

NEW! NEW! NEW!

WAXWING ASSOCIATES is offering individual birding and bat walks thru **Smartbox Adventures**. **Smartbox** is an international company offering adventures world-wide for families and friends to experience unusual activities at reasonable rates. Check out **Waxwing Associates** offerings in the **Smartbox Northeast Adventure** book at www.smartbox.com or look in a local bookstore or department store for the booklets.

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

Waxwing Associates

Hollidaysburg, PA

814-693-6563

twentz@waxwingassociates.com



Waxwing Associates
140 Queen Ann Drive
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648



Alleghenies Adventures

July 12, Sunday 10:00 AM—Lucky 7 Kayak Tour

See wildlife by kayak! Ages 12+ Register online to use a park kayak or bring your own. We'll paddle around the lake to learn about beaver, muskrat, herons, and more. 18 and under must have parent present. Meet at Boat Rental, Canoe Creek State Park. Leader Heidi Mullendore, EES 814-695-6807.

July 17, Friday 8:00 PM—Public Sky Watch

Get a glimpse of the fascinating night sky with your own telescope or use the telescopes of the Starlight Astronomy Club as they scan the heavens. Meet Canoe Creek State Park beach parking area. Contact: Diana Majcher 814-937-6991.

July 19, Sunday 2:00 PM—Wild Mushroom Walk

Have you always wanted to learn about wild mushrooms and those that are safe to collect and eat. Learn from the expert, Bill Russell, author and propagator of wild mushrooms. Meet Mt. Etna Trailhead of the Lower Rail Trail along U.S. Route 22 between Hollidaysburg and Huntingdon. Sponsor Rails to Trails of Central PA Contact: Terry Wentz 814-693-6563

July 19, Sunday 2:00 PM to 9:15 PM—Bat Festival

The bi-annual bat festival is back! Learn from the region's experts on bats. Programs are free and for the entire family. Afternoon programs are in the Education Center and evening programs meet at Pavilion #1 Bring a flashlight for the bat sanctuary hike. Meet Canoe Creek State Park Education Center. Leader Heidi Mullendore, EES 814-695-6807

July 26, Sunday 3:30 PM—History Hike

Take a walk back in time to the early 1900's to see the famous limekilns. Get a glimpse of this little known part of the steel industry and learn about its connections. Meet Canoe Creek State Park Education Center. Leader Heidi Mullendore, EES 814-695-6807.

August 1, Saturday 9:00 AM—Trough Creek Bike Ride

Trough Creek State Park has an amazing gorge created by the stream. Witness the shear rock cliffs and geologic wonders this park offers as you ride along the former logging railroad, now the park road. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy along this 20 mile bike ride. Meet Martin's Grocery Store parking lot, Duncansville, PA. Sponsor Rails to Trails of Central PA. Reservations required contact Bob Richers 814-942-0680.

August 9, Sunday 2:00 PM—Tom Snyder Memorial Ride

Enjoy a leisurely afternoon bike ride to remember one of the Lower Trail's and greater Altoona areas volunteers. Meet Williamsburg Trailhead of the Lower Trail. Sponsor Rails to Trails of Central PA Leader: Larry Bilotto 814-696-7126

August 23, Sunday—GPS 101

Dust off that old GPS you've been meaning to learn how to use or use a borrowed one from the park. Learn the basic functions of hand held GPS units and how to navigate with them. For ages 9+. Register on line. Meet Canoe Creek State Park Education Center. Leader: Heidi Mullendore, EES 814-695-6807.



RED BAT

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

Take a look at our new webpage. Completely redone, easier to use with lots of good information and links.
www.waxwingassociates



**BLUE -GRAY
GNATCATCHER**



Waxwing Newsletter

**WAXWING
ASSOCIATES LLC**

Volume 4, Issue 2

June, July, August 2009

Butterflies

From coast to coast, dozens of U.S. butterflies are in trouble, inspiring a host of efforts to protect the beloved insects. In this country, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated 23 species as endangered or threatened. Fewer colorful insects fluttering around the garden is more than an aesthetic loss. Butterflies play a key role in plant reproduction, transporting pollen from flower to flower. They provide food for birds and other insects.

Butterflies suffer the same ills that plague all wildlife these days: habitat loss, pollution, invasive species and global warming. But experts say the insects also face unique hurdles. Their complicated life cycles may take one or two years to complete. They spend long periods as vulnerable larvae and pupae. And they form complex interdependent relationships with entire suites of other animals and plants.

In addition many butterflies have extremely exact needs that may vary depending on life stage. An example of a Pennsylvania species of concern, the regal fritillary, lives in only 4 locations in the state where violets, milkweeds and thistles thrive. The one location is particularly interesting because of the plants and butterflies relationship with heavy mechanized equipment, army tanks, at Fort Indiantown Gap near Lebanon, PA. Operation of tanks on the fort disturb the soil which is needed for the plants to grow. As result of this discovery, these areas are now protected and managed for the butterfly.

