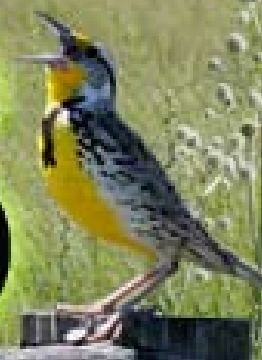


CAWS



222 S. Hamilton St. / Madison, WI 53703 / 255-2473 / www.madisonaudubon.org

January 2012

Impacts of Water Levels on the Upper Yahara River Wetlands

Free Public Program

Who: Russ Hefty
What: Cherokee Marsh
When: Tuesday, January 17, 2012
 7:30 p.m. – Program
Where: Capitol Lakes Retirement Community
 333 West Main St. (lower level), Madison
Parking: Free – ramp across the street. Enter off Washington Place (between W. Main St. and W. Washington Ave.). Push blue button to obtain ticket and park in spaces marked "Capitol Lakes Reserved." After the program, Capitol Lakes front desk will validate your ticket.

Russ Hefty last talked to us about Cherokee Marsh three years ago. The marsh has continued to change in the last three years, and Russ has continued his work protecting and restoring the area. It is important to look at Cherokee again since the community is again looking at how best to manage the Yahara Lakes as a system through the work of the second Yahara Lakes Advisory Group. The group met for most of 2011 and is expected to seek public input early in 2012.

Russ will talk about the impact of water levels on the wetlands. The first 1850s dam raised the level of Lake Mendota approximately five feet. Today Lake Mendota's summer water level is set higher than the level established by the Railroad Commission in 1931 that at the

time addressed farmers' concerns about negative impacts of high water levels on their farmland. Wetlands along the river's edge have broken away from the underlying peat to form floating plant mats. These floating plant communities are unstable in the presence of floods, wind, and ice action erosion.

Russ has been working since 2001 to protect these floating plant mats and restore aquatic plants to the marsh. The project goal is to reduce the erosion of the floating shorelines along the Yahara River by establishing an emergent marsh plant community along this interface. Join us to find out how well his projects are working in light of continued high lake levels.

Russ Hefty was the first intern at Goose Pond Sanctuary. Since 1991 Russ has held the position of Conservation Resource Supervisor in the Madison Parks Division. He oversees 14 conservation parks, which total 1600 acres. Madison's Conservation Park System is managed under a very active land stewardship program. In 2007 he received the Henry C. Greene Award for Innovative Approaches in Ecological Restoration for his emergent marsh restoration efforts in Cherokee Marsh.

You are invited to join our speaker, MAS board members, and friends at the pre-program dinner at **Paisan's Restaurant** (131 W. Wilson St.) beginning at 5:15 p.m. Please call the office at (608) 255-BIRD (2473) if you have questions.

Next meeting: February 21, 2012

Bird Photo Contest Your Bird Photo could be on the WSO Convention 2012 T-shirt!

Madison Audubon Society (MAS), local host for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO)'s annual convention this year, is holding a bird photo contest. *Your bird photo* could be featured on the special convention t-shirt. The event, which is open to all, will be held Thursday through Sunday, May 10-13, 2012, at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton.

Any professional or amateur photographer of any age, who currently lives in Wisconsin, may enter the photo contest. Photos must be of wild birds found in south central Wisconsin. All photos must be original, taken by the photographer in Wisconsin, and suitable for digital reproduction on a t-shirt. No photo

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Madison Audubon Society

Serving Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Iowa, Jefferson, Richland and Sauk Counties

Photo Contest . . . continued from page 1

manipulation, other than cropping or basic enhancement, is allowed.

Each contestant may submit one original image. **Please send the image via e-mail in .jpg format** (in as high a resolution as possible, maximum of 2 MB) **and one hard copy 8x10** on photo-quality paper via U.S. Postal Service, along with a signed Photo Release Form. No photos will be returned.

All entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2012.

Conserving birds and their habitats is crucial. Photographers must minimize disturbance to birds and habitat.

The rights to contributed photos remain with the photographer. However, all images submitted could be sold during the convention silent auction and at future MAS and WSO fundraisers. Images could also be used for other non-profit purposes, such as in brochures or on their websites. Credit will be given to the photographer in all cases.

