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## President's Report – November 2017 – Evergreen Audubon

3-4 minutes

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It's is hard to believe Thanksgiving is just around the corner which means most of us are thinking of families, friends, what we are thankful for and of course turkeys. I've been lucky enough to see turkeys in the mountains of central Pennsylvania, in the high desert outside of Moab and just recently on North Turkey Creek Road! It is amazing how diverse their habitat can be. Just as diverse as our own Bear Creak Watershed which brings me back to thinking about what I'm thankful for.

I am extremely thankful for getting involved with Evergreen Audubon. I started as a volunteer at the Nature Center back in 2009 but didn't get involved with Evergreen Audubon until 2012 when I joined the board. It took me awhile to venture out on field trips or volunteer for various project, but once I did I was hooked. Because of my involvement I have learned an unbelievable amount of new things about our area habitat and I've made many new friends. I truly believe there is a family-feel to the organization. We are all fortunate to have such an organization in our community and I encourage all non-members reading this article to become members.

Our membership size has increased to approx. 230 individual, our donations continue to increase each year as does the variety of sources outside the membership that provide those donations. Our programming for children has increase and we have our wonderful new space for programs, chapter meetings, offices and storage. What's *not* increasing is the number of volunteers, especially at the Nature Center. I am thankful for all those folks that do volunteer, including those contributing to the Birding Breed Atlas and the Nest Box studies, those leading Christmas Bird Counts, those that help with fund-raisers like the Bash, the Triple-by-Pass and the wreath sales, those who build and sell bird houses in the spring, those who educate us on invasive weeds, those that help with the website and the Dipper, and the core folks, usually the board members, who seem to volunteer for everything. The list of people to thank seems long but we still need help and we struggle with how to get more folks involved. If you have some ideas on how we can increase volunteerism, please let me know.

That said, before the December chapter meeting, we will have a meet-n-greet for our newer members so they can get a better picture of all we do at here at Evergreen Audubon. We hope to start doing these meet-n-greets quarterly. More details to come.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and I hope you get to spot your own turkeys here in the watershed!

-Kathy