



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Wild Feast Potluck and Preparing Your Yard for Winter

Wednesday, September 4, 5 pm

Lakeside Park, Denevue Creek Shelter

Our season kicks off with a potluck. Participants are encouraged to bring a dish made from wild plants. Staff from Stuart's Landscaping will give tips on preparing your yard for winter. Weather permitting, sailboat rides available. See article on page 3 for more information.



Geologic History of Wisconsin

*Thursday, * October 10, 7 pm*

MPTC, Room A-112

Mike 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.



A FUN FAMILY PROGRAM

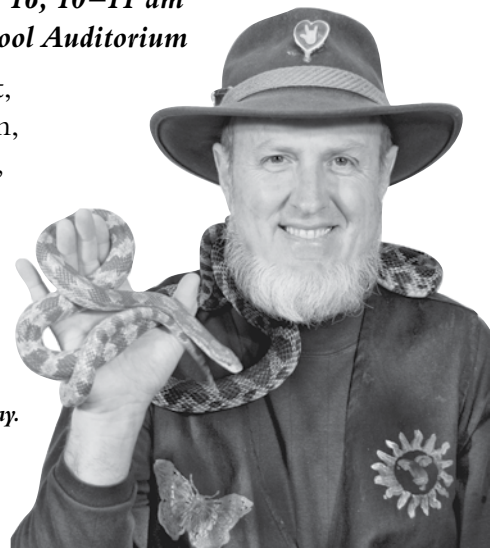
Crazy Cold-Blooded Creatures

Saturday, November 16, 10-11 am

Theisen Middle School Auditorium

David Stokes, naturalist, educator, and comedian, will share LIVE snakes, frogs, and turtles using stories, songs, and humor.

**October's program will be on Thursday, instead of Wednesday.*



Visit Us On the Web
www.fdladubon.org

AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Whooping Crane Observation & Festival

Saturday, September 14, 5:15 am to 5:00 pm
Berlin Conservation Club, W898 Whiteridge Road, Berlin



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. Start the day with a sunrise viewing of cranes training with *Operation Migration* aircraft at White River Marsh State Wildlife area on Highway D and Mile Road. Visit with “craniacs” as you watch the aircraft and cranes fly overhead. Bring binoculars and cameras. This part of the day depends on favorable weather conditions for the ultra-light planes. Then drive to the Berlin Conservation Club for a pancake breakfast at the Crane Festival. In addition to food, vendors, and conservation displays, the festival highlights four speakers: Joe Duff, co-founder of *Operation Migration*; John French, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center; Tom Schultz, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology; and Pat Fisher, Raptor Rehabilitation. See <http://www.operationmigration.org/WCF2012.html> for more information. Meet at the southwest corner of Menard’s parking lot at 5:15 am to form a carpool to White River Marsh or drive over on your own. Bring as many people with you as you can for some or all of this educational experience. Admission to the Crane Festival is free, but a \$5.00 per vehicle parking fee is charged. Contact Kathleen Stetter (Stetter@Centurytel.net or 920-827-2250).

Fall Equinox Outing

Saturday, September 21, 6:00 am
Rienzi Cemetery

When Dwight Weiser described early Native American artifacts visible on the Niagara Escarpment at our 2011 annual banquet, members requested a field trip to view these findings. Dwight has documented these phenomena and other mysteries of the Ledge in his book, *Secrets of the Ledge*. Join Dwight for a short walk to the Ledge to spot some possible archaeoastronomy phenomena. Dwight will explain sight lines and some Native American lore about what we see. Bring a compass if you have one. Meet at the Rienzi Cemetery parking lot, in front of the cemetery office, N6101 County Road K, Fond du Lac. Dwight will lead us by car caravan and then on foot. Limited to Audubon members. Contact Kathleen Stetter (Stetter@Centurytel.net or 920-827-2250).

