

Pennsylvania Wildlife

FALL 2017

IN THIS ISSUE:

Going to Camp

Migrants on the Move

New Wildlife Center

Profiles in Conservation

and more!



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1982



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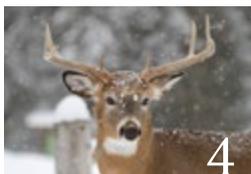
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The mission of the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation is to promote wildlife conservation and education in Pennsylvania.

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fall 2017
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JDN Foundation



Reaching over 950 Schools

“The mountains are calling and I must go,” John Muir reminds us, more lurking than ever with the crisp scent and cool mornings of October. They have long called me back to my youthful days afield exploring the Endless Mountains. As with many of you, fall has always been my favorite season, and we have focused this issue on the many wonders it brings from migration to going to camp. I hope you enjoy reading the stories enclosed, and more importantly, I encourage you (and grant you permission) to take a day off and get out in nature’s grand beauty this fall.

I have enjoyed traveling across the state and meeting many new friends and am often asked what does the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation do in my backyard? With so many conservation organizations why should we support yours? Our mission of promoting wildlife conservation and education in Pennsylvania is broad by design. The

many projects we engage in have positive, albeit sometimes less visible, impacts on the 480 species of diverse wildlife we enjoy and help

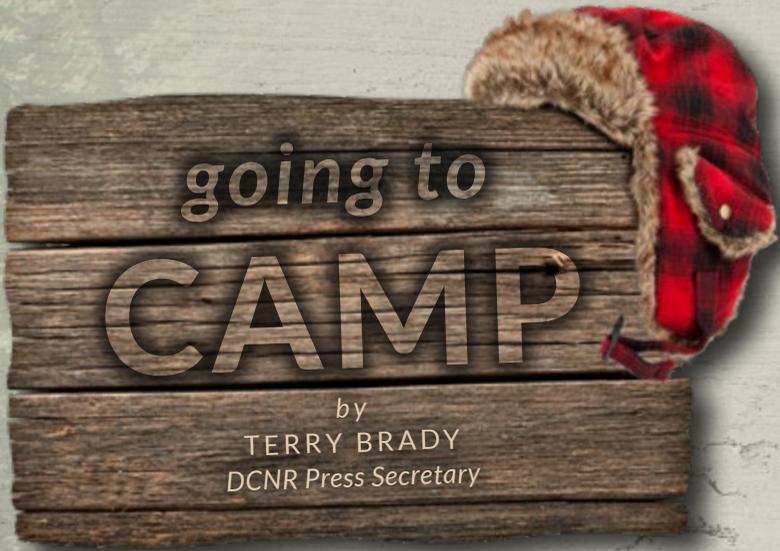
keep our youth connected to nature.

During the last two years alone, close to 300,000 students from more than 950 schools have participated in the Seedlings for Schools Program that is run by the PA Game Commission Howard Nursery, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary. The Wildlife Foundation continues to raise funds to expand this program and keep these connections alive for our youth in hopes that one day the next generation will become torchbearers for conservation and our great outdoor legacy. It is only one of the programs we support, and if you care about keeping our youth engaged and wildlife prospering in the Commonwealth, I hope you join our cause and help us recruit others to the ranks of supporters.

With fall’s good tidings,

Jerry Regan, *President*





going to
CAMP

by
TERRY BRADY
DCNR Press Secretary

From Ambler to Zelienople and hundreds of towns and cities in between, they come, bound for their special slice of heaven defined by hardwoods, terrain and weather. To them, paradise is the ridges, valleys and benches not far from towns they may visit only once or twice a year.

Places like English Center. And Coudersport. Tidioute and Weikert. They, and hundreds of other Pennsylvania towns and villages, all hold a special fascination among the men and women with the Monday after Thanksgiving circled on calendars and, their home-away-from-home circled on maps.

Unlike their forefathers, they no longer dress in Woolrich plaid and tote only open-sighted .30-30s and long-barreled .300 Savages. They may no longer stay for a week or travel across the state in station wagons overflowing with people, food and gear. But to deer camp they come. Still.

Drafty, cold trailers and cobweb-encased cabins. All-wood frames crafted by their fathers and grandfathers. Even the toney, deck-equipped summer homes answering to the lofty description of "lodge." Once a year, all seem to answer to the term "camp," preceded by the word "deer."

Space sometimes can be at a premium for this homecoming of sorts. When all the bunks are filled, walls

swell and shake with the laughter of those gathered within. Then, too, the long tables are heaped with hearty food. Woodstoves and fireplace burn their hottest, and tales of yesteryear just keep on coming.

