



madison  
**AUDUBON**  
society

NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY

FALL 2016

## A sanctuary in all seasons

Throughout the year restoration work and land management are labors of love. At Goose Pond Sanctuary, we've learned this first hand. Since 1979, we have had the privilege of serving as the resident managers of Madison Audubon's first bird and wildlife sanctuary.

Summer days at Goose Pond can be demanding, as we toil to pull stubborn sweet clover and wild carrot in the sweltering and unrelenting prairie sun. Winter can test our spirits, as we battle below-freezing temperatures while clutching binoculars and data sheets with frigid fingers on Christmas Bird Counts. The life of a passionate conservationist is not without its challenges!



The beauty of a morning at Goose Pond can be appreciated in all seasons. Mark Martin and Sue Foote-Martin have enjoyed many sunrises during their tenure as resident co-managers at the site. Will you see the next one?

Yet, on cool spring mornings we find ourselves surrounded by the glorious chorus of early migrating birds headed to rest and feed on the Pond. In the fall, brilliantly colored prairies move in unison in the crisp autumn breezes as we collect the seeds to plant anew.

Enjoy the beauty for yourself: come early and stay late at Goose Pond, where time slows down and the air seems sweeter. Make a few new friends by joining us out on the land: butterfly counts, bird counts, frog counts; monarch butterfly tagging or kestrel chick banding; nest box monitoring or prairie seed collecting.

The privilege of calling Goose Pond home for 37 years has given us a unique perspective. We've watched Madison Audubon grow from a small group of dedicated members and staff to a thriving organization at which its founders might be astonished: Enthusiastic new faces have joined our ranks in the form of office and administrative staff, land stewards, interns, and fellow sanctuary managers at Faville Grove. The Madison Audubon family has grown, and we are bolstered in our work by their efforts. From grant management to environmental education, advocacy efforts to finances and outreach, it is amazing what work we've all accomplished to keep Madison Audubon growing as a leading voice of conservation in southern Wisconsin—year after year, season after season.

We've been so grateful for the dedication of our members. We hope to see you at Goose Pond soon—no matter the weather!

Mark Martin & Sue Foote-Martin  
Resident managers at Goose Pond Sanctuary  
goosep@madisonaudubon.org

Madison Audubon  
is your local  
Audubon chapter

*Together with our members, we work to protect and improve habitat for birds and other wildlife through land acquisition and management, education and advocacy.*

## Introducing the Madison Audubon Frequent Flyer club!

*A simple and effective way to support local conservation and education all year long*

My very first bird field job was in the lush forests and swamps of the Suwannee National Forest in southern Illinois. I spent each day slog-ging around in wet boots, dodging venomous cottonmouths, catching poison ivy and getting eaten alive by mosquitoes. It was awesome.

As part of that job, our team monitored prothonotary warbler nests and spent hours watching the adult birds feed their growing chicks. I remember being struck by the dedication with which the male and female delivered food. It was not just important that the adults returned, but that they did so regularly to make sure their nestlings were getting sus-tained nutrition as they grew.

**Pardon the metaphor, but Madison Audubon is growing too and regular support is important to our success.** On that note (zweet-zweet-zweet by prothonotary stan-dards), I would like to invite you to join our new and growing **Frequent Flyer** pro-gram! Frequent Flyers are a group of dedicated supporters who make monthly gifts, spread-ing their support over the en-tire year to sustain Madison

Audubon and our work together. **Here's how it works:**

1. **You choose the amount of your monthly gift and provide payment details.**
2. **Your chosen gift amount is charged automatically each month.**

As a Frequent Flyer, your membership also renews automatically each year, ensuring that you'll never miss an issue of the Madison Audubon newsletter, our field trip calendar, or any other important events or updates.

Lastly, each January, we'll mail you an annual giving statement for tax purposes.

You can update your giving information any-time—just contact us to make any change.

By joining the friendly flock of Frequent Flyers, you help Madison Audubon balance resources throughout the year, reduce fundraising ex-penses, and consume fewer resources.

Thanks, and happy birding!

