

# Wichita Audubon

Volume 48 No. 8 May/June 2014



## MAY MEETING



Wichita Audubon Society is full of adventurous people capturing nature, wildlife, scenery, sunsets and excitement in photos. Bob Gress has put together images that have been submitted by members and others into a single presentation. Each photo may include stories and the high adventures it took to capture these amazing creatures. Come and join the fun!

Join us on Tuesday, May 20, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center as everyone shares their adventures. You can join Bob and the other presenters for dinner before the meeting at Panera at Central and Hillside at 5:30 p.m.

## CHAPLIN NATURE CENTER UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### **Saturday, May 31, 8:30 - 10 p.m. Astronomy Program**

Take a tour of the night sky with the Kansas Astronomical Observers. Through the use of telescopes, participants will have a chance to observe Saturn, Jupiter and possibly Mercury. Double stars and other deep sky objects will be targeted and common constellations will be pointed out.

### **Saturday, June 7, 8:30 -10:30 a.m. Bird, Butterflies, Breakfast and Wildflowers, too!**

Start your day to a melody of birds as we have a hearty breakfast on the Visitor Center upper balcony. After breakfast we will hike the trails of the nature center in search of birds, butterflies, and wildflowers. To make reservations call the Center by June 3. \$5 suggested donation.

### **June 13, Friday, 7 - 9:30 p.m. Twilight Kayak Float**

Enjoy a 3-mile guided trip down the Arkansas River as the sun sets and the moon rises. Kayak, life jacket and paddle will be provided. Your \$25 donation will help support our education programs at the Center. Space is limited, so call the Center to reserve your space. Cost: \$25

## COMING EVENTS

### **May 17**

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

### **May 20**

Regular meeting, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Program: "Members Photography" by Bob Gress.

### **May 31**

Astronomy Program at Chaplin Nature Center, 8:30 - 10 p.m. Leader: Shawn Silliman, 620-442-4133, cnc@wichitaudubon.org

### **June 7**

Bird, Butterflies and Breakfast at Chaplin Nature Center. Make reservations by June 3. Leader: Shawn Silliman, 620-442-4133, cnc@wichitaudubon.org

### **June 13**

Twilight Kayak Float at Chaplin Nature Center. Leader: Shawn Silliman, 620-442-4133, 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.

*Like us on  
Facebook!*

## **CNC SPRING CLEAN-UP**

Almost 50 volunteers showed up for the Chaplin Nature Center's annual spring clean-up. Teams of adults and scouts worked on clearing trails, putting up new fence posts and installing a new kiosk. The inside of the Visitors Center got a good scrubbing that even Martha Stewart would be proud of. Thanks to the following for giving up a Saturday to help make Chaplin a more enjoyable place: Eddie Stegall, Dale Randall, Susan Hammer, Carol Cumberland, Kevin Groeneweg, Sabra Cazel, Jason Case and Family, Fred Bunting, Kohl's Associates in Action, Winfield Boy Scouts Troop 318 and Pack 318.



*Fred Bunting, Shawn Silliman and Kevin Groeneweg put up a new kiosk.*

## **BIRDATHON**

It's that time of year again for our annual Birdathon. This fund-raiser is a very important source of funding for Chaplin Nature Center every year. Just contact a team member and tell them you would like to help. Pledges can be made based on the number of species the team finds or can be a fixed amount. For the CNC team contact Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, [cnc@wichitaaudubon.org](mailto:cnc@wichitaaudubon.org), or Kevin Groeneweg, [kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net). For the Painted Bunting team contact Carol Cumberland, 685-4867, [carol.cumberland@swbell.net](mailto:carol.cumberland@swbell.net) or Patty Marlett, 942-2164, [pmarlett@mac.com](mailto:pmarlett@mac.com). Both teams are planning on early May for their marathon bird search.