You must agree to the terms of use in the Photo Release Form available on the Madison Audubon homepage: www.madisonaudubon.org. In the optional "Notes" section, please share

any interesting information about where and how you took the photo and about the bird. You must provide your name, address, phone, and e-mail.

An anonymous panel of experienced bird, photography, and graphics judges from MAS and WSO will review all entries. Photos will be evaluated on composition, artistic value, originality, species depicted, and suitability for digital printing on a t-shirt. The winner and runners-up will be notified by e-mail. The winning photos will be posted on the MAS and WSO websites after the convention.

To enter the contest:

Mail the Photo Release Form (see www.madisonaudubon.org) and one hard copy 8x10 image to **Madison Audubon Society, 222 S. Hamilton St., Suite 1, Madison, WI 53703.**

E-mail the same image in .jpg format to **MadisonAudubonPhotos@gmail.com**

If you have any questions, please contact the Madison Audubon Society office **weekdays, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.** at (608) 255-BIRD (2473) or **MadisonAudubonPhotos@gmail.com**

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Annual Convention May 10-13: Middleton

Madison Audubon will be the local host for Wisconsin Society for Ornithology's 73rd annual convention. Two themes will be featured: "Birding in Madison and South Central Wisconsin" and "Soaring Against the Winds", which will help birders focus on the challenge of doing good conservation at a time of public disengagement and fiscal austerity. The convention, which also includes many great field trips and a banquet, will be held at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton.

Watch WSO's website, <http://wso-birds.org/>, for the latest information.

Venerable MAS Birding Hotline Shut Down

With the tremendous growth in capacity to get word out instantaneously – or almost so – about the latest bird sightings, the Madison Audubon board has regretfully decided to shut down its decades-old birding hotline. For those members without a computer, the MAS office still offers one-on-one personal service. All you have to do is call (608) 255-BIRD (2473) weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with your questions, and we'll try to find the answer for you.

If you have some access to a computer or even a friend with a cell phone or other hand-held device, several programs are now available to tap into the wealth of information that's literally "at your finger-tips". Some of these programs include eBird (eBird.org/wi) which includes an alerts ("Google Gadget") program, WIBirdsouth (<http://www.woodcreeper.com/wibirdsouth/>), Wisconsin Birding Network (referred to as "Wisbird" - read or subscribe at <http://www.freelists.org/archive/wisbirdn>), and more.

Alternatively, one can skip all of this and simply head out the door to bird, which can be equally satisfying, if not more so.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/EVENTS

Wild Ones Fox Valley Area 16th Annual Conference Saturday Jan. 28: Oshkosh

Learn about native plants and natural landscapes and how landscaping affects our natural environment. Register by Jan. 20 for this daylong conference at Oshkosh Convention Center, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speakers, exhibitors and vendors will be available. Full details and online registration at towardharmonywithnature.org or call (920) 730-3986.

Great Backyard Bird Count February 17-20: everywhere!

Mark your calendars for the 15th anniversary of this fun event. For more information, visit <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

Urban Wetlands

February 22-23: Lake Geneva

Wisconsin Wetlands Association's 17th annual conference will share the latest in wetland science, management, restoration, and protection issues. This year's theme, *Urban Wetlands* includes areas with concentrated recreational development. The keynote address will be *The Economic Value of Urban Wetlands: Revealing our Best Investments* by David Batker, chief economist and executive director of Earth Economics. And the banquet presentation will be *Integrating Traditional Culture and Scientific Methodology in the Restoration and Management of Wetland* by WWA's new director, Tracy Hames.

For complete information, visit <http://wisconsinwetlands.org/> or call WWA at (608) 250-9971.

Madison Audubon Society 2012 Field Trip List

Field Trip Committee: Levi Wood, Peter Fissel, Nolan Pope, Peter Gorman. Mark your calendar and join us on a field trip! Some are great for families and children. As trips come up, details, including location, time, and contact information, will be included in the Audubon CAWS and on the website, <http://madisonaudubon.org>. Be sure to check the website for any last minute cancellations or updates. Trips are free and open to non-members with no sign-up needed unless noted. When carpooling, though, riders are expected to share expenses with the driver.

