

Wichita Audubon

Volume 41 No. 8 May 2007



MAY MEETING

Roy Beckemeyer will present our May program: "Between Fire and Ice: A Trip To The Bering Sea." The Bering Sea lies bound on the east by Alaska, on the west by Siberia, on the south by the volcanoes of the Aleutian arc and the Kamachatka Peninsula, and on the north by the Arctic Ocean. Roy and Pat Beckemeyer were fortunate enough to have spent two weeks sailing in the Bering Sea in June, 2006; they enjoyed volcanoes, brown bears, Steller's Sea Eagles, blue and fin whales, Steller's Sea Lions, fur seals, and sea birds galore. They traveled by small ship, Zodiac, helicopter, bus, and jetliner. They hiked over tundra and rock scree on places like Kamminyesta Bay and the Zhupanova River in Russia, Attu, Kiska, and Adak Islands in the Aleutians, St. Paul in the Pribilofs, St. Matthew Island (home to McCay's Bunting). They even briefly visited the Yupik community of Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island. Roy will describe their experience with words and pictures at the Wichita Audubon Society on Tuesday night, May 15, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th and Woodlawn.

You can also join us for dinner before the meeting at Jason's Deli in Bradley Fair at 21st and Rock Rd, at 5:45 p.m.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Twilight Dinner

June 16, Saturday, 5 p.m. - ?

Join us at Chaplin Nature Center for a beach party, barbecue, scavenger hunt, birdwatching and lots of fun. Kids can be paleontologists and dig for bones in the sand. We'll do some seining in the river and see what kind of fish we can find. After dinner we have an animal program planned, with some surprise wildlife visitors.

Continued on page 3



For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaaudubon.org. CNC is located 3 miles west of Arkansas City on Hwy 166, north 2 miles on 21st Rd, east 0.6 miles on 272nd Rd.

COMING EVENTS

May 5

Warbler Walk at Oak Park. Meet by the north pond at 7 a.m. Leader: Paul Griffin, 263-1251, pgriffin1@cox.net

May 5

Prairie Wetlands Conservation Project. Meet at 1 p.m. at the OxyChem parking lot on the east side of S. Ridge Rd (south of 55th St. S.) Leader: Bill Beard, 722-3081, w2bnn@cox.net

May 15

Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Great Plains Nature Center. Program "Between Fire and Ice: A Trip to the Bering Sea," by Roy Beckemeyer.

May 20

Quivira NWR/Cheyenne Bottoms. Meet at the Quivira headquarters at 8 a.m. Leader: Jay Newton, 733-2486, jmnewtonus@yahoo.com

June 2

Birds, Butterflies, and Breakfast. Meet at the Chaplin Nature Center Visitor's Center at 8 a.m. See page 4.

June 16

Twilight dinner at Chaplin Nature Center, 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. See page 3.

June 11- 13

Extended Field Trip to Southwest Colorado. Leaders: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com, & Pete Janzen, 832-0182, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.com

BIRDATHON

Birdathon is a fund-raising activity that is also a lot of fun. It is open to any member that likes to bird and wants to help. A Birdathon team solicits pledges from friends, neighbors and coworkers for the number of bird species they can find in a 24 hour period. We would really like to have your help. To join a team talk to Carol Cumberland, Patty Marlett, Kevin Groeneweg or Shawn Silliman. If you can't join a team, consider soliciting pledges for one of the teams, or contribute yourself. Any and all assistance is appreciated.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee has announced the following slate of officers:

President: Kevin Groeneweg

Vice President: Jay Newton

Treasurer: Carol Cumberland

Secretary: Marsha Ebaugh

Board of Directors:

Catherine Lewis and Curt

VanBoening 3 year terms.

Dan Kilby is taking a vacated term that expires in 2009.

Patty Marlett is taking a vacated term that expires in 2008.

The election will occur at the May meeting, and the new officers will assume their duties on July 1.

THANKS!

CNC Spring Clean-up

Despite the chilly weather over 20 volunteers showed up on Saturday, April 7, to help get the Chaplin Nature Center ready for the season. Volunteers helped clear the trails of debris, cleaned the Visitor's Center, worked on the front flower beds, and a variety of other projects. A big THANK YOU goes out to the following volunteers: Patty Marlett, Carrie Krebs, Kim Noby, Kevin Groeneweg, F. Harper, Cathy Rodgers and Girl Scout Troop 1066, Jacob Silliman, Evan Silliman, Chase Silliman, Leonard Silliman, Austin Daray, Erik Ferguson, Rex Herndon, and Jeff Silliman.



