

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP
at the
Piedmont Environmental Center
September 9, 2006

We will hike some of the trails on the northern preserve at Piedmont Environmental Center Saturday, September 9. Because parking at the trailhead is limited, let's meet in the parking lot at PEC's headquarters on Penny Road in High Point at 8:30 A.M. We can carpool from there. The trail parallels a pleasant stream through a mixed Piedmont forest downhill to City Lake and then follows the lakeshore to the remnants of a loblolly plantation that is subject to periodic controlled burning. Then it's uphill to the greenway, and back to the cars.

This is a gentle hike, but wear suitable shoes or boots. Bring snacks and something to drink if you like, though the odds are that we should finish the hike well before noon. If you plan on making the trip, please contact Gregg Morris at



SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Thursday, September 14, 7-8:30 p.m.
at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch Library
at Price Park

The North Carolina Birding Trail

Nature-based tourism adds billions of dollars to local economies every year. Several states have discovered that creating a road-based birding trail is one way to enhance the economic potential of this type of tourism. By extension, the trail can also serve to protect birds, as well. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission, with the cooperation of Audubon North Carolina and other organizations, is well on the way to creating such a trail for this state. Coastal North Carolina forms the first stage of the trail. This section is substantially complete, with a total of 102 approved sites. Next, trail planners will turn to the piedmont and, finally, the mountains.

On Thursday, September 14, Salinda Daley, coordinator of the N.C. Birding Trail project, will discuss this exciting undertaking—what it means for North Carolina and how you can help by nominating your favorite birding spots to be part of the trail. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch Library in Price Park. It is free and open to the public.



Our mission: TO FOSTER APPRECIATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND ENJOYMENT OF NATURE, AND WORK FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR NATURAL HERITAGE ON THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL LEVEL.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP – CASWELL GAME LAND Sunday, October 1

The Caswell Game Land near Yanceyville in Caswell County consists of more 20,000 acres of rolling hills with mixed woodlands and bottomland hardwood forest. It is also listed as an Important Bird Area (IBA), one of 92 in the state. Because state game lands are managed for hunting, wildlife is often abundant, and such is the case with Caswell. Deer and wild turkey are plentiful. The site also has beaver ponds and a number of waterfowl impoundments.

Plan to meet Sunday, October 1 at 8:00 a.m. in the Sears parking lot in Friendly Center so that we can carpool for the one-hour drive to this area northeast of Greensboro. Wear sturdy footwear, and bring a lunch and something to drink. In addition to birding and generally enjoying the natural world, we also will compile what we see and report this information to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Contact Gregg Morris at 883-3270 or gregg.morris@highpointnc.gov if you plan to join us on this trip.

Note: Though Caswell Game Lands is used extensively for hunting a variety of game, hunting is not allowed on Sunday.

ENDEMIC BIRDS OF THE GALAPAGOS October 12, 2006, KCE Library, 7:00 p.m.



Dr. Lynn Moseley, Professor of Biology at Guilford College led two ecotours to the Galapagos Islands in the summer of 2005, spending two and a half weeks living on a 16-passenger boat in the Pacific Ocean. Unlike many standard tours to the Galapagos, her itinerary included visits to the highlands of two of the largest islands, where the group rode horses to the rim of an active volcano. In her presentation, Lynn will show photographs and describe the unique bird fauna and some of the other special forms of wildlife of the Galapagos Islands and explain the reasons for the evolution of these species. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch Library in Price Park.

Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Center Field Trip

On October 28, T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society will join with the Piedmont Bird Club in an overnight field trip to Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Center. This is the “world's largest and most diverse waterfowl collection,” and it is located right here in North Carolina. The center is home to over 170 species of birds. Many of these birds are rare and endangered. Mike and Ali Lubbeck run the center and have “pioneered many research and avicultural techniques resulting in 17 World First and 13 North American First breeding successes for many of the world's threatened waterfowl species.” We will tour their facilities and get some behind the scene looks at what they do.

Please visit their website at: <http://www.sylvanheights.org/>

Please contact Dan Chambers for trip details at: Instructus@aol.com

JOIN US AT BUR-MIL FALL FESTIVAL! October 14, 2006

On October 14th, Bur-Mil Park is holding a Fall Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society will participate with an exhibit describing our organization and nature activities for children and families. The festival will include a large variety of exhibitors and vendors with something for every age and interest from face painting and decorating pumpkins to fly fishing, hayrides, and musical entertainment.

