



madison  
**AUDUBON**  
society

NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY

SUMMER 2016

### Kids these days

*Why our most important job is to get our kids—and ourselves—outside*

The PBS children’s program “Dinosaur Train” has a simple premise: adorable animated dinosaurs use a time-traveling train to embark on enriching adventures throughout the Mesozoic Era. It’s both fun and educational and I can see why my young son was utterly obsessed with it for a while. But, like most kids, he switches passions like a chickadee switches branches. So “Dinosaur Train” is no longer his show of choice. But something from that show has really stuck with me. The host, Dr. Scott the Paleontologist (a real scientist, by the way) ended each segment with “Get outside, get into Nature, and make your own discoveries.” Now, I know Dr. Scott was speaking to the wide-eyed young folk in his audience, encouraging them to explore, ask

*“My mom deftly and lovingly booted me and my sister from the house at every opportunity...I would return with wet shoes, dirty elbows, a full jar of insects, and a smile from ear to ear...”*

questions, and enjoy the outdoors. But Dr. Scott’s simple mantra tightly clings to my own adult brain like a nuthatch to tree bark.

(See “Kids these days,” p. 2)

### SPECIAL SUMMER ISSUE: LET'S GET OUTSIDE!

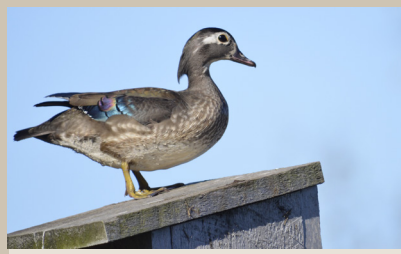
*Explore, learn and bird your way through the summer...*

Madison Audubon is your local Audubon chapter

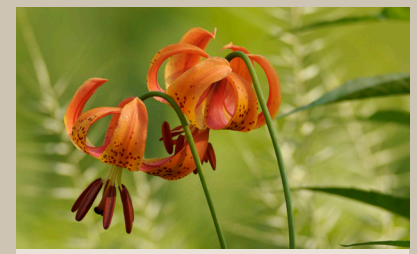
*Together with our members, we work to protect and improve habitat for birds and other wildlife through land acquisition and management, education and advocacy.*



**OUTSIDE AT ALL AGES**  
*Fun family nature activities*  
.....**PAGE 3**



**GOOSE POND TOP 10**  
*Check them all off your list!*  
.....**PAGE 4**



**FAVILLE FAVORITES**  
*Visit a Jefferson County gem*  
.....**PAGE 5**

TOP: Blackpoll warbler  
Photo by Arlene Koziol



## Kids these days

(Continued from p. 1)

First, his challenge to kids is important. When I was a wee lad, my mom deftly and lovingly booted me and my sister from the house at every opportunity and then whistled us home for dinner. I would return with stained Sears Toughskins pants, wet shoes, dirty elbows, a full jar of insects, and a smile from ear to ear.

I can't believe I'm going to use this phrase but...kids these days just don't get outside like the kids in my day and before. For a variety of reasons—school budget cuts, electronic devices, or what have you—kids simply aren't connected with nature.

This is a problem for many reasons. First, steep declines in concern for the environment in younger generations are problematic for the future of Wisconsin's special natural places. How can conservation be forever if all the meaningful work you make possible now gets passed on to a generation that doesn't care?

More importantly, this trend is a problem for the kids themselves. Playing outside creates a sense of self and independence, and can improve creativity, problem-solving, and emotional development. And it's also FUN.

Fortunately, thanks to you, the MAS education team is helping to reverse these trends through fun and engaging programming that opens minds and sparks curiosity in all kinds of kids. And you can help even further by continuing to get your kids, grandkids, friends' kids, neighborhood kids—any kids—outside and into Nature. It makes a big

difference (just see Sandy's story on page 7 about her neighbor kid-turned-outdoor magazine editor).

