



NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

A chapter of the National Audubon Society

June - July 2009 Newsletter

Calendar Considerations

JUNE 1 – Prairie Workday, Elkhorn Creek BP, Black Oak Savanna, 8-10 a.m. Carpool 7:30. See page 3 for details.

JUNE 8 – Prairie Workday, Freeport Prairie, 7-9 a.m. See page 3 for details.

JUNE 11 – “Talking About the Issues” monthly discussion session at John and Anita Nienhuis’s home in rural Pearl City, 7-9 p.m. Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 6:30 or call John and Anita (815-443-2401) for directions. Join us in this pleasant setting along Yellow Creek as we informally discuss a variety of environmental issues.

JUNE 11 – Prairie Workday, Elkhorn Creek BP, Bluestem View, 6-8 a.m. See page 3 for details.

JUNE 14 – Quarterly Audubon Council of Illinois (ACI) meeting in Champaign, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. For agenda and carpool information, contact Blackmores at (815) 938-3204.

JUNE 15 – Prairie Workday, Elkhorn Creek BP, Fruit Bowl, 8-10 a.m. See page 3 for details.

JUNE 18 – Prairie Workday, Elkhorn Creek BP, Spiderwort Vista, 7-9 a.m. See page 3 for details.

JUNE 19 – Firefly Campfire at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve (see next page).

JUNE 19 - 20 – The 20th Anniversary Energy Fair takes place at the ReNew the Earth Institute in Custer, WI. This premier energy education event will feature classes, workshops, car show, and networking opportunities in sustainable living. See page 3 for details.

JUNE 22 – Prairie Workday, Elkhorn Creek BP, Sandy Slope, 6-8 a.m. See page 3 for details.

JUNE 25 – The Conservation Committee (really, any and all interested individuals) will meet at Amigos Restaurant, 306 N. Galena Ave. in downtown Freeport at 5:30 p.m. Join us for fine food and a stimulating discussion. We wrap it up before 7:30.

JUNE 27 – Prairie Workday, Elkhorn Creek BP, Blazing Star Saddles, 7-9 a.m. Carpool 6:30. See page 3 for details.

JUNE 30 – Prairie Workday, Elkhorn Creek BP, Upper Planting, 6-8 a.m. Carpool 5:30. See page 3 for details.

JULY 2 – Prairie Workday, Freeport Prairie, 7-9 a.m. Carpool 6:30. See page 3 for details.

JULY 7 – Full Moon Campfire at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve (see next page.)

JULY 9 – Prairie Workday, Elkhorn Creek BP, Bluestem View, 6-8 a.m. Carpool 5:30. See page 3 for details.

JULY 11 – Prairie Workday, Elkhorn Creek BP, Elkhorn Riparian Strip, 8-10 a.m. Carpool 7:30 a.m. See page 3 for details.

JULY 12 – “Talking About the Issues” special potluck and discussion session at the home of Rich and Jeni Pearce, 3090 S. Elizabeth-Scales Mound Rd., just northwest of Elizabeth. The dinner begins at 1 p.m. followed by our monthly issue discussion. This is an excellent opportunity for our more western members to exchange food and conversation with eastern members who will carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at high noon. Bring table service and a dish to pass. For directions, call Rich and Jeni at (815) 858 - 2026.

Calendar Considerations continues on next page

The public is welcome at all chapter activities

JULY 15 – Prairie Workday, Elkhorn Creek BP, Old Joe Seep, 6-8 a.m. Carpool 5:30 a.m. See page 3 for details.

JULY 17 & 18 - NIAS Board Meeting & Retreat; at Kara Gallup's; Board meeting will be held during the evening of July 17 from 7:00-9:00 PM. The retreat will be held the next day during morning and early afternoon. Details will be forthcoming to all NIAS board members.

JULY 20 – Prairie Workday, Elkhorn Creek BP, Upper Planting, 6-8 a.m. Carpool 5:30 a.m. See page 3 for details.

JULY 30 – The Conservation Committee (everyone welcome!) will meet at Amigos Restaurant 306 N. Galena Ave. in downtown Freeport at 5:30 p.m. Join us for fine food and stimulating discussion. We wrap it up before 7:30.