2006-2007 WAS Officers

President	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Vice-president	Jay Newton	773-2486	jmnewtonus@yahoo.com
Secretary	Marsha Ebaugh	683-4782	43042@prodigy.net
Treasurer	Sandra Tholen	634-0049	stholen@cox.net
Directors	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
	Ben Rogers	630-0190	brogers7@cox.net
	Rosa McHenry	263-4042	rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net
	Dan Kilby	943-5136	ddkilby@prodigy.net
	Duane DeLong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net

Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
CNC	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Programs	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Conservation	Ben Rogers	630-0190	brogers7@cox.net
Development	Rosa McHenry	263-4042	rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley		pstanley@csjwichita.org
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Field Trips	Cheryl Miller	978-6659 (wk)	avian67226@gmail.com
Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

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email any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226

pstanley@csjwichita.org

Envelope Stuffing

Eleven people made short work of stuffing the envelopes for our spring solicitation letter. Thanks to Julia Hoppes, Duane & Maxine DeLong, Sandra Tholen, Carol Cumberland, Rosa McHenry, Ben Rogers, Patty Marlett, Bill & Nancy Beard, and Mary Kemmer.

SILENT AUCTION

Our May meeting will feature a silent auction of bird and nature related items - bird feeders, bird houses, books, art, etc. If you have items you would like to donate, please contact Rosa McHenry, 263-4042, rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net, or Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com. The money raised will go to support Chaplin Nature Center, so come to the program on May 15 and be prepared to shop!

TWILIGHT DINNER, CONTINUED

Later, we'll have an owl prowl and call up some owls. If the weather cooperates we'll bring out the telescope and do some star gazing.

As always, donors who gave more than \$100 last year will be invited to attend free. Everyone else is welcome with the meal costing \$6.50 for adults, \$3.25 for children for children 12 and under.

Festivities begin with a social hour at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m., then an animal program and activities that continue until after dark. Transportation will be available to get you to the activities, so don't worry about long hikes. Also, if the weather is too hot or wet we will move from the sandbar to a more comfortable location.

You can make reservations by calling Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, cnc@wichitaudubon.org, or by sending in the coupon below. Please make your reservations by June 11.



TWILIGHT DINNER RESERVATION JUNE 16

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Fee enclosed for

of adults _____ (\$6.50 each)

of children _____ (\$3.25 each)

Make checks payable to Wichita Audubon Society and mail to P.O. Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201

PIPELINE UPDATE

Since the last newsletter we have had further conversations with the pipeline company. They assured us that they have no intention of crossing our land, and that their engineers have plotted a route around us. But because of all the details involved in obtaining a right-of-way such as this they are not ready to announce what that new route will be. They also will not put any of these assurances in writing.

So we are more optimistic that they will spare our nature center, but not completely confident, either. Your assistance was greatly appreciated - it certainly will help motivate them to avoid us when they understand just how much of a fight we would give them. We will keep you updated on any developments.

Patty Marlett - President

WARBLER WALK

On Saturday, May 5, we will meet at 7 a.m. by the lily pond in Oak Park to hunt for spring migrants. At 1 p.m. we will reassemble at the OyxChem (formerly Vulcan Chemicals) parking lot on the east side of South Ridge Rd (south of 55th St S) for a tour of the Prairie Wetlands Conservation Project. Leader for the warbler walk is Paul Griffin, 263-1251, pgriffin1@cox.net; leader for the afternoon is Bill Beard, 722-3081, w2bnn@cox.net.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Printed on recycled paper

Birds, Butterflies and Breakfast at Chaplin Nature Center

Join us June 2 for a field trip to CNC and the surrounding area. We'll begin with a leisurely breakfast at the Visitor's Center, watching the feeder birds. Then we'll stroll the grounds looking for birds, butterflies, and wildflowers. The prairies and the flowers should be beautiful then. For the adventurous we can also head out to nearby places like the Kaw Wildlife Area for more birds.

Please RSVP to Shawn at 620-442-4133 or cnc@wichitaudubon.org at least 2 days in advance so we'll know how much breakfast to fix.



SAW-WHET OWL IN MULVANE

Many area birders saw their lifer Saw-whet Owl on March 17. The bird roosted for the day in a cedar in the back yard of Leon Hicks in Mulvane. It very conveniently chose a beautiful Saturday to stop in Kansas, so many people had the opportunity to see it. It was also very cooperative, seemingly unconcerned at having twenty or thirty people staring at it. A big thank you to the Hicks family for giving up their Saturday to play host to all us gawkers!

photo by Cheryl Miller