**CNC Upcoming Programs**

**May 3, Saturday**  
5 pm - ? \  
**Twilight Dinner**  
Join us for a beach party, a visit with Chuck the Turkey Vulture, barbecue, a scavenger hunt, and lots of fun. See page 3 for details.

**June 14, Saturday**  
10 - 11 am \  
**Wildflower Walk**  
If you have ever wondered about the native flowers you see in prairies and fields, here is a great chance to learn about them. We will hike the trails in search of spider milkweed, larkspur, ruella, and many others. We will also discuss the traditional uses and edibility of some of the plants.

**August 16, Saturday**  
10-11 am \  
**Stream Ecology**  
Whether you want to cool off or you have a special place in your heart for things that crawl, wiggle or swim, this is the program for the young curious mind. Children will enjoy digging in the mud to get a close-up look at dragonfly nymphs, bloodworms, scuds, and others. The Nature Center will provide containers. Wear old clothes and shoes.

**May Program**  
We had to postpone this program from February, but it's finally here, just in time for the spring return of our favorite butterflies. Dr. Orley "Chip" Taylor is Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at K.U., and director of Project Monarch Watch. The citizen scientists who participate in the Monarch Watch tagging program have helped create a magnificent database that can be mined to answer numerous questions concerning monarchs. In this presentation, Chip will show how the data from the tag recoveries can be used to test a new theory concerning the timing and pace of the migration during both the fall and spring migrations. You can join other members and our speaker for dinner before the program at 5:45 pm at Jason's Deli, 21st and Rock Road.

**June Picnic**  
Join us for our annual picnic on Tuesday, June 17 at PAWNEE PRAIRIE PARK at the west side picnic shelter. See page 2 for map and details.

For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaaudubon.org.
June Picnic, con't.
Bring a dish to share and your own service. Iced tea will be provided, or
bring your own drink. The west side
picnic shelter is located on Pawnee,
approximately three blocks east of
Maize Road. Note: Pawnee is not a
through street. It is possible to reach
the picnic shelter from Tyler Road, but
far simpler from Maize Rd.

Birdathon
Birdathon is a fund-raising activity
that is also a lot of fun, and open to any
member that likes to bird and wants
to help. A Birdathon team solicits
pledges from friends, neighbors,
coworkers, even total strangers, for
the number of bird species they can
find in a 24 hour period. The team
picks a date between April 20 and
May 27 and goes birding. Then the
pledges roll in to help support WAS
and Chaplin Nature Center.
We really would like to have your
help this year. To join a team talk to
Carol Cumberland, Patty Marlett, or
Shawn Silliman. If you don’t want to
go birding, consider soliciting pledges
for one of the teams, or contribute
yourself. Any and all assistance is
appreciated.

Wetlands Restoration
Project at Chaplin
Nature Center
With the help of grants from the
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
and the GE Fund, a well was drilled and
a windmill erected to provide water
to Kingfisher pond. The windmill
has been erected on the prairie just
south of the Weck building and pole
barn. It uses an airlift technique to
pump the water, so it doesn’t have
be directly over the well. The well
is located at the southeast corner of
the pond. The water is flowing, and
the pond is getting bigger every day.
The next step will be to plant some
aquatic plants to add to the diversity
in the pond. It should be ready to
serve as a great outdoor laboratory
for kids this summer.
The windmill is immediately visible
as you drive into the nature center,
so be sure to take a look for it and
visit Kingfisher pond to see how it
is growing.

Be sure to keep up
with the latest news on
conservation issues, local
issues and events by
visiting our website at
www.wichitaaudubon.org.

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Twilight dinner at Chaplin Nature Center

This special event, on Saturday May 3, is to honor our members and donors who make Chaplin Nature Center possible. Activities include

• Barbecue dinner on the beach (weather permitting - if it's raining we'll move inside)
• Nature scavenger hunt for kids
• Sand castle building contest
• Bird watching
• Owl calling
• An animal program by Joyce Lent, a naturalist at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, featuring "Chuck" the Turkey Vulture.

Festivities begin with a social hour at 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm, and activities continuing until after dark. There will be transportation provided to the sandbar, so don’t worry if you can’t walk that far. We want this to be accessible to everyone. Donors who have given one hundred dollars or more in the past year will be honored with a free dinner (you will receive a personal invitation in the mail.) All others are invited to join in the fun for only $6.50 for adults and $3.25 for children 12 and under - and this is all you can eat!

It's not too late to let us know you are coming. Call Carol Cumberland at 685-4867 or email ccumb@swbell.net.

Kansas Birding and Prairie Flora Trails

Audubon of Kansas, with a grant from the Kansas Division of Travel and Tourism, is developing birding trails in Kansas.

The Kansas Birding and Prairie Flora Trails system will include four routes going across the state, as described on our audubonokansas.org website. A statewide map and field guide will be published for the system, and a website will provide additional detail.

Will You Become a County Coordinator for This Project?

There are several ways in which dedicated individuals or a team of folks can work on this project. An individual site or "rural route" must be selected and described. Information will be gathered about historic features, community amenities or events, and by making site visits. Collectively, the product will be an outline for nature-based tourism opportunities within the county. The individual or team will prepare/write the material for use in the publications and/or the website. Contributions of photographs for the website will be greatly appreciated. County coordinators will contact or provide names of people knowledgeable about the counties and various sites, help us find or develop site maps and descriptions.

Volunteers should keep records of time and mileage devoted to the project, along with any other costs associated with their efforts. We need this to help us with our requirement for “in-kind” services for the grant provided by the Kansas Division of Travel and Tourism.

We will be able to reimburse folks for some of their transportation (mileage) costs, or will provide a receipt of your charitable contributions. However, because of the limitation of funds, we cannot obligate funds for mileage or travel expenses to and from destinations far outside of your immediate area.

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We will be working on the publication by late spring and will be doing some field visits to follow up on the descriptions.

We are enthused about the prospect of working with you during this final stage of the project. We want the website to have personality and utility that goes beyond any other birding trail site in the country. Thus, please feel free to be innovative and personal. For example, if one is describing a site and this vicinity is where you or friends saw a rare bird (for Kansas) in 1996, include a note to that effect. If the Kansas Ornithology Society or the Kansas Herpetological Society held a spring meeting in the county in 2001 and recorded some notable species, please share that with a note or a document that can be added as an attachment. Feel free to include information from the Breeding Bird Atlas or from Christmas Bird Counts if it has the potential of adding to the experience of someone visiting the area.

We would like to provide information about Audubon chapters on the trails website. This may be valuable for recruitment of new members.

Thanks—Ron Klataske and Ferdouz Vuilliomenet
Audubon of Kansas
www.audubonofkansas.org
785-537-4385, fax 785-537-4395

Big Brother Big Sisters, con’t
willing to coordinate the effort. This would mean working with the BBBS staff and lining up WAS volunteers. If you are that person, please call Patty Marlett at 942-2164, or email pmarlett@mac.com. We would also like to hear from people interested in being one of the volunteers matched with a child for the event.