



The HERON

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Wednesday, January 14, 2009

7 pm, UW-Fond du Lac, Henken Lounge

Eagle and Osprey Recovery

Speaker: Ron Eckstein, Wildlife Biologist, Wisconsin DNR

Through eagle and osprey surveys and conservation, find out what the DNR is doing in recovery efforts for these magnificent birds of prey.



Wednesday, February 11, 2009

7 pm, UW-Fond du Lac, Henken Lounge

Landscaping with Wildflowers

Speaker: Connie Ramthun, Owner, Kettle Moraine Natural Landscaping

Truly passionate about native plant communities, Connie will share techniques on establishing and maintaining native wildflower gardens.

From her nursery, Connie collects and cleans over 80 species of native plants and designs seed mixes for a variety of growing conditions.



Directions to the Henken Lounge 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. The Henken Lounge is down the hall. Audubon programs are open to the public with no admission charge. Adults, families, and young people with an interest in environmental issues are encouraged to attend.



Thank you!

The refreshments for the December meeting were donated by Todd and Betty Berens and Carol Jewett. The door prizes were donated by Margie Winter, Earl Jewett and Andy Schloff.

Audubon in the Classroom

AUDUBON is back in the classroom! This year the Fond du Lac Audubon board decided to start sponsoring *Audubon Adventures* classroom kits. This is something the chapter has done in the past, but had stopped for several years. We are currently sponsoring 15 classrooms in Fond du Lac schools with educational kits. See description below. Contact Margie Winter, education chair, if you would like more information: email jmwinter@charter.net or call 923-2490.

What is *Audubon Adventures*? *Audubon Adventures* is an environmental education program for children in grades 3 to 5. Developed by professional environmental educators, *Audubon Adventures* presents basic, scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. It comes packaged as a Classroom Kit (serving 32 students) or Individual Kit (serving one student). The program is used by classroom teachers, after-school program coordinators, special education instructors, language arts teachers, and homeschoolers. Since its inception in 1984, over seven million youngsters have participated in the program.

What is the Goal of *Audubon Adventures*?

Audubon envisions a future with a community of enlightened and informed citizens aware of the environmental outcomes of each of their activities. It is a community with the knowledge, skills, and resources to make informed choices between alternative courses of action that result in minimizing the negative effects on our environment.

Audubon Adventures introduces young people, their families, and their teachers to the fundamental principles by which the natural world functions. Our publications for students and teachers give readers compelling examples and activities that show those principles at work.

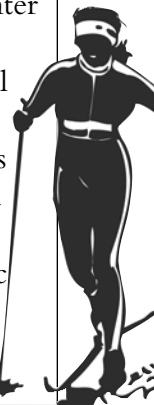
When we achieve our goals, our readers have the foundation necessary for recognizing our individual and collective responsibility for the health of our environment. And out of that recognition comes understanding that personal actions can have meaningful, positive, and far-reaching effects.

AUDUBON FIELD TRIP

Hike, Snowshoe or Ski While Eagle Viewing

Saturday, February 14, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Hike, snowshoe, or ski while eagle viewing at 1000 Island Environmental Center, Kaukauna.

Meet at the UW-FdL campus main entrance parking lot near the picnic shelter to form a car pool at 9:00 am. Dress for the weather and bring a sack lunch, binoculars, and snowshoe or ski equipment if desired. Snowshoes are available for rent at the Center for \$2.50 a pair. We'll visit the nature center, then walk, snow shoe, or hike the 2-mile round-trip trail along the river. Those desiring a longer excursion, may take additional loop trails. See the 1000 Islands web page for more information about facilities and trails: <http://www.1000islandsenvironmentalcenter.com/about.html>. We plan to return to Fond du Lac around 2:00 pm. Contact Kathleen Stetter (920-872-2250 or stetter@centurytel.net).



Eagle and Friends Family Program—A Huge Success!

Fond du Lac County Audubon Society hosted a family program on Saturday, November 8. Raptors and educators from the Schlitz Audubon Society provided a spectacular presentation! The Theisen theater was filled with approximately 400 people.

Mark your calendar for our next family program—Loon Talk on Saturday, March 21 at 10 am at Theisen Middle School.

Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

The next Great Backyard Bird Count takes place February 13-16, 2009. The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are calling on everyone to "Count for Fun, Count for the Future!" Participants did just that in record numbers for the 2008 count, submitting more than 85,000 checklists and identifying 635 species.

Project FeederWatch Season Begins. The 2008-09 season of Project FeederWatch began Saturday, November 8, although you can sign up at any time. FeederWatchers keep track of their birds during the winter and report their tallies each week.

Watching birds benefits science, but it can also be a healthy part of your routine. Hundreds of studies have verified that time spent watching nature can reduce stress. So why not slow down and watch the birds? Visit the PFW web site to learn more and to sign up: www.feederwatch.org. New participants receive a kit with a handbook, a bird-identification poster, calendar, and instruction booklet. There is a \$15 fee (\$12 for Lab members).

Take the Healthy Yard Pledge! While you're getting ready to feed and count birds this winter, make sure you're maintaining healthy bird habitat in your yard by taking the Audubon Healthy Yard Pledge. The Healthy Yard Pledge is part of the Audubon At Home program which focuses upon managing backyards and other natural areas to help birds and other wildlife. Visit the website to learn about 16 key elements that make up a healthy backyard habitat—how many can be found in your yard? To learn more about the Audubon at Home program and take the Healthy Yard Pledge, visit <http://audubonathome.org/pledge>.

Natural Landscaping Conference

The Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter is sponsoring *Toward Harmony With Nature* Natural Landscaping Conference on Saturday, January 24. It will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Oshkosh. Conference information and registration can be found at: <http://www.for-wild.org/chapters/foxvalley/>

Natural Landscaping Workshop

Join us on Saturday, January 10 from 2-4:30 pm at UW-Fond du Lac in the Art Building, Room 211. If you are curious about how to naturalize your backyard, then come to this workshop! The basics of creating a naturalized backyard will be introduced by Ted Eischeid. During the workshop session you will develop a 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 time line. 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. To reserve a spot contact Kathleen Stetter (920-872-2250 or email: stetter@centurytel.net).



ParkWatch News

ParkWatch of Fond du Lac has received the approval of the UW Agriculture and Recreation Committee for two grants totaling more than \$3,800 to restore shoreline along DeNeveu Creek in Lallier Park and to start the restoration of a Maple-Basswood Woods in a former landfill, now a part of the E. Greenway along the east bank of the East Branch of the Fond du Lac River.

The Lallier Park project is an opportunity to restore natural habitat with native plants and enhance the beauty of Lallier Park. Plantings could include native grasses like little bluestem, prairie dropseed, butterfly weed, wild indigo, purple coneflower, bottle gentian, rough blazingstar, foxglove beardtongue, early goldenrod, spiderwort, culver's root and many more.

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THE HERON



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M E M B E R S H I P

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

***Events at the Kettle Moraine
State Forest–Northern Unit***

Retro Ski Day–January 3, noon–2:00 pm
(Saturday). Greenbush Rec. Area (off of Kettle Moraine Dr. north of Hwy 67 near Greenbush). Break out those old-time cross-country skis and ski suits! For all ages. www.greenbushusa.com

Winter Birds Exploring Nature Program

January 10, 9:30 am–11 am (Saturday). Ice Age Visitor Center (located off of Hwy 67 half mile west of Dundee). For people over 6 years old. To register call the Ice Age Visitor Center at 920-533-8322 by January 8.

Nordic Heaven Winter Fest and Ski Races

January 11, 9 am–2 pm (Sunday). Greenbush Rec. Area Ski races will begin at 9 am for youth/middle schoolers, at 10:30 am for adults and at noon for little ones. The Ski Club will have a snowshoe hike, cross-country ski lessons, kids' snow games and more. Bring sleds to give the sledding hill a try. Food and live music. www.greenbushusa.com

Candlelight Ski/Hike–February 7, 5:30–8:30 pm

(Saturday). Zillmer Trail Area (located off of Hwy SS between Hwy G and Hwy 67 near New Prospect). Cross-country ski or hike in the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Northern Unit by candlelight. Enjoy a bonfire, hot drinks and snacks. The trail is perfect for novice skiers (no steep hills or sharp turns).