



The **HERON**

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

This newsletter begins a new tradition of *The Heron* newsletter being published four times during the year: Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Wild Feast Potluck

Wednesday, September 5, 5 pm
Lakeside Park, Denevne Creek Shelter

Our season kicks off with a potluck. Participants are encouraged to bring a dish made from wild plants, although conventional food is fine, too.

(See inside of newsletter for more information.)

After the meal, there will be a short update on protection of sandhill cranes. Weather permitting, sunset sailboat rides will be available.



Geologic History of Wisconsin

Wednesday, October 10, 7 pm
MPTC, Room O-104

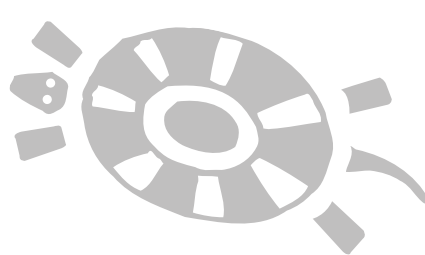
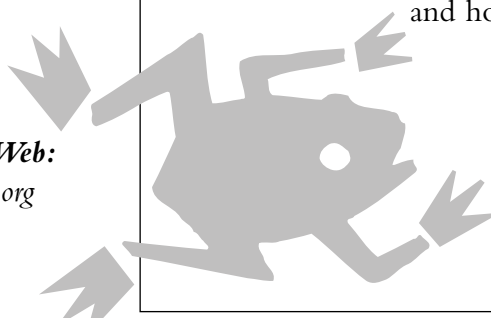
Michael Jurmu, UW-Fond du Lac Geography and Geology Professor, will provide information on the evolution of the landscapes of Wisconsin including the Ledge. He will also discuss the suitability of our soil for agriculture.



Getting Along with Wild Creatures ***A FUN FAMILY PROGRAM!***

Saturday, November 10, 10-11 am
Theisen Middle School Auditorium

Stephanie Radant, Assistant Naturalist at Ledge View Nature Center, will bring LIVE animals including snakes, turtles, frogs, toads, a salamander, and a bat. She will talk about the animals' habitats and how to be safe around wild animals.



Visit Us On the Web:
www.fdlaudubon.org

Autumn – The Time to Remove Buckthorn

This is a reminder to all property owners that Fall is the best time to remove invasive buckthorn from private land and public wild areas. Buckthorn is very slow to drop its leaves, making it easy to locate in middle to late Fall. At this time the sap is going down to the roots and any poison that is applied to the trunk will also poison the roots.

Our Audubon chapter is calling for volunteers to help remove buckthorn from the Peebles Trail in the northeast section of the city and township. This offers an opportunity to learn how to identify the small tree and how to remove it. Please consider helping out one or more times if possible. No experience is necessary.

Bring gardening gloves, and if available, some loppers and a dandelion fork. Meet by the Peebles Trail bridge east of Prairie Road at 9 a.m. If late, walk east down the trail to find the group. Work sessions will be from 9 to 11 a.m. Cancelled in the event of rain. For more information call 922-7931 or email dbeck7931@charter.net.

Come and help 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. on the following days:

- October 6 (Saturday)
- October 7 (Sunday)
- October 9 (Tuesday)
- October 11 (Thursday)
- October 19 (Friday)
- October 21 (Sunday)
- October 22 (Monday)
- October 24 (Wednesday)
- November 7 (Wednesday)
- November 10 (Saturday)



Wild Feast Potluck on September 5

Our fifth annual “Wild Feast Potluck” will be held at the Denevue Creek shelter at Lakeside Park (east end of Harbor View Drive) on Wednesday, September 5 beginning at 5 pm. The meal will take place about 5:30. Please bring your own plate, silverware, small bowl for soups, cup, and beverage (beer and wine allowed), and of course, your food contribution to the potluck. We encourage those who know their wild plants to create a tasty dish, salad, dessert, or beverage to share with others. Many recipes can be found on the internet or even in your own cookbooks. Please bring a label for your entrée, and a list of ingredients to inform someone with food allergies. Recipe copies are appreciated, but optional.

Be assured that past participants have found many of the dishes, soups, etc. to be tasty and fun to try. Some examples from the past include a wild greens pie, venison stew, elderberry pie, savory burdock patties, and wild berry muffins. For those of you who are unsure of which plants are edible, bring something from your own garden or trees, or a conventional potluck dish.

