

Wichita Audubon



Volume 40 No. 6 March 2006

MARCH MEETING



Join us on February 21 for some breathtaking views of the birds of Cowley County. Norman Smith was a professional photojournalist. Now he teaches photography at Cowley County Community College and focuses his considerable skills on photographing birds. It should be a real treat to see those Painted Buntings, Pileated Woodpeckers, and all the other great birds he has photographed.

The program will be February 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th Street and Woodlawn. You can join Norman for dinner before the program at Jason's Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st Street and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m.

CHAPLIN NATURE CENTER RECEIVES GRANTS

The Forrest C. Lattner Foundation has granted \$10,000 to Wichita Audubon to replace the roof on the Visitor's Center at Chaplin Nature Center. The contract has been signed, and the new shingles should be on very soon. Lattner Foundation grants are given in memory of Forrest C. and Francis H. Lattner. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

The Walmart Foundation has given us \$500 towards the purchase of a digital projector for use at Chaplin Nature Center. Their generosity is also greatly appreciated.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Owl Prowl

March 10, Friday 7 - 8 p.m.

Why have owls traditionally been seen as bad omens? Found out the truth about owls and the many adaptations that have made them one of the most successful and mysterious nocturnal animals. A short indoor presentation on the owls of Kansas will be followed by an outdoor night hike to listen for owl calls.

Spring Clean-up

April 1, Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Volunteer to get the Chaplin Nature Center in shape for the upcoming year. Help is needed in all areas, from building clean-up to trail maintenance. Light work loads or heavy, your choice. There is a place you can help, no matter what your skills.



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

COMING EVENTS

March 10

Owl Prowl at Chaplin Nature Center, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

March 11

Oak Park Cleanup, 9 a.m.
Leader: Rosa McHenry, 263-4042, rmchenryphoto@sbcglobe.com. See page 4.

March 18

Cheney Lake field trip. Meet at the boat ramp at the west end of the dam at 8 a.m.
Leader: Dan Kilby, 943-5136, ddkilby@prodigy.net

March 21

Regular program, "Birds of South Central Kansas," by Norman Smith, 7:30 p.m. Great Plains Nature Center

April 1

Spring Clean-up at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

April 1

Pawnee Prairie Park field trip. Meet at the old nature center parking lot on South Tyler Rd at 8 a.m. Leader: Bill Beard, 722-3081

April 22

Great Prairie Chicken field trip. See page 3 for details.

BIRD SEED SALE

Help support Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center by buying your bird seed from us. We offer high quality seed, delivered to your home (within Wichita City limits.)

Please submit your order by **Friday, March 17**

The seed will be delivered on Saturday, March 25

25 lbs Black Oil Sunflower seed - \$10

25 lbs Audubon Mix - \$8

Order by phone, mail or email.

Call Carol Cumberland at 316-685-4867 or

email carol.cumberland@swbell.net

Mail: Wichita Audubon Society, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201

A big thank you to Dan Shady and Justin Williams who, along with Hal Cumberland and Kevin Groeneweg, deliver the bird seed for us. We could really use some more volunteers. It only takes three or four hours four times a year. A pickup truck would be especially helpful. Contact Carol if you can help.

BIRDS AND BREAKFAST

FIELD TRIP

Join us for birds and breakfast on Saturday, April 22, at the Harvest Time Ministries ranch in Dexter, KS, where we will see Greater Prairie Chickens booming on the lek.

There are three options for viewing: Overnight in the bed and breakfast (5 rooms available) for \$65/couple, overnight in the bunkhouse (2 bunkhouses are available, each holds 11 people and has a shower) for \$30/person, drive in that morning for \$15/person. All options include transport to the booming site and a country breakfast afterward. They have 5 blinds, each holding 4 or 5 people. Contact them at 620-876-5700 (evenings are best) to make reservations.

Directions: From K-15 look for the sign pointing to Harvest Time Ministries just south of Dexter. Take that road east approximately 1.5 miles to the ranch.

Our stay at the ranch will support the ranchers who protect the chickens and promote eco-tourism in the area. After we finish breakfast we will continue birding, looking for early spring migrants at Cowley State Fishing Lake and the Kaw Wildlife Area. We will end up at Chaplin Nature Center for lunch and more birding.

Contact:

Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268,
kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net.

2005-2006 WAS Officers

President	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Vice-president	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Secretary	Marsha Ebaugh	683-4782	43042@prodigy.net
Treasurer	Sandra Tholen	634-0049	stholen@cox.net
Directors	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
	Ben Rogers	630-0190	brogers7@cox.net
	Rosa McHenry	263-4042	rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net
	Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net
	Don DeWitt	722-0742	ddewitt@omnibizcenter.com
	Anne Tarver		anne.tarver@wichita.edu
Committee Chairs			
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
CNC	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Programs	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Conservation	Ben Rogers	630-0190	brogers7@cox.net
Development	Rosa McHenry	263-4042	rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley		pstanley@csjwichita.org
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Field Trips	Cheryl Miller	978-6659 (wk)	avian67226@hotmail.com
Finance	Don DeWitt	681-4412	ddewitt@omnibizcenter.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

WWW.WICHITAAUDUBON.ORG

email any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226
pstanley@csjwichita.org

COOKIES!