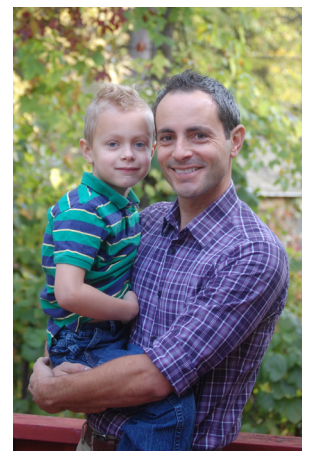
Dr. Scott's mantra helps kids, but exploring in nature benefits me and you, too. It makes us happy. It makes us healthy. It keeps our minds sharp. A nice hike makes small problems seem appropriately small. A visit to Faville Grove, Goose Pond, and Wisconsin's other natural gems is food for the body and soul. In those places, I can marvel at what I can see, touch, hear and smell.

When I was younger, I knew "everything" about the world. I'm so glad to be old enough to realize now that I know so very little. I have so much to discover! So apologies to Dr. Scott for stealing his line, but I hope you will join me and my son to get outside, get into nature and make some wonderful discoveries.

See y'all out there!

*Matt*

Matt Reetz, executive director  
mreetz@madisonaudubon.org



Madison Audubon is a proud member of the following organizations:



# Exploration has no age limit!

Education director Carolyn Byers gives her tips and tricks for outdoor fun with kids

Spending time outside with kids is one of the most rewarding aspects of my life. Going birding by myself pales in comparison to sharing a child's joy at seeing a beautiful blue jay for the first time. Talking with kids about nature helps me to see the world through their bright eyes—and nothing beats an afternoon of crawling around on the ground looking for bugs! Below are some hints, tips, ideas, and reminders to help you and your family enjoy plenty of outdoor adventures this year.

## KEEP IT COMFORTABLE

- If your kids are reluctant to sit on dirt or grass, pack an old blanket. Having a comfortable, dry place to sit goes a long way towards making the outdoors less intimidating.
- Pack a snack to look forward to, and plenty of water.
- Dress for the weather, including a hat and sunscreen.

## MAKE IT A (FUN) COMPETITION!

- Compare your trip observation lists in different habitats or at different times of the year.
- Create a scavenger hunt before you go out (or feel free to cut out my simple sample scavenger hunt below.)

## GET KIDS ENGAGED IN NEW WAYS

- Nature journals can help kids record their adventures. Use construction paper to make your own, and have fun decorating the cover. Or, repurpose an old notebook. Ask kids to write about what they think you'll find before you go out, draw pictures or write while exploring, or reflect on the trip when you get back home. This keeps writing skills growing over the summer while kids are away from school.
- Don't stop with birds: look at insects, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and plants—you never know what will capture a child's imagination!
- Need an instant magnifying glass? Flip your binoculars around to get a super-close look at insects or plants (pro-tip: you'll need to get the object close, about 1 centimeter away from the eyepiece.)

## FIND WILDLIFE WITH YOUR FAMILY

Far or near, wildlife is everywhere! You just have to know where to look.

- Take a closer look at your own backyard: you'd be surprised how much life you can find in an urban yard or park. Insects living complex lives in your grass or landscaping, birds nesting in trees or on buildings, and bats hunting insects after dark are just a few of the things you may find.

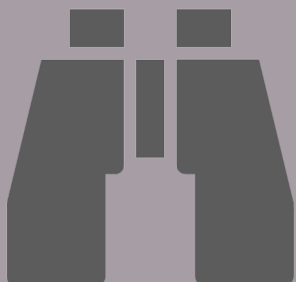


Carolyn and kids from Goodman Community Center mugged for the camera on a recent birding trip to Governor's Island. Madison Audubon partners with several local community centers every year to get kids outside in their neighborhoods during every season.

