

Pennsylvania Wildlife

SPRING 2018

IN THIS ISSUE:

Returning the Mighty Giant

The Beetles are Coming
Reflections from John Arway
Richard Crossley
and more!





Wildlife for Everyone Foundation

341 Science Park Road, Suite 103
State College, PA 16803-2287

(814) 238-8138

info@wildlifeforeveryone.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN

Russ Schleiden

VICE CHAIR

Janet Nyce

TREASURER

Bill Bennett

SECRETARY

Michael Schaul

John Blaschak

Margaret Brittingham

Ashley Diehl

James Eckles

John Frailey

Mike Harpster

Gregory Isabella

Ralph Martone

Reed McCormick

Mike Mulvihill

Janet Nyce

Dave Putnam

Jay Stauffer

PRESIDENT

Jerry Regan

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Bryan Burhans

Thomas Grohol

Richard Palmer

PA Game Commission

OFFICE MANAGER

Judy Onufrak

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Barb Schroeder

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Suzanne Paterno

Tom Ridge

John Riley

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Terry Brady, *Press Secretary DCNR*

Bryan Burhans, *Executive Director PGC*

Eric Levis, *Press Secretary, PFBC*

Ralph Martone, *WFE, NWTF & POWA
Board Member*

Mark Nale, *Outdoor Columnist and Photographer*

Lee Peterson, *Naturalist & Author*

Jay Stauffer, *WFE Board Member and PSU
Professor*

SDPcreative, *Publication Design*

The mission of the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation is to promote wildlife conservation and education in Pennsylvania.

www.wildlifeforeveryone.org

spring 2018 CONTENTS



Cover photo: Forest History Service.

FEATURES:

4 RETURNING THE MIGHTY GIANT
By Bryan Burhans. The American Chestnut come back story.

8 WATCH OUT LOOSESTRIFE, THE BEETLES ARE COMING
By Barb Schroeder. New invasive management tools.

11 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS & INTERNS
Meet our first recipients.

12 REFLECTIONS
By John Arway. 38 years of conservation service.

14 GALA CELEBRATION UPDATE
First Gala raised \$50,000.

16 PROFILES IN CONSERVATION
By Ralph Martone. Featuring John Blaschak.

18 RICHARD CROSSLEY INTERVIEW
By Mark Nale. The world's most passionate birder.

20 LEE PETERSON INTERVIEW
By Isabel Romanowski. An American Icon.

22 NEW WILDLIFE CENTER & PLEDGE
Creating new connections and access.

24 EVENTS
*Great Outdoor Picnic
Fly Fishing Tournament*

NEWS AND NOTES:

26 SEEDLINGS FOR SCHOOLS

27 MEMBERSHIP

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MAGAZINE SPONSORS:



JDN Foundation

One of our key priorities over the last year was to establish a wildlife scholarship fund with two goals in mind: first to inspire the next generation of conservationists by presenting scholarships to students to deepen their connection with nature and wildlife; and secondly to provide internships for some hands-on experience in how to manage conservation organizations. We have been fortunate to get things kicked-off in a big way in 2018 by making four scholarship awards and two internships in our inaugural class.

These young and accomplished students have reminded me how vitally important it is that we continue to find ways to provide these opportunities and connections. The six recipients represent some of the brightest and best of their generation and we want to encourage them to consider careers in conservation.

A hard reality to face is that many of our conservation boards across the country are getting older and lack diversity. It forces us to ponder how we are going to pass the torch to the next generation. It



Foundation's first scholars and interns

takes initiatives like this to get millennials hooked in and I hope you will consider becoming an investor in our

scholarship fund or create a named fund to be awarded each year.

I want to thank those who have supported our startup efforts for students. We hope to meet our goal of \$250,000 in the next year which will generate \$10,000 annually to be directed towards our future ambassadors of conservation. If you have been thinking about how you can make a real difference in wildlife conservation and inspiring our youth, this is it.

You will meet our students in this issue in addition to some other world class conservationists who decided to follow their passion for the outdoors because somebody in their life reached out and opened the door.

Yours in Conservation,

Jerry Regan, President



RETURNING THE MIGHTY GIANT

by

BRYAN BURHANS

Executive Director, PA Game Commission

After four miles of plodding along the Appalachian Trail, just north of Caledonia State Park, I was beginning to feel a hot spot developing on my foot. Of all the ailments that can strike a backpacker, blisters are my most feared.

As I sat down to change socks, I noticed chestnut burs scattered on the ground. I scanned the trees and found the source; a 10-inch diameter American chestnut. The tree was heavily infected with blight, and now was using its last remaining energy reserves in a useless attempt to reproduce.

This tree was a true American chestnut. Its roots could have been 200 to 300 years old, or ever older. The same blight fungus killing this tree today was the same fungus that decimated an estimated four billion chestnut trees during early 1900s throughout its historic range.

As I continued my hike I kept an eye open for more chestnut trees, and there were many. Although the chestnut is no longer a canopy tree in our forests, the sprouts from the root systems of trees that died over 100 years ago are very common, especially on Pennsylvania's ridges. These sprouts follow a natural cycle; they grow from the existing root system until the blight eventually finds and infects the tree and kills it. But the blight does not kill the root system, so the cycle of sprouting and top killing continues on today, although in vain.

