



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

THE HERON

Fond du Lac County
AUDUBON
 SOCIETY
 MEMBERSHIP

- 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.

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

Landscape Pesticide Registry Signup

Know when your neighbors have pesticides applied to their property by a professional yard service, so you can protect yourself, family, and pets. You will receive a call alerting you to when, where, and which chemicals will be applied. Sign up for 2025 by February 1. Visit the website at <https://mydatcp.wi.gov/Account/LogOn>.

2025 Conservation Camp Scholarships

Fond du Lac County Audubon, through the Dave Stetter Environmental Education funds, will offer scholarships to the 2025 Middle and High School Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Camps held in June (applications due in April). Fond du Lac County students entering Grades 6–12 this fall are eligible for scholarships. Applications will be posted on the Audubon web page. Help us locate deserving students who would benefit from this experience. For a camp description see: <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/our-work/youth-education/conservation-camp>. Email fondyadubon@gmail.com with questions or to be on a contact scholarship list.

No to Hunting Cranes

The International Crane Foundation is working on evidence-based solutions that address crop damage while supporting Wisconsin's farmers. Contact your legislators in the Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate and urge them to vote no on a hunting season.



WINTER EVENTS

We have a new room for our programs this year at MPTC.

Our room will be B141. People can park in the B lot on the north side of MPTC and enter door B3.

**Managing Massive Fish in the Winnebago System
 (Presentation)**

Wednesday, January 8, 7 pm, MPTC Room B141

Snowshoe Saturday at Kiekhaefer Park

Saturday, January 11, 1 pm

Bird Seed Sale at Haentze Floral

Orders due January 11. Pick up on February 1.

Introduction to Foraging (Presentation)

Wednesday, February 12, 7 pm, MPTC Room B141

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 14–17

More information on programs and activities is on page 5.

Visit Us Online
fdlaudubon.org

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Crane Foundation Trip Report

A group from Fond du Lac traveled via wheelchair van to the International Crane Foundation (ICF) near Baraboo on September 21 to attend its Annual Membership Appreciation Day, which is highlighted by behind-the-scenes access to ICF facilities for members and their guests. Upon arrival, we browsed the gift shop (one can never have enough crane-related jewelry and gear!) as we waited for the guided tours to begin. Our tour included about one-third of the fifteen crane species occurring worldwide. The ICF has representatives of each of these species in captivity, with a female/male pair of each on display in spacious outdoor enclosures reflecting each species' specific habitat, with painted backdrops. For example, the black-necked cranes from the Tibetan region of Asia have a Himalayan Mountain backdrop. We learned about the biology and ecology of the cranes, and the ICF's efforts at worldwide crane protection and habitat restoration and preservation. We heard a few cranes calling in the distance, a behavior called bugling, which is why the ICF newsletter is called *The Bugle*. We next visited the veterinary clinic (not usually open to the public), where we learned about the cranes' diets, parasites, diseases, and techniques used by the ICF staff to provide enrichment for the cranes, a necessity when attempting to successfully maintain animals in captivity.

A potentially severe rainstorm came through in late afternoon, requiring the ICF to cancel the remaining events, so we could not visit Crane City, where many more cranes are housed for breeding, raising the chicks, and serves as a gene bank for the world's cranes. Overall, it was a very enjoyable and informative trip, and we hope to do this again next year. The public can visit the ICF most weekdays and some Saturdays. For more info contact them (608) 356-9462 or visit their website: savingcranes.org.

The DMV has issued a specialty license plate featuring a standing Sandhill Crane and a Whooping Crane in their natural habitat with cranes flying in the background. The ICF receives \$25 for each plate that is purchased. For more information about the license plate visit: bit.ly/cranelicenseplate.



Conservation Camp Scholarships

Three camp scholarships were awarded for the 2024 Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Camps at Upham Woods near Wisconsin Dells for middle school students (June 9–12) and at North Lakeland Discovery Center–Manitowish Waters for high school students (June 17–20). These funds are offered in the name of Dave Stetter, Goodrich High school science teacher and long-time Audubon member, to promote hands-on outdoor education experiences for Fond du Lac County youth. The camps foster an understanding and appreciation of nature consistent with the goals of our Environmental Education funds.

