



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac Area Bird & Nature Alliance

SUMMER OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

*Explore nature with members of Bird & Nature Alliance (Audubon).
Always open to the public.*

June 2 Julie Fitzpatrick Farm

June 9 Shaginappi County Park

June 16 Heckrodt Wetlands Reserve

June 23 Rain date for Heckrodt Wetlands Reserve

June 30 Greenway Arboretum Hike

July 7 Hobbs Woods

July 14 Lakeside West and Marsh

July 21 Kiekhaefer Park

July 28 Gottfried Prairie & Arboretum

August 4 Marsh Haven Nature Center

August 11 Laudolff Ledge Conservation Area

August 18 Shady Lady Acres Flower Farm

August 25 Chimney Swift Roosting Count (7:45 pm)

August 29 (Saturday) Foraging Class with Chris Gavin at Kay's Ledge

September 2 Wild Feast Potluck

*All Tuesday events begin at 6:30 pm, except for August 25 and September 2.
On Saturday, August 29, the start time is 10 am.*

See page 3 for more information. Canceled if raining.



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SUMMER READING

Birding to Change the World

By Trish O’Kane (2024), this read will inspire you to action in protecting birds and habitat. It’s an engaging memoir of the author’s experience of discovering birds in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and then coming to Madison, Wisconsin.

Kane lived near Warner Park in Madison and helped the neighborhood save the park. She started an after school program for middle school children exploring nature in Warner Park. There were many meetings and efforts to stop the City Park Commission’s plans for more pavement and removing trees, etc. The neighbors formed a group called Wild Warner and eventually managed to stop the biggest annual firework display in the midwest—Rhythm and Booms—from being held at Warner Park.

Read many interesting bird facts in this book.

Alfie and Me

What Owls Know, What Humans Believe

This story of raising a small screech owl by Carl Safina, Ecologist (2023) leads to sharing insights and wisdom from Native American sources, western philosophical traditions, and religions.

“A moving account of raising, then freeing, an orphaned screech owl, whose lasting friendship with the author illuminates humanity’s relationship with the world.”

Shelter and Storm At Home in the Driftless

Author Tamara Dean’s quest to live lightly on the planet drew her to a landscape unlike any other: the Driftless area of Wisconsin, a region untouched by glaciers, marked by steep hills and deeply carved valleys, capped with forests and laced with cold, spring-fed streams. Keenly attentive to the stakes for our planet’s future, *Shelter and Storm* (2025) illuminates a thoughtful way forward for anyone concerned about climate change and its far-reaching consequences or for anyone searching, as Dean has, for a more sustainable way to live. www.tamaradean.media

“Living mindfully with nature during a time of uncertainty. Remarkable.”

—Joan Maloof, author of *Teaching the Trees*

“This small book of deep attention is a love letter to the joys and griefs of living on the land.”

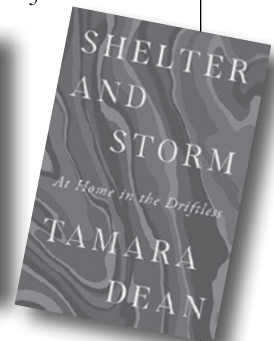
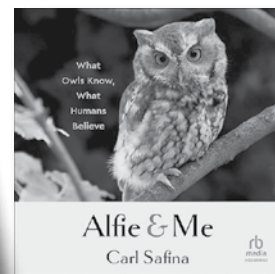
—Star Tribune

AI Dirty Secret

Fourteen states and numerous local governments offering data center tax subsidies are refusing to disclose how much they’re spending on underwriting the artificial intelligence boom. Based on publicly available data, those expenditures are costly: Virginia, Georgia, and Texas lose more than \$1 billion a year subsidizing data centers. A new report from Good Jobs First, a watchdog group overseeing private-public partnerships, finds that most governments are ignoring best practices set forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, an independent private-sector group that helps states and municipalities meet accounting compliance requirements.

The amount of taxpayer funding being showered on data centers instead of public services is growing exponentially: in several states, known revenue losses increased by more than 1,000 percent in recent years.