The loss of the American chestnut was a true ecological disaster. The blight was first identified in New York City in 1904, although the

Bryan is the Executive Director for the PA Game Commission. Prior to joining the PGC, Bryan was the President and CEO of The American Chestnut Foundation.

blight likely had been introduced in the late 1890s. The chestnut blight was thought to be shipped in from Asia, possibly growing on imported Japanese and European chestnut tree seedlings.

The Chestnut blight was first identified in Pennsylvania in 1908, north of Philadelphia on the estate of Harold Pierce. With this discovery, Pennsylvania took the lead in efforts to stop further spread of the blight by creating the Pennsylvania Chestnut Tree Blight Commission in 1911. However, their valiant efforts failed and in 1913 the Chestnut Tree Blight Commission was disbanded.

The impact to wildlife raised an alarm with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Chestnuts were an important food source for many species of wildlife including: squirrels, wild turkey, deer, bear and grouse and others. Unlike oaks, chestnut trees flowered in early summer after the risk of frost was gone. By avoiding late freezes, chestnut trees produced a dependable crop of nuts every year.

The agency urged sportsmen to plant vines, shrubs and food-producing trees in an attempt to provide wildlife new food sources. In fact, the loss of the chestnut transformed the way the Game Commission managed wildlife by expanding the agency's effort and resources into habitat management rather than simply just setting season and bag limits for game species. A heavy focus on wildlife habitat management

continues today with almost 50 percent of the agency's budget allocated to improving wildlife habitat.

Chestnut wood was also very important to communities. Chestnut wood and bark was very high in tannic acid, a chemical used in the manufacturing of leather goods. Two-thirds of the tannic acid produced in the U.S. came from the chestnut. The wood was very valuable commercially as it was rot resistant, easy to work, light weight yet strong and used for fence posts, telegraph poles, coffins, barns, and houses.



RESCUING THE MIGHTY GIANT

The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) was formed in 1983 with the sole mission of restoring the American chestnut to its historic range. But in order to accomplish this, the Foundation had to first develop a chestnut that could survive the chestnut blight.

The Foundation has focused their efforts for the last three-and-a-half decades on using a traditional breeding program to incorporate blight-resistance from Asiatic chestnut species into local American chestnuts. The Pennsylvania-New Jersey Chapter of the Chestnut Foundation has an active breeding and conservation program which has conserved just over 200 wild American chestnuts.

“We have made many great advances in our breeding program throughout the original range of the American chestnut,” says foundation Director of Restoration, Sara Fitzsimmons, headquartered at Penn State. “Restoring a species to a landscape level will be a herculean task, but we are inching closer and the results are extremely encouraging.”

On another front, the New York Chapter of TACF and the State University of New York’s College of Environment Science & Forestry (SUNY-ESF) partnered to enact a program that uses biotechnology techniques to develop a chestnut resistant to the blight. Scientists have successfully taken a gene from wheat and inserted it into an American chestnut to produce a tree resistant to the blight.

“Restoring a species to a landscape level will be a herculean task, but we are inching closer and the results are extremely encouraging.”

-Sara Fitzsimmons



Photo credit: TACF

Above: Chestnut Bur.

Opposite Page: Controlled chestnut pollination, Meadowview Farm.

“Using these biotechnology strategies, SUNY-ESF scientists have been able to develop a chestnut which in some cases is showing levels of resistance higher than that of the Chinese chestnut,” said Fitzsimmons. “Genetic modification is tightly regulated by several federal agencies, and these clones will require significant outcrossing to thousands of native American chestnuts to create a diverse population suitable for restoration. Additional testing is needed before these trees will be approved and ready for range-wide planting.”

I am confident the American chestnut will someday be returned to Penn’s Woods. There is still much work ahead, but the team of dedicated scientists working for TACF gives us hope. Although I may never have the opportunity to lean back on a mature chestnut and listen to the thunder of a turkey’s gobble on a spring morning in my lifetime, I am optimistic that the next generation will someday experience the return of this mighty giant.

Watch out Loosestrife, the **BETTERLES ARE COMING**

by BARB SCHROEDER

The next time you want to step on that beetle, give it a second thought! Not all beetles are pests and some might even be beneficial. Consider the beetle *Galerucella Calmariensis*, commonly known as the Loosestrife Leaf Beetle. It is the biological control that has been proven to manage the destructive effects of the invasive Purple Loosestrife plant that thrives in water-rich places such as wetlands.



Photo© John Pogacnik

The Julian Wetlands, the northern parcel of the 55-acres of wetlands gifted to the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation by the WHM Group in 2010, has a Purple Loosestrife problem. Purple Loosestrife is a tall, spiky plant with purple flowers that stands out in a garden, which is why settlers imported the plant from Europe and Asia as early as the 1800s. It's also believed that Loosestrife seeds were embedded in the soil used as ballast in the European sailing ships that traveled to North America some 200+ years ago. The ship's load was discarded on our shores, and that was the beginning of the unchecked spread of this highly invasive plant.