*Matt*

Matt Reetz, executive director  
mreetz@madisonaudubon.org



LEFT: The Prothonotary warbler, like this brilliant male, is one of only two warbler species to nest in cavities. Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

## Madison Audubon seeks candidates for your Board of Directors

This fall, the Madison Audubon nominating committee will consider candidates for inclusion on the 2017 ballot for board of directors and seeks your suggestions. **MAS members recently approved a change to the by-laws permitting expansion of the board from nine to as many as 15 direc-tors, so we can consider more candidates than usual.**

If you or someone you know could contribute positively to the oversight and development of the organization and would be willing to serve, please communicate this to the committee.

**Please call (608) 255-BIRD or send an email to [info@madisonaudubon.org](mailto:info@madisonaudubon.org) with names and qualifications of potential candidates.**



ABOVE: Leadplant (and more!) in vibrant summer bloom at Goose Pond Sanctuary. Photo by Emily Meier

## Conserving wildlife in an agricultural landscape

Raise your hand if you have seen wild turkeys within the city limits of Madison. What about deer? Or raccoons? Sandhill cranes? Certainly Canada geese! These are all species whose populations increased in the rural areas surrounding Madison to the point that young individuals sought suitable habitat in novel urban and suburban environments and are adapting successfully.

These also are all species that were experi-encing critically low populations in 1933 when the University of Wisconsin created a chair in game management for Professor Aldo Leopold. Leopold and his first graduate students were able to work with farmers at Faville Grove to demonstrate that “scientific planning and methods can result in a game crop as well as a plant crop, and that the two can be combined on the same area to the farmer’s benefit.”

Leopold’s methods involved providing winter food and brushy cover for wildlife in underuti-lized corners of an agricultural landscape, while collecting scientific data concerning the relationship of plants and animals. At the same time, by recruiting local farmers in the process Leopold hoped to strengthen their sense of connection to the land in order to expand and carry forward the effort after the university’s involvement ended.

Leopold understood that the fate of much of our wildlife is in the hands of farmers. As humankind’s most extensive use of land, agricul-ture, then as now, dramatically affected wildlife. What Leopold didn’t foresee were the inexo-rable economic forces that would increasingly drive a wedge between farmers and their land.

In fact, most farmers were driven off their land altogether, while the few who remained oversaw larger and larger tracts. Low profit margins forced many efficiencies—of scale, of labor, and of scientific innovation. The effects on wildlife were many and varied, but almost universally they were unintentional, rather than the result of, as Leopold had hoped, “the pleasures of husbandry-in-the-wild,” achieved “when some art of management is applied to land by some person of perception.”

As farms expanded throughout the second half of the 20th century and as livestock graz-ing was radically curtailed in favor of more ef-ficient confinement-feeding, many formerly grazed marginal lands were neglected, resulting in brushy growth in fencerows, woodlots and wetlands. This, combined with the imposition of new hunting regulations and the introduc-tion of government agricultural conservation programs, led to a rebound of many species, in-cluding those now taking up city life.

At the same time, grassland birds took a severe hit as a result of changing agricultural practices, with most species losing half or more of their population. In Leopold’s day, pastures, partic-ularly those that were lightly (and inefficiently) grazed, provided nesting habitat for grassland birds, but pastures all but disappeared in subse-quent decades. Mixed grass and clover hayfields were replaced with pure stands of alfalfa, and farmers began green-chopping the crop every three weeks during the growing season for delivery at its peak protein level to their barn-bound cows, leaving no window for grassland birds to raise a brood between harvests.

As the 21st century unfolds, agricul-tural practices continue to intensify, creating new pressures on wildlife. Unprecedented demand for agricul-tural crops and high prices are now leading farmers to plow up formerly neglected marginal lands. The cur-rent plight of the monarch butter-fly may in part be attributed to the widespread introduction of crops genetically modified to withstand herbicide, and the consequent loss of milkweeds across large agricul-tural landscapes.

If today’s industrial agriculturalists are not the artful managers of wild-life habitat that Leopold hoped they

(See “Raise your hand” p. 7)



ABOVE: Aldo Leopold looks over an agricultural landscape. Photo courtesy of the Aldo Leopold Foundation ([aldoleopold.org](http://aldoleopold.org))  
TOP RIGHT: A restored prairie awash in black-eyed susan blooms at Faville Grove Sanctuary.



