



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

SUMMER NATURE WALKS

Summer Evening Tuesday Walks

Explore area nature trails with an Audubon guide.

June 5

Kay's Ledge

June 12

Shaginappi County Park

June 19

Mascoutin Valley State Trail

June 26

Marsh Haven

July 10

Greenway Arboretum

July 17

Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum

July 24

Oakfield Ledge State Natural Area

July 31

Northwoods Park

August 7

Eldorado Marsh Dike Road

All walks begin at 6:30 pm.

See page 3 for more information.

Cancelled if steady rain.



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Initial Use of Stetter Environmental Education Funds

Fond du Lac County Audubon will match the Dave Stetter Environmental Education fund to sponsor a summer field trip for fifty second through fifth graders from the Boys & Girls Club of Fond du Lac. On July 2, these children will participate in a day-long, hands-on nature study including an exploration hike, pond investigation, and insect observation at the Brillion Nature Center. A visit to the Brillion Nature Center seems an especially appropriate inaugural use of the Dave Stetter EE funds as Jennifer (Louie) Lecker, Center Naturalist, began her interest in environmental studies on field trips with Dave Stetter. Fond du Lac County Audubon members who wish to assist with the field trip should contact Kathleen Stetter (920-872-2250 or Stetter@Centurytel.net). There will be room for five Audubon members to ride the bus that leaves the Boys and Girls Club (2nd Street entrance at 9:30 am and returns by 4:30 pm). Members may also drive separately to the Center located at W1135 Deerview Rd, Brillion, WI 54110.

The Brillion Nature Center, located within the DNR Brillion Wildlife Area, is a privately funded organization that offers year-round nature programs for all ages. Approximately seven miles of trails through prairie, marsh, and woodland habitats are open to the public during daylight hours. The Nature Center building that is open from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Friday has animal mounts, live native animals, and hands-on exhibits. For more information see: www.brillionnaturecenter.net.

The Dave Stetter Environmental Education Fund was established in honor of Dave Stetter, long-time Fond du Lac Audubon member and local science teacher who highly valued youth outdoor education activities for developing an understanding and

appreciation of the natural world. Those wishing to contribute to the fund to support this activity and others like it may send checks to Mike Sweney, Fond du Lac Audubon treasurer at N5545 Winnvue Court, Fond du Lac, WI 54937. Make checks payable to Dave Stetter EE Fund. Fond du Lac County Audubon is a 501c(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organization.

Audubon Bird Seed Sale

We will have two bird seed sales in the upcoming season: October 6, 2018 and February 2, 2019. Save the dates and watch for the details in the fall and winter newsletters.

Wild Feast Potluck in September

The annual Wild Feast Potluck will be held on September 5 at the DeNevue Creek Shelter at Lakeside Park. This is a reminder to plan ahead with wild ingredients when they are available. Some items can be frozen or preserved for later use. More details will follow in the fall newsletter.



Stuffed Nasturtiums by KathyWaldschmidt



SUMMER EVENING TUESDAY WALKS

Explore some of the trails in Fond du Lac County and City with members of Audubon. All walks will begin at 6:30 pm. Carpooling is sometimes available. Be sure to wear good walking shoes, bring some insect repellent, and if available, a pair of binoculars. The walks will last an hour to an hour and a half. Cancelled if steady rain.

June 5 Kay's Ledge

This 62-acre private preserve is on the Niagara Escarpment. Enjoy woods, ledge face with spring-fed creeks, flowers, birds, and a field overlooking Lake Winnebago. N7836 County Road WH, Taycheedah. (Drive up WH. Just past the pottery place, look for our Audubon banner on a wooden fence on the west side.) *Leader – Margie Winter*

June 12 Shaginappi County Park

The park is a natural area of 100 acres of wetlands, lakeshore, woods, and prairie and is situated adjacent to Columbia Park, sharing Calumet Harbor. Pipe Creek also winds through the park property. (North on Hwy 151 to just north of Pipe. Turn left on Velvet Beach Road. Continue about ½ mile and turn into a parking lot on the left.) *Leaders – Dave and Kerry Sehloff*

