

The Lake Flyer

Winnebago Audubon Society, Inc.

Aug-Sep-Oct 2019

All programs and activities are open to the public

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Check our website for up-to-date information: www.winaudubon.org



Catch, Tag and Release Migrating Monarchs

Saturday, September 7

(Raindate: Sun., Sept. 8)

1:00—3:00 pm

Davis-Foust Prairie, 4946 Broderick Rd, Omro

Winnebago Audubon Society is hosting our Monarch Tagging event at a new location this year. Shannon Davis-Foust and her family have invited us to tag monarchs in their prairie located at 4946 Broderick Rd., just west of Omro and to the north of State Road 21. Watch for the red house on the east side of the road. Parking can be in the driveway or along the road. Carpooling is encouraged for

space saving and, of course, it is environmentally friendly.

In all the world, no butterflies migrate like the Monarchs of North America. They travel up to three thousand miles round trip each year. How Monarchs find their overwintering site each fall when it is the great-great-grandchildren of the butterflies that left the site the previous spring remains an unsolved mystery.

The University of Kansas set up the Monarch Watch (www.monarchwatch.org) program to encourage everyone to participate in the monarch migration each year. They provide the tags and you get to net the monarchs, tag them and release them to fly to the mountains in central Mexico for the winter. Monarchs that we have tagged in the past were found in Mexico.

There will be a short orientation about monarch migration and a demonstration of the tagging process. You will then be free to wander the prairie to net monarchs. Remember to respect the prairie and any wildlife you may encounter. We will have a tagging station set up to assist you in identifying the gender of your monarchs, recording the data, tagging them and watching you release them to proceed on their journey. All ages over 4 are encouraged to participate. We all have an inner child who would love to do this. We strongly recommend wearing long pants, socks and shoes. We have a limited number of nets available so if you have your own, please bring it along.

This event is free and open to the public but donations are encouraged and appreciated to help the Davis-Foust family preserve and enhance their prairie habitat. We look forward to sharing this experience with you and discussing the monarch butterfly's life cycle and unique migration.

If the weather is questionable and you want to check if we are still going to meet, call/text: 920-573-7828. Rain date will be on Sunday, September 8, 2019. 🐦

Calendar of Events

- Sep 7 Monarch Tagging (Raindate: Sept. 8)
- Oct 5 Hands on Oshkosh Work Party (See p. 2)
- Oct 9 What Birds are Telling Us About
Climate Change (See p. 2)
- Nov 21 Flying Jewels in the Garden



What Birds Are Telling Us About Climate Change

October 9

4:00 pm

UW Oshkosh, Sage Hall, Room 1235

Citizens Climate Lobby Oshkosh Chapter and Winnebago Audubon are co-sponsoring this presentation by Alan Haney at UW Oshkosh during Earth Charter Week. It is free and open to the public.

Long before canaries were first used in mines to detect unsafe conditions, people observed birds as a forewarning of changes in weather. With their high metabolism, birds must quickly respond to their environment, and therefore, are excellent indicators of change. Alan will use numerous examples to illustrate some of the ways in which rapidly changing climate is affecting our birds.

Alan Haney is Emeritus Professor of Forestry, College of Natural Resources at UW Stevens Point. Alan came to Stevens Point in 1988 as dean of the College of Natural Resources, a position he held for 10 years. He returned to full-time teaching and research in 1998, then retired in 2007. He now devotes his energy to writing, consulting, forest management, and occasional lectures. His areas of expertise include ecosystem restoration, adaptive management, savanna restoration, land conservation, forest community responses to disturbance, avian ecology, and climate change.

Free parking is available for this presentation in Lot 7 next to Sage Hall, 845 High Ave., Oshkosh. 🐦



April 27, 2019 UWO Volunteers. Thank you!

