



January/February 2010

The HERON

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Wednesday, January 13, 2010

NEW LOCATION!

7 pm, Moraine Park Technical College, Room O-104

Elk in Wisconsin

***Speaker: Keith Warnke, Wildlife Biologist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources***

Discover more about the herd status and hunting of the elk, Wisconsin's largest native mammal. Elk once ranged over most of North America and throughout Wisconsin.



Wednesday, February 10, 2010

7 pm, Moraine Park Technical College, Room O-104

Landscaping with Native Plants

Speaker: Karen Syverson, Wild Ones

Find out more about establishing and maintaining native plants in your yard.



CHANGE OF LOCATION: Audubon programs are now taking place at Moraine Park Technical College. From National Ave., turn into parking lot O. Enter the door labeled O-1. Room O-104 is on your left. Audubon programs are open to the public with no admission charge. Adults, families, and young people with an interest in environmental issues are encouraged to attend.

VISIT US ON THE WEB: www.fldlaudubon.org



Passport to the Ledge Update

In celebration of the “Year of the Niagara Escarpment,” Fond du Lac County Audubon is sponsoring a program that promotes family visits to nine ledge sites during 2010. Children will receive a stamp in their passport at each site, and those visiting at least five sites will receive a patch. Materials for the program including brochures, passports, and patches are costly, and although Fond du Lac Audubon has received a \$200 contribution from Mid-America Geographic Foundation, more funds are needed. Donations and/or assistance from members in securing funding are welcome.

Of the nine sites, children may visit Dodge County Ledge Park, Ledge View Nature Center, Calumet County Park, and High Cliff State Park on any day they are open. Audubon members and friends will stamp passports on at least two days during the year at Breakneck Hill, Belle Reynolds School Forest, Hobbs Woods, Izaak Walton Property, and Kiekhaefer Park. Anyone willing to stamp passports for a few hours on weekend days of your choice throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2010 should call Kathleen Stetter (920-872-2250) to schedule a date.

Materials will be distributed to area schools in late January or early February, and children will be able to pick up passports at the FDL Public Library. The Fond du Lac County Audubon web page (<http://www.fdlaudubon.org/index.html>) will contain detailed information about the program that will be open to area children starting in February.

Help in the Great Backyard Bird Count February 12-15, 2010

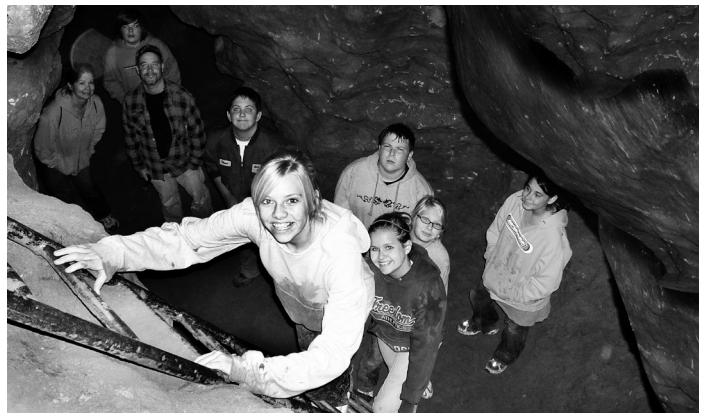
Each year thousands of bird enthusiasts help researchers get a “snap shot” in time of the bird population. To learn the details and how to send in the data, go to www.birdcount.org.

Even if you can only watch your feeders for 15 minutes one of the days, your contribution will be helpful. Mark your calendar today and be part of the “citizen science” effort.

Save the Date!

Zoopolis–Nature in the City

Sunday, August 8, 2010, 11 am–6 pm



Adopt a Trail Project Update

Audubon had committed to a two year contract to help pick up trash on a section of the Prairie Trail. However, the only people who came to help were board members. Trash may be unsightly, but is not a great environmental threat. A better use of our talents would be to spend the time removing exotic invasive species.

The Peebles Trail that runs east/west from the 151 bypass to Winnebago Drive, is becoming choked with European Buckthorn and honeysuckle. This fall a schedule was set up to begin to tackle these invasive plants. The plan was to target the people who live in the area and use the trail. A few did come to help, learned enough to be able to identify Buckthorn and later reported that they removed it from their own property. This project will help to educate the public and improve the wild habitat along this trail corridor.

