



March/April 2010

The HERON

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Saturday, March 20, 2010

10–11 am, Theisen Middle School Auditorium

A FAMILY PROGRAM

Cold-Blooded Wonders

Speaker: David Stokes, Naturalist, Humorist, and Educator

Share live frogs, turtles, snakes and arthropods (insects and spiders) in a celebration of those with cold blood. Using songs and stories, sign language and humor, we will examine those sometimes creepy, slippery animals that are certainly ready for spring.

Bring a camera. Not for the squeamish.



Wednesday, April 14, 2010

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

Wintering Birds in Latin America

Speaker: Andy Paulios, Biologist, Wisconsin DNR

Find out more about the conservation of our birds on their wintering grounds in Central and South America.



Audubon evening programs are now taking place at Moraine Park Technical College. From National Avenue, 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.fldaudubon.org



Thank you!

Thank you to Margie Winter and Julie Hellwig for the January refreshments. Thank you to Todd and Betty Berens and Diana Beck for the refreshments at the February program, and to Ted Eischeid for door prizes.

Needed

Two more people are needed for the Grand Canyon rafting trip. Call Diana: 922-7931

Passport to the Niagara Escarpment Update

Generous donations from Mid-States Aluminum and Fond du Lac Rotary Club have added to the donation from Mid-America Geographic Foundation and together have made Fond du Lac County Audubon's Passport to the Ledge Program become a reality. As part of the 2010 celebration of the "Year of the Niagara Escarpment," Fond du Lac County Audubon will provide passports for area children who may then visit ledge sites to earn a patch or participation certificate.

Thank you to Evelyn McLean-Cowan of McLean-Cowan Graphic Design for attractive brochures and kid-pleasing passports, and to Theresa Cowan, student at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, for the illustration for the passport cover and patch. Stamps, record books, and materials were delivered to ledge sites in mid-February. Passports and brochures are available at the Fond du Lac Public Library. Brochures have been sent to area schools, public libraries, and youth groups.

Children may visit staffed ledge sites (Dodge County Ledge Park, Ledge View Nature Center, Calumet County Park, and High Cliff State Park) on any day that the facilities are open. Help is needed for leading hikes and explaining ledge features at the other sites. Stamping dates and facilitators for the other sites are:

- Breakneck Hill: Diana Beck, May 23, 2-4:30 pm and June 12, 9:30 am-noon.
- Belle Reynolds School: Liz Roy, June 20 and August 8, 11:00 am and 12:30 pm.
- Hobbs Woods: Amy Haak, May 23 and September 18, 1-3:30 pm. Margie Winter, May 16, 12-2 pm and September 26, 10 am-1 pm.
- Izaak Walton: Kathleen Stetter, May 8, 9 am-noon. Liz Roy, August 11, 11 am-3 pm.
- Kiekhaefer Park: Earl Jewett, May 1 and October 9, 9 am-noon.

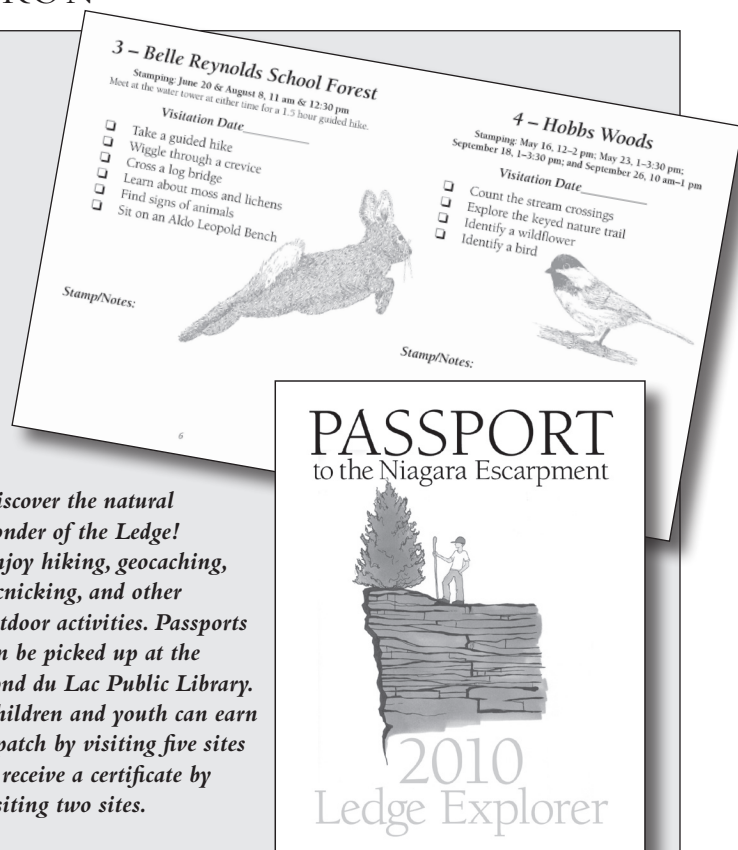
Contact site facilitators or Passport committee members if you are able to assist with this program:

