

The Inkwell

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45 East Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

March 2013

The official newsletter of The Bradford Landmark Society



Welcome to spring! Well, almost. Bradford history shows us that spring can arrive late. On March 23, 1994, the roof of the old Hanley brick plant in Lewis Run caved in due to the weight of melting snow; in April 1982, it was snowing during the dedication ceremonies of the new post office on Boylston Street. So don't plant the garden yet!

At the Landmark, we are making plans for the coming year at the Crook

Farm. The School Program starts May 20 and the annual Crook Farm Country Fair will be held August 24 and 25. The Boy Scouts of America are holding their first ever Camporee at the Crook farm in May as well. Calling it "Live and Learn", scouts are invited to camp on the grounds of the Crook Farm, watch demonstrations of old time crafts; have tours of the buildings, candlemaking, blacksmithing, play old fashioned games, work

on merit badges, and lots more. It sounds like a great weekend and we hope that the Scouts enjoy the farm as much as we do.

We are hoping to place some birdhouses, bat houses, and butterfly houses on the farm grounds this year as well. Anyone interested in making and donating any of these "houses", or are available to help do some "fixing up" at the farm, please contact the Landmark at 362-3906.

Meanwhile, things at our downtown headquarters location, the Herbig bakery, are doing well, too. We have begun a cataloging program of all our "stuff" - books, furniture, documents, maps, advertising items, clothing, toys, household goods, dishes—all sorts of things. This is an ongoing project that should take another two years to finish, but when we are done, we will know exactly what is in our collection, and where it is located. For example, we found out that we have over 300 maps at the Herbig bakery; over 675 books at the Schoolhouse on the Crook farm, and nearly 200 advertising items. And did you know that we now have over 16,000 photographs of the Bradford area, its people, buildings, railroads, schools, churches, events, businesses, industries, etc. etc. etc.

Interested in being one of the vendors at the Crook Farm Country fair this August? Applications are now being accepted by the Bradford Landmark Society for those who wish to exhibit their crafts, products, or talents at the fair. Why just walk around and wish you could be a part of the fun? You can! Read on for a list of rules and fees.

33rd Crook Farm Country Fair

August 24-25, 2013

10 AM to 5 PM each day

Vendor Exhibit Space Application

Each year, the Bradford Landmark Society hosts an old fashioned country fair and bluegrass music festival at the historic Crook Farm on 476 Seward Avenue in Bradford. Vendors are invited to apply to become a part of this honored tradition. The fee is reasonable, and covers both days. There are several options and sizes for vendor space to fit every budget.

SIZE OF SPACES AVAILABLE

Fee

Open field, 10' x 10' space	\$ 69.00
Open field, 20' x 10' space	\$125.00
Open field with parking behind, 10' x 10' space	\$ 80.00
Open field with parking behind, 20' x 10' space	\$150.00

The Landmark does not provide tents, or side curtains. In case of rain, we suggest you bring tarps. We do not furnish tables or chairs and there is no electrical service available for exhibitors. Craft trailers will not be permitted to block the aisles for more than one-half hour while unloading. Country Fair personnel will not be available to assist in setting up or removing exhibitor's equipment.

Booths must have someone in attendance at all times when the fair is open.

Please include a photo with name and address on back (unless you were here last year) and a description of the work you wish to exhibit. Photos will not be returned unless requested. It may be necessary to limit the number of similar types of crafts.

Requests received after the deadline will be considered in the order received, provided space is available. We will keep a waiting list in case of cancellations.

ALL CRAFT APPLICATIONS WILL BE JURIED AND APPROVED BY THE VENDOR COMMITTEE. ALL CRAFTS NOT INCLUDED ON ORIGINAL APPLICATION MUST BE APPROVED. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REQUEST THESE ITEMS BE REMOVED.

Each vendor is requested to donate an item for the Country Fair Auction to be held during the fair, approximate value \$10. Receipts will be given for each donation.

