

Audubon Outlook

Newsletter of the Lake County Audubon Society (LCAS)



To contact us:
• audbirds@aol.com
• 847.362.5134

Articles:

- Bluebirds Need Your Help
- Birds in My Neighborhood Update
- GO Lake County Initiative
- Almond Marsh Rookery Update
- Update on Birdscaping

Activities:

- April 21 - Welcome Back Herons 8:00am-Noon Almond Marsh FP
- May 2 – Nature Walk 7:30 Raven Glen FP on Rt.45 South of 173
- May 16 – Nature Walk 7:30 Wright Woods FP
- June 13 Cheese and Crackers with the Herons 6:00pm Almond Marsh FP

For up-to-date listings, go to
www.lakecountyaudubon.org

Or scan the QR code below



Early Settlement Along the Des Plaines River

General Meeting: Monday, April 2, 7:30 pm Libertyville Village Hall 2nd Floor

Speaker: Jenny Barry

History Librarian at Cook Memorial Public Library

A look at the early settlement along the Des Plaines River in Lake County, IL from present day Half Day to north of Libertyville. Pioneers Daniel Wright, Hiram Kennicott, Ransom & Richard Steele, George Vardin, Elconah Tingley, and Archimedes Wynkoop will be profiled.

The native people of the northern Illinois area had been using the Des Plaines River as a travel route for ages when the land was ceded to the United States in the Treaty of 1833. Even before the land was surveyed and available for purchase, some hardy souls made their way west and north.

As they moved into the area the Des Plaines River was a natural path to follow. Jenny, will also follow the river north as she profiles a few of those early settlers and marks the progress of settlement up the Des Plaines River.

Jenny Barry is a local history librarian at the Cook Memorial Public Library and current president of the Libertyville-Mundelein Historical Society. She is a Libertyville native and holds a B.A. in History from Augustana College and a Masters of Library Science from Indiana University.

Singing Insects

General Meeting: Monday, May 7, 7:30 pm Libertyville Village Hall, 2nd Floor

Speaker: Carl Strang

Naturalist

Carl's presentation will be an overview of the Chicago region's singing insects (cicadas, crickets, katydids, and 3 subfamilies of grasshoppers). Examples from the region's 100 species illustrate ecological diversity, several range expansions from the south, and conservation concerns, with both photos and sound recordings.

Before retiring in 2015 Carl Strang was a Naturalist with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County for more than 34 years, providing programs, classes, and interpretive writings for children, families, and teachers,

Carl holds a Ph.D. in wildlife ecology from Purdue University, and taught biology for 5 years at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania before working at the District. He has won awards from the Illinois Wildlife Federation, from the Chicago Audubon Society, and from the National Association for Interpretation. His current research is on the distribution and ecology of singing insects, and he is volunteer steward at St. James Farm Forest Preserve.

Bluebirds Need Your Help

by Jack Nowak

Thinking ahead to Spring and the migrating birds back to Lake County, I always look forward to hearing and seeing the Eastern Bluebirds. For years volunteers have been trying to attract them by supplying nesting houses and monitoring to keep them safe from predators. Part of the monitor's job is to record the number of eggs and hatchlings once a week during nesting season until they leave the nest. It's a very rewarding experience. Nesting season usually runs from April through July in Lake County. We always need more volunteers to monitor trails. If you are interested in this great experience, please contact Walt Sivertsen at mcfwalt@yahoo.com. He will set you up with an existing trail, and train you on the procedures.

BIRDS IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

by Troy Peters and Chris Geiselhart



Birds in my Neighborhood is a volunteer-driven program for 2nd to 5th grade classrooms with the goal of acquainting students with nature in their community through the observation of birds.

Connecting students with nature at school and close to home starts them on a lifetime passion for the environment.

Lake County Audubon Society participated in this program two years ago and will do so again this year with two schools in Lake County in cooperation with Audubon Great Lakes and Openlands. Knowledgeable volunteers will work with these schools to further establish the connection between Lake County students and the local environment.

It's very rewarding to be a volunteer in this effort, with training sessions provided to completely prepare our volunteers. There will be three contacts with students: in-classroom lesson, bird walk in the schoolyard, and a field trip to a local natural area. An additional opportunity to volunteer is to provide field trip support, helping identify birds and/or managing students.

Training was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 and Tuesday, March 14, 2018 at the Libertyville Township Hall. It included program overview, tutorials on classroom lesson, schoolyard bird walk, and field trip. Those interested in field trip support will help the volunteer Instructors by identifying birds and/or managing students.

Troy Peters and Charmeise Jackson are contacts who can provide information for those who are interested in volunteering in the future. Phone: 312-453-0239x2004 Email: cjackson@audubon.org

Birds in My Neighborhood is a partnership between Openlands and Great Lakes Audubon, funded through the US Forest Service International Programs.