Register Now for Fall Conference

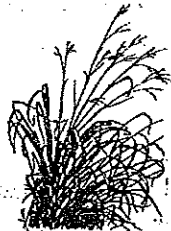
Staying close to home this fall? Why not attend the Upper Midwest Regional Audubon Conference at beautiful Chestnut Mountain Resort near Galena?

Taking place the weekend of September 18-20, the conference will feature great keynote speakers including talented area wildlife photographer David Olson, and noted author Scott Russell Sanders. In addition there will be many informative sessions to choose from, a wonderful selection of field trips, and evening social events featuring lots of fun and fellowship.

The conference cost is only \$75 if you register before August 1. To obtain a brochure, contact conference co-chair Kara Gallup at (815)871-8014 or karagallup@msn.com.

Firefly Campfire at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve

On June 19th at 7 p.m. we'll take a leisurely stroll to observe blooming plants and resident birds. The campfire will begin at 8 p.m. S'mores and water will be provided. Bring a lawn chair and flashlight. Carpool from the Staples lot just off of HWY 26 in Freeport at 6:30 p.m. The Preserve is located about 3 miles southwest of Forreton in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds. Parking is off of West Grove Rd.



Full Moon Campfire at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve

Details same as June 19.

Elkhorn Creek Bluebird Trail

A series of 9 bluebird houses – all built by John Walt – were installed at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve in April. Helping with painting and placement of the boxes were Don Southard and Keith and Mary Blackmore. Don will be monitoring the trail. Many thanks to these four individuals for their efforts.

At the April 29 bird walk at the Preserve, we observed Tree Swallows using at least two of the boxes. We'll let you know what nesting success occurs in the boxes.



MREA Energy Fair Information

Since 1990, the Midwest Renewable Energy Fair has shown fairgoers how to change the world while having fun. Each summer the Fair transforms rural central Wisconsin into the global hot spot for renewable energy education. The Energy Fair is the world's largest renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living educational event of its kind. Please join us this year!

The Energy Fair features hundreds of workshops and exhibits all emphasizing clean energy & sustainable living and is fun for the whole family.

Energy Fair Features

- * Over 270 exhibitors
- * Over 200 workshops
- * Mass transit offered from Madison, Milwaukee, Green Bay/Appleton, Chicago and Minneapolis.
- * Free hourly shuttles from Stevens Point
- * Clean Energy Car Show
- * Green Home Pavilion
- * Sustainable Table Workshop Area
- * Educator Workshops
- * Hands On Workshops
- * Food, entertainment for the whole family!



EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES: The Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP) offers a number of classes and networking opportunities at The Energy Fair. Check out the KEEP website for details.

Stewardship Information

Please join us for one of more of the following stewardship days at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve, the Swalve Prairie, and the Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve as we cut brush, nip parsnip, remove cedars and otherwise reduce competition in our native prairie and wetland remnants.

Times: Workday times vary and are listed with each date. Our work usually is followed by breakfast or brunch at a nearby restaurant for those who are interested.

Clothing: wear a hat, long pants, long sleeves and shoes or boots that you don't mind getting wet from dew.

Carpooling: Carpool as indicated from the east end of the Staples parking lot off of HWY 26 in Freeport.

Site Directions: Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve is about 3 miles Southwest of Forreton in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds. Parking is off of West Grove Rd. Park in the same lot for working on the adjacent Swalve Prairie. The Freeport Prairie is just north of the Freeport Raceway on the south edge of Freeport off of Walnut St.

Leaders: Call the listed leader(s) for further information or if weather is questionable.



New Crane Count Records for Stephenson County

A record high number of volunteers – 28 – observed a record high number of Sandhill Cranes – 31 – in Stephenson County for the April 18 Annual Midwest Crane Count. Included in that count were 7 confirmed pairs.

Counters were at 12 sites along Richland Creek, the Pecatonica River, and several small streams in the county. Cranes seemed to be most abundant along Richland Creek.

Thanks go to our counters: Anne Straight, Dan Barron, Eve Wilczewski, Korey and Diane Phillips, Karla Toelke, Colleen Wilson, Sherrie Shoemaker, Judy Corrie, Bonnie Bade, Allan Stearns, Don Southard, Tim and Teresa Smith, Delia Hamburg, Bill Long, Keith Blackmore, Gary Gordon, Glenn Hagemann, Pat Knight, Alice and Jesse Akins, Melody Farringer, Larry Seffrood, John Walt, Sandy Toerber, Anita Nienhuis, and County Coordinator Mary Blackmore.

Prairie Stewardship Calendar:

June 1 – Elkhorn Creek BP, Black Oak Savanna, 8-10 a.m. Carpool 7:30. Leader: Alan Nowicki (815)235-6121, Ext. 3462.

June 8 – Freeport Prairie, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore (815) 938-3204.

June 11 – Elkhorn Creek BP, Bluestem View, 6-8 a.m. Carpool 5:30 a.m. Leader: Kara Gallup (815) 871-8014.

June 15 – Elkhorn Creek BP, Fruit Bowl, 8-10 a.m. Carpool 7:30 Leaders: Wendy Gibbons and Dan Wenny (815) 776-0826.

June 18 – Elkhorn Creek BP, Spiderwort Vista, 7-9 a.m. Carpool 6:30. Leader: Anne Straight (815) 938-3263.

June 22 – Elkhorn Creek BP, Sandy Slope, 6-8 a.m. Carpool 5:30. Leaders: John and Anita Nienhuis (815) 443-2401.

June 27 – Elkhorn Creek BP, Blazing Star Saddles, 7-9 a.m. Carpool 6:30. Leaders: Chris Kruger, Don Southard, John Walt (Chris at 815-449-2019.)

June 30 Elkhorn Creek BP, Upper Planting, 6-8 a.m. Carpool 5:30. Leader: Keith Blackmore (815)938-3204.

July 2 – Freeport Prairie, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore (815)938-3204.

July 9 – Elkhorn Creek BP, Bluestem View, 6-8 a.m. Carpool 5:30. Leader Kara Gallup (815)871-8014.

July 11 – Elkhorn Creek BP, Elkhorn Riparian Strip, 8-10 a.m. Carpool 7:30 a.m. Leader: Jeremy Dixon (815)821-3921.

July 15 – Elkhorn Creek BP, Old Joe Seep, 6-8 a.m. Carpool 5:30 a.m. Leaders: Nancy and Randy Ocken, (815)938-3506.

July 20 – Elkhorn Creek BP, Upper Planting, 6-8 a.m. Carpool 5:30 a.m. Leader: Keith Blackmore (815) 938-3204.

Welcome New Members!

Welcome the following new members:

Karin Strenski from Galena

Lynne Howe from Lena

John and Janie Dollinger from Shannon

When Does My Membership Expire?

Several members have been asking when their membership expires. The address label on your newsletter includes the expiration date for your membership.

Annual Banquet Hums!

Over 130 members and friends attended our chapter's annual banquet on April 15 where they learned about hummingbirds and how to attract them, had fun bidding on a wide variety of silent auction items, and enjoyed a delightful meal.

Many of the volunteers helped to make the banquet a success. A huge thank you goes to all of those who volunteered for auction set-up, flier mailing, registration acceptance, coffee sales, speaker contact and set-up and many other tasks: Diane Phillips, John and Anita Nienhuis, Chris Kruger, Keith and Mary Blackmore, Judy Kurr, Noreen Caliva, Richard Benning, Teresa Smith, Wendy Gibbons and Kara Gallup.

Additionally, we'd like to thank the many people who donated items to our silent auction, which netted nearly \$1000: Tony Grahame, Christine Last, Maggie Davidson, Karl Wiegand, Lois Stevens, Teresa Smith, Wendell Kurr, Phil and Lona Kniskern, Alice Akins, Korey Phillips, Bill Long, Diane Phillips, Anita Nienhuis, Chris Kruger, John and Susan Walt, Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District, Don and Pauline Southard, Ken and Pam Rosmann, Bonnie Bade, Carole Litus, Lyle and Helen Sykora, Virginia Thorn, Della Moen, Joan Larson, Eve Wilczewski, Christine Wilczewski, Mary Blackmore, Dave Derwent, Dick Frost, Dan Barron, Don and Sandy Tune, Eunice Benning, Dan Smith, Dan and Diana Nye, and Vivian Maxson.

We'd also like to thank the individuals who made and donated those mouth-watering desserts: Anne Straight, Pat Knight, Mary Blackmore, Judy Corrie, Laura Dufford, Diana Nye, Violet Frederick, Della Moen, Molly Doolittle, Linda Weigle, Alice Akins, Diane Phillips, Gil and Sharon Mitchell, Leah Dixon, Phyllis Seffrood, and Anita Nienhuis.

Lastly we wish to thank the men and women of Embury United Methodist Church who so expertly prepared and served a most delicious meal.

Thank You, Burn Volunteers

Our chapter expresses deep appreciation to the following individuals for helping with chapter-led preserved burns and prairie seeding this spring: Harlan and Judy Corrie, Mary and Keith Blackmore, Dan and Diana Nye, Don Southard, Lucas Bradley, Steve Simpson, Tammy Kochaver, Gil and Sharon Mitchell, Larry Seffrood, Richard Benning, Jeremy Dixon, and Tim Keller.

Toward a Cooler Planet

This is the twelfth in a series of articles looking at the many things that each of us can do to help with global warming.

Staying Cool

It was a long hard winter, rather like the ones Grandpa talked about. It was the kind of weather that teaches valuable lessons. In winter a brisk wind can drive the wind-chill down to dangerous, school-cancelling lows. In summer the brisk wind can change an oppressively sweltering day into a tolerably hot, seasonably normal afternoon. Why the difference?

Winter or summer we lose moisture through our skin, some 300 ml/day for most folks. This is not sweat, but part of what is called insensible water loss. When this moisture changes from liquid to vapor via evaporation, heat from the body surface is withdrawn – 600 kcal/liter – thus cooling the body. In the winter, this increases the chance for frostbite; in the summer, it is refreshing. Wind enhances the cooling effect during both seasons.

We apply the same logic as we humidify our homes in the winter and thereby reduce evaporation from our bodies. This allows us to lower our thermostats 2 °F and save 6% on carbon dioxide-generating fuel use. Similarly, by reversing the process during the summer, we dehumidify the air in our homes, thereby increasing evaporation from our skin, thus cooling us. In turn, this allows us to bump air conditioners up 3 °F and save 8% on fuel and reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) by the same amount.

Using a small fan to create an artificial breeze will allow you to reduce your air conditioning even more. In some circumstances fans can keep you quite comfortable thereby avoiding the cost of air conditioning altogether. Sitting under your favorite shade tree is even better. Even a small apple tree with its 100,000 leaves cools the air more than 9,000 kilocalories every hour. Consider the graceful elm with its 6 million leaves. It is roughly equivalent to a 2 million BTU solar powered air conditioner.

The climate-friendly solutions to summer's heat are to run your air conditioner as infrequently as possible, use a fan and plant a local ecotype tree. The latter is a triple winner: it prevents CO₂ emissions, removes CO₂ as it grows, and provides cooling shade.

Keith Blackmore



CONNECTIONS:

Quiz: What father-daughter team was on last year's Audubon board?

Answer: Dick Luthin and Laura

Dufford. Dick wasn't expelled for bad behavior; he just cycled off as president emeritus. Laura is an at-large member, helping with sustainable agriculture.

Laura certainly comes from an environmentally active family, but her own passion was fired when, as a high school junior, she took ecology, taught by---can you guess?---yes, Keith Blackmore! Ready to roll with this new enthusiasm, Laura went on a backpacking trip sponsored by the Rockford YMCA to Colorado that summer and identified with John Denver and "Rocky Mountain High."

Eventually Laura went on several of Keith's bird trips, and in the course of that went to all three of the bird trip destinations: the Northern trip, Big Bend, and the Outer Banks.

