide them with strong positive role models and experiences. We must instill the belief that our children can accomplish or overcome any road block." – Towlene Jackson

Jennifer Lansing

Dr. Jennifer Lansing is a recent addition to our Board. Jen has been a friend and member of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center since 2006. She also has a critical role in Lehigh Gap through her job as lead ecologist overseeing the restoration of the Superfund site.

Jen enjoys mentoring environmental science students each summer as part of a 10-week college internship program at the site. Jen looks forward to serving on the Board committees for research and restoration. Jen resides in Palmerton.



Marilyn Jordan, Diane Husic, and Jennifer Lansing

2018 Nature in Art Exhibition

Thank you to the 25 artists who made November's Nature in Art Show a very successful event! The show's 49 entries were judged by Anita Collins and the **Pencils & Brushes Art Class** (Joan Biehl, Instructor).

There will be no categories for the 2019 show. However, **all art work should depict nature**. There will also be no judging, and awards will all be People's Choice Awards with at least three prizes.



1st Place, Open Category
"Looking West" by Duane Costenbader



1st Place, Water Category
"Moonrise at Sunset" by Alice Hagan



2nd Place, Open Category
"Coastal Calm" by Missy Kast



3rd Place, Open Category
"Onset of Winter" by Cheryl Novak



People's Choice Winner
"Autumn's Palette" by Wayne Yurchak

Canoeing the Wild

An Essay by Bruce Rabenold



I took the canoe rack off of my old Subaru and put on the ski rack. I admit that the function of the ski rack is mostly to help me find my car in a crowded parking lot. Not so the canoe rack; it was a good year. No big trips, no big water – just some wonderful hours cruising through small lakes close to my home in eastern Pennsylvania. Ospreys crashing into the water quite

turtles. There are painted turtles and frogs slipping off of sunny logs moving from one world into another. The canoe gliding smoothly along through all this life with no sound and almost no disturbance of the surface, propelled with nearly effortless strokes of the bent shaft paddle. Loren Eiseley wrote, “If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.” Amen.



Bruce enjoying his canoe!

close to me, Bald Eagles on occasion, Great Blue Herons most of the time. Flocks of Blue-winged Teal taking off perfectly positioned in the sunlight. A mother Wood Duck with a line of ducklings trailing along behind her; more Red-winged Blackbirds than seem to fit in a small wet area. Sometimes the water is so quiet that it acts as a mirror reflecting the clouds above – but still transparent enough to reveal plants, fish, and slowly prowling snapping

On a past trip down the Noatak river in Alaska, a small group of caribou swam across the river in front of me, got out, climbed the bank, and disappeared. I landed, grabbed my camera, and ran after them. When I got to the top of the bank, I could see maybe a hundred square miles of open tundra – but no caribou. I can still remember them swimming across the river. More recently, and a whole lot closer to home, I followed a water shrew as it swam across a little back cove at one of my lakes. He climbed out, shook himself off, and scurried away. From the shrew’s point of view, there was adventure in this open water swim; I have caught largemouth bass in that area using a lure not much smaller than him. The size of the water shrew is to the caribou as the size of the small lake is to that piece of the Alaskan wilderness. But in my memory, and my enjoyment of the moment, there is not such a great difference.

Little places, up close, certainly contain some interesting stuff. A beaver who tries to act nonchalant when you actually bump him in the butt as you drift along, the croak of an irritated Great Blue Heron when you turn into his cove. The feel of an eagle's wing beats as he flaps across that same little cove. One individual Tree Swallow that rushes out to buzz the canoe every time I pass that same point, even though I am no closer to his nest than dozens of others. Why do Arctic Terns position themselves just forward and above the bow for miles at a time? Oh, that was Alaska. But why *do* they do that? Local lake or true wilderness, some of these experiences and thoughts merge into each other. True wilderness areas are important – no, essential – to keep and protect forever, but so are the wild little marshy lakes and overgrown ponds that we always seem to want to 'improve' and 'beautify.'

I have not been very active in finding new places to paddle these past few years; I am returning to the same places many times. How is it possible that I have never made the same trip twice? Towards the end of summer, I saw what seemed to be the same three Ospreys on several occasions. The last time, one, the immature, caught my attention by splashing down into the water quite close to me. What was most striking was how bad at fishing he seemed to be. Instead of hovering high above the water, spotting his prey, then diving aggressively for it, he simply flapped around in circles and rather timidly splashed his feet into the water's surface in what seemed to be an exercise relying on blind luck. What made this really memorable was that when I turned around, I saw two adult Ospreys sitting in a tree intently watching this learning process. On another occasion, I saw an immature Bald Eagle drop down low and splash at the water, make a wide circle, and splash at the water again. This recurred a number of times with the variable that sometimes he came up with a fish (a floating dead fish I believe) but promptly lost it. Eventually he got a good hold and retired out of sight to eat lunch. This was no remote wilderness. While the canoe gave me a front row seat, these little life stories were visible to anyone with binoculars sitting on a park bench on the 'civilized' side of the lake.

An odd thing about my little excursions is how often I have these less developed parts of the lake to

myself. One lake in particular is long and narrow; I almost never see anyone out of sight of the parking lot. This suits me fine as I mentally score every trip by awarding points in inverse proportion to the number of humans I see on the water. But humans vote and have a voice in what our society preserves and what we pave over, so I hope that other people find some joy in these places that delight me so much. Just not necessarily when I happen to be there. Fishermen are often around, and most are as much a part of the waterscape as the herons.

With no trip schedule to keep, paddling is very relaxed. There is time to look around, from the clouds above to the fish below the surface. There is time to ponder the great mysteries of the universe – like why the same cormorant sits on the same log week after week. There are a lot of logs. Or how much human emotion I can attribute to a pair of Great Egrets who quietly hunt on opposite sides of the lake, but then periodically fly up together, make several long passes back and forth moving in close formation, then go back to their respective stations. This is in the fall. Occasionally I will come quietly around a corner and see a deer or bear along the shoreline. The deer are noisier (I almost



always hear them before I see them), but they react to my presence quickly. The bears – far less common – are very quiet and quite stealthy; wind direction seems the major factor in how long I can watch. Do kingfishers have a standard height from which to drop into the water? On occasion, one will seem to dive in from quite a height. And how is it possible that the wind can blow in my face going up the lake, and then again coming back down? Which happens more often than any probability table would suggest. These things need more investigation. Well, there is only one thing to do – get out and continue my explorations in these little wild places again next year. Again, for the first time. 📷

Spotted Lanternfly – The New Pest in Town

by Jennifer Lansing, Ph.D.

