

Audubon

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April 2016

April 2

Spring Clean-up at Chaplin Nature Center, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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**April 9**

Invasive plant removal at Oak Park, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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April 9

Second Saturday Bird Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 a.m.

Questions?: Pete Janzen, 519-1970, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

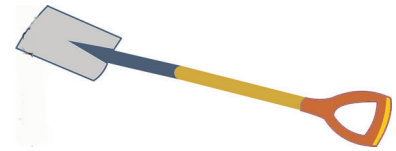
April 19

Monthly program, "Invasive Plants in Kansas," by Ryan Armbrust, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

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April 19

Join us for dinner with Ryan before the program at Barn'rds, 2037 N Woodlawn (just south of 21st on Woodlawn) at 5:30 p.m.



April Meeting

No - you are not getting the March newsletter again! Ryan Armbrust, who was to be our March speaker, had to cancel because he and his wife were expecting a baby right at the crucial time. So he switched with Roy Beckemeyer, and will now be our April speaker.

His presentations is "Invasive Plants in Kansas," and he will tell us about the negative impact of invasive Asian bush honeysuckle with some control options and some better plant alternatives. Ryan Armbrust is the Forest Health & Conservation Forester for the Kansas Forest Service. He heads up the agency's Forest Health program, works closely with



propagation of native plant material with the Conservation Seedling program, and serves as the lead on efforts to preserve and enhance the functionality of urban and rural forests in Kansas.

Ryan lives in Alta Vista, Kansas (pop 444) with his wife Laura and their two children. He chairs the local tree board, enjoys serving in several ministries in church, spends most of his free time fixing up his 104-year-old house, and wishes he had more time to hunt, fish, and camp.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join us for dinner at Barn'rds, 2037 N Woodlawn, at 5:30 p.m.

Help Oak Park!

On Saturday, April 9, you can participate in a project of the Wichita Department of Park & Recreation to remove invasive plants like bush honeysuckle from Oak Park. The invasive plants crowd out native plants, and reduce the quality of the habitat for our native species of birds - thus reducing the variety and numbers of birds that visit. The park department has a grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Our volunteer labor helps them save grant money to buy tools and chemicals. You don't need to bring tools - they will be provided - but you should wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Gloves and a water bottle would also be useful. Meet at 9 a.m. at the stone arch near the southwest corner of the park. You will finish by 1 p.m.

Slate of Officers

The nominating committee has been hard at work and has prepared the following slate of officers:

Vice-president: Jim Marlett

Treasurer: Kevin Groeneweg

Secretary: Anne Woods

Board of Directors:

Bill Langley

Atcha Nolan

The committee members are Catherine Lewis, Kevin Groeneweg, and Carol Cumberland. Be sure to thank them for their quick work!

The slate of officers will be presented at the April meeting and voted on at the May meeting.

Extended Field Trip

There is still room on the field trip to southeast Oklahoma. The trip will start on Thursday, April 28, at 10 a.m. at Schemmerhorn Park in Galena, KS. From there we are headed to Idabel, OK, for the night, probably with a stop or two in eastern OK. We will stay Thursday, Friday and Saturday night in Idabel. Friday will be spent with David Arbour, an expert Oklahoma birder, at Red Slough. Saturday will be at the Little River NWR, possibly with another local guide. Our target species are Swainson's warbler, Bachman's sparrow and Red-cockaded Woodpecker, as well as many other migrants. On Sunday we return to Wichita, possibly after another brief visit to either the Red Slough or Little River.

The leader for this trip is Tom Ewert. Contact him at 670-3140, or trewert@yahoo.com for more details.

2015-2016 WAS Officers

President	Gregg Friesen	316-217-3301	friesen_fenton@yahoo.com
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Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

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



Bluff Staircase at CNC is Complete

The bluff staircase at Chaplin Nature Center has been completed! In 2015 the V.J Wilkins Foundation awarded the Chaplin Nature Center a grant to rebuild the staircase that allows access from the top of the bluff to the lower floodplain. Additional support came from MTL Construction of Arkansas City and ProBuild of Wichita. MTL Construction reduced their labor charge to build the staircase and ProBuild gave a 20% discount on building materials.

A key component of the educational mission of the center is the system of hiking trails extending for over four-miles of the 230-acre property. “These stairs serve an integral part in allowing visitors’ access to our trail system,” stated Shawn Silliman, Naturalist. “It is also a major focus point where visitors can hear and observe wildlife, while also serving as a popular place for family portraits.”



L to R: Shawn Silliman, CNC Naturalist, Fred Bunting, CNC committee, Karen Zeller, V.J. Wilkins Foundation board member, Patty Marlett, CNC committee, Pete Janzen, representing both WAS and ProBuild, and Otis Morrow, V.J. Wilkins Foundation board member.



The stairs were constructed out of recycled composite lumber. To reduce waste, as much of the existing material as possible was reused. This helped keep the cost down and prevented needlessly sending materials to the landfill.

The V.J. Wilkins Foundation is a private, non-profit foundation whose mission is to maximize the value of its finances so that it may assist the community to provide a quality, cultural environment of arts, music, language and other endeavors, which many times are over-shadowed by the importance placed upon athletic achievements.

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Chaplin Nature Center Programs

Saturday, April 2, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Spring Clean-up

It's time to get the nature center ready for another year of visitors. We need your help on a variety of indoor and outdoor projects. Trimming trails, repairing bridges, raking leaves and cleaning the building are a few areas that need attention. If you can, bring a rake or loppers. Call the Center for more information.



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.