- Walk around your neighborhood: many animals are adapted to life in urban and suburban habitats. While the sun is shining you may encounter hawks, rabbits, squirrels, and dozens of songbirds. After dark you may catch glimpses of flying squirrels, owls, foxes, bats, or even a coyote.
- Explore a local park: Madison has over 260 parks and over 200 miles of trails and paths just waiting for you to visit. Even our smallest urban green spaces have something to offer.
- Take a trip to Goose Pond or Faville Grove Sanctuaries (see pages 4-5) or visit a beautiful state natural area.

I hope you find an opportunity to share your love of nature with the kids in your life this summer. If you do, we'd love to hear about it! Let us know about your adventures via email or on Facebook!

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



## CAROLYN'S FAVORITE BIRD SCAVENGER HUNT FOR KIDS

Find a bird that has...

- Red feathers
- Yellow feathers
- Blue feathers

Find a bird that is...

- Flying through the air
- Sitting on a branch
- Swimming in the water

Find a bird that is...

- Looking for food
- Making a noise
- Preening its feathers

# EXPLORE

## GET OUTSIDE AT MADISON SANCTUARY

*Our sanctuary staff shared their top 10 favorite ways to explore Goose Pond and Faville Grove's incredible landscapes. Grab your binoculars, a butterfly net, or a guidebook. We'll see you there!*

### GOOSE POND COLUMBIA COUNTY

#### FROG'S NIGHT OUT

Visit our Columbia County sanctuaries in April through mid-June after dark (and ideally after a warm rain) to listen for calling frogs and toads. Begin at Otsego Marsh, stop at Schoeneberg Marsh/Erstad Prairie, and end at Goose Pond.

#### OTSEGO MARSH BIRDS & WILDFLOWERS

Hike the trail through the oak/hickory hardwoods and search for woodland birds like wood ducks, pileated woodpeckers, wood thrushes, wood warblers and scarlet tanagers. Search the forest floor for wildflowers including wild geraniums—the best blooms occur between May and mid-June.

#### ERSTAD POND

Check out MAS's Erstad Prairie, bordering the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Schoeneberg Marsh: you may see wood ducks, red-necked grebes, black terns, and yellow-headed blackbirds, especially during May and June. MAS has a parking area at the end of Harvey Road; on Priem Road the Fish and Wildlife Service has an accessible trail through restored prairie to an overlook with benches and a spotting scope.

#### SUNFLOWER SPLENDOR

Check out the sunflower plot at Goose Pond (south of Kampen Road and north of Goose Pond) When it's in bloom in early August, it will be easy to spot! These flowers provide food for native wildlife—and the perfect photo op.

#### GO BUTTERFLYING!

Join us on July 1 for the North American Butterfly Count at Goose Pond Sanctuary. Visit the sanctuary all summer long on sunny, calm days to search for 24 species of butterflies.

#### FOLLOW THE AMERICAN KESTREL NEST BOX TRAIL

Take your time and travel the roads around Goose Pond Sanctuary and Schoeneberg Marsh/Erstad Prairie to see how many kestrels you can find in June and July. Last year, five pairs raised young in nest boxes at Goose Pond Sanctuary!



#### GRASSLAND BIRDS ON BROWNE & JILL'S PRAIRIES

Park at the Browne Prairie parking lot on Kampen Road and head south on the trail network to search for grassland birds, including sedge wrens, clay-colored sparrows, and Eastern meadowlarks—your opportunities for spotting these birds are May through July.

#### MONARCHS ON THE MOVE

Hike the trails at Goose Pond Sanctuary on a sunny, calm day late summer day to view migrating monarchs. Locate our fenced plots with blooming meadow blazing star and you will find nectaring monarchs! Stay tuned for our monarch tagging events in late August and September by visiting our website calendar.

#### TREE SWALLOWS AT GOOSE POND SANCTUARY

Hike Hopkins Road and Sue Ames Prairies in June to observe swallows that are busy raising a family in our nest boxes. Keep an eye out for blooming prairie forbs.