Without a natural predator, Purple Loosestrife growth will engulf an area quickly, displacing native plants and reducing the ecological function of the host ecosystem. Several factors make this plant particularly problematic. First and foremost, there is no insect native to the United States that eats Purple Loosestrife. To compound that

disadvantage, each plant produces hundreds of thousands of seeds per year; and those seeds are hardy, surviving in the soil up to seven years until conditions are ripe for germination. To make matters worse, a single plant can produce as many as 30 stems from its central root mass, resulting in a dense thicket that blocks the sun from shorter plants and ultimately chokes them out. In addition, there is loss of critical habitat for ducks, birds and other animals that are unable to move through the impenetrable root system. Furthermore, the food sources that a wetland provides for a myriad of insects, birds and mammals are eliminated. As a result, biodiversity suffers as the variety of plants and animals that once populated the wetlands vanishes.

Enter the WHM Group, an environmental resource solutions company with an office in State College, PA. Guided by the expertise of Peter Backhaus, a wetlands scientist for WHM, the *Galerucella Calmariensis* beetle

was chosen as the bio-control method of treatment. Native to Europe, this beetle eats only Purple Loosestrife leaves, and in 1992 it was allowed into the United States as part of a program to control Purple Loosestrife. Since then, the Loosestrife Leaf Beetle has been released in over 27 states.

Other options for controlling Purple Loosestrife are hand-pulling and herbicides. Of course, administering an herbicide could negatively affect other plants and in turn, the animals that feed on them. Backhaus will purchase his environmentally-friendly beetles from a private vendor who breeds the beetles as well as collects them from large populations released to control the rampant Loosestrife.

According to Backhaus the tricky part is calculating the number of beetles to order because of the variables that need to be considered. Stocking density is extremely important. This number is affected by the concentration of Purple Loosestrife. If the plants are compact, a couple of acres of Purple Loosestrife can be cleared out in a year with fewer beetles. In the case of the Julian Wetlands, the plants are scattered and it will take longer. The climate also plays a role. If it's a particularly cold winter, the beetles may die and more will be needed. Backhaus estimates it may take 2–3 years to control the problem.

In preparation for the arrival of the beetles, Backhaus took a survey of where the Loosestrife plants are located on the property and marked them with stakes for easy

Photo © John Pogaenik



Eaten plant

identification. He hopes to secure the help of Penn State students to release about 500 adult beetles in late spring and to monitor their activity through the summer months. In fall, when the plants begin to die, Backhaus will check the area and ascertain whether he needs to order more beetles.

“I really hope this will have an educational component in the future, perhaps as part of the educational mission of the Wildlife Center,” comments Backhaus. The Wildlife Center will be developed on the Ridge and Julian Wetlands site and is projected for opening in spring 2019. “It has potential as a project for independent study, as well as for classes to administer and monitor the program’s progress. With the proper permits, school-age children can grow the beetles in class and release them at the end of the school year,” he adds.

“The Loosestrife Leaf Beetle is the best option for Loosestrife plant management because it has been shown to have no effect on native plants and it’s cost effective,” concludes Backhaus. Neighbors needn’t worry that the Loosestrife Leaf Beetle will eat their crops. Although the beetle can travel up to ½ mile, it eats Purple Loosestrife exclusively. By utilizing this biological control method, the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation will maintain a healthy wetland ecosystem that optimizes habitat and food sources for all species living within it.

“The Loosestrife Leaf Beetle is the best option for Loosestrife plant management because it has been shown to have no effect on native plants and it’s cost effective.”

–Peter Backhaus, WHM, Wetlands Scientist



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND INTERNS

The Wildlife for Everyone Foundation is honored to assist six university students with financial support and internships to advance their career goals. The newly-established Wildlife Scholarship Fund will benefit four students interested in advancing their career interest in a wildlife or conservation field.



Karl Suttman (Chalfont, PA) is a senior at Juniata College majoring in Wildlife Conservation. Karl's career goal is to work as a wildlife biologist at the federal or state level. While a student at Juniata, Karl was enrolled in a semester program at the field station at Juniata Raystown. He plans to use his scholarship money to offset conference fees that will inform him of the latest research and techniques in the wildlife field.



Brittany Pugliese (Hershey, PA) is a senior at Penn State-University Park campus studying Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences. She is president of the collegiate chapter of the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation. Brittany plans to attend veterinary school and is leaning towards studying small animal medicine with hopes of someday starting her own practice. Brittany will utilize the scholarship money to cover the cost of textbooks and supplies at veterinary school.



Sean Lauer (Cross Roads, PA) is a senior at Penn State-Dubois campus working toward a degree in Wildlife Technologies. He plans to pursue a master's degree and has accepted a Big Game Research Intern position with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Association this summer. Sean's long-term career goal is to become a large mammal biologist for a government agency.



Alisha Pushinsky (North Huntingdon, PA) is a senior at Penn State-University Park campus majoring in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. She has been accepted into the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine where she plans to specialize in zoological medicine. Her long-term career goal is to work with wild or exotic animals, either in a zoo or for the government. Alisha plans to use the scholarship money to purchase an iPad tablet required for admission to veterinary school.

