



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Birding in Wisconsin

Wednesday, March 9, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

Find out about the best local places to enjoy your birding experiences and what birds you may find there. Spring also offers both beginning and experienced birders the opportunity to bird together on one of the many organized bird counts, festivals or conventions.



Organic Gardening and Farming

Wednesday, April 13, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

Find out how one local family is working to build community through organic farming and food. Nicole and Joe Schauer are farmers at Good Earth Farm, a certified organic vegetable farm in Oakfield just north of the Horicon Marsh.

They grow over 30 different crops for their CSA program, small grocery stores, and restaurants. They place a strong emphasis on environmental responsibility and biodiversity at Good Earth Farm, and incorporate polyculture and permaculture methods to reach their goal of ecological farming.

Nicole and Joe farm with their three children and a small crew of hard-working and dedicated employees!



Journey of 1,000 Lifers

Wednesday, May 11, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

Join Bill Volkert, former naturalist and educator for the DNR, as he shares photos and stories of his wife Connie's and his trip around the world to discover 1,000 new life birds. (A life bird is one that the birder is identifying for the first time.)



Visit Us On the Web
www.fldlaudubon.org

Like Us On Facebook

SPRING ACTIVITIES



Prairie Chicken Field Trip

Tuesday, April 12, Buena Vista

Please register to join our field trip, Tuesday, April 12, to view the Prairie Chicken breeding ritual in Buena Vista. We will leave at 3:00 am to be in the blind before daylight.

These magical prairie birds will perform their courtship ritual right before our blind. Be prepared for cold... but it's a spectacle you won't want to miss!

Sign up on our Facebook Event or via phone or email: Amy Sheldon 920-904-6076 or amysheldon527@gmail.com.

Audubon's Birds of America Exhibition

Wednesday, May 18, Paine Art Center, noon-4:30 pm

See original first-edition, large-format prints from John James Audubon's iconic and beloved "Birds of America" series. These large prints often called "Elephant folio" prints, date from the 1820s and 1830s. Enjoy a walk through the exhibit of these exceptional prints with fellow Audubon members. Afterwards, stroll through the Paine gardens to see spring flowers. Senior rates (\$5.00) for those 65+ apply on Wednesdays only. Adult rate is \$9.00. Meet at the southwest corner of Menards parking lot at noon to form a car pool. Contact Kathleen Stetter (920-872-2250 or Stetter@Centurytel.net) to let us know you will participate. This exhibit will be available from May 7 to October 16, so if you are not available on May 18, do see it on your own. For more information on these prints and John James Audubon see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Birds_of_America, www.audubon.org/content/john-james-audubon or www.thepaine.org/art/exhibitions/

Fond du Lac Bird City International Migratory Bird Day

Tuesday, May 3 – Program

6:30–8 pm, Fond du Lac Public Library

Enjoy a presentation by Alan Haney, Author of *Jewels of Nature; Delightful Birds I Have Known*. Haney is a forest ecologist with over 40 years of ornithological and ecological field experience. His research has focused on ecological restoration and effects of fire and other disturbances in the boreal ecosystem.

Friday, May 6 – Nature Walk

6 pm, Camelot Business Park Meet at 28 Camelot Dr. Look for waterfowl, possible woodcocks, songbirds, and bats at dusk. Walk Leader, Terry Leasa

Saturday, May 7 – Nature Walk

9 am, Greenway Arboretum 55 W. Pioneer Road; Park on west side of Pick 'n Save parking lot. Meet at entrance to the Greenway Arboretum.

Look for migrant song birds, indigo buntings, kingfishers, clay bank swallows, Nashville warblers, ruby crowned kinglets, flickers, phoebes, red-tailed hawks, and more. Walk Leader, Terry Leasa

1 pm, Lakeside Park, Information & Walk

- West of Main St. at shelter across from bathrooms.
- A Nature Walk in Lakeside Park will follow a brief talk. Look for spring migrants traveling along the Lake Winnebago shoreline, water fowl including possibly pelicans, cormorants, terns, yellow warblers, and more.
- Walk Leader, Terry Leasa

Bring binoculars if you have them and shoes suitable for outdoor experiences.

