

Wichita Audubon



Volume 37 No. 2 September 2002

CNC Upcoming Programs

**Saturday, September 28,
10 am - 3 pm
Fall Nature Day
& Butterfly Tagging**

Join us for a day long celebration of nature at the Chaplin Nature Center. There are bird walks, a herp walk (herps are reptiles and amphibians), a live herp demonstration, and crafts for kids.

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**Monday, October 21
8 pm - 9 pm
Full Moon Hike**

Take a leisurely stroll down to the Arkansas River by the light of the full moon. During this 2 mile hike we will search for moon shadow and talk about the strange effects of the full moon.

For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaudubon.org.



September Program

Join us on Tuesday, September 17, 7:30 pm, at the Great Plains Nature Center for our first meeting of the new season. Todd Pesch, public lands manager with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, will discuss the history, management, restoration, and future expansion of the crucial McPherson Valley Wetlands. Ecologically, these wetlands, located just west of McPherson, are some of the most important in the state. This refuge provides critical habitat for migrating waterfowl and more than 112 species of birds, including several rare species.

You can also join members and Todd for dinner at 5:45 pm at Jason's Deli in Bradbury Fair, 21st and Rock Road.

Old Friends

Wichita Audubon has lost two long time members and supporters this summer: Dr. James Fisher and Eugenia Love.

Dr. Fisher was an active member in the 60's and 70's, accompanying Walker Butin on many Christmas Counts. He was one of the founding partners of the Wichita Clinic and practiced medicine until 1985. He resided in Colorado Springs at the time of his death.

Eugenia Love and her husband Dean were among the pioneers of the Wichita Audubon Society.

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Coming Events

September 7

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge/ Cheyenne Bottoms. Meet at the Quivira Headquarters at 9 am. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@cox.net

September 17

Regular meeting, "McPherson Valley Wetlands Refuge," by Todd Pesch, 7:30 pm Great Plains Nature Center.

September 21

WAS Bird Seed sale - see page 2 for information.

September 28

Fall Field Day at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 am - 3 pm. See information under CNC Upcoming Programs.

October 5

Chisholm Creek Park field trip. Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 am. Leader: Sandra Tholen, 634-0049, stholen@cox.net

October 15

Regular meeting, "Shortgrass Steppe to Eastern Deciduous Forest: The Breeding Birds of Kansas," by Bill Busby, 7:30 pm Great Plains Nature Center.

October 20

Slate Creek Marsh field trip. Meet at the Slate Creek Valley Baptist Church, 7 miles S of Oxford, at 9 am. Leader: Gene Young, 620-446-1901, youngg6264@yahoo.com

Old Friends

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Dean was a man of considerable influence in the community, and he had visions of a nature center that someday would be owned and operated by the Wichita Audubon Society. He was the prime mover in the search for and evaluation of properties for development into a Nature Center.

Before the search was completed Genie and Dean moved to California, but their interest in the Wichita Audubon Society and hope for a nature center remained steadfast. Dean passed away shortly after they moved. Genie returned briefly to Wichita in the early 1980's. She was escorted by John Wherry on a tour of Chaplin Nature Center. She was keenly interested in our plans for a new Visitor' Center building. John has kept in touch with Genie by regular correspondence, reporting on developments and activities at the

Chaplin Nature Center. She also enjoyed the Wichita Audubon Newsletter. On one occasion after a severe storm in south-central Kansas made the news on the west coast, Genie called John to see if the Chaplin Nature Center had sustained damage that would require additional financial support for repairs. She was assured that during this particular storm the Nature Center had suffered only minor damage.

In remembrance of Dean's interest in the WAS and a future nature center, Genie began a series of gifts to the Chaplin Nature Center in 1987 which

continued until her death in June. The total of these gifts is \$18,200. The Wichita Audubon Society has been notified by the Trustee of Genie's estate that she has designated a distribution of \$30,000 for the benefit of the Chaplin Nature Center. Genie has been a Guardian Angel who has maintained a benevolent vigilance over the Chaplin Nature Center for many years. She was a very charming and generous lady who will be sorely missed by the multitude of her relatives, friends and acquaintances.

by John Wherry



Mark Your Calendar!