Spotted lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*, is an invasive insect new to our area which you will likely encounter this summer. It is a plant hopper native to China, India, and Vietnam and was first detected in North America in 2014 in Berks County, Pennsylvania. It is now prevalent in southeastern PA and has been observed in Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, New York, and Massachusetts. Have you seen spotted lanternfly? Check here: <https://extension.psu.edu/have-you-seen-a-spotted-lanternfly>

SLF presents a significant threat to Pennsylvania agriculture, including the grape, tree-fruit, hardwood, and nursery industries. Penn State University and Extension, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and PA Department of Agriculture (PDA) have joined forces to control and contain the spread of SLF. See **What is Being Done** on the PDA website.

Quarantine

Soon after its discovery, PDA established a state quarantine in the affected area to restrict the pest's movement. In November 2017, the quarantine was extended to include Carbon County, among others. Visit the PDA website for the current counties under quarantine for SLF. The quarantine is in place to stop the movement of SLF to new areas within or out of the current quarantine zone and to slow its spread within the quarantine. The quarantine affects a variety of vehicles and other conveyances, plant, wood, and stone products. The PDA website provides a compliance checklist for residents and permit requirements for businesses, agencies, and organizations. An SLF permit is required for those located or working within the quarantine, who move vehicles, products or other conveyances within or out of the quarantine.

Homeowners

SLF do not bite or sting, but they can damage plants and be a nuisance. The spotted lanternfly adult feeds through the bark using a piercing-sucking mouthpart that is tapped into the plant like a straw. When it feeds, it excretes honeydew (clear, sticky sugar water) on and around its feeding site. This encourages the growth of black sooty mold under trees, which is not harmful to humans, but can damage

plants and make outside recreation areas unusable. The honeydew also draws wasps, which can be a nuisance and a potential danger.

Penn State Extension provides a helpful guide to SLF identification, life cycle, current distribution, and techniques for managing spotted lanternfly on your property at the following website: <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-for-homeowners>

Tree of Heaven

SLF feeds on more than 70 types of plants, including crops such as grapes, apples, hops, walnuts and other hardwood trees. Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is a preferred host for SLF. In the fall, many SLF adults relocate to feed on tree-of-heaven.



Removal of tree-of-heaven is an important part of managing the SLF population because 1) removing trees reduces the ability of SLF to reproduce and 2) since SLF is attracted to tree-of-heaven, some are left as “trap trees” to lure and kill SLF. Traps include a variety of forms, including sticky bands on tree trunks, trunk traps which funnel insects into a container as they climb the tree trunk, or an application of insecticide to the tree which kills the adult SLFs when they feed on the tree.

Information on how to identify and manage tree-of-heaven can be found on the PSU Extension website: <https://extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven>

At the LGNC Refuge

Tree-of-heaven has been controlled within Refuge boundaries, including along the D&L Trail, since 2011 as part of Superfund restoration efforts. Last year, a few remaining tree-of-heaven trees were used as SLF trap trees and were treated with insecticide.





Photo by Shane Peters

(Above) Adult Spotted lanternfly feeding on a tree with wings closed. This is the most common viewpoint one will have when looking for them.

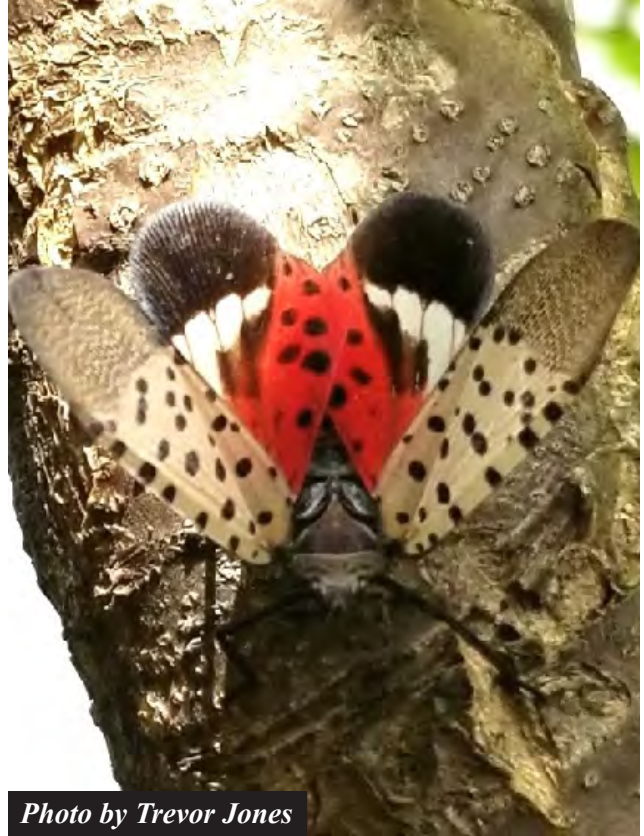


Photo by Trevor Jones

(Above) Adult Spotted lanternfly with wings open preparing for flight. Their beauty does not make up for their ecological destruction.

See these websites for more information

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA)

Quarantine

https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/quarantine/Pages/default.aspx

SLF Research

https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/research/Pages/default.aspx

Pennsylvania State University Extension

<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/sa_insects/slf

LGNC Events and Highlights



Top left: Chad and Brian help with a bird-window collision workshop at Allentown's Ramos Elementary

Top right: Chad instructs kids participating in the Urban Bird Count For Kids event at Bethlehem's Donegan Elementary

Left: Students observe the life found in a puddle adjacent to LGNC's pavillion

Bottom Left: The Speaker Series attendance was amazing this past year!

Bottom right: Chad leads a group on an excursion after a Hiking Essentials workshop



LGNC Events and Highlights



Top two: The Holiday Open House was packed this year with folks enjoying crafts, wreath making, and sweets & treats!

Right: We have a new sign at the Paint Mill Road entrance! Eagle Scout, Egan, stands proudly next to his hard work. Way to go Egan!

Bottom two: Earth Day Service Day (spring clean-up) was a little later this year due to rain, but that didn't stop folks from coming out for the new date!



Featured Book Review

American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West

by Nate Blakeslee. 2017. 320 pages. Hardcover. Crown. \$28.00

Usually, books find me with their covers, sizes, titles, author's credentials, and occasionally publishers. This case was the opposite. I knew what I wanted, but I did not know the title, author, or anything else about it. I had checked out the local book stores, tried the web, and asked friends with no luck. Even books with potentially the right titles were not the right book.

Then over Thanksgiving, I had a chance to prowl around the wonderful science section of the Barnes and Noble in Rockville, Maryland just north of our Capital city. In one of the more poorly lighted areas on the bottom shelf I spotted the word "wolf" on a medium-sized paperback book with a dull copper-colored spine. Not an easy spot!