Formerly empty, cold, sometimes shrouded in late November snow, it is now that these structures shine their brightest. Here you hear the cold waters of a thousand creeks, churning around boulders and through driftwood snags. Here you listen to the first cold blasts of winter wind, funneled down through the valleys by the masses of rock, hardwood and hemlock that are Pennsylvania's mountains.

For the early arrivals in the late hours, a field mouse in the kitchen grows bolder, its scratching sometimes interrupted by the nearby horned owl hooting outside. Not far away, the crunch of ice-crusting mud telegraphs passing deer.

"If these walls could talk, what stories they could tell." Words from an aging Montour Rod and Gun Club member to a newcomer taking it all in at the two-story frame building overlooking Penns Creek. But the walls do, indeed, speak.

In a hanging, framed newspaper clip, the same man tells local readers just what his cabin means to him: "We are not getting older," he writes. "The mountains are just getting steeper."

On rafters and walls hangs a garage sale of clothing and sporting gear. Hats, mittens, "hot seats," fishing reels. All forgotten by owners hurrying back to homes and jobs in far-away states and not-so-distant towns.

Color photographs are everywhere, recalling years when game was plentiful, and others, when deer were hard to find. They tell the stories of the men and women who came before.

Older photos, yellowing with age, show some of the camp's first members. Names and contributions recorded in thousands of logs, they come to life when their surviving buddies speak, often taking their listeners back to the turn of an earlier century when founders hunted for a week; slept in tin shanties and lean-tos and relied on mountain springs for water.

Those early members came to hunt, fish and enjoy the beauty and solitude only a snow-cloaked stand of hemlock can provide in late November. They passed that secret on to their sons and daughters, and they passed it on to theirs. The magic of "going to camp" needs no props or gimmicks. In Pennsylvania, thankfully, the mystique passes easily from one generation to the next.

In this circle of tradition, they come seeking only a warm fire, good friends and the solace of woods and wildlife in winter. They leave having found so much more.



Migrants ON THE *MOVE*

by MARGARET BRITTINGHAM

The changes are subtle at first, slightly shorter days, a cooler evening and then before you know it, migrants are on the move.

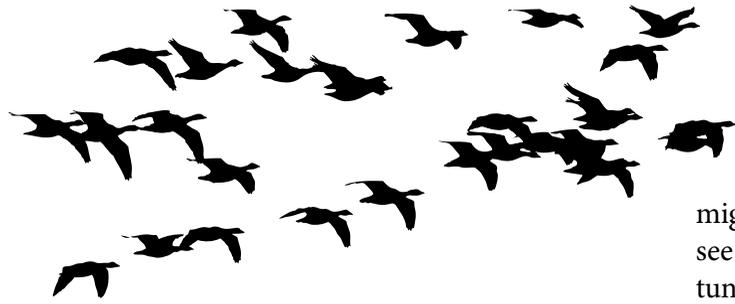
As fall approaches, keep your eyes and ears skyward as migrants make their way south. Migration is one of the most amazing natural phenomena, and this is one of the best times to be out birding. Each fall as the weather changes and the insects and other food sources, which were plentiful in the summer, begin to decline, migrants begin their journey to southern homes. More than 5 billion birds of 200 species migrate from North America to Central and South America, and no matter where you live in Pennsylvania, you have an opportunity to spot migrants on the move.

Migration begins as early as late July with shorebirds, which have bred in Arctic areas, beginning to move to southern locations. They fly during the day and night stopping to feed along wetlands and water bodies. Swallows are another group of migrants that move early. They migrate during the day, feeding on aerial insects as they make their way south. If you have ever been to the coast in August, you have probably seen both the groups of shorebirds feeding on the mudflats and swallows flying along the coastline.



Songbird migration in Pennsylvania starts in early August and continues all the way into late October and early November. Whether a species migrates or not and how far it travels depends in part on its feeding habits. Songbirds such as cardinals, which feed on seeds during the winter, or species such as chickadees, which are omnivorous feeding on a variety of food sources, can stay in Pennsylvania for the winter. But birds that depend on insects year round or supplement their insect diet with fruit tend to migrate. Many of those are neotropical migrants, traveling all the way to Central and South America. The migrants include many of our warblers, thrushes and tanagers.

These birds don't wait for the food to disappear before they start to travel but instead respond to the change in day length to know that it is time to prepare for migration. They don't pack a suitcase for their trip, but they do pack on the weight. These small birds begin to feed voraciously, a term known as hyperphagia, to put on body fat to fuel their migratory trip. Some will almost double their weight before starting on their journey. Songbirds such as warblers, vireos, thrushes and tanagers will migrate at night, taking off just after dusk and flying all night using the stars and the earth's magnetic field to navigate.



As day breaks, these birds survey the landscape and look for a suitable spot to land, rest and feed before taking off again. Many of these are young birds on their first flight south. These birds look for suitable habitat wherever they may be, and it is at times like this that finding those small patches of habitat where insects and fruit are abundant can be very important. Birders know that at this time of year, you need to carry your binoculars with you at all times because migrants can be found almost anywhere.