We need volunteers to help staff our tables, so if you can spare an hour or two on that Saturday, please call Sue Cole at 854-3346. This is a great opportunity to get to know some other folks in Audubon and introduce TGPAS to the public.



BIRD SEED SALE

Listen to the titmice and chickadees coming into the feeder. Watch the White-breasted nuthatch dart in for a seed. Enjoy the flash of Cardinal red and the gold-finches losing their color then bursting out anew in early spring gold. Participate in the February Backyard Bird Count. All these pleasures are yours for the price of birdseed at our twice-annual birdseed sales.

Our fall sale is Saturday Oct. 21 at New Garden Gazebo Nursery on Lawndale Drive. We will be selling seed from 9 to 12. Please use the order form and pre-order so we can be sure to have enough seed for everyone. We also have an order form posted on our website, www.tgpearson.org. If you forget to order still come and help our fund raising by telling your friends to come by for seed.

Our winter sale will be February 3, 2007. We use these sales to support educational and environmental projects in Guilford County. If you have any questions or need to place a last minute order please call

Sherry Forrester at 851-0354.

A trip not to miss!



T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society

Schedule of Events 2006-2007

Sat., September 9 Field trip to Piedmont Environmental Center North Preserve. RSVP to Gregg Morris.

Thurs., September 14 "The North Carolina Birding Trail." Speaker: Salinda Daley.

Sat., September 16 Big Sweep clean-up at Audubon Natural Area. RSVP to Dan Chambers.

Sat., September 23 Field trip to Pilot Mountain with Piedmont Bird Club (PBC) to view hawk migration. RSVP to Dan Chambers.

Sun., October 1 Field trip to Caswell Game Land. RSVP to Gregg Morris.

Thurs., October 12 "Endemic Birds of the Galapagos." Speaker: Lynn Moseley

Sat., October 14 TGPAS nature activities for children and adults at Bur-Mil Fall Festival, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sat., October 21 Audubon Bird Seed Sale at New Garden Nursery Gazebo, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Wed., October 25 "Searching for the Ivory Billed Woodpecker." Speaker: Robert Fulton. Girl Scouts Tarheel Triad Council Center, 7:00 p.m.

Registration required: Email - gregg.morris@highpointnc.gov

October 28 - 29 Field trip to Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Center with PBC. RSVP to Dan Chambers.

Sat., November 4 Field trip to the Summit Environmental Education Center at Haw River State Park. RSVP*

Thurs, November 9 "Mucking Around with Wetlands." Speaker: Andy Wood.

Sat., December 2 Field trip to Birkhead Mountains Wilderness with PBC. RSVP to Dan Chambers.

Thurs., December 14 Holiday Potluck Dinner and Amateur Naturalists' Slide Show.

Sat., December 16 Christmas Bird Count with Piedmont Bird Club. RSVP*

Thurs., January 11 "The Utah Canyonlands: From Arches to Zion National Parks." Speaker: Jack Jezorek.

January 13 - 15 Field trip to Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary and Outer Banks with PBC. RSVP to Gregg Morris.

Sat., January 27 Price Park wetlands work day. RSVP to Jack Jezorek

Sat., February 3 Audubon Bird Seed Sale at New Garden Nursery Gazebo, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Thurs., February 8 "The Great Backyard Bird Count: Citizen Science." Speaker: Dan Chambers

Sat., February 10 Family birding activities at Price Park, 9:30-11:00 a.m. RSVP to Dan Chambers.

February 16 - 19 Great Backyard Bird Count. Info at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

Sat., February 24 Field trip to Jordan Lake, an Important Bird Area, with PBC. RSVP to Dan Chambers

Thurs., March 8 "Neotropical Visitors: Migratory Birds of the Piedmont." Speaker: Jeff Marcus.

Sat., March 24 Field trip with PBC to Greensboro lakes for migratory waterfowl. RSVP to Dan Chambers.

Sat., March 31 Field trip to Beech Bluff trail for wildflowers and spring migrants. RSVP to Ann Walter-Fromson.

Thurs., April 12 "Creating Certified Wildlife Habitats." Speaker: Tim Gestwicki

Sat., April 14 Laurel Bluff Trail maintenance, 9:00. to 11:30 a.m. RSVP to Ann Walter-Fromson.

Sat., April 14 Earth Day Celebration at KCE Library, Price Park

Sat., April 28 Field trip to the Lewis home in Randolph County with PBC for spring bird migration. RSVP to Dan Chambers.