Wichita Audubon sells and delivers bird seed. The first two sale dates for this year are September 21 and November 23. To place your order call Carol Cumberland at 685-4867 or email ccumb@swbell.net.

25 lb Black Oil Sunflower seed \$10

25 lb Audubon mix \$7

You may also mail your order to Wichita Audubon, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201. Include your name, address, telephone number, and how many bags of each type of seed you would like.

Wichita Audubon bird seed sales are an important part of our fund-raising effort. Last year we earned about \$2000 profit. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated team of individuals who volunteer to deliver the seed. The team not only helps raise money for WAS, but they provide bird seed to many individuals who can no longer drive. If you would like to help deliver seed on September 21 and/or November 23, please call Carol at 265-0466 (work) or 685-4867 (home).

2002-2003 WAS Officers

President	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Vice-president	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@cox.net
Secretary	Sharon Bolin	620-584-2314	jbolin@sktc.net
Treasurer	Duane Delong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net

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Barbara Millar	838-8542	bmi3931874@aol.com
Cheryl Miller	978-7900 (wk)	cherylmiller1@cox.net
Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net

Committee Chairs

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CNC	Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net
Programs	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@cox.net
Conservation	Barbara Millar	838-8542	bmi3931874@aol.com
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Membership	Sherry Brewer	778-1648	lpbrewer@earthlink.net
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Finance	Cheryl Miller	978-7900 (wk)	cherylmiller1@cox.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

www.wichitaudubon.org

email any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sherry Brewer, 3231 SW Farmstead Rd, Benton, KS 67017
316-778-1648 or e-mail lpbrewer@earthlink.net

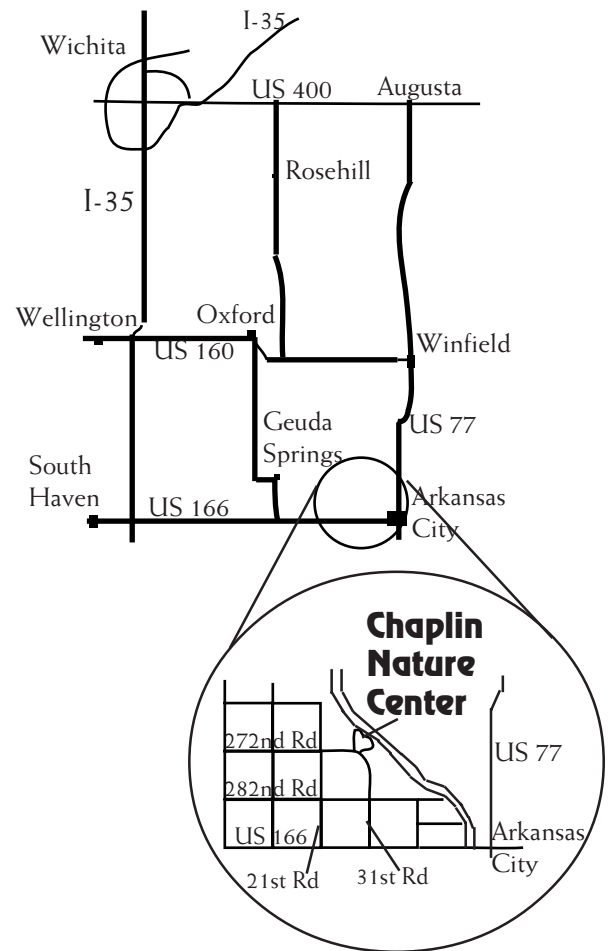
Fall Nature Day

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This year we will also be tagging Monarch butterflies. Monarchs are our only migratory butterfly, traveling each fall to wintering grounds in the mountains of Mexico. By attaching a tiny tag to their wing, we can help scientists track them and learn more about this unique phenomenon. Two years ago two butterflies were recovered in Mexico that had been tagged at Chaplin Nature Center. They had traveled 1218 miles in 120 days.

