

NOVEMBER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2007

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE DATE. Due to Thanksgiving falling the day after our usual meeting date, we have moved the meeting to the LAST Wednesday in November (the 28th) for this month only.

Meeting is at 7 PM at the Ho Chunk Nation Building, lower level, 725 Main Street, across 8th Street from the Main Branch of the La Crosse Public Library . The meeting is free and open to the public.

The program will be presented by Jon Stravers.

Jon brings a program of stories and music from the river. As a "New Age River Rat" Jon has been working on and writing music about the Mississippi River for the past 30 years.

He currently serves as the Research and Field Trip Coordinator for Audubon's Mississippi River Initiative, and has been working on inventory and monitoring projects involving Red-shouldered Hawks and other birds along the Upper Mississippi River since 1977 in cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois and Iowa DNRs, and other conservation organizations along the river.

During that same period, Jon has operated an autumn raptor banding station along the Mississippi River in northeast Iowa. Jon has captured migrating raptors that were previously banded in Alaska, Greenland, and Mexico, and birds that he has banded have been recovered in Costa Rica and in areas around the Southern and Midwestern United States.

He has Co-authored of the recently published book *Sylvan T. Runkel, Citizen of the Natural World* a biography of one of Iowa's most influential conservationists.

Jon mixes in music from the river, which includes stories of birds along the river and of the spiritual and emotional influence of the river. With his son, Jon Jr, and various other musicians Jon has recorded four CDs of original music. These include *River's Rising* in 2001, *Mystic Migrations* in 2005, and two recordings of live performances in 2006.

OCTOBER MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2007

"Reaching the North Pole in Summer"

The public is invited to a joint meeting of the Coulee Region Audubon Society and Sierra Club on Tuesday, October 30 at 7:00 PM, Room 140 in Cowley Hall on the UW-La Crosse campus.

On July 1, 2006 Lonnie Dupre and Eric Larsen made history by becoming the first ever expedition to reach the North Pole in summer. On this journey, they pulled and paddled specially modified canoes over 600 miles of shifting sea ice and open leads of the Arctic Ocean. Eric will relate how they did problem solving, setting goals and overcoming fear and failure as well as the expedition's efforts to bring attention to Global Warming and the plight of the polar bear. There is a dramatic story of encounters with polar bears. Included in the presentation are stunning images and video of the conditions faced on the Arctic Ocean.

Modern-day explorer, Eric Larsen's life epitomizes adventure. A polar explorer, dog musher, adventure racer and educator, he has spent the past 12 years of his life adventuring in some of the most remote and wild places left on earth. He has traveled enough wilderness miles to circle the globe nearly two and half times.

A gifted communicator, Eric travels the country giving motivational and educational lectures to K-12 schools, universities, non profit organizations and corporate groups. Several documentaries have also been created around expeditions that Eric has been involved with.

Eric lives in Grand Marais, Minn where he is planning for his next expedition and writing two books.

