



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

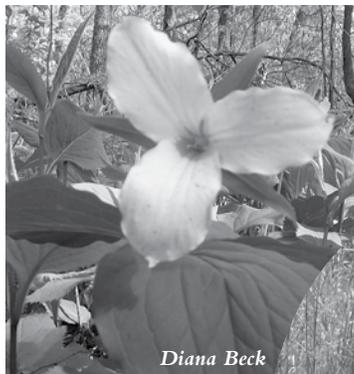
SPRING EVENTS

Safe Outdoor Activities during the Pandemic

Our Audubon chapter will continue to offer only outdoor events during the spring season. Please bring a mask with you and practice social distancing.



Kerry Schloff



Diana Beck



Diana Beck

March 27 or 28*

Full Moon Walk at
Gottfried Prairie & Arboretum

April 25 or 26*

Sunset/Full Moon Walk
at Eldorado Marsh

April 30 and May 1

Bird City World Migratory Bird Day
Walks/Hikes
(Look for Bird City banner at designated locations)

May 1

Birding Bike Ride

May 9

Mothers Day Flower Walk

May 25 or 26*

Evening Hike and Bonfire
at Kay's Ledge

April-June

Invasive Species Removals

Visit Us Online
fdlaudubon.org

Follow Us on Facebook

See page 2 for more information on the March, April, and May events
and page 3 for Invasive Species Removals.

*The second dates listed are the alternates if there is bad weather on the first date.
We will cancel the entire event if there is bad weather on both evenings.

AUDUBON SPRING EVENTS

Full Moon Walk at Gottfried Prairie

Saturday, March 27 or Sunday, March 28*, 6:30 pm
East side of UWO-Fond du Lac parking lot

Join with some adventurous Audubon members, as we walk the trails at the Gottfried Prairie & Arboretum in the moonlight. The moon rises about 5 pm and the sun sets about 6:15 pm on Saturday, March 27. We will meet at 6:30 pm on Saturday in the parking lot on the east side of the UWO-Fond du Lac campus.

Dress for the weather and wear good walking shoes or boots. Walking sticks or ski poles might be handy for hiking in semi-dark conditions.

Sunset/Full Moon Walk at Eldorado Marsh

Sunday, April 25 or Monday, April 26*, 6:15 pm
Eldorado Marsh, end of Dike Road parking lot

Come on a twilight and full moon hike on the dike in Eldorado Marsh on Sunday, April 25. At this time of evening, there should be an opportunity to see and hear the birds in the marsh. The moon will be rising at 5:10 pm and the sunset will be at 6:50 pm.

Meet in the parking lot at the end of Dike Road on the east side of Eldorado Marsh at 6:15 pm on April 25. Bring binoculars and wear good hiking shoes.

Bird City World Migratory Bird Day Walks/Hikes

Friday, April 30

6 p.m. Camelot Business Park, 28 Camelot Drive

Saturday, May 1

7 a.m. Greenway Arboretum, 55 W. Pioneer Road

10 a.m. Supple's Marsh (Look for Bird City banner)

1 p.m. Lakeside Park, Kiwanis Shelter

Leaders for all walks — Terry Leasa, Adam Kneuppel, and Kerry Sehloff

Bring binoculars and wear good hiking shoes.

Audubon will make a limited number of binoculars available for use during the hike.

Birding Bike Ride

Saturday, May 1, 10 am, Fond du Lac Loop

Meet at the shelter by UWO-Fond du Lac's east parking lot on the Gottfried Arboretum. Riders will explore and bird watch along the Prairie Trail, Peebles Trail, and Lakeside Park Fond du Lac Loop

trails. Distance: 8–12 miles, adjusted according to the participants' fitness levels.

Mothers Day Flower Walk

Sunday, May 9, 1 pm, Hobbs Woods

The woods at this time of year should have many spring ephemerals (short-lived woodland wildflowers) on display. Trout lilies, trilliums, bloodroot, and Dutchman's breeches are just a few of the common ephemerals found in Hobbs Woods. Audubon member, Margie Winter, will lead the walk and help in identifying the many plants and flowers.

Meet in the parking lot at Hobbs Woods at N4197 South Hickory Road, about five miles south of Fond du Lac at 1 pm. Wear good hiking shoes and bring insect repellent if needed. Many areas have uneven terrain. In the case of inclement weather, the hike will be canceled. (No rain date.)

Evening Hike and Bonfire at Kay's Ledge

Tuesday, May 25 or Wednesday, May 26*, 6:15 pm

This event is open only to Audubon members, family, and friends.

Come for a hike at Kay's Ledge on Tuesday, May 25 at 6:15 pm. At this time of evening, there should be an opportunity to see and hear the birds along this area of the Ledge. The full moon will be rising at 6:40 pm and the sunset will occur at 7:25 pm. We will conclude the hike with a bonfire in the moonlight.

Wear good hiking shoes. Bring insect repellent and your own binoculars

for the hike and beverages, snacks, and a folding chair for the bonfire.

