

Wichita Audubon

Volume 45 No. 7 April 2011



APRIL MEETING



Our program for April is “Birding Down Under,” presented by Matt Gearheart. By profession, Matt is an architect. But he is also an avid birder and photographer. He is active in Burroughs Audubon Society in the Kansas City area, and the Kansas Ornithological Society. His program is the story of a three week trip he made to Australia’s eastern

coast from the Great Barrier Reef to the island of Tasmania.

Join us on Tuesday, April 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join Matt and other members for dinner at Doc Green’s, 10096 E. 13th, in the Waterfront at 5:45 p.m.

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. Teams choose a date in late April or early May when migration is at its peak. We would really like to have your help. To join a team talk to Mike Heaney, 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

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 2, Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Spring Cleanup

Volunteer to help get Chaplin Nature Center in shape with building cleanup or trail maintenance. Light workloads or heavy, your choice.

June 18, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Birds Butterflies and Breakfast

5:00 p.m. until dark Party on the River

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COMING EVENTS

April 2

Spring Cleanup at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

April 9

Chautauqua County Back Roads field trip. Meet at the Dillon’s parking lot at Andover Rd & U.S. 400 at 6:30 a.m. and plan to carpool. Bring a lunch. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, kgroeneweg@swglobal.net, 706-9116

April 19

Regular meeting, “Birding Down Under,” by Matt Gearheart, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

May 7

Warbler Walk at Oak Park Meet at the pond at the north end of the park at 8 a.m. Leader: Paul Griffin, 263-1251, pgriffin1@cox.net

May 13 - May 15

Extended Field Trip to Eastern Kansas Hotspots - see page 2.



For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaudubon.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.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee for 2011-2012 is comprised of Curt VanBoening, Cheryl Miller and Paul Griffin. They have presented the following slate of officers:

President (2 year term): Jay Newton

Vice-president (1 year term): Carol Cumberland

Secretary (1 year term): Dennice Craig

Treasurer (1 year term): Sharon Dilks

Director (3 year term): Mike Heaney

Director (3 year term): Bob Gress

The election will take place at the May meeting.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

The award committee is accepting nominations for the annual Meritorious Service Award. The criteria for selection include outstanding or sustained leadership as a member, officer, committee chair, or special project leader. Please include a brief description of the nominee's accomplishments and why you think they should receive this award. The presentation will be made at the May 17 meeting.

Send your nomination to Julia Hoppes, 914 N Mission Rd, Wichita, KS 67206, jhoppes@cox.net

Previous recipients of this award:

1994 John Wherry	2002 Wallace Champeny
1995 Ralph Wiley & Geula McDonald	2003 Patty Marlett
1996 Nathan McDonald	2004 Carol Cumberland
1997 Louise Wherry	2005 Sandra Tholen
1998 Don Vannoy	2006 Kevin Groeneweg
1999 Bob Gress	2007 Laura Groeneweg
2000 Dan Kilby	2008 Duane DeLong
2001 Rex Herndon	2009 Pete Janzen
	2010 Shawn Silliman

2010-2011 WAS Officers

President	Sandra Tholen	634-0049	stholen@cox.net
Vice-president	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Secretary	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Treasurer	Sharon Dilks	722-6927	johndilks@aol.com
Directors	Jeff Calhoun	737-1307	jecalhoun@wichita.edu
	Bob Gress	838-4130	bobgress@cox.net
	Kevin Groeneweg	706-9116	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
	Mike Heaney	733-6458	jeager@southwind.net
	Larry Londagin	729-9984	llondagin@cox.net
	Curt VanBoening	776-0993	curtvb55@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
CNC	Kevin Groeneweg	706-9116	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Conservation	Curt VanBoening	776-0993	curtvb55@yahoo.com
Programs	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Development	Mike Heaney	733-6458	jeager@southwind.net
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley	744-2192	pstanley@csjoseph.org
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Field Trips	Jeff Calhoun	737-1307	jecalhoun@wichita.edu
Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	duane.delong669@gmail.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 3700 E. Lincoln Apt 123, Wichita, KS 67218, pstanley@csjoseph.org

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP

There is still time to sign up for this year's extended field trip, with visits to eastern Kansas hotspots during spring migration. We plan to visit the Overland Park Arboretum, Fort Leavenworth, Weston Bend and other places that you hear about on the listserv, but may never have visited.

Join us May 13 - 15 (Friday through Sunday) on a hunt for those gorgeous spring warblers.

The trip leader is Kevin Groeneweg. Contact him by e-mail or phone: kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net, 706-9116.



PARTY ON THE RIVER

A Celebration of the 150th Birthday of Kansas

On June 18 we will begin the day with Birds, Butterflies and Breakfast at Chaplin Nature Center. Have breakfast on the porch, watching the birds come to the feeders, then stroll around the grounds to enjoy the birds, wildflowers and butterflies.

Later that day we are planning an event that will combine beach party, barbecue, scavenger hunt, birdwatching and lots of fun. We're going to have a picnic dinner on the banks of the Arkansas River at Chaplin Nature Center. There will be a number of activities for children of all ages, centering around the theme of Kansas symbols. After dinner we have a special program planned. Bob Gress and Patty Marlett will talk about owls, including some live ones from the Great Plains Nature Center. Later, we'll have an owl prowling and call up some wild owls.



Festivities begin with a social hour at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m., then the owl 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.

Details are still being planned, but mark your calendar and watch for more information in the May newsletter. Spend the day and get to know your nature center!



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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BIRD SEED SALE

Help support Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center by buying your bird seed from us. We offer high quality seed, delivered to your home (within Wichita City limits.)
This will be our last sale until fall.

Please submit your order by Friday, April 8.

The seed will be delivered on
Saturday, April 16
25 lb Audubon Mix - \$13
25 lb Black Oil Sunflower - \$15
25 lb Safflower - \$19

Order by phone, mail or E-mail. Call Carol Cumberland at 685-4867 or carol.cumberland@swbell.net Mail: Wichita Audubon Society, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201.

A big thank you to our delivery guys: Mike Heaney, Curt VanBoening and Kevin Groeneweg.

PREVENT DISEASE AT YOUR BIRD FEEDERS

There are several diseases that wild birds can acquire at feeding stations if they are not properly cared for. Follow these simple steps and reduce the risk of disease at your bird feeders.

1. Provide birds with a large amount of space for feeding – While images of dozens of birds crowded on to a single feeder are beautiful, such events increase the likelihood of contact between sick and healthy birds and may increase a bird's stress level while feeding, making them more susceptible to disease. To prevent overcrowding, buy feeders that minimize contact and provide birds with additional places to feed.
2. Keep the birds' feeding area clean of both seed hulls and bird droppings – A clean feeding area can be maintained by sweeping or vacuuming the ground below the feeder.
3. Purchase bird feeders that do not have sharp points or edges – Sharp points or edges may cause bleeding or scratches on birds that can facilitate the transmission of disease.
4. Regularly clean your bird feeders – Feeders should be washed approximately once a month with a solution of 10% bleach (one-part bleach to nine-parts water) by completely immersing feeders for at least three minutes and then allowing them to dry. Scrub bird baths and change the water several times per week to prevent mosquito reproduction and the possible spread of West Nile Virus.
5. Use a rodent-proof container to store bird food and avoid having wet, moldy, musty-smelling seed in your bird feeder or storage container.