



# *The* HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

## WINTER EVENTS

During this time of the covid pandemic, we are requiring masks for any program indoors or in a crowded situation.

We do not have the option to present the indoor programs virtually. For these reasons we are trying to offer as many outdoor programs as possible.



**December 2**

Community Shopping  
with Just Fare Market

**December 8**

Stories from the Bird Lady  
with Renee Wahlen of Marsh Haven

**December 21**

Winter Solstice at Kay's Ledge

**January 12**

Wisconsin Native Mussels

**January 15**

Bird Seed Sale

**January 22**

Snowshoe Saturday

**February 9**

Program canceled

**February 13**

Valentine Snowshoe Sunday

**February 18-22**

Backyard Bird Count

*Thank you  
Haentze Floral Company  
for hosting the  
Audubon Bird Seed Sales.*

*Visit Us Online  
[fdlaudubon.org](http://fdlaudubon.org)*

*Follow Us on Facebook*

*See pages 2 and 3 for more information on our Winter events.*

## AUDUBON WINTER EVENTS

### ***Community Shopping Benefits Audubon and Just Fare Market***

**Thursday, December 2, 11 am–4 pm**  
**N7645 N. Peebles Lane and also online**

Audubon's annual shopping event at Just Fare Market is at their store and also online. To shop online, go to [justfare.org](http://justfare.org), and click on "Shop now." Browse through an amazing array of items and place your order. Type **Audubon** in the order memo line, so that we receive credit for your purchase. Pick up your order Thursday or Friday 11–4 or Saturday 10–2.

Just Fare Market, a Fair Trade store, benefits from your support. Fair Trade is a direct and cooperative business approach helping farmers and artisans in developing countries. Fair Trade uses environmentally sustainable practices in production, which is important to those interested in preserving the world's birds and natural resources. Fond du Lac County Audubon benefits, as we receive 15% of total sales during event hours. Those funds support our local programs, conservation, and education efforts.

### ***Stories from the Bird Lady***

**Wednesday, December 8, 7 pm**  
**MPTC, Room A-112**

Hear about *Stories from the Bird Lady* from Renee Wahlen, Director of Marsh Haven Nature Center. The 204-page book is a compilation of articles written over a 30-year period by the late raptor rehabilitator, Barbara Harvey. Find out more about Barbara's work with thousands of raptors, the development of the book, 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. It is also available on Amazon.

### ***Winter Solstice Celebration***

**Tuesday, December 21, 1 pm–sunset**  
**Kay's Ledge, WH, Look for Audubon sign**

Join our local Audubon and Glacial Lakes Conservancy at Kay's Ledge to celebrate the Winter Solstice! Kay's Ledge is a 64-acre private preserve located on the Niagara Escarpment east of Fond du Lac. There will be hiking, a campfire, warm beverages, and chili to end the afternoon. To RSVP call Abbey

at 920-917-0939 or Liz at 920-251-5563. Glacial Lakes Conservancy is a private, non-profit land trust serving Fond du Lac and adjacent counties. For more information go to [glaciallakes.org](http://glaciallakes.org).

### ***Wisconsin Native Mussels***

**Wednesday, January 12, 7 pm**  
**MPTC, Room A-112**

Our state has 50 species of native mussels, found throughout lakes, rivers, and streams. Their ecology, contribution to the health of our waterbodies, and amazing life history with unique adaptations will be presented by Lisie Kitchel, a Conservation Biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Mussels' historic to present day uses from tools to buttons to pearls will be explored.

### ***Audubon Bird Seed Sale***

**Saturday, January 15, 9–11 am**  
**Haentze Floral Company, 658 Fond du Lac Ave.**

Pre-order bird seed by December 30. See our flyer or the order form on our website. We offer high quality seed to attract a variety of birds to your feeders. There is limited seed available if not pre-ordered.

### ***Snowshoe or Hike at Kiekhäfer Park***

**Saturday, January 22, 1 pm and**  
**Sunday, February 13, 1 pm**  
**4235 Kiekhäfer Parkway**

Enjoy a guided winter exploration of the hilly trails at beautiful Kiekhäfer Park. If there is good snow, we will snowshoe; otherwise we will hike. If too muddy or if it's raining, the event will be canceled.

If you don't have snowshoes, a limited number will be available by reservation at no charge, courtesy of Attitude Sports. For trail conditions or to reserve snowshoes, call Diana at 920-922-7931 or email [dianahbeck@gmail.com](mailto:dianahbeck@gmail.com).



## AUDUBON WINTER EVENTS

### *February Program*

The program is canceled due to lack of speakers and the inability to do our programs virtually.

### *Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 18–22*

Contribute to one of the most successful bird counts. More than 173,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count annually to

create a snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. Observations can be made from the comfort of your home and only involve a minimum of 15 minutes. Even beginners can help. The website has wonderful aids for identifying the birds in our area. Enter the results online. Final totals and results are available later to all participants. Details are on the website: [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org)

### *Stetter Environmental Education Fund Supports Boys & Girls Field Trip*

On Friday, July 16, Fond du Lac County Audubon in conjunction with the Dave Stetter Environmental Education Fund, sponsored a summer field trip for second and third graders from the Fond du Lac Boys & Girls Club to Ledge View Nature Center. Twenty-four children participated in a hands-on “Learn and Discovery” activity about animals and animal survival followed by lunch and a hike on the nature trails.

The 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. For continued

support of hands-on outdoor experiences for Fond du Lac County youth, donations to the Dave Stetter EE Fund may be sent to Mike Sweney, Audubon treasurer, N5545 Winnvue Court, Fond du Lac, WI 54937.



## AUDUBON HABITAT HERO

### *Carol and Lew Smith Enhance Their Native Oak Savanna*

In 1991 we purchased a property in an Oak Savanna section in the southeast corner of the city. It held the Bur Oak around which the house was built. The 26 years since have been an adventure in planting

native forbs, shrubs, and trees and watching in wonder as the seeds scatter and find welcoming places to expand. We enjoy year-round interest, from the Blood Root which shoots up overnight in May to the Witch Hazel blooms in October. We have learned to reject

neatness, leaving some plants standing for the winter and leaves on the ground for natural enrichment and snow sculpture. Three Bur Oak and a Red Oak planted by nature, join an Ironwood and Witch Hazel. A Tamarack succeeds on the edge of the rain garden, which receives the rain that hits a sizable portion of the roof. These natives help welcome birds, squirrels, and insects.



Fond du Lac County  
**AUDUBON**  
S O C I E T Y

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

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

## THE HERON

Fond du Lac County  
**AUDUBON**  
S O C I E T Y  
**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.
- I am a renewing member.

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Name

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Address

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Phone

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

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You shop. Amazon gives. Sign up through AmazonSmile and choose Fond du Lac County Audubon Society as the charitable organization to which Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchases. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1625975>. Then, start shopping and making a difference for our local charitable organization!

### ***Audubon Membership Expiration***

Note your Audubon membership expiration date on the mailing label.

### ***Project SNOWstorm***

Visit [ProjectSnowstorm.org](https://ProjectSnowstorm.org) at the end of December to see if there is any activity with our owl.

### ***Landscape Pesticide Registry Signup***

Protect your pets, your family, and yourself from neighbors' lawn chemicals. Be informed whenever your neighbors have pesticides applied to their property by a professional yard service. You will receive a call the day before, alerting you to the time and types of pesticides that will be used.

Sign up for 2022 by February 1. Visit the website at <https://mydatcp.wi.gov/Account/LogOn>.