

NOVEMBER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012

Wisconsin's Sandhill Cranes

Eileen Kirsch is a research wildlife biologist who has been at UMESC and has been working birds on the Mississippi River and in the upper Midwest since 1991. Her research interests are in how birds use habitat and how this use affects their fitness. She considers airspace as habitat and is embarking on a new research direction studying bird movements aloft during migration. She has worked with many species and groups of birds (least terns, piping plovers, double-crested cormorants, secretive marsh birds, grassland and forest songbirds, and sandhill cranes) asking questions about distribution, habitat use and selection in breeding and migration seasons. The title of her talk is "Landscape use and movements of Sandhill Cranes using the Horicon Marsh during fall roosting and migration staging."

This event will begin at 7:00 PM and will be held in the basement meeting room of the Ho-Chunk Nation building at 724 Main Street , La Crosse. This is on the south side of Main street and across 8th street from the Main Branch of the La Crosse Public Library.

The program is free and open to the public.

OCTOBER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012

The Return of Iowa's Bald Eagle

Iowa author Ty Smedes will be speaking about the return of the bald eagle in Iowa through his fantastic photography. Ty's photos have been published by many major magazines and book publishers. He is a regular contributor to Iowa Natural Heritage Magazine, The Iowan Magazine, Our Iowa Magazine, and is a feature writer for the Iowa DNR's Iowa Outdoors magazine. His photos have appeared in Sierra, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Smithsonian, and other publications. He specializes in photos of landscapes, wildlife, and prairie wildflowers, and he also loves to photograph and market photos of Iowa people and cultural events.

Ty has taught nature photography classes and is as an experienced Photo-Tour leader, having led nature photography tours to Yellowstone & Teton parks, as well as the Eastern Sierras, during the fall season. He was also co-leader of a nature photography tour to Brazil in 1996 and has led nature photography tours to East Africa in 2005, 2008, and 2010, as well as Botswana in 2006. He is the author of two books, "Capturing Iowa's Seasons" and "The Return of Iowa's Bald Eagle". Books will be available for purchase after the program.

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The program is free and open to the public.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2012

Trash to Treasure

When you think of trash, do you think of hiking trails and wildlife habitat? You should! The La Crosse County Landfill was awarded Green Tier Level 1 status by the DNR in 2011.

Join us as Hank Koch, P.E., Director and Nick Nichols, Sustainability Coordinator of La Crosse County Solid Waste Department explain how our solid waste is managed in an ecologically friendly way. A sign up for a tour of the landfill site will be offered on Saturday, September 22 for those who wish to experience the site first hand – bring your binoculars for wildlife viewing!

This event will be held in the Ho-Chunk Nation Building, lower level, 724 Main Street La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The program is free and open to the public.

JUNE POT_LUCK

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2012

June Pot-luck!

Our annual Summer Pot-luck will be at a new location this year. The picnic shelter at Red Cloud Park in La Crosse has been reserved for us from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

There is electricity for those who bring hot dishes. Bring a dish to pass and your own utensils.

We will have a bird hike following the pot-luck.

Directions are: Lang Dr. to St. Andrew St. to Powell St.

The program is free and open to the public.

MAY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012

Russian Adventure!

Join us for a fascinating talk by biologist Kurt Brownell as he shares adventures from his six week, 6,000 mile journey. Kurt's first encounters with Russian culture began in the 1980s when he was one of two American scientists aboard the Soviet research vessel Mys Babushkina. He returned to Russia in 2010 to travel and teach at Muraviovka Park at a summer camp for children from the Amur Region. This park was set up and operates with support from the International Crane Foundation.

Kurt's travels on the trans-Siberian railroad took him across two continents and included stopping at Irkutsk. Here he explored Lake Baikal, the world's largest freshwater lake by volume, and home to the only freshwater seals found on the planet. Kurt currently works locally for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

This event will be held in the Ho-Chunk Nation Building, lower level, 724 Main Street La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The program is free and open to the public.

APRIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2012

Galapagos – Trip of a Lifetime!

Join us for an up close and personal look at the fascinating creatures inhabiting the Galapagos Islands! Scott Lee, ME-PD, travelled to the Galapagos Island in March 2011, crossing off the #1 item on his "Bucket List". Scott is a local educator currently teaching Environmental Studies at UW-L. He retired from Trempealeau Elementary School after teaching there for 33 years. In 1994, he was given the Roger Tory Peterson Institute's Nature Educator of the Year Award. Scott lives in Trempealeau with his wife, and has 2 children and 2 grandchildren. He is hoping to lead a trip to the Galapagos in the near future.

This event will be held in the Ho-Chunk Nation Building, lower level, 724 Main Street La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The program is free and open to the public.

MARCH MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2012

Mixed Flock Madness: Cheddarheads descend on Southeast Peru

The intersection of the rugged Andes and the verdant Amazon give rise to the greatest expression of life on Earth. The region's forests have the world's highest species diversity and provide important wintering habitat for many migratory birds that call Wisconsin home - Cerulean Warbler, Canada Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, etc. Craig Thompson will weave a whopping good yarn about a group of Wisconsin birders who recently traveled to remote southeast Peru to enjoy some of the best birding on the planet while helping to protect this remarkable biodiversity hotspot.

Craig Thompson works for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and coordinates the Department's international migratory bird conservation program. Despite frequent trips south of the border, he has yet to see a Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo.

This event will be held in the Ho-Chunk Nation Building, lower level, 724 Main Street La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The program is free and open to the public.

FEBRUARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2012

Kids and Mentors Outdoors

Kathy Frise, Outreach Coordinator for the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, will speak to us about recent land acquisitions and birding opportunities. She will also speak about the "K.A.M.O. Program (Kids and Mentors Outdoors). Mississippi Valley Conservancy is working with other organizations in the area to establish a K.A.M.O Program and are in need of adults willing to take a child or children along on their outdoor activities. Join us for this informative program and learn of ways you can be more involved in partnering

with Mississippi Valley Conservancy.

This event will be held in the Ho-Chunk Nation Building, lower level, 724 Main Street La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The program is free and open to the public.

JANUARY ANNUAL MEETING / POT LUCK

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012

Annual Meeting and Pot-Luck

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18th at the Myrick Hixon EcoPark.

This is our annual meeting and it will start with a potluck at 6:00 pm which will be followed by our January meeting at 7:00. The January meeting will include a brief business meeting that will include a look at the organization's finances as well as an election of board members and officers.

The current terms for the positions of President, Vice President, and one of the Board Member expire that night and we will need to elect people to those positions for the next 2 year term. I plan to run for another term as President, Sue Fletcher has agreed to run for another term as Vice President, and Scott Puchalski has agreed to run for what will be an open board member position. If anyone else would like their name on the ballot, please let me know. We will ask for nominations on the night of the meeting as well.

Once the business meeting is done, we will once again open the floor to allow our members to show pictures of nature, wildlife, and outdoor-related events and trips. We have quite a few members who enjoy taking pictures of critters and I look forward to a great show!! If you would like to show your photos, a laptop and projector will be set up to show digital images. Bring your photos on a CD, DVD or thumb drive. If you want to show photos in another format, please bring any equipment necessary to share them.

If you would prefer to not take part in the potluck, you are still encouraged to attend the meeting part of the night's events. That will start promptly at 7:00 PM.

This event will be held in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street in La Crosse, Wisconsin. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

The program is free and open to the public.