

# Audubon

Vol. 63 No.8

May/June 2024

## May Meeting

Elizabeth Walker, our director of Chaplin Nature Center, will present "Get to Know Chaplin Nature Center: Biodiversity, Ecology and the Importance of Continued Conservation Efforts."

Chaplin Nature Center is a familiar name to many members of WAS. Located just outside of Arkansas City, this 230-acre property was purchased by WAS back in 1973 and has since been transformed into a preserve and nature center. After over 50 years, Chaplin Nature Center has a long history of community involvement and conservation education.

While conservation as a whole is a cornerstone of Chaplin Nature Center's message, we believe that the CNC property in particular is pretty special. Located on the Arkansas River, the preserve offers a variety of habitats, from river bottomland to forest to tallgrass prairie. This property is home to many species- from mammals to land snails and everything in between! CNC also offers key habitat to migratory species, including a variety of birds. Come join us to learn more about Chaplin Nature Center and the importance of conserving it!

Originally from Ohio, Liz has a degree in biology from Trinity University in San Antonio. Most recently she was director of the Pratt Education Center for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. She has been at CNC since August.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, May 21, 7 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center. A recording of the program will be available on [YouTube](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Keep up to date on all our activities at [www.wichitaudubon.org/events](http://www.wichitaudubon.org/events)*

### **May 11, 8 am Second Saturday bird walk in Chisholm Creek Park.**

No birding experience needed. Expect 1-2 miles of walking on paved paths for about 90 minutes. Meet in the parking lot at 8 a.m. *Questions?* Tom Ewert, 316-670-3140, [trewert@yahoo.com](mailto:trewert@yahoo.com)

### **May 18, 7 am – 1 pm Chaplin Nature Center field trip**

We'll explore our own Chaplin Nature Center, as well as other nearby birding spots like the Kaw Wildlife Management Area along Grouse Creek and around Camp Horizon and Silverdale. We usually find some good birds like Prothonotary Warblers, Pileated Woodpeckers and many more. Meet at the nature center at 7 a.m. and bring a lunch. We'll probably finish around 1 p.m., unless the birding is really good!

Contact Patty if you are interested in carpooling from Wichita.

*Leader: Patty Marlett, 316-200-3419, [pmarlett@cox.net](mailto:pmarlett@cox.net)*

*A map to Chaplin is available here: [wichitaudubon.org/cnc/](http://wichitaudubon.org/cnc/)*

# New Blind at Chaplin

Just east of the Visitor's Center is a fountain and pond given in memory of Helen Rudder. It has been there for many years, but now has been given a makeover.

Bill Gress, with materials donated by his brother Bob, has built a blind so visitors can enjoy birds coming to the water without scaring them away. A big thanks to Bill - it looks great!



The viewing side of the blind



The birds' view of the blind



The fountain & pond before the blind

## June 1, 8 – 10 am CNC First Saturday Bird Walk

Join us for our monthly bird watching hike around CNC! No introductory presentation is planned for the start of this program; we will be jumping straight into birding! Expect to hike 1-2 miles. No experience or equipment necessary!

For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Elizabeth Walker at 620-442-4133, or e-mail [cnc@wichitaaudubon.org](mailto:cnc@wichitaaudubon.org). For a map to CNC see [wichitaaudubon.org/cnc/](http://wichitaaudubon.org/cnc/)

## June 15, 9 am – 12 pm Chaplin Nature Center Intro to "Herping": Educational Program and Field Day

Herpetology, or the study of reptiles and amphibians, is a fascinating field of science! Just like "birders" go find birds, "herpers" go out looking for reptiles and amphibians- and that's just what we will be doing for this program! Following an indoor presentation on the reptiles and amphibians of Kansas, we will be exploring the property in search of the reptiles and amphibians that call CNC home! This program is great for all ages and no experience or equipment is required.

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# Nominations

This year's nominating committee was Patty Marlett, Tom Ewert, and Pete Janzen.

Our president, Barbara Gobbert has had to resign due to a big project at work. Normally she would have served a two year term. Bob Gress has agreed to step up and serve as president. Thank you to Barbara for all her work this past year!

All other officers serve one year terms, and all the current officers have agreed to serve again next year: Mark Nolen, vice-president; Dan Householder, secretary; Kevin Groeneweg, treasurer.

Two members of the board of directors have finished their three year terms: Nick Stroot and Jeremy Birket. Nick has agreed to serve another term. Jeremy has now served six years on the board, which is the limit decreed by the bylaws, so he will be leaving us. Thank you, Jeremy, for all your time and effort!

The nominating committee is presenting two new board members: Patty Marlett, who will be replacing Bob Gress on the board, and Evalynn Trumbo.

Evalynn is new to our group, but has an impressive resume! She works at Wichita State University as a research project manager in the Biological Sciences Department. She works on a large, multi-faceted research project to study bird and plant communities in cattle grazed CRP lands. She is an avid birder, originally from Missouri, but she's worked in a variety of states from Texas to North Dakota. In North Dakota, she was involved with local Audubon groups leading birding hikes and performing bird banding demonstrations.

# Park Cleanup Thanks

A big thank you to everyone who helped clean up Chisholm Creek Park on April 13. And a special thanks to Brian and Nohora Talarico for organizing and providing drinks and donuts, plus a door prize!