



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Wisconsin's Proud Bird Conservation

Wednesday, March 8, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

Michael John Jaeger, President of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, will have a presentation on the legacy of our state's long tradition of bird conservation, our great progress on natural resource protection, and future implications.



Wisconsin Wetlands

Wednesday, April 12, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

Tracy Hames, Director of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, will give a presentation on the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of Wisconsin's wetlands.



Citizens' Climate Lobby

Wednesday, May 10, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

Dan Dieterich, volunteer coordinator for Citizens' Climate Lobby, will give a presentation on how citizens can bring about change on a national level by influencing members of Congress to take meaningful climate action. Citizens' Climate Lobby is a nonpartisan, nonprofit grassroots organization that empowers people to become effective advocates for a livable world.



Dr. Amy Sheldon



Kate Richmond

Visit Us On the Web

www.fldaudubon.org

Follow Us on Facebook

Join Us on Summer Walks

*Watch for information
coming out in May.*

Dave Stetter Environmental Education Fund

Dave Stetter, a long time member of Fond du Lac County Audubon Society, Board member and Conservation Chair, passed away on January 20, 2017. Dave recruited Audubon members for an annual visit to Madison for the League of Conservation Voters Lobby Day and regularly contacted legislators about issues related to protecting and preserving the environment. Dave was a true environmentalist who not only advocated for protecting the natural world, but also took action on his own. He volunteered at one of the early community efforts in Fond du Lac to start recycling, worked on prairie restoration, green areas around schools, built a solar addition to his home, and fought invasive species wherever he could.

Dave was a retired science teacher at Goodrich High School where he organized the first Earth Day activities in 1970 and started the Environmental Awareness Club, an organization of students who learned about, practiced, and promoted environmental stewardship. He led numerous student field trips to Wisconsin natural areas and international trips to the Bahamas for reef study and to Belize for rainforest and reef study. He was instrumental in developing facilities and curriculum for the Eldorado Outdoor Education Center, formerly operated by the Fond du Lac school system.

Dave was an avid outdoorsman who hiked, canoed, sailed, and watched birds throughout the world. In 2010, he climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, and in 2016, he finished his first 100 miles on the Ice Age Trail with his grandsons. He continued to be active in both Rosendale and Oshkosh Boy Scouts, and he served as president of Mid-America Geographic Foundation, an organization dedicated to identification, research, and protection of archeological sites.

Dave highly valued hands-on outdoor learning experiences for youth as a mechanism for instilling an understanding and appreciation of the natural world. Consistent with Dave's passion for



promoting conservation ethics in youth, the Dave Stetter Environmental Education Fund has been established to provide such experiences.

The fund will support Audubon or similar nature camp scholarships, Audubon youth outdoor activities, or field trips to nature centers. Those wishing to contribute to the fund can make donations out to Audubon with Attn. or Memo to the fund. Mail to Mike Sweney, Audubon Treasurer, N5545 Winnvue Court, Fond du Lac, WI 54937. Fond du Lac County Audubon is a 501c(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organization.



Duck Stamp to Help National Wildlife Refuge System

Do your New Year's resolutions for conservation include purchasing a federal duck stamp? Each stamp costs a mere 25 dollars, with 98 cents of every dollar going to purchase or lease land that will be protected by the National Wildlife Refuge system (NWR). Since its inception in 1934, the NWR has generated funds to protect over six million acres of wetlands and grasslands. These vital and critically endangered habitats benefit, not just migratory waterfowl, but many other plants and animals.

In fact, the American Birding Association (ABA), promotes the purchase of the stamps. If you purchase the stamp from their website, they will track the number of "non-consumptive," that is non-hunters, who are interested in preserving habitat.

You can also purchase the stamp from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website or buy it locally at the Fleet Farm service desk.

The stamp is also fascinating from an artistic standpoint. The engravings chosen for the stamps go through a rigorous annual contest. The documentary on the Animal Planet "Million Dollar Duck," depicts the real tension and drama of the lives of several of the contending artists. There is no monetary prize for the winner, but the prestige is invaluable for the artist's career.





Fond du Lac Bird City International Migratory Bird Day

Carol and Roy Toepke of Collections by Carol

Join These Fun Bird Activities

FRIDAY, MAY 5

Bird Art Exhibit, 8 am–5 pm, Riverwalk Art Center 33 W. 2nd Street

Self-guided tours of bird art, including sculptures, paintings, drawings, and etchings of birds.

Bird Art Exhibit (& Painting Demo), 11 am–6 pm, Ubuntu Art Space 52 E. Division Street

Artist Laura Steinmetz will be painting in oils from 11 am–3 pm. See other bird art. Light refreshments. 10% off bird-related art valued at \$10 or more.

Bird Photography Exhibit, 1–5 pm

Gallery & Frame Shop 94 S. Main Street

Roy and Carol Toepke of Collections by Carol will showcase five years of photographing seasonal migration.

