

# BIRD TOWN FLYER



Volume 2 Issue 9

Welcome New Readers!

Oct/Nov 2014

## Upper Dublin: Birds and Bugs Highlighted in First Event



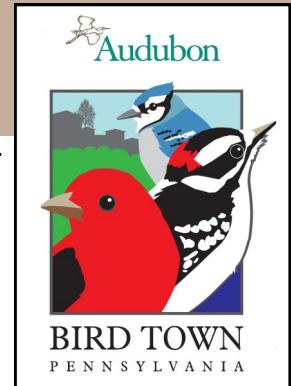
**Upper Dublin**, located in eastern Montgomery County is the first municipality to work towards Bird Town designation under the new protocol (est. Jan 2014). The effort, led by resident Cindy Nuss, includes the gathering of fifty pledge names (done!), holding speaker events (one done!), and having a presence at a public event (done!).

On Sept. 22, Bird Town teamed with the **Women's Farm and Garden Association** to bring entomologist **Dan Duran** to the township building to speak. Thirty people enjoyed Dan's fascinating talk on backyard insects, birds, and native plants. More talks and events are in the planning stages.

Upper Dublin is key to the Bird Town network because of its potential of important partnerships (Temple Ambler, WWWA, etc.), its presence in the Wissahickon Watershed and its ability to demonstrate storm water management practices through backyard and buffer enhancement. Stay tuned for additional programming in Upper Dublin and neighboring new Bird Town, Lower Gwynedd.

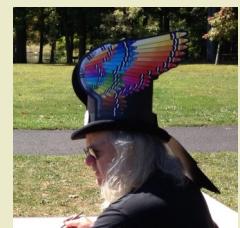
## COMSTAR Recognized for Support

Comstar Supply Inc. in Collegeville was recently recognized for their support of the *Bird on a Wire* Awards which has provided cash awards for Bird Town participants that are creating conservation designs and activities. Comstar is a family-owned business that cares about its employees and the communities where they live and work. Their generous donation to these awards is, in part, a tribute to its founder, Earl Punchard who passed in 2008. The hope is that these awards will help engage local governments in conservation and promote healthy, environmentally-sound communities. In doing so, part of Earl Punchard's legacy is the wonderful natural protection and quality of life that good environmental stewardship inspires. Pictured right is Phil Wallis, Executive Director of Audubon Pennsylvania, Chad Punchard, President of Comstar, Gwen Punchard, owner, John Rogers, Bird on a Wire administrator, and Steven Saffier, Audubon At Home Coord.



## BIRD FESTIVAL SOARS

More than two thousand people came out to Green Lane Park for the 4th Annual Bird and Wildlife Festival co-hosted by the Montgomery County Department of Park, Trails and Historic Sites. For the fourth consecutive year, the weather was picture-perfect and everyone seemed to enjoy the event which included live animal presentation, games, face-painting and art for kids, vendors, food, and live music. The bird-calling contest was amazing again with some impressive young amateurs taking to the microphone. Pictured below is the festival's official artist Alan MacBain wearing a hat he created.



BirdTownPA

## PA Businesses...You're Invited!

The Bird Habitat Discount program is looking for more businesses to join our network by March 2015. Simply respond to this email newsletter and we will get you an application for the program. There is no fee required and your business will be listed along with the other participants at [pa.audubon.org/save](http://pa.audubon.org/save). See the website for more information



**Audubon At Home**  
John James Audubon Center  
at Mill Grove  
1201 Pawlings Rd.  
Audubon PA 19403  
610.666.5593 x112

## Bird on a Wire Award

Congrats to Joan Leiby for winning the September BOW Award for an Ambler backyard design.



## Newtown News...

by Autumn Thomas

Newtown Township Bird Town recently made an appearance at the Annual Newtown Veterinary Pet Fair on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. They featured information on monarch butterflies and how homeowners can provide habitat to foster the butterfly's caterpillars and provide sources of nectar to provide energy to fuel their fall migration to Mexico. Bird Town also had two demonstrations during the event where monarch butterflies were tested for parasites and tagged for MonarchWatch.org, then released to start their journey southward. Adults and kids alike were in awe!



The week following Newtown Township Bird Town hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual native plant and seed swap on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Interested gardeners brought their divisions or seeds collected from their native plants to swap for new native plants or seeds to expand upon their habitat gardens. Milkweed seed was a big swap item this year. Many native gardeners are aware of the numerous challenges the monarch butterfly migration is currently facing and realize action needs to be taken immediately in home gardens, school gardens, and our neighborhood parks. Planting milkweed is one of the easiest actions homeowners can make to sustain the species since this is the only plant the butterfly's larvae can feed on.



## Winter Woodpecker Woes

Woodpeckers chipping away at your wood siding or shingles? Could be they're searching for good winter roost sites or insects. Check this website for information and remedies: [www.birds.cornell.edu/wp\\_about](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/wp_about)

Please share this newsletter with your friends!! Do not want to receive the *Bird Town Flyer*?? No prob. Please reply to this email with request to cancel.