June 19 Mascoutin Valley State Trail

This section of the trail provides an easy walk on an elevated abandoned railroad track that passes through cattail marsh and crosses two bridges, one which is over the west branch of the Fond du Lac River. (West on Hwy 23, north on County Road I to County Road OOO. A few yards beyond the I-OOO intersection, turn left onto the trail and drive about 25 yards to a parking area.) Carpooling will be available from the southwest corner of Menards parking lot at 6:10 pm. *Leader – Kathleen Stetter*

June 26 Marsh Haven

See numerous bird species, including a well-established Purple Martin colony. Special Purple Martin nest viewing! Observe wildlife on the woodland, prairie, or wetland trails on 46 acres. (South on Hwy 151 and east on Hwy 49.) Carpool from the southwest corner of the Fleet Farm parking lot at 5:55 pm. *Leader – Liz Roy*

**July 10 Greenway Arboretum**

Discover over two miles of beautiful nature trails along the Fond du Lac River on 24.5 acres in town. Through the efforts of ParkWatch and local citizen volunteers, restoration of native tree plantings and an oak savanna are in progress, along with new walking trails. Meet at the west side of the parking lot at the south Pick 'n Save store at 55 West Pioneer Road. *Leader – Evelyn McLean-Cowan*

July 17 Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum

The Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum offers 37.5 acres of native prairie, which includes 55 kinds of native wildflowers and six species of grass, as well as a 3.5 acre formal arboretum of 250 native trees and 140 native shrubs. Meet in the east parking lot at the UW campus at 400 University Drive. *Leader – Margie Winter*

July 24 Oakfield Ledge State Natural Area, off Breakneck Road

This property features a substantial exposure of the Niagara Escarpment as well as a unique eco-system. See undisturbed native vegetation and forest floor habitat. (Travel south on County Road Y from Oakfield. Turn right on Breakneck Road and watch for the parking lot on the right after about two miles.) Carpool from the southwest corner of the Fleet Farm parking lot at 5:55 pm. *Leader – Diana Beck*

July 31 Northwoods Park

Some hiking trails have been cut in the woods and a small, gravel parking lot is available. (Take Hwy 26 about two miles north of Rosendale.) Carpooling will be available from the southwest corner of Menards parking lot at 6:00 pm. *Leader – Diana Beck*

August 7 Eldorado Marsh Dike Road

The wildlife area consists of a rich mosaic of wetland types, small oak openings, shrubland, grasslands, and agricultural land. The .75 mile-long dike provides excellent access for wildlife viewing opportunities. (West on 23, east on Heinrich, north on Dike Road.) Carpool from the southwest corner of the Menards parking lot at 6:05 pm. *Leader – Diana Beck*

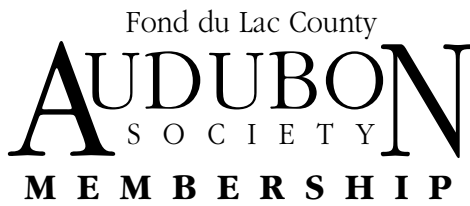
For more information about any of the Summer Walks, contact dianahbeck@gmail.com or 920-922-7931.



P.O. Box 84
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-0084

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

THE HERON



- 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

Audubon Activity at Prairie Fest

Our local Audubon chapter will be presenting an activity for children and adults at Prairie Fest at the UW-Fond du Lac campus on July 21. Participants will use binoculars to identify bird pictures on charts in the distance. It is an opportunity to teach people, who are unfamiliar with binoculars, how to use them. The bird charts will be geared to different levels of experience with recognizing birds. Each participant will receive a score for correct answers.

We need Audubon members to help with the activity. There will be two shifts of two hours each. We would like to have three or four people per shift. Please contact Diana Beck at 920-922-7931 or dianahbeck@gmail.com if you would be willing to help with this fun activity.

Annual Energy Fair, June 15-17

If you have never attended The Energy Fair, it is well worth the trip. The address is 7558 Deer Road, Custer, WI 54423 (a few miles southeast of Stevens Point). The Fair offers workshops, keynote speakers, exhibits, live music, and much more. The Fair is in its 29th year and draws crowds from a large area. To learn more, check out the website—theenergyfair.org

The mission of the Energy Fair is to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainability through education and demonstration.