



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Ziegler Wine Walk

Wednesday, September 9, 5:30 pm

Ziegler Winery, W3953 Winnebago Heights Road

Meet in the parking lot to begin the “Wine Walk,” a trail through the woods and alongside a scenic brook, ending near the vineyard. The leisurely socially-distance walk will be about a half hour. Afterward, enjoy the outdoor patio and order wine from grapes grown on-site and appetizers or pizza if desired.



Empowering the Conversation: Small Farmers and Big Change

Wednesday, October 14, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-103 & 104

Emily Ambrose and Leif Rawson-Ahern of Equal Exchange will provide information on the Fair Trade movement: alternative trade organizations, worker-owned cooperatives, building small farmer supply chains, sustainability, and a farmer-partner group. Find out how globally-grown chocolate and coffee make their way here and about Equal Exchange’s relationship with local organizations who support Fair Trade and a more just and sustainable Fond du Lac. For those who prefer to attend via Zoom, find the link on our website: FdLAudubon.org/about/field-trips-events

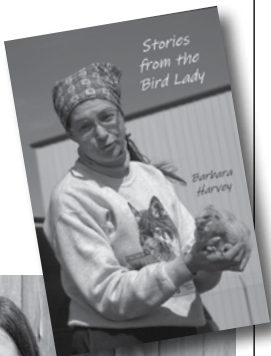


Stories from the Bird Lady

Wednesday, November 11, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-103 & 104

Hear about the recently published, 204-page book, *Stories from the Bird Lady*, in this program by Marsh Haven Nature Center Director, Renee Wahlen. The book is a compilation of articles written over a 30-year period by the late raptor rehabilitator, Barbara Harvey. Find out more about Barbara and her work with thousands of raptors, the development of the book, a favorite story, and a Q&A session. *Stories from the Bird Lady* (a great gift for nature lovers), will be available for purchase (\$25), with proceeds providing care for the educational raptors who reside at Marsh Haven Nature Center. Also available on Amazon.



Audubon Program Plans during the Pandemic

Unfortunately, we had to cancel some of our spring programs and field trip plans. Given the many unknowns about this virus, we decided to not crowd into an indoor room to hear a speaker or to carpool for a field trip. The summer walks were cancelled as well. As a result, there was no need for a summer newsletter.

Our local Audubon Board met in the middle of June to discuss plans for the upcoming season. We decided to not have a program brochure for 2020–21.

You will receive a newsletter for each season with information about programs that we feel we can safely offer. Decisions will be made throughout the year, as we all see how the pandemic plays out.

For the indoor programs, we have made arrangements with MPTC to use the double rooms of O-103 & 104. We will limit the attendance to 30 people to allow social distancing, with the exception of October when more rooms can be opened. The “early bird” will get a seat. Masks will be required.

Outdoor events can proceed with some precautions. Invasive species removals, like the Buckthorn removal, can be easily done with social

distancing. The Wild Feast Potluck will not be held this year because of preparing and sharing food.

Hopefully, in this time of uncertainty and health concerns, you and your family are staying safe. It is a great time to get outside and enjoy local trails. Please visit FdLAudubon.org/about/field-trips-events/ to get the links to these trails in our area:

- Kiekhaefer Park
- Gottfried Prairie & Arboretum
- Peebles Trail
- Greenway Arboretum
- Hobbs Woods
- Shaginappi Park
- Eisenbahn State Trail
- Archer Thomas Olsen Trail at Lakeside Park West
- Mascoutin Valley State Trail (Rosendale)
- Northwoods (Rosendale)
- Riggs Park (Ripon)



AUDUBON HABITAT HERO

Evelyn McLean-Cowan Planted Habitat to Engage Children

When Evelyn McLean-Cowan and Mike Cowan built their house on a vacant lot in the city of Fond du Lac in 1992, they wanted to establish a yard with an ecosystem to attract birds and insects, so their children could learn about the natural world. With seeds from Connie Ramthun and plants from Prairie Nursery, Evelyn designed several native planting areas in their new yard. Over the years, the family has had the opportunity to see the procession of flowers and foliage, while enjoying the birds, butterflies, and insects that native plants attract. Their three children watched the process of caterpillar to chrysalis to Monarch butterfly. The family has always had bird feeders and bird houses, which encouraged their children to identify species at a young age. Now, one of their greatest joys is watching their grandchildren pull up their little chairs, enthralled with watching bumble bees on the blooms of bee balm.



