

# Wichita Audubon



Volume 37 No. 8 May 2003

## 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@wichitaudubon.org](mailto:cnc@wichitaudubon.org).

## Coming Events

**May 3**

Warbler Walk in Oak Park. Meet at the lily pond at the north end of the park and join in the search for spring migrants. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, [kgroeneweg@cox.net](mailto:kgroeneweg@cox.net)

**May 3**

Twilight Dinner at Chaplin Nature Center - 5:00 pm

**May 10**

North American Migration Bird Count. Similar to the Christmas bird count, this national event covers all of Sedgwick county. To join a team and help count migrants, call Harry Gregory, 263-7608, [birdfan@infi.net](mailto:birdfan@infi.net)

**May 20**

Regular Meeting, "Monarchs, A New Theory to Explain the Timing and Pace of the Migration," by Dr. Orley "Chip" Taylor, 7:30 pm Great Plains Nature Center.

**May 18**

Quivira NWR/Cheyenne Bottoms field trip. Meet at the Quivira headquarters building at 9 am for shorebirds, waders, and other migrants. Leader: Bob Dester, 316-283-7070.

**June 17**

Annual Picnic, 6:00 pm at Pawnee Prairie Park, west side shelter.

## 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.

**Be sure to keep up with the latest news on conservation issues, local issues and events by visiting our website at [www.wichitaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaudubon.org).**

## 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 to 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.

## Big Brothers Big Sisters

Wichita Audubon has been approached by the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization to join in their Pass It On program. The goal of this program is to share an appreciation of the outdoors and nature with children. Our participation would involve organizing a field trip for children who have not yet been matched with a big brother or sister. We would provide one gender matched volunteer for each child. BBBS would provide professional staff supervision, and any transportation or food needed.

The WAS board would very much like to see us be a part of this program, but we need a volunteer who would be

### 2002-2003 WAS Officers

President	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Vice-president	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@cox.net
Secretary	Sharon Bolin	620-584-2314	jbolin@sktc.net
Treasurer	Duane Delong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net

### Directors

Bill Beard	722-3081	wbeard@cox.net
Carol Cumberland	685-4867	ccumb@swbell.net
Mary Englemen-Kemmer	688-5322	rockchalk123@aol.com
Barbara Millar	838-8542	bmi3931874@aol.com
Cheryl Miller	978-7900 (wk)	cherylmiller1@cox.net
Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net

### Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
CNC	Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net
Programs	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@cox.net
Conservation	Barbara Millar	838-8542	bmi3931874@aol.com
Development	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	ccumb@swbell.net
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley		pstanley@csjwichita.org
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	laurann@cox.net
Field Trips	Harry Gregory	263-7608	birdfan@infi.net
Finance	Cheryl Miller	978-7900 (wk)	cherylmiller1@cox.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

**[www.wichitaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaudubon.org)**

email any officer: [was@wichitaudubon.org](mailto:was@wichitaudubon.org)

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226  
[pstanley@csjwichita.org](mailto:pstanley@csjwichita.org)

## 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](mailto: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 [audubonofkansas.org](http://audubonofkansas.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.

*continued on Page 4*

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### **Kansas Birding and Prairie Flora Trails, continued**

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](http://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](mailto: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.

