

The HERON

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society



UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Saturday, March 21, 2009

10–11 am, Theisen Middle School Auditorium

A FAMILY PROGRAM

Loon Talk

*Speaker: Stacy Craig, Environmental Education Coordinator,
Loonwatch Program, Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin*

Learn about loon habitat, behavior, and calls.

There will be a loon mount, loon display, and
a dynamic power point presentation.

You will learn the different loon calls.

And... a surprise (you will have to come and find out)!



Wednesday, April 8, 2009

7 pm, UW-Fond du Lac, Henken Lounge

Wildlife in Urban Settings

Speaker: Brad Koele, Wildlife Biologist, Wisconsin DNR

Find out what animals are in our neighborhoods and how we can live
in harmony with these creatures we seldom see.



*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.*

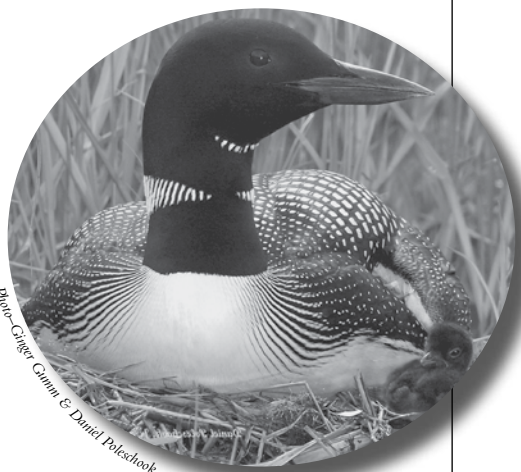


Photo: Ginger Gamm & Daniel Polshook

Photo Contest

Keep taking those pictures
for the photo contest
to be held on May 13
at the annual banquet.

Entry rules will be reviewed
in the next newsletter.

Audubon At The Hobby Expo

On Saturday, April 18, Audubon will have an exhibit table at the Fond du Lac Public Library. The Hobby Expo will be held from 9 am to 3 pm. Come and visit our display. If anyone can help to sit at the table for part of the time, please call 920-922-7931.

Hiring Field Technicians

BHE Environmental, Inc., an environmental consulting company, has a new project located near Eden, Wisconsin, and is looking for birders and biologists to hire as field technicians. The work consists of walking surveys, searches for bird and bat carcasses, and documentation of results. Desired skills include willingness and ability to work outdoors in various weather conditions, teamwork, and dependability. Ability to visually identify birds and/or bats is a plus. Work will include early mornings and may include weekends. This is a paid position.

If interested in this position, please contact Amy Henry, Biologist/Project Manager, at the numbers or e-mail address below.

BHE Environmental, Inc.,
Amy Henry, Biologist/Project Manager,
7041 Maynardville Highway,
Knoxville, Tennessee 37918, Office: 865.922.4305,
Fax: 865.922.8495, Cell: 865.310.2127,
Email: Ahenry@bheenvironmental.com
Web: www.bheenvironmental.com

Adopt a Trail Help Needed

Everyone likes to walk or bike on trails that are clean and not littered. Most of us are well trained to pick up trash and not drop our own. The Prairie Trail that runs along the 151 bypass, ends up collecting a lot of trash from the highway. Audubon helps to clean up a segment of the trail from DuCharme to a signpost that is about 200 yards beyond Hwy. K. We need help on Saturday, April 25 at 1 pm. Rain date will be on Sunday, April 26 at 4 pm. Wear hiking shoes or boots and bring some gloves. Bags are supplied by the county. Meet at the intersection of DuCharme and the bypass. The project takes about an hour to an hour and a half. Families are encouraged to bring children to learn about volunteering.

AUDUBON FIELD TRIP

Horicon Marsh Education Center and Canoe Trail

Join us on Saturday, May 2 at the Horicon Marsh Education Center and Canoe Trail. At 9 am we will meet at the new Education Center for an orientation from Bill Volkert, DNR Naturalist. The Education Center is located on Highway 28 between Mayville and Horicon. Browse through the self-guided exhibits, while some cars transfer to the canoe take-out point in Horicon. Then we will proceed to Greenhead Boat Landing on the east side of Horicon Marsh for a 6.5-mile canoe trip in Horicon Marsh. One of the best ways to experience the diversity of the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States, is by canoe. The canoe trail offers interpretive markers to increase your awareness of this wetland and its wildlife. Bring your canoe, life jackets, binoculars, and lunch. Dress for the weather. For a map and description of the canoe trail, see: http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/wildlife_areas/horicon/canoeing.htm.

If you need to rent a canoe or make arrangements for shuttle service to the Greenhead Landing, call Blue Heron Landing in Horicon at (920) 485-4663. Contact Kathleen Stetter (920-872-2250 or stetter@centurytel.net) for more information.



Lake to Lake 10k Trail Run/Hike

The Friends of the Kettle Moraine, the Long Lake Preservation Association, and the Long Lake/Dundee Lions Club, have teamed up to organize the first ever Lake to Lake 10K Trail Run/Hike. The event will take place on the newly completed bike trail between the Long Lake and Mauthe Lake Recreation Areas. This event will be part of the grand opening of the trail on Saturday, May 9, 2009. In addition to the 10K run/hike, there will be a family fun walk on the two-mile Tamarack Trail around Mauthe Lake and family orientated nature activities in the Mauthe Lake picnic area. Proceeds will be split between the three groups.

