

Wichita Audubon

Volume 48 No. 7 April 2014



APRIL MEETING



Our April program will be presented by Jim & Patty Marlett. "The Return of the California Condor" will tell the remarkable story of the effort to save condors from extinction. After a trip to the Grand Canyon, Jim and Patty became captivated by the condor. In 1987 fewer than 20 wild condors remained. All of them were caught and taken to zoos for a captive breeding program. After twenty-five years of effort they are once again flying

free and breeding in the wild. Jim & Patty also made a trip to Peru in the same summer and were able to watch Andean Condors, too.

Join us on Tuesday, April 15, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center as Jim & Patty show us condors. You can join Jim and Patty and other members for dinner before the meeting at Panera at Central and Hillside at 5:30 p.m.



CHAPLIN NATURE CENTER UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Spring Clean-up

Help us get the Chaplin Nature Center facilities ready for the upcoming year. Volunteers are needed in all areas, from building clean-up to trail maintenance. Light workloads or heavy, your choice. There is a place you can help out no matter what your skills.



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.

COMING EVENTS

April 2

Kansas Water Plan meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. See page 2.

April 5

CNC Spring Clean-up
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

April 12

Chautauqua County Back Roads field trip. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Dillon's parking lot at Andover Rd & US 400 and we'll carpool from there. Bring a lunch. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net.

April 15

Regular meeting, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Program: "The Return of the California Condor" by Jim & Patty Marlett.

April 26

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge field trip. Bring a lunch and meet at the Quivira NWR headquarters at 8 a.m. for a tour of these renowned wetlands. Depending on time and conditions we will also visit Cheyenne Bottoms. Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com



BACKYARD BIRD WORKSHOP

Our first Backyard Bird Workshop, held on Feb. 22 at the Great Plains Nature Center, was a big success. We helped kids build 40 bird houses, made an uncounted number of pine cone bird feeders, and talked with more than 120 people. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped with the event: Cathy Clausen and the Backyard Nature Center, Carol Cumberland, Cheryl Miller, Dennice Craig, Ann Woods, Rod Wedel, Pete Janzen, Tom Ewert, Sharon Dilks, and Patty Marlett.

INVITATION TO KANSAS WATER PLAN MEETING

“Water and the Kansas economy are directly linked. Water is a finite resource and without further planning and action we will no longer be able to meet our state’s current needs, let alone growth,” Governor Sam Brownback remarked as he issued a call to action at the Governor’s Water Conference.

The Kansas Water Office and Kansas Department of Agriculture request your attendance and input for “The Vision” on Wednesday, April 2nd, at 6:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita. No RSVP is needed. This meeting is open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Come ready to provide your input.

“The drought over the past three years has brought water issues to the fore front and Kansas must plan for the future now,” said Kansas Water Office Director Tracy Streeter. “The Vision Team wants Kansans to be a part of the solution and we encourage stakeholder and public attendance.”

The Governor’s Vision Team for the Future of Water in Kansas consists of the Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Agriculture and Kansas Water Authority. Feedback gained by the Vision Team from these meetings is of vital importance and will serve as a basis of the draft for the Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas.

2013-2014 WAS Officers

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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Tom Ewert, 1021 N. Lakewind, Wichita, KS 67212, trewert@yahoo.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee is looking for a few good volunteers! We have the following positions to fill for the 2014-2015 year: vice-president, secretary, treasurer (all one year positions) and three members of the board of directors. Two of the board of director positions are for three years, one is for one year. If you are interested in serving, or have suggestions please contact Pete Janzen, 519-1979, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net or Dan Kilby, 943-5136, ddkilby@cox.net..

WICHITA AUDUBON: 60 YEARS OF MEMORIES

2014 marks the 60th anniversary of the Wichita Audubon Society. The following article is part two of a reminiscence on the early years of the group written by Ralph Wiley in 1994, when WAS was celebrating its 40th anniversary. Ralph was a charter member of Wichita Audubon; a leader and activist for forty years. He served as president, as an officer of the Kansas Audubon Council, as a board member, committee chairman and field trip leader. He died in 1995, just a few months after completing this memoir.

Future editions of this newsletter will feature more of Ralph's memories, followed by a summary of the most recent twenty years of our history.

In 1980, the WAS Board of Directors hired Gerald Wiens to the position of Director of the Chaplin Nature Center. This was indeed a major event. Gerald, his wife Jan and their two children moved into the Chaplin farmhouse, which was remodeled after a few years to add two additional bedrooms. Gerald proved to be a great asset to our program. (Editor's note: Gerald left in 1997 and was replaced by Shawn Silliman, our current director and naturalist.)