Hawk migration is one of the most spectacular phenomena in our state due to our ridge and valley topography. During migration, raptors concentrate along the ridges as they use the updrafts created by the ridges to help power their southward journey. Birders and biologists gather along the ridges to view, record and monitor the number of migrating birds, and Pennsylvania is home to numerous “hawk watching” sites including the internationally known Hawk Mountain.

Waterfowl are one of the last groups to leave and one of the first to return in early spring. They migrate during both night and day. When their energy reserves are depleted, they stop at stopover locations to feed and put on fat. Middle Creek, in southeast Pennsylvania, is an important

migratory stopover site and a great place to see thousands of migrating snow geese and tundra swans. During migration, waterfowl will often search for places to land during storms and periods of inclement weather. Look for migrating waterfowl along rivers, lakes, ponds and wetlands, particularly on days with rainy or stormy weather.

During migration, birds face extreme energy demands while flying across unfamiliar terrain. It is during this time of year that it is important for birds to be able to find places to rest and feed. Natural areas, riparian corridors, parks, wetlands and even backyards all become important areas for birds to refuel. The Wildlife for Everyone Foundation Tom Ridge wetland and Julian wetland provide important stopover habitat and a great place for birders to hear and see some of the uncommon birds that move through Pennsylvania.

Photo © Mark Nole



Yellow-rumped Warbler

BIG PLANS *in store for* CENTRE COUNTY WETLAND

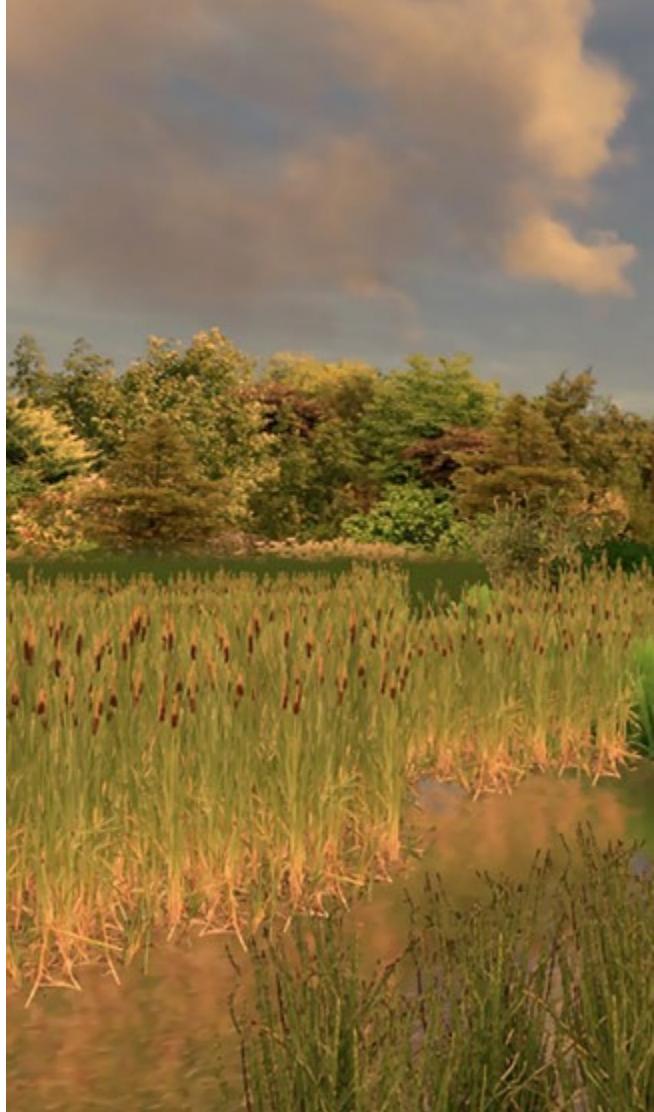
by MARK NALE

JULIAN, PA — Goldenrods and purple asters sway in the autumn breeze. Monarch butterflies stop to sip nectar from the goldenrods—a stopover on their long journey to Mexico. A brilliantly-plumaged male wood duck flushes from the cattails. The Tom Ridge and Julian Wetlands, located along Alternate Route 220 between Port Matilda and Julian, are home to many types of wildlife.

In 2010, 135 acres of man-made wetlands and adjacent uplands were donated to the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation by WHM Group, Inc., of State College. The wetlands were constructed by WHM as mitigation for the environmental damage that Interstate 99 construction caused through central Pennsylvania.

