

The Kettle

Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter - Est. 1983

SAAS meetings are held at **6:00 p.m.** on the **2nd Wednesday** of each month September through May at the Cheboygan Area Public Library, 100 S. Bailey Street. Refreshments will be provided and you may participate in door prize and raffle drawings.

The scheduling of a meeting or program in the library does not in any way constitute an endorsement by the library of the group, its activities, or of the ideas and opinions expressed during the course of meetings or programs.

Straits Area Audubon Society
c/o Rose Rynerson
10490 E. US 23
Cheboygan, MI 49721

Mission Statement - The mission of the Straits Area Audubon Society is to educate the community, including its children, about conservation and enjoyment of the natural world with emphasis on the local natural communities of wildlife. This will be accomplished through regular seasonal meetings and by sponsoring field trips, classroom studies, and field studies.

Join Straits Area Audubon Society

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____ E-MAIL: _____
CITY & STATE: _____ NEWS LETTER: [E-Mail] ___ or [US-Mail] ___

Make checks payable to:
Straits Area Audubon Society
Single Membership: \$12
Family Membership: \$15

Please mail checks to:
Rose Rynerson - Treasurer
10490 E. US 23
Cheboygan, MI 49721

March Program

“Frogs of Michigan and Their Voices”

By: Jim McGrath - Nature Discovery

March 9, 2016

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

“Frogs of Michigan and Their Voices” will be presented by Jim McGrath of the Lansing-based nature center, Nature Discovery. McGrath has given programs for SAAS for the past five springs, on Michigan's turtles, snakes, salamanders and moths. Like the other talks, this will feature live animals and promote understanding and respect for them. Frogs are called 'indicator species' because they can be used to indicate the health of the environment. McGrath will explain how some species like Spring Peepers, Chorus Frogs, and Wood Frogs need absolutely fish-free vernal ponds. These exist only for a few weeks after the snow melts in the spring. Due to changing weather patterns, these temporary ponds are drying up before the tadpoles can mature, destroying the entire year's reproductive output. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is so concerned about this and other environmental risks that it has instituted a volunteer-based annual survey to help monitor population trends of frogs and toads. McGrath will explain willing citizens can learn to recognize the songs of every species and then submit the information they collect in the wild. After the program, we will share nature sightings and upcoming field trips.

Refreshments, door and raffle prizes will follow.

Scheduled Field Trips

Snowshoe or Hike Banwell Preserve Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by: Al & Jean Moberly

We enjoyed the beautiful Banwell Preserve in January so we thought it would be fun to hold another field trip in this scenic location with its views of the Pigeon River. We never know the snow conditions in mid-March so we could find that we will be hiking instead of snowshoeing! The Little Traverse Conservancy plows this lot on a regular basis.

Meet at the Banwell M-68 parking lot at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 12, 2016. Bring your footwear (snowshoes or boots) of choice depending on conditions. We will go out for about two hours and look for wildlife tracks in the snow.

The new parking lot for Banwell is located on M-68 one-half mile west of Afton, or 1.5 miles west of the M-33/M-68 junction, or 5.6 miles east of Indian River. Carpool if you can. After the event we will gather at Wilson's Restaurant in Indian River for a debriefing on whether a cougar track was really seen. We look forward to seeing you there! And...

Longtime SAAS members Mike and Chris Grant will be joining us for this event. They will be visiting us from Holland, Michigan. We can catch up with news of wooden shoes, tulips and nature activities on the "Sunset Side" of the state.

Field Trip Reports

Lunch, Learning and a Tromp Through the Woods – February 26, 2016

Submitted by: Al & Jean Moberly

Walking on the NCMC college campus and attending a lecture brought back happy feelings of youth that many of our SAAS members would appreciate. The lunch was delicious and the lecture on El Niño and La Niña was very interesting. Discussing the program afterward we all mentioned informative facts we had learned.

The weather cooperated for our tromp through the woods. We



had bright sunshine on our beautiful snowshoe to the beach at Petoskey State Park. Then we got to remove our snowshoes



and have a spring like walk on the sand. The piles of recently washed in rocks caught our attention as we searched for Petoskey Stones.

Attending all or part of the events were Steve and Sue Baker, Don and Donna Mittlestat, Diane Morand, Al and Jean Moberly and Nancy Waldron.

