



# *The* **HERON**

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

## **FALL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

During the season of 2021–22, we will not be sending out a program brochure. The new wave of the Delta variant of Covid is still making planning difficult.

Once again, we will not have our Wild Feast Potluck in September.

Please note that our programs at MPTC this year will be in room A-112.

Park in lot C and enter at the main entrance. Proceed to the left, down the stairs and follow the directions to the A wing.

Masks may be required in Room A-112, depending on the covid situation.

### **Birchwood Tour and Spruce Lake Bog**

Saturday, September 11, 10 am

### **Bird Sign Dedication at Lakeside Park**

Tuesday, September 14, 6:45 pm

### **Wisconsin Wild Edible Mushrooms at MPTC**

Wednesday, October 13, 7 pm

### **Bird Seed Sale at Haentze**

Saturday, October 16, 9–11 am

### **Buckthorn Removal Sessions**

Several dates in October and November\*

### **Full Moon Walk at Eldorado Marsh**

Wednesday, October 20, 6 pm

### **Recycle Right at MPTC**

Wednesday, November 10, 7 pm

### **Full Moon Walk at Kiekhaefer Park**

Thursday, November 18, 6 pm

### **Community Shopping at Just Fare Market**

Thursday, December 2, 4–7 pm

*More information on programs and activities is on page 3.*

*\*See the back page for more information on buckthorn removal sessions.*



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[www.fdlaudubon.org](http://www.fdlaudubon.org)

*Follow Us on Facebook*

### ***Keep Bird Feeders Clean***

Please help prevent the spread of illness in birds by cleaning feeders regularly (once a week) with a solution of nine parts water to one part bleach. Clean up below the feeders to remove feces and hulls which can become moldy, wet, or spoiled. Another suggestion is to offer several feeders so there is less opportunity for birds to touch and contaminate each other. The best supplement is to plant native trees, bushes, and plants that offer berries, insects, nuts, and seeds.

Birdbaths need to be rinsed and scrubbed with a solution of nine parts water and one part vinegar. Residues of soaps and cleaners can strip essential oils off feathers. We recommend changing the water at least every other day and more frequently if needed.

Place the birdbath away from the feeders to avoid debris and seeds mucking up the water.

Finally, please increase the cleaning schedule if you suspect a disease is lurking by. Our feathered friends will thank you for your efforts. —*Diana Beck*



*Elizabeth AW Ahlborn*

## **AUDUBON HABITAT HERO**

### ***Lori Amends' Paradise in the City***

My yard is a little over an acre; it's my paradise in the city. Behind my yard is a city retention pond and behind that is the Fond du Lac River and a new park, the Greenway Arboretum.

I feel a responsibility to the urban plants and wildlife that are trying to eke out a living here in my small urban landscape. I work on getting rid of buckthorn, garlic mustard, Canadian thistle, and burdock. I try not to mow some of my grass until June (No-Mow May), so wildlife have a place to eat, hide, and nest. I have birdfeeders by many vines (trumpet, bittersweet, grape, and clematis) and I plant annual vines (morning glory, beans, and peas) for birds to feed and nest. This spring, there was a mourning dove nest in my tangle of trumpet vines.

My flowers start in February/March with crocus and do not end until a hard frost. This helps bees and bugs in the early spring and I never use pesticides. In the summer, I know rabbits and woodchucks will eat from my garden and I

am happy to share. The blackberries, elderberries, and mulberries ripen and attract many kinds of birds to the feast. I have to be fast to pick a couple bags for myself. I also have two small ponds with fountains for birds, fish, and frogs.

In May and June, red-tailed hawks nest by the pond and will be busy feeding their baby. If you take a walk through the Greenway, you will hear it begging (screaming) for food. Check out the power lines above the pond and you might see the kingfisher watching for a meal, or one of the many egrets and herons fishing from the banks. I work a lot, so the yard is not as neat as I would like, but this has a benefit for wildlife. I keep lots of plants standing through the winter—not only for winter interest, but for bugs to spend the winter. We heat with

wood, so there are woodpiles and some brush year-round as places to nest and hide. Pine trees provide good cover for birds and are beautiful in the snow.

Everyone can be a habitat hero by keeping invasive plants out. Even in a small area, you can have a small tabletop fountain, a birdbath, and a birdfeeder.



## AUDUBON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

### ***Birchwood Tour and Spruce Lake Bog*** ***Saturday, September 11, 10 am***

***W996 Birchwood Drive, Campbellsport***

Owners Connie Ramthun and Bill Volkert have been working for over 35 years to restore a series of native plant communities by managing invasive species in an oak hickory forest and wetland, along with converting former agricultural land into prairie. Over the years they have documented 675 species of plants and animals on their land. After touring Birchwood, we will finish with a short hike at Spruce Lake Bog. Please bring a mask for areas that will be difficult to keep a social distance.