Sullivan's Woods Work Party "Supervisors" Needed

Saturday, October 5 9:00 am—Noon

Location: Sullivan's Woods, 6342 Hay Rd., Pickett

Hands on Oshkosh is sponsored by Reeve Union Volunteerism at UW Oshkosh. It is run by student volunteers and designed to bring students, faculty and staff together to volunteer in the Oshkosh Community.

About 30 UWO students will volunteer to help us cut buckthorn and willow at Sullivan's Woods. These young people do the hard work, but we could use some supervising volunteers to help identify buckthorn and guide them on how the job needs to be done. It is a great opportunity to work with these enthusiastic young people.

Please contact Zaiga for more information or to volunteer as a supervisor: zaigam@charter.net or 920-233-5914. 🐦

Pat Nichols Receives Meritorious Service Award

Winnebago Audubon recently presented Pat Nichols with the Meritorious Service Award in grateful recognition of her outstanding service for conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitat.

The Meritorious Service Award honors members who have sustained a level of activity beyond that of the average Chapter member. The criteria for selection include: outstanding or sustained leadership as a Chapter officer, committee chairperson, special project leader, fundraiser, activist, membership recruiter or other area of dedication.

Pat received a certificate signed by David Yarnold, President of National Audubon Society.

If our records are correct, Pat has been an Audubon member since March 1978. She was elected to our chapter board in 1984. She also served as President, Vice-President, and Membership Chair for a total of 19 years! As with any organization, Winnebago Audubon depends on dedicated, involved members like Pat and the Meritorious Service Award is just one small way to say thank you!

Congratulations, Pat! Thank you for all you have done for Winnebago Audubon and the birds we all love. 🐦



Work Parties: Menominee Park Shoreland Restoration Sites

For more info, contact Michelle at michelle.bogden@gmail.com. Dates & times subject to change because of weather or conflicts. Anyone may join us for any day, for as long they like.

Sept 14 Ames Pt. & Pump House Site 9:00-11:00 am

Oct 2 Pump House Site 3:30-5:30 pm

Dog-day Cicada, Tibicen canicularis



The Lotus Flower

In the still, shallow backwater bays of Lake Butte des Morts near I-41, lives an unique and fascinating water plant. It is big and showy with large, round dark green leaves and buttery yellow flowers reaching the size of dinner plates.

At first glance, one might mistake it for a water lily but it is not. It is the American lotus, *Nelumbo lutea*, a member of the lotus-lily family Nelumbonaceae. (Water lilies belong to the plant family Nymphaeaceae.) Only two lotus-lily species exist in the world. The American lotus is found only in the eastern United States whereas the other species, the sacred lotus, *Nelumbo nucifera*, is found in Asia.

The distribution of the American lotus is spotty as this perennial requires quiet water less than a meter deep. In suitable habitat, it is a strong colonizer and may eventually cover an extensive area. A large colony is a spectacular sight.

Rising in spring from an underground fleshy rhizome anchored in the mud, a cylindrical leaf stalk supports a large, round, unnotched leaf (white water lilies have notched leaves) measuring from one to 2-1/2 feet across. The leaf edge is smooth with slightly wavy undulations.

When first appearing, the young leaf floats on the water (like all water lilies) but eventually the leaf rises above the water. The leaf stalk is attached to the leaf's center creating a bowl-shaped appearance. Think of it as an inverted umbrella caught in the wind. This perennial plant may tower 1-1/2 to 3 feet above the water surface.

The solitary 10-inch diameter flower appears on a separate leafless stalk called a peduncle. Blooms appear from July into September and often tower over the leaves.

The lotus flower is unique. The flower displays a spiral of several look-alike sepals and petals called tepals which surround a large seed-bearing structure at its center. This yellow-green structure is a flat-topped fleshy conical receptacle about three inches across which looks like an inverted cone or an old-fashioned shower head. Ten to 40 female pistils are sunken in this large receptacle. Golden-yellow male stamens, numbering about 200, surround the receptacle. After pollination by bees and flies, fruits



Photo by Brenton Butterfield

develop inside the cone.