Mecan River Paddle

Saturday, October 5, 9 am to 4 pm, Princeton

Search for wildlife in Germaine Marsh, portage a small dam and paddle down the river for two to three hours. The Mekan is one of central Wisconsin’s finest rivers and flows through mostly undeveloped land. There are many opportunities for wildlife viewing. The carpool will meet at 9 am in the southwest corner of the Menard’s parking lot on Hwy 23. We will drive to the Mekan River Outfitters, just west of Princeton. Participants who bring their own canoe or kayak will pay a \$20.00 shuttle fee. For those renting – a canoe will cost \$45.00 and a kayak \$34.00. This includes the shuttle. The outfitters will take us to the drop-off site and pick us up at a designated bridge three hours later. Lunch or snacks can be brought along for a stop on the way. We expect to return to Fond du Lac about 4 pm. Call to make a reservation by October 1. No prior payment is needed. Call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com. Cancelled in the event of rain.



Audubon Bird Seed Sale

The annual Audubon Bird Seed Sale will take place on Saturday, October 19, from 9 am until 1 pm. Our new location this year is Stuart's Landscaping at N7820 Lakeshore Drive (Hwy. 45). Place your order for our high quality bird seed in advance of the sale. Look for our brochure with an order form coming via email or snail mail or visit our website at fdlaudubon.org.



BIRD SEED SALE

Wild Feast Potluck on September 4

Audubon's sixth annual "Wild Feast Potluck" will be held at the Denevue Creek shelter at Lakeside Park (east end of Harbor View Dr.) on Wednesday, September 4, beginning at 5 pm. The meal will take place about 5:15 pm. Please bring your own plate, silverware, small bowl for soups, a 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: plantain casserole, wild rice soup, creamed dandelion greens, venison stew, salads with wild greens, savory burdock patties, dandelion cordial 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 presentation by a staff member of Stuart's Landscaping on preparing your yard for winter. If the weather permits, there will be sunset sailboat rides available as well. For more info contact 922-7931 or dianahbeck@gmail.com.

Help Us Save Paper and Postage

We are asking members to consider switching to an email newsletter. Your email address will not be shared with National Audubon or used for meeting notices etc. unless you specify. Please contact ejcj14@charter.net with your name, email address and how much contact you would like beyond receiving the newsletter, bird seed sale brochure and program brochure.

Sign Up Now for Utah Rafting Trip

Our next big adventure will be June 1-8, 2014. We will raft and camp luxury-style down the Green River through Desolation Canyon, as well as explore Anasazi ruins and glyphs with an archaeologist. Details about the itinerary and costs can be found in this past summer newsletter or on our website at fdlaudubon.com. This trip is a fundraiser for our local Audubon. Colorado River and Trail Expeditions donates \$100 to Audubon for each participant and also gives everyone a group discount.

The first deadline for signing up is September 15, 2013. This sign-up deadline may be extended after we are able to assess the group size and interest. Each participant (must be 16 years and older) needs to register and send in a \$300 deposit to Colorado River and Trail Expeditions, Inc. 1-800-253-7328, crate@crateinc.com, www.crateinc.com. Final payments are due by March 1, 2014.



Fond du Lac County
AUDUBON
SOCIETY

P.O. Box 84
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-0084

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

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

2013 Buckthorn Removal Schedule

Our wild areas need help! European Buckthorn can grow so dense, that even garlic mustard has trouble growing in a buckthorn thicket. If we do nothing, eventually there is only bare soil under buckthorn and this leads to erosion as well as very poor habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Our removal sessions accommodate a variety of physical abilities. No experience is necessary. Baby buckthorn need to be pulled out by hand. Young trees are levered out of the ground (including roots) by using extractagators and shovels. Large trees are girdled with an axe. We also do some trimming with loppers and then drag the brush into piles.

Bring garden gloves. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants and a long sleeved shirt. Equipment is provided. Sessions run from 9 to 11 am. **Meet by the Peebles Trail bridge east of Prairie Road.** If late, walk east down the trail to find the group. The last session is at Hobbs Woods. Cancelled if steady or heavy rain.

September 28 (Saturday)

October 3 (Thursday)

October 6 (Sunday)

October 12 (Saturday)

October 13 (Sunday)

October 16 (Wednesday)

November 6 (Wednesday)

November 8 (Friday)

November 10 (Sunday) Hobbs Woods N4197 S. Hickory

For more information call 922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com.