Two student interns have been offered marketing/communications internships with the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation for the spring semester.



Isabel Romanowski (Franklin, PA) is a senior at Penn State-University Park campus majoring in Print Journalism with a minor in Spanish. She has held leadership positions in the Delta Phi Epsilon Fraternity chapter at Seton Hall University, New Jersey, before transferring to Penn State last year. She also studied in Spain over the summer months. Isabel hopes to pursue a career in public relations.



Anna Sassi (Plymouth Meeting, PA) is a junior majoring in Print Journalism with a minor in Digital Media Trends and Analytics. Anna is an active member of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity and a volunteer with Lifelink, an organization that supports high school students with special needs on the Penn State campus. She is also a member of the Public Relations Student Society of America. Anna's career goal is to work in the public relations industry.

SUPPORT THE WILDLIFE SCHOLARSHIP FUND A permanent fund will generate yearly awards to students interested in wildlife conservation. Please consider supporting our scholarship fund.



REFLECTIONS

from JOHN ARWAY
Executive Director, PA Fish and Boat Commission

Throughout most of my career, I have had to deal with the political process as I worked my way through the ranks from fisheries biologist to Executive Director. Most legislation involving conservation or recreation moves through the Pennsylvania General Assembly at a snail's pace. That is because it competes with other "more important" issues for the legislature's time and attention. When sportsmen were united and would speak in one voice, that voice would be heard by most legislators and it influenced their priorities for action. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania sportsmen have dissected the issues into specialized areas of interest which has diluted the power of the sportsmen's voice. On the fisheries side of politics, disparate rallying cries for wild trout, stocked trout, bass,

muskies, American shad, rare species, clean water, and healthy habitats polarize the debates and fragment our voices. It's even worse on the wildlife side with white-tailed deer, pheasants, ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, black bear, neo-tropical migrant birds, waterfowl, and forests all having their own organizations representing species-specific interests. Rather than using our energies to work together for common interests, we compete by fighting individual battles for special interests. Maybe it is time we took a lesson from Mother Nature. Perhaps we should join ranks much like the species we enjoy which share watersheds and landscapes without worry of political boundaries. Sharing food and living space force the species we care about to co-exist in communities and if they can't, they go extinct.



Wild Brook Trout near Snake River, Wyoming



Teaching the next generation

That may be the only way to regain the full power of our sportsmen's voice.

As I sit here writing this article, the legislature is busy acting on Senate Bill 935. If you are not familiar with the Bill, it amends Title 30 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes (Fish and Boat Code) §302. Executive director to simply say "(2) No individual may serve as the executive director for more than eight years." The bill was specifically written to apply a term limit to me and those who follow me. I have spent the past 38 years as a dedicated public servant working for our Commonwealth, 30 years as a PFBC fisheries biologist and the past 8 years as Executive Director. The time has passed in the "blink of an eye" and it has been the ride of a lifetime. I have been told that SB 935 is not a reflection of my performance and doing my duty in fulfilling the mission of the PFBC—to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities. However, the turmoil causing the Bill to be fast tracked may be more related to the rest of my signature line—fear no one.

I was mentored early in my career by a former PFBC Executive Director Ralph W. Abele who taught me to practice good science, use it to do the right things for the resource to further the agency mission and, above all, to tell the truth. Three principles of leadership I never forgot. Mr. Abele's advice guided me through courtroom battles with polluters, legislative testimony defending clean water and healthy habitats, public debates about stocked trout and wild trout, and finally practicing fiscal responsibility in times when the agency can't afford to do everything that everyone wants. My only remaining challenge is to find someone to accept the proverbial torch. Someone with the necessary vigor, passion and guts to carry on with the philosophy of Resource First so that future generations can enjoy the beauty and bounty provided by Penn's woods and waters.

Do Your Duty and Fear No One —R. W. ABELE

WILDLIFE FOUNDATION RAISES OVER \$50,000

On April 6, 2018, the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation held their first gala at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College, Pennsylvania. The event was a wild success that raised over \$50,000 to support student scholarships, a new accessible trail project and to support wildlife conservation and education in Pennsylvania. Some of the live auction items included a week-long trip to Tuscany, Italy; a seven-day African safari; and a dinner at Bentzel's Mill in York, PA.





Thank You to our Sponsors

GOLDEN EAGLE SPONSORS



Janet and Jim Nyce

AMERICAN CHESTNUT SPONSORS

Galen and Nancy Dreibelbis

John and Karen Gilliland



*Joe Mattioli & Ed Davis
Flora Designs*



MEDIA SPONSORS

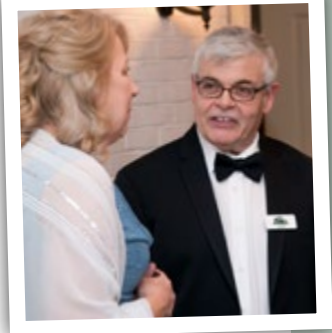


TABLE SPONSORS

*Andy and Chris Bater
Friends of Senator Jake*

*Corman
Kish Bank*

*Susan and Reed McCormick
Lourene and Jim Nevels
Jerry and Janice Regan*





John Blaschak

President, Fisher Mining Company

by RALPH MARTONE

A great blue heron stands stoically among the reeds and cattails, its long, slender neck curving out over water. The statuesque bird remains motionless, while its reflection yields to the occasional ripple traveling across the water. Nearby, hidden by the same cattails, a frog croaks a note of contentment over the scene.