DAY	DATE	TITLE	LEADER(S)
Saturday	January 7	Wisconsin River Raptors	Marty Evanson
Friday-Monday	February 17-20	Great Backyard Bird Count	
Saturday	February 25	Winter Birds of UW Arboretum	Levi Wood
Saturday	March 10	Early Spring Migrants	Steve Thiessen & Max Witynski
Saturday	March 24	Beginning Birding	Allen Holzhueter
Sunday	March 25	Spring Birding at Rose Lake	Nolan Kollath & Brad Webb
Saturday	March 31	Spring Birds of Columbia Co.	Tony Kalenic & Carol Anderson
Saturday	April 7	Beginning Birding	Allen Holzhueter
Thursday	April 12	Frogs Night Out (rain date: April 19)	Bob Hay
Friday	April 13	Evening at Schoeneberg's Marsh and Erstad Prairie	Mark & Sue Martin
Saturday	April 14	Ice Age Trail	Gary Werner
Saturday or Sunday	April 14 or 15	Jefferson-Dodge Bird Walk	Jefferson-Dodge Team
Sunday	April 15	Spring Birding at Lake Farm Park	Pat Ready
Friday	April 20	Evening at Cherokee Marsh	Tony Kalenic & Levi Wood
Saturday	April 21	Beginning Birding	Allen Holzhueter
Saturday	April 21	Baraboo Hills Spring Wildflowers and Birds	Mike Mossman
Wednesday	April 25	Turville Point Spring Ephemerals	Russ Hefty
Thursday	April 26	Warbler Walk at Pheasant Branch	Mike McDowell
Saturday	April 28	Birding at Wyalusing State Park	Quentin Yoerger & Charles Naeseth
Sunday	April 29	Wisconsin River Bottoms	Chris West
Tuesday	May 1	Warbler Walk at the Arboretum	Levi Wood & Max Witynski
Wednesday	May 2	Warbler Walk at Turville Point	Peter Fissel & Quentin Yoerger
Thursday	May 3	Warbler Walk at Pheasant Branch	Mike McDowell
Friday	May 4	Evening Birding at Nine Springs	Peter Fissel & Dan Doeppers
Sunday	May 6	Lakeshore Nature Preserve Bird Hike	Peter Fissel & Dan Doeppers
Tuesday	May 8	Warbler Walk at the Arboretum	Jim Berkelman
Wednesday	May 9	Warbler Walk at Cherokee Marsh	Dan Graham & Peter Fissel
Friday	May 11	Evening at Token Creek	Ed Saur
Tuesday	May 15	Warbler Walk at Pheasant Branch	Mike McDowell
Wednesday	May 16	Wildflowers at Sandburg Woods	Russ Hefty
Thursday	May 17	Warbler Walk at Pheasant Branch	Mike McDowell
Saturday	May 19	Bird Banding Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory	Mara McDonald
Saturday	May 19	Janesville's Cook Arboretum	Tom Klubertanz
Saturday	May 19	Butterflies of Bauer-Brockway Barrens (Jackson Co.)	Mike Reese
Saturday	May 19	Big Birding Day	
Sunday	May 20	Briggsville Sandhill Crane Tour	Anne Lacey
Thursday	May 24	Evening at Pheasant Branch	Mike McDowell
Saturday	May 26	Birding Horicon Marsh	Levi Wood & Peter Fissel
Sat/Sun/Mon	May 26-28	Lake Lucerne Memorial Day Weekend Birding	Paul Noeldner
Sunday	May 27	Birding at Baxter's Hollow	Aaron Stutz
Saturday	June 2	Warner Park Birds	Trish O'Kane
Saturday	June 2	Birds of Devil's Lake and Baxter's Hollow	Chuck Heikkinen & Delia Unson
Wednesday	June 6	Edna Taylor Conservation Park	Russ Hefty
Saturday	June 9	Grassland Birds at Middleton Airport	Mike McDowell & Curt Caslavka
Sunday	June 10	Table Bluff Ice Age Trail	Steve Richter
Saturday	June 16	Butterflies of Pleasant Valley	Ann Thering
Saturday or Sunday	June 16 or 17	Jefferson-Dodge Bird Walk	Jefferson-Dodge Team
Tuesday	June 19	Pheasant Branch Birding	Mike McDowell
Thursday	June 21	Evening at Black Earth Prairie	Kathie & Tom Brock
Saturday	June 23	Madison School Forest--Forest Ecology	Scott Taylor
Saturday	June 30	Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh	Karl & Dorothy Legler
Sunday	July 1	Madison Butterfly Count	Karl & Dorothy Legler