John James Audubon Exhibit at Milwaukee Art Museum

Plan on taking in some of the exhibits on display in Milwaukee museums this spring.

The Milwaukee Art Museum is holding a special show featuring prints of famous bird artists John James Audubon, Alexander Wilson, Mark Catesby, and others that should be of interest to birders. It runs through March 22, 2009. This exhibition celebrates the work of eminent naturalists and artists Mark Catesby, Alexander Wilson, and John James Audubon, who each dedicated his life's work to documenting the vast plant and animal life on the North American continent. Sixty hand-colored prints of birds, reptiles, mammals, and plants by Catesby, Wilson, and Audubon, capture the science, art, and wonder of the New World.

Also featured at the Milwaukee Art Museum, is the exhibit *Out of Rembrandt's Shadow*, featuring painter Jan Lievens, until April 26. Find out more at www.mam.org.

In Milwaukee, but at the Milwaukee Public Museum, is *Titanic, The Artifact Exhibition* through May 25, 2009. Advance tickets are strongly encouraged, due to the popularity of this exhibit. Go to www.mpm.edu

Invasive Species Removal Needs Informed Citizens

The environment needs our help in controlling a few problem plants. If you can remove them from your own land and wherever you spot them, you will be making an important contribution. Perhaps you are not sure how to identify the plant or how to remove it. Please come to the first garlic mustard pull on Saturday, April 25, from 9 to 11 am. After you have spent some time working with the plant, you will easily identify it. Come to the west side of the south Pick 'N Save store parking lot on Pioneer Road. Wear gardening type clothing and bring gloves. A small digging tool and a kneeling pad can be helpful. Another day is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, at the same time and place. In June and July, there will be some teasel removal. In October and November, buckthorn will be removed.

Audubon Seeks Board Members

Elections for officers and board members used to occur at the spring banquet. The board would like members to know that it is not our intention to prevent a change of leadership. The problem in the last few years, is finding people willing to serve on the board. If someone would like to take a turn serving as an officer or board member, please contact Diana Beck at 922-7931 or dbeck7931@charter.net. Our present board is willing to continue, but we are still looking for a newsletter editor and another board member-at-large.

Banning Phosphorous

Nutrients like phosphorus, a common ingredient in lawn fertilizer, are degrading 90% of Wisconsin's inland lakes. Plants don't absorb more phosphorus than they can use, and excess phosphorus from lawns can wash directly into our lakes and streams, causing smelly algae blooms, fish kills, and declining water quality.

Lakes and rivers can be extremely sensitive to small amounts of phosphorus runoff. It takes 20 parts per million (ppm) of soil phosphorus to grow healthy turf; 25 parts per billion (a quantity 1000 times smaller) can promote excessive algae growth in lakes. Preventing even small amounts of phosphorus from getting into the water can make a big difference.

The League of Conservation Voters has made a ban on phosphorus for lawn fertilizer a conservation priority for this legislative session. Park Watch of Fond du Lac has requested the County Board Committee on UW, Agriculture and Recreation to introduce a resolution to the County Board supporting AB 3 and SB 5, which would ban phosphorus in lawn fertilizer except for new lawns. This ban would not affect agricultural uses of phosphorus.

If cleaning up our lakes is important to you, please attend the County Board Committee Meeting on March 4, 2009, 6 pm at the UW Extension office on the UW-Fond du Lac Campus. Since legislative issues are subject to change, if you plan to attend please send an email to ldegolie@tds.net (or call 921.4191) so that you can be alerted if there is a change in the agenda. Follow this link to information about phosphorus in lakes published by the Wisconsin Association of Lakes: <http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/press1-12-09.html>.

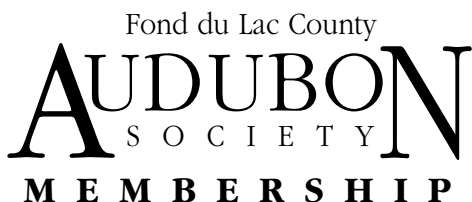


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Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter
via e-mail to mcdesign@charter.net

THE HERON



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

Thank You from Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

Speakers

Ron Eckstein, Wildlife Biologist, Wisconsin DNR – Eagle and Osprey Recovery (January)

Connie Ramthun, Owner, Kettle Moraine Natural Landscaping – Landscaping with Wildflowers (February)

Ted Eischeid, Science Teacher – Natural Landscaping Workshop (January)

Hospitality/Refreshments

Chuck and Pat Gorske (January)

Margie Winter and Kerry Sehloff (February)

Door Prize Donations

Margie Winter and Dave Sehloff (January)

Diana Beck and Dave Sehloff (February)

A Donation in Memory of Dr. Hugh McLane (1923–January 11, 2009)

Jon and Ellen Flood

Please remember Fond du Lac County Audubon Society in your estate planning, legacy, memorials, or special donations.

