



The **HERON**

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Saturday, March 12, 2011

10–11 am, Theisen Middle School Auditorium

A FAMILY PROGRAM

BUGS!

Wisconsin Insect Wonders

*Speaker: Phil Pellitteri, Distinguished Faculty Associate,
UW-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab*

Come and see LIVE and mounted insects.
Wisconsin has over 20,000 species of insects
and most of them are beneficial.



Wednesday, April 13, 2011

7 pm, Moraine Park Technical College, Room O-103

Timber Wolves in Wisconsin

Speaker: Randy Jurwicz, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Protected in Wisconsin, find out more about
the few hundred wolves that live in our state.
Wolves live in packs where teamwork, loyalty, and
communication are essential to survival.
Humans can learn from these fascinating animals.

Audubon evening programs take place at Moraine Park Technical College. From National Avenue, turn into parking lot O. Enter the door labeled O-1. Room O-103 is on your left. 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.

Visit Us On the Web: www.fdlaudubon.org



Thank You!

Thank you to
Margie Winter
for refreshments at the
January meeting and to
Carol and Earl Jewett
for refreshments at the
February meeting.

Board Meeting

The Audubon Board
will meet on
Monday, March 7
in the cafeteria at MPTC
at 7 pm. All members
are welcome to attend
board meetings.



Conservation Lobby Day 2011

March 16, 2011, 9 am to 5 pm, Monona Terrace (One John Nolen Drive), Madison

Required registration no later than March 9 at <https://www.thedatabank.com/dpg/273/personalopt1.asp?formid=Lobbyday11&c=9986163>

Fond du Lac County Audubon is a member of the League of Conservation Voters, a coalition of organizations that sponsors an annual lobby day. The purpose of this event is to provide voters with an opportunity to talk directly with their state legislators. Each year, the League of Conservation sets priorities based on coalition meetings and talking with hundreds of citizens at multiple Conservation Listening Sessions around the state. The conservation priorities selected for this year and posted on the WLCV web site are:

1. Defend the Good Conservation Laws

Already on the Books. In these tough fiscal times, legislators are being forced to make difficult decisions. Conservation Lobby Day is your opportunity to remind them that Wisconsin's economy is driven by healthy and plentiful natural resources.

2. Re-establish the Wisconsin Conservation Corps. The Wisconsin Conservation Corps would provide practical job training to benefit the conservation programs that make Wisconsin a draw to tourists and residents alike.

3. Create a "Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights." The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights will demonstrate legislative support and guidance for the programs and activities that encourage children and families to play, explore, and learn in Wisconsin's outdoors.

Your participation at the 2011 Lobby Day is needed for several reasons. First, we have at least one new legislator from the Fond du Lac County area, and establishing a dialogue with each of our legislators is important. Second, Wisconsin's air, water, and land may need protection now more than ever before as budget cuts may threaten to erode the fine laws we already have in place.

"The effectiveness of Conservation Lobby Day grows with each additional citizen lobbyist that attends. You can help make certain that every single legislator talks directly to a conservation-minded constituent on Lobby Day." (WLCV website). You talk to legislators as a group, and training is provided

during the morning sessions. There is no cost for participating, and lunch is included. You are encouraged to make a donation.

For more information on Lobby Day, visit the WLCV web page at: <http://www.conservationvoters.org/Public/index.php?custID=118>.

If you plan to attend, please register on the web page and call Dave Stetter, Conservation chair (920-872-2250) for group plans.

Remembering Gene Breitbach (1925–2011)

Gene Breitbach, long-time member of the Fond du Lac Audubon Society, passed away on January 6, 2011 in Brookfield, Wisconsin. Gene was a dedicated chapter member of many years who gave of his time and talents. While there was little mention of Gene's involvement with Audubon in his obituary, Fond du Lac Audubon acknowledges the loss of a man who made many contributions to Audubon causes in our county and state.

Gene and his wife Barb (always together as a team) served as Audubon volunteers at the Horicon Marsh Visitor Center, represented Fond du Lac Audubon Society at meetings of the Wisconsin Audubon Council, organized and ran our chapter library (Gene constructed the decorative wood library boxes), and Gene served as our Chapter Treasurer for many years. Together they kept us informed, arranged speakers, pushed for Audubon funding and often hosted board meetings at their home.

Gene was passionate about crane conservation. Each year Gene and Barb made a pilgrimage to Kearney, Nebraska along the Platte River to observe the spring staging of the cranes. They kept the chapter membership informed of crane conservation efforts (which we often contributed to). Gene and Barb strongly supported The Operation Migration project to reintroduce whooping cranes. Gene was a very good wood carver who carved birds and Santas of all types, but some of his specialties were crane carvings and a model of an ultralight plane guiding the whooping cranes (donated to Fond du Lac High School).