Anglers fish the section of Bald Eagle Creek that flows through the property, people hike on the .85-mile dirt trail, photographers travel from State College to capture wildlife images and birds flock to the property—particularly in the spring. Wildflowers begin blooming there in April, and the colorful show unfolds through October, with different species blooming every week. Several seldom-seen native plant species call this property home—buttonbush, larger blue flag and lizard’s tail, among others.

The wetlands have become a birder’s paradise, with over 180 species identified there.



Just based on recorded eBird data, over 1,450 individual checklists have been submitted—and many birders do not use eBird. Penn State ornithologist Margaret Brittingham takes her classes there to study birds.

“The diversity of birds combined with the location, make the Tom Ridge and Julian wetlands ideal outdoor classrooms for observing both common and uncommon bird species,” Brittingham noted.

The habitat breaks down to 55 acres of man-made wetlands and 15 acres of riparian woodlands along Bald Eagle Creek—a stocked trout stream. An additional 65 acres consists of upland forest, meadows with warm-season grasses, wildflowers and shrubs.



Buttonbush



Lizard's Tail



Photos © Mark Nade

Palm Warbler

“This is our signature property for people of all ages from across the Commonwealth to come and experience our rich outdoor heritage,” Foundation Chairman of the Board Russ Schleiden stated.

Big plans are in store for the property—improvements that will enhance its educational value and wildlife viewing opportunities, as well as make much of the property easily accessible for people of all ages and abilities. Foundation President Jerry Regan details those plans.

“We have designed a plan that will be transformational in creating access for

“We have designed a plan that will be transformational in creating access for everyone, regardless of interest or physical ability, to be able to connect in a meaningful way with nature.”

-Jerry Regan, president, Wildlife Foundation

everyone, regardless of interest or physical ability, to be able to connect in a meaningful way with nature. The project includes a mile of fully accessible trails—mostly boardwalk—to enable people of all abilities to enjoy this wetland habitat, an education pavilion with fireplace and observation platforms, birding blinds, a fully-accessible fishing platform, a pollinator garden, benches, and interpretive signage are all in the works,” Regan commented.

“Too often, we take for granted the restorative aspects of spending time in the great outdoors. Studies show those who can benefit from it the most often are kept inside due to physical limitations that make getting out and connecting with nature difficult,” Senator Jake Corman said. “By creating a trail and wildlife center that is accessible for everyone, the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation addresses

this issue. This mile-long accessible trail will be a national model and I am very proud to support it and promote wildlife conservation in Pennsylvania.”

In August, the Foundation Board unanimously approved the \$1.8-million budget for the project. The foundation is now beginning the fundraising phase. A kick-off event was held at the wetlands on September 27—attracting many interested nature lovers. All that is missing for this signature Wildlife for Everyone project is your support.



Over 120 attend Kick-Off event



GONE FOR ANOTHER DAY

NOV. 4 (1975)

While watching migrating hawks from the railroad above Tarry Hall this morning, I heard a hound “tongue,” and a few minutes later, I saw a white-and-brown fox hound on the mountainside across from me.

He was casting about, apparently trying to pick up a trail on the rocks and grass. He looked very tired and didn’t seem to be having any success. Eventually, he returned to the cover of the trees in the hollow, between the spot where I first saw him and Indian Head Rock.

Shortly afterward, I noticed something on Indian Head. Thinking it was a ground hog, I focused my binoculars on it, only to discover it was a red fox, lying on the rock in the sunshine. He looked about from time to time, and once yawned, but kept looking down into the trees.

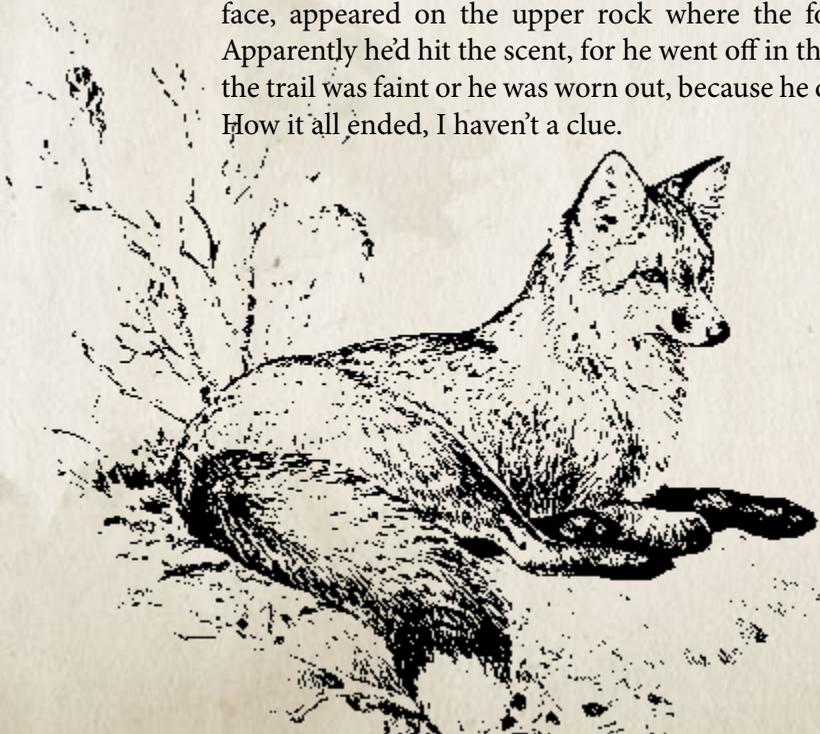
Perhaps ten minutes later the hound appeared, still casting about slowly, but this time sniffing all over the ledge just fifteen or twenty feet directly beneath the fox. The latter didn’t even get to his feet but watched the dog with great interest.