### ***Bird Sign Dedication at Lakeside Park***

On Tuesday, September 14 at 6:45 pm, join us for a dedication of the new bird identification sign at Lakeside Park, located at the west end by the turnaround. Thank you to local contributing photographers Kerry Sehloff, Adam Knueppel, Carol and Roy Toepke, Diana Beck, and Jim Edlhuber. Also making the sign possible are financial sponsors Fond du Lac County Audubon Society, Wisconsin

Audubon Council, and Stuart's Landscaping and Gardening Center. Memorial donations were also made honoring Mary Seibel, David and Janice Schnell, and Dr. Edwin O. Sheldon. Pictured is Evelyn McLean-Cowan, who designed the sign.



### ***Wisconsin Wild Edible Mushrooms***

***Wednesday, October 13, 7 pm, MPTC, Room A-112***

Join us in welcoming Brewster Johnson, amateur mycologist, for an informational presentation on how to find, identify, and use a variety of mushrooms.

### ***Weed Warriors Spring Efforts***

Thanks to all who contributed their efforts to tackling the invasive garlic mustard, dames rocket, and celandine. Total volunteer hours were 359: 65 hours at Lallier Park; 50 hours at a Kettle Moraine area; 64 hours at Prairie Road Pebbles Trail; 39 hours at County K Pebbles Trail; 141 hours at Hobbs Woods.

### ***Audubon Bird Seed Sale***

***Saturday, October 16, 9–11 am, Haentze Floral***

Pre-order high quality seed. See brochure or download the form on our website.

### ***Autumn Full Moon Walks***

Join members of Audubon for full moon walks.

#### **ELDORADO MARSH**

***Wednesday, October 20, 6 pm***

Meet at the end of Dike Road on the east side of the marsh.

#### **KIEKHAEFER PARK**

***Thursday, November 18, 6 pm***

Meet at W4235 Kiekhaefer Parkway.

Walks will be canceled if raining or totally overcast.

Call 920-922-7931 or email [dianahbeck@gmail.com](mailto:dianahbeck@gmail.com) for more information.



### ***Recycle Right***

***Wednesday, November 10, 7 pm, MPTC, Room A-112***

The Sustain Fond du Lac Recycling Committee will share information on how to recycle right when preparing materials for the recycling bin, how single-use plastics have made recycling more challenging, as well as practices and advocacy to bring about a more circular and sustainable economy.

### ***Community Shopping Night***

***Thursday, December 2, 4–7 pm, Just Fare Market***

This event benefits both Fond du Lac Audubon and Just Fare Market.

### ***Contact for Wildlife Rescue***

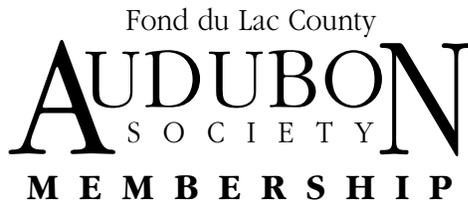
Calls for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation of orphaned, injured, or ill wild birds and mammals can be directed to our Audubon Board member, Lou Rea Kenyon. She has over 28 years experience and can give you excellent advice. Call 920-872-2266.



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

Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter  
via e-mail to [evelyn@mcleancowan.com](mailto: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

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Address

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City

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State

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Zip

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Phone

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

### ***Buckthorn Removal Sessions 2021***

All sessions in October are from 9 am to 11 am. In November we will work from 10 am to noon. No experience is necessary. This is an opportunity to learn to identify the plant and how to control its spread. Wear a long sleeved shirt and long pants. Bring work gloves and safety glasses if available. All equipment will be supplied.

Cancelled in the event of steady rain.

#### **Pebbles Trail (Prairie Road)**

*Meet on Prairie Road at the junction with the trail (about 1/4 mile south of Winnebago Drive).*

Monday, October 18; Wednesday October 20;  
and Saturday, October 23

#### **Pebbles Trail (County K)**

*Meet 1/3 mile south of Winnebago Drive.*

Monday, October 25; Wednesday October 27;  
and Saturday, October 30

#### **Lallier Park**

*Meet at the southern end of Lallier Park on National Avenue, (1/4 mile south of 4th Street)*

Monday, November 1; Wednesday, November 3;  
and Saturday, November 6

#### **Hobbs Woods**

*Meet in the new south parking lot five miles south of Fond du Lac on Hickory Road.*

Monday, November 8 and Wednesday, November 10

***For more information call 920-922-7931 or email [dianahbeck@gmail.com](mailto:dianahbeck@gmail.com)***