Sitting on the floor, I checked out the table of contents, read the prologue, skimmed the first chapter, and sampled some other pages, and concluded that this was the book I was trying so hard to find. It would provide the reader with an excellent view of both the lives of wild wolves in a natural setting and their relationship with the people around them.

There was another reason for searching for *American Wolf*. I recently reviewed the book, *Coyote America*, by Dan Flores. Although the settings and times of these two books are opposites, they provide the reader with a fascinating comparison between the behaviors of the two largest North American canids.

The book is set in Yellowstone National Park between 1995, when the first wolves were reintroduced to the Park, and 2015, when the wolves in much the northwest were back on the Endangered Species List and public opinion favored the wolves. There are two sets of characters – the wolves and the people who observe and hunt them – and there is no shortage of either one, making this a perfect setting for the book. This was also a period of many legal cases

that focused on wolves. The author wisely limits these legal wrangles to a few that are essential to his story.

When the wolves were released, they were all wearing heavy leather numbered radio collars. Naturally, these numbers became their names. As the wolf population increased, a few more were caught each year and collared. Now there were named and


unnamed wolves. Some of these wolves without radio collars were named by observers, because they were frequently seen. For example, the heroine, O-Six, was such a named wolf, but her mate was 755M. There is a Lineage of O-Six's ancestors and descendants on page xiii. (On the next page, there is map to help follow the action.)

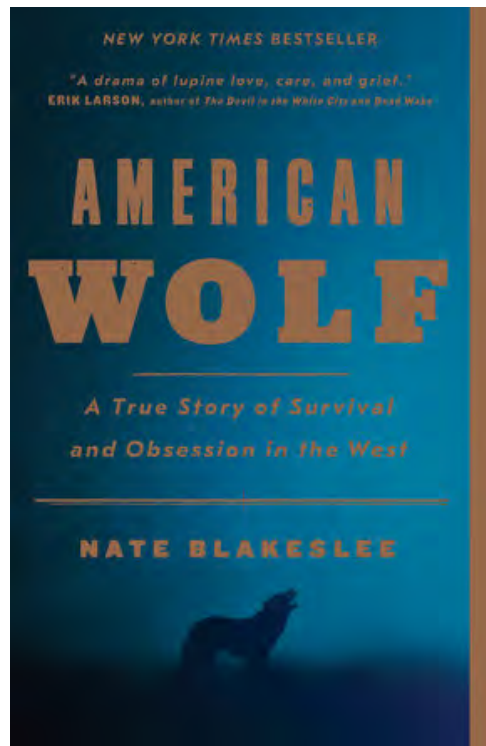
Yellowstone National Park is, of course, a big operation with lots of employees and visitors, many of whom want to see a wolf. Doug Smith, the Wolf Project's Chief Biologist, and Rick McIntyre, interpreter and storyteller, hold together the Wolf Program for visitors from

all over the world. But there is much more about Rick and the wolves that you will enjoy learning.

Just like hawk watching at Bake Oven Knob, wolf watching is addictive at Yellowstone. Besides the day visitors, there are people who come back for a week, a month, and all summer, year after year to watch wolves under Rick's tutelage and to help find them with their cars and "Rick Radio." Then there are the local hardy souls who are out looking for wolves with Rick every day the roads are passable. Rick keeps extensive daily notes on all his observations and Laurie Lyman, one of the year-round volunteers, sends out a daily chronicle by email to all their wolf watching friends across the country.

Be sure to read the Prologue and Epilogue of this well-told tale about real wolves and people.

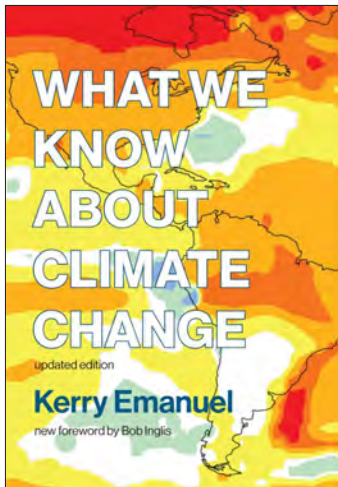
Review by Nelson Markley 



Wildlife Book Reviews

Fritz H. Brock (FHB), Donald S. Heintzelman (DSH), and Robert E. Hoopes (REH)

What We Know About Climate Change by Kerry Emanuel. 2018. Paper. 69 pages. The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA. \$15.95.



Many scientists agree that significant increases in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere in recent decades, related to human activity, create potential dangers. These can include an increase in the intensity and power of hurricanes and flooding and rapidly advancing deserts. In this brief and easy-to-read text, the author outlines the basic science of global warming. The reader is provided a synopsis of the difficulties

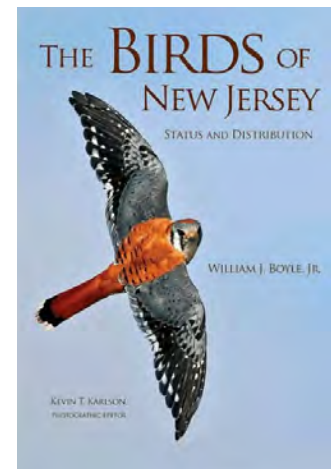
and challenges in monitoring and predicting climate change, even as we can accurately measure many of the variables independently. Various climate models, when considered collectively, suggest that the globe will continue to warm by 3-7 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century. The author's clear and simple explanations can help the reader understand what it all means, and they outline our options for making a positive difference to this heating trend. These options are covered in three broad categories: curtailing emissions of greenhouse gases (mitigation), learning to live with the consequences (adaption), and engineering to address the issues (geoengineering). *REH*

important information on recognition, classification, taxonomy, behavior, distribution and habitat, evolution and fossil record, domestication, and conservation status. There also is a section on how to use the book. The guide divides canids into four taxonomic groups – South American canids, wolf-like canids, red fox-like canids, and gray and island foxes. Each species covered is presented by a number of nice photographs that show the animal in different postures (standing, walking, sitting) and at different angles. Also included is a small silhouette of a man and the canid that shows the animal's size relative to a human. A small-scale map for each species shows, generally, where the animal can be found. *Canids of the World* is an excellent book for anyone who is interested in this popular family of mammals. It would have been nice if the text were bigger, but that would have required a larger guide. You just cannot have everything, I guess. *FHB*

The Birds of New Jersey: Status and Distribution

by William J. Boyle, Jr. 2011. 308 pages. Paper. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. \$24.95.