An important event in the late 1980's (1988 to be specific) was the establishment of a committee to secure funds for the building of an interpretative building at the Chaplin Nature Center. This committee was headed by Warren Oblinger and John Wherry. This committee was successful in obtaining over one quarter million dollars in capital and endowment. The new building was dedicated on September 30, 1989, and has proven to be a great asset to the programs a CNC. Gerald Wiens served as general construction manager and was ably assisted by Rex Herndon and many others who gave time and special skills to aid in the construction.

In 1988, John Wherry started the city-wide bird seed sales program. Several thousand dollars are netted each year to aid in the operation of WAS. (Editor's note: this program continues today in a

modified format, headed by Carol Cumberland. John retired from bird seed sales in 1997 and was succeeded by Mike Lesan, followed by Carol.)

Extended field trips started in 1979 when a large group went to Galveston, Texas. This continues to be a most enjoyable yearly activity. Following is a list of the extended field trips and their organizers:

- 1979 Galveston Island, Ralph & Mary Wiley
- 1980 Southeast Arizona, Ralph & Mary Wiley, Bev & Ruth Hodges
- 1981 Ft. Collins/National Audubon Convention, Ralph & Mary Wiley, Bev & Ruth Hodges
- 1982 Niobrara, Nebraska, Ralph & Mary Wiley, Bev & Ruth Hodges
- 1983 Galveston Island, Ralph & Mary Wiley
- 1984 ConCan, TX, Ralph & Mary Wiley
- 1985 Lake Isabel, CO, Dan Kilby & Ralph Wiley
- 1986 Rio Grande Valley, TX, Jay Newton
- 1987 Black Mesa, OK, Dan Kilby
- 1988 Manitoba, Canada, Bev & Ruth Hodges
- 1989 Delta, CO, Dan Kilby
- 1990 Beaver's Bend, OK, Rick Goodrich
- 1991 King's Ranch, TX, Dan Kilby
- 1992 NE Minnesota, Pete Janzen
- 1993 Galveston, TX, Dan Kilby
- 1994 SE Arizona, Sandra Tholen & Tammy Troutman
- 1995 Ft. Collins, CO, Sandra Tholen
- 1996 Rio Grande Valley, TX, Sandra Tholen
- 1997 Minot, SD, Sandra Tholen
- 1998 Concan, TX, Sandra Tholen
- 1999 Beaver's Bend, OK, Patty Marlett
- 2002 Big Bend, TX, Patty Marlett & Kevin Groeneweg
- 2003 Roaring River State Park, MO, Patty Marlett & Kevin Groeneweg
- 2004 Colorado Grouse, Patty Marlett
Hutton Niobrara Sanctuary, Nebraska, Patty Marlett
- 2005 High Island, TX, Patty Marlett & Kevin Groeneweg
- 2006 SE Arizona & N. Mexico, Patty Marlett & Kevin Groeneweg
- 2007 SW Colorado, Patty Marlett & Pete Janzen
- 2008 Wichita Mtns, OK, Pete Janzen
North Woods, Patty Marlett & Kevin Groeneweg
- 2009 Rio Grande Valley, TX, Patty Marlett & Kevin Groeneweg & Pete Janzen
- 2010 South Florida, Kevin Groeneweg & Mike Heaney & Pete Janzen & Patty Marlett
- 2011 Eastern KS hotspots, Kevin Groeneweg
- 2012 Pacific NW, Kevin Groeneweg, Patty Marlett, Jeff Calhoun
- 2013 North Carolina, Kevin Groeneweg
- 2014 Hutton Niobrara Sanctuary, Patty Marlett
Southern California, Kevin Groeneweg, Pete Janzen, Patty Marlett



Gerald Wiens in 1987

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Wichita Audubon: 60 Years of Memories, continued

There are a number of traditions begun many years ago which continue to be a part of our current activities. The cookies and punch served following each monthly meeting started in 1957 when Nathan McDonald was vice-president. The Chapter's first newsletter was edited and printed by Carl Packer in 1967. The development plan for the Chaplin Nature Center was published in 1975. Ruth Broderson, Pearlanna Briggs and the membership committees set new highs in membership records and were applauded by National Audubon for their efforts. In 1984 Mary and Ralph Wiley were awarded the Deutcher Award by the National Audubon Society as outstanding Auduboners of the region.

Charter Members of Wichita Audubon:
J. Walker Butin, Albert Briggs, Ralph Wiley, Pearlanna Briggs, Henry O. Marsh, Mary Wiley, Daniel S. Kilby.



SE Arizona 2006



Colorado Grouse Trip 2004



SW Colorado 2007



Rio Grande Valley 2009



Northwoods 2008



Big Bend, TX 2002