The hound wandered back and forth for some time before disappearing into the north side of the rocky outcropping. At that the fox got up, hopped down off the rock and carefully made his way up the nearly vertical face of the big outcropping above Indian Head Rock. Once on top he stopped beneath a scrubby pine and watched the baffled hound for some minutes before proceeding up the mountain.

I heard or saw nothing for nearly half an hour, then a dog barked behind Indian Head Rock several times. Another hound, this one with a black face, appeared on the upper rock where the fox had made his exit. Apparently he’d hit the scent, for he went off in that direction. But either the trail was faint or he was worn out, because he didn’t tongue after that. How it all ended, I haven’t a clue.

—Ned Smith
Gone for Another Day

Thanks to Ned Smith Center
for providing imagery.



Cindy Dunn

Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of
Conservation and Natural Resources

by MARK NALE

If you are searching for an influential woman in conservation or an environmental role model, then look no further than Cindy Adams Dunn, who heads the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Dunn's agency, DCNR, oversees the management of over 2.2 million acres of Pennsylvania's forests and state parks.

Prior to becoming secretary, Dunn served as president and chief executive officer of PennFuture, a statewide environmental advocacy group. She had previously held various leadership positions within DCNR and Audubon Pennsylvania.

Dunn has been connected with nature and involved in conservation issues since she was very young. One of her earliest memories is her father taking her to a small tributary of Fishing Creek to look for crayfish, snakes, or whatever natural wonders they might find. Then there was family hiking, camping and a western United States trip as a teenager—all positive influences.

"I've been lucky to have supportive parents and a grandmother, and to have the freedom to roam," Dunn said. "I didn't realize it at the time, but looking back, many of my childhood nature books, such as *Odyssey of the Otter*, were given to me by my grandmother. She really nurtured my interest and love of nature."

Dunn also credits one of her junior high teachers who had her class very involved in the first Earth Day—that made a lasting impression on her. Dunn's first brush with environmental advocacy came a short time later—while she was still in high school. The spark—a proposal to build a landfill near her home in Stony Valley.

"They were going to haul in trash from New Jersey and dump it in Stony Valley," Dunn related. "I went door to door helping to raise money and creating awareness for our campaign opposing the landfill. I also met with state officials.

"I learned an important lesson from that activity—get involved, work hard, and you can win." The landfill proposal was defeated.

Dunn majored in biology at Shippensburg University and also received her master's degree there. While in college she heard a guest lecture by Dr. Daniel Janzen about the disappearing rain forests in Costa Rico.

"That really spoke to me and I saw the importance of connecting people with nature," Dunn shared. "And this is what the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation does. I love the name, it just says it all, and your programs follow through with that mission."

Along that same vein, Dunn has been instrumental in starting and promoting the new DCNR initiative—the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps. This program targets urban and diverse youth—those not usually in touch with nature—and puts them to work in the state forests and state parks during the summer.

"We had five crews of about ten people each in 2016, and this year we added nine more youth crews and four adult crews," Dunn related. "Our executive team has made this a priority that we want to keep expanding."

Dunn credits Maurice Goddard (former Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters), Art Davis (former secretary of DCNR) and Ralph Abele (former Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission) as those who offered support, guidance, and inspiration during

her formative years. She also cited Harrisburg native Mira Lloyd Dock (1853–1945) an early conservationist and civic leader. Dock, a botanist, promoted parks and a cleaner environment in Harrisburg as well as land preservation. She was the first woman appointed to a Pennsylvania state government position—a member of the State Forest Reservation Commission.

"Mira Lloyd Dock worked with J. P. Rothrock and other male partners because at that time women could not even vote and were seldom recognized for their accomplishments," Dunn noted. "She had such drive and determination—and is a true inspiration for me."

Dunn's conservation career gives testament to the fact that women have a much larger conservation presence today. However, she would like to see more women connected to the outdoors.

