

Wissahickon Nature Club

September 26, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Wildbird Recovery, by Stacey Widenhofer. Rehabilitation centers are a vital link between wild animals and their habitat and the public. Veterinarians are permitted to provide supportive care to injured wild animals. Licensed rehabilitators give care and release animals back to the wild. Stacey will enlighten us about the world of a wildlife rehabilitation center.



Roseate Skimmer, "Orthemis ferruginea" at Tiger Bay State Forest, by Chuck Tague

Don't miss our next meeting. October 10, Photos from Steve's birding adventures, by Steve Gosser. Before 2005 Steve knew very little about birds and could only identify a few. In December of 2004 he saw a lovely Northern Cardinal perched in a nearby bush as it began to snow and thought that might be a nice picture. To his amazement it got the highest ratings of any photo he submitted to Photo.net. Steve credits this picture for starting his love and addiction to bird photography and bird watching.

Bloggers

Chuck Tague Read the Nature Observer blog at <http://ctague.pairserver.com/Natureobserver/Welcome.html>

Kate St. John <http://www.wqed.org/birdblog/>

Tom Pawlesh www.blurb.com/bookstore/search?search=pawlesh&commit=Search

Steve Gosser <http://home.comcast.net/~sgosser/>

Cool Video; Fox Calls

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6NuhlibHsM>

Announcements

Treasurer's Report

According to Treasurer **Dianne Machesney:**

Previous	\$928.77
Deposit dues	\$91.30
Disbursements:	
Wine & Cheese	\$46.92
Current Balance:	\$973.15

Annual Dues are Due in
September

Individual \$7.00 Family \$10.00

Make checks payable to:
Wissahickon Nature Club

Mail to:

Dianne Machesney, Treasurer
105 Lindley Lane, Pittsburgh,
PA 15237-1805

Special Donations

For tonight, please donate an item from Wildbird Recovery's Wish List. <http://www.wildbirdrecovery.org>

Worth Repeating

There is a harmony in autumn,
and a luster in its sky, which
through the summer is not
heard or seen, as if it could not
be, as if it had not been!
Percy Bysshe Shelley

What to Look For by Chuck Tague, Nature Observer News

Phenologic perspective: September 8 through September 29, 2001

Keep an eye out for migrating songbirds – the last waves of migrating warblers will be passing through by the end of the month. Toward the end of the month look for Yellow-rumped Warblers, kinglets and flocks of sparrows. Look for grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers in their spotty yellow plumage, cuckoos, flycatchers and vireos. In the evening the flocks of American Robins, blackbirds and European Starlings will increase. When will the Broad-winged Hawks peak at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch? Some of the hawkwatchers think the good numbers in the first week of September might indicate an early flight. The count will get higher for the next two weeks. In Pennsylvania the peak is usually near the third week of September. Hope for east winds during the peak. Osprey, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers and American Kestrels also pass through in good numbers in September. As the month ends, watch for an increase in the number of Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper's Hawks.

County Parks, please help

submitted by Kate St. John,

I am writing to you because I'm worried about our county parks. I hope you can help.

County Executive Rich Fitzgerald is in private negotiations to drill for Marcellus Shale in Allegheny County parks. Deer Lakes Park is already under negotiation. Round Hill and Settlers Cabin Parks have been mentioned as well.

To calm fears Fitzgerald told the papers he wouldn't give up surface rights and therefore North and South Parks would be harder to drill. However, there are no guarantees. To get at the gas, new industrial activity has to happen at the parks' borders and new pipelines would cross them. <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/region/allegheny-county-considers-drilling-beneath-parks-691481/>

My County Council representative, Barbara Daly Danko, feels things are happening too fast. Referring to the already-approved airport drilling deal (on industrial land) she said, "The parks are different" (not industrial) and has proposed a 3-year moratorium on drilling them. This is a pause to allow time for legal and environmental issues to shake out, not a ban. <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/region/allegheny-county-councilwoman-danko-proposes-3-year-hold-on-drilling-in-parks-702254/#ixzz2fOhc6tlw>

Danko has said that she's getting a lot of support from her constituents but if this proposal is to pass it must have the votes of suburban Council reps as well. That's where you come in.

If you think it's a good idea to pause before rushing in to drill our county parks, please do the following:

1. Email the entire list of County Council reps below.
jdefazio@alleghenycounty.us
hheidelbaugh@alleghenycounty.us
mdrozd@alleghenycounty.us
jrea@alleghenycounty.us
jburn@alleghenycounty.us
mfinnerty@alleghenycounty.us
kharris@alleghenycounty.us
nfutules@alleghenycounty.us
cmartoni@alleghenycounty.us
rmacey@alleghenycounty.us
wrobinson@alleghenycounty.us
jellenbogen@alleghenycounty.us
agreen@alleghenycounty.us
bdanko@alleghenycounty.us
2. Tell them "Support Barbara Daly Danko's moratorium on drilling the county parks."
3. Tell them what County parks you use. If you feel like it, describe why you like those parks (example: birding in Harrison Hills Park).
4. Sign with your Name and Address or Township (this shows county-wide concern).
5. Also email Rich Fitzgerald at executive@alleghenycounty.us with your name, address and the message "I support Danko's moratorium" or "Don't drill the County Parks." You don't need to make this burdensome by including anything else in your message.

Here are reasons why it's good to wait to drill our parks ... or not drill them at all.

I hope you can help. Please write soon. The next Council meeting is Tuesday Sept 24.

Thank you!

Kate St. John, Pittsburgh