This is the latest book about New Jersey birds, bringing up-to-date information on the birds of the state. The text for each species is brief, and there is a color photo with each species write-up. Most of the color photos are excellent. There is a long bibliography, but it does not include the New Jersey State Museum book *The Hawks of New Jersey*. I recommend this book to anybody interested in New Jersey's birds. *DSH*

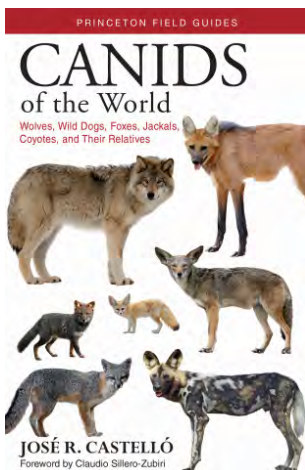


Ospreys – The Revival of a Global Raptor. Alan F. Poole. 2019. 220 pages. Cloth. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD. \$39.95.

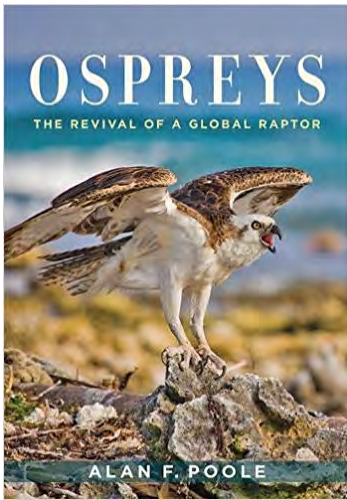
Ospreys are one of the few bird species found throughout the world. They steal the show as

Canids of the World. Jose R. Castello. 2018. 331 pages. Paper. Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford. \$29.95.

Canids, which includes domestic dogs and wild mammals, such as foxes, wolves, jackals, and wild dogs, are well covered in this informative and interesting guide. The guide is devoted only to wild canids. The introduction provides a lot of



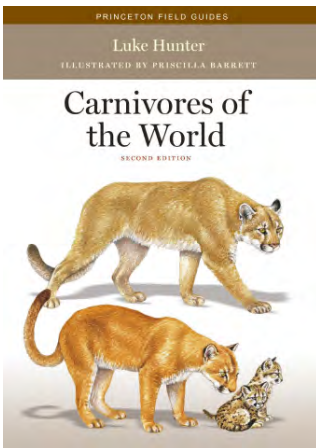
nature lovers easily watch them build their massive nests and tend to their young. As widespread as Ospreys are today, not long ago, they, like the



Bald Eagle, were under the threat of extinction due to pesticides, in particular DDT. In the 1980s, Ospreys began a slow recovery thanks to the banning of DDT, the efforts of conservationists, and through the resilience of the birds themselves. Today, Ospreys are considered common in many parts of the world that have nesting habitat.

As an example, the number of active Osprey nests in the Chesapeake Bay region has increased from about 1,500 in 1975 to 9,000 in 2010. I found one of the most interesting parts of the book to be the section on how satellite transmitters are used to track Ospreys. We now know the precise areas where they migrate and how long it takes to get there. Alan Pool, the book's author, is considered one of the world's premier Osprey experts. His excellent book is easy reading and very informative. It is also full of great color photographs and informative maps. I recommend it to anyone interested in these fascinating birds. *FHB*

Carnivores of the World, Luke Hunter. 2018. Paper. 256 pages. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. \$29.95.



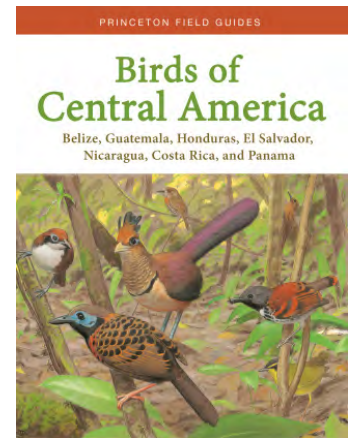
This user-friendly guide covers all 250 species of terrestrial carnivores (united in a shared ancestry of subsisting mainly on meat). It is illustrated with colored drawings of most on 93 color plates, supported by small range maps to give the user an idea of each species' world-wide distribution. Some of today's carnivores eat little

or no meat, but all members of order Carnivora trace their ancestry back to a small civet-like carnivorous

ancestor that lived more than 60 million years ago. Covered in this book are the 13 terrestrial carnivore families: cats, hyaenas, mongooses, fosa and allies, linsangs, civets/genets/oyans, African palm-civet, dogs, bears, racoons/coatis and allies, red panda, skunks and stink-badgers, and badgers/martens/weasels, and otters. Excluded are three chiefly marine carnivore families: the sea-lions, seals, and walruses. The author recognizes that they belong within Carnivora and notes that they are covered in "many excellent field guides to marine mammals." The individual species accounts are excellent and are aligned with the related color plates and range maps. The print-type is quite small, presumably to hold down the page count. This is a really nice guide, providing handy accounts of the world's carnivores from the polar bear (largest) to the tiny least weasel (smallest). *REH*

Birds of Central America. Andrew C. Valley and Dale Dyer. 2018. 584 pages. Paper. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. \$49.50.

Birds of Central America is the first comprehensive field guide to the birds of the entire region that includes Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. The book presents text and illustrations for nearly 1,200 resident and migrant species, and information on all rare vagrants. The guide also contains up-to-date range maps and concise notes on distribution, habitat, behavior, and voice. An introduction provides a brief overview of the region's landscape, climate, and geography. The guide is the result of more than a decade of research and experience by the two authors. I recommend it for anyone who plans to do some birding in these seven countries. *FHB*



Andrew C. Valley and Dale Dyer

Mammalogy Techniques Lab Manual, by James M. Ryan. 2018. Paper. 179 pages. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD. \$39.95.

This book has been described as the only field manual devoted to training the next generation of

mammalogists. It is a compendium of modern research techniques used in the field today to study mammals.



Such techniques include: skull/tooth identification, radio/satellite GPS tracking, phylogeny construction, mark/recapture techniques, camera trapping, museum specimen preparation, optimal foraging, and DNA extraction. The more than 60 applied exercises throughout the book provide students with opportunities to acquire essential scientific skills for working with animals. Each chapter is well

illustrated with numerous figures and tables. A student contemplating mammalian field research would be well-served utilizing this lab manual. *REH*

Birding Basics and Beyond. Kyle Carlsen and BWD Editors. 2015. 32 pages. Paper. Bird Watcher's Digest, Marietta, OH. \$4.99.



