



March Branch Meeting

Sixty Years and Counting: Bird Banding and Avian Research at Powdermill Nature Reserve

Annie Lindsay

Banding Program Manager, Powdermill Nature Reserve

Thursday, March 10, 2022 10:00 AM
Murrysville Community Library Tech Nook
4130 Sardis Road

Contents

Branch Meeting	p. 1
City of Asylum	p. 2
Charter Schools	p. 2
Reading for Pleasure	p. 3
President's Letter	p. 3
Great Decisions	p. 4
RFP Memories	p. 4
Bicentennial	p. 5
Calendar	p. 6

The bird banders at Powdermill Nature Reserve have been banding birds year-round since 1961, creating one of the largest and longest-term banding datasets in the country. In this talk, Powdermill's Bird Banding Program Manager, Annie Lindsay, will discuss bird banding in-depth, review how the dataset has been used to study songbirds over the past six decades, and show other current and past bird research at Powdermill, including her current dissertation work.



Annie Lindsay is the Bird Banding Program Manager at Powdermill Nature Reserve in Rector, Pennsylvania, field station of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, where she runs the long-term bird banding station and teaches banding workshops. She earned her M.S. in Natural Resources at the Ohio State University where she studied the effects of winter habitat quality, as determined by stable-carbon isotope analysis, on plumage characteristics and reproductive success in Yellow Warblers. She is currently a PhD candidate and University Fellow at the University of Toledo where she studies trends in long-term bird banding datasets, and how anthropogenic factors, in particular climate change, affect avian populations, movements and behavior.

Annie is an NABC-certified bander trainer and serves in leadership roles for several bird-related organizations and societies. She's an avid birder and molt limit enthusiast, and loves sharing the hobby with new birders, especially her son Tommy!

Snow Policy

If FR Schools are cancelled, AAUW meetings are cancelled.
If FR Schools are delayed, AAUW meetings will be held as scheduled.



City of Asylum Roots and Mission March 8 10:30 AM

Executive Director Andrés Franco will share with us the story of City of Asylum’s roots and remarkable mission, hosting writers and artists exiled from their countries for controversial work. These men and women are provided with housing and health care in Pittsburgh for up to four years, as well as access to social services and a path to resettlement in the United States. The headquarters, called Alphanet City, provides a permanent home for programming, where 175 literary and cultural events are sponsored annually, including readings, music and lectures.

Prior to joining the staff of City of Asylum in October, 2020, Andrés Franco was resident conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, a post he held for six seasons. He’s a frequent guest conductor for orchestras throughout the U.S., Europe and South America.

On March 8 at 10:30 AM watch the program in Murrysville Library’s Tech Nook, or watch from home using this [Zoom link](#):

Meeting ID: 821 6534 2886
Passcode: 757684



Panel Discussion Follow the money . . . to school March 16, 2022 7:30 - 9 PM

An invitation from the West Chester - Chester County Branch of AAUW...

Education is critical to our future. The majority of PA students attend publicly funded schools. These include charter and cyber-charter schools. How are they performing? How are they funded? Are our tax dollars advancing students and working for us?

Come learn how public education in being impacted. To register for this virtual, fact-based panel discussion [click here](#) or go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82165342886>
[register.tZwrde6grTMqHtmxCoTa27LzZc06D4L91zU](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82165342886)



President's Letter

Another interesting and informative program! Thanks to Diane Conway who acted as coordinator, Matt Junker from the Municipal Water Authority of Westmoreland County informed us about our local water quality, and also showed a video explaining lead levels in water in Flint, MI.

I hope you enjoyed the virtual program on the National Opera House with Jonnet Solomon which was shared by the Fox Chapel Area Branch.

I'm excited to announce that the Fox Chapel Area Branch has also offered to share their future virtual programs with our members and the Murrysville Community Library. The next one is the story of the City of Asylum's Roots and Mission. Further details and the Zoom link are on page 2.

