



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Elephants, Beetles, and Trees: the Importance of Megafaunal Seed Dispersal

Wednesday, December 10, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-102

Bradley Spanbauer, Associate Lecturer in the Department of Biology/Microbiology at UW-Oshkosh, will describe his research on African savannah elephants as critical seed dispersers. Completed in the beautiful national parks of northern Tanzania, his work documents the importance of elephants in propagating important tree species of the African savannah ecosystem. In addition to describing his fascinating data collection process, he will remind us of the plight of elephants and the many threats to their existence. Expect wonderful up-close-and-personal photos of elephants and the African landscape.



EcoTourism and Sustainable Travel in Wisconsin

Wednesday, January 14, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

David Spiegelberg, Regional Tourism Specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, will speak about Wisconsin's ecotourism opportunities, sustainable travel, and the state's Travel Green Wisconsin program. Wisconsin's silent sport opportunities and tourism businesses that have made an effort to incorporate sustainable business practices into their operations will be highlighted.



Landscaping for Wildlife

Wednesday, February 11, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

As Property Manager/Steward at Mosquito Hill Nature Center's 430 acres, Steve Petznick deals with invasives and aggressive native plants. A naturalist and avid birdwatcher for 25 years, he has created and installed several native plant theme gardens. His presentation promotes the use of native vegetation from the top down. From trees to shrubs to vines and ground cover, he will provide options of plants that promote a healthy choice for birds, other wildlife, and the planet, as well as practical installation tips.



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AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Snowshoe Saturday at Kiekhaefer Park

Saturday, January 3, 11 am

Snowshoe or cross-country ski Saturday, January 3 at 11 am. Join Earl and Carol Jewett for a guided winter exploration of the hilly trails at the beautiful and unique Kiekhaefer Park.

A limited number of snowshoes may be reserved for the event, courtesy of Attitude Sports. Please register to participate or reserve snowshoes at 920-923-2604 or webmaster@fdlaudubon.org

From Fond du Lac, take Highway 151 north for three miles to Kiekhaefer Parkway. Turn right on Kiekhaefer Parkway, go to the parking lot on the north side of the road, 4235 Kiekhaefer Parkway.

Cross Country Ski Trip

Saturday, February 7, Princeton

8:30 am to 2:00 pm

Join us for a cross country ski adventure on Saturday, February 7, 2015. The Mekan River Outfitters near Princeton, Wisconsin maintain 10 miles of groomed trails depending on snow conditions. There are loops of varying length for different abilities. The Outfitters have ski rental equipment available for anyone needing equipment or wanting to try skate skiing. Diana Beck will offer a free lesson for any beginners. We will carpool from the southwest corner of the Menard's parking lot on the west side of Fond du Lac. Meet at about 8:25 am, so the group can depart at 8:30 am. We should arrive at the Outfitters about 9:30 am. There is a trail fee of \$8.00 per participant. Anyone needing to rent or participate in a short lesson will do so upon arrival. People will ski at their leisure and may return to the lodge at any time. The Outfitters have a very nice restaurant in the lodge. After skiing, we plan to eat lunch and then return to Fond du Lac sometime around 2 to 2:30 pm. Please contact Diana Beck at dianahbeck@gmail.com or call 920-922-7931 to reserve a place. No prior payment is needed.



Diana Beck teaching cross country skiing.



Snowshoeing at Kiekhaefer Park

We Thank Diana Beck for Her Service as Audubon President and Welcome Dr. Amy Sheldon to the Position

In 2007, Diana Beck stepped up as President of Fond du Lac County Audubon Society and brought her love of wildlife habitat and the outdoors to our chapter with her energetic leadership. Diana initiated Zoopolis–Nature in the City, bringing an awareness of natural landscaping to the community. She increased efforts to eradicate invasive species by leading volunteers on garlic mustard pulls and buckthorn extraction. Diana instigated an appreciation of edible wild plants with the Dandelion Festivals and the Wild Feast Potlucks. Diana organized adventure rafting trips to Colorado and Utah, and led local summer hikes and winter yaktravelling on the Fond du Lac River. Diana will continue to share her passion for Audubon.