#### STOP AND SMELL THE PRAIRIE FLOWERS

Hike the trails at Goose Pond at the height of the prairie flower blooming display, late July through early August. Keep a checklist of how many prairie species are flowering.



LEFT: Citizen scientist Don Schmidt helps with monarch tagging (photo by Arlene Koziol) TOP: Up-close and personal with an American kestrel (photo by Josh Mayer)

# RE!

# IN AUDUBON'S SANCTUARIES

## FAVILLE GROVE JEFFERSON COUNTY

### EXPLORE THE LAKE MILLS LEDGE

Scramble over the exposed bedrock, then sit and contemplate deep time on the ancient mountaintop: quartzite forged by tectonic forces from sand deposited in a pre-Cambrian sea; rock that has resisted repeated glacial scouring and inundation under Paleozoic seas. Look out across the restored river floodplain as the Native Americans did while camped among the rocks.

### THE LEDGE SPRINGS

Discover the hidden springs bubbling up just east of the Lake Mills Ledge. Visit on a hot summer day and cool your face with the spring-fed water, or look for animal tracks in the snow around the open water during the winter.

### CRAWFISH RIVER FLOODPLAIN

Explore the restored floodplain prairies. The level terrain makes for easy hiking, but these are wet and wet-mesic prairies, so your boots might not stay dry! Look for northern harriers year-round, and grassland birds in summer, including bobolink, dickcissel, sedge wren, swamp sparrow, and willow flycatcher. Look for the burrowing of prairie crayfish, marked by gray piles of the clay that underlays this floodplain.

### SNAPPER PRAIRIE

Enjoy the wildflower display in this stunning remnant prairie in early- to mid-June, punctuated by vibrant fuchsia prairie phlox and blue-eyed grass. Notice the changes in vegetation with subtle changes in elevation.

### BIRDATHON BIG DAY

With other talented local birders, see just how many species Faville Grove hosts during the spring migration in May. We typically find over 100 species in 24 hours! It's a hearty day, from owling in the early dawn to listening for rails as dusk settles on the wetlands—join us!



### FAVILLE MARSH OVERLOOK

Trek through Buddy's Prairie to the overlook on Faville Marsh. Witness the brick-red of leatherleaf in fall, winter, and spring, the smoky yellow of tamaracks in October, enjoy the cacophony of frogs in spring, and look for nesting sandhill cranes.

### THE GENERAL AND THE KETTLE

Hike north from the marsh overlook (above), then west to a restored prairie and a kettle pond flanked by a sphagnum mat and stunted tamaracks. You can't miss "The General"—an enormous bur oak that overhangs the bog.

### A DAY IN THE FIELD WITH THE INTERN CREW

Each summer Faville Grove hosts a crew of interns who help battle invasive species and restore the landscape. Come enjoy a rugged day (or half-day) of pulling garlic mustard or sweet clover with this great crew.

### SEED COLLECTING

Join us throughout fall as we gather seed to plant a new prairie. Relax as you contentedly (or frenziedly) pick seed among the sea of grasses and forbs, beneath a gorgeous blue autumn sky.

### SNOWSHOE THE SANCTUARY

Delight in the subtle brilliance of winter at Faville Grove. Look for tracks of mink, otter, rabbit, and fox. Explore far into wetlands that are inaccessible during the rest of the year.

## EXPLORE WITH US!

Have questions about these (or other) fantastic opportunities to get outside?

*Contact our sanctuary staff year-round:*

### GOOSE POND

Mark & Sue Foote-Martin  
goosep@madisonaudubon.org

### FAVILLE GROVE

Drew Harry  
faville@madisonaudubon.org



LEFT: Native pale purple coneflowers provide an explosion of color at Goose Pond. TOP: Madison Audubon Sanctuaries provide perfect habitat for amazing grassland birds like this beautiful dickcissel (photo by Kelly Colgan Azar).

## Notes from the field: A Cherokee Marsh trip report

On a sunny Friday in mid-April, Tony Kalenic and I led our annual Cherokee Marsh field trip. With the temperature still close to 70 degrees and a light south breeze, it was a picture-perfect spring evening.

