



The **HERON**

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Saturday, November 14, 2009

10–11 am, Fairgrounds Cow Palace

A FUN FAMILY PROGRAM

Animal Encounters

Speaker: Dr. Robert James, Zoologist and Author

Come and see LIVE creatures, including a snake, possum, alligator and ostrich!

Learn about respect and safety with animals.

This is a program that will delight school-age children and adults of all ages.



Wednesday, December 9, 2009

7 pm, UW-Fond du Lac, Room A-216, Art Building

Passion for Penguins

Speaker: Dr. Amy Sheldon, Pathologist

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



Directions to Room A-216 at UW-Fond du Lac: Park in the back of the Art Building or in the main parking lot. Proceed through the Commons area and the tunnel OR go up the outside ramp leading to the Art Building, where you enter the second floor. Room A-216 is just down the hall from the Henken Lounge. Audubon programs are open to the public with no admission charge. Adults, families, and young people with an interest in environmental issues are invited.

Thank You! .

Thank you to Minodinoquay Nettie Burnett for the hand-made herbal ointments given as door prizes at the September meeting. Thank you to Dave and Kathy Stetter, Earl and Carol Jewett, and Evelyn McLean-Cowan for the October refreshments. October door prizes were donated by Margie Winter, Dave and Kathy Stetter, and Roxine McQuitty.

Passport to the Ledge

The Wisconsin State Legislature proclaimed 2010 as “Year of the Niagara Escarpment.” Consistent with this year-long celebration, Fond du Lac County Audubon is sponsoring a “Passport to the Ledge” program for area children. The Niagara Escarpment, commonly called “the Ledge,” is a unique and important resource that is intermittently exposed in Wisconsin from Mayville to Rock Island in Door County. Although high ground projects prominently above the city of Fond du Lac, many residents, especially children, are unaware of the geologic, ecologic, historic, and recreational resources contained in this natural feature. One purpose of our “Passport to the Ledge” program is to disseminate Ledge information more widely, and thereby instill an appreciation for the value of this distinctive land form.

In addition to promoting Ledge appreciation, the Passport program will provide an opportunity and reward for children’s greater connection with nature and outdoor activities. Such recreation is considered important for children’s emotional and physical health. The Passport program will encourage visitation to a variety of sites along the Ledge, and hopefully families will return for continued enjoyment of these areas.

Early in 2010, passports and informational flyers will be distributed to children through youth organizations and public venues. Eight or nine locations will be selected as visitation sites, and a stamp will be placed in the passport at these sites on designated days. Audubon members will be needed to stamp passports, identify birds, wildflowers, and natural features at these sites on at least two days per site. Children completing a designated number of these visits will receive a patch, and those who complete at least one will receive a participation certificate. Details of the program are still in the planning stages and, of course, are subject to funding. The committee (Kathleen and Dave Stetter, Earl and Carol Jewett, Amy Haak and Jim Prosser) welcomes suggestions and assistance.

Important Notice for 2010 Meetings

Starting in January 2010 our monthly meetings will take place at MPTC. The location will be in building O and in room O-104. From National Ave., turn into parking lot O and park near the door. Enter the door labeled O-1. Room O-104 is just inside the door and on the left. It is easy to find. This change is occurring due to rising costs at UW-Fond du Lac. We have enjoyed the use of the Henken Lounge for quite a few years and want to thank the UW for sharing their facilities with us. Please make a note of this change on your program brochure.



Grand Canyon Rafting Trip June 2010

This article is announcing that the Grand Canyon Rafting Trip is on! People are beginning to sign up and send in their \$300 deposits. The trip, to be held on June 18 to 27 next summer, is being organized by our local Audubon. Don’t miss this opportunity to join in the adventure and fun. Members and non-members who are 18 years and older and able to walk over rocks and get into and out of a raft are eligible to come. There is room for 25 people, so don’t wait too long to decide.

For more information check our Audubon website, or visit www.crateinc.com. Colorado River and Trail Expeditions will be the outfitter and guide. To obtain a brochure and an application contact Diana Beck at dbeck7931@charter.net or 920-922-7931.

Help Needed to Remove Buckthorn on Peebles Trail

Many citizens enjoy hiking, biking and skiing on the Peebles Trail located in the northeastern area of the city and township. Unfortunately this natural corridor is becoming choked with buckthorn. In an effort to remove this invasive species, the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society is sponsoring a number of volunteer work sessions in late October and November. This is the best time of the year to remove and eradicate the plant.

Buckthorn was brought to this country from Germany in the 19th century. The small tree/shrub makes a good hedge and the berries have a laxative effect. Over the years, the berries have been spread by the birds and now buckthorn can be found all over our city and county. The problem comes from a lack of natural controls such as insects that might eat it, and results in thick infestations that crowd out native species.

All those interested in helping should meet at the Peebles Trail bridge just east of Prairie Road. Depending on what kind of work you would like to do, please bring work gloves, kneeling pad, dandelion fork, hand saw, chain saw, or loppers. There are small trees to pull out by hand, others that can be levered out roots and all, branches and brush that need to be cut, and larger trees that need to be chain sawed and herbicide applied. Some equipment will be available as well as herbicide.

An effort was made to offer a variety of times.

Work Sessions

Sunday, Oct. 25, 3-4:30 pm
Thursday, Oct. 29, 9-10:30 am
Saturday, Oct. 31, 9-10:30am
Friday, Nov. 6, 10-11:30 am
Sunday, Nov. 8, 2-3:30 pm
Wednesday, Nov. 11, 10-11:30 am
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 10-11:30 am

Please lend us a hand at any or all of these sessions. If you are late, head east down the trail to find the work party.



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, 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 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.

An Easier and Greener Fall Cleanup

Keep nutrients in the soil. Mulch grass clippings back into the lawn as you mow. Leaves can be left on garden beds to form a natural mulch and enrich the soil as they decompose. Fallen leaves can remain on the lawn provided that they are chopped into small pieces with a mulching mower. Thatch buildup does not occur where the soil has healthy micro and macro-organisms. If there are too many leaves, some could be composted with grass clippings.

Leave an area in your yard for leaf litter. Many birds that are ground feeders hunt through leaf litter for insects. Brush piles create winter habitat for small animals and insects. Lay down a layer of loosely stacked and angled branches and then cover with plant stalks and leaves. Leave as many standing plant stalks as possible for winter habitat and food for birds.

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via e-mail to mcdesign@charter.net

THE HERON

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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*, to stay informed of chapter activities. I have enclosed \$4.00 payable to:
FOND DU LAC COUNTY AUDUBON.

(Fee covers printing and mailing for a year of issues.)

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

Salmon Run in Kewaunee County

On October 10, twelve of us made the journey to the Keewaunee River and the Besadny Fish and Wildlife Area.

The cold weather did not interfere with viewing the fish coming up stream, jumping over small rises, and spawning in pool areas. The viewing was spectacular, especially in the underground glass viewing area! The salmon were introduced in the 1960s as a predator for the alewives. Mankind had wiped out the natural predators in the past and now had to introduce a new one. Unfortunately, the Pacific salmon need colder water for reproductive success, so it is necessary to collect eggs from the females each spawning season. It was an interesting lesson in how complicated restoring the balance of nature can be. Without this intervention, the salmon would slowly die out.