The West Chester-Chester County Branch is sponsoring a forum on the impact of charter and especially cyber-charter schools on public education in PA on March 16 from 7:30-9 PM. Find the link to access this discussion on page 2.

Please call me if you are considering a position as President or Secretary of our Branch. Nominees for officers will be announced at the March Branch meeting. Working with the Board is a great way to make new friends and keep our Branch active.



When the scheduled speaker for March canceled, Branch member Rose Marie Muzika recommended Annie Lindsay, Powdermill Nature Reserve's Avian Research Center Bird Banding Manager. Susan Greenberg is coordinating the program. Get a head start on learning more by visiting carnegiemn.org and clicking on Powdermill.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in March, and, at last, the first day of spring!

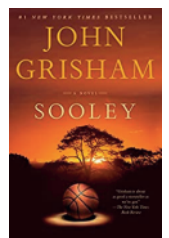
Janet Sutton



Photographs from February meeting

Reading for Pleasure

Reading for Pleasure will celebrate the NCAA basketball tournament this month by reading for discussion John Grisham's book, *Sooley*. Sally Haleen will lead our discussion. Our meeting will be on Thursday, March 24th at 10:00 AM in the Murrysville Community Library meeting room.



Bethia Schulz



Reading for Pleasure Memories



We have always been readers. Almost as soon as our branch began, so did a special interest group called Reading for Pleasure (RFP from now on to save typing). The Branch was chartered in 1971 and RFP appears in the 1972-73 directory. When I first moved to Murrysville, I had a 3 year old and a baby and no time to read. When I did join RFP and found such a delightful group, I regretted the years I had missed. It has forced me to read books I never would have chosen, expanded my group of friends and kept my brain from atrophying. One highlight of the RFP year was always our end of year luncheon at Marge Hanes' home because she has an amazingly long dining table and was gracious enough to host us (Thank you, Marge!!). Sadly the luncheon tradition has been stopped by COVID, but we all miss it. The year that I joined RFP, I brought potato salad as my contribution and everyone made a big fuss. I couldn't understand this until they told me the back story. Years previously, dishes included five potato salads, so for years everyone was afraid to bring that item. I was happy to break the curse. But obviously RFP is about more than our missing luncheon. It is an enjoyable group with interesting discussions. Sometimes our best conversations result when we don't even like the book. Reading has been a lifesaver for me during this stay at home pandemic, and I'm happy that Reading for Pleasure is still going strong after all these years.

Betty Hollingsworth

"When I am really into a novel, I'm seeing the world differently during that time -- not just for the hour or so in the day I get to read. I'm actually walking around in a bit of a haze, spellbound by the book and looking at everything through a different prism."

Collin Firth

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions group began meeting on February 18 with a discussion on a timely topic, Putin's Russia.

Sessions will continue every Friday beginning at 10 AM through April 8. Meetings are held in the library conference room and usually last about 90 minutes which includes time to view a 30 minute video. These meetings are open to all members as well as the public.



This year's topics are:

Feb. 18: Putin's Russia (Barb Glozik)

Feb. 25: Myanmar's Never Ending Crisis (Janet Sutton)

Mar. 4: No End in Sight: A Century of Drug Wars (Susan Greenberg)

Mar. 11: Xi's China Takes on the Quad Alliance

Apr. 1: Foreign Policy, Economic Power, and US Industrial Policy (Annie Rivers)

Biden Foreign Policy in an Age of Strategic Competition

Changing Demographics in the World

Outer Space Policy (Barb Glozik)

The Renewed Climate Change Agenda

If anyone is interested in leading one of the sessions currently without a leader, please contact Barb Glozik (zafodsgirl@gmail.com). It's not necessary to be an expert on the topic, just to have an interest in it.