The Nature Walks are sponsored by ParkWatch. Audubon will have a limited number of binoculars available for use during the nature walks.



Kerry Schloff

Watershed Celebration, March 1

Celebrate our water resources and honor our watershed.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 from 4:30 – 8 pm

WHERE:

Oshkosh Convention Center, 1 N Main St., Oshkosh

DETAILS:

4:30–5:30 Hors d'ouerves Reception

5:30–6 Watershed Hero Impact Award Presentations

6:00–7 Dinner

7:00–8 Presentations

Andrew Sabai, photographer and biologist, will speak about his extensive work on the Winnebago Lake System while bringing attendees along on a photographic journey of the watershed.

Register online at fwwa.org/watershedcelebration/ or call (920) 915-5767.

New Website Launch

In mid-March, we will launch a new look for our website, thanks to the work of MPTC students. See new features and awesome photos at fdlaudubon.org.

Summer Evening Nature Walks

Get ready to go on scenic nature walks in natural areas in and around Fond du Lac. The schedule will be coming out in May. To find out more, follow us on Facebook, go to our website at fdlaudubon.org, and look under Events on the Fond du Lac Area Visitors and Convention Bureau website at fdl.com.

It Was a Great Day for Snowshoeing!

Conditions were excellent for 60 snowshoers to enjoy the interesting trails of Kiekhaefer Park on February 6 at our Audubon Snowshoe Saturday. Thanks to Dave Haase and Attitude Sports for providing 26 pair of demo snowshoes. The group pictured below did the full tour.



Browser Open, Fond du Lac Library

Come to the Fond du Lac Public Library on Sunday, March 13 from 11 am–4 pm for a fun day of 18-hole mini-golf! Audubon will have a nature theme for our hole. The event is a fundraiser for library programming sponsored by the Friends of the Fond du Lac Public Library. Visit fdlpl.org/main/browser-open.



BOOK REVIEW

Birdwatcher, The Life of Roger Tory Peterson by Elizabeth J. Rosenthal

This book offers a comprehensive biography of icon naturalist Roger Tory Peterson. It combines detailed facts of his unparalleled career as wildlife artist, field guide author, educator and conservationist, with poignant insights into the mortal man.

His revolutionary approach to bird identification in the *1934 Field Guides to the Birds*, became the template for all future nature guides. Who can forget the front jacket's silhouettes or the instructive arrows pointing to the most salient features of each species?

Peterson inspired generations of naturalists. The book shares stories of his relationships with other legends including George Harrison, James Fischer, Pete Dunne, Lars Lindblad and Ken Kaufmann.

Peterson played a pivotal role in Audubon's educational programs and the founding of the National Wildlife Federation. He was a champion of nature and graciously lent aid to all who asked.

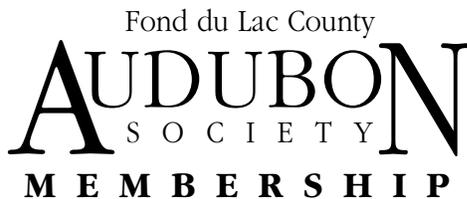
The book's photos make you feel as if you knew Peterson. In a way, everyone who has consulted one of his field guides has been his student. Read this book and begin to understand your teacher.



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



- 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

Help Needed Pulling Garlic Mustard

We all need to pitch in and help remove this aggressive invasive that is taking over our wild areas. For those of you who are not sure about how to identify or how to tackle the plant, this is an opportunity not to be missed. Come to at least one pulling session or more.

Our 2016 schedule is as follows:

PEEBLES TRAIL

All sessions will be from 9–11 am.

Session 1:

Thursday, April 28; Saturday, April 30

Meet on Prairie Road about ¼ mile south of Winnebago Drive on the Peebles Trail.

Session 2:

Wednesday, May 4; Saturday, May 7;

Thursday, May 12; Saturday, May 14

Meet on Hwy K about ½ mile south of Winnebago Drive on the Peebles Trail.

HOBBS WOODS

Saturday, May 21, 9–11 am

Meet in the parking lot (five miles south of Fond du Lac on Hickory Street).

The events will be cancelled in the event of steady rain. Please bring work gloves and wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt. For more information, call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com.