### **2013-2014 WAS Officers**

|                  |                  |              |  |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|--|
| President        | Carol Cumberland | 685-4867     | <a href="mailto:carol.cumberland@swbell.net">carol.cumberland@swbell.net</a> |
| Vice-president   | Cheryl Miller    |              | <a href="mailto:avian67226@gmail.com">avian67226@gmail.com</a>               |
| Secretary        | Dennice Craig    | 788-0320     | <a href="mailto:mdcraigster@gmail.com">mdcraigster@gmail.com</a>             |
| Treasurer        | Rod Wedel        | 215-4362     | <a href="mailto:redb819@sbcglobal.net">redb819@sbcglobal.net</a>             |
| Directors        | Tom Ewert        | 670-3140     | <a href="mailto:trewert@yahoo.com">trewert@yahoo.com</a>                     |
|                  | Bob Gress        | 838-4130     | <a href="mailto:bobgress@cox.net">bobgress@cox.net</a>                       |
|                  | Kevin Groeneweg  | 706-9116     | <a href="mailto:kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net">kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net</a>       |
|                  | Mike Heaney      | 733-6458     | <a href="mailto:jeager@southwind.net">jeager@southwind.net</a>               |
|                  | Catherine Lewis  | 992-1708     | <a href="mailto:seasidesparrow@mac.com">seasidesparrow@mac.com</a>           |
|                  | Pete Janzen      | 519-1979     | <a href="mailto:pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net">pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net</a>     |
| Committee Chairs |                  |              |  |
| CNC              | Kevin Groeneweg  | 706-9116     | <a href="mailto:kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net">kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net</a>       |
| Development      | Mike Heaney      | 733-6458     | <a href="mailto:jeager@southwind.net">jeager@southwind.net</a>               |
| Finance          | Duane DeLong     | 684-7456     | <a href="mailto:duane.delong669@gmail.com">duane.delong669@gmail.com</a>     |
| Hospitality      | Sarah Blackmon   | 264-4408     |  |
| Membership       | Tom Ewert        | 670-3140     | <a href="mailto:trewert@yahoo.com">trewert@yahoo.com</a>                     |
| Newsletter       | Patty Marlett    | 942-2164     | <a href="mailto:pmarlett@mac.com">pmarlett@mac.com</a>                       |
| Programs         | Cheryl Miller    |              | <a href="mailto:avian67226@gmail.com">avian67226@gmail.com</a>               |
| Naturalist       | Shawn Silliman   | 620-442-4133 | <a href="mailto:cnc@wichitaaudubon.org">cnc@wichitaaudubon.org</a>           |

### **WWW.WICHITAAUDUBON.ORG**

E-mail any officer: [was@wichitaaudubon.org](mailto:was@wichitaaudubon.org)  
Send address changes to Tom Ewert, 1021 N. Lakewind, Wichita, KS 67212, [trewert@yahoo.com](mailto:trewert@yahoo.com)

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The nominating committee will present the following slate of officers for election at the May meeting:

Vice-president: Pete Janzen

Secretary: Ann Woods

Treasurer: Rod Wedel

Board of Directors:

(3 year terms)

Dallas Hewitt

Travis Ross

(2 year term)

Gregg Friesen

(1 year term)

Em Capoun

Carol Cumberland will continue as President for the second year of her two year term of office.

## WICHITA AUDUBON: 60 YEARS OF MEMORIES

*This is the conclusion of a look back at our history, written by newsletter editor Patty Marlett*

In 1997 Gerald Weins left us after 16 years as our naturalist and manager at Chaplin Nature Center. Volunteers kept the visitor's center and the nature center open over the summer as we searched for a new naturalist. We signed a contract with Shawn Silliman on June 30, and he moved to CNC with his wife Susan and their son Jacob. Shawn came from Indianapolis where he had worked as an activity specialist at Eagle Creek Nature Center. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Naturalism and Outdoor Education. He has since completed a Master's degree in Environmental Studies. Shawn has done much to build and enhance our education and outreach programs, and does an outstanding job managing the property.