LCAS Partners With Gurnee Park District in the GO LAKE COUNTY Initiative!

by Diane Rosenberg

On Saturday, May 12th, at 9AM, Lake County Audubon volunteers will meet at the Sedge Meadow Lake County Forest Preserve parking lot to accompany the GO Gurnee Walking Club on a Nature Walk. This is a first trial walk to test the efficacy of a joint park district/Audubon partnership.

The GO Gurnee Walking Club has been active for almost a year with the goal of encouraging all Lake County residents to get GOing by simply walking. A recent health survey of Lake County residents found that 57% of Lake County adults are overweight and that only 36% of Lake County adults walk 30 minutes a day. The rates of obesity, hypertension and diabetes are rising across the United States.

Studies have shown that walking outdoors in nature increases the benefits of walking. Walking in natural areas reduces stress, increases awareness, and encourages creativity. In addition, studies have indicated that "nature therapy", sometimes called "eco-therapy" improves immune function and memory, reduces depression, and aids in getting a good night's sleep!

To participate in the walk you need to pre-register with the Gurnee Park District. You don't have to be a Gurnee resident to go on the walk and there's no fee! If you're interested in helping out as a LCAS nature walk volunteer, please contact any LCAS Board member.

Almond Marsh Rookery Update

by Jack Nowak



At the end of December 2017, four Lake County Audubon volunteers went out on the marsh to add 3 more man-made nesting baskets to one of the existing tripods. Every year Lake County Audubon has added some man-made nesting structures to keep the Great Blue Heron rookery producing. The herons have been returning every year in the second week of March to find new nesting platforms that have replaced the fallen cottonwood trees that were their nests at one time. Almond Marsh is such a great educational site for watching the nesting herons and their young, hatch and grow to maturity before they leave the nest around the end of June – beginning of July.

During nesting season volunteers for the Lake County Forest Preserve have been opening the gate at Almond Marsh every Saturday at 8 am until noon. This year the

gate at Almond Marsh will open at 8:00am on Saturday April 7 for the start of the nesting season, it will continue every Saturday morning until July 14. During this time volunteers will set up spotting scopes and will provide the use of binoculars to view the herons, other shore birds, and ducks in their habitat. Volunteers will also provide background and answer questions on the rookery. Plan to stop by at least one Saturday during nesting season, it's a great opportunity for the whole family.

Lake County Audubon Society will sponsor a Welcome Back Herons event on **Saturday April 21 from 8:00am until noon**. Mark your calendar. Refreshments will be provided, and volunteers will be there to help with questions and provide viewing of the herons and other waterbirds.

Update on Birdscaping

by Paul Geiselhart

The Lake County Audubon Society 2018 Birdscaping program is an ongoing commitment to planting native trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs in Lake County. It has been taking place on Libertyville Township Open Space property between Casey Road and Route 137 and relies on volunteers to help township staff install these plants. The goal of the planting has been to provide food and shelter for birds and other animals.

The program has expanded to include installing trees that will eventually restore the oak savannah along Casey Road. Volunteer workdays on the site will involve planting native seeds and plugs from 9 am-12 noon, Saturday May 12th and June 9th. The location will be a short distance west of the intersection of Casey and Almond Roads, on Casey Road. The farm entrance on the south side of Casey Road will be clearly marked with signage and volunteer flaggers on the road.

There will be plenty of parking, with snacks, water and tools. Volunteers are not expected to be planting experts since there will be demonstrations of techniques prior to actual work. Do come dressed for the weather and the activity; a long sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes or boots are recommended. Bring your favorite shovel if you have one.

Funding has been generously provided by a variety of donors including your Lake County Audubon Society, Great Lakes Audubon, Trees Forever, Liberty Prairie Foundation, Plants for Birds (NAS), and others.

If you plan to accept our invitation to volunteer, please contact Damon Cederberg at dcederberg@libertyvilletownship.us to sign up and to get a copy of the Youth Release for those under 18 years of age.

This is a great family activity involving education and using skills in the beautiful outdoors.

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If you know of any individual, organization, or corporation that would like to help support the publication of future newsletters, please contact audbirds@aol.org. LCAS is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

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**Lake County
Audubon Society**

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Lake County Audubon Society Non-Profit Status

We have achieved 501(c)(3) status. What do these sometimes mysterious numbers mean? This status means that we are not only an Illinois non-profit, as we have been, but have received the designation that will enable donors to deduct the value of gifts and property to the Lake County Audubon Society on their Federal Income Tax forms. We are "also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522." Note: Your donation will be used fully towards our mission; our society is all volunteers, there are no administration fees taken out. To enhance the ease of donating online, LCAS has a PayPal account linked to our website. www.lakecountyaudubon.org

National Audubon Society Membership

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Make checks payable to "[Lake County Audubon Society](#)". Dues include NATIONAL AUDUBON magazine. Allow 4-6 weeks from receipt of payment to receive your first issue of AUDUBON. The National Audubon Society occasionally makes its membership list available to carefully selected organizations whose mailings you might find of interest. To have your name omitted from this list, please check here.

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