"Women can have such a large influence. More are hunting and fishing, but we still have trouble attracting women into forestry. The role of women in conservation is critical," Dunn said.

"At this stage in my career I'm not angling for my next job," Dunn said. "I try my best to live up to Abele's motto—'Do your duty and fear no one.'"

This is a good lesson for us all.

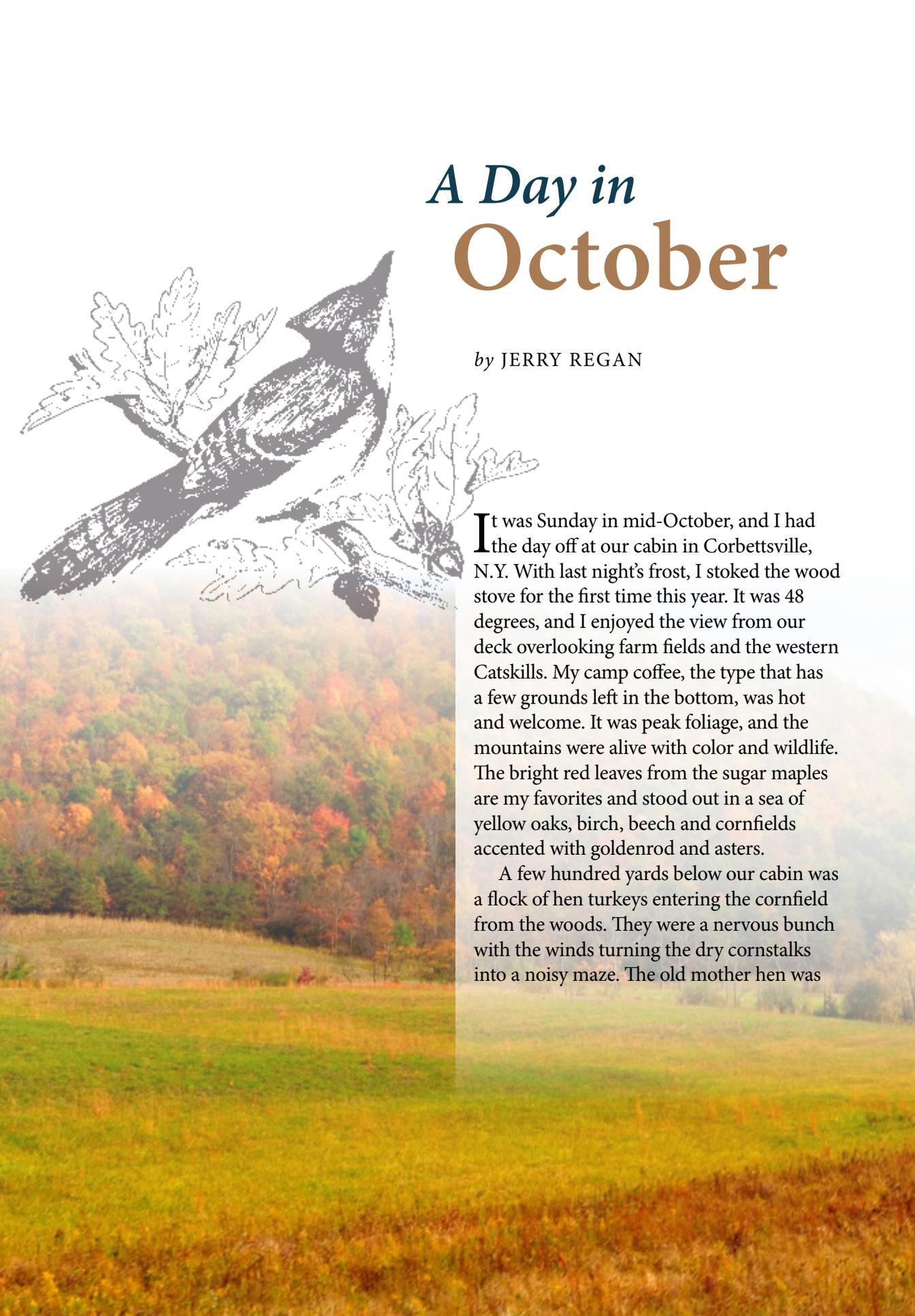
"Women can have such a large influence. More are hunting and fishing, but we still have trouble attracting women into forestry. The role of women in conservation is critical."

—Cindy Dunn



A Day in October

by JERRY REGAN



It was Sunday in mid-October, and I had the day off at our cabin in Corbettsville, N.Y. With last night's frost, I stoked the wood stove for the first time this year. It was 48 degrees, and I enjoyed the view from our deck overlooking farm fields and the western Catskills. My camp coffee, the type that has a few grounds left in the bottom, was hot and welcome. It was peak foliage, and the mountains were alive with color and wildlife. The bright red leaves from the sugar maples are my favorites and stood out in a sea of yellow oaks, birch, beech and cornfields accented with goldenrod and asters.