It's easy to apply. Just decide on how much space you will need, fill out the application below, and send it to

Margie Harris
35 Derrick Rd.
Bradford, Pa. 16701

Send no money at this time. The application deadline is May 3, 2013.

Contracts will be mailed – June 1, 2013 (money due with contract)

I (we) wish to reserve the following space. Please indicate your first, second, or third choice:

1. _____ 10' X 10' OPEN - \$69.00
2. _____ 20' X 10' OPEN - \$125.00
3. _____ 10' X 10' OPEN/PARKING BEHIND - \$80.00
4. _____ 20' X 10' OPEN/PARKING BEHIND - \$150.00

Please provide the following information.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE () _____

E-MAIL _____

PA TAX NUMBER _____

DESCRIPTION OF CRAFTS YOU WILL BE EXHIBITING:

For further information about the Crook Farm Country Fair, visit our website at www.bradfordlandmark.org. or contact Margie Harris at (814) 362-1300 or (814)598-9903 or tuppermargie@verizon.net or call the Bradford Landmark Society at 814-362-3906.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

A Big Year for Birders

If you are a bird watcher, or “birder” you know that for bird watchers, a “Big Year” is their jargon for an informal competition among birders to see who can see or hear the largest number of species of birds within a single calendar year and within a specific geographical area.

For the winner, there is no prize. No money. No fame, except the winner does get recognized by the American Birding Association. But for birders, it’s the ultimate thrill and a lifetime goal.

It’s based on an honor system. Many Big Year birders stake their birding reputations on their results, and offering proof of bird sightings is a sure way to substantiate each bird counted. The most common ways to do this are either to go birding with groups where other birders can also witness the sighting, or else to photograph each bird as sighting proof. Unsubstantiated sightings, particularly from unknown birders, may be questioned or rejected by birding authorities.



A “Big Year” can be expensive. Although birders rarely report what an actual year devoted to just chasing bird sightings around the country can cost, it is believed to be at least \$50,000 for an all out effort. Some birders spend much more than that. One couple drove 59,625 miles in 2012 and visited 42 states. Their budget was \$10,000, but that included driving a Prius and camping out many nights. They saw over 600 birds. In 2012, the “Big Year” record was set in Australia by John Weigel. As of December 15th he had seen 744 species. In the US, a birder named Anthony Collerton broke a big year NY state record with 361 species checked off, breaking the state record of 352 set in 2011. Renee Rubin and Michael Delesantro, both retired, tracked down 654 species in the lower 48 states; while in Canada, a couple decided to track both birds and mammals during their “Big Year Fur and Feathers” and came up with 76 mammals and 431 birds.



Now, why does this edition of the Inkwell talk about a “Big Year”? Well, the Landmark recently received a copy of the Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin, published in March 1923. In this edition, a birder performed his own version of a “Big Year” by identifying all the birds that he found in Allegany State Park during the period July 3rd to August 13th, 1921. What’s even more remarkable is that the formation of the Park was not yet even signed into law (official day was July 31, 1921).

The birder’s name was Aretas A. Saunder (1884-1970), an ornithologist of repute whose books on bird song and identification are still sold today. That summer, he stalked the birds of Allegany State Park, tramping through fields, crawling through brush, lurking under trees, picking his way along streams, all while waiting patiently for a bird’s song, the flash of a wing, or the sighting of a bird on a branch.

He explained why he chose the early summer months. “Most birds are nesting and singing in June and early July and are easily observed then. By the middle of July, several species have ceased to sing. Fewer and fewer songs are heard as the summer advances, until by mid-August, nearly all birds are silent. The number of bird species seen is likely to be much greater in June and July than later in the summer.” Saunder also noted that birds molt in late summer, and puzzling plumages are likely to be seen then, hindering identification. And finally, he advised bird watching in the early morning, “the earlier the better. Birds begin their day with the first faint light of dawn and are most active in the early hours following.” Evenings are also a good time, “there is another period of bird activity toward evening. One may often be quite successful in finding birds in the last hours of daylight, and as twilight deepens such night-calling species as the Whip-poor-will and owl become vocal.”

