



# *The* HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS



### *Beginning Birding*

*Wednesday, March 11, 7 pm*

*MPTC, Room O-102*

Adam Knueppel, an avid and knowledgeable birder with warbler identification education from Bird Academy through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will share tips on using binoculars, where and how to look for birds on your nature walks, and using technology to find birding hotspots. In his first year birding in Fond du Lac County, Adam found 167 species!



### *The Ups and Downs of Tree Planting*

*Wednesday, April 8, 7 pm*

*MPTC, Room O-102*

Join Kevin Hamm, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, to learn the proper way to plant a tree, from proper depth to early care and training, as well as some practical tips for correcting problems from poor planting methods.



### *Identifying Wonderful Warblers*

*Wednesday, May 13, 7 pm*

*MPTC, Room O-102*

Tom Schultz is a wildlife artist, specializing in field guide illustrations and is featured in all seven editions of National Geographic field guide and also illustrated the warbler section of Peterson field guide. He will share information on identifying the types of warblers, over 30 species of which nest in Wisconsin during the summer and migrate to Central and South America for the winter.



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## **Fond du Lac Bird City World Migratory Bird Month**

World Migratory Bird Month celebrates *Birds Connect Our World* and actions you can take to help birds 365 days of the year. Fond du Lac joins in this international awareness event with the following activities:

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 6 pm**

**Fond du Lac Public Library, McLane Room**

Shelley Culea will give a presentation on pollinators in your garden for birds and butterflies.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 6 pm**

**Fond du Lac Public Library, McLane Room**

Bill Volkert will give a presentation on the history and ecology of Horicon Marsh.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 6 pm**

**Fond du Lac Public Library, McLane Room**

Cornell Lab of Ornithology's video, *eBird Essentials*, with local birders Kerry and Dave Sehloff.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 5:30–7:30 pm**

**Ubuntu Art Space, 52 E. Division Street**

*(Exhibit will be on display until May 28.)*

Artist Mel Kolstad will showcase her bird stamp series in drypoint and watercolor. Refreshments.

**FRIDAY, MAY 1, 6 pm**

**Bird Walk around Camelot Pond**

**Camelot Business Center**

Close to 40 species can be seen within two hours.

**SATURDAY, MAY 2 – Bird Walks**

**Greenway Arboretum, 7 am**

**Supple Marsh's New Trail, 10 am**

**Lakeside Park, 1 pm** *Meet at the mature trees area at the end of North Main Street.*

**SATURDAY, MAY 2 – Birding Bike Ride, 10 am**

*Meet at the shelter by UWO-Fond du Lac's east parking lot on the Gottfried Arboretum.*

Riders will explore and bird watch along the Prairie Trail, Peebles Trail, and Lakeside Park Fond du Lac Loop trails. Distance: 8–12 miles, adjusted according to the participants' fitness levels.



## **AUDUBON HABITAT HERO**

### ***Mary Ellen McMeen's Yard Attracts Bees***

In 1989 Mary Ellen moved into a small house with a small backyard wasteland, all grass.

Learning through Audubon and Wild Ones and by observing urban “wild” areas, habitats, and grass-free-planting, she decided to put in a prairie.

After putting down well-watered layers of newspapers, she eventually planted three prairie dock and several helianthus. They grew magnificently!

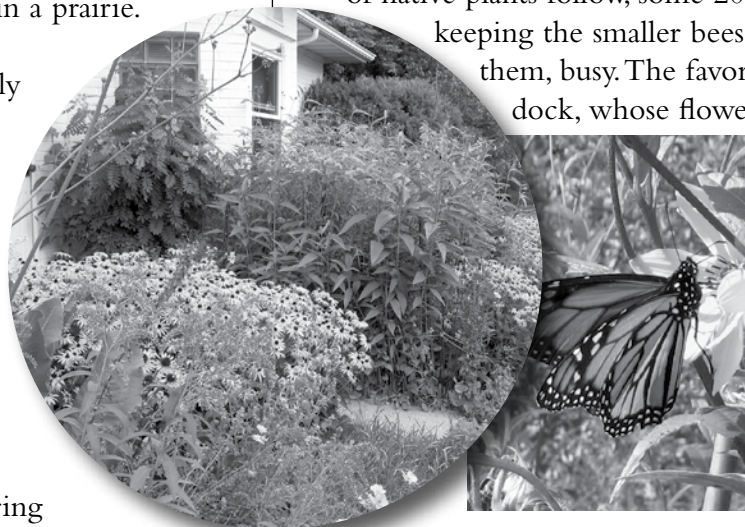
Then came “garden grids.” She got out her yard stick and measured the back yard, filling in her grid with native possibilities, and going through years of trial and error to almost completely eliminate the grass. She states, “I had no idea that during

this process I would fall in love – with bumble bees.” The garden goal became keeping the sweet, companionable bees fed all growing season.

Spring brings a BIG solitary buzzing bee, maybe two, enjoying water leaf and dead nettle. A succession of native plants follow, some 20 different varieties,

keeping the smaller bees, 30 to 35 of them, busy. The favorite is the prairie dock, whose flowers they sleep on

overnight in August. Birds and squirrels are fed and watered too. “But my favorite time of year is the bee watching. I count them every day!”