Other Events

Snakes Alive! brought by SAAS (+) Indian River Area Library - Free to the public Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

While Jim McGrath is here for the frog program, SAAS will host him in several area schools with Snakes Alive!, a hands-on program with live snakes. Classes in Mackinaw City, Cheboygan, Onaway, Wolverine, and two schools in Petoskey will benefit from his teachings about these often-misunderstood creatures. In addition, McGrath will offer an evening program at 6:30 p.m. at the Indian River Area Library on Thursday, March 10, 2016, on Snakes Alive! This will be free to the public. Along with the youth education fund of SAAS, generous grants from **Awakon Federal Credit Union, Citizens National Bank, Nancy Waldron, and the Wolverine School** will enable McGrath to educate our communities again this year.

Michigan Butterfly Network Hosts Butterfly Monitor Training Workshop on Drummond Island!

Reprint submitted by: Steve Baker

New Monitor Indoor Training: Saturday, June 11 12:30 pm-5 pm
Veteran & New Monitor Indoor Training: Sunday, June 12 10 am-12 pm
Maxton Plains (TNC) Outdoor Training: Sunday, June 12 12:45 pm-4 pm

The Michigan Butterfly Network is a citizen science initiative led by the Kalamazoo Nature Center and we seek to assess the changing population status of our state's butterfly species, evaluate the quality of Michigan ecosystems, and engage the Michigan public in citizen science research.

Join the Michigan Butterfly Network for a two day destination training workshop on Drummond Island! Learn how to identify butterflies, follow our standardized protocol for monitoring butterflies in your community, and submit your data to a national database. Use your new skills to observe and document butterflies during our Maxton Plains outdoor training on day two.

The training workshop is open to new participants and those returning for their second or third season as a refresher. Day 1 will focus on our protocol and an introduction to butterfly identification. Day 2 will focus on butterfly identification inside and out in the field. Veteran monitors are welcome to attend day 2.

Indoor training for day 1 and day 2 will be held in the Annex located at the Drummond Island Resort. Upon conclusion of the indoor training on day 2 we will caravan to the 1,210 acre Maxton Plains Preserve for our field trip. The resort has a block of rooms set aside for this workshop. Participants must register for the workshop and reserve their own rooms no later than May 10, 2016.

Maxton Plains Preserve boasts diverse and unique natural communities including alvar, rich conifer swamp, boreal forest, bedrock beach, and Great Lakes marsh. Eight Michigan state rare plants grow in the alvars on Drummond Island which are the largest remaining high quality alvars in North America!

Upon cessation of this training you will be able to complete butterfly surveys anywhere in Michigan and help to compile butterfly data that can be used by scientists performing important research!

To register visit www.michiganbutterfly.org or contact Jennifer Tagett at jtagett@naturecenter.org for more information.

News of Interest

MSRW NEWS (Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch)

Submitted by: Judy Frock

These next few weeks are going to be very busy and exciting ones for Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch. We are making final preparations for the first annual Mackinaw Raptor Fest on April 1st and 2nd which will be held in Mackinaw City and generously sponsored by the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the Petoskey Area Visitors Bureau. It isn't too late to register at www.mackinawraptorfest.org. Please note that the number of participants is limited. The cost per person, including the dinner is only \$40. You won't want to miss the fun, meet interesting people and speakers, see raptors crossing into the UP, and watch owl banding at night. So sign up today!

We are eager to welcome back Kevin Georg, our professional raptor counter, who will be with us from March 5th through June 5th. We hope you will come out to visit the counting site in Mackinaw City any day from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Look for the MSRW sign on W. Central Avenue by the Recreation Center. Ed Pike has also announced that a lead owl bander has been hired.

MSRW Invitation (Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch)

Submitted by: Steve Baker

Just a reminder that anyone and everyone is always welcome at the hawk watch any day... not just on special days like the **Raptor Fest**.

Following is a photo showing "a day at the Hawk Watch"



and... an immature Golden Eagle, one of the more stunning migrants that may be seen.



National Wildlife Federation to Sue Pipeline Safety Administration to Protect Communities, Wildlife from Oil Spill in the Great Lakes

Reprint of News Publication submitted by: Ann Benter

ANN ABOR, MICH. (February 22, 2016)—The National Wildlife Federation today officially sent a notice of intent to sue the federal agency largely responsible for overseeing oil pipeline safety. The notice asserts that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) had no authority to authorize the transport of oil through pipelines that run through the Straits of Mackinac and navigable waters in Michigan’s Upper and Lower Peninsulas. PHMSA also incorrectly authorized the transport of oil through pipelines on land without assessing the impacts on the environment, fish, and wildlife, including the impacts on endangered and threatened species, such as the Piping Plover and Kirtland’s Warbler.

The National Wildlife Federation is asking PHMSA to comply with the law within 60 days by fully assessing and publicly disclosing the environmental impacts of the terrestrial sections of the controversial pipelines, known as Line 5, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The National Wildlife Federation is further asking PHