



# *The* HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS



### *Wild Feast Potluck*

*Wednesday, September 4, 5 pm*

*Lakeside Park, Denevue Creek Shelter*

Our season kicks off with a potluck. Participants bring a dish made from wild plants, although conventional food is fine, too. Dinner starts at 5:30 pm. See more information on page 2.



### *Nature Makes Us Happy*

*Wednesday, October 9, 7 pm*

*MPTC, Room O-102*

Dr. Amy Knepple-Carney, UW-Oshkosh Professor of Psychology, will describe how humans gain health and well-being benefits from interacting with nature over time.



### *Invasive and Aggressive Plants*

*Wednesday, November 13, 7 pm*

*MPTC, Room O-102*

David Demezas, PhD, Microbiology and Biology Professor at UW-O, Fond du Lac campus, will provide an opportunity to learn about the different mechanisms invasive and aggressive plant species use to impact plant communities.

#### *Visit Us Online*

[www.fdlaudubon.org](http://www.fdlaudubon.org)

#### *Bird Seed Sale, October 12*

*Pre-order high quality seed.*

*See brochure or*

*download the order form online.*

#### *Community Shopping Night*

*December 5*

*Mark your calendars for this*

*event which benefits both*

*Audubon and Just Fare Market.*

#### *Follow Us on Facebook*



## AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

### ***Wild Feast Potluck – September 4***

Our annual Wild Feast Potluck will be held on Wednesday, September 4, starting at 5 pm.

Meet at the Denevue Creek shelter in Lakeside Park (east end of Harbor View Drive). We plan to be eating at 5:30 pm. Bring your own plate, cup, bowl, utensils, and beverage. Beer and wine is allowed.

Your contribution of food or drink to the potluck should include some wild ingredients or fresh produce from your garden. This is an opportunity to experiment and try something new. There are many edible weeds in your own yard. However, avoid areas treated with pesticides. Please bring a list of the ingredients or the recipe, so that people can avoid foods to which they may have an allergy.

Entrées from the past have included creamed dandelion greens, savory burdock patties, plantain casserole, daylily bud salad, garlic mustard pesto, venison stew, hickory nut cookies, and elderberry pie.

Meet middle school environmental camp attendees and hear a brief recap on the National Audubon Convention from our chapter president.

For more information on the Wild Feast Potluck, call 920-922-7931 or email [dianahbeck@gmail.com](mailto:dianahbeck@gmail.com).

### ***Ken Robl Conservation Park***

***Saturday, October 19, 9:30 am***

Dedicated in July 2018 after several years of work, design engineers created a 25-acre park from a former landfill. There are hiking and biking trails, and two ponds from which people can observe nature or fish from an accessible pier made of recycled plastic. Meet at Menard's parking lot at 9:30 am to carpool or at the park at 10 am.

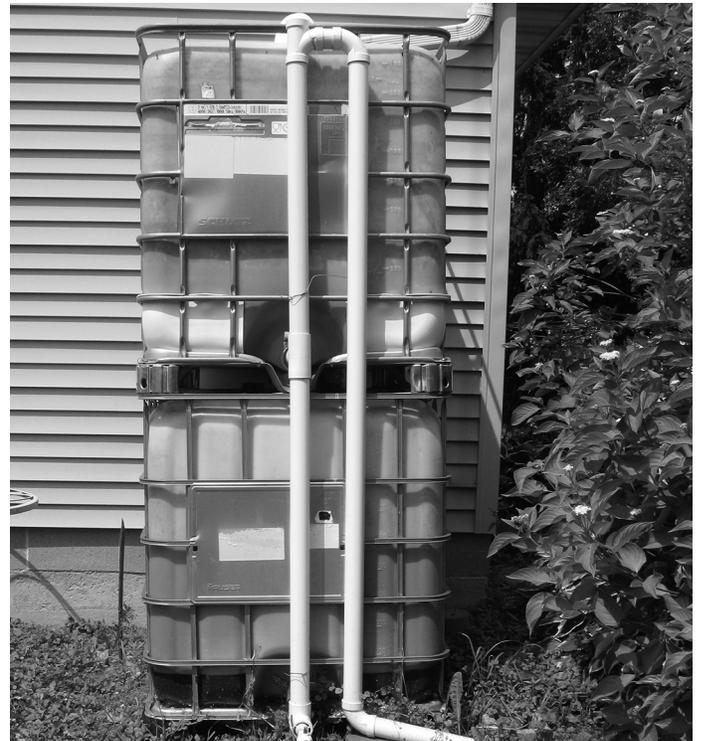


## AUDUBON HABITAT HERO

### ***James Ford and Rain Barrels***

*Inspired at the Audubon National Convention, our local chapter will be recognizing Audubon members and prospective members who are integrating sustainability, biodiversity, and native plants in their yards.*

Our local Audubon member chosen to be the Habitat Hero for this fall newsletter is James Ford. James lives in Oakfield and has transformed his yard in recent years to include many native plants and habitat. Best of all, he gets an A+ for his water capturing system. His unique rain barrel, which he built, can hold 2,250 gallons of storm water runoff from his roof. As James said, "I get the satisfaction of not turning on my (village water) spigot to provide daily water for an extensive array of flowers in the yard and driveway pots. It's something I like to do as an individual acting to benefit the environment. A win-win – exhilarating!"