Standing on the edge of the wetlands, John Blaschak surveys the scene with a sense of satisfaction.

John knows both the ancient and recent history of this wetlands and surrounding area and for good reason. Blaschak's company, Fisher Mining, played a major role in what the

wetlands and surrounding area look like today.

Not far from where John and the great blue heron stand, the horizon is a constantly changing landscape of spoil piles, access roads and massive machinery, including the booms of two large dragline excavators rending the earth in search of the by-product of another ancient wetlands, coal.

Blaschak knows first hand what lies below the surface of the heron's wetland; his company put it there. Like the current mining operation, where two enormous, multi-millions dollar draglines excavate through hundreds of feet of overburden to reach the



Fisher Mining pit

coal seam below, the nearby wetland once stood as a massive open wound in the earth.

But, with careful planning, a mind set on conservation and an eye toward the future, Fisher Mining, was able to turn what to many would appear a gaping laceration in the earth into a showcase of nature. And, as an added bonus, all this is happening on public land owned by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Visiting the mine site, John's attention is focused hundreds of feet below where the dragline has exposed the elusive coal seam. From his vantage point overlooking the expansive operation, Blaschak's demeanor is all business. It isn't until he turns to face the recently contoured landscape, where warm season grasses sway in the wind and the wetlands sparkle like jewels that his countenance softens and a thin smile brightens his expression. The contrasts aren't lost on Blaschak. While mining coal is his livelihood, reclamation and conservation are his passions.

John Blaschak, president of Fisher Mining Company, headquartered in Montoursville, PA, is a study in contrast. Owning and operating a coal mining company, John knows coal and coal mining. He should, he has spent a lifetime learning the business. While at the same time, Blaschak has shown a strong dedication to conservation and the natural world. A founding member of the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation, John currently serves on the Foundation's Board of Directors, committing substantial funding and maybe more

importantly, his time and talents to numerous Foundation projects.

Fisher Mining Company's current coal mining operation is located on a 66-acre section leased from the Game Commission in 2013. Blaschak has been mining and reclaiming portions of State Game Lands 75, located in Pine Township, Lycoming County since 1973.

Located not far from the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania, the 27,500-acre State Game Lands 75, in Lycoming County, is home to deer, bear, wild turkey and Pennsylvania's state bird, the ruffed grouse. In addition, several excellent trout streams offer outdoorsmen and women a wide variety of outstanding hunting, fishing and hiking opportunities.

When I asked John how many acres has the company restored, he shared many hundreds of acres have been reclaimed back into rich habitat for wildlife. "When we started here in the 1970s all the water fisheries exiting this site were barren and dead with no aquatic life. I am very proud of our conservation work over the decades and today every stream leaving our property is listed as a cold water fishery teaming with life and requiring no ongoing maintenance. We have a long held belief in combining coal and conservation and are very proud of our accomplishments and pleased to fund this work privately."



Created open wetlands 10 years following mining operation



Bird Guide Author
Richard Crossley

Visits Centre County

by MARK NALE

What person would make three trips, hitchhiking over 3,000 miles, just to see and photograph a rare Ross's gull? That very-driven person is Richard Crossley, internationally acclaimed birder, photographer and award-winning author of several bird identification guides.

I had the opportunity to spend a morning with Crossley in early April—and what an interesting gentleman he is.

Crossley, a native of England, became a United States citizen and now calls Cape May, New Jersey—what many consider the birding capital of the east coast—his home. He is the author and primary photographer for the very popular *Crossley ID Guide: Eastern Birds*, the

ID Guide: Raptors and the newly-released *ID Guide: Waterfowl*. He is co-author of *The Shorebird Guide*.

Crossley has two missions. One is to get more people involved in the outdoors and the second is to get the different users of the outdoors—hunters, anglers, birders and others—together to work for a common cause. His mission meshes perfectly with that of Wildlife For Everyone.

Crossley has been interested in birds since age seven, but he got into birding from a different vantage point than most in the United States.

“Actually, I was a naughty boy. I was an egg collector. My father and his father were both egg collectors, which was very popular in Europe

at the time. I didn't become a birder until I was introduced to it by Roy Sutton, a teacher, when I was ten. I then became obsessed with birding," explained Crossley.

"Had I grown up in the United States I probably would be a hunter, but hunting is not big in Great Britain," he added.

Both the Pennsylvania Game, and Fish and Boat commissions recognize that it is important to involve youth at an early age. The same is true for birding.

"All of the people that I know who are influential in conservation all started birding between the ages of nine and ten. And they were often influenced to get involved by a teacher or another outside person, rather than a parent," Crossley said. "We need to get more kids involved in the outdoors, whatever their passion might be—hunting, birding, hiking, fishing—they will grow up to be the ones who will make a difference. They will be the game changers."