Birding is a major American hobby enjoyed by millions of people. Among topics in this booklet are tips on getting started, where to go birding, bird identification, backyard birding, networking, bird words, and additional resources. Most highly recommended. *DSH*

Enjoying Purple Martins More. Richard A. Wolinski. 1995. 32 pages. Paper. Bird Watcher's Digest, Marietta, OH. \$4.99.

Purple Martins are among our favorite birds, and this booklet provides all one needs to know about these birds and how to attract them. Among topics covered are basics, song, attracting them, colony management, troubleshooting, martin competitors, martin rescue, predators and parasites, etc. This is an essential Purple Martin reference for anyone interested in these birds. Most highly recommended. *DSH*



Like to Read? Like to Write?

Want to be in the next
Wildlife Activist?

Then Let us know!!!

We receive many books from many publishers that have to be *read and reviewed!*

If you are interested, contact us at
mail@lgnc.org
to find out more.

AMAZON SMILE Program

If you purchase items from Amazon and you participate in the Amazon Smile program, LGNC gets a half percent of everything you spend if you designate us for the donation. When you designate us, you need to use our official IRS name: **Wildlife Information Center, Inc.** Use this web address to connect to Amazon on behalf of LGNC/Wildlife Information Center: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2741693>. If you bookmark the page and click on it each time you shop at Amazon, it will automatically load the page that directs the donation to the Nature Center. Thanks!

Thrivent Financial Customers

For any LGNC members or friends who are also members of Thrivent Financial (formerly Lutheran Brotherhood and AAL), please note that you can direct your Thrivent Dollars to Lehigh Gap Nature Center. Our official IRS name is **Wildlife Information Center, Inc.** and that is the name listed on the Thrivent website. Log on to your account at *Thrivent.com* and click on "Memberships and Benefits" and "Thrivent Choice." Thrivent must make donations from their profits to nonprofit organizations. The funds do not come from your account. Please direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Wildlife Information Center (Lehigh Gap Nature Center), Slatington, PA.

New Members and Special Donations

Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership with LGNC. Your support really makes a difference at the Lehigh Gap. The following renewed above the basic or family level or contributed to a special fund:

Individual Level

Mary Abamonte
 Donald Beltz
 Ruth Bennyhoff
 Dee Berger
 Lynn Birney
 Nelle Bolton
 Gail Burfeind
 Doug & Judy Burton
 Brock Cahoon
 Peter Christine
 Joan Christopher
 George P. Dennis
 Lyla Derr
 John Dickerson
 Brenda Dudeck
 Jim Figlar
 Elizabeth Fleming
 Karen Freeman
 Rick Gaeta
 Dennis Glew
 Laurie Goodrich
 Greg Grammes
 Geryl Grilz
 Kathleen Guthrie
 Lynn Hontz
 Lish & Dan Howard
 Mary Ann Jenkins
 Sharon Karpiszin
 Patricia Kern
 Michael Kistler
 Priscilla Kistler
 Nancy Kovalchick
 Donna Laviola
 Mrs. Martha Lebovitz
 Sandra Magill
 Sally McMurry
 John Miller
 Ann Neubauer
 Matthew Gordon Noblit
 James Paris
 Elizabeth Parker
 David C. Paynter
 Kenneth Reif
 Dave Rohlfing
 Betty Schleicher
 Chad Schwartz
 Scott Serfass
 Michael Small
 Nicholas Smith
 Christy M Solowej
 Peter Stangherlin
 Carolyn & Paul Stein
 Grant Stevenson
 Nancy Thatcher
 Lisa Tyahla
 John Wasilowsky
 George W. & Ann Weisel
 Phil Yoder
 Faith Zerbe

Family Level

Slate & Janet Altenburg
 Rev & Joanna Anderson
 Thomas & Linda Anderson
 Melissa Armstrong
 Eric & Wendy Baltz
 Mike & Stephanie Bankos & Family
 Dennis, Debra, and Marci Barr
 Vicki & Brian Beck
 Daniel & Kim Belletti
 Wesley, Maria Beltz & Family
 Maureen Bet
 Bethlehem Garden Club
 Brian Birchak & Family
 Vernon Blose
 Mary & Neil Bogin
 Denise Booker
 Jamie Bothwell and Family
 Dr. Patricia Bradt
 Jason & Keshua Breidinger
 Scott Burnet & Linda Shankweiler
 Jim & Becky Christman
 L. William & Nancy S. Clark
 Mary Coover
 Michael Scott Crocco
 Margery & Errol Dech
 Michelle Dees
 Dennis DeMara
 Ghan Desai & Family
 Gerald, Cindy & Brett Diehl
 Lois Dilliard
 Bill & Julia Dougherty
 Keith & Sandra Dougherty
 Wes & Sue Earp
 Heath, Tom & Eileen Ganssle
 John M. & Sylvia Betz Gardner
 Jeff, MaryAnn, & Naomi Gilbert
 Linda Grey
 Andy & Lynne Harakal
 Mike & Judy Harakal
 Gene & Sharon Hardenberg
 David & Pat Hawk
 Angela Heiland
 Kimberly Heiman & Adam Clark
 Chris Hoffman & Marry Rooney
 Ann Hussein, Ph.D.
 Alan & Denise Jennings
 Kathleen Jones/Gerald Sinclair
 Darryl & Kim Keiser
 Larry & Connie Keith
 Joann & Joe Kercksmar
 Bruce & Claire Kleppinger

Devin Kline
 Nelson Klitzka
 Robin Koch/Charlene Bergstresser
 Carl & Darlene Kocher
 Rich & BJ Kunkel
 Trudy, Marcus & Jim Kunkle
 Dr. Margaret Libonati Leahy
 Leon & Elisabeth Leshock
 Barbara & Don Lowe
 Jeff & Debbie Lutz
 Marianne & Dave Macknis
 Edward Manning
 Carole & Arnold Marder
 Patricia and Kris Martin
 Dr. Michael Martinez & Family
 Wayne & Linda Mery
 Carol and Gary Miller
 Georgia & Joe Mock
 Keith & Jane Moyer
 Connie & Gary Nagy
 Shankar Nataraj
 Edward Newcomb
 Stephanie Nuzzo-Bongo
 James Ord
 Jane and Tom Ostroski
 Bonnie Pancoast
 Alison & Paul Pierpoint
 Julie & Luis Pineiro
 The Rappaport Family
 Jeanette Rinker
 Sheryl Roland
 Karen Rushatz
 John Ruszin
 Louise Schaefer
 Alan Severance
 Mary Ann & Jim Shafer
 Peggy Shannon & Randall Veitch
 Aaron & Beth Sheckler
 Lani Sherman
 Tom & Linda Sidor
 Brad & Sylvia Silfies
 Karen & Scott Sladovnik
 Slatington Moose Family Center #1375
 Clarence and Florence Smith
 Joanne Solliday
 Jed & Jan Starner
 Lee Stauber
 Elizabeth Stauffer
 Carol & John Stefanik
 Ilse Stoll & Allen Zinnes
 Michele Strohl & Jane Land
 Richard Taylor
 Sandra Todd & Terri Lynn Monroe
 Mr. & Mrs. Forrest A. Wessner, Jr.
 The Ken Zellner Family