Madison Audubon is a proud member of the following organizations:



# MEET THE SUMMER CREW

Our summer 2016 restoration interns used hard work and determination to make a big difference for local birds and wildlife.



## PRAIRIE PARTNER INTERNS

*Curious, hard-working, and spirited, the Prairie Partners interns of 2016 have certainly proven their mettle! This year's crew was asked to pull garlic mustard, cut buckthorn in dense marsh woods, dig parsnips taller than their heads, slog through unburned tallgrass prairie in search of a lone sweet clover—and yet their spirits were never dampened and so much was accomplished. During the more exciting activities, such as banding kestrels, or counting butterflies, they proved themselves curious and knowledgeable. It's been wonderful to work with them. Thank you Prairie Partners interns of 2016!*

— Maddie Van Cleve  
Goose Pond Land Steward

**STEVEN PLESH**  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Wildlife Ecology

“On the first day of the internship, we were touring Tillotson Prairie when a bobolink flew in front of us. None of the interns had seen one before, so we relied on Dave for identification. It belted out its complex, R2-D2-like call and perched on a small shrub, its yellow cap and white-barred back facing us. It made me realize that birds like the bobolink would benefit from our work this summer. That was a special moment for me.”

**MONICA DEPIES**  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Conservation Biology

“Having held many different jobs growing up, I never had a position that was as rewarding as interning at Faville Grove Sanctuary. As someone who loves to learn, I was excited every day to discover something new about the environment around me, and then get to go and share that information with family and friends. It also is very exciting to know that we are helping to preserve an ecosystem as threatened (and amazing!) as these prairies.”

**ELIJAH THUNELL**  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Anthropology, Conservation Biology, and Psychology

“Traveling around the country and some parts of the world, and seeing the differences—from ecological to cultural—has inspired my love of nature. I've enjoyed learning the different views people have of nature as well as seeing awe-inspiring acts of nature with my own eyes.”



**CODY MUELLER**  
University of Wisconsin–Platteville  
Reclamation

“I have always had a passion for hunting and fishing which resulted in a deep respect for nature. I hope to obtain a job that will help the environment.”

**ALLISON EARL**  
University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point  
Forest Ecosystem Restoration and Management, minors in Soil Science, Conservation Biology, and Wetland Science

“I have really enjoyed the education component of this internship. We have had the opportunity to learn about working for the Department of Natural Resources, the Urban Canid Project, Native American mound building, limnology, and bird and butterfly surveys.”



**ADELYN HANCHETTE**  
University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point  
Wildlife Ecology Research and Management, Spanish, minor in Conservation Biology

Favorite conservation quote: “You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” — Jane Goodall

**ALLISON BAN-HERR**  
University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire  
Conservation Biology, minor in Environmental Science

“My career goal is to work in many conservation-related fields throughout my career, including freshwater preservation. I'd like to work in as many different places and as many different ecosystems as possible—all while meeting as many like-minded people as I can along the way.”

**GINA LEHNER**  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Wildlife Ecology, Life Sciences Communications, certificate in Environmental Studies

“I'm an outdoors-woman because of my dad. He might not have had a science background, but he had an immense curiosity and love of everything nature, and I definitely inherited that.”

**KURT BENNETT**  
University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point  
Forest Ecosystem Restoration and Management, minor in Soil Science

Favorite conservation quote: “Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.” — Theodore Roosevelt

## FAVILLE GROVE INTERNS

*Faville Grove's 2016 intern crew covered a thousand acres many times over. Steven's knack for finding bones on the prairie was almost scary, but a story unfolded with each skeleton. Monica found every parsnip and sweet clover within her sight. Elijah's humor and observational skills allowed him to find bird nests and jokes in unlikely places. Cody's curiosity blossomed throughout the summer and he pushed himself to find answers to natural wonders. It was delightful to become friends with each intern, to share knowledge about the land, and to see them become fascinated with our diverse and limitless natural landscapes!*

— Drew Harry  
Faville Grove Land Steward



The Faville crew chronicled their adventures online! To see photos from the field and read their weekly reflections, visit [favillegrove.wordpress.com](http://favillegrove.wordpress.com). From left: Steven, Monica, Elijah, and Cody.

