



The HERON

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Saturday, March 17, 2012

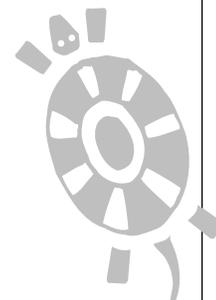
10–11 am, Sabish Middle School Cafeteria

A FAMILY PROGRAM

Remnants of the Rainforest

Speaker: Dennis Tlachac, Environmental Educator

Come and see LIVE tropical animals:
spiders, insects, amphibians, snakes, turtles, lizards,
and birds and mammals found in the rain forest.



Wednesday, April 11, 2012

7 pm, Moraine Park Technical College, Room O-104

Wild Eats – A Talk and Taste

Speaker: Linda Conroy, Herbalist and Wild Forager

Join a fun and informative presentation on wild edibles!

Linda will offer tips, stories, and samples that will
inspire skeptics and enthusiasts alike. Her hope
is that everyone will take to the woods and fields, as well as kitchens,
in order to nourish the earth, ourselves, and our communities.



Thank You!

Thank you to
Mary Ellen McMeen
and Margie Winter,
who brought
refreshments for the
January program, and
to Roxine McQuitty
and Julie Hellwig,
for bringing
the refreshments
in February.

Audubon evening programs take place at Moraine Park Technical College. From National Avenue, turn into parking lot O. Enter the door labeled O-1. Classrooms are 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.fldlaudubon.org

Enter the Dandelion Cooking Contest

Dandelion season will be arriving soon with another great opportunity to learn about and utilize this very nutritious plant. Consider entering the cooking contest at our Dandelion Festival on May 12, 2012. Follow the suggestions and rules given below. More details about the festival will be posted on the website and listed in the May newsletter.

- 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.
- To find recipes, check the computer and google the words "Dandelion Recipes" or check cookbooks, because many of them include dandelion recipes.
- 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. It is also possible to purchase organic dandelion greens from Whole Foods or other natural food stores.
- The food entry should be eight to ten serving portions in size. These portions will be divided into smaller parts for sampling.
- Deliver the food entry, with a list of the ingredients, any time between 10:30 to 11:00 am. Judging will begin at 11:00 and public tasting at noon. Sampling is free to contestants.
- There will be four categories: (1) bakery (breads, muffins, cookies, cakes, etc.), (2) appetizers and entrees, (3) soups and salads, and (4) miscellaneous (jellies, syrups, beverages, etc.)
- A list of the ingredients is required, so that people sampling the food can avoid allergic reactions. Copies of the recipe are appreciated by the samplers.
- Prizes will be awarded at 12:45 pm to winners in the four categories.



Dandelion recipes from the 2011 contest.

SPRING READING

Birdology – A Great Read!

If you haven't discovered the book *Birdology*, written in 2010 by Sy Montgomery, then you are in for a real treat. Sy is a naturalist who has written some very successful books about many different animals. In *Birdology*, she shares her personal stories of encounters and bonds with different bird species. In the various chapters you meet her flock of hens, learn about tracking Cassowary in New Zealand, and saving little baby hummingbirds. There are adventures in falconry, homing pigeons, parrot communication and intelligence. Finally, a fun chapter celebrating crows. The book is full of great facts and wonderful stories. Highly recommended!

—Diana Beck



Nature Magazines for Prairie Fest

Recycle and donate your nature magazines for the annual Prairie Fest in July.

Midwest Annual Crane Count, April 24

For more information and to help with the annual crane count on Saturday, April 24, contact Dave Sehloff at 920-602-1649 or SehloffD@agnesian.com.

December Field Trip to Shaginappi



Ice chunks along the Lake Winnebago shoreline.

Help Our Bird Seed Sale

Every fall our local Audubon chapter has held a bird seed sale. We have many loyal customers, who enjoy the mixtures and the fresh seed that is bagged up just before the sale.

