



The **HERON**

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Horicon in Winter

Wednesday, December 11, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

Jeff Bahls, President of the Horicon Marsh Bird Club, will provide information on the marsh and wildlife during the winter months.



Fisheries of Our Region

Wednesday, January 8, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

Kendall Kamke from Winnebago Fisheries will give a presentation on raising fish.



Wisconsin's Natural Areas

Wednesday, February 12, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

A representative from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will give an overview of the State Natural Areas, with an emphasis on those in Fond du Lac County, including Haskell Noyes Memorial Woods, Waupun Park Maple Forest, Spruce Lake Bog, Milwaukee River and Swamp, Spring Lake, Oakfield Ledge, Crooked Lake Wetlands, Oakfield Railroad Prairie, Milwaukee River Tamarack Lowlands and Dundee Kame.



New Year's Resolution:

Renew your membership!

*Keep supporting
our local chapter.*

Visit Us On the Web

www.fdlaudubon.org



AUDUBON EVENTS AND FIELD TRIPS

Winter Adventure at Kiekhaefer Park

Sunday, January 12, 1 pm

Join Earl and Carol Jewett for a guided winter exploration of the hilly trails at the beautiful and unique Kiekhaefer Park.

A limited number of snowshoes may be reserved for the event, courtesy of Attitude Sports. Please register to participate or reserve snowshoes at 920-204-6768 or webmaster@fdlaudubon.org.

From Fond du Lac, take Highway 151 north to Kiekhaefer Parkway. Turn right on Kiekhaefer Parkway and go to the parking lot on the north side of the road, 4235 Kiekhaefer Parkway.

Cross Country Ski Trip

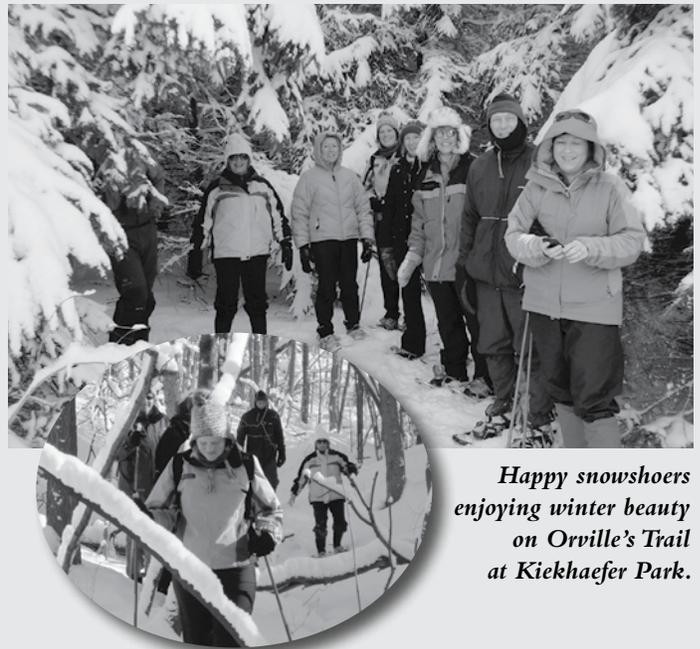
Saturday, February 8, Princeton

Join us for a cross country ski adventure on Saturday February 8, 2014. The Mekan River Outfitters near Princeton, Wisconsin maintain 12 miles of groomed trails depending on snow conditions. There are loops of varying length for different abilities. The Outfitters have ski rental equipment available for anyone needing equipment or wanting to try skate skiing. Diana Beck will offer a free lesson for any beginners.

We will carpool from the southwest corner of the Menard's parking lot on the west side of Fond du Lac. Meet at about 8:25 am, so the group can depart at 8:30 am. We should arrive at the Outfitters about 9:30 am. There is a trail fee of \$7.00 per participant.

Anyone needing to rent or participate in a short lesson will do so upon arrival. People will ski at their leisure and may return to the lodge at any time. The Outfitters have a very nice restaurant in the lodge. After skiing, we plan to eat lunch and then return to Fond du Lac sometime around 2 to 2:30 pm.

Please contact Diana Beck at dianahbeck@gmail.com or call 920-922-7931 to reserve a place. No prior payment is needed.



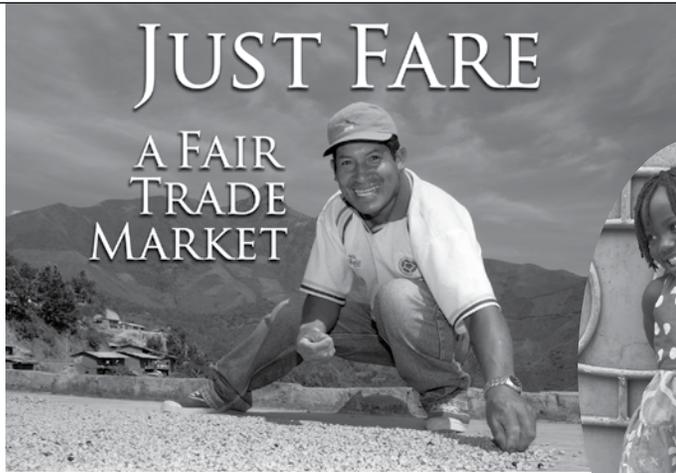
Happy snowshoers enjoying winter beauty on Orville's Trail at Kiekhaefer Park.