Further complicating butterfly conservation, the biological details of their lives often remain murky. In many cases, scientists do not even know what a species caterpillar looks like or what the adult eats. There's a whole world of things scientists don't know, things that no one has had the time or money to study yet.

Most researchers point to habitat loss as the number one cause of butterfly decline. In the United States perhaps no habitats have been so thoroughly changed as meadows, grasslands, sparsely wooded prairies, barrens, and savannas. These ecosystems are easily turned into subdivisions, farms, and industrial parks. Even intact habitats can be risky places for butterflies. Since the insects spend long periods as soft slow moving caterpillars, or as immobile pupae busy metamorphosing into butterflies, activities such as hiking and horseback riding, even crews removing invasive species can wipe out an endangered colony.



BUTTERFLY WEED

Global warming threatens to wreak havoc on butterflies because some cool-loving species seem to be moving to higher elevations as their native habitats get too hot. What happens when these cool up slopes disappear?

(cont'd page 2)

Waxwing Nature Tours: 2010 Yellowstone National Park

Waxwing Associates is offering its first national tour to Yellowstone for the fall of 2010, September 9 to 18. The tour is all inclusive with air fare, lodging, most meals, guides, and van transportation. If you have been looking for a wildlife watching experience to the premiere spot in the lower 48 states, this tour is for you.

The September dates have been chosen as prime wildlife watching times after the park recovers from the busy summer season and wildlife once again roam freely. Expect to see large herds of elk and bison, grizzly bears, and possibly wolves. In addition we will explore the geology of Yellowstone that makes it famous from geysers, to mud pots, to warm springs. All activities will be led by local expert guides at a comfortable pace.

We will be staying at lodges in Yellowstone and will have some free time to explore parts of the park by ourselves. All details will be taken care of for you..

CALL IMMEDIATELY for FIRST PRIORITY AND COSTS.

814-693-6563



BISON

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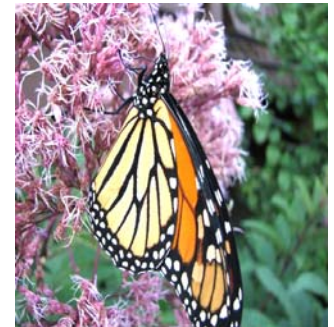
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**MONARCH
BUTTERFLY**

PLEASE NOTE: GUIDES DO NOT PROVIDE BINOCULARS
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BINOCULARS AND BIRD IDENTIFICATION FIELD BOOKS

**Coming in next issue
September 2009:
Fall colors
Fall migration
More tours**



Butterflies (cont'd from page 1)

Rising temperatures can also cause butterflies to get out of sync with food plants they depend on. Research has determined that warmer temperatures are causing host plants on which butterflies lay their eggs to dry up before the caterpillars hatch.

Fortunately the plight of some butterflies has begun to rally a wide variety of organizations trying to save the insects. Many efforts focus on the obvious goal of restoring habitat, but some butterfly lovers are trying more radical solutions. In many states, scientists from universities, zoos, and conservation groups have reared generations of butterflies in captivity so they can be reintroduced. A handful of conservation biologists are even floating the idea of assisted migration— taking butterflies from places where they are threatened and moving them to more congenial locales. Dozens of zoos and natural history museums have featured butterfly exhibits to encourage public awareness. Volunteer based butterfly monitoring censuses like Monarch Watch and the Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network track the health of the butterfly populations.

You can do your part by participating in one of these monitoring programs or become part of the Monarch Way Station program. The way station program helps landowners create oases of monarch friendly plants that allow the insects to reproduce during summer and refuel during migration. Sponsored by Monarch Watch, the program has already helped establish more than 1000 way stations in 43 states. A certified station must include at least two kinds of milkweed and four other nectar plants that bloom at different times. To learn more go to www.monarchwatch.org or www.pollinator.org.

Information courtesy National Wildlife newsletter.

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 :

Waxwing Associates

Phone: 814-693-6563

Email:

twentz@waxwingassociates.com



AMERICAN TOAD

To subscribe to Waxwing Newsletter send your email or mailing address to 140 Queen Ann Drive Hollidaysburg, PA. 16648



Friends enjoying Seneca Lake wine country

Upcoming Waxwing Tours

Waxwing Associates are doing some long range planning to help with week-end get aways. Since the economy is forecast to remain uncertain for most of the year 2010, now is the time to plan some week-ends instead of week long vacations.

New York Wine Country

October 9, 10, 11, 2009

Leave from Altoona Friday evening after work to begin our journey to the finger lakes region of New York state. Stay overnight just over the N.Y. border. Next morning we will head to Seneca Lake with stops along the lake's many wineries. Overnight near Geneva, NY. More wineries and a stop at Corning Glass Museum on the way home, back in Altoona early Sunday evening.

Maryland Birding Trails

April 23, 24, 25, 2010

Details Fall Newsletter.



**Terry Wentz, Owner
Waxwing Associates**