



The **HERON**

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Saturday, November 13, 2010

Theisen Middle School Auditorium

9:30–10 am Passport to the Niagara Escarpment Program

10–11 am – A FAMILY PROGRAM

Environmental Minstrel

Performer: Ken Lonnquist

Ken's upbeat, humorous Earthy Songs concert connects the idea of a good time with being good to each other and the planet. He sings about woodlands and waterways, animals and people, and what we can do to make our world better!



Wednesday, December 8, 2010

7 pm, Moraine Park Technical College, Room O-103

Passion for Penguins

Speaker: Dr. Amy Sheldon, Long-time Audubon Member

Find out more about these fascinating birds of the Falklands, South Georgia Island, and Antarctic Peninsula.



Thank You!

Thank you to all who brought dishes to share at the third annual Wild Feast Potluck. It was a big success with a great turnout and delicious food! Thank you to Earl Jewett and Dave and Kathleen Stetter for the sailboat ride.



Audubon evening programs take place at Moraine Park Technical College. From National Avenue, turn into parking lot O. Enter the door labeled O-1. Room O-103 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.fdlaudubon.org

Exploring Riggs County Park

If you haven't been to Riggs County Park recently or ever, this article is being written to encourage you to get off your beaten path and explore a beautiful new area. It is the county's largest park with 300 acres of mostly natural areas. There are 180 acres of wetlands that can be viewed from boardwalk trails and observation platforms. Other trails wind through 70 acres of native prairie. These trails could be used for snow shoeing or cross country skiing in the winter months. The natural areas offer good birding opportunities. About 50 acres are set aside for active recreation which includes a frisbee golf course. Riggs County Park is located on the east side of Ripon. Access from a parking lot on Hwy. 23 or from parking lots with facilities and a shelter off Douglas Street. There is a need for volunteers to help at the park and if anyone is interested in starting a group "Friends of Riggs," please contact Audubon board members.



Zoopolis Tour News

The third annual Zoopolis Tour held on August 8, 2010 attracted about 170 participants. Fortunately, there was a change of weather with a strong breeze which helped reduce the humidity and mosquitoes. Many people made enthusiastic comments. We seem to have a following of about 40 people who have come all three years and insist on touring every single site. A comment by a non-attendee was heard via the grapevine saying, "I'm not paying money to see weeds." This seems to indicate that we still have more to do in educating the public.

Next year's tour sites have been selected with a focus on properties right in the heart of the city. None of these yards are bigger than a half acre and a few are very small. A magical wild habitat can be maintained on the typical urban yard. The 2011 Zoopolis Tour will be held on Sunday, August 7 from 1 am to 6 pm. Mark your calendars and if possible consider helping at the event. Volunteers do receive a complimentary ticket.

Thanks to all the people who volunteer their yards and/or time to help make this tour a successful event.

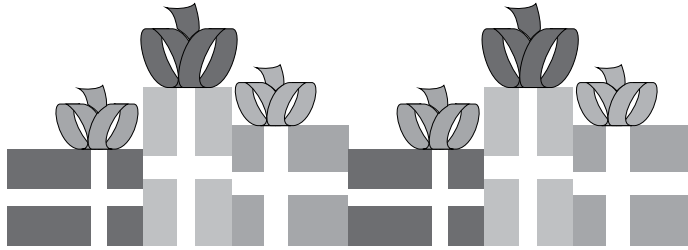


ZoopolisTour
Site



Alternative Gift Fair on December 5

If you are looking for Christmas gift ideas that help others and the environment, consider coming to Pilgrim UCC church on the morning of December 5th anytime from 9:00 am to 12:45 pm. The booths and tables will be set up in the narthex outside the sanctuary. The event is open to the public. Our Audubon chapter will have a display and literature available. Help support an effort to try to make a difference and raise awareness.



BOOK REVIEW

Rare Encounters With Ordinary Birds

Anyone, who has even a mild interest in birds, will enjoy the book *Rare Encounters with Ordinary Birds* by Lyanda Lynn Haupt. The author created and directed educational programs for the Seattle Audubon Society and has worked in raptor rehabilitation. She has traveled the globe in search of exotic birds, but in this book is making a case for sticking close to home. There are many things to discover about the birds that we see every day. Rather than simply compiling a list of sightings, a very satisfying experience can be found in exploring a species and adding depth to birding.

Her book consists of 17 short essays on different bird experiences and observations. Most fun of all is that it starts with the starling, which is really an amazing bird. Another delightful story centers on the ethereal calls of the thrush. She is almost pulled into faerie land by the calls of the Varied Thrush. This reminded me of my own enchantment with the song of the Veery. Another fun section has her helping her daughter, who is still in the womb, to bird and begin a birding list.

The book was written in 2001 and is available in paperback. I recommend it as a gift book to give to friends and family.

—Diana Beck

WORKSHOP

Natural Landscaping Workshop

Saturday, Jan. 2, 12:30-4 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 Kathleen Stetter (stetter@Centurytel.net or 920-872-2250) to reserve a spot. Please call to cancel a reservation if needed, so others may attend.

Vote on November 2

If you are interested in voting for candidates that support conservation measures, take a look at the records and promises of this year's slate. Fond du Lac Audubon Society does not endorse political candidates, but as a service to members, endorsements of candidates from conservation groups such as Sierra Club (SC), Clean Wisconsin (CW), and Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (CV) are indicated below. Check web pages for these organizations to determine criteria for endorsements.

- Tom Barrett, Governor of Wisconsin (SC, CW, CV)
- Doug La Follette, Secretary of State (SC, CW, CV)
- Russ Feingold, U.S. Senate (SC, CW, CV)
- Paul Czisny, 52 Assembly (SC, CW)
- Dick Spanbauer 53 Assembly (SC, CW, CV)

—Dave Stetter, Conservation Chair FDL Audubon Club



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

THE HERON

Fond du Lac County
AUDUBON
 SOCIETY
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.

 Name

 Address

 City State Zip

 Phone Email

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

**Help Needed for Peebles Trail
 Buckthorn Removal**

There is a lot of the invasive buckthorn that needs to be taken out along the Peebles Trail. Please consider volunteering some time this fall to help with this project. No experience is necessary and all that you need to bring is some gardening gloves and if possible a kneeling pad. Other equipment is supplied. Meet by the trail bridge east of Prairie Road. If late, walk east down the trail to find the group. Sessions are cancelled in the event of rain.

Work sessions are as follows: Thursday, November 4, 9–10:30 am; Saturday, November 6, 9–11 am; Wednesday, November 10, 9–10:30 am; and Sunday, November 14, 1–3 pm. For further information, call 922-7931 or email dbeck7931@charter.net