About 70 eager participants joined us to look for birds in this beloved City of Madison conservation park. We were rewarded with great views of sandhill cranes, Canada geese and a variety of waterfowl. A stroll through the woods revealed yellow-rumped warblers, golden-crowned kinglets and several woodpecker species. The dominant background bird chorus of robins and red-winged blackbirds provided aural company all evening. Flickers were frequent, as were quick-flying and acrobatic tree swallows.

After a beautiful orange sunset we went on to search for the spring favorite: twittering timberdoodles! By timing the trip in the evening, we hope to share the aerial flight display or "sky dance" of the American Woodcock with participants. Though we heard their vocal "peenting," we weren't able to spot a flight display.

We inspired our patient crew to look for the fun, playful, and spiraling flight of the male woodcock on their own birding expeditions in the future. And we pondered, why no sky dancing? Perhaps there simply were not any lady woodcocks to motivate the males to do their twittering spiral ascents and warbling calls!

As the evening faded, we listened to a Wilson's snipe winnowing in flight. It's evenings like these that really remind us why we love to bird—and why we love to be outside in general. We hope you'll join

Madison Audubon for a field trip this month. May is a perfect time to learn a new species as migration really gets going. See you in the field!

—Levi Wood,  
Madison Audubon  
volunteer field  
trip coordinator



### Donations in Memory

- In Memory of Senn Brown*  
Ann and Ben Sowaske
- In Memory of Susan Connell-Magee*  
Kevin Magee
- In Memory of Betty Hawkins*  
Barbara Washburn
- In Memory of Jill Martin*  
Mary Dietz
- In Memory of George Sievers*  
Ashley Pfister
- In Memory of Patricia Struck*  
Judith Schultz
- In Memory of Jim and Laura Tyndall*  
Marilyn Meade

### Donations in Honor

- In Honor of Lydia Martin*  
Vivian Stone

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](mailto:madisonaudubon.org/email)

## ATTENTION MEMBERS: YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

The Madison Audubon board of directors has recommended a change to our by-laws to allow an increase from nine board members to a maximum of 15 in order to achieve broader input for decision making and to assist with financial development of the organization.

*This change to the by-laws requires approval by our membership.*  
**That's you!** If you were a member\* as of May 1, please mail us the ballot below, or complete an online ballot at:  
**[madisonaudubon.org/bylaw-change-2016](http://madisonaudubon.org/bylaw-change-2016)**

The text of the proposed change is also available online.  
**We need a quorum of members to effect change in the bylaws, so please vote!**

*\*Each individual member may cast one vote. For family memberships, two members may vote.*

As a member of the Madison Audubon Society, do you approve the change of the organization's bylaws to expand the board size limit from nine members to a maximum of 15 members?

APPROVE        DO NOT APPROVE

Member name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR BALLOT BY JUNE 10, 2016  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTE!

JOIN BOTH  
 MADISON AUDUBON &  
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New Membership

Renewal

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

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

\$40 Individual Membership

\$60 Family Membership

\$20 Local-only Membership

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Gift in Honor of:

Gift in Memory of:

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Check to Madison Audubon enclosed

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Madison Audubon Society and National Audubon Society are tax-exempt, not-for-profit organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. When you join, you will receive subscriptions to both the Madison Audubon newsletter, published four times per year, and to AUDUBON magazine, published six times per year.*



“Because gifting is not a wild goose chase after all”

*Sandy Stark reflects on her philanthropy philosophy*

**Why give to Madison Audubon?**

...Because my parents taught us to appreciate watching great blue herons on the dock just as much as fishing from it, to feed the showy cardinals (“rebirds,” my father—a Georgia boy—called them) and house finch alike (but not the house sparrow—who cheeped too loudly too early—my mother said), and who later rewrote their retirement center rules so they could hang their hummingbird feeders over the fifth-floor balcony, in spite of the then-pristine awning below.