Gene's hard work and dedication helped keep Fond du Lac Audubon strong and see it through difficult financial times. Thanks Gene! Thanks for the memories!

—Ruth Dauterman

Cooking with Dandelions!

Here is an opportunity to expand your culinary horizons. The Dandelion Festival on May 7 includes a cooking/baking contest as well as an opportunity to sample the various entrees. We need as many members or friends as possible to participate. Please consider entering the contest and in the process learn something new.

1. There is no charge to enter the contest. Each contestant may enter multiple items in any or all of the categories with a maximum of six entries.

2. To find recipes check the computer and google the words "Dandelion Recipes" or check cookbooks because many of them include dandelion recipes.

3. Collect dandelions from safe sources: land that has not been treated with herbicides and chemical fertilizers for at least three years, and land that is not next to a busy highway or roadway picking up particle pollution from vehicles.

4. The food entry should be eight to ten portions in size. These portions will be divided into smaller parts for sampling.

5. Deliver the food entry anytime between 10:30 to 11 am. Judging will begin at 11 and public tasting at noon. Sampling is free to contestants. There will be four categories: baked (breads, muffins, cookies, cakes, etc.), appetizers and entrees, soups and salads, and miscellaneous (jellies, syrups, beverages, etc).

6. Submit a card with a list of the ingredients so that people sampling the food can avoid allergic reactions. Samplers will appreciate your supplying optional recipe copies listing the source.

7. Prizes will be awarded at 12:30 to winners in the four categories.



AUDUBON FIELD TRIP

Aldo Leopold Shack & Legacy Center

Saturday, April 23, 7:30 am–3 pm

Aldo Leopold "Shack" & Legacy Center. Saturday, April 23, 7:30 to 3:00. Hear stories about the incredible land restoration initiated by Aldo Leopold and his family, visit the inside of the famous Shack, and stroll along restored prairie, woods and river trails with a guide. Then visit the new Legacy Center and get in-depth information about how solar power, geothermal, and sustainable building materials help this facility produce more energy than it consumes.

The best preparation for a visit to the famous shack is reading or rereading *A Sand County Almanac*. Also, the Leopold Foundation has produced fact sheets about the life and contributions of Aldo Leopold and *A Sand County Almanac*. These are available at the following web sites:

http://www.aldoleopold.org/About/leopold_bio.htm

<http://www.aldoleopold.org/About/almanac.htm>

<http://www.aldoleopold.org/About/landethic.htm>

Finally, the Leopold Center along with the U.S. Forest Service and the Center for Humans and Nature, has produced a documentary film, *Green Fire*, about Aldo Leopold. *Green Fire* examines how Leopold's ideas continue to be relevant for our society. For more information about the film and where to watch it, visit: <http://www.aldoleopold.org/About/enews/01-11.html>.

For a virtual tour and more information on the Leopold Center, see:

<http://www.aldoleopold.org/legacycenter>

Fees for the Leopold Center are \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for seniors over 62, and \$5.00 for children. Make checks payable to the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society to reserve your spot. This trip is limited to 25 people. Contact Kathleen Stetter (Stetter@Centurytel.net or 920-871-2250) to reserve a place. Mail checks to KR Stetter, W9392 State Road 23, Rosendale, WI 54974.

Dress for the weather with closed-toe shoes, long pants, and bring rain gear. Bring a sack lunch and or snacks as no food is available at the Center. On the day of the tour, meet at the southwest corner of Menards parking lot to form a car pool at 7:30 am. Directions to the Center are available at: <http://www.aldoleopold.org/Visit/directions.shtml>

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

THE HERON

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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.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Mail this form with payment to:
Fond du Lac County Audubon, Membership Services
W4148 Kiekhaefer Parkway, Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Volunteers Needed at Kiekhaefer

Kiekhaefer Park is a unique park in the Town of Taycheedah. It offers wonderful hiking, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing. Volunteers are needed for spring prairie burning and extensive honeysuckle removal. Volunteers should contact Earl Jewett at 923-2604. Volunteer workday - April 30. More info at kiekhaeferpark.org.

Annual Sandhill Crane Count

The Annual Sandhill Crane count will be held on April 16 from 5:30-7:30 am. To participate, contact Dave Sehloff, the Fond du Lac County coordinator: 920-921-2544, or email sehloff@agnesian.com.

Winter River Trek

On Thursday, February 3, a few adventurous souls put on their winter foot gear, especially snow shoes, and hiked south on the East Branch of the Fond du Lac River. The weather was cold with bright sunlight.

The participants were pleased to find that hiking down on the river affords some protection from the cold wind. There were very few spots of open water. Three hikers made it all the way to the 151 bypass and back, and then to Cool River for soup!