A few hundred yards below our cabin was a flock of hen turkeys entering the cornfield from the woods. They were a nervous bunch with the winds turning the dry cornstalks into a noisy maze. The old mother hen was

clearly in charge and kept her eyes alert; she chased the younger ones in the direction of her choosing. After 10 minutes, the winds had triumphed, and she directed the flock back into the woods. There were no gobblers or younger jakes with her.

Today was the start of my scouting season, and I prepared to take a long hike to check out each of our tree stands. Heading west up the mountain brought my second encounter, the call of the Red-tailed Hawk. It was piercing and owned the airspace that afternoon; I wondered where it had migrated from. The winds were steady, and that distinct crispness was back in the air once again. I have been told that fall's unique scent is part of nature's cleansing process, but I have never researched the science behind what is actually happening. All I know is that since my youth, I have relished this time of the year to be outside.

After hiking an hour to the western border of the property, I located the perfect tree to mount our new stand. It was a large soft

maple overlooking a natural crossing with a dry creek bed. My cousin has an adjoining farm and told me about a 12-point buck that had been seen in this area. I have been haunted by such images of majestic bucks but have never seen one in my 40 years of hunting. I hope to catch a glimpse of this "King of the Woods" in the coming weeks.

The skies were getting more ominous with dark clouds hovering, and it was time to head north to Nine Point Alley, the spot my brother named for his buck 18 years ago. The fallen leaves were dry and crunched loudly under my hiking boots, and I sat in his lucky spot and tuned into the sounds and smells around me. A familiar call echoed across the creek from behind; it was the alarm of a Blue Jay. Something had startled it, and I wondered with anticipation what it might be. Another 40 minutes passed with my thoughts absorbed in my surroundings; my world was clear and at peace. Whatever raised the Blue Jay's siren did not reveal itself; but the woods were alive, and I wondered if it just might have been that elusive 12 point buck.

One day in October was all I had thus far, but what a great day it was. I plan to come back next weekend and the next for another day in the woods, and who knows what surprises Mother Nature will have in store.

“Whatever raised the Blue Jay’s siren did not reveal itself; but the woods were alive, and I wondered if it just might have been that elusive 12 point buck.”

–Jerry Regan





We Love
Wild THINGS,
and *Wild*
PLACES
Spring Gala

Featuring Naturalist Lee Peterson
(son of famed naturalist and artist Roger Tory Peterson)

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2018 • 5:30 P.M.

Nittany Lion Inn
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*Proceeds will support the Wildlife Foundation's conservation
and education efforts in Pennsylvania.*

Early Bird prize drawing for tickets purchased before February 28, 2018

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RICHARD CROSSLEY VISITS STATE COLLEGE

Saturday, April 7, 2018

BIRD WALK

Tom Ridge and Julian Wetlands

Led by Richard Crossley

PROGRAM, RECEPTION & BOOK SIGNING

Location TBD

There and Back—One morning Richard woke up and decided he needed to drive to the Arctic Ocean—from his home in Cape May, NJ. Told in a thick Yorkshire accent, with a sense of humor and a disdain for PC, Richard talks about his 16,000 mile adventure, living in his car, the inspiring people he met, and places he went. Did it shape *The Crossley ID Guide: Waterfowl*, would he recommend you do the same trip, are just two of the many questions that Richard will address. The answers will surprise you.

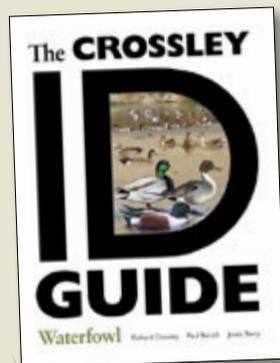
Richard Crossley is an internationally acclaimed birder, photographer and award-winning author of 'The Crossley ID Guide' series. Born in Yorkshire, Richard is also co-founder of the global birding initiative Pledge to Fledge (www.pledgetofledge.org), Race4Birds (www.race4birds.org), and The Cape May Young Birders and resides in Cape May, NJ.

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- Covers all of North America's ducks, geese, and swans
- Lots of mystery photos to challenge you
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EVENTS



SPORTING CLAY CLASSIC

Friday, May 4, 2018

Seven Springs Mountain Resort

Gather a team and sign up for a day of sporting clay competition at Seven Springs! An award-winning course, great food & prizes in a beautiful setting.

Photo © Mark Nale



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 or archery, plus even more prizes planned for the 2018 event!



SUPPORT THE WILDLIFE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Advancing the future

A permanent fund will generate yearly awards to students interested in wildlife conservation. Please consider supporting our scholarship fund.