Ken Fisher has been in charge of the sale for quite a few years and is stepping down now. We need an Audubon member to take charge of the event. This coordinator position would work with our new treasurer and also receive some help from Ken Fisher. The organizing and ordering would occur in September and the first part of October. On the day of the event, there are other members who help out with filling the seed orders and placing the bags in the cars.

If you can give Audubon some time and help, then we will be able to continue the seed sale. Please contact Diana Beck at 922-7931 or dbeck7931@charter.net.



Youth and dogs enjoy the frozen lake.



Audubon members Jeff Reese and Diana Beck on the hike.

AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Kolterman Property

Saturday, March 17, 10:30–noon

Milwaukee Audubon Society recently purchased 47 acres between Horicon Marsh and the Niagara Escarpment. Jim Uhrinak, board member for Milwaukee Audubon Society, will lead us on a late winter/early spring nature walk and describe property restoration and use plans for prairie, wet land, and forest areas. The private property includes large den trees, meltwater, brooks, seasonal animal tracks, Native American mounds, and Niagara Escarpment vistas. Meet at the south end of Fleet Farm parking lot to form a car pool/caravan. Dress for the weather, wear appropriate foot gear, and bring binoculars and a walking stick, if needed. Limit 15 participants. Contact Kathleen Stetter to reserve a place (872-2250 or Stetter@Centurytel.net).

Muir Park, Wee White Kirk, Observatory Hill, and Earth Angel Production Gallery

Saturday, April 28, 8 am–3 pm

Follow Joel Burbach of the John Muir Legacy Group and expert birder Daryl Christensen on a guided tour of the Marquette County spots where John Muir spent his boyhood and youth. John Muir, considered the father of our national park system, first began to appreciate nature as he explored the areas we will visit during this field trip. See the same flora and fauna that Muir saw, and hear about Muir during a 90-minute walk over mostly level ground around Enis Lake (Fountain Lake in Muir's time). After a stop at Earth Angel Production Gallery, drive to the Wee White Kirk where Muir attended church. Finally, take an optional 20-minute climb to the top of Observatory Hill where Muir had panoramic views of the landscape. For a greater appreciation of this field trip, read John Muir's *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth*. See www.earthangelproductions.com for a preview of the organic forms at the gallery. Meet at the southwest end of Mennard's parking lot at 8:00 am to form a carpool/caravan. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars, snacks, and/or lunch. Limit: 20 participants; Contact Kathleen Stetter to reserve a place (872-2250 or Stetter@Centurytel.net).



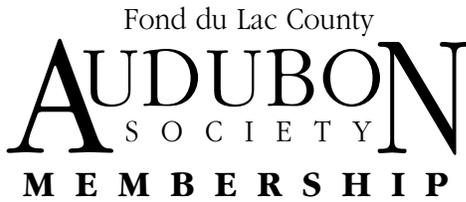
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Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter
via e-mail to evelyn@mcleancowan.com

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

THE HERON



- 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
W4148 Kiekhäfer Parkway, Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Program on Invasive Plants

Join us for the Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum's April program. It will be held at the UW-Fond du Lac campus on April 18 at 7 pm. Kelly Kearns from the Department of Natural Resources will give a presentation on invasive plants threatening our Wisconsin landscape. We will discuss a new effort to map outbreaks of invasive species along all state and county roads in Fond du Lac County. This information will then be shared with Fond du Lac County and the Highway Department to allow for proper timing of mowing and other best management practices to help prevent the spread of these invasives. Anyone with an interest in the environment or willing to volunteer with mapping is encouraged to attend.

—Julie Hellwig

Attend the Annual Audubon Banquet

Mark your calendars for the annual Audubon banquet to be held Wednesday, May 9, at 5:30 pm at the Moraine Park Terrace Restaurant. Michael Yanny, plant propagator at Johnson's Nursery in Milwaukee will give a presentation in the cafeteria on using native Wisconsin plants in your yard. More information will be in the May newsletter and on our website: fdlaudubon.org.