Kay's Ledge is located at N7836 County Road WH, Taycheedah. Drive up the Ledge on Hwy WH. About halfway up, look for our Audubon banner on a wooden fence on the west side.

For more information on these events, call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com.

**** The second dates listed are the alternates if there is bad weather on the first date.***



Spring Invasive Species Removals

Volunteers are needed to help remove garlic mustard, dames rocket, and celandine. These plants are taking over our wild areas. This activity can be done safely in this time of the COVID-19 Virus. It is easy to social distance from other volunteers. Also, it is a wonderful way to be outdoors and help the local ecosystem.

Fond du Lac County Audubon Society is sponsoring these sessions:

PEEBLES TRAIL

Session 1: Saturday, April 24; Monday, April 26; Thursday, April 29; Saturday, May 1; Thursday, May 6; Saturday, May 8

Meet at the intersection with Prairie Road (¼ mile south of Winnebago Drive).

Session 2: Thursday, May 13; Saturday, May 15; Thursday, May 20; Saturday, May 22

Meet at the intersection with County Highway K (½ mile south of Winnebago Drive).

LALLIER PARK

Monday, May 24; Thursday, May 27; Saturday, May 29; Thursday, June 3

Meet at the southern end of the park on National Avenue.

HOBBS WOODS

Saturday, June 5; Monday, June 7; Thursday, June 10; Saturday, June 12; Monday, June 14; Thursday, June 17; Saturday, June 19; Monday, June 21; Thursday, June 24; Saturday, June 26

Meet at Hobbs Woods County Park (five miles south of Fond du Lac on Hickory Street).

KETTLE MORaine ADOPTED AREA

Mondays: May 3, May 10, May 17, May 31

Check with Diana Beck for directions to our meeting site in the Kettle Moraine.

All sessions will run from 9 to 11 am in April and May. June sessions will run from 8 to 10 am. Canceled in the event of steady rain. Please bring work gloves. Long pants and a long-sleeved shirt are recommended. Sometimes we are pulling in areas with stinging nettle plants. Garden boots are also helpful. Bring a dandelion fork if you own one. No experience is necessary.

For more information call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com.



AUDUBON HABITAT HERO

Stetters Create Wildlife-Friendly Yard

Kathleen and the late Dave Stetter moved into their country home in 1973. Dave set about turning their five acres into a wildlife-friendly yard, along with a garden, vineyard, and orchard. He planted a double row of trees and native shrubs around two sides of the property allowing nesting and feeding for birds and a woodland-type walking trail. Berry-bearing bushes including elderberries, high-bush cranberry, service berry, and mulberries are found throughout the yard. About an acre is devoted to prairie with undulating paths providing views of ever-changing blooms from spring shooting stars and golden alexander to fall frost asters. Big blue stem, Indian grass, and cup plant tower over visitors in late summer and provide wildlife cover in winter. Ten-foot-high native sunflowers feed finches during cold months. Dave burned sections of the prairie each spring, and son David continues this task. A small pond is surrounded by joe pye weed, red osier dogwood, and swamp

milkweed. Butterflies and dragonflies flit across the surface, while green and leopard frogs bask on lily pads. Although Dave is no longer here to enjoy the culmination of his efforts, his family appreciates regular meanderings around the property, always finding something new.



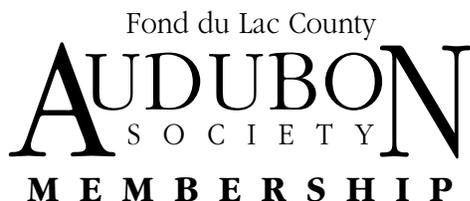
Top: Kathleen and grandson, Cyan Furman, in front of tall native sunflowers that provide food for finches all winter. Bottom: The pond in summer.



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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.
- I am a renewing member.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Mail this form with payment to:
Fond du Lac County Audubon, Membership Services
N5545 Winnvue Court, Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Keeping Fossil Fuels in the Ground

Each of us can reduce our demand for fossil fuels and slow down the rise of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere with these opportunities:

Participate in Community Solar Program

On December 8, Alliant Energy announced a community solar program. Anyone with an Alliant account is eligible to participate by purchasing at least one “block” of solar power. Depending on how many blocks you purchase, the value of the electricity produced by your blocks will be refunded to you monthly at a rate of \$0.063 per kwh. The maximum number of blocks you can purchase is limited by your actual electrical use over the preceding 12 months.

This plan is open to anyone, whether you rent or own your home, with no need for home modifications or any equipment. Many blocks are still available. Visit Alliant Energy Community Solar online.

Electrifying Our Homes

As we purchase and replace appliances in our home, we can move away from natural gas to electric. From water heaters, clothes dryers, fireplaces, lawnmowers, and kitchen stoves, electric appliances will be able to draw on renewable energy sources and help to reduce carbon pollution. Switching from a gas stove to electric helps reduce indoor air pollution, including increased levels of nitrogen dioxide, tiny particles (PM2.5), carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and formaldehyde created by natural gas.