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Larry & Susan Arner
 Robert Astleford
 Sandra J. Bachman
 Marjorie Balliet
 Debra & Scott Barhight
 Ribello M. Bertoni
 Martin Boksenbaum
 Barbara Bollinger
 Frederic Brock/Jennifer Ketay
 Mike & Gabi Cipollone
 Bev Cole
 Elizabeth Collins/Dr. John Weeks
 Joe Colosi
 Thomas Davies
 Sallie and James Davis
 LuAnn Domenico
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 John & Aimee Good
 Michael & Tara Grather
 Anne Griffin
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 Aleksandra Hanas
 Janet Hermann
 Steve, Shannon, Andrew & Emma Hirth
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 Jeffrey & Janet Kline
 Erin Kraal & Jacob Sewall
 Reuben Kunkle
 Dan R. & Lee Kunkle
 Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Assoc.
 Lehigh Valley Kayak & Canoe Club
 John & Christine Leskosky
 Mark & Debra Lilly
 Gerard Madden
 Mark & Ann McManus
 Mary O'Donnell-Miller
 Janet & Glenn Minnich
 Gerald & Amy Mistal
 Jay Mitchell & Julie Federico
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 Christine Nicholas
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Priscilla Offen/Patrick Clark
Cynthia Osmola
Michael Passaro
Janet Penner
Nicole Pudvah
Nicholas Rosato
Patricia & Robert Rossi
David M. Scheid
Joanne & William Scott
Michael & Bella Skweir
Susan Minnich, Trexler Library
Linda & Dwight Sweezy
Nancy & Brian Taras
John Wasilowsky
Dennis Wehr

Contributing Level

Christine Allen
Jim & Lisa Andrews
Mr. George Beam

Donald & Sonja Bowe
Kim DePue & Family
Barb & Doug Fogal
Ronald P. Hillegass
William Meckes
Daniel Nickischer
Dr. Liza Ovington
Kent & Jane Roberts
Christine Schuebel
Ron & Sue Virden
Clint & Sonja Walker
Karen & Eric Wolfgang

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Brenda & Charles Casper
George & Kathy Elliston
Pam Hoffner
The Husic Family

Marilyn Jordan & John
Gallagher
Carl & Marilee Oplinger
Mr. Brent Senseny & Linda
Cluck
Slatington Lions Club

Golden Eagle Level

Cameron & Diane Fowler
Rodney Fritzingler
John Higgins
Janet & Glenn Maurer
Lorraine Mineo
Cheryl Novak & Gary Gentile
Kathie Romano
Library Fund
Barbara Bollinger
Linda Finley

Education Fund

Gabriele Cipollone
Concourse Club
Leona Sivak
First Commonwealth *WE Thrive* LV Foundation Fund, a charitable fund of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation

Research Fund

Trudy, Jim & Marcus Kunkle

Lehigh Gap Fund (donations)

Rodney Fritzingler (monthly donations)
Linda and Dwight Sweezy

NOTE: Donations received after June 20 will be acknowledged in the next Wildlife Activist.

Donations

Grants and Contributions

\$10,000 or more

- PPL EITC donation

\$5,000 to \$10,000

- Alliance for Watershed Education
- Anonymous
- Pam Hoffner (Education)
- The Martin Guitar Charitable Fund (Education)

\$2,500 to \$4,999

- Keystone Savings Foundation (Education Technology)

\$1,000 to \$2,499

- BB&T, Palmerton Branch (Speaker Series)
- Mickley/Fravel Trust (Education and Recreation)
- Palmerton Citizens for a Clean Environment

Up to \$1,000

- The Air Products Foundation matching gift for Don Bowe
- Janet & Carl Busse, Jr.
- First Commonwealth *WE Thrive Fund* of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation
- The Concourse Club of Palmerton
- First Commonwealth FCU (Camp Subsidies)
- Johnson & Johnson matching gift for Liza Ovington and for Robert Edwards
- Kay and Dr. James Kintzel
- Northampton High School P.E.A.C.E. club
- The Woman's Club of Slatington

Business/Special Donations

- **Egan Bellesfield** donated remaining funds from his Eagle Scout project.
- **Barb Egerton** donated magazines.
- **Barb Egerton** donated ice cube trays for a new geology program.



- **Rick Gaeta** donated two bags of sunflower seed.
- **Greg Grammes** donated a microwave and two garbage cans.
- **Jean and Bob Hoopes** donated a new milk snake and enclosure.
- **Michal Kubik** donated a new black rat snake and enclosure.
- **Evelyn Kuserk** donated books from the library of her late husband, Dr. Frank Kuserk.
- **Deb Siglin** donated educational posters & DVDs.

In-Kind Donations

- **Appalachian Mountain Club** organized a cleanup on the Woodpecker Trail and Appalachian Trail.
- **Trevor Bennyhoff** donated ten nest boxes for sale.
- **Cub Pack 62** helped with the Earth Day cleanup.
- **Rodney Fritzingler** continues to donate \$5 to the Lehigh Gap Fund for every car he sells at Rentschler Chevrolet, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep.
- **Green Eagle Marketplace** donated 50 LGNC logo-imprinted canvas tote bags and six coffee mugs.
- **Attorney Holly Heintzelman** provides legal services.
- **John Gallagher** donated seven fine turned wood bowls.
- **John Hoffer** cut pieces for LGNC's nest boxes.
- **Stacey Nash** created a design for a nature play and exploration trail.
- **Bonnie Pancoast** donated materials for displays.
- **Reading Escapades & Math Explorers, Inc.** (**Christine Allen**) sponsors LGNC's EcoArt After School program each month.
- **Dan's Camera City** donated three prizes for the Nature in Photographs exhibition.