Madison Audubon's summer program of paid internships in restoration ecology gives students hands-on work experience and education, and advances Madison Audubon's important habitat protection work. Our internships work in partnership with the Friends of Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Pheasant Branch Conservancy, Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy, and Natural Heritage Land Trust (at Goose Pond and other sites) and with the UW-Madison Arboretum (at Faville Grove.)



## Summer adventures with Madison Audubon's education programs

*From conservation career training to microscopic nature explorations*

The quiet steady pace of winter seems like a lifetime ago, but this summer has been filled with adventure. Thanks to your support, we have been able to reach 2,259 kids since January – and have built long-term relationships with over 100 of them! Because of your support, these kids are spending more time exploring outside, asking questions, and making observations about nature.

What are we up to this summer?

- Kids at Vera Court Neighborhood Center and Salvation Army Community Center are adventuring with insects, water critters, and tiny flowers in our Micro Explorers curriculum.
- Through our Conservation Academy program (pictured above), Operation Fresh Start crews have learned about career paths in habitat restoration, stream

ecology, and water resource management. Later this summer they will meet with ornithologists, wildlife biologists, and an urban forester.

- A partnership with Madison School & Community Recreation is allowing us to provide a week of "Wildlife Immersion" lessons for summer camp kids. Birds, binoculars, scat, tracks, and art projects—here we come!

This fall, we'll continue our partnerships with local schools and community centers, and hope to share the wonder of wildlife with as many kids as possible!

Carolyn Byers, education director  
carolyn.byers@madisonaudubon.org

## Thank you to past and ongoing generous supporters of Madison Audubon's education and conservation initiatives



- 16th Section Fund
- Alliant Energy Foundation
- Green Bay Packers Foundation
- Endres Manufacturing Company Foundation
- Evjue Foundation
- Frances R. Dewing Foundation
- The Kids Fund
- Madison Rotary Foundation
- National Audubon Climate Initiative
- Natural Resources Foundation's C.D. Besadny Grant
- Norcross Foundation
- Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation
- Theda and Tamblin Clark Smith Family Foundation
- Wisconsin Environmental Education Board

### Donations in Memory

- In Memory of Mike Ahern*  
Kenneth and Luanne Koon  
Mark Martin and Sue Foote-Martin  
Jim and Kathy Shurts  
*In Memory of Jim Brink*  
Ann Brink  
*In Memory of Lorraine Meythaler*  
Dorothy Klinefelter  
Mareda Weiss  
*In Memory of Ben Washburn*  
Barbara Washburn

### Donations in Honor

- In Honor of Audrey Lehman*  
The Children of Audrey Lehman  
*In Honor of Roma Lenehan*  
Elsie Ham

New members and quarterly donors are now listed in our e-newsletter. Sign up for Madison Audubon emails (including event notifications and field trip reminders) at [madisonaudubon.org/email](http://madisonaudubon.org/email)

## Simple is better: a streamlined membership process

Madison Audubon and National Audubon, in addition to sharing a mission to conserve and protect natural ecosystems, have long shared membership through what is known as a **One Audubon** membership. It's a simple idea—anyone who joins one organization automatically becomes a member of the other.

**Think globally (or at least hemispherically); act locally.**

Your One Audubon membership is a terrific deal. For a contribution of \$20 or more to National Audubon, you receive five issues of the acclaimed Audubon magazine and are part of a major conservation network with hemispheric reach, protecting birds and their habitats throughout their ranges, from Argentina to Canada. As one of more than 3100 members of Madison Audubon, you can also get your hands dirty (literally or figuratively) fighting the good fight close to home in our eight-county service area—protecting land, supporting nature-based educational programming and field trips for all ages, and advocating for sound environmental policies.

### So what's changing?

In order to minimize the number of renewal notices you receive and to simplify processing, Madison Audubon now encourages all One Audubon members to renew their

memberships through National at [audubon.org/renew](http://audubon.org/renew) or by calling 844-428-3826. National will let you know when it's time to renew. If you would like a Madison Audubon membership only, please renew using the gift form at right or at [madisonaudubon.org](http://madisonaudubon.org).

For local-only members (those who opt not to receive National Audubon mailings) we are also replacing the multiple categories of membership formerly available through Madison Audubon with a single membership. Give just \$20 or more to Madison Audubon, and you will enjoy a local-only membership for you or your household.