Amazon, Alphabet, and Meta, the parent companies behind three of the largest data center operations in the U.S., shaved roughly \$49 billion off their collective tax bills in 2025 thanks to Trump’s One, Big, Beautiful Bill Act. *This article came from The Lever*



Stetter Environmental Education Funds Support Boys/Girls Club Field Trip

Through the Dave Stetter Environmental Education Funds, second through fifth graders from Fond du Lac Boys/Girls Club will visit Marsh Haven Nature Center on Wednesday, June 24. Children will participate in a guided hike, museum exploration, and an animal ambassador meet and greet. Audubon members who would like to assist with the field trip and ride the bus to Marsh Haven should be at Boys/Girls Club in Fond du Lac at 9:00 am for a 9:15 am departure. The bus will return at 4:00 pm. Alternately, drive to Marsh Haven, W10145 Hwy 49, and arrive about 9:45 am.

Those wishing to contribute to support such activities may send checks to Mike Sweney, Fond du Lac Audubon, N5545 Winnvive Court, Fond du Lac, WI 54937, with a check payable to Dave Stetter EE Fund. We are a 501c(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organization.

SUMMER OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Explore area trails, farms, and nature areas in Fond du Lac County and City with members of Bird & Nature Alliance. Tuesday evening events begin at 6:30 pm. Wear good walking shoes, bring insect repellent, and binoculars if available. The adventures will last an hour to an hour and a half. Canceled if raining. For more information, contact dianahbeck@gmail.com or 920-922-7931.

June 2 Julie Fitzpatrick Farm N5849 Hillcrest Road
The farm is located just west of Fond du Lac. We will see Julie's prairie restoration and management for grassland birds and pollinators. Encounter Julie's herd of sheep and baby lambs and see a demonstration of her border collies herding the sheep. Meet her horses and learn how rotational grazing practices are implemented on the farm. *Leader – Margie Winter*

June 9 Shaginappi County Park
W3220 Velvet Beach Road Drive north on Hwy 151 to just north of Pipe, turn left on Velvet Beach Road. Continue about ½ mile and turn into a parking lot on the left. *Leaders – Kerry and Dave Schloff*

June 16 Heckrodt Wetlands Reserve
1305 Plank Road, Menasha Explore some of the three miles of trails through the 91 acres featuring forested wetland, prairie meadow, and shoreline cattail marsh. Meet at the west side of Kohls' parking lot at 5:45 pm to carpool or meet at 6:30 on site. *Leader – Diana Beck*

June 23 Rain date Heckrodt Wetlands Reserve

June 30 Greenway Arboretum Discover over two miles of beautiful nature trails along the Fond du Lac River on 24.5 acres in town. Meet at the west side of the parking lot at the south Pick 'n Save store at 55 West Pioneer Road. *Leader – Evelyn McLean-Cowan*

July 7 Hobbs Woods N4145 Hickory Road
Parson's Creek carves some large ravines through the 60 acre park. *Leader – Lori Amend*

July 14 Lakeside Park West & Marsh Howard Litscher Drive Meet by the dog park. Explore the trail and boardwalk with views of Lake Winnebago and Supple's Marsh. Walk over the new bridge connecting east and west park land. *Leader – Lori Amend*

July 21 Kiekhaefer Park W4235 Kiekhaefer Parkway
This park of 120 acres has wonderful trails through hilly, wooded terrain and is part of the Niagara Escarpment. *Leader – Diana Beck*

July 28 Gottfried Prairie & Arboretum
Walk on a guided tour through some of the 37.5 acres at the Fond du Lac County Campus. Meet in the east parking lot, 400 University Dr. *Leader – Margie Winter*

August 4 Marsh Haven Nature Center
W10145 State Road 49, Waupun Drive south on Hwy 151, then travel east on Hwy 49 for 2½ miles. To carpool, meet at the southwest corner of the Fleet Farm parking lot at 6:00 pm. *Leader – Liz Roy*

