

Summer 2025



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

SUMMER OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

*Explore nature with members of Audubon.
Always open to the public.*

June 3 Julie Fitzpatrick Farm

June 7 (Saturday) Foraging with Chris Gavin at Kay's Ledge

June 17 Oakfield Ledge and Trail Marker Tree

June 24 Greenway Arboretum

July 1 Powell Spring Conservancy, Ripon

July 8 Holyland Donkey Haven

July 15 Eldorado Marsh

July 29 Kiekhaefer Park

August 5 Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum

August 12 Lakeside Park West

August 19 Chimney Swift Roosting Watch (7:45 pm)

*All Tuesday events begin at 6:30 pm, except for August 19.
On Saturday, June 7, the start time is 10 am.*

See page 3 for more information. Canceled if raining.



Visit Us Online
www.fdlaudubon.org

Follow Us on Facebook

Fond du Lac County Audubon is honored to have been chosen by Horicon Bank to be the recipient of \$1000 to support our educational environmental programs we offer to our community.

Proposal to Establish a Video Archive

The Board will soon be considering my proposal to video record guest speaker presentations at our public meetings (generally held the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at MPTC) and archive the videos on YouTube (linked to our website). My primary impetus for suggesting this (and volunteering to evaluate its feasibility) was to provide those who cannot attend in person the opportunity to later access the presentations. In my situation, I require wheelchair transportation, but the only business offering this locally does not operate when our meetings occur. A video archive has additional benefits. For example, when recruiting new members, rather than merely mentioning the variety of topics offered by knowledgeable speakers, we can refer them to the archive to evaluate this for themselves. Also, an archive would be a repository for videos of our outings, community outreach, other events, notable plant and wildlife encounters, etc., and provide a comprehensive view of the activities and services we offer. Consequently, our video and newsletter archives will establish a legacy of the many accomplishments by the Board and other volunteers that create a dynamic, relevant organization enhancing the lives of its members and other residents of Fond du Lac County. Many Audubon groups nationwide maintain video archives but few in Wisconsin do, so we would be a trendsetter in this regard.

My report concludes that videoing and archiving can be accomplished with little or no effort or expense by us. For archiving, we would need to establish a free YouTube channel. For videoing, the most effective option appears to be Zoom or similar software in stand-alone mode on the presenters' computers, with the saved video files posted to the archive. Other options include a smartphone or rented/purchased digital video camera operated by a volunteer or hiring MPTC or Treffert Studios using their equipment. Outreach efforts to recruit students from three area schools for videoing have been unsuccessful.

For an example of an Audubon group's video archive, see the link on our Facebook page.

If you have comments or questions, or want a copy of my four-page report, please contact me (920-926-6136 or fslansky321@gmail.com).

—Frank Slansky

Summer Invasive Species Pulls

All sessions in May are 9 am to 11 am and in June 8 am to 10 am. Canceled if a steady rain. Bring a Hori Hori if you own one or a garden trowel and gloves. For more information call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com.

MAY

29 Thurs Hobbs
31 Sat Hobbs

JUNE

2 Mon Hobbs
4 Wed Hobbs
16 Mon Kettle M (9 am)
18 Wed Lallier
21 Sat Hobbs

Hobbs Woods Meet at Hobbs Woods County Park, N4197 South Hickory Road.

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

Kettle Moraine Adopted Area

Directions from Diana Beck:
dianahbeck@gmail.com

Stetter Environmental Education Funds Support Boys/Girls Club Field Trip

Through the Dave Stetter Environmental Education funds, second through fifth graders from Fond du Lac Boys/Girls Club will visit the Horicon Education and Visitor Center, part of the State Wildlife Area, on June 24. Children will engage in pond exploration, hiking, and a visit to the interactive exhibits in the Nature Center "Explorium." Audubon members who would like to assist with the field trip and ride the bus to Horicon should be at Boys/Girls Club at 9 am for a 9:15 am departure and return at 4:30 pm.

The Dave Stetter Environmental Education Fund was established in honor of Dave Stetter, long-time Fond du Lac Audubon member and 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 such activities may send checks to Mike Sweney, Fond du Lac Audubon, at N5545 Winnvue Court, Fond du Lac, WI 54937, with a check payable to Dave Stetter EE Fund. We are a 501c(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organization.



SUMMER OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Explore trails, farms, and nature areas in Fond du Lac County and City with members of Audubon. Tuesday evening events begin at 6:30 pm. Our foraging adventure with Chris Gavin is on Saturday at 10 am. Wear good walking shoes, bring insect repellent, and binoculars if available. The adventures will last an hour to an hour and a half. Canceled if raining. For more information about these summer events, contact dianahbeck@gmail.com or 920-922-7931.