## Spring Garlic Mustard Pulls

Volunteers are needed to help remove this aggressive invasive that is taking over our wild areas. For those of you who are not sure about how to identify or how to tackle the plant, this is an opportunity not to be missed. Come to at least one pulling session or more.

The Fond du Lac County Audubon Society is sponsoring these sessions:

### PEEBLES TRAIL

#### Session 1:

**Thursday, April 30; Monday, May 4; Wednesday, May 6; Friday, May 8**

At the intersection with Prairie Road about ¼ mile south of Winnebago Drive.

#### Session 2:

**Monday, May 11; Wednesday, May 13**

At the intersection with County Highway K about ½ mile south of Winnebago Drive.

### LALLIER PARK

**Friday, May 15; Monday, May 18; Wednesday, May 20**

Meet at the southern end of the park on National Avenue (south of Fourth Street).

### HOBBS WOODS

**Saturday, May 23; Tuesday, May 26;**

**Thursday, May 28; Saturday, May 30; Monday, June 1;**

**Wednesday, June 3; Saturday, June 6**

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

*All sessions will run from 9–11 am.* Cancelled in the event of steady rain. Please bring work gloves. Long pants and a long-sleeved shirt are recommended. Sometimes we are pulling in areas with stinging nettle plants. Garden boots are also helpful. No experience is necessary. For more information, call 920-922-7931 or email [dianahbeck@gmail.com](mailto:dianahbeck@gmail.com).

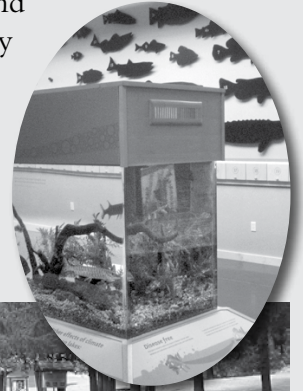


## SPRING FIELD TRIP

### Wild Rose Fish Hatchery

**Saturday, April 18, 8:15 am–1:30 pm,  
N5871 State Road 22, Wild Rose**

The Wild Rose Fish Hatchery has been restocking and restoring fish populations for more than 100 years. They grow more trout and salmon than any other hatchery as well as producing muskie, sturgeon, and walleye. We will carpool from the southwest corner of Kohl's parking lot at 8:15 am. The tour starts at 10 am; back in Fondy at 1:30 pm.



### 2020 Dave Stetter Environmental Education Camp Scholarships

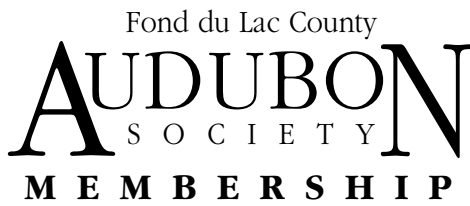
Through the Dave Stetter Environmental Education Fund, Fond du Lac County Audubon will again offer four summer camp scholarships to Sand Lake Conservation Camp (June 17–19, 2020). Students attending Grades 6, 7, and 8 in the fall are eligible to attend the camp. The Sand Lake Conservation Camp provides positive educational outdoor experiences, helps foster appreciation and understanding of nature, and introduces a variety of opportunities in natural resources and conservation careers. Participants learn about wildlife, habitat, ecosystems, water quality, fisheries, forestry, and conservation careers. The Sand Lake Conservation Camp takes place at Camp Bird Youth Camp in Marinette County, Wisconsin. Scholarships include all fees, and recipients are required to provide their own transportation to and from the camp. Applications will soon be available on the Fond du Lac County Audubon website. Please encourage Fond du Lac County middle school students who are interested in nature and the environment to apply. More information about the Sand Lake Camp is available at: *(continued on back page)*



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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.

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Name

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Email

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

### ***Dave Stetter Environmental Education Camp Scholarships*** *(continued from previous page)*

<https://www.marinettecounty.com/departments/land-information/environmental-education/sand-lake-conservation-camp/>

The Dave Stetter EE Fund committee will also consider scholarships for high school students to a recognized environmental education camp where the main focus is on learning about the natural world. Interested Fond du Lac County students who will attend high school in the fall should complete the scholarship form available on our website.

### ***Tuesday Evening Summer Walks***

Mark your calendar for the Tuesday evening summer walks at local natural areas. Watch for full details in the summer newsletter and on our website.

### ***2020 Trees in 2020!***

The new grassroots community action group, Sustain Fond du Lac, is sponsoring a tree planting campaign in 2020. Residents and businesses are invited to join in by planting 2,020 trees in our city. In the spring, free Wisconsin native tree seedlings will be offered to promote this initiative. In the fall, potted native tree saplings will be sold at greatly reduced prices. Shop local: Haentze Floral and Garden Center will offer 20% off on trees in stock to support this effort. Find Sustain Fond du Lac on Facebook and look for the website soon at [SustainFdL.org](http://SustainFdL.org) for more information.