On April 7, a lucky 16 people got to spend a few hours in the field with Crossley, his wife Deb, and Lee and Courtney Peterson. The group birded at both the Tom Ridge and Julian Wetlands—properties owned by Wildlife For Everyone.

In the field, Crossley stressed the same things that he does in his ID guides. That is learning birds by their habitat, behavior and general shape and size.

He pointed out how the Eastern Phoebe twitches its tail and how a pair of common mergansers flapped their wings rapidly as they flew by.

"If you look out the bloody window, what do you see? Not birds on a white background, but birds in their habitat," he said. "So birds on a white background have a complete disconnect with what is out there. I wanted a real life approach that tries to replicate what you see in nature. Showing many different poses and angles on a natural background helps the brain to understand. The best field guide should be lifelike. Learning birds is really about behavior and habitat. So in my guides, I put birds that wade together and birds that dive underwater together."

I asked Crossley why he gave Ducks Unlimited of Canada the Canadian distribution



Bird ID Guide author Richard Crossley shares his birding philosophy with the group at the Tom Ridge Wetlands.

Photo©Mark Nale

rights to his new waterfowl guide. And I was surprised by his answer.

"You mean, why did I send birders to a hunting group to get my book? I want everyone in Canada to go to them because I am a huge fan of Ducks Unlimited of Canada and all of the conservation work that they do," he answered. "I learned that DU is a hunting organization and a conservation organization. Some of their members that I met are the best birders around. The waterfowl guide is good for birders and hunters, and many decoy carvers are also purchasing it."

It was standing room only as over 150 people packed Crossley's program "There and Back," reception and book signing in State College. This program was presented to the public by Wildlife For Everyone and several generous donors.

"My mission is to get everyone to understand that birders and hunters are one in the same with a common goal. We all need to work together to accomplish that goal," Crossley told the group gathered at the Nittany Lion Inn. "That is one of the reasons that I like Wildlife For Everyone. They get hunters and other outdoor lovers together for a common goal."

It was great to spend a morning with a birding celebrity and that experience has brought me closer to nature. Richard and Deb Crossley are very down-to-earth people who love the outdoors and care about our environment. The world is a richer place because of them.

AN INTERVIEW WITH AN AMERICAN ICON

by ISABEL ROMANOWSKI

It's rare to come across someone who would forgo financial security to pursue a personal passion. One such person bold enough to chase his dreams was Roger Tory Peterson. He became one of our country's most notable conservationists, naturalists and artists. Last week, I had the opportunity to interview Roger's youngest son, naturalist Lee Peterson. I was able to learn more about Lee, his father and the amazing legacy that this family created and found in America. Lee grew up following in his father's footsteps and continues to look to his work for inspiration while creating his own path. Lee Peterson lives with his wife Courtney near Philadelphia, west of Lincoln University, PA. They reside on a 30-acre farm which is also home to their jewelry design shop, Courtney Designs.

IR: Did you know all along that you would work in a natural field?

PETERSON: Yes, basically. I always figured I would end up working in natural history. I first got involved as a kid by collecting insects, but my primary interest was geology.

IR: What was it like traveling with your father and what do you think his biggest accomplishment was?

PETERSON: Traveling with my father was always interesting. He basically focused on what he was doing and that led him to meet so many interesting and wonderful people from all walks of life. I'd say his greatest accomplishment was undoubtedly his

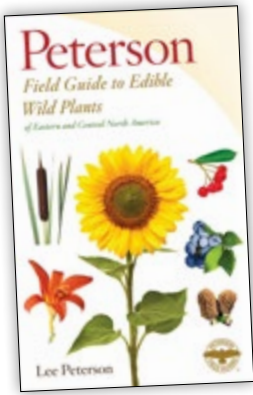


Peterson leads an informational tour on edible wild plants.

series of Peterson field guides to birds. He modernized our approach to natural history and natural studies. There was only a small group of naturalists before he came along, and he was able to open the natural world to a much larger audience. There was always a common thread growing up of meeting with the same people who shared a real passion and enthusiasm for birds. I discovered that natural history is about the process and just getting out there. I have always enjoyed fishing—not necessarily the part about catching the fish, but a passion for wading in the streams and being out experiencing nature. That is what it's all about for me.

IR: What prompted you to write your *Peterson Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants*?

PETERSON: As I mentioned, geology was always my primary interest, but I also had a general interest in natural history. My interest in botany came from teaching in the same summer camp my father had taught at before



writing the first edition of his field guide. I was teaching natural history and wood craft skills. A friend lent me a copy of Euell Gibbon's *Stalking the Wildest Asparagus*, to use as a teaching tool. The kids I taught got excited because it was something useful to them. After that, I just got deeper and deeper into it. After college, I didn't know what I wanted to do, and a family friend reassured me that I could do almost anything. So, I decided to follow what interested me, which is how my "Peterson Guide to Edible Plants" came into existence.

IR: What piece of advice would you give to someone thinking about a career in the nature field?