If you love those treats Laura Groeneweg brings to our meetings, here are three of her recipes to try:

Seven Layer Bar

3/4 cup butter or margarine 1 cup butterscotch baking chips
2 cups crushed graham crackers 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 (14oz.) sweetened condensed milk 1 cup flaked coconut
1 cup pecans or walnuts
Preheat oven to 325°F.

1. Place butter or margarine in 13x9x2 inch baking pan; heat in oven until butter is melted. Remove pan from oven. Tilt pan to coat bottom evenly.. Sprinkle crushed graham crackers evenly into bottom of pan. Drizzle sweetened condensed milk evenly over top. Top with butterscotch chip and chocolate chip. Sprinkle with coconut and nuts.
2. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until edges and top are golden brown.
3. Cool in pan on wire rack for 30 minutes. Cut into bars.

Layered Chocolate and Peanut Butter Bars

2 cups finely crushed chocolate graham crackers or vanilla wafers
3/4 cup melted butter or margarine 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 1/3 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips 2/3 cup butter or margarine
2 1/2 cups peanut butter 3/4 cup butter softened
1 Tablespoon vanilla 3 cups sifted powdered sugar

1. Preheat oven to 300°F. For crust; In mixing bowl stir together graham crackers, cocoa powder and melted butter. Press onto bottom of greased 13x9x2 inch baking pan. Bake 15 minutes. Cool completely on wire rack.
2. In medium saucepan cook and stir chocolate and 2/3 cup butter over low heat until melted. Carefully spread half of chocolate mixture (about 3/4 cup) evenly over crust. Chill about 30 minutes or until chocolate is set; Cover remaining chocolate mixture and set aside at room temperature.
3. In large mixing bowl, beat together peanut butter, 3/4 cup softened butter and vanilla with mixer on medium speed until smooth. Gradually beat in powdered sugar until smooth. Spread evenly onto chocolate layer in pan.
4. Spread remaining chocolate mixture evenly over peanut butter layer. Cover and chill in refrigerator about 2 hours. Cut into bars. Store covered in refrigerator

Pina Colada Bar

2 cups all-purpose flour 2 cups quick cooking roll oats
1 1/3 cups packed brown sugar 1/4 tsp baking soda
1 cup butter or margarine 1 tsp rum extract or vanilla
1 12 oz pineapple ice cream topping 1 cup coconut

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. In large mixing bowl combine flour, oats, brown sugar and baking soda. Using pastry blender cut butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Reserve 1 cup of the crumb mix for topping. Add 1 Tsp of water and stir until the pastry crust form a soft ball (like making pie crust). Press crust mixture into bottom of ungreased 13x9x2 inch baking pan. Bake for 20 minutes or until edges are lightly golden brown,
2. In small bowl combine pineapple and rum extract. Spread pineapple mixture evenly over crust.
3. Stir in coconut into reserved crumb mixture and sprinkle over filling. Bake about 30 minutes or until golden brown. Cool in pan on wire rack. Cut into bars

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Printed on recycled paper

OAK PARK CLEANUP

Join us March 11 to clean up Oak Park and get it ready for those spring migrants. We'll start at 9 a.m., meeting on the north side of the lily pond. We have invited the neighborhood association and the frisbee golfers to join us.

Wear your Audubon hat or shirt or name tag to help advertise our presence. Gloves are also recommended. We'll provide trash bags and pick up sticks.

As always, feel free to put in some time at your convenience if you can't join the group. Just let us know so we can document the hours contributed. The leader is Rosa McHenry, rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net, 263-4042.

ESTATE PLANNING

Wichita Audubon's commitment to environmental education and conservation is dependent on your financial support. Chaplin Nature Center was purchased with bequests from the estates of Oscar Ryan and Geneva Kingkade. Its continued operation has largely been possible through the generosity and foresight of those who remembered us in their wills.

We ask all of you to consider Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center as you prepare your estate plans. If you have questions about making Wichita Audubon a beneficiary of your estate, please contact Finance Chair Don DeWitt at ddewitt@omnibizcenter.com, 681-4412.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

It is serious science, with a novel twist using a brightly colored or patterned object to measure how birds respond to the unexpected. Bird watchers will play a key role in this new "Personality Profiles" experiment run by The Birdhouse Network, a project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participants will follow a strict protocol that includes watching nesting pairs and reporting observations.

The volunteers put nest boxes in their yards and monitor the number of eggs and young in the nest. People of all ages and skill levels can participate. To find out more, visit www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse, or call (800) 843-2473. The project fee is \$15 (\$12 for Lab members).