August 11 Laudolff Ledge Conservation Area
Hwy 151 (Four miles north of WH and turn right into parking lot at N9141.) This 24.6-acre parcel contains 965 linear feet of wooded Niagara Escarpment with ledgerrock ranging from 45–60 feet in height as well as 18 acres of former cropland, which is being restored to its native, original habitat of tall mesic prairie. *Leader – Diana Beck*

August 18 Shady Lady Acres Flower Farm
N6823 Giebel Road, Eldorado The flower field is in the white fence near the blue shipping container. Meet Jessica Jaber, Marine veteran and owner of Shady Lady Acres. Wander through rows of vibrant, farm-fresh blooms, and learn about sustainably grown flowers without shortcuts or mass transportation. Bouquets for purchase. *Leader – Kathleen Stetter*

August 25 Chimney Swift Roosting Count
Meet on South Brooke Street just south of Western Avenue. Watch the Metal Link chimney starting at 7:45 pm until about 8:10. Bring a lawn chair and binoculars. Join us afterwards to socialize at Fat Joe's Burgers/Brews, 15 W. Division. St. *Leader – Diana Beck*

August 29 (Saturday, 10 am–noon)
Foraging Class with Chris Gavin at Kay's Ledge
N7836 County Hwy WH Take a "plant walk" with a focus on ethnobotany where Chris will discuss the plants we will encounter and the basics of identifying, harvesting, and enjoying the abundance of wild foods. You may be encouraged to nibble on safe, raw foods. Chris Gavin is a Wisconsin Master Naturalist, Scout leader, and owner of Eagle Outdoor Skills, a business connecting people to the natural world through wild foods, traditional skills, and ecological knowledge. Limited to 20 people. Reserve your spot: 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com. Drive east on Cty WH, up the ledge .9 miles from the Hwy 151 bypass to the entrance on the west side. Watch for Audubon signs by the road. No dogs allowed.

Fond du Lac Area
**Bird &
Nature
Alliance**

P.O. Box 84
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-0084

Submit articles for the Bird & Nature Alliance
newsletter via e-mail to mcleancowan@gmail.com

THE HERON

Fond du Lac Area
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Membership

- ☐ Yes! I want to become a member or renew my membership to the National Audubon Society, and the Fond du Lac County Chapter. The annual membership dues of \$40 entitle me to six issues of the Audubon magazine, and all local chapter benefits. I am enclosing a check payable to Fond du Lac County Audubon.
- ☐ I am only interested in being a member and supporting the programs of the Fond du Lac County Audubon. The annual local membership dues of \$20 entitle me to receive the chapter newsletter and all chapter benefits. I am enclosing a check payable to Fond du Lac County Audubon.
- ☐ I am a new member. ☐ I am a renewing member.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail this form with payment to:

Fond du Lac County Audubon, Membership Services
N5545 Winnvue Court, Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Prairie Fest at Gottfried Arboretum

On Saturday August 1, from 8 am–noon, celebrate nature with yoga, prairie tours, short nature pop-up presentations, and environmental education displays. The Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum is adjacent to the Fond du Lac County Campus.

Wild Feast Potluck

Mark your calendars for the Wild Feast Potluck Wednesday, September 2 at the DeNevue Creek Shelter at Lakeside Park. Plan ahead with wild ingredients when they are available. Some items can be frozen or preserved for later use.

June Invasive Species Pull

Sessions in June will be 8:00 to 10:00 am. Cancelled if a steady rain. Bring garden gloves and a Hori Hori if you own one or a garden trowel. For more information call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com.

1	Mon	Kettle M (9 am)
4	Thurs	Hobbs Woods
6	Sat	Kay's Ledge
13	Sat	Kay's Ledge
15	Mon	Lallier Park
17	Wed	Hobbs Woods
20	Sat	Kay's Ledge

Hobbs Woods Meet at Hobbs Woods County Park, N4197 South Hickory Road.

Lallier Park Meet at the southern end of the park on National Avenue.

Kay's Ledge N7836 WH

Kettle Moraine Adopted Area Directions from Diana Beck: dianahbeck@gmail.com