

Audubon

Vol. 56 No. 6

March 2017

March 3

No Flashlight Night Hike at Chaplin Nature Center, 7 - 8 p.m.

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**March 11**

Second Saturday Bird Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 a.m. Questions?: Kevin Groeneweg, 706-9116, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net

March 18

Chisholm Creek Park Cleanup. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 9 a.m. Sandra Tholen, stholen@cox.net, 634-0049

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March 21

Monthly program, "Birds of Colombia," by Bob Gress, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Join us for dinner with Bob before the program at Panera Bread, 1605 N. Rock Road, at 5:30 p.m.

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March 25

Oak Park Invasive plant removal, 9 a.m. Pete Janzen, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net, 519-1970.

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April 1

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

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March Meeting

Colombia, boasting over 1,900 species, is one of the three most diverse countries for birds on the planet! The other two are Peru and Brazil. In Colombia, the Andes Mountains branch into three distinct chains separated by the Cauca and Magdalena valleys. This terrain has led to a diversity of habitats with each chain and each valley having some plants and animals found nowhere else on earth. Wichita residents Bob Gress and Kevin Groeneweg were part of a ten-person group searching for the birds in Colombia in March of 2016. In three weeks, the group recorded 523 species!

Colombia conjures up images of emeralds, coffee, guerillas and cocaine. Of these, the only one this group encountered was coffee! Today, Colombia is a country that is safe, friendly, clean and incredibly



Bob Gress

beautiful. This program is for all those who appreciate the value of wild places and wild things!

Bob Gress is the former director of the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita and cofounder of www.BirdsInFocus.com. He is a Distinguished Alumnus from Emporia State University with an M.S. in Environmental Biology. Bob has

photographed wildlife in wild places throughout North America, Central America, South America, Africa, New Zealand and Australia. Over 4,400 of his wildlife photos have been published and are seen in a wide variety of magazines, and in more than sixty books, including *Birds of Kansas*, *The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hot Spots*, *Faces of the Great Plains*, *Kansas Wildlife*, *Watching Kansas Wildlife*, *The Living Gulf Coast*, *The Smithsonian Book of North American Mammals*, and *The Guide to Colorado Mammals*.

Be sure to check out Bob's bird images at www.BirdsInFocus.com.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, March 21, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join us for dinner at Panera Bread, 1605 N Rock Rd, at 5:30 p.m.

Bird Seed Sale

Our next bird seed sale is coming March 11. We will deliver the seed to your door (within Wichita city limits.) We need your order by March 6. Contact Carol Cumberland via phone at 316-685-4867 or email carol.cumberland@swbell.net

25# bag Black Oil Sunflower \$18
20# bag Songbird Delight Mix \$13
25# bag of Safflower seed \$22

Support Chaplin Nature Center while helping out your neighborhood birds.

And a big thank-you to Mary and Karl Herold, Kevin Groeneweg, Hank Hoesli and Joan Dingman for their help with delivery for our January sale.

Chisholm Creek Park Cleanup

Join us on Saturday, March 18, to help clean up our adopted park. We'll provide bags. Bring gloves and help us show our appreciation for all the support we get from the Great Plains Nature Center. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 9 a.m.

Leader: Sandra Tholen, stholen@cox.net, 634-0049



Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is asking your help in filling the following positions for the next program year: president, secretary, and two directors. Our program year is from July 1 to June 30. The president serves a two-year term, the secretary is a one year term, and the directors are three-year terms.

The committee members are Anne Woods (amwoods624@aol.com), Bob Gress (bobgress@cox.net), and Carol Cumberland (carol.cumberland@swbell.net)

If you are interested in serving or have suggestions, please contact one of the committee members. They would be glad to explain the jobs and what they require.

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

2016-2017 WAS Officers

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------|--|
| President | Gregg Friesen | | friesen_fenton@yahoo.com |
| Vice-president | Jim Marlett | 942-2164 | jmarlett@cox.net |
| Secretary | Anne Woods | 688-1889 | amwoods624@aol.com |
| Treasurer | Kevin Groeneweg | 706-9116 | kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net |
| Directors | Bill Langley | 889-5434 | 1943blangley@gmail.com |
| | Atcha Nolan | 323-4921 | qanolan@cox.net |
| | Susan Hammer | 788-1472 | susan.e.hammer@gmail.com |
| | Travis Ross | 706-7813 | rosstravis@yahoo.com |
| | Tom Ewert | 670-3140 | trewert@yahoo.com |
| | Karl Herold | 655-2389 | kjherold2@gmail.com |

Committee Chairs

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| AOK Rep | Tom Ewert | 670-3140 | trewert@yahoo.com |
| Conservation | Anne Woods | 688-1889 | amwoods624@aol.com |
| CNC | Travis Ross | 706-7813 | rosstravis@yahoo.com |
| Field trips | Cheryl Miller | | avian67226@gmail.com |
| Hospitality | Sarah Blackmon | 264-4408 | |
| Membership | Tom Ewert | 670-3140 | trewert@yahoo.com |
| Newsletter | Patty Marlett | 942-2164 | pmarlett@mac.com |
| Programs | Jim Marlett | 942-2164 | jmarlett@cox.net |
| Naturalist | Shawn Silliman | 620-442-4133 | cnc@wichitaaudubon.org |

www.wichitaaudubon.org

Send address changes to Tom Ewert, 5829 N Legion St, Wichita, KS 67204, trewert@yahoo.com

Save A Tree

We have a digital version of our newsletter available. If you would like to receive it by e-mail rather than snail mail let us know. Email us at newsletter@wichitaaudubon.org.

Help Oak Park!

On Saturday, March 25, you can participate in a project of the Wichita Department of Park & Recreation to remove invasive Asian 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. We'll spend 3 - 4 hours removing these plants, directed by the Wichita Parks Department staff. Tools, gloves and bottled water will be provided. This is good exercise and a positive contribution to preserving habitat quality at one of our best local birding spots. You should wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Meet at 9 a.m. by the stone arch in the southwest corner of the park.



The Eagle Watch at Chaplin Nature Center on January 27 only saw distant Bald Eagles, but the woodland birds put on a good show.



We were treated to thousands of waterfowl on the Cheney Reservoir field trip January 27, along with several Bald Eagles.



On the 2nd Saturday bird walk February 10 one of the best birds was a Hermit Thrush. He got his picture taken by lots of people.



Chaplin Nature Center Programs

Friday, March 3, 7 - 8 p.m. No Flashlight Night Hike

Finding your way down a trail at night without a flashlight is an interesting challenge. But it is not that difficult once you learn to use your other senses. As we navigate our way down the trail we will listen for nearby wildlife. Dress for cold weather and wear sturdy shoes.

Saturday, April 1, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Spring Clean-up

The busy season is just around the corner. We have lots to do to get ready for school groups and visitors. Trails need to be cleared, leaves need to be raked and the Visitors Center needs a good cleaning. We need volunteers of all ages and skills. Additionally, you can help out by bringing a leaf rake and/or tree pruner. Call the Center for more information at 620-442-4133 or email cnc@wichitaudubon.org.



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.