continued on page 4

2012 Field Trips . . . continued from page 3

DAY	DATE	TITLE	LEADER(S)
Saturday	July 7	Butterflies of Sandhill Wildlife Area	Ron Arnold
Wednesday	July 11	Prairie Ridge Park	Russ Hefty
Sunday	July 15	Birds, Butterflies, and Dragonflies of Lakeshore Nature Preserve	Edgar Spalding
Saturday or Sunday	July 21 or 22	Jefferson-Dodge Bird Walk	Jefferson-Dodge Team
Saturday	July 21	Flowers and Butterflies of Schurch-Thomson Prairie	Rich Henderson
Sunday	July 29	Prairies at their Peak	Kathie & Tom Brock
Saturday	August 4	Goose Pond Prairie Restoration	Mark & Sue Martin
Saturday	August 4	Cherokee Marsh, Upper Yahara River Tour	Russ Hefty
Saturday	August 11	Butterflies of the Avoca/Blue River Area	Mike Reese
Saturday	August 18	Shorebirds of Southern Wisconsin	Peter Fissel
Saturday or Sunday	August 18 or 19	Jefferson-Dodge Bird Walk	Jefferson-Dodge Team
Saturday	August 25	Fall Warbler Walk at Pheasant Branch	Mike McDowell
Saturday	August 25	Butterflies and Blossoms at Pheasant Branch	Dreux Watermolen
Sunday	August 26	Fall Birding at Lakeshore Nature Preserve	Marty Evanson & Roma Lenehan
Thursday	August 30	Evening Tour of Owen Park	Sylvia Marek
Saturday	September 1	Birding Madison School Forest	Peter Fissel, Peter Gorman, & Nolan Pope
Monday	September 3	Pleasant Valley Conservancy Tour	Kathie & Tom Brock
Friday	September 7	Swift Night Out	Sandy Fuller
Wednesday	September 12	Owen Park Prairies	Russ Hefty
Thursday	September 13	Warbler Walk at Pheasant Branch	Mike McDowell
Saturday	September 15	Bird Banding Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory	Mara McDonald
Sunday	September 16	Birding Zeloski Marsh	Nolan Kollath & Brad Webb
Tuesday	September 18	Warbler Walk at Pheasant Branch	Mike McDowell
Saturday	October 6	Migrant Songbirds of Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Mike McDowell
Wednesday	October 10	Cherokee Marsh, North Unit	Russ Hefty
Saturday	October 13	Fall Birding at Lakeshore Nature Preserve	Eric Wood & Roma Lenehan
Sunday	October 21	Goose Pond Scope Day	Dorothy Haines & Lester Doyle
Saturday	October 27	Migrant Songbirds of Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Mike McDowell
Sunday	November 4	Lake Michigan Birding	Aaron Stutz
Saturday	November 17	Mississippi River Birding	Chris West
Saturday	December 1	Madison Lakes	Al Shea
Saturday	December 15	Madison Christmas Bird Count	Aaron Stutz

MAS Acquires a Conservation Easement at Grassy Lake State Wildlife Area

By Mark Martin and Sue Foote-Martin

With funding from a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, Madison Audubon Society purchased a conservation easement on 74 acres in 2011 from Gerry and Jeanne Briggs on their "Brambles" property east of Rio in Columbia County. Gerry and Jeanne have assisted with many prescribed burns at Goose Pond and bring their fully-equipped utility vehicle with a pump and water tank, along with all the other burn equipment. They have also been busy restoring a very diverse prairie planting north of Sun Prairie where they've collected and planted more than 40 acres with some of the seed collected from Madison Audubon prairies.

Brambles is adjacent to the 570 acre Grassy Lake State Wildlife Area, owned

by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Included in the wildlife area is 277 acres that constitute the Grassy Lake State Natural Area. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages more than 400 acres of Waterfowl Production Areas within one mile of Grassy Lake. Grassy Lake is a shallow, hard-water seepage lake that supports dense stands of emergent aquatic vegetation throughout its basin.

The Briggs property contains wetland, prairie, old field, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitat. It also contains 35 acres of wetlands including part of Grassy Lake, part of an unnamed shallow seepage lake, a sedge meadow, and an ephemeral



Brambles woodlot with large open grown white oaks



Ephemeral pond surrounded by oak woodland habitat



An unnamed shallow lake. Grassy Lake is in back of the woods.