...Because when I moved to Wisconsin in 1969, I easily found herons (blue and green) around Lake Wingra, swans on Lake Mendota, loons on Lake Monona, ruddy ducks in Monona Bay, sand-hill cranes in the UW Arboretum. What could I do but buy my first Peterson’s *A Field Guide to Birds*, ask around, and head off to a Madison Audubon property called Goose Pond? My bird book got marked up, wet, faded—but I was still a beginner. Then I joined Madison Audubon as a member.

...Because my first Madison Audubon birding trip was to Indian Lake, where a fellow named Ken Wood walked us around for three hours, calling out bird names a mile-a-minute (who IS this guy, I thought; can ALL birders do this?) My next MAS activity was a *Frogs Night Out* field trip, starting at Goose Pond, advertised as family friendly, so I took a neighbor’s nine year-old son with me. We both loved every minute of it. He is now an editor of an outdoor Wisconsin magazine.

...Because when I retired I met a whole new group of people interested in prairie restoration, and started volunteering with them. I learned how to scatter and gather seeds, to use oversized tools to trim sheet metal for kestrel boxes, to tell snowy owls from white buckets in fields, and to spot and tag migrating monarch butterflies (for the record, my record for netting is still ZERO).

...And because I have come full circle back to Goose Pond, how fitting now that an inheritance from my parents’ estate can make a difference at this local Audubon sanctuary in the form of donating the cost of a new, much needed driveway, which will lead field trip participants and volunteers to discover and learn something new. Literally and symbolically, short-term and long-term, promoting stewardship for generations to come. (Good pickup drivers that they were in Texas, my folks would give a thumbs-up for road improvement!)

*...Because gifting is not a wild goose chase after all.*



Sandy sends a freshly-tagged monarch butterfly back on its migration route south. Sandy’s support of Madison Audubon through both “concrete” donations and participation in the Legacy Society will ensure that many more generations are able to enjoy butterfly tagging, birding, and more with Madison Audubon. For more information about the Legacy Society, call Matt Reetz at (608) 255-2473. *Photo by Susan Slapnick*

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Join us for a FREE field trip this summer—from birds to butterflies to wildflowers, come along with us on a new adventure!

### WARBLER WALKS (VARIOUS LOCATIONS)

First two weeks of May | 6:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

### EVENING AT NINE SPRINGS

Friday, May 6 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

### WILDFLOWERS, WOOD DUCKS, & WARBLERS AT GOOSE POND

Friday, May 13 | 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

### BIRDING AT BAXTER'S HOLLOW

Sunday, May 22 | 6:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

### EXPLORE FAVILLE GROVE WEST

Saturday, May 21 | 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

### BIRDING AT DEVIL'S LAKE

Saturday, June 4 | 6 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### BUTTERFLIES AND WILDFLOWERS AT PLEASANT VALLEY CONSERVANCY

Saturday, June 18 | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### BUTTERFLIES OF CHEROKEE MARSH

Saturday, June 25 | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### EVENING AT BLACK EARTH PRAIRIE

Wednesday, July 6 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

More trip information at:  
[madisonaudubon.org/calendar](http://madisonaudubon.org/calendar)



Native plant and restoration ecology expert Kathie Brock (left) shares her knowledge on a sun-soaked evening walk at Black Earth Prairie. Photo by Matt Reetz

## JOIN OUR FLOCK! FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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## See a bird, save a bird: Participate in the Wisconsin Birdathon

The fifth annual **Great Wisconsin Birdathon** kicked off on April 15 and will continue through June 15. You can participate in the Birdathon on behalf of Madison Audubon Society! Donations earned through this interactive fundraiser will go toward important Wisconsin bird conservation initiatives, and can even help fund Madison Audubon education programming and habitat protection.

Visit [madisonaudubon.org/birdathon2016](http://madisonaudubon.org/birdathon2016)  
to pledge today!

