

February 20, 2012



PARK PICKS
by
FRIENDS OF THE ALLENTOWN PARKS



Join Friends today! Become a member and help make Allentown's great park system even better.

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Backyard Birds for Beginners

In anticipation of this year's **Great Backyard Bird Count** (February 17-20), **Friends of the Allentown Parks** held a session to help us identify the most common 25 backyard birds found in the Allentown area. From the House Wren to American Goldfinch, Red-tailed Hawk to Northern Cardinal, we learned to identify the birds by sight, sound and food source.



Laura & Harvey McGarry



Above: Presenter Dr. Barbara Malt—Vice President, Lehigh Valley Audubon Society



Above: The American Goldfinch is a resident bird. To attract these beauties, a birdfeeder filled with niger (thistle) seeds is irresistible, or, create a natural habitat and include the native Black-eyed Susan or Purple Coneflower in your landscape.

Native Plant Garden

One of our readers graciously provided a link to a webpage which showcases an Allentown backyard native plant garden with pictures of some of the "guests."

<http://home.ptd.net/~bcmalt/garden/september.html>



Left: American Goldfinch in winter plumage
Below: Native plant bouquet



Upcoming Events

March 17—10:00 a.m.—noon Kitemaking & Kiteflying presented by Master Kitemaker Clifford Quinn. Location: Bucky Boyle Park. Registration required. Fee: \$1.00/person

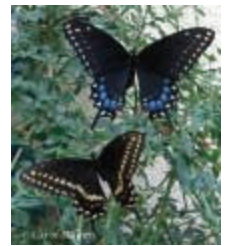
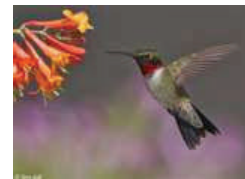
April 21 —10:00 a.m.—noon Flyfishing for Beginners presented by members of the Hokendauqua Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Location: Trout Creek Parkway West. Registration requested. Free.

New! June 16 —1:30—3:00 p.m. Discovery Walk: Name That Tree presented by arborist Randy Fey. Location: South Mountain Reservoir. Free.

New! July 7 —11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Model Sailboat Making and Race. Location: Cedar Creek Parkway pavilions. Registration required; materials provided. Free.

Native Plant Corner

Pennsylvania is home to many beautiful native plants, many of which can add that "special touch" to a landscaped garden/yard. Adorn your gardens with plants which provide food and shelter for any number of resident or migratory "guests" and you may be surprised with the results.



Interested, but your yard space is too small? Consider our Adopt-a-Flowerbed program and you can still create a wonderful natural habitat. (info@allentownparks.org)

For information on Pennsylvania native plants visit <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/nativeplants/index.htm>

For additional information or to tour a local nursery specializing in native plants visit <http://www.edgeofthewoodsnursery.com>

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