Natural Landscaping Workshop

Saturday, January 18, 1-4 pm

Moraine Park Technical College, Room O-104

Our ever-popular Natural Landscaping Workshop is returning this January. If you are curious about how to naturalize your backyard, then join us for an afternoon of information and hands-on planning. The basics of creating a naturalized backyard will be introduced by Ted Eischeid. During the workshop session you will devise a development 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 timeline. Come prepared with the dimensions of your property and buildings on the site, as well as any present vegetation. If possible, sketch out a scaled property layout with the buildings and dominant vegetation (trees, etc.) drawn in. (Hint: if you develop a quality property layout sketch, bring a couple photocopies that you can mark up.) You will leave with a plan, knowledge, and resources to make your yard the natural paradise you have always desired. This workshop partners well with the Wild Ones Naturalizing Conference the following weekend in Oshkosh (wildones.org/events/18th-annual-toward-harmony-with-nature-conference-native-plants-and-natural-landscapes/). Limit: 20 participants. Contact Kathleen Stetter (Stetter@Centurytel.net or 920-872-2250) to reserve a spot.



Audubon Community Shopping Night at Just Fare Market

On Thursday, December 12, from 5 to 8 pm, Fond du Lac County Audubon is partnering with Just Fare Market to promote Fair Trade and provide some funding for our local conservation projects. Just Fare Market will donate 15% of total sales during those hours to Fond du Lac Audubon. This is an opportunity for you to find some unique, affordable, and quality holiday gifts or to stock up on some gourmet items for your pantry while supporting Fond du Lac County Audubon.

Fair Trade is a direct and cooperative business approach that supports farmers and craftspeople in developing countries by paying a living wage and providing safe working conditions. One of the main principles of Fair Trade is that environmentally sustainable practices are used in producing products. That's especially important to those of us interested in preserving the world's birds and conservation of natural resources. For example, Fair Trade coffee is grown in the shade. According to one study, shaded coffee farms provide habitat for 184 different bird species, whereas only 8 to 12 species were found on sunny monoculture farms. Do something for the birds: buy shade-grown coffee at Just Fare Market!

Audubon members who are interested in natural foods will not be disappointed to find colorful heirloom rice varieties grown on ancient terraces in the Philippines on sale at Just Fare Market. Other gourmet items include Divine dark chocolate and quick and easy soup mixes.

Just Fare Market also stocks some amazing items made from recycled materials. There are elegant journals made from elephant dung paper, key chains made from recycled flip-flops, coin purses made from

candy wrappers, and purses made from the pull tops of cans. It's just plain fun to pick up and examine these unique items, and to marvel at the creative people who turned garbage into useful items.

Fond du Lac County Audubon and Just Fare Market would like you to have an evening of fun as you browse through fashionable scarves, select an interesting piece of jewelry, or find an unusual gift to fill a stocking. You can do all that in the company of fellow Audubon members, and bring a friend or two or three to learn about both Audubon and Just Fare Market, and to support our local Audubon projects. Just Fare Market is located at N7645 N.

Peebles Lane, Suite 2, Fond du Lac. For more information and a map to the store, see justfare.org.

Conservation Lobby Day on Hold

Audubon is a member of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, which is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to electing conservation leaders to the state legislature and encouraging lawmakers to champion conservation policies that effectively protect Wisconsin's public health and natural resources. In the past, the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV) has sponsored a conservation lobby day when those with diverse interests in environmental issues go to Madison to talk with legislators about these issues. Members of Fond du Lac Audubon have regularly participated in Lobby Day. According to Jennifer Giegerich (WLCV Legislative Director), the annual WLCV lobby day is on hold for 2014 as the organization needs to react to the many attempts to weaken Wisconsin laws on a regular basis. Thus, WLCV has been holding many lobby days by asking members to attend hearings such as the mining bill and the removal of local control from environmental protections. You can directly find out what is going on by connecting directly to conservationvoters.org. On the website, you will be able to find out what lobbying is currently needed as well as how your legislator has voted on various conservation issues by clicking on "scorecard." Don't hesitate to send an email or give your legislator a call to express your views on these important issues.

Dave Stetter, Fond du Lac Audubon Conservation Chair

Fond du Lac County
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S O C I E T Y

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Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter
via e-mail to evelyn@mcleancowan.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.
- Save trees. Please send the newsletter to me via email.

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

Still Room on the Utah Rafting Trip

Consider joining the Utah raft adventure in Desolation Canyon June 1–9, 2014. At this point we still have openings and would love to have you join us on this great rafting opportunity! Please check our website for more details at fdlaudubon.org or call Diana Beck at 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com.



Great Backyard Bird Count February 14–17, 2014

Last year, participants turned in more than 134,000 online checklists, creating the world's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded. The information helps researchers learn more about how birds are doing and where they are. It is fun and easy to participate from the warmth of your home. Check the official website at www.birdcount.org for more information. Everyone from expert to beginner can help. The website will help the novice birder to identify the birds. Observations can be completed in 15 minutes, or more time and repeated observations can be entered if desired.