

Book step on guides, motor coach, birding, and wildlife tours now by contacting:

Waxwing Associates

Hollidaysburg, PA

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Waxwing Associates

140 Queen Ann Drive
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648



Alleghenies Adventures

SEPTEMBER 20, Saturday – WHITETAIL WETLANDS AND ALLEGHENY HAWK WATCH

Visit Bedford County wetlands managed for birds with a stop at the top of the Alleghenies to watch hawk migrations after lunch. Bring snacks and drinks. Restaurant stop for lunch. Leader: Terry Wentz 693-6563
Meet Uncle Joe's Parking Lot, Altoona @ 8 AM. Carpool to Bedford - 1 hour drive

SEPTEMBER 27, Saturday—COFFEE WALK

Bring your cup of coffee for an early morning walk to see birds, plants, bugs, and some beautiful morning scenery. Be dressed to go off the trail. Leader: Heidi Mullendore, EES—695-6807
Meet at Canoe Creek State Park Education Center, Hollidaysburg from 8:15 AM to 9:30 AM

OCTOBER 4 & 5, Saturday & Sunday – CHERRY SPRINGS DARK SKIES

Cherry Springs State Park in Potter County has been certified as a national dark skies viewing site for night time astronomy. A guide from Crystal Spheres, adventures in stargazing, will provide telescopes and narrative about the dark heavens. One overnight in a motel. Return late Sunday afternoon. Van service to Potter County—3 hour drive. Costs include van, guide and motel accommodations. Leader: Terry Wentz 693-6563
Meet Uncle Joe's Parking Lot, Altoona 10 AM. Bring snacks and drinks for trip. Lunch stops.

Pre-paid Reservations required. Limited space, call for confirmations.

October 25, Saturday – FALL FOLIAGE BIKE RIDE

Trip sponsored by Rails to Trails of Central PA. to Trough Creek State Park
Car pool to Trough Creek State Park for an easy ride along the old J & S Railroad through the state park and adjacent state forest lands. The scenery should be spectacular with fall foliage in the Greater Trough Creek Gorge.
Leader: Bob Richers 814-942-0680 **Advanced reservations required.** Meet Martin's Parking Lot, Duncansville, 9 AM

NOVEMBER 15, Saturday—OWL PELLETS

Owls do what? You will be finding out what an owl pellet is and then tearing one apart to investigate what the owl ate. Find out fascinating facts of these birds of prey as we dig in. Great program for the entire family.
Leader Heidi Mullendore, EES—695-6807. Meet Canoe Creek State Park Education Center, Hollidaysburg 10:00 AM.

NOVEMBER 22, Saturday – ALAN SEEGER HEMLOCKS AREA

Witness old growth hemlocks in this State Forest Natural Area. An easy hike among some of the largest trees you will see in the East. Meet at Uncle Joe's Parking Lot, Altoona 9 AM.
Leader: Terry Wentz 693-6563. Carpool to Centre County – 1 hour. Bring bag lunch and drinks.

DECEMBER 6, Saturday—BEDFORD COUNTY COVERED BRIDGES

Bedford County takes pride in preserving 14 covered bridges, many still part of the rural road network. Join Waxwing Eco Tours as we visit 8 bridges, hopefully with some snow covering for a fantasy winter scene. Leader: Terry Wentz—693-6563. Meet Bedford Hoss's Restaurant at Turnpike Exit 10 AM.
Advanced reservations required call 814-693-6563 for costs. Fee charged for guide service.

DECEMBER 13, Saturday—SCIENCE OF THE SEASONS

Take a look at the science behind the seasons. Dress for being outdoors. Leader Heidi Mullendore, EES 695-6807. Meet Canoe Creek State Park Education Center, Hollidaysburg at 10 AM.



Silver haired bat

**Get out and enjoy
Central
Pennsylvania
through out the
seasons. The
Alleghenies has
lots to offer.**



Captain Rob
Rays town Lake



Pied billed grebe



Waxwing Newsletter

**WAXWING
ASSOCIATES LLC**

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Sept. Oct. Nov. 2008

Home of the Elk

Elk once roamed throughout Pennsylvania, but rapid settlement and exploration by early pioneers destroyed the herds. By 1867, elk had been completely eliminated from the state. Unregulated hunting and habitat loss were the biggest factors leading to their demise.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission introduced Rocky Mountain Elk into the state from 1913 to 1926. One hundred seventy-seven elk were trapped and transferred from Yellowstone National Park and a private reserve in Monroe County with releases in north-central and northeastern PA. Only those in north-central PA were successful. The herd now numbers more than 800. The Pennsylvania Game Commission has reinstated elk hunting thru a limited license/lottery drawing system held at an annual elk festival in Elk County each September.

Elk are highly social animals. Usually the only time females seek isolation is during calving in May and June. Adult males do not generally associate with cow-calf groups during the spring. They form bachelor groups during the summer and winter. These groups disband when bulls start forming harems for the mating season, rut, in September and October.

In late May or June. Prior to births, cows are in groups. A few days before birth, cows leave the herd and give birth to minimize predation. The calf is nearly helpless at birth and depends solely on the mother for nourishment and protection. The cow and calf remain solitary for 1 to 3 weeks before joining other cows and calves. Cow elk give birth to a single calf, twins are rare.