In the front of the house, a Swallowtail alights on a Purple Coneflower, with Culver's Root behind.

Buckthorn Removal Sessions 2020

Fire up, Weed Warriors! Late fall is the best time to work on the invasive Buckthorn. The sap is going down to the roots and it is one of the last plants to keep its leaves.

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 in October are from 9 am to 11 am. In November, we will work from 10 am to noon. Cancelled in the event of steady rain.

Pebbles Trail (Prairie Road)

Meet on Prairie Road at the junction with the trail (about ¼ mile south of Winnebago Drive).

Saturday, October 17; Monday, October 19; and Wednesday, October 21

Pebbles Trail (County Road K)

Meet at the junction of County K with the trail (about ½ mile south of Winnebago Drive).

Saturday, October 24; Monday, October 26; and Wednesday, October 28

Lallier Park

Meet at the southern end of Lallier Park on National Avenue, ¼ mile south of 4th Street.

Saturday, October 31; Monday, November 2; and Wednesday, November 4

Hobbs Woods

Meet in the parking lot. Hobbs Woods is five miles south of Fond du Lac on Hickory Road.

Saturday, November 7; Monday, November 9; and Wednesday, November 11

For more information call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com.



Audubon Bird Seed Sale, October 3

Pre-order high quality seed. See our brochure or download the form online. We will follow safety procedures. You can stay in your car while the bags of seed are loaded in the trunk or back of your vehicle.

Are you a Habitat Hero? Contact Diana 920-922-7931 or dianahbeck@gmail.com to find out if you qualify.

Weed Warriors Attack Garlic Mustard

This spring and early summer ushered in the perfect growing conditions for plants in gardens and in wild areas. Garlic mustard was prolific, and as our Audubon weed warriors will testify, in some places “overwhelming.”

Luckily this year, we were able to spend 408 volunteer hours pulling and hauling away the invasive plants, despite the pandemic. It was easy to social distance while pulling and yet still carry on discussing the news, etc. Because some people were not at work, we were able to enlist the help of new people who had no prior experience.

The volunteer hourly breakdown for 2020 is: 93 hours along the Pebbles Trail, 76 hours on the Brad Knight Nature Preserve, 30 hours at Lallier Park, 45 hours at a six-acre area in the Kettle Moraine (within Fond du Lac County), and 164 hours at Hobbs Woods.

The DNR would like many citizens to “adopt a wild spot” and help to clear garlic mustard from it. Persistence is necessary to get ahead of the plant. If we do nothing, garlic mustard totally takes over. The plant releases a chemical that inhibits other plants from growing next to it.

Please consider helping us in the future. Hobbs Woods is in trouble. We probably needed another 100 hours at this county park. The plants started to turn yellow and the seed pods were ready to split, so we had to stop pulling.

Thanks to all who helped to protect our wild habitats in the area.



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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

Fond du Lac County
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M E M B E R S H I P

- 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

Full Moon Walk November 29 or 30

Join with some adventurous Audubon members, as we walk the dike at Eldorado Marsh in the moonlight. Discover the magic of a nighttime walk, as our eyes adjust to lower light and our ears search out sounds in the silence. We will be on the lookout for owls during the hike, potentially hearing Great Horned Owls, Barred Owls, and Eastern Screech Owls. Avid birder, Adam Knueppel, will help us identify their calls.

The full moon rises about 5 pm on Sunday, November 29, reaching fullness at 5:30 am Monday.

We will meet at 5 pm, Sunday, in the parking lot at the end of Dike Road on the eastern side of Eldorado Marsh. (The sun sets around 5 pm in late November.) If the weather is cloudy or inclement, we will postpone until Monday evening at the same place, but the time will be delayed until 5:30 pm, because the moonrise is later. We will cancel the entire event for both nights, if there are too many clouds.

Dress for the weather. Walking sticks or ski poles and a flashlight might be handy for hiking in semi-dark conditions.

For more information, call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com.