Library Donations

- William Clark
- John Leskosky
- Barb Egerton
- Nancy Taras
- Don Heintzelman

Volunteer Service

The Lehigh Gap Nature Center gratefully acknowledges the volunteer service of the following individuals from September 1-June 20 : **Jane Borbe and Anne Zagarella** for coordinating the Information Specialist team and to all the Info Specialists listed below; **Donna Gasser** for coordinating memberships, mailings, and many other things; **Bob Hoopes** for serving as our Controller in his role as Treasurer; **Nancy Taras** for leading the Cabin Fever Book Club and **Lee Sivak** for providing breakfast for the group; **Bonnie Pancoast** for serving as our Volunteer Liaison; all of the amazing speakers who participated in our 2018/19 Speaker Series; Maize keepers – **Gerry Madden and Joe Mock**; **Erna Lake** for embroidering LGNC apparel items for the gift shop; **Barb Wiemann** for serving as our Archivist; **Dr. Michael Martinez** for organizing the trail run and **Donna Gasser, Donna Hartenstine, and Melissa Miller** for assisting; **Anita Collins** for leading the Basic Biology series; **Anita Collins, Barb Egerton, Donna Gasser, Jan Maurer, Patty Passick, Lee Sivak, and Anne Zagarella** for their involvement with the Holiday Open House; **Geryl Grilz** for cataloguing our Feeder Watch data; **Patty Passick** for leading our monthly EcoArt classes; **Donna Gasser and Dave Husic** for serving on the Communications Team; **Phil Campbell, Anita Collins, Dave Levandusky, Cheryl Novak, Bonnie Pancoast, and Lee Sivak** for setting up the Nature in Art and Nature in Photos shows, and **Anita** for organizing the events; **Anita Collins, Eileen East, Donna Gasser, Deb Hamburger, Janet Minnich, Cheryl Novak, Bonnie Pancoast, and Kathie Romano** for planning Pollinator Day; **Ethan and Donna Gasser** for cleaning up the River Trail on Earth Day; **Access Services and C.A.R.E.S.** for helping us keep the Osprey House clean and organized; **John Hoffer** for cutting pieces for nest box kits; **Ben Connolly** for building a new picnic table for the LNE Trail; **Scott Burnet and John Higgins** for helping to build LGNC's new Purple Martin tower; **Jennifer Brock** for proofreading/editing the *Activist*; and, of course, our **Board of Directors and Board of Advisors**. It is difficult to thank all our wonderful volunteers enough – you are the heart and soul of Lehigh Gap Nature Center.

Interested in volunteering?

Contact Volunteer Liaison,
Bonnie Pancoast, at
volunteering@lgnc.org

Eagle Scout Projects

Mike Martineau – arboretum plantings and gate
Egan Bellesfield – new entrance sign and plantings
Tommy Zukowski – Purple Martin tower

Trail Crew Volunteers

Jim Gabovitz	Nick Rosato
Anne Griffin	Dennis Strong
Jeff Kindler	Barb Wiemann
Simon Molloy	

Garden Group

Anita Collins	Janet Minnich
Barb Egerton	Cheryl Novak
Donna Gasser	Leon Rodenbach
Deb Hamburg	Kathie Romano
Donna Hartenstine	Lee Sivak
John Hoffer	Joan Strong
Ed & Jan Maurer	

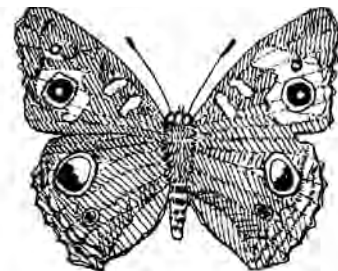
Education Team

Doug Burton	Jan Maurer
Barb Egerton	Kathie Romano
Donna Gasser	Lee Sivak
Pam Hoffner	Nancy Taras
Grace Lewis	Anne Zagarella

Information Desk Volunteers

The following individuals have served as Information Specialist volunteers in the past six months:

Dan Ahrens	Mike Shafer
Tim Bamford	Tim Sidor
Debbie Barr	Lee Sivak
Jane Borbe	Christy Solowej
Mary Coover	Lisa Steigerwalt
Sara Ertl	Nancy Taras
Donna Gasser	Nancy Thatcher
Dan Gaughan	Marie Tweed
Dennis George	Anne Zagarella
Lynne and Andy Harakal	
Donna Hartenstine	
Janet Hermann	
Pam Hoffner	
Lish Howard	
Georgia Mock	
Gary Nagy	
Bruce Rabenold	
Steve Shaud	



NOTE: *With all this activity, we are likely to miss some of our volunteers – let us know if we did, and we will add the names to the next Activist volunteer page!*

Lehigh Gap Nature Center Business Members - 2019

Supporters

Attorney Holly Heintzelman, Lehighton, 610-377-3111
BB&T, Walnutport, Lehighton, Palmerton
Bechtel's Pharmacy, Slatington, 610-767-4121
Becky's Drive In, Walnutport, 610-767-2249
Bennett Dodge, Lehighton, Bennett Pre-owned, Palmerton, 610-377-2642
Blue Mountain Ski Area, Palmerton, 610-826-7700
Carbon Surgical Associates, Palmerton, 610-826-4595
Dan's Camera City, Allentown, 610-434-2313
Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery, Orefield, 610-395-2570
Hallman Service Station, Slatington, 610-767-7667
Hill Home Forge Bed & Breakfast, Jim Thorpe, 570-325-0216
Key Bank, Slatington, Palmerton, Lehighton
George I. LaRose Insurance Ltd., Palmerton, 610-826-2397
Livengood Excavators, Walnutport, 610-767-5073
Lizard Creek Campground, Lehighton, 570-386-2911
PenTeleData, www.ptd.net, 1-800-281-3564
Pocono Whitewater Rafting, Jim Thorpe, 570-325-8430
Rentschler Chevrolet Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram, Slatington, 610-767-1171
William G. Schwab & Associates, Attorneys at Law, Lehighton, 610-377-5200
Service Construction Company Inc., Lehighton, 610-377-2111
Shea's Hardware, Inc., Palmerton, 610-826-2412
Sherry Dental PC, Lehighton, 570-386-6910
Steckel and Stopp: Attorneys at Law, Slatington, PA 610-767-3861
St. John Neumann Regional School, Palmerton/Slatington, 610-826-2354
T.K. Thomas Funeral Home, Palmerton, 610-826-2270
Tribe Yoga, Fogelsville, 484-239-8711
Wagner's Auto Body, Orefield, 610-398-3166
Wild Birds Unlimited, Allentown, 610-366-1725

Members

Cornerstone Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork, Lehighton, 484-347-6228
Hager Furniture, Palmerton, 610-826-2900
Reading Escapades & Math Explorers, Inc., Palmerton, 610-826-7323
Campton-Schisler Funeral Home, Palmerton, 610-826-2377

***We encourage our members to support these local businesses that support
Lehigh Gap Nature Center.***

Endowment Fund Update

Thanks to numerous donations, memorial gifts, bequests, leaf tile sponsorships, designation of Thrivent Dollars and Amazon Smiles purchases, quilt raffle proceeds, and a major donation to the Endowment Fund from an anonymous source, the LGNC Memorial/Endowment Fund now *exceeds \$1 million* in value. We have reached our medium-term goal for the Fund, and now have our sights set on a long-term goal of \$2 million. The current Board and staff are very interested in building a sufficient Endowment Fund to ensure the long-term sustainability of Lehigh Gap Nature Center. Donations go to the main Endowment Fund unless designated for one of our two special sub-funds – **Internship and Arboretum/Gardens**.