Grand Canyon Rafting Trip June 2010

There is still time to sign up for the June 18-27 Grand Canyon Rafting Trip. Travel on a large motorized raft on the Colorado River through 260 miles of magnificent scenery and explore on foot some of the side canyons. The trip is open to members and non-members who are 18 years and older and able to walk over rocks. Full details of the itinerary, costs, etc. can be found on our website at www.fdlaudubon.org. Answers to questions and registration forms can be obtained from Diana Beck at 922-7931 or dbeck7931@charter.net. There is a limit of 25 participants, so please don't wait to sign up.



AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Natural Landscaping Workshop

January 16, 1-4 pm, Moraine Park Technical College, Room 0-104 If you are curious about how to naturalize your backyard, then come to this workshop. The basics of creating a naturalized backyard will be introduced by Ted Eischeid. During the workshop session you will devise a development plan for your yard based on your objectives. You will then sketch a plan proposal using a scaled map of your property along with a timeline. Come prepared with the dimensions of your property and any buildings on the site. You will leave with a plan, knowledge, and resources to make your yard the natural paradise you have always desired. Limit: 20 participants. Contact Margie Winter at jmwinter@charter.net or 920-923-2490 to reserve a spot.

Yaktrax, Hike, or Snowshoe on the East Branch of the Fond du Lac River

February 4, 1 pm. Don your winter foot gear, meet Diana at the East Greenway on the west side of the Pick N' Save parking lot on Pioneer Road, and explore the river as it meanders south. You will see what Fond du Lac looks like from the river in winter time and watch for signs of wildlife. Diana Beck will be the facilitator for this event: 922-7931.

Help Us Be Green with Newsletters

The Fond du Lac County Audubon newsletter is printed and mailed out five times a year. To help save paper, printing, and postage, please consider receiving the newsletter as a PDF on your email. You can also find the newsletter posted on our website at www.fdlaudubon.org. Send your email address to: webmaster@fdlaudubon.org. Please indicate if you would also like to receive a reminder before each meeting or only receive the newsletters. People who are paying only the local fee for Audubon, need to note the changes in the fees. Please see the back of this newsletter.



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Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter
via e-mail to mcdesign@charter.net

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

THE HERON

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

Special Introductory 1 Year Membership: \$20

Special Introductory 2 Year Membership: \$35

Special Introductory 1 Year Senior Membership: \$15

☐ **Yes!** I want to become a member of the National Audubon Society, and the Fond du Lac County Chapter. My annual membership dues entitle me to six issues of Audubon magazine, and all chapter benefits. I am enclosing a check payable to:
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY.

☐ I am not a member of National Audubon, but I am interested in receiving the chapter newsletter, *The Heron*, **via email**. I have enclosed **\$4.00** payable to:
FOND DU LAC COUNTY AUDUBON.

☐ I am not a member of National Audubon, but I am interested in receiving the chapter newsletter, *The Heron*, **via mail**. I have enclosed **\$6.00** payable to:
FOND DU LAC COUNTY AUDUBON.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Mail this form with payment to:
Fond du Lac County Audubon, Membership Services
W4148 Kiekhaefer Parkway, Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Nature Photography Contest

Get out your cameras! Start thinking about beautiful shots for the annual Audubon Photography Contest. Following is the criteria for the contest:

1. The contest is open only to Audubon members. The voting is also restricted to Audubon members.
2. Up to three photos which were taken within the years of 2009 or 2010 may be submitted. A photo that was entered in a previous contest may not be submitted again.
3. The subject matter must relate to nature.
4. The photos must be an 8 x 10 size and framed if possible. Include a label for the picture with a title, the date taken, and location. The photographer's name and contact information should be placed on the back.
5. The voting will take place at the banquet in May. All photos will be evaluated for the following four categories and result in four winners and four runners-up:
 - a. Beauty / Color
 - b. Action / Active space
 - c. Composition - angles, lines, framing, etc.
 - d. Lighting / Shadows
6. The winning pictures will be displayed on the Audubon website.