## **Stetter Environmental Education Funds Support Boys & Girls Club Field Trip**

Through the Dave Stetter Environmental Education funds, 43 second to fifth graders from Fond du Lac Boys & Girls Club enjoyed an outing to Marsh Haven Nature Center on July 10. Although the day was hot, the children participated in a morning and an afternoon nature hike through the woods and around the pond of the Marsh Haven property. Indoor activities included a bingo scavenger hunt through the museum exhibits, insect exploration, and making milkweed seed balls to help monarch butterflies survive. A highlight of the day was meeting two of the resident owls and hearing Marsh Haven Director Renee Wahlen explain their individual stories and tell fun facts about owls.

Thanks to Director Renee Wahlen and the other volunteers who helped make the day a success. From Marsh Haven, Dawn Harmsen led six hikes on an especially warm July day and maintained her enthusiasm throughout. Also from Marsh Haven, Shirley Bachhuber introduced the children to activities with insects. From Fond du Lac County Audubon, James Ford, Judy Hollis, LouRea Kenyon, and Kathleen Stetter helped with activities.

Dave Stetter was a long-time member of Marsh Haven Nature Center, so use of the funds there was especially fitting. The Dave Stetter Environmental Education Fund was established in honor of Dave Stetter, long-time Fond du Lac Audubon member and local science teacher who highly valued youth outdoor education activities for developing an understanding and appreciation of the natural world. Those wishing to contribute to the fund to support this activity and others like it may send checks payable to Dave Stetter EE Fund to Mike Sweny, Audubon treasurer at N5545 Winnvue Court, Fond du Lac, WI 54937. Fond du Lac County Audubon is a 501c(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organization.

## **Preventing Bird Window Collisions**

Researchers estimate that over one billion birds die in North America annually from window collisions. If you find a bird that has hit a window, record the incident on the Global Bird Collision Mapper, a citizen-science global mapping database at [birdmapper.org](http://birdmapper.org).

You can take effective measures to keep birds safe: draw patterns on the outside of your windows with a bar of soap or window paint; hang ribbons or strings on the outside of your window about four inches apart; apply bird-deterrent film or decals; or install externally mounted window screens and leave the screens up year round.

## **Scholarship Winners at Sand Lake Conservation Camp**

Scholarship winners Macy Myers, Molly Fellenz, and Joey Coleman attended Sand Lake Conservation Camp in Crivitz at Camp Bird, June 19–21. The scholarships were made possible through the Dave Stetter Environmental Education Fund. The students learned about the importance of conservation and natural resources, and enjoyed the outdoors while learning new skills.

This year's camp had 77 students representing 25 Wisconsin counties and one Upper Michigan county, and 22 dedicated staff from local and state conservation agencies, as well as volunteers.

The students will spend a few minutes at our Wild Feast Potluck to tell us the highlights of their experiences.

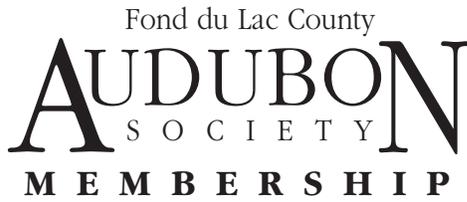




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Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter  
via e-mail to [evelyn@mcleancowan.com](mailto:evelyn@mcleancowan.com)

## 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 Canceled in the event of steady rain.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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

### ***Buckthorn Removal Sessions 2019***

Our birds and wildlife are in trouble and loss of habitat is the leading cause.

Fall is the time to work on Buckthorn, which is a big problem in our area. These small trees become so dense that nothing can grow beneath, resulting in bare soil and erosion. The habitat that Buckthorn offers to birds is considered to be of poor quality and nests suffer more predation. The fruit offers little nutrition because of the laxative effect on the birds.

No experience is necessary. This will be a great opportunity to learn to identify the plant and how to control its spread. Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. Bring work gloves. All equipment will be supplied. ***All sessions are from 9–11 am. Canceled in the event of steady rain.***

#### **Lallier Park**

Meet at the southern end of Lallier Park on National Avenue.  
Saturday, October 5; Tuesday, October 8;  
Friday, October 11; and Monday, Oct. 14

#### **Peebles Trail (Prairie Road)**

Meet on Prairie Road at the junction with the trail (about 1/4 mile south of Winnebago Drive).  
Thursday, October 17; Tuesday, October, 22;  
Thursday, October 24; and Saturday, October 26

***For more information call 920-922-7931 or email [dianahbeck@gmail.com](mailto:dianahbeck@gmail.com)***