Saunders listed all the birds that he found, where he found them, and how to distinguish them. The list is remarkable. However, Saunders did not record, for the most part, any game birds, such as Wild Turkey, quail, ducks, or pheasants in the park, concentrating on only songbirds, his specialty. Indeed, he reported that Ring-necked Pheasants had only been introduced to the Park in recent years, and he had not seen one, but they had been spotted in the Tunungwant Valley near Limestone. Saunders did not believe that this “exotic” species should be introduced to the park at all, at the expense of other game birds, notably the Ruffed Grouse. He also noted that turkeys could not be found in the park either, although they “occurred many years ago” and noted “it is now rare in most regions to which it was indigenous, and perhaps it is in danger of extermination” and suggested re-introducing the turkey to the park, in attempts to re-establish it.

For your enjoyment we present Saunders’s list here, in hopes that the birders among us might be inspired to do their own “Big Year”, even if just in the Bradford area, or McKean County. How many have you seen?

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Herring Gull | 36. Wood Pewee | 71. Yellow-throated Vireo |
| 2. Black Duck | 37. Least Flycatcher | 72. Blue-headed Vireo |
| 3. Bittern | 38. Prairie Horned Lark | 73. Black and White Warbler |
| 4. Great Blue Heron | 39. Blue Jay | 74. Tennessee Warbler |
| 5. Green Heron | 40. Crow | 75. Northern Parula Warbler |
| 6. Sora | 41. Starling | 76. Yellow Warbler |
| 7. Woodcock | 42. Bob-o-link | 77. Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| 8. Spotted Sandpiper | 43. Cow-bird | 78. Magnolia Warbler |
| 9. Killdeer | 44. Red-winged Blackbird | 79. Cerulean Warbler |
| 10. Ruffed Grouse | 45. Meadowlark | 80. Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| 11. Mourning Dove | 46. Baltimore Oriole | 81. Blackburnian Warbler |
| 12. Marsh Hawk | 47. Bronzed Grackle | 82. Black-throated Green Warbler |
| 13. Sharp-shinned Hawk | 48. Purple Finch | 83. Pine Warbler |
| 14. Red-tailed Hawk | 49. Goldfinch | 84. Oven-bird |
| 15. Red-shouldered Hawk | 50. English Sparrow | 85. Northern Water Thrush |
| 16. Bald Eagle | 51. Vesper Sparrow | 86. Louisiana Water Thrush |
| 17. Sparrow Hawk | 52. Savannah Sparrow | 87. Mourning Warbler |
| 18. Barred Owl | 53. Grasshopper Sparrow | 88. Maryland Yellow-throat |
| 19. Screen Owl | 54. Chipping Sparrow | 89. Yellow-breasted Chat |
| 20. Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 55. Field Sparrow | 90. Hooded Warbler |
| 21. Black-billed Cuckoo | 56. Slate-colored Junco | 91. Canada Warbler |
| 22. Belted Kingfisher | 57. Song Sparrow | 92. Redstart |
| 23. Hairy Woodpecker | 58. Towhee | 93. Catbird |
| 24. Downy Woodpecker | 59. Cardinal | 94. Brown Thrasher |
| 25. Northern Pileated Woodpecker | 60. Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 95. House Wren |
| 26. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 61. Indigo Bunting | 96. Winter Wren |
| 27. Red-headed Woodpecker | 62. Scarlet Tanager | 97. Brown Creeper |
| 28. Northern Flicker | 63. Cliff Swallow | 98. White-breasted Nuthatch |
| 29. Whip-poor-will | 64. Barn Swallow | 99. Chickadee |
| 30. Nighthawk | 65. Tree Swallow | 100. Wood Thrush |
| 31. Chimney Swift | 66. Bank Swallow | 101. Veery |
| 32. Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 67. Rough-winged Swallow | 102. Olive-backed Thrush |
| 33. Kingbird | 68. Cedar Waxwing | 103. Hermit Thrush |
| 34. Crested Flycatcher | 69. Red-eyed Vireo | 104. Robin |
| 35. Phoebe | 70. Warbling Vireo | 105. Bluebird |