PETERSON: (*laughs*) You're probably not going to be rich—but you will be content. It's a very satisfying lifestyle. You can pass information on to others which makes you feel like you're doing good work. It is a very healthy and positive lifestyle. My father basically created his own job. There were very few people who did natural history writing and art as a living; maybe John James Audubon was the first. My father was a millionaire naturalist who followed his passion and achieved wonderful financial success. Every year his income was greater than the year before. This certainly wasn't very typical. He pursued this field for the personal satisfaction and it was well worth it for him and for me.

IR: What are your favorite wild plant recipes?

PETERSON: That's a tough question because there are so many good ones! One of my all-time favorites is blueberry pie. I can remember when I was spending time up in Maine and I picked blueberries that ended up becoming a blueberry pie. It was so cool to make the connection between something in the outdoors and something that was wonderful to eat.

IR: What do you think about the work the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation is doing?

PETERSON: I can say that I would not be volunteering to help with this organization if I didn't think highly of it. This organization crosses so many different boundaries and connects so many people who share a common interest. I feel strongly about the need to balance our artificial world with something not under our control, something that is subject to a different rhythm. The outdoors are essential and anything that promotes the outdoors and the furthering of the outdoors is worthwhile. We need that touchstone in our lives.

IR: Are you optimistic about the future of conservation in our country?

PETERSON: We go through our rough patches, however in general, "yes" I am optimistic. We need to spend time in the outdoors; it is a strong and basic need. A huge lesson I learned through my father growing up concerning the outdoors is resilience. The outdoors is a resilient thing. Nature has a way of turning the tides and healing. It is never too late to heal the wounds. Given the right will and circumstance, most things can recover. There is always hope for the future. If attitudes change, we can do almost anything to modify our surroundings.

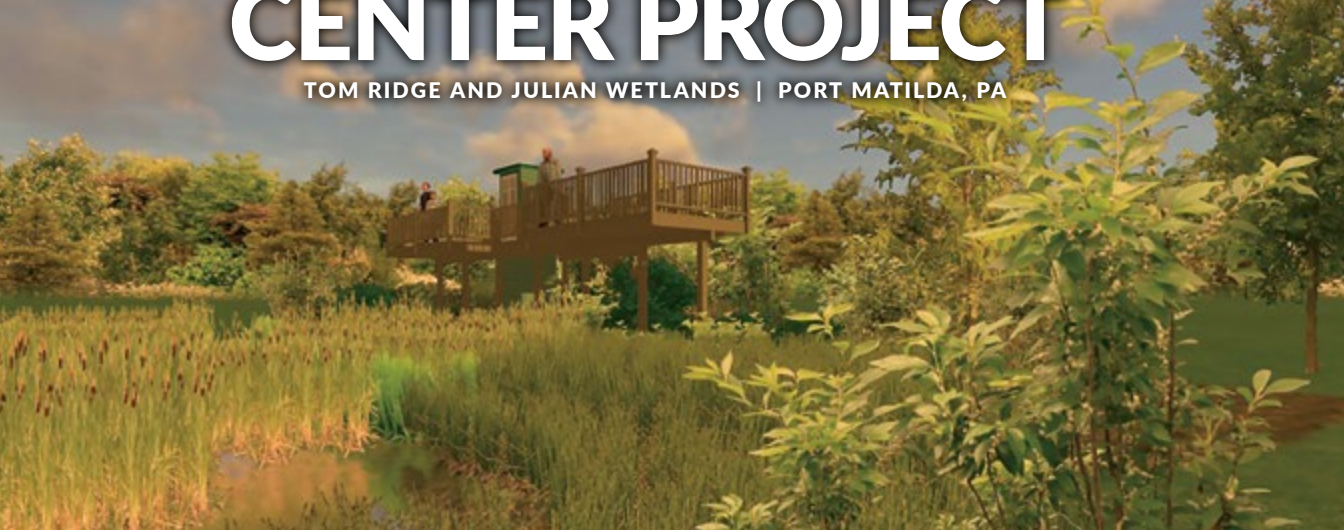


Lee and Courtney Peterson at their 30-acre farm, located west of Lincoln University, PA.



THE WILDLIFE CENTER PROJECT

TOM RIDGE AND JULIAN WETLANDS | PORT MATILDA, PA



New Wildlife Center Naming Opportunities

Tom Ridge Wetlands

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES	DONATION
Name New Wildlife Center	\$1,000,000
Education Pavilion with Fireplace	\$200,000
Endowing the Program	\$200,000
Accessible Trails	\$100,000
Accessible Fishing Area	\$50,000
White Pine Grove	\$25,000
American Chestnut Grove	\$25,000
Wildlife Garden	\$25,000
Individual Endowments	\$10,000
Benches	\$5,000
Interpretative Signs	\$2,500
Trees	\$1,000

Julian Wetlands

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES	DONATION
Name Julian Wetlands	\$250,000
Accessible Wildlife Blind	\$50,000
Remote Wildlife Blind	\$25,000
Individual Endowments	\$10,000
Interpretative Signs	\$2,500



All donations of \$1,000 or more will receive special recognition.