Kathleen Stetter: 920-872-2250/Stetter@centurytel.net

Earl Jewett: ejcj14@charter.net

Amy Haak: haakprosser@milwpc.com

Evelyn McLean-Cowan: evelyn@mcleancowan.com



Photography Contest—Judges' Choice

The spring banquet on May 12 will again be the time to bring your 2-3 best photos for our annual contest. In an effort to help members improve their photography techniques, Ted Eischeid has developed a set of criteria that will be used by a couple of judges in determining an overall winner. All of the pictures that are entered will be considered.

What are the judges looking for?

1. Is there a clear center of interest? (What holds the eye)
2. Is the image composed well? (Order, balance, cropping)
3. Crisp focus and appropriate exposure?
4. Does the photo tell a story? (Statement, emotion, image)
5. Does the lighting enhance the subject and message?
6. Is the approach creative?

All Audubon members attending the banquet will have an opportunity to vote on winners for the categories of Beauty/Color; Action/Active Space; Composition; Lighting/Shadows. Check the January/February newsletter for the contest requirements or check the website: fdlaudubon.org.

Yak Trax Trek

On Thursday, February 4, eleven adventurous souls were ready to hike on the east branch of the Fond du Lac River. Unfortunately, there was too much open water from the previous week's thaw and rain to allow the group to head south. Instead, they explored the Greenway and walked north on the river for about 1/4 mile. Usually the first week of February has lots of river ice. This field trip will be offered again next year on February 3 with the hopes of hiking south.



Save the Date!
Zoopolis—Nature in the City
Sunday, August 8, 2010
11 am–6 pm



AUDUBON FIELD TRIP

Wildflower, Bird, and Archeology Hike at Izaak Walton Property

Saturday, May 8, 9 am–noon

Entrance on the east side of Highway K between County T and Highway 23. Watch for the bridge.

Explore the ravine cut by Taycheedah Creek on this private property. Enjoy beautiful views of the creek that winds through this unique ledge area that is not ordinarily open to the public. Dwight Wiser, author of *Secrets of the Ledge*, will be available to describe ledge archeology, history, and point out effigy mounds. Go on a guided hike or explore on your own any time between 9 am and noon. This is a stamping day for the Ledge Passport program, so you may see that program in action, too.

Dandelion Festival on Saturday, May 8

In pursuit of our perfect lawns, Americans have come to view the dandelion as a useless weed. For thousands of years, this plant had been mankind's ally. Every part (leaf, blossom, and root) is edible and useful medicinally. In fact, the leaves and roots have more nutrition than anything in the grocery store. We spend millions on herbicides to try to eliminate dandelions and we spend millions on vitamins and minerals that dandelions could provide. The plant is not considered an invasive and does play a part in the ecology of 93 species of insects. The seeds are eaten by the birds and the flowers support the wild bees with a great amount of nectar and pollen.

Our Audubon chapter is teaming up with the Sunseed Eco-Education Center to celebrate dandelions with a festival to be held on Saturday, May 8 from 10 am to 3 pm at 110 Notre Dame Street, Mt. Calvary. There will be craft opportunities, a labyrinth walk through the dandelions, Lady Dandelion telling stories, lore and poetry, a dandelion cooking contest, dandelion products to purchase and a chance to learn all about the history, recipes, wine making, etc. Save the date and watch for more details in the next newsletter or check the Audubon website.



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

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THE HERON

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

Receive Newsletter Via Email

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 attachment in an 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. See the membership form at the left.

Day In the Garden Conference

The public is invited to attend Fond du Lac County Master Gardener Association's 10th Annual ***Day In the Garden Conference*** on Saturday, March 13, sponsored by Hansman's Garden Center. Registration forms can be picked up at the UW-Extension office or call 929-3170.

Featured speakers will be Melinda Myer—*Creating Your Own Wildlife Sanctuary*, Mark Dwyer—*Low Maintenance Perennials*, and Dave Waninnger—*Use of Shrubs in the Landscape: New and Unusual Varieties*, and Anita Carpenter—*Pictorial of Butterflies and Dragonflies*.

To view or print the flyer, go to:

www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/fonddulac/hort/documents/DIG2010B.pdf