

# Audubon

Vol. 62 No.1

July/August 2022

**July 9 & August 13**  
*Second Saturday  
 Bird Walk in  
 Chisholm Creek  
 Park. Meet in the  
 Great Plains Nature  
 Center parking lot at  
 8 a.m.*



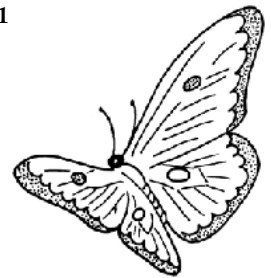
**July 9**  
*Arkansas City  
 Butterfly Count at  
 Chaplin Nature  
 Center, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

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**July 19**  
*Picnic in jChisholm  
 Creek Park, 6 p.m.*

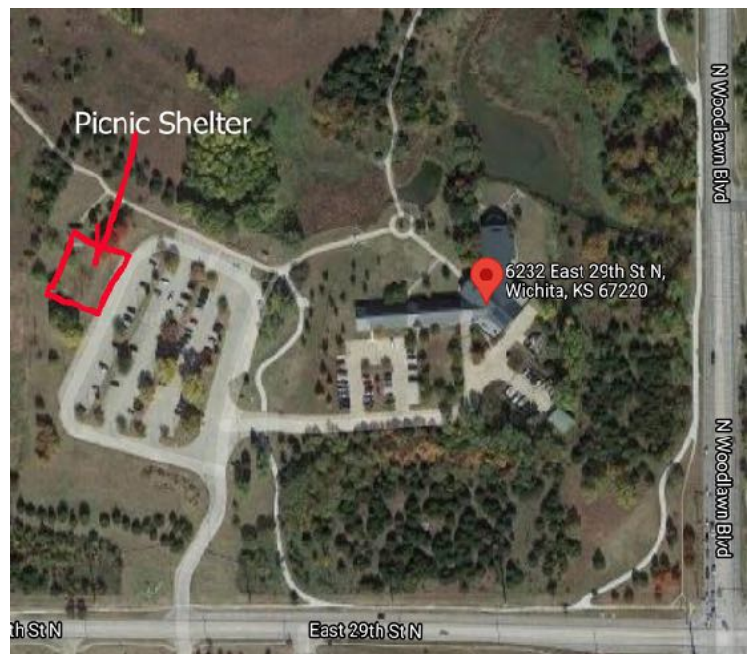
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## July Picnic

We are going to have an old-fashioned outdoors picnic again this year! Join us at the picnic shelter just west of the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot. Bring a dish to share, we will provide drinks. We don't have a program planned -last year was a big success just visiting and catching up.

**The picnic will be on Tuesday, July 19, 6 p.m. at the shelter west of the Great Plains Nature Center.**



# Letter of Appreciation

Shawn received the following letter from a teacher at the Independent School here in Wichita after a field trip her class took to Chaplin Nature Center.

This is what YOUR support makes happen.

**Greetings,**

**I am writing to tell you what a wonderful day my students had at Chaplin. We arrived this morning and my 14 Middle Schoolers, who quite honestly don't spend much time in nature unless on a planned vacation, immediately seemed to unwind and relax. They were captivated by your water ecology program, and kids who I never imagined would wade in a creek and sift through material didn't hesitate to participate. They picnicked, hiked, and spent the day entirely without cell phones. The only time they complained was when I told them it was time to 'head back'.**

**A mom emailed me this evening with her thanks and wrote: "I will always remember this day" is what my son led with when he got in the car just now. Then I had to make two extra laps around the neighborhood to hear about all the "shenanigans" - ha! Thanks for taking the kids on an adventure and for apparently creating a most memorable day. I smiled to see my kid covered in sand, pink-cheeked, and HAPPY."**

**Thank you so much for protecting our environment, habitats, natural places, and providing opportunities for Kansans to explore the real world.**

## 2022-2023 WAS Officers

President	Daniel Housholder	316-648-0434	dhousholder@cox.net
Vice-president	Mark Nolen	785-346-7213	nolen.mark@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Kevin Groeneweg	316-706-9116	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
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	Jeremy Birket	316-371-2829	tceinict@gmail.com
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	Nick Stroot	316-992-1650	nicholasstroot@gmail.com

## Committee Chairs

AOK Rep	Tom Ewert	316-670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
Hospitality	Sarah Blackmon	316-264-4408	
Membership	Carol Cumberland	316-685-4687	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	316-200-3419	pmarlett@mac.com
Programs	Mark Nolen	785-346-7213	nolen.mark@gmail.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

[www.wichitaaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaaudubon.org)

Send address changes to Carol Cumberland, 1106 Gretchen, Wichita, KS 67206  
carol.cumberland@swbell.net, 316-685-4867

## New Officers

Please welcome the new officers and board members that were elected at the May meeting. Mark Nolen is vice-president, Kevin Groeneweg is treasurer, Barbara Gobbert continues as secretary and Dan Housholder continues as president. Jen Bruey and Jeremy Coleman are our new board members.

And a big thank you to Bill Langley, who is leaving the board after six years of service.

# Shawn's 25th Anniversary!

Shawn Silliman, our naturalist and manager at Chaplin Nature Center, has been with us for 25 years this July. We are so grateful and lucky to have benefitted from all his hard work. CNC has thrived from his skill at teaching, land management, fundraising and even carpentry. Go visit Chaplin Nature Center this summer and thank him!



1997



With Kenn Kaufman at the BioBlitz celebrating the WAS 50th anniversary, 2004

**Chaplin Center welcomes new naturalist**  
*By Traveler staff reports*  
 Ark. City Trav 8.1.97

The Wichita Audubon Society recently announced hiring a new naturalist for Chaplin Nature Center.

Shawn Silliman, 32, has relocated to Arkansas City from Indiana where he spent two years working for a city park he described as the second largest in the country with about 5,000 acres.

Silliman said he spent some of his youth in Kansas and most of his family has migrated back to this area.

"I'm the last one to make it back," he said.

Silliman graduated from Northland College in Ashland, Wisc., with a bachelor's degree in Naturalism and Outdoor Education.

The first thing Silliman said he is planning to do is look at the environmental education programs to see if it is feasible to expand to the general public.



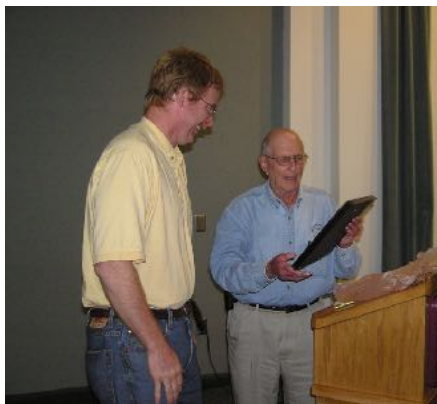
Organizing a scavenger hunt for the Twilight Dinner, 2005



CNC spring cleanup, 2014



Directing Monarch tagging at Fall Nature Day, 2017



Receiving the Meritorious Service Award from Dan Kilby, 2010.



Shawn and Susan in the new house, 2022



2018

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## Chaplin Nature Center Programs

*Saturday, July 9, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*  
*Arkansas City Butterfly Count*

Join the Chaplin Nature Center for its annual July Butterfly Count. Each year the Center takes one day to count as many butterflies as possible on the property. If you are a butterflyer or interested in learning more about our local species then you can participate. No butterfly experience needed, just helping spot them can be a big help. You can join us for a few hours or for the full day. Please call if planning to attend.



For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail [cnc@wichitaaudubon.org](mailto: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.