Oak savanna/oak woodland being restored by prescribed burning

pond. Gerry and Jeanne are restoring the property with prescribed burning and removing invasive species such as

garlic mustard. Madison Audubon volunteers have helped install and monitor nest boxes on the property for Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers.

There are three tracts of woods totaling 31 acres that are dominated by open grown white and black oaks with excellent oak regeneration. One woodlot is being restored to oak savanna/oak woodland habitat with the use of prescribed burning. It has abundant huckleberry in the shrub layer. Another woodlot contains an ephemeral pond that provides excellent habitat for amphibians.

Adjacent to the railroad tracks is a 1.5 acre prairie remnant dominated by big bluestem, bergamot, lupine, toadflax, and spiderwort. We have collected local genotype seed from this remnant for Madison Audubon restorations. An old grassy field provides nesting habitat for waterfowl.

Brambles contains a wide diversity of wildlife. Species found year round include white-tailed deer, river otters, beavers, Wild Turkeys, Barred and Great-horned Owls. Species found during the nesting season include Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Hooded Mergansers, Red-necked Grebes, American Bitterns, Least Bitterns, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Northern Harriers, Virginia Rails, Soras, Sandhill Cranes, Wilson's Snipe, Marsh Wrens, Eastern Bluebirds, and Field Sparrows. One of the largest nesting concentrations of Black Terns in southern Wisconsin is found at Grassy Lake.

Mark conducted a bat survey of Grassy Lake and found little and big brown, hoary, and eastern red bats. Four species of turtles are present including soft-shelled, snapping, painted, and Blanding's turtles, along with four species of snakes and five species of frogs.

The easement is being transferred to the DNR for monitoring and the DNR will have the first right to purchase the property. Madison Audubon Society hopes to have a field trip to Brambles later this year.

It is a rewarding experience to work to save and restore habitat though Madison Audubon Society. This exceptional property will serve wildlife and humans well into the future.

Thirteen Acres Planted at Hagen Prairie

By Mark and Sue Foote-Martin

Seven Madison Audubon Society (MAS) volunteers helped hand plant 13 acres at the 80-acre Hagen Prairie on Friday, Dec. 2, a sunny, 35 degree day, with light south winds. One volunteer took a day off work to assist with the planting. We had 16 volunteers lined up for helping plant on Saturday but the weather forecast was a 100% probability of rain, so we scrambled and planted on Friday.

The Empire Prairies State Natural Area - Hagen Prairie Unit is eight miles northeast of Goose Pond on the northern edge of the Arlington (Empire) Prairie within the Mud Lake State Wildlife Area. The Hagen Prairie Unit supports a diversity of prairie species on a seven acre north slope. While most are typical dry-mesic

species, wet-mesic species are also present, including swamp milkweed and prairie blazing star. In spring, the site features an outstanding display of shooting stars, bird's-foot violets, and prairie smoke. In late summer the prairie is yellow with showy goldenrod. Also found are compass plant, cream false indigo, prairie willow, downy gentian, heart-leaved golden Alexander, and the federally-threatened prairie bush clover.

Scott Weber, DNR conservation biologist with the Bureau of Endangered Resources, and Sara Kehrl, wildlife biologist, coordinated seed collecting with assistance of DNR staff and MAS interns and volunteers. Thirty one species were collected over two years, mostly from Hagen Prairie and local prairie remnants. In the past MAS collected seed from Hagen Prairie for restorations at Goose Pond.

Species planted in large amounts included lead plant, rattlesnake master, alum



Hagen Prairie in May (blue-eyed grass, shooting star, prairie smoke) – long view. Photo by Sara Kehrl.

root (2 lbs. or about 25,000,000 seeds), shooting star (2.3 lbs or about 2,700,000 seeds), Missouri and showy goldenrod, and little bluestem. Scott did an excellent

continued on page 6



Hagen Prairie in May (blue-eyed grass, shooting star, prairie smoke) – near view.
Photo by Sara Kehrl.



A happy crew (Don Schmidt, Mark, Darren Ladwig, Laura Bowles, Chris Hess-Molloy, Kathie Brock, and Bruce Marion) that finished hand planting 13 acres at Hagen Prairie State Natural Area. Sue Foote-Martin is missing from photo. Bill Grogan also assisted with seed mixing. *Photo by Scott Weber.*

job coordinating the mixing and planting. Twelve units were laid out and in about 90 minutes nine volunteers walked an estimated 15 miles spreading seed on soybean stubble.