In May of 2000 the first Twilight Dinner was held at CNC. This dinner on the sandbar down by the river was a way of thanking our donors and engaging the public in our beautiful setting. It is not held every year, and sometimes high water makes the sandbar unavailable, but it continues as a spring event.

In 2004 we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the chapter with a banquet at the Wichita Art Museum featuring speaker Kenn Kaufmann. We also held a Bioblitz at Chaplin Nature Center, where experts from every field of biology were invited to discover as many species of living things as they could find. The total for one day was 547 species! A big crowd of spectators came to watch them work and share in the discoveries.

Another big event at CNC was the completion of new exhibits in the visitor's center. A team from the Kauffman Museum in North Newton designed and constructed the exhibits. Shawn, Kevin Groeneweg and Patty Marlett also put in many hours of work.

Rex Herndon and Dwight Shoup installed skylights in the building. It took nearly two years of planning and months of construction, but the results were outstanding.

Operating and maintaining a nature center requires money, and the chapter works every year to raise funds. Some notable fund-raising efforts over the last twenty years include an auction held on the occasion of our fortieth anniversary, with Joseph Collins as auctioneer. Louise Wherry organized a committee that published and sold a cookbook of member's recipes. We had a special event with a performance by a John James Audubon re-enactor. Our longest running fund-raiser is

Birdathon. Teams of birders get pledges from supporters, then spend 24 hours finding as many species of birds as possible. It is a friendly competition among the teams, both for the number of species found and the amount of money raised.

An important factor in the success of Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center has been the generosity of our members and supporters. Several

people designated WAS in their estates, and their gifts have been significant in building an endowment for the future. Estate gifts have come from Marjorie Marshall, Elizabeth Bishop, Dick Metz, Robert and Laura Kaufman, Ethylene Lonnberg, Eugenia Love, Craig Newman, Anna Adrian, and Ruth and Bev Hodges.

In 1996 our monthly meetings were moved to the new Great Plains Nature Center after several years of meeting at Botanica. WAS has maintained a close relationship with this facility and it has been a tremendous resource for us.

Wichita Audubon was a strong supporter of the Kansas Audubon Council after its inception in the late 1970's. Made up of representatives from each Kansas Audubon chapter, the council was our main voice for political advocacy. It provided leadership



*A field trip in Chisholm Creek Park with Kenn Kaufmann in September, 2004*

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### **Wichita Audubon: 60 Years of Memories, continued**

for the restoration of Cheyenne Bottoms, the Platte River in Nebraska, and the Wild & Scenic River designation for part of the Niobrara River in Nebraska. Several WAS members held officer positions in the council over the years. Changes in the National Audubon Society meant the end of the council in late 1990's, but it evolved into Audubon of Kansas, an entity separate from the National Audubon Society. Audubon of Kansas continues to lead the way with issues like the Black-footed Ferret introduction in Kansas, highway right-of-way enhancement, wind farm siting, and many others.

The first Meritorious Service Award was presented in 1994 to John Wherry. This annual award honors a volunteer for outstanding or sustained leadership as member, officer, committee



*Three recipients of the Meritorious Service Award: Kevin Groeneweg, Pete Janzen and Dan Kilby*

chair or special project leader. Recipients are:

*1994 John Wherry  
1995 Ralph Wiley &  
Geula McDonald  
1996 Nathan McDonald  
1997 Louise Wherry  
1998 Don Vannoy  
1999 Bob Gress  
2000 Dan Kilby  
2001 Rex Herndon  
2002 Wallace Champeny  
2003 Patty Marlett  
2004 Carol Cumberland  
2005 Sandra Tholen  
2006 Kevin Groeneweg  
2007 Laura Groeneweg  
2008 Duane DeLong  
2009 Pete Janzen  
2010 Shawn Silliman  
2011 Jay Newton*

Wichita Audubon has remained strong through all these years thanks to the leadership and hard work of its many volunteers. Let's all keep it going for another sixty years.