Did you know that the Bradford Club once had their own bowling alleys, and competed against local and regional teams? The Landmark recently discovered a flyer in an old scrapbook, promoting the opening of the new alleys. While we could not specifically pin down the date, we believe that the bowling alleys described herein were opened around 1910 and were located on the second floor of the old Masonic Temple on Main Street (now the home of Bradford Little Theater and Eric Pogue's Edward R. Jones Investment offices).

Grand Opening of the Bradford Club's Bowling Alley

On Wednesday evening, February 8th, our respected and honored president will roll a gold ball down the alleys with almost incredible speed and accuracy, at 7:30PM sharp, and in a few short, but well chosen remarks in his happiest vein, will extend the freedom of the new room to the members.

The alleys have been placed in charge of "Mr. Whirlwind C. Purple", a very competent man and bowler who will be pleased at any time to give instructions to new bowlers, as well as advice to veterans. He will devote his entire time to making things at the alleys pleasant for the members and will be there from six in the morning until 12 at night, with a smile that won't come off and a welcome for all.

THE GREAT, THE ONLY KENNEDY! THERE IS BUT ONE (COUNT HIM) ONE!

We have engaged for the opening night Mr. T. Headpin Kennedy, who has a reputation as a bowler, which extends from Foster Brook to Toad Hollow. He will give an exhibition of fancy bowling in all branches of the game, Ten Pins, Nine Pines, Hat Pins, and Safety Pins.

Mr. Kennedy has a standing offer to bowl any man, woman, or small child, for Honor, Glory, or Government Bonds. He will conclude his share of the evening entertainment with one of his famous five minute talks to bowlers, entitled "I dreamed I bowled over 100". The members are requested to maintain perfect silence during this stunt, for fear of awakening Mr. Kennedy.

The alleys will then be thrown open to the members for twenty minutes bowling, at the end of which time all are requested to hold their breath for fifteen minutes while Mr. Barcroft, President of the Critics Club, assisted by a competent committee from that body, passes judgment on the alleys and officially accepts the same from the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company.

Now, who were "Whirlwind C. Purple", Mr. Barcroft, and Mr. T. Headpin Kennedy? All were members of the Bradford Club, of course.

T. "Headpin" Kennedy was Thomas H. Kennedy, Bradford banker and philanthropist who lived at 64 Jackson Avenue. He was involved in lumber, oil production, wood chemical and oil refining industries. He was a leading philanthropist, doing large sums of money to the Children's Home and the Bradford Hospital, as well as many other smaller charities. He died in 1941 at the age of 76.



"Whirlwind" was William C. Purple, a Bradford oil producer, who was heavily involved in fraternal and business organizations including the Masons, the North Penn Country Club, and the Bradford Country Club.. He was born in Wisconsin in 1859 and moved to Bradford at the turn of the century. He died in 1929.

Homer Barcroft was born in Petroleum Center in 1868, but came to Bradford at an early age and succeeded in the oil business, become field superintendent of Hazleton Oil for over 20 years. He died in December, 1941.



This photograph of a Bradford bowling alley is unidentified; however it is very similar to all bowling alleys found throughout Bradford. Notice the pin setter boys who were reset the pins. Over the years, various alley locations included the Masonic Temple, the Bowling Alley on the Public Square, above the Star Garage, an alley at the Knights of Columbus on Chestnut Street, and Bagnato's Bowling Alley on East Main in the 1950s. And of course, Bylle Lanes.

Bradford's Women's Literary Club Turns 125 Years Old!

Congratulations to the Literary Club, which was founded in 1888 and continues today as an active club for women.

Beginning in October 5, 1888, with Ella M. Boyce Kirk (first woman school superintendent in the United States) presiding, the club's goal was "the pursuit of study as a means of intellectual culture and general improvement."

