

## **His photos pique interest in nature**

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Barrington resident Anton Szabados and his trusty camera have been on many adventures together. He has traveled to Midway Island to be amid a million albatross, flown a World War II plane in Florida (his first experience in a cockpit), and has chatted with actress Stefanie Powers, just to name a few jaunts.

The result of his hobby is an extensive collection of wildlife photographs and wild (but true!) stories.

Szabados is regularly asked to speak in the state and nationally. He donates his time and pictures to not-for-profit organizations, particularly environmental groups, hoping that people will enjoy, and learn from, the experience. This week, the Natural History Society of Barrington was honored to have Szabados as their featured speaker.

Szabados' path to wildlife photography developed from his curious nature. While on vacation, he saw a species of bird he couldn't identify. His interest piqued, Szabados described the bird's physical characteristics to other birdwatchers, and eventually learned its name. As a budding birder, Szabados began photographing unfamiliar birds, to help him later identify them.

His collection now contains images of 650 species of birds, more than 80 percent of the varieties found in the U.S. Szabados does not limit himself to birds, having captured all types of wildlife on film, from butterflies to an Alaskan grizzly bear.

Szabados' photographs have been published and have been widely exhibited to raise public awareness of nature's beauty. Despite his obvious talents, Szabados is quite modest.

"Through my photographs, people have gotten more interested in nature," he said. "That multiplies the effect that I can have, and makes it worth it to me."

On April 20, Szabados will present Basic Birding tips for Beginning Birders at Crabtree Nature Center. The public is invited to attend, and learn some secrets of spotting and identifying birds.

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