### What do my membership fees and contributions support?

When you renew your One Audubon membership through National Audubon, Madison Audubon receives a small portion of the basic membership fee, although this amounts to less than 3% of our local operating budget. Any additional contribution you make when renewing through National supports National Audubon programming. Madison Audubon relies on contributions from members made directly to our office for the large majority of our funding, so in addition to renewing your Audubon memberships, please consider contributing using the form on the right, or online at [madisonaudubon.org](http://madisonaudubon.org).

## Raise your hand

(Continued from p. 3)

would become, how can the citizens among us help to redirect agricultural practices in more wildlife-friendly ways?

Our food choices directly and substantially influence agricultural demand. Not coincidentally, the more wildlife-friendly culinary options come with a heaping side-dish of better health. We can support the many local growers who are making efforts to be artful caretakers of the land. The Madison farmer's market and the many farmer's markets in surrounding communities are great places to start.

Of at least equal importance, we can eat less meat and dairy, focusing on quality rather than quantity. Following a largely plant-based diet greatly reduces our agricultural footprint. Every

quarter pound of beef that we don't eat represents five pounds of grain that doesn't need to be grown, making more room for wildlife. A study published this year in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* reports that a widespread switch to diets that rely far less on meat would, over the next 30 years, cut agricultural greenhouse gas emissions by nearly two-thirds while saving \$31 trillion in costs associated with health care and climate change.

In Leopold's time the protection of wildlife in agriculturally dominated landscapes was in the hands of farmers. Today it's on everyone's plate.

Roger Packard, president  
rpackard@uwalumni.com

## GIVE TODAY!

*Your generosity funds important conservation and education programs throughout south-central Wisconsin\**

Yes, I'd like to support Madison Audubon, my local chapter!

Gift amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Check to Madison Audubon enclosed

Pay by  Visa  MasterCard

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Three-digit code on card back \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to find out more about Madison Audubon's Legacy Society. Please contact me!

### MEMBERSHIPS

If you are a member of both Madison and National Audubon (One Audubon), please renew at [audubon.org/renew](http://audubon.org/renew) or call 1-844-428-3826. Thanks for your additional gift to Madison Audubon!

If you are a member of Madison Audubon only, your gift of \$20 or more above will renew your membership for one year.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS ON PAGE 8, OR GIVE ONLINE AT [madisonaudubon.org](http://madisonaudubon.org)

\*Madison Audubon serves Dane, Columbia, Sauk, Iowa, Richland, Jefferson, Dodge, and Marquette counties.

Madison Audubon Society is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## EVENINGS WITH AUDUBON

Announcing our Fall 2016 speaker series: from local prairies to long-distance monarch migrations, don't miss our upcoming programs!

### WISCONSIN'S PRAIRIE REMNANTS: THEN & NOW

Just 60 years after a pioneering survey of Wisconsin's remnant prairies, new data shows that the flora of Wisconsin's grasslands are changing rapidly. Join ecologist Amy Alstad for a discussion of what these changes mean for the future of a landscape we love.

SEPTEMBER 20 | 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Capitol Lakes Grand Hall | 333 W. Main Street | Madison, WI

### MONARCH BUTTERFLIES: DWINDLING NUMBERS FOR AN ICONIC INSECT

Karen Oberhauser, one of the nation's top monarch conservation biologists, will describe the amazing biology of migratory monarch populations, and the work of citizens and scientists in documenting monarch numbers at all stages of their migratory cycle.

*Presented in partnership with the Wisconsin Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology*

OCTOBER 18 | 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

UW Arboretum Visitor Center | 1207 Seminole Highway | Madison, WI

**November 15 program details to be determined.**  
Updated information at [madisonaudubon.org/calendar](http://madisonaudubon.org/calendar)



## JOIN OUR FLOCK! FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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SAVE THE DATE!  
**OCTOBER 1**

Bring your bike and your binoculars! We'll ride around Lake Monona to look for birds, then return to **Next Door Brewing Company** on Atwood Avenue for a cold pint of bird-themed craft beer!

**\$15 registration includes a free pint glass and a free beer!**

**REGISTER TODAY AT [MADISONAUDUBON.ORG/BBB](http://MADISONAUDUBON.ORG/BBB)**