We are sure that the past and present members, who now number nearly a thousand, would agree that their goal has been successful.

Allegheny Hellbenders

Whether you call it an Allegheny Hellbender, water dog, devil dog, Allegheny alligator, snout otter, mud devil, or mud puppy, the Allegheny Hellbender is one ugly looking specimen. The largest amphibian in North America, Hellbenders are giant, slimy amphibians with flat heads and bodies, gooey reddish-brown skin, and tiny, nearly sightless eyes. They can grow to over two feet in length, and live 30 years. Basically, they are a rather bizarre species of salamander, and believe it or not, are found in the Allegheny River.

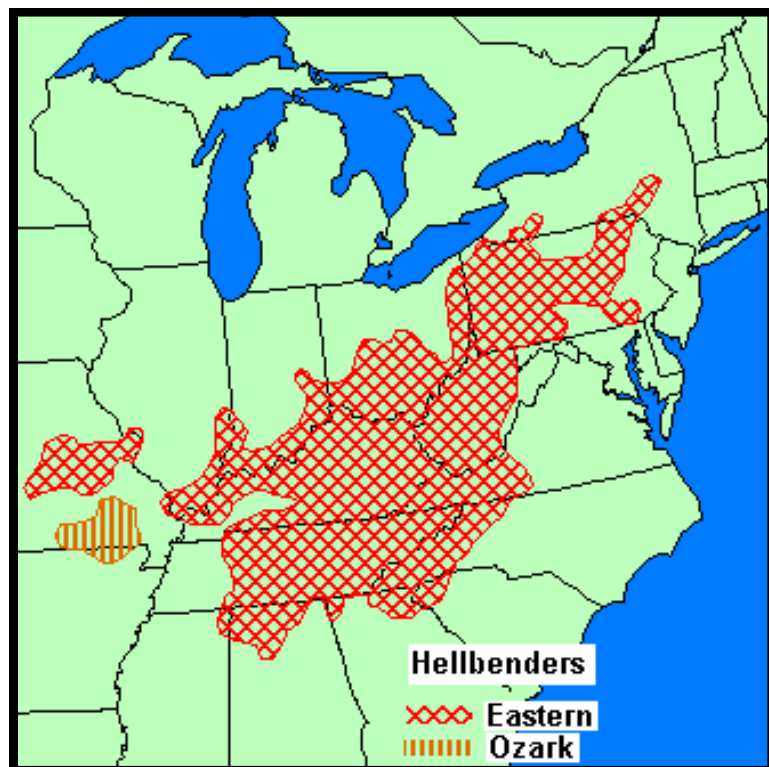
Early settlers or Native Americans gave hellbenders their striking name because they look like they crawled straight out of hell, biologists believe.

You may have seen a photograph of one on the cover of a book that the Landmark Society sells, called "Allegheny Hellbenders" by Larry Behan. He's a retired doctor who lives near Buffalo, NY, and has always been interested in these unusual creatures. (his book is available at the Herbig Bakery, or at the Mercantile store on Main Street, Bradford).

Recently, an effort has been made to re-populate these nearly extinct hellbenders back into the Allegheny watershed. The Seneca Nation of Indians Fish and Wildlife Department and other zoos are working to restore hellbenders to their natural habitat. The Senecas have opened a Hellbender Rearing Facility near the Seneca casino, and are soon ready for the spring release of this year's batch of Hellbenders. Ironically, one of the best spots to release them is in the Allegheny River where the Tuna Creek flows to join it.

Authorities say if you happen to catch one of these amazing yet harmless creatures, gently unhook it and throw it back in the water and report it to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Distribution and Habitat



Hellbender Salamander

Key Facts

- Largest aquatic salamander in the United States
- Average size is 12-15 inches, but can be as long as 29 inches
- Nocturnal
- Diet: crayfish, small fish, tadpoles, toads, water snakes
- Absorbs oxygen from the water through its skin
- A "near-threatened" species due to habitat loss