This event is a great way to meet and socialize with Audubon members and is open to any interested people from the public. After eating, there will be a short update about efforts to protect sandhill cranes. If the weather permits, there will be sunset sailboat rides available as well. For more information contact 922-7931 or dbeck7931@charter.net.



AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Observation of Whooping Crane Chicks Training with Operation Migration

Wednesday, September 12, 4:15 am

Don't miss this opportunity to see the ultra-light plane training of whooping crane chicks at White River Marsh near Princeton. From a hill near the crane chick pen, you will watch the crane chicks follow an ultra-light plane. The birds train for .5 to 2 hours. See http://www.operationmigration.org/Field_Journal.html for an update on the training progress and a link to a crane cam. Meet at the southwest end of Menards parking lot at 4:15 am to form a carpool/caravan for the drive to White River Marsh. No charge, but a donation to Operation Migration is appreciated. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars, and cameras. Cancelled if raining. Contact Kathleen Stetter to reserve a place or cancel (920-872-2250 or Stetter@Centurytel.net).

Whooping Crane Festival

Saturday, September 22, 10 am–5 pm

Celebrate and support the ongoing efforts of "Operation Migration" to save the endangered whooping crane from extinction. Operation Migration has been using ultra-light planes to guide whoopers on their southern migration since 2001, and this festival supports that effort. In addition to food, vendors, and conservation displays, the festival highlights four speakers: Joe Duff, co-founder of Operation Migration; George Archibald, Co-Founder, International Crane Foundation; Beverly Paulan, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Pilot; and Pat Fisher, Raptor Rehabilitator. See <http://www.operationmigration.org/WCF2012.html> for more information. Free admission. Meet at Menards parking lot at 10 am to form a car pool to Berlin or drive over on your own. (The festival starts at 9 am for those who may wish to go early.) There is no need to sign up for this field trip, and bring as many people with you as you can for this educational experience. Contact Kathleen Stetter to reserve a place (872-2250 or Stetter@Centurytel.net).

Voyageur Canoe Trip

Wednesday, Saturday, October 20, 7 am–4 pm

Paddle back in time with former Fond du Lac County Audubon member, Jerry Disterhaft, in a 28-foot, 16-passenger, voyageur canoe. Learn about the explorations of Marquette and Jolliet on the Fox River and view wildlife and Fall color. We will spend about 2.5 hours paddling downstream on the Fox River, and then have a voyageur-style lunch cooked in a Dutch oven and over an open fire. Jerry promises to serve us voyageur fare such as "seagull ala king." Along the way, see where Father Marquette erected a cross and located "Holy Springs." We may see whooping cranes getting ready to leave White River Marsh on their Fall migration, and eagles' nests. Cost of \$35.00 per person includes lunch. Make checks payable to Fond du Lac County Audubon, and mail to Kathleen Stetter (W9392 State Rd 23, Rosendale, WI 54974). Reservations required and will not be held without payment. Maximum 16 people; 10 minimum. Children welcome. Meet at the southwest corner of Menards parking lot at 7 am to form a car pool to Princeton. Life preservers and paddles provided. Dress for the weather and bring insect repellent, binoculars, camera, and water. Contact Kathleen Stetter (920-872-2250) or Stetter@Centurytel.net. See <http://foxoftheriver.weebly.com/> for more information about this adventure on the Fox River.



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

THE HERON

Fond du Lac County
AUDUBON
 SOCIETY
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.

 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

Observations from Summer Wild Walks

A dedicated group attended the early morning walks exploring the public access land in the city of Fond du Lac. Only one of the nine scheduled hikes was cancelled due to rain. Many of the participants were delighted with discovering these hidden wild areas right in our own backyard. Time was spent looking at the plants and flowers, and identifying invasive problems. Deer, turkey, and other wildlife were observed.

Another focus that developed was observing the varied impact of the people who live next to these wild spots. Many times yard waste like grass clipping piles were found on the public land and even at the water's edge. Some of the adjacent property owners were mowing well beyond their property lines. In a few spots, people had set up benches, fire pits, etc. on the public land. One very encouraging sign was finding evidence of kid activity in the woods. There were tree forts in several places as well as worn trails.