Twenty seven acres remain to be planted in future years. We will begin collecting this spring for planting another 13 acres in the fall of 2013. The goal is to have a block of 70 acres of native and restored prairie habitat with an adjacent 10 acre wetland.

Everyone was impressed with the open landscape. We can remember seeing Upland Sandpipers on the remnant before much of it was plowed and look forward to their return along with other grassland birds that prefer short grass prairie.

Philip E. Miles, Jr. and a Faville Grove Legacy

We were sad to learn that Philip E. Miles, Jr., age 81, died November 8, 2011 in Madison. He served on the UW-Madison mathematics faculty for more than 40 years, and enjoyed many other activities including birding.

Soon after MAS established Faville Grove Sanctuary in 1998, we received a note from Phil, with a generous check enclosed. He wrote, “not quite the same as hands-on assistance, but even with the most dedicated volunteers, there are times when money is needed. . . . It is inspiring to read of your work.”

Phil had a special connection to Faville Grove. In 1940 his parents, Philip and Eleanor (Burgess) Miles, Sr., purchased the last remaining unplowed, ungrazed 60 acres of wet prairie along the Crawfish River north of Lake Mills. In merely five years, Aldo Leopold and his students had seen the Crawfish Prairie shrink from 1,800 acres to this. Leopold unsuccessfully pleaded with the University of Wisconsin to acquire the 60 acres to protect remaining rare native flora like the prairie white-fringed orchid.

Then just as the 60-acre tract was to become cow pasture, the Mileses Sr. bought it. In 1945 they gave the land to the University and designated it “Stoughton Faville Prairie Preserve” in honor of the local patriarch and keen student of botany.

We are honored to acknowledge Phil and the Miles family and their enduring legacy of conservation.

Waterfowl in early December in Southern Columbia County

By Mark and Sue Foote-Martin

While finishing planting Hagen Prairie on Dec. 2, we noticed two flocks of Mallards circling nearby picked cornfields. Later, Canada Geese were seen flying around looking for fields to feed in. These birds were roosting at Madison Audubon’s Otsego Marsh, two miles east of Hagen Prairie. There are thousands of acres of picked cornfields within three miles of Otsego Marsh and the birds were enjoying feeding on waste corn.

After planting, Don Schmidt and Mark headed toward Goose Pond and it was

not long before flocks of geese were seen north of the pond, also looking for picked cornfields. At dusk the first weekend in December at Goose Pond we saw “clouds” of Mallards and American Black Ducks circling and circling before landing to feed. Goose Pond contained an estimated 3,000 Mallards, a few dozen black ducks, 2,500 Canada Geese and 80 Tundra Swans. Most of the swans were feeding in the pond but we observed about 15 swans checking out a picked cornfield.

Donations Received in November 2011

ACRE MAKER

Levi and Janet Wood

HALF-ACRE MAKER

Thomas S. Kemp Foundation

QUARTER-ACRE MAKER

Marenda Weiss

MY OWN VISION

Suzanne Brockman Zeigler

James Koltes

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF A PERSON

In Memory of Robert Callar

James Clum

Eve Wilkie

In Memory of Jenni and Kyle Geurkink

Sally Wilmeth and Terry Geurkink

In Memory of Elizabeth Johnson

Walgreen Co.

In Memory of Robert McConnell

Kimberly McConnell

In Memory of Phil Miles

Rebecca Hunt

Paul and Debra Jirtle

Helen Smith

Dabney and Jennifer Waring

Leslie Wegener and Scott Chiples

In Memory of Leon C. Pullen

Nancy C. Pullen

In Memory of Dave Schreiner

Lesleigh Luttrell

And, thank you to the Rattunde family, for their generous donation of several duck sculptures, with which Madison Audubon has been able to raise funds at our events.

Membership, Renewal and Donation Form

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Join Madison Audubon Society, or give a gift membership.

TIME TO RENEW?

Check your Madison Audubon CAWS address label to determine your renewal date. Please renew two months before that date to keep your membership current and avoid missing any issues of the CAWS.

Tip: We now send an annual renewal notice. Renewing through the MAS office directs more of your donation to local activities and conservation projects. Or visit our website, www.madisonaudubon.org at Join/Renew Donate

MAKE A DONATION

Help make Madison Audubon's vision a reality. We offer education about the natural world, opportunities to advocate for the environment, and two wildlife sanctuaries with natural habitat where you can learn about the beauty and value of nature.