TBA Audubon NC Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC

Sat., May 5 Spring Bird Count with Piedmont Bird Club. RSVP*

Thurs., May 10 "Sex and Mice in the City: Barred Owls Come to Town." Speaker: Rob Bierregard.

Continued on page 4

All Thursday evening programs are from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library at Price Park off Hobbs Road.

DEEP RIVER NOTES

As many of you know, our chapter, TGPAS, sponsored the *Deep River Project* for over four years in an effort to promote awareness, conservation, education and recreational access in the river corridor and basin. That project wound down in late fall last year, and this past spring a new group called *Friends of the Deep River (FODR)* was formed as a chapter of the *Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL)*. This group is continuing with many of the Project's activities, working cooperatively with the Watershed Alliance of the NC Conservation Network (sponsor of Clean Water Lobby Day), River Network, Haw River Assembly and other nearby river groups. In recent months we have been monitoring the early stages of construction of a major sewer line in and near High Point, garnering some publicity as we delayed the removal of a tree with an active Redtail hawk nest containing two chicks not yet fledged. We really appreciate the help and advice we got from several Audubon sources (Lynn Moseley and Andy Wood among others) and from David Rabon of the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Raleigh. Even more recently we have been observing along the wide swath of forest being cleared to build the pipeline, and are trying to get the city and its contractors to bring stream crossings up to minimum standards in order to prevent unnecessary erosion and sedimentation, said to be the major problem of streams in NC today.

In a combined educational effort, I represented FODR and went to the Archdale Library with Alice McCall of Pearson Audubon and gave a short program for children in which we made Secchi disks and used them to estimate the turbidity (cloudiness, mostly from sediment in this case) in nearby and aptly named Muddy Creek. Things were pretty hectic for a while, but the kids and their parents seemed to appreciate it and had lots of good comments that showed they've been studying related topics in school.

If you'd like to try this at home, get a paint can lid, divide it into quadrants and paint them alternately black and white, and lower it into the water on different days. Make notes as to water conditions, how long since the last storm, etc. and measure how deep it goes before it seems to disappear--that's a pretty good inverse measure of turbidity.

A river access point conceived under the Deep River Project was recently completed and paid for out of the remaining Project funds in a chapter account. Jonathan Lewis, son of member Mike Lewis, built a boat access point on the riverbank at Mendenhall Plantation in Jamestown for his Eagle Scout project. I can attest to his good planning and execution because shortly after I saw it for the first time it was totally inundated by the runoff

from a heavy rain, but when I went by again nothing had changed. Now paddlers can park in the lot and carry a kayak or canoe a few hundred feet down around the replica Indian village under construction, for an outing on the 2+ miles of river between Main St. and the Oakdale Mills impoundment--don't get too close to the dam, especially when the mill is operating. This is a scenic little section of river where you can get out of sight (but not earshot) of civilization for a while, and you may see turtles, herons, and kingfishers as you paddle under the old railroad bridge.

Our latest flyer can be seen on the TGPAS website.

FRIENDS OF THE DEEP RIVER
PO BOX 624
JAMESTOWN, NC 27282
336-337-0811
TomFDuckwall@cs.com (treasurer)

SEARCHING FOR THE IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER

October 25, 2006

T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon and Audubon of Forsyth County will jointly sponsor a presentation by Robert Fulton, Ph.D., on the ivory-billed woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) on Wednesday, October 25. The program will be held at the Triad Girl Scout Learning Center on the Magnolia Manor in Colfax beginning at 7:00 p.m. Cornell University's renowned Lab of Ornithology chose Dr. Fulton to be a member of the team looking for additional documentation verifying the 2004 re-discovery of the "Lord God Bird," long-believed to be extinct.

In April of this year, Dr. Fulton and five other volunteers were the last team to spend two weeks exploring the Bayou de View, a swampy area of Arkansas's Big Woods. In doing so, they worked with Bobby Harrison and Gene Sparling, two men involved in the initial find in 2004.

The program's photos "are... a testimony to the beauty of and benefits from conserving such important places. What the searchers learned is proving to be a bonanza of information—information which Cornell will use to further increase its knowledge of birds and other wildlife."

Copies of a book that includes a section detailing Dr. Fulton and some of his cohort's experiences in the Arkansas search will be available for purchase after the program.

Contact Gregg Morris at 883-3270 or gregg.morris@highpointnc.gov. Space is limited to 75, so pre-registration is required. You are welcome to make a small donation to help defray expenses.