



# *The* HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

## FALL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

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

### **Wild Feast Potluck**

Wednesday, September 3, 5 pm

### **Sunset/Full Moon Walk at Eldorado Marsh**

Monday, October 6, 5:45 pm

### **Taxonomy, Natural History, and Conservation of Wisconsin Fireflies**

(Presentation)

Wednesday, October 8, 7 pm, MPTC Room B141

### **Bird Seed Sale at Haentze Floral**

Saturday, October 18, 9–11 am

### **Buckthorn Removal Sessions\***

Several dates in October and November (See page 2)

### **Science Audubon Conservation Ranching**

Improving Habitat for Grassland Birds in Wisconsin

One Farm at a Time

(Presentation)

Wednesday, November 12, 7 pm, MPTC Room B141

### **Community Shopping at Just Fare Market**

Thursday, December 4, 10 am–5 pm

*More information on programs and activities is on page 3.*

*\*See inside for more information on buckthorn removal sessions.*



## ***Small World, Large Impact Audubon-Style Part One***

Most people likely have had ‘small world’ moments—for example, you moved far from where you grew up to find your new neighbor is related to someone back home. Here I share one of my ‘small world’ episodes involving members of our Audubon group, the father of one of these, and a significant contribution to a scientific field.

I’m not a Wisconsinite. My main awareness of the state other than as ‘America’s Dairyland’ came from my dad talking with his buddies about making that dream trip in quest of those fabled muskies! Prior to moving here, I lived in Gainesville, Florida, for about 40 years with my partner, Lou Rea Kenyon (currently an Audubon Board member). I was a professor at the University of Florida and Lou Rea was a nurse practitioner and state/federally permitted wildlife rehabilitator caring for injured and orphaned animals and researching their nutritional requirements. Due to disabilities I retired early and we moved to Rosendale to live on Lou Rea’s five-generational family farm where she was born and raised. Unfortunately, the farmhouse could not be made wheelchair accessible, so we purchased a house nearby. Progressing disabilities required me to move to St. Francis nursing home where I now reside.

Last year, Lou Rea suffered a stroke resulting in hospitalization, followed by a stay at St. Francis for therapy before returning home. During one of my visits to her room, Lou Rea already had guests, namely Diana Beck, our Board President, and Mary Ellen McMeen (our group’s ‘delightful dandelion lady’). Diana’s last name sounded somewhat familiar, and then I realized I had interacted with the late Dr. Stan D. Beck, when I had a temporary position at the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1978–1979 where he was an eminent professor. I mentioned this to Diana and sure enough, Dr. Beck was her father—talk about a small world and by a very circuitous route!

But there’s more to this story—because of Dr. Beck’s own research and authority, he was pivotal in assisting a colleague and me to make a major contribution to the field of entomology (insects) as I will describe in Part Two of this essay (scheduled for the winter issue of our newsletter).

—Frank Slansky, [fslansky321@gmail.com](mailto:fslansky321@gmail.com)

## ***Buckthorn Removal Sessions 2025***

Join the “Weed Warriors” in tackling buckthorn in our wild areas. This will be a great opportunity to learn to identify this very invasive tree and how to control its spread. Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. Bring work gloves and safety glasses if available. All equipment will be supplied. No dogs allowed. All sessions are from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Canceled in the event of rain. See the RSVP notice below.

This season will be focusing on wild areas in our county, rather than parkland that is managed by the city or county parks departments. They were not keeping us informed about their plans, which resulted in wasted efforts by our volunteers.

### **Kay’s Ledge N7836 WH**

*Drive east on Cty WH, up the ledge .9 miles from the 151 bypass to the entrance (west side). Look for Audubon signs by the road.*

Saturday, October 11; Monday, October 27; Saturday, November 1; and Saturday November 8

### **Kettle Moraine**

*If you have not been to our adopted area before, please ask me for directions. For those interested, we usually eat at the The Three Sweets Cafe in Dundee afterwards.*

Monday, October 13; Thursday, October 16; Wednesday, October 29; and Monday, November 3

**IMPORTANT:** *RSVP is required. Because of the equipment involved, please call 920-922-7931 or email [dianahbeck@gmail.com](mailto:dianahbeck@gmail.com) and inform me if you are planning to come for any specific date.*

## ***Community Shopping Night***

***Thursday, December 4, 10 am–5 pm, Just Fare Market***

Audubon’s annual shopping event at Just Fare Market is at their store (N7645 N. Peebles Lane) and also online. Pick up your order Thursday 10–5, Friday 10–4, or Saturday 10–2.

Fair Trade is a direct and cooperative business approach that supports farmers and craftspeople throughout the world by paying a living wage and providing safe working conditions. One of the main principles of Fair Trade is that environmentally sustainable practices are used in producing products. Fond du Lac County Audubon benefits as we receive 15% of total sales over \$500 during the event. Those funds support our local programs, conservation, and education efforts. Audubon members will be at the shop during Thursday event hours to greet you and assist with your shopping. Invite your friends.

## AUDUBON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

### ***Wild Feast Potluck on September 3***

***Wednesday, September 3, 5 pm, Denev Creek***

***Shelter, Lakeside Park (east end of Harbor View Drive)***

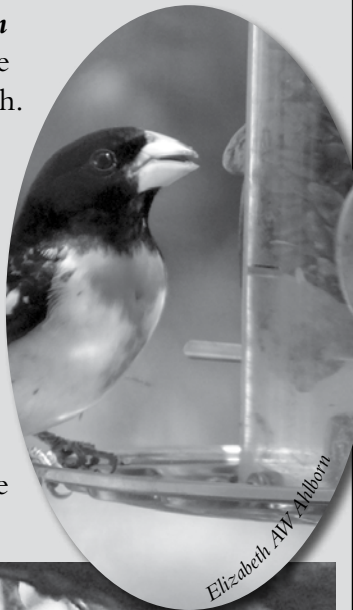
Enjoy fresh outdoor food at our Wild Feast Potluck. We plan to be eating at 5:30 pm. Bring your own plate, cup, bowl, utensils, and beverage. Alcohol is allowed in the shelter area. Your contribution of food or drink to the potluck should include some wild ingredients or fresh produce from your garden. This is an opportunity to experiment and try something new. There are many edible weeds in your own yard. However, avoid areas that are treated with pesticides. Please bring a list of the ingredients or the recipe, so that people can avoid allergy problems. For more information call 920-922-7931 or email [dianahbeck@gmail.com](mailto:dianahbeck@gmail.com).

### ***Sunset/Full Moon Walk Eldorado Marsh***

***Monday, October 6, 5:45 pm***

Join us as we walk along the dike road in Eldorado Marsh.

We will enjoy the late daylight of the sunset and the full moon rising as we watch for birds and other wildlife. Bring insect repellent. Some binoculars will be available. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Dike Road on the east side of Eldorado Marsh. The hike is canceled if overcast.



### ***Taxonomy, Natural History and Conservation of Wisconsin Fireflies***

***Wednesday, October 8, 7 pm, MPTC, Room B141***

Join Dr. Daniel K. Young, UW-Madison Professor of Entomology for a brief, comparative definition of what we mean by firefly, followed by an overview of the Wisconsin fauna. A current Wisconsin species list forms the backbone of generic overviews for each of our seven genera. The presentation then examines the general concept of bioluminescence throughout the greater tree of life, how biological light is produced in fireflies, and its evolution and significance with respect to the biology and natural history of fireflies. Lastly, a few comments are offered relating to an observed general decline in firefly populations in many parts of North America, along with a few notes on firefly conservation.

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

***Saturday, October 18, 9–11 am, Haentze Floral***

Due to uncertainty in pricing for fall and the crazy costs this summer, we are unable to get prices for seed delivered in October. We will have the updated seed prices and flyer printed by mid-September. Orders will be due by September 23.

Check the selection and prices out then and place your order. How to get information mid-September: 1) email [fondyadubon@gmail.com](mailto:fondyadubon@gmail.com) and we'll email or snail mail a flyer, or 2) check our website: [fdlaudubon.org](http://fdlaudubon.org), or 3) call Lori at 920-960-7930.

### ***Science Audubon Conservation Ranching Improving Habitat for Grassland Birds in Wisconsin One Farm at a Time***

***Wednesday, November 12, 7 pm, MPTC, Room B141***

The majority of grassland birds whose populations have declined by more than 50 percent in the last 50 years, inhabit privately-owned land. Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR) aims to work with graziers to enhance habitat on working lands through a new certification program. This successful program from the western U.S. has been implemented by Audubon in Wisconsin.

Excitement, as well as lands that are managed with grassland birds in mind, are growing. Learn about which species are benefiting and how you could help, even if you don't graze cattle!





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 [mcleancowan@gmail.com](mailto:mcleancowan@gmail.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.

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

## MEET THE BOARD

### *Diana Beck, President*

Our board is a small group determined to continue our outreach to the community and education. My concern at this point is that our entire group may "age out." I want to extend an invitation to all our newsletter recipients to get involved in our activities or take a place on our board.

I am the current board president and have served in this role since 2007 (minus three years 2014 to 2017, while helping my mother). During my time as President, we ran five Zoopolis Tours featuring private yards with habitat, started the Summer Walks, sponsored quite a few Family Saturday morning programs, started The Wild Feast Potluck each year as a fall kickoff, and began invasive plant removals in areas of wild habitat.

My father was an entomologist, and as a result I learned about insects, pesticides, and ecosystems. I spent some summers canoeing in the Boundary Waters and backpacking in the mountains.

My passion is for all of nature....



### *From The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Coleridge*

*He prayeth best, who loveth best  
All things both great and small;  
For the dear God who loveth us,  
He made and loveth all.*