Nature Walk, 6 pm, Camelot Business Park

Meet at 28 Camelot Drive

Look for waterfowl, possible woodcocks, songbirds, and bats at dusk. Leaders: Terry Leasa, Kerry Sehloff

SATURDAY, MAY 6

Bird Art Exhibit, 8 am–5 pm, Riverwalk Art Center 33 W. 2nd Street

Self-guided tours of bird art, including sculptures, paintings, drawings, and etchings of birds.

Nature Walk, 9 am, Greenway Arboretum

55 W. Pioneer Road; Park on west side of Pick 'n Save parking lot. Meet at the entrance to the Greenway Arboretum.

Look for migrant song birds, indigo buntings, kingfishers, clay bank swallows, Nashville warblers, ruby crowned kinglets, flickers, phoebes, red-tailed hawks, and more. Leaders: Terry Leasa, Kerry Sehloff

Bicycle Tour, 10 am, Fond du Lac Loop

Meet at the Festival Foods parking lot (the east side by the Loop bicycle repair station).

Discover birding spots along the Loop trail. Helmets are required. Leader: John McDowell

Bird Art Exhibit, 11 am–3 pm

Ubuntu Art Space 52 E. Division Street

See a variety of bird art. Light refreshments. 10% off bird-related art valued at \$10 or more.

Nature Walk, 1 pm, Lakeside Park

West of Main Street at the shelter across from bathrooms

Look for spring migrants traveling along the Lake Winnebago shoreline; water fowl including possibly pelicans, cormorants, terns; yellow warblers, and more. Leaders: Terry Leasa, Kerry Sehloff

Bring binoculars if you have them and shoes suitable for outdoor experiences. *The nature walks are sponsored by ParkWatch. Audubon will have a limited number of binoculars available for use during the walks.*

Birdwatching/Bird Photography

If you enjoy birds and the excitement of birdwatching, come and see some beautiful photography. Roy and Carol Toepke of Collections by Carol will be featured photographers at Gallery and Frame as part of Fond du Lac's Bird City Promotion. They will be at the Gallery and Frame Shop in downtown Fond du Lac on Friday, May 5 for Bird Fest from 1–5 pm; and on Friday, May 19, from 5–8 pm for Tour the Town.

facebook.com/events/218147441990472/

On May 6, the Toepkes are hosting an exhibit of 25 photographers for the Oshkosh Bird Fest at the Saturday Night Out Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6–9 pm, at the Oshkosh Public Library. The event is sponsored by the Oshkosh Photography Group.

oshkoshsaturday.com/this-month-s-map.html

Read about the Toepke's birdwatching adventures on their blog:

collectionsbycarol.blogspot.com/2017/02/a-slice-of-heaven



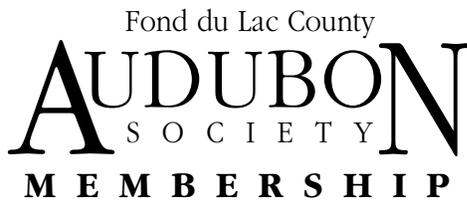
Carol and Roy Toepke of Collections by Carol



P.O. Box 84
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-0084

Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter
via e-mail to evelyn@mcleancowan.com

THE HERON



- Yes!** I want to become a member or renew my membership to the National Audubon Society, and the Fond du Lac County Chapter. The annual membership dues of \$40 entitle me to six issues of the Audubon magazine, and all local chapter benefits. I am enclosing a check payable to Fond du Lac County Audubon.
- I am only interested in being a member and supporting the programs of the Fond du Lac County Audubon. The annual local membership dues of \$20 entitle me to receive the chapter newsletter and all chapter benefits. I am enclosing a check payable to Fond du Lac County Audubon.
- I am a new member.
- Save trees. Please send the newsletter to me via email.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Mail this form with payment to:
Fond du Lac County Audubon, Membership Services
N5545 Winnvue Court, Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Spring Garlic Mustard Pulls

We all need to pitch in and help remove this aggressive invasive that is taking over our wild areas. You will learn how to identify and tackle this plant. Please come to at least one pulling session or more.

PEEBLES TRAIL

Session 1:

Thursday, May 4; Saturday, May 6

Meet on Prairie Road about ¼ mile south of Winnebago Drive on the Peebles Trail.

Session 2:

Monday, May 8; Thursday, May 11

Meet on Hwy K about ⅓ mile south of Winnebago Drive on the Peebles Trail.

LALLIER PARK

Wednesday, May 17

Meet at the south end of the park on National Ave.

HOBBS WOODS

Saturday, May 20; Wednesday, May 24

Saturday, May 27

Meet in the parking lot (five miles south of Fond du Lac on Hickory Street).

All sessions will be from 9–11 am. Cancelled in the event of steady rain. Please bring work gloves and wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. No experience is necessary. For more information, call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com.