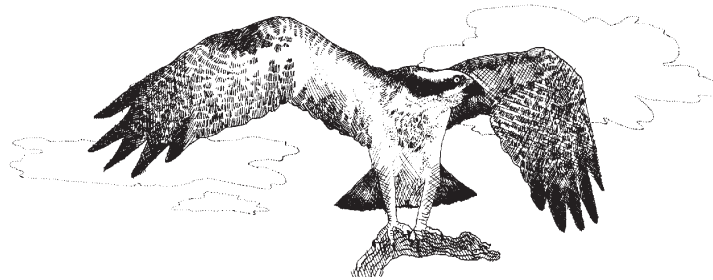
Memorial/Endowment Fund donations were received from the following: Lorraine Mineo, Mitchell & Cheryl Kozikowski, and Kristine & Thomas Mineo *in memory of Bill Mineo*; Robert Hoopes and Dan Kunkle & Lee Sivak *in memory of Catherine Hoopes*; Rev. David Anderson & Joanna Anderson *in honor of Donald Heintzelman*; Thomas Davies, Lee & Dan Kunkle, Kathleen & George Elliston, Karolyn Mintz, and Mary & James Hill *in memory of Henry "Fritz" Williams*; Allentown Hiking Club *in memory of Carl Griffin*; Helen Rogusky *in memory of Agnes Zawatsky*; Anthony Romano, Cheryl Novak, Nancy Taras, John & Barbara Egerton, Donna Gasser, and Lee & Dan Kunkle *in memory of Zachary Romano*; Nancy Taras, Donald & Susan Kipp, Lisa & Brian Wagner, Wally & Sandy Putkowski, Agnes Russo, Jean Niehoff, Alycia Kunkle, Patsy, Kris, Randy, & Steve Kunkle and families, and Lee & Dan Kunkle *in honor of Reuben Kunkle's 90th birthday*; Guardian matching gift *in honor of Joanne Soliday*; Theresa Phillips; Janet Wright Starnier; and David Stech & Jill Youngken. Thanks to everyone who supported the quilt raffle – over \$4,000 was raised for Internship fund.

Anyone can help build the Endowment Fund by making donations in memory or honor of family members and friends. **Please consider naming the Lehigh Gap Nature Center as the charity of choice for memorial**

donations, or to honor someone on a birthday, holiday, or special occasion.

Individuals can obtain significant tax benefits from donations of such items as appreciated stocks, real estate, whole life insurance policies or other valuable assets that would be taxable if sold or redeemed by the owner. You may also want to talk with us about charitable remainder trusts and other planned giving opportunities that allow you to donate assets in return for a lifetime annuity. A couple who are members of LGNC recently informed us that they have set up a trust and that the Nature Center will receive the capital invested in 2020.

Another way of helping the financial needs of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center is to include our organization in your will. Donations can include anything of value such as real estate, stocks and bonds, works of art, or coin and stamp collections. Suitable language could include the following: "I give, devise and bequeath to the Lehigh Gap Nature Center (Wildlife Information Center, Inc.), a nonprofit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), whose present address is P.O. Box 198, Slatington, PA 18080-0198, the sum of \$_____ and/or (specifically describe property)." Or you may decide to designate a percentage of your estate as a bequest to LGNC.



Members and friends who have included us in their wills or made us a beneficiary of a trust or insurance policy become members of the **Osprey Society**. Please let us know if you have named LGNC as a beneficiary, and we will acknowledge that future donation by naming you as a member of the Osprey Society. Current Osprey Society members are Dan Kunkle and Stephen Boudreau.

Endowment Fund donations are gifts that permanently help generate income for the Lehigh Gap Nature Center's operations. **This is one of the most important ways you can help LGNC – donate to the Endowment Fund now and/or make a bequest to us in your will. Thank you for your support.**

NOTE: Donations and memberships received after June 20, 2019 will be acknowledged in the next *Wildlife Activist*.

Support the Lehigh Gap Nature Center

The Lehigh Gap Nature Center is a member-supported conservation organization. The mission of Lehigh Gap Nature Center is “to protect the wildlife and enhance the habitats of our Refuge, the neighboring Kittatinny Ridge, and the Lehigh River Watershed through conservation, education, research, and outdoor recreation to improve the quality of life of present and future generations.” Our office is located in the Opsrey House at the Lehigh Gap Wildlife Refuge, our 750+ acre wildlife sanctuary. Our research projects, education programs, library, and internship programs need special support. Memorial fund donations will be permanently invested to produce interest to help operate the Center. All dues and donations are federally tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

“Friends” receive “Lehigh Gap Update” newsletter twice a year. All other members receive *Wildlife Activist* two times per year and an annual issue of *American Hawkwatcher* with the year’s Bake Oven Knob Hawk Count.

Thank you for supporting LGNC

Membership Form

Renewal New Member

Donation Level

- Friend of LGNC \$25 Name: _____
- Individual \$40 Address: _____
- Family \$50 _____
- Sustaining \$100 _____
- Contributing \$250 Phone: _____
- Patron \$500 Email: _____
- Golden Eagle Donor \$1,000

Please mail this form with check payable to:
Lehigh Gap Nature Center, P.O. Box 198, Slatington, PA 18080

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL DONATIONS

- \$ _____ **Lehigh Gap Capital Fund** --supports improvements/maintenance on Refuge
- \$ _____ **Memorial/Endowment Fund** -- interest used to operate Nature Center
- \$ _____ **Educational Fund** -- supports the Center’s education programs and internships
- \$ _____ **Library/Archives Fund** -- funds subscriptions, books, archival storage
- \$ _____ **Research Fund** -- supports the Center’s wildlife research projects/internships

Gift Membership Offer

Members who renew at the Sustaining (\$100) or higher level may name a family member or friend for a gift membership to LGNC. Help us spread the word by nominating someone for a gift membership with your generous renewal.



**LEHIGH GAP
NATURE CENTER**

(Wildlife Information Center)

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610-760-8889 • www.lgnc.org • lgnc@ptd.net

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