MAIL TO:

MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY
222 S. Hamilton St., Suite #1
Madison, WI 53703

Madison Audubon Society, Inc. is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Madison Audubon's financial statement is available upon request.

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[] \$60 Family _____
[] \$40 Renewal _____
[] \$20 CAWS newsletter Only (non-member) _____

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[] Benefactor \$500 _____
[] Partner \$250 _____
[] Contributor \$100 _____

Donation
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[] Half-Acre-Maker, \$1,250-\$2,499 _____
[] Quarter-Acre-Maker, \$625-\$1,249 _____
[] Adopt-an-Acre, \$100 a year for three years (\$300 total). Here is my first installment. _____
[] Nest Egg, \$50 a year for three years (\$150 total). Here is my first installment. _____

[] My Own Vision _____
Total enclosed/charged \$ _____
Please make check payable to Madison Audubon Society,
OR please charge my
[] VISA [] Master Card

Name on card _____
Card # _____
Expiration date ____/____/____
Signature _____

MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY

President: Peter Cannon
Goose Pond resident managers:
Mark and Sue Martin
Faville Grove Sanctuary manager:
Currently vacant
Editor: MAS Staff
masoffice@mailbag.com
Graphic design: Patrick Ready
ready@tds.net
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The mission of the Madison Audubon Society is to educate our members and the public about the natural world and the threats that natural systems are facing, to engage in advocacy to preserve and protect these systems, and to develop and maintain sanctuaries to save and restore natural habitat.

Wish List

* Pickup truck – two needed, one for each sanctuary, in good, working order





Madison Audubon Society, Inc.
 Peter Cannon, President
 222 S. Hamilton St. Suite #1
 Madison, WI 53703

Non-profit organization
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Impacts of Water Levels on the Upper Yahara River Wetlands – page 1



**Is it time to renew your membership?
 See form on page 7 and help MAS.**

1/12



Volunteer Opportunities

By Joe Friesen, MAS Intern & Volunteer Coordinator

Madison Audubon Society has a long history of volunteerism. Whether you scatter seeds to restore prairie at Goose Pond or staff a table at Garden Expo to interact with the community, all of our volunteer positions play an important role in furthering the work of Madison Audubon.

As we look forward to the coming year, I hope you will seriously consider lending a hand to some of our short and long term volunteer opportunities.

Some of my favorite times to volunteer with Madison Audubon are at the various events where we have our display booth. Being able to interact with the public and educate them about birds and the important work we're doing on their behalf is an extremely satisfying experience. Even if it's just chatting about the interesting birds we're seeing at our feeders, these important human connections can turn casual bystanders into active participants in Madison Audubon's work.

Key event dates when we'll need help:

- **Garden Expo** – February 10-12
- **Canoecopia** – March 9-11
- **Isthmus Green Day** – April 21
- **MAS Art Fair** – May 5

Important Volunteer Positions to Fill: Are You the One?

Web Designer. If you've seen our website, you might have noticed it is in need of some modernizing. So, if you have web design skills to share and are looking for a project, look no further. We have ideas about what we want, so you wouldn't start from scratch.

Conservation Chair. Working closely with Karen Etter Hale, MAS Executive Secretary, this person would keep tabs on relevant bird conservation and environmental issues, such as land use, in south central Wisconsin. The chairperson would convene a committee of like-minded MAS members and others to share this important work. Brief monthly reports would keep the MAS Board informed of the committee's activities.

Publicity Chair. This person would lead efforts to highlight Madison Audubon's

work and projects in the Audubon CAWS, website, and Facebook page, as well as with local media. The Publicity Chair would also be responsible for getting word out about MAS events, such as our monthly programs, the Art Fair, and volunteer opportunities like prairie seed planting

If you find any of these opportunities appealing, or if you have questions, feel free to contact me directly at audubon-volunteer@mailbag.com or (608) 255-BIRD (2473).

MAS Calendar At a Glance

EVENTS

- Wild Ones Annual Conference - Jan. 28
- Great Backyard Bird Count - Feb. 17-20
- Urban Wetlands - Feb. 22-23

FIELD TRIPS

Sat. Jan. 7: Wis. River Raptors

(See Dec. CAWS for info)

Sat. Feb. 25: Winter Birds of
 UW Arboretum

See inside for more details.