As summer fades, the tepals drop off. Initially the receptacle remains on the plant as it dries out and turns brown. Inside the receptacle, the maturing fruits develop thick walls producing nut-like seeds about 1/2" across. As the receptacle continues to dry out, the fruits break loose inside and eventually rattle.

As more days slip by, the flower stalk gradually arches and the receptacle breaks off. The seed-carrying cone floats upside down, gradually releasing its precious seeds. Released seeds sink to the bottom and may be fed upon by waterfowl including mallards and canvasbacks.

Seed-carrying cones may float down the Fox River. I look for them on my walks. When I find one, I pick it up and shake it as I listen for the familiar rattle indicating ripened seeds are still inside. This unique cone would be a perfect rattle in a nature-themed band. The dried seed pods have captured the attention of florists as these are frequently added to autumn floral arrangements.

American lotus, also called water-chinquapin, is not that common. We are fortunate to have this beautiful and interesting plant gracing our nearby waterways. 🐦

Winnebago Audubon Society

*extends a sincere **thank you** for your support which allows us to continue to provide positive experiences in nature for our community.*

Carole Meton

In Memory of Don Meton

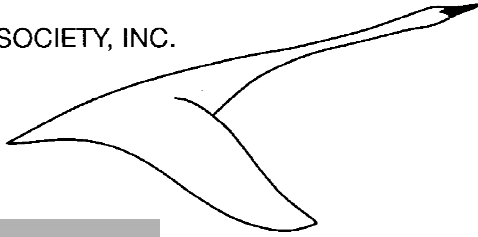
Marilyn Shubat

From the Quiz Master:

I'm a loud whining insect with stiff membranous wings that sings from a tree-top on a hot August evening. My 15-second whining drone starts softly, gets louder then tapers off. Whoooo am I?

(Look closely to find the answer in this newsletter.)

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Important Note: TEMPORARILY AWAY? Please notify us if you will be temporarily away. The post office will not forward your newsletter. If you want to receive your newsletter while at your temporary address, please notify us at winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com.

RENEWALS: Your mailing label includes your membership expiration date above your name. If you are a "Chapter Only" member the word CHAPTER will appear with the expiration date. Please renew your Chapter membership by filling out the application form below. Thank you for helping us save on the cost of renewal reminders.

If you are a member of National Audubon which automatically makes you a member of our local Chapter, NATL will appear with the expiration date. You will receive renewal notices from National or you may renew by using the form below.

If you are receiving a complimentary newsletter, COMP will appear with an expiration date. Please consider joining our Chapter or National (Dual) by using the application below.

Winnebago Audubon Society Mission Statement: Advance the mission of the National Audubon Society to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity through grassroots efforts of community outreach and advocacy.

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please choose one:

- \$20.00 — Local Winnebago Audubon Chapter Membership.** You receive the Winnebago Audubon Chapter newsletter.
- \$35.00 — Dual Membership (Local Winnebago Audubon Chapter AND National Audubon Membership)** You receive Winnebago Audubon Chapter newsletter and National Audubon magazine.

Make check payable to **Winnebago Audubon.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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Chapter Code: **C9ZZ12OZ**

Mail this form with payment to:
Audubon Membership, PO Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903

Word of the Day: grigologist

One who studies crickets, katydids, and cicadas.

Welcome to Winnebago Audubon

You are invited to participate in activities of your local Winnebago Audubon chapter. It's a great way to meet like-minded people and to enjoy what nature has to offer. A special thank you to all those who are renewing again this year as well.

Joanne Andersen
Shannon Andris
Philip Bartels
Dawn Cotter
Viv Goupell
Jeanne Greer
Sandra Hammes

Katie Holliday-Greenley
Bryanna Hopkins
Edward Kuehn
Mitchell Lundt
Gail Schabloski
Marian Sommerfeldt
C Wandschneider

If you are a new member of National or the Chapter and haven't seen your name here in the last couple of issues, please contact **Membership Chair** at winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com or 920-216-1172