Barb Glozik

Pathways to the Past



For those of us who were members in 1976, yes, 1976, the Murrysville Area Branch took on a project that is still fairly current today! 1976 was our country's Bicentennial year when we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

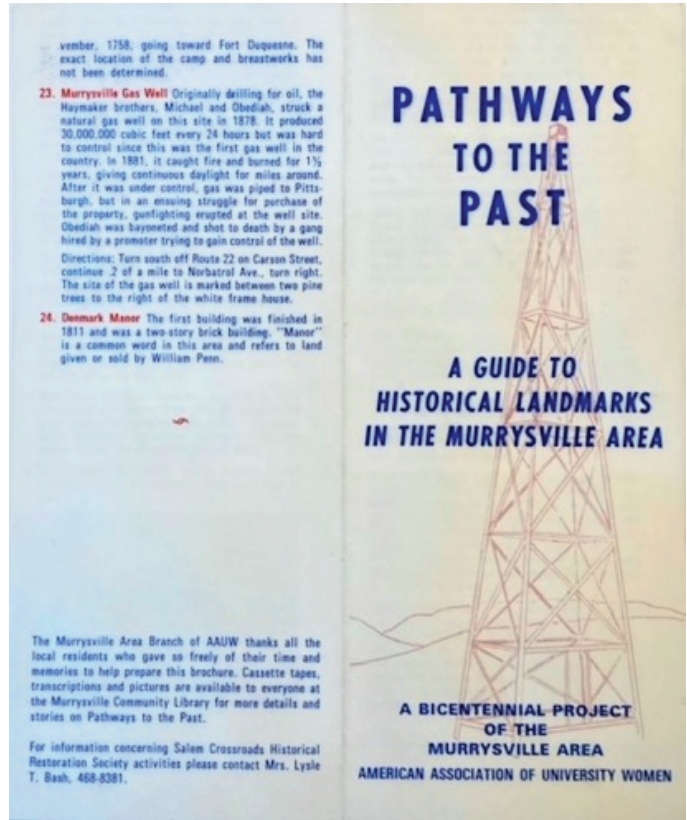
In celebration of the event, our branch created a brochure that was named *Pathways to the Past, A Guide to Historical Landmarks in the Murrysville Area*. In it, we identified 24 historical landmarks with short descriptions in Plum Borough and Murrysville Borough, with an accompanying map that could be used if one wanted to explore by car. It was printed and distributed to the community during a gala Murrysville celebration. Our branch even conducted bus tours at this time and many took up the opportunity to hear about and see the locations mentioned.

In addition, branch members identified long time members of the community who were willing to be interviewed and recorded to preserve their early memories. We then donated these on cassette tapes to the Murrysville Community Library to give the public access to our history.


This took a concerted effort by the entire branch and others in the community for its success. The effort was spearheaded by Shirley Murphy and Judy Johnson but was the result of support and active participation at every level!

Forty-plus years later the brochure is still fairly current. There are a few landmarks that no longer exist, but the locations can still be found. As for the cassettes, transcriptions and photos that were in the library, they cannot currently be located. They may be unearthed, yet! The Murrysville Historical Society did not yet exist, but who knows, we are still hopeful!

Judy Johnson



March 2022

3	Thurs.	9:45 AM	Board Meeting - MCL Meeting Room† Board members please let Janet know if unable to attend.
4	Fri.	10:00 AM	Great Decisions - MCL Meeting Room†
8	Tues.	10:30 AM	City of Asylum Presentation - MCL Tech Nook†
10	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Branch Meeting - MCL Tech Nook†
11	Fri.	10:00 AM	Great Decisions - MCL Meeting Room†
14	Mon.		Deadline to email Focus articles to Donna Beard at djbeard2@gmail.com
16	Weds.	7:30 PM	Charter School Impact Zoom Panel Discussion
17	Thurs.		Happy St. Patrick's Day 
18	Fri.	10:00 AM	Great Decisions - MCL Meeting Room†
24	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Reading for Pleasure - MCL Meeting Room†
25	Fri.	10:00 AM	Great Decisions - MCL Meeting Room†

† The Murrysville Community Library (MCL) Meeting Room is located at the entrance to the Murrysville Community Library, 4130 Sardis Road. The Murrysville Library Tech Nook is located inside the library.

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