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. The program kicks off in January. Please consider making a donation.

“SEEDLINGS FOR SCHOOLS” SPONSORS:



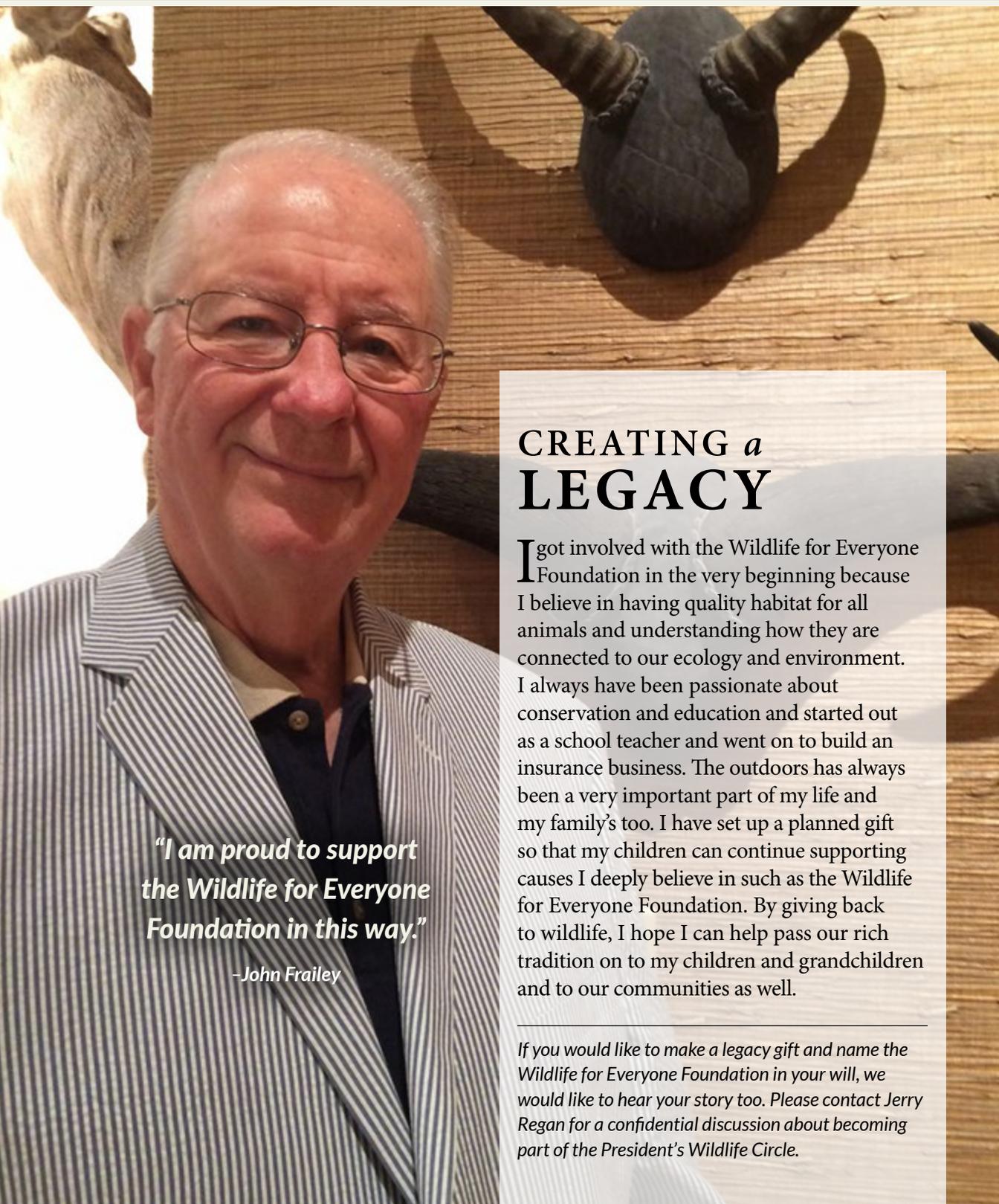
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JDN Foundation



“I am proud to support the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation in this way.”

—John Frailey

CREATING *a* LEGACY

I got involved with the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation in the very beginning because I believe in having quality habitat for all animals and understanding how they are connected to our ecology and environment. I always have been passionate about conservation and education and started out as a school teacher and went on to build an insurance business. The outdoors has always been a very important part of my life and my family’s too. I have set up a planned gift so that my children can continue supporting causes I deeply believe in such as the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation. By giving back to wildlife, I hope I can help pass our rich tradition on to my children and grandchildren and to our communities as well.

If you would like to make a legacy gift and name the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation in your will, we would like to hear your story too. Please contact Jerry Regan for a confidential discussion about becoming part of the President’s Wildlife Circle.



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