Amy Sheldon, MD, has worked as a general pathologist at St. Agnes Hospital for the past 22 years. Amy is looking forward to serving as the President of the Fond du Lac Audubon Chapter. She considers it an opportunity to give back to a cause she loves – the appreciation and preservation of birds. Look for a more comprehensive bio of Amy in our Spring newsletter.



SPRING PROGRAMS & TRIPS

State of the Birds Report

Wednesday, March 11, 7 pm, MPTC, Room O-104

One hundred years after the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon, the nation's top bird scientists from conservation groups and agencies have come together again to publish the fifth State of the Birds report. William Mueller, Director of the Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory, will provide valuable information from the nation's top bird scientists.

Cat Impact on Wildlife

Wednesday, April 8, 7 pm

UW-Fond du Lac, Room UC114

University Center/LGI 114

Domestic cat predation is the largest source of bird and mammal mortality in the United States directly related to human behavior. Situations and solutions will be discussed.

Midwest Annual Crane Count

A Saturday in April, Date to Be Announced

Contact Dave Sehloff at 920-602-1649 or email david.sehloff@gmail.com.

Trail's End, Jerry Sander's Property

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Fairwater

Jerry Sanders will lead a woodland walk along the Grand River. Marvel at the waterfalls. Visit the Case Steam Engine Museum.

Butterflies of Fond du Lac County

Wednesday, May 13, 7 pm, MPTC, Room O-102

Mike Reese, Educator and Botanist, will share information about Wisconsin butterflies, tiger beetles, and robber flies. His photos have occurred in over a dozen field guides, online at wisconsinbutterflies.org and via a Wisconsin butterfly app for the iPhone, iPod touch, or iPad.

Terrell's Island Habitat Restoration Area

Saturday, May 23, 7:30 to 11:30 am

Lake Butte des Morts

Explore these nesting islands as you walk along a 3.8-mile breakwall with a member of the Lake Butte des Morts Conservation Club.

Backyard Bird Count, February 13-15

The time has come to help again with the Great Backyard Bird Count. Google Great Backyard Bird Count or go to gbbc.birdcount.org. The more data coming from all of us helps the researchers. You only need to do a minimum of 15 minutes on one of the days and then enter your observations. Or you can make multiple observations on all of the days.

All of this can be done from inside the warmth of your home. Any beginners will find help on bird identification on the website. Mark your calendar now and help in the research.



Audubon Community Shopping Night at Just Fare Market

On Thursday, December 4, from 6 to 8 pm, Fond du Lac County Audubon is partnering with Just Fare Market to promote Fair Trade and provide some funding for our local conservation projects. Just Fare Market will donate 15% of total sales during those hours to Fond du Lac Audubon. This is an opportunity for you to find some unique, affordable, and quality holiday gifts or to stock up on some gourmet items for your pantry while supporting Fond du Lac County Audubon.

Fair Trade is a direct and cooperative business approach that supports farmers and craftspeople in developing countries 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. That's especially important to those of us interested in preserving the world's birds and conservation of natural resources. For example, Fair Trade coffee is grown in the shade. According to one study, shaded coffee farms provide habitat for 184 different bird species, whereas only 8 to 12 species were found on

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

P.O. Box 84
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*Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter
via e-mail to evelyn@mcleancowan.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.
- ☐ Save trees. Please send the newsletter to me via email.

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

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sunny monoculture farms. Do something for the birds: buy shade-grown coffee at Just Fare Market!

Audubon members who are interested in natural foods will not be disappointed to find colorful heirloom rice varieties grown on ancient terraces in the Philippines. Other gourmet items include Divine dark chocolate and soup mixes.

Just Fare Market also stocks some amazing items made from recycled materials. There are elegant journals made from elephant dung paper, key chains made from recycled flip-flops, coin purses made from candy wrappers, and purses made from the pull tops of cans. It's just plain fun to pick up and examine these unique items and to marvel at the creative people who turned garbage into useful items.

Fond du Lac County Audubon and Just Fare Market invite you to an evening of fun as you browse through fashionable scarves, select an interesting piece of jewelry, or find an unusual gift to fill a stocking. You can do all that in the company of fellow Audubon members. Bring a friend or two or three to learn about both Audubon and Just Fare Market, and to support our local Audubon projects.

Just Fare Market is located at N7645 N. Peebles Lane, Suite 2, Fond du Lac. For more information and a map to the store, see justfare.org.