The most dramatic time for elk watching is September and October during mating season when bull elk are protecting their harem and bugle as a warning sound to "stay away". Elk bugles take on many sounds from whistles and grunts to screams and roars; quite eerie I might add. Elk are very active during moonlit nights and appear to be less wary of people then; However, keep your distance **ELK ARE**

WILD ANIMALS!

Rival bulls constantly try to steal cows from the harem of others so the harem is kept out in the open where it is easier to maintain control of the cows. A bulls goal in life is to breed as many cows as possible and the battles that rage are very interesting to witness.

Some of the best places to see Pennsylvania elk are in the Benezette area, particularly Winslow Hill, where parking and portable restrooms are provided during the peak elk viewing season. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has established a 127 mile Elk Scenic Drive through the area designated as the Pennsylvania Wilds in north-central PA.

A brochure guide to elk viewing in Pennsylvania can be obtained free by calling 800-348-9393 or visiting www.visitpago.com.

Pennsylvania Bull Elk

Photo: Helena Kotala
Nature's Photography



Waxwing Nature Tours for Fall

Waxwing Associates is offering complete Nature Tour packages in the Alleghenies Region of Central Pennsylvania.

Wildlife topics will take advantage of what's happening at that particular time of the year. Some examples include spring bird migrations, nesting birds, bat observations, elk bugling, and fall foliage.

All tours are by reservations and must be fully paid in advance. Call today for prices!

HERE'S WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA:

October 4 & 5

Dark Skies and Fall Foliage

Visit the darkest skies in the N.E. with a guide explaining the heavens at night. Bonus peak fall foliage weekend.

November 22

Big Tree Hemlocks

See some of the largest old growth hemlock trees in Pennsylvania.

December 6

Covered Bridges

Bedford County takes pride in preserving 14 covered bridges. See them in the snow!



Snooks Covered Bridge

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Broad headed skink

**PLEASE NOTE: GUIDES
DO NOT PROVIDE**

BINOCULARS

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN
BINOCULARS AND**

**BIRD IDENTIFICATION
FIELD BOOKS**

Coming in next issue

December 2008:

Feeding Wildlife

Early Spring



Aliens Are Here

Invasive Plants (more info. eNature.com)

An "invasive plant" is usually defined as a non-native (or alien) species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human and wildlife health. The worst invasive are often called "noxious" weeds or pests.

Invasive plants are introduced by many pathways. They can be deliberately planted in gardens or along roadsides and spread into surrounding habitats. They can be contaminants in crop seeds imported from other countries. Aquatic plant pests are often introduced into wetlands when people dump the contents of an aquarium into a pond. In several cases, seeds have been accidentally introduced from abroad when plant parts have been used as packing materials.

What can you do about invasive plants? Start by using [native plants](#) in your garden. Monitor exotic plants to be sure that they don't spread beyond your yard. Avoid non-native plants that produce fruits that are eaten, and thus widely dispersed, by wildlife. Check the [Invasive Plant Finder](#) to get a list of invasive for your state, and avoid introducing such plants into your local area.

Here is a list of some plants considered invasive for Pennsylvania that are being introduced through local garden plantings: giant foxtail, day lily, queen-anne's lace, periwinkle, English ivy, chicory, Canada thistle, common dandelion, garlic mustard, dames rocket, Japanese honeysuckle, bindweed, crown vetch, yellow sweet clover, ground ivy, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, yellow pond lily, foxglove, butter and eggs.



**Red Oak Lake
Bedford Springs Resort**

Spotlight on Central Pennsylvania

BEDFORD COUNTY COVERED BRIDGES

Bedford County is blessed with 14 covered bridges. Few places have covered bridges set in more picturesque settings and with more variety than in Bedford County. These structures were built approximately 100 years ago by craftsmen who worked almost entirely by hand, making structures that would withstand the rain, snow, and hard use of the traveling public.

The county's bridges range in length from the 135 foot Herline Bridge near Manns Choice to the Palo Alto Bridge south of Hyndman. It is only 56 feet long. Twelve of the spans are Burr-truss bridges, so named after their designer, Theodore Burr. These bridges are held in place by a set of trusses that interact with an arch that spans the length on each side. The simpler Kingpost truss bridges can't span the great lengths achieved by the Burr-truss arch system. Courtesy: Bedford County Visitors Bureau

Birding Guides Available

Waxwing Associates has a staff of expert guides available to seek out any wildlife species, cultural resources, or historic sites in the Alleghenies. We are able to cater a 2 hour outing to an all day event including transportation from a local motel. We have the capability to plan an entire tour for van size to motor coach size groups including transportation to the Alleghenies, motel reservations, meals, and of course expert guides.

RATES BY GROUP SIZE:

Van size groups
Minimum: 10 people / 2hours

\$150 plus transportation, amenities.

Motor coach groups

Maximum:
50 people/ 2 hours
\$350 plus transportation & amenities

For detailed information contact :

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Phone: 814-693-6563
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Canoe Creek Bat Church Sanctuary

Web: www.waxwingassociates.com



**Terry Wentz, Owner
Waxwing Associates**