Hayden Tate is a student at Woodworth Middle School where she participates in Rocket Club and Coding Club. Hayden loves learning about animals and the environment with hopes to help both.

Liam J. McCarthy is a student at Treffert Way School in North Fond du Lac. Liam describes himself as liking nature and being outside. He wants to use the camp experience to help him take care of his plants, garden, and trees.

Charlotte Rabe is a freshman at Fond du Lac High School and aspires to use the camp experience to amplify her voice about environmental issues. She has taken personal measures to reduce consumerism because of its impact on the environment. Like many Audubon members, Charlotte likes to identify and forage for edible wild plants.

Those willing to contribute to the Dave Stetter Environmental Education Fund may send checks payable to Dave Stetter EE Fund to Mike Sweney, Fond du Lac Audubon treasurer at N5545 Winnvue Ct., Fond du Lac, WI 54937. Audubon is a 501c(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organization.



AUDUBON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Managing Massive Fish in the Winnebago System

Wednesday, January 8, 7 pm, MPTC, Room B141

The Winnebago system lake sturgeon population is one of the best managed sturgeon populations in the world, supporting the largest harvest season available for this species through the winter spear fishery. But maintaining a population of a fish that grows to the size of a human on a system that includes 131,000 acres of lake and over 300 miles of rivers requires close management, diligent work, and a little creativity. Discover the science and techniques used to ensure that this population continues to thrive while preserving one of the most unique outdoor recreational opportunities in the nation.

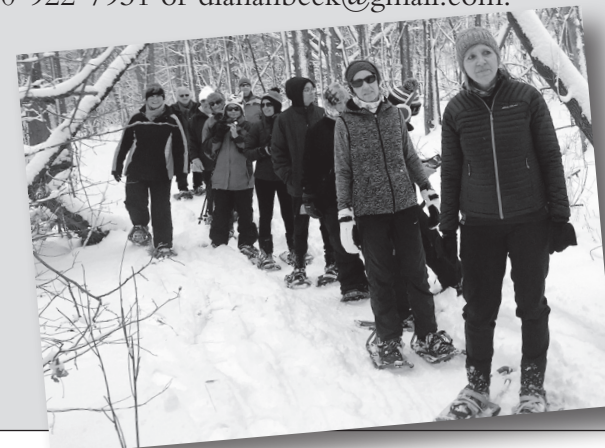
Margaret has been in the fisheries field for the last 12 years in Detroit, Vermont, Texas, and Wisconsin working with native fish restoration and sports fish management. She has always been passionate about *Acipenseriformes* (sturgeon and paddlefish) and is excited to give people a glimpse into the life of this dinosaur-like fish.



Snowshoe Saturday at Kiekhaefer Park

Saturday, January 11, 1 pm, 4235 Kiekhaefer Parkway
Enjoy a guided winter exploration of the hilly trails at beautiful Kiekhaefer Park. If there is good snow, we will snowshoe; otherwise we will hike. (Canceled if too muddy, raining, or temp/wind chill below zero.)

Limited snowshoes will be available by reservation at no charge, courtesy of Attitude Sports. For trail conditions or to reserve snowshoes, contact Diana at 920-922-7931 or dianahbeck@gmail.com.



Audubon Bird Seed Sale

Saturday, February 1, 9–11 am
Haentze Floral Company, 658 Fond du Lac Avenue

Pre-order bird seed by January 11. 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.

How to get information:

- 1) email fondyaudubon@gmail.com and we'll email or snail mail a flyer, or
- 2) check our website: fdlaudubon.org, or
- 3) call Lori at 920-960-7930

Introduction to Foraging

Wednesday, February 12, 7 pm, MPTC Room B141

Whether you're out birding in the field or just hanging out by the feeder in your backyard, the great outdoors is a place teeming with nourishment for both the body and soul. Join Chris Gavin as we cover the basics of how to identify, harvest, and enjoy the abundance of wild foods that can be found in every natural, and some not-so-natural settings in Wisconsin and beyond.

Chris Gavin is a Wisconsin Master Naturalist, Scout leader, and owner of Eagle Outdoor Skills, a business with the intention of reconnecting people to the natural world through wild foods, traditional skills, and ecological knowledge.

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 14–17, your own backyard

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