My Pledge to the Wildlife Center Project

Total pledge: \$ _____ Paid herewith: \$ _____

Balance: \$ _____ to be paid annually semi-annually quarterly monthly

over a period of 1 2 3 4 5 years, beginning _____, _____
(CIRCLE ONE) (MONTH) (YEAR)

Charge my credit card automatically for each payment: VISA MasterCard AmEx Discover

Name on Card: _____

Account Number: _____ Expiration: ____ / ____ CVV#: _____

Donor: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

This is my personal company company matching gift

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Please make checks payable to: Wildlife for Everyone Foundation
 341 Science Park Road, Suite 103 • State College, PA 16803**

*Donor acknowledges and agrees that the Foundation has relied upon the fulfillment of this entire pledge
 in deciding to pursue the construction and endowment of the Project.*

EVENTS



GREAT OUTDOOR PICNIC

Saturday, June 23, 2018

Penn's Cave & Wildlife Park

Fun Family Event—Build a blue bird box, try your hand at fly casting, archery or BB gun range plus even more prizes planned for the 2018 event!

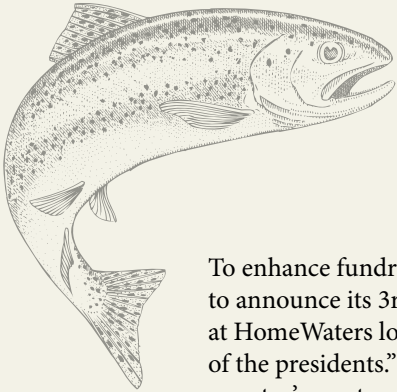
Also Featuring Clyde Peelings Reptiland

Buy your tickets today by contacting our office at 814.238.8138





ANGLING FOR WILDLIFE
 SPRUCE CREEK CLASSIC
fly fishing tournament



Monday, September 17, 2018

HomeWaters Club ★ Spruce Creek, PA

\$500 per angler

Benefitting Breast Cancer Patients and PA Wildlife

To register or for more information, please visit

www.wildlifeforeveryone.org or call (814) 238-8138.

To enhance fundraising efforts, the Wildlife For Everyone Foundation is pleased to announce its 3rd annual fly fishing tournament. The event will take place at HomeWaters located in Spruce Creek, PA, also known as “the trout streams of the presidents.” The New York Times recently described it as “probably the country’s most exclusive fly fishing waters.” Fishing enthusiasts will test their skills in one of the nation’s best trout streams, located right here in central Pennsylvania.

Wildlife For Everyone Foundation is partnering with Casting for Recovery to host the tournament. The organizations will split the proceeds. Casting for Recovery enhances the quality of life of women with breast cancer through a unique retreat program that combines breast cancer education and peer support with the therapeutic sport of fly fishing. To learn more about this organization visit www.castingforrecovery.org.

**Casting for
 Recovery**
 Western Pennsylvania



Seedlings for Schools

SEEDLINGS FOR SCHOOLS

Making connections that will last a lifetime

This program reaches out to school-age children throughout PA to connect them with nature and learn the importance of conservation. Please consider making a donation.



Thank You to our Seedlings for Schools Sponsors:



Anonymous Foundation

Janet and Jim Nyce

The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation

Jennifer Speers

Howard Nursery celebrating its 60th Anniversary



SPRING MEMBERSHIP

Support Pennsylvania's Wildlife and Habitat by becoming a member today!

YES! I want to help the Wildlife For Everyone Foundation expand its conservation mission. Please accept my gift of:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| _____ Bald Eagle - \$1,000 | _____ Wild Turkey - \$50 |
| _____ River Otter - \$500 | _____ Bluebird - \$25 |
| _____ Ruffed Grouse - \$250 | _____ Student Membership - \$10 |
| _____ Brook Trout - \$100 | _____ Other - \$ _____ |

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO DESIGNATE A GIFT OF \$ _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

Please provide an address for acknowledgment:



Thank you!

Please do not send me the gift at my membership level.

Make check payable to:
Wildlife For Everyone Foundation
341 Science Park Road
State College, PA 16803

Wildlife For Everyone Foundation is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. Membership and gift memberships are tax deductible. Certain benefits may reduce the tax-deductible amount. Please consult your accountant.

Please complete the above form or visit our website at www.wildlifeeveryone.org

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| BALD EAGLE (\$1,000) | Membership Gift: Commemorative President's Pin, Invitation to join the President's Wildlife Circle |
| RIVER OTTER (\$500) | Membership Gift: Special leather edition of <i>Gone for Another Day</i> , excerpts from the journals of naturalist & artist Ned Smith |
| RUFFED GROUSE (\$250) | Membership Gift: Embroidered Leather Bag |
| BROOK TROUT (\$100) | Membership Gift: <i>The History of the PA Fish and Boat Commission</i> book |
| WILD TURKEY (\$50) | Membership Gift: Flashlight |
| BLUEBIRD (\$25) | Membership Gift: Birding Guide |
| STUDENT (\$10) | Membership Gift: Embroidered Foundation Patch |



Each membership includes a subscription to our magazine



The mission of the Wildlife For Everyone Foundation is to promote wildlife conservation and education in Pennsylvania.



Wildlife For Everyone Foundation
341 Science Park Road
State College, PA 16803

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
State College, PA
Permit #213



**Support PA Wildlife
by becoming a
member, JOIN
TODAY!**