When she was ready for college, Laura knew she wanted to work in something environmental and so majored in biology at Southern Illinois University, with an emphasis on ecology, and a minor in geology. For nine months she was an intern for the Crane Foundation, working in prairie restoration, which she says is the best job she ever had and cemented her interest in prairie restoration. She also worked as an intern at the Environmental Center in Carbondale.

Meanwhile, Laura met her future husband Doug in college on a field trip to the Konza Prairie in Kansas. Going from Illinois to Kansas and back again on a school bus provides plenty of time for conversation. Laura and Doug took advantage of it.

When they got engaged, they were dirt poor as at that point he was a grad student and she was working at low-paying internships. She decided they could better spend money on a canoe than on an engagement ring, an idea Doug seconded with great enthusiasm. They did buy a canoe during the first few months of marriage, still have it and still use it. Meanwhile, she was given her grandmother's diamond ring to use in an engagement ring, so they had it all.

Laura volunteered for the USDA in Missouri and in the Galesburg area and then was hired by the USDA; she

Laura Dufford

by Carol Redmore

continued working there after they moved to Stockton and was employed by the USDA for 18 years. In time she

became weighed down by the massive bureaucracy and sometimes less-than-intelligent directions, such as the time they were to plant ground vetch, the very thing Laura and others were trying to dig out of prairies.

In time she became weighed down by the massive bureaucracy and sometimes less-than-intelligent directions, such as the time they were to plant ground vetch, the very thing Laura and others were trying to dig out of prairies.

However, Laura notes that her work with USDA/NRCS was a worthwhile endeavor as it gave her a sense of what agriculture and policy was all about. She also came to realize that not all farmers are taking that opportunity and, unfortunately, it's our government agriculture policies that tend to steer them away from good environmental practices on the farm. Everything is about production. The experience has also made her a strong supporter of NIAS sponsoring activities through the Sustainable Ag committee - supporting sustainably and locally grown food.

After Laura quit full-time work with USDA, since 2005 she has done free-lancing, growing prairie plants at a private nursery, and volunteer work through Audubon and Natural Guardians of Jo Daviess County. Her interest in Audubon solidified when she and her family moved to Stockton and became co-field trip chairs, so her work with Audubon extends much further back than 2005 and obviously continues today.

Doug and Laura live in the country on Fitzsimmons Road near Stockton. Doug is a biologist for the DNR, and the Duffords have two daughters, Courtney, 17, and Emily, 15. Laura says they have tried to bring up their daughters to appreciate the environment and the wild world without forcing it on them. They have taken several camping and canoeing trips (in that faithful engagement canoe) and try to get outdoor experience whenever they can---hiking, biking, camping, canoeing, picnicking, etc. She and Doug hope that through the years the girls have gained an appreciation for this wild and wonderful world and the realization of how important it is that they do their part to protect and preserve it. So far the girls aren't bird watchers, but Laura remains hopeful!

Yes, I would like to give a gift membership in the
National Audubon Society/Northwest Illinois Audubon Society to:

Name: _____ Address _____

School (if student) _____

Gift card to _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Membership type:

Individual _____ (\$ 20)

Student _____ (\$9)

Senior citizen _____ (\$15)

Chapter only _____ (\$15)

Make check payable to NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
and mail to Treasurer, Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

P.O. Box 771, Freeport, IL 61032

Sorry, this discount does not apply to renewals.

ADDRESSES OF YOUR LEGISLATORS

Federal

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Kluczynski Building 38th Floor
230 S. Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60604

Senator Roland Burris
523 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 50210

(16th District)
Rep. Don Manzullo
415 S. Mulford Rd.
Rockford, IL 61108

(17th District)
Rep. Phil Hare
1535-47th Ave. Suite 5
Moline, IL 61265

State

Sen. Tim Bivins
State House
Springfield, IL 62706 (45th District)

Sen. Mike Jacobs
State House
Springfield, IL 62706 (36th District)

Rep. Jim Sacia
State House
Springfield, IL 62706 (89th District)

Rep. Jerry Mitchell
State House
Springfield, IL 62706 (90th District)

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Richard Benning, Laura Dufford,
Heidi Thorp, Ken and Pam
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