As always there will be a country store featuring homemade baked goods, homegrown produce, and similar goodies. Lunch will feature homemade desserts courtesy of Laura Groeneweg, and can be purchased for \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. Or you are welcome to bring a picnic lunch.

Fall Nature Day is free and open to the public. If you haven't been to Chaplin Nature Center, this is the time to get acquainted. Please come!



Chaplin Nature Center Hosts Girl Scouts

From July 22 through July 25, approximately 50 Wichita area Girl Scouts participated in the Exhibition Earth program at Chaplin Nature Center. The program is designed for the girls to become "Junior Naturalists" by participating in a number of activities including archaeology, seining, butterfly study, natural cooking, beetle search, environmental games, water ecology, tree identification, hiking, and an animal study (emphasis this year was on the owl.) Besides having fun, the girls satisfy requirements toward 17 different Junior Badges. The adult leaders attain certification in Outdoor Leadership by taking part. Because of some night programs, the groups stayed all night on two of the program days. The Exhibition Earth Program is listed under a menu of programs offered by the Girl Scouts called

Passport 2002. Individual leaders select the programs for their girls. Shawn Silliman, our resident naturalist, prepared the introductory material for Passport 2002.

Jackie Waters, a Haysville teacher and Girl Scout Leader, directed the program at CNC with the help of her adult staff and some junior staff. Stephanie and Laura were two junior staff members who were quite enthusiastic about their CNC experience and the program. Some of the activities they especially liked included listing plants, insects, spiders, birds and other animals that had been seen while they were there. They liked the trails, the butterflies (of which there were a profusion), and the cricket cookies. The other girls were mainly 9 years of age and 12 years of age. A sampling of some

comments: "I liked sleeping in the tent" - Michelle; "I liked the butterflies and bugs, but the crawdads and snails were Ugh" - Justine; "We caught carrion beetles and a cricket in our beetle trap" - Kaitlynn; "loud crying" - little girl stung by a sweat bee; "I like the warm sand on my (bare) feet" - Paula; "I liked everything!" - Lauren; "I made an endangered rattlesnake pretzel, baked it, and then ate the whole thing" - Alyssa. One girl said that her friend bit the head off of a cricket in Natural Cooking.

There were no negative comments made and all of the responses were uniformly positive about the Center. Shawn Silliman's program was widely acclaimed by the girls and the staff. The Center looked very nice and was well greened-up by a generous rain

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Girl Scouts at CNC

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during the session. Conspicuous among the flowers in bountiful bloom were gray-headed cone flowers, day flowers, blazing stars (gayfeather) and Maximillian sunflowers.

This is the second year for this Girl Scout program and well illustrates what CNC can be and do for the community. It furthers our mission of conservation and environmental education, which is of crucial importance to the future of our world.

Gary Straley, CNC committee chair

Help Needed

Shawn and the Chaplin Nature Center Committee are busy getting ready for Fall Nature Day on September 28. Your help is needed in the following areas:

- Donated items to sell in the country store: baked goods, homegrown produce, homemade foods like jellies, craft items of all sorts, especially if bird or nature related.
- Help prepare and/or serve lunch.
- Act as greeter and register visitors.
- Assist with children's crafts.
- Lead nature walks.

If you can help please call Shawn at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaaudubon.org.

Adopt-A-Park

The WAS board of directors has voted to adopt both Chisholm Creek Park and Oak Park as part of the city's Adopt-A-Park program. For several years we have conducted biannual trash pickups in Chisholm Creek Park. We will be doing the same in Oak Park, so watch for dates.

Plans for revamping Oak Park are finished and include rebuilding the pond, creating a marshy area west of the pond, building a waterfall and an additional pond by the old arch. Due to our input, the wooded areas will remain largely untouched for the benefit of the birds.

There will be a presentation of the Oak Park plans on Tuesday, September 10, 7 pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1101 West River Blvd.