June 3 Julie Fitzpatrick Farm N5849 Hillcrest Road
The farm is located just west of Fond du Lac. We will see Julie's prairie restoration and management for grassland birds and pollinators. Meet Julie's herd of sheep and baby lambs. Experience a demonstration of her border collies herding the sheep. Meet her horses and learn how rotational grazing practices are implemented on the farm. *Leader – Margie Winter*

June 7 Foraging at Kay's Ledge with Chris Gavin
(Saturday from 10 am–noon) N7836 County Hwy WH
Take a "plant walk" with a focus on ethnobotany where Chris will discuss the plants we will encounter and the basics of identifying, harvesting, and enjoying the abundance of wild foods. You may be encouraged to nibble on safe, raw foods. Chris Gavin is a Wisconsin Master Naturalist, Scout leader, and owner of Eagle Outdoor Skills, a business connecting people to the natural world through wild foods, traditional skills, and ecological knowledge. Limited to 20 people. Reserve your spot by contacting Diana at 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com. *Drive east on Cty WH, up the ledge .9 miles from the Hwy 151 bypass to the entrance on the west side. Watch for Audubon signs by the road. No dogs will be allowed.*

June 17 Oakfield Ledge and Trail Marker Tree
Hike along the north end of the ledge to a trail marker tree. The walk will take about 20 minutes one way. Meet in the small parking lot on Cty Y just south of the water tower. *Leaders – Karl McCarty (Oakfield history teacher), Dave Langholff, and Liz Roy*

June 24 Greenway Arboretum Discover over two miles of beautiful nature trails along the Fond du Lac River on 24.5 acres in town. 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 1 Powell Spring Conservancy W598 County Road K, Ripon Walk the trails surrounding one of the largest springs feeding into Green Lake. Meet in the southwest corner of Menards parking lot at 5:45 pm for carpooling. *Leader – Diana Beck (920-922-7931)*

July 8 Holyland Donkey Haven
W2082 Mueller Lane, Mt. Calvary

The Holyland Donkey Haven is a 100% volunteer operated, nonprofit donkey rescue and sanctuary. Holyland takes in unwanted, abused, and neglected donkeys as well as a few goats. *Leader – Diana Beck*

July 15 Eldorado Marsh Hike along the dike through Eldorado Marsh and enjoy a birding opportunity. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Dike Road on the east side of the marsh. *Leader – Lori Amend*

July 29 Kiekhaefer Park W4235 Kiekhaefer Parkway
This park of 120 acres has wonderful trails through hilly, wooded terrain and is part of the Niagara Escarpment. *Leader – Diana Beck*

August 5 Gottfried Prairie & Arboretum

Walk on a guided tour through some of the 37.5 acres at the Fond du Lac County Campus. Meet in the east parking lot, 400 University Dr. *Leader – Margie Winter*

August 12 Lakeside Park West

Explore the trail and boardwalk with views of Lake Winnebago and Supple's Marsh. Walk over the new bridge connecting east and west park land. Meet by the dog park. *Leader – Lori Amend*

August 19 Chimney Swift Roosting Watch

Meet on South Brooke Street just south of Western Avenue. Watch the Metal Link chimney starting at 7:45 pm until about 8:10. Bring a lawn chair and binoculars. Join us afterwards to socialize at Fat Joe's Burgers/Brews, 15 W. Division. St. *Leader – Diana Beck*

National Parks Being Dismantled

National parks set a new record of 331.8 million visits in 2024. Yet, recent actions by the Trump administration have reduced the National Park Service workforce severely and wreaked havoc on the agency,

which was already struggling with understaffing and under-funding. Tell your congressman (Grothman) and senators (Baldwin and Johnson) to stand up for park staff and to roll back these devastating directives on national parks. Read more at npca.org.

Fond du Lac County

AUDUBON

S O C I E T Y

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

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

THE HERON

Fond du Lac County

AUDUBON

S O C I E T Y

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.
- ☐ I am a new member. ☐ I am a renewing member.

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 Name Change Notice

When the Audubon Society was founded in the U.S. years ago by two women, they used the name of John James Audubon, a famous painter of birds at the time. However, it turns out that our namesake was a slaveholder, very racist, and made up some things about different birds he was painting.

Many “Audubon” groups would like to diversify and be more welcoming to minorities. Our namesake is too flawed and so groups are changing their name. The most common choice is Bird Alliance. The National Audubon is waiting for more of a groundswell before adopting a new name.

Our board has decided to gradually shift our name to Fond du Lac Bird Alliance. We will continue to mention “formerly Audubon” as a byline.

Prairie Fest at Gottfried Arboretum

On Saturday August 2, from 9 am–noon, celebrate nature with yoga, prairie tours, short nature pop-up presentations, and environmental education displays. The Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum is adjacent to the Fond du Lac County Campus.

Wild Feast Potluck

Mark your calendars for the Wild Feast Potluck Wednesday, September 3 at the DeNevue Creek Shelter at Lakeside Park. Plan ahead with wild ingredients when they are available. Some items can be frozen or preserved for later use.