

Spring 2026



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac Area Bird & Nature Alliance

SPRING EVENTS

Programs will be in Room E120.

Park in lot C and enter door C2. Follow the signs to Building E.

Wisconsin Conservation – Statewide Support, Local Action (Presentation)

Wednesday, March 11, 7 pm, MPTC Room E120

Eldorado Marsh Spring Full Moon Hike

Wednesday, April 1, 6:45 pm, Dike Road

A Look into Wisconsin Ducks (Presentation)

Wednesday, April 8, 7 pm, MPTC Room E120

Invasive Species Removals

April 13 to June 20

The Mystery of Migration (Presentation)

Wednesday, May 13, 7 pm, MPTC Room E120

Horicon Marsh Pontoon Boat Birding Adventure

Saturday, May 16, 6 pm, Blue Heron Landing, Horicon

Thank You Picnic at Kay's Ledge

Saturday, May 30 (Rain date Sunday, May 31)

Open House 10:30 am–2 pm

Complimentary Lunch from Noon–1 pm

N7836 County Road WH

*See pages 2 and 3 for more information
on programs and activities.*



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fdlaudubon.org

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Spring Invasive Species Removal

All sessions will run from 9 to 11 am in April and May and in June from 8 to 10 am. Canceled if steady rain. Bring garden gloves and a Hori Hori if you own one or a garden trowel. For more information call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com.

APRIL

13 Mon Hobbs
15 Wed Hobbs
18 Sat Kay's Ledge
20 Mon Hobbs
22 Wed Hobbs
25 Sat Kay's Ledge
27 Mon Lallier
29 Wed Hobbs

MAY

4 Mon Kettle M
6 Wed Hobbs
9 Sat Kay's Ledge
11 Mon Kettle M
13 Wed Hobbs
16 Sat Kay's Ledge
18 Mon Kettle M
20 Wed Hobbs
23 Sat Hobbs
26 Tues Kettle M
28 Thurs Kay's Ledge

JUNE

1 Mon Kettle M (9 am)
4 Thurs Hobbs
6 Sat Kay's Ledge
8 Mon Kettle M (9 am)
10 Wed Hobbs
13 Sat Kay's Ledge
15 Mon Lallier
17 Wed Hobbs
20 Sat Kay's Ledge



Hobbs Woods Meet at Hobbs Woods County Park, N4197 South Hickory Road.

Lallier Park Meet at the southern end of the park on National Avenue.

Kay's Ledge N7836 Cty Road WH – Drive east on Cty WH, up the ledge .9 miles from the 151 bypass to the entrance on the west side.

Kettle Moraine Adopted Area Get directions from Diana Beck: dianahbeck@gmail.com.

Conservation Camp Scholarships 2026

Fond du Lac Bird & Nature Alliance, through the Dave Stetter Environmental Education Fund, will again offer Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Camp scholarships. The middle school camp will be at Camp Lakotah, Wautoma, from June 28–July 1 and the high school camp at the North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters, from June 15–18. For information and forms, contact fondyaudubon@gmail.com or visit fdlaudubon.org. Deadline: April 30. Please share info.

Successful Community Shopping

Our collaboration with Just Fare Market's Community Shopping Event resulted in sales of \$2,058.01, with us earning 15% or \$308.70. Thank you to everyone who shopped and supported us.



Reducing Our Digital Handprint

It is easy to forget that every web search completed, every single email, and every social media update posted requires the consumption of energy. The hidden costs of carbon emissions from infrastructure and processes involved in data transmission and storage accounts for 6 to 10% of global electricity or 4% of greenhouse gas emissions. This is equivalent to all the air traffic in the world.

Did you know that just two of the AI data center projects approved in our state will use more energy than all the homes in Wisconsin combined. A single AI data center could also use more water than an entire city when offsite withdrawals are factored in. Right now in Wisconsin, we have 40 data centers.

What each of us can do to reduce the need to build more data centers and save energy and water:

1. Clean up digital clutter: deleting old emails and files reduces the demand on storage, mute inactive channels, avoid sending unnecessary replies, and clear out junk mail.
2. Whenever possible, type in the actual web address instead of performing a search and be specific with your keywords in order to cut down on the number of results that are returned.
3. Streaming is one of the internet's biggest carbon contributors.

For example, one hour of video conferencing produces anywhere from 150 to 1000 grams of CO₂ per hour. An average mid-size car burns about 400–500 grams of CO₂ per mile of driving. Turning cameras off reduces the energy consumption of the call by up to 96% if all cameras are off (similar to a phone call).

4. Log off when you can, go outside, or read a physical book. Digital downtime is good for your mental health, too.

AUDUBON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Wisconsin Conservation— Statewide Support, Local Action

Wednesday, March 11, 7 pm, MPTC, Room E120

This presentation will highlight the conservation work happening statewide through Wisconsin Land+Water and locally within the Fond du Lac County Land and Water Conservation Department. Attendees will learn how both organizations support landowners, farmers, and communities through youth education, technical assistance, soil health initiatives, and watershed-based partnerships.

Presenters are Amber Cannon, Conservation Engineering Technician, Fond du Lac County LWCD and Kim Warkentin, Youth Education Director/Operations, Wisconsin Land+Water.

Eldorado Marsh Spring Full Moon Hike

Wednesday, April 1, 6:45 pm, Dike Road

Come on a sunset and full moon hike on the dike in Eldorado Marsh on Wednesday, April 1. There should be an opportunity to see and hear the birds in the marsh. The moon will be rising at 7:17 pm and the sunset is at 7:20 pm. Our hike will last about an hour.

We will meet in the parking lot at the end of Dike Road on the east side of Eldorado Marsh at 6:45 pm. Bring binoculars, wear good hiking shoes, and dress warmly. We will cancel the event if skies are overcast.

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

A Look into Wisconsin Ducks

Wednesday, April 8, 7 pm, MPTC, Room E120

Join Jeff Bahls, President of the Horicon Marsh Bird Club, Wood Duck Society board member, and 2018 Wisconsin Society of Ornithology bronze Passenger Pigeon award recipient for outstanding contributions in study and enjoyment of birds.

His presentation will feature on Wisconsin's ducks, from those that pass through on migration, to those that call Wisconsin their breeding grounds. Enjoy learning about this family of birds and why Wisconsin is so important to their life cycle.

The Mystery of Migration

Wednesday, May 13, 7 pm, MPTC, Room E120

This presentation by Bill Volkert, will explore the annual migration of birds, their seasonal phenology, and explore recent studies that are revealing more information and instilling greater wonder over the phenomenon of bird migration.

Bill Volkert worked as the naturalist and wildlife educator for the Wisconsin DNR at Horicon Marsh for 27 years and has studied birds for 50 years.

Horicon Marsh Pontoon Boat Birding Adventure

Saturday, May 16, 6 pm, Blue Heron Landing, Horicon

Over 290 species of birds live in or visit Horicon Marsh each year. Participants in this 2-hour evening narrated bird trip through the marsh will seek and identify some of them. Experienced and casual bird watchers will enjoy the quiet of the marsh on this early evening tour. Bring binoculars, bird book, insect repellent, and dress for the weather.

The cost is \$38 per person. To reserve a spot on the pontoon boat (limit of 16), a non-refundable deposit of \$20 is required before April 15. The rest is payable before departure. If we do not fill the boat, the owners will open the remaining seats to the public. Signups with deposit will begin in March at our March events. Or call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com.

Meet at 5:00 pm at the southeast corner of the Fleet Farm parking lot to form a carpool for the 35-minute drive to Blue Heron Landing in Horicon. Or meet the group at Blue Heron Landing at 305 Mill Street in Horicon for a 6:00 pm departure.

Thank You Picnic at Kay's Ledge

Saturday, May 30, 10:30 am–2 pm (Open House)

Complimentary Lunch from Noon–1 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, May 31

N7836 County Road WH

To our wonderful Weed Warriors and the Fond du Lac Bird & Nature Alliance members: We want to say thank you for your hard work in controlling invasive species and supporting our mission. Your help has been essential to the preservation of Kay's Ledge.

The Carolyn A. Victor Land Conservancy, Inc. invites you to a picnic at the property. Please join us for the lunch, take a walk through the woods at your own pace, or pull up a chair for a chat in the shade. If the weather is cool, we'll have a fire for warmth.

- Location: Kay's Ledge, N7836 County Road WH, Fond du Lac. Drive east on County Road WH, up the ledge .9 miles from the 151 bypass to the entrance (west side). See Audubon signs by the road.
- RSVP: Contact Elizabeth Victor at 920-251-5563 or elizabethvictor126@gmail.com by May 28.

Fond du Lac County

AUDUBON

SOCIETY

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

Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter
via e-mail to mcleancowan@gmail.com

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

MEET THE BOARD

Mike Sweeney, Retiring as Treasurer

I have been a backyard birder for more than 30 years. Since our lot has an eleven acre nature preserve adjacent, there is a great variety of wildlife to watch. We have a large number of orioles that call our area home. Seasonal birds are abundant. Hulls from several hundred pounds of bird seed need to be cleaned up every spring. I have been known to claim that I worship at the "Church of My Backyard."

I grew up on a farm and have bird-friendly shrubs and a vegetable garden. I don't shoot the birds anymore, but am tempted by the deer and turkeys.

Nearly fifteen years ago, Dave Stetter asked if I would join the Board as Treasurer. I have enjoyed my time in the position, but it's time to move on. If you are interested in learning more about the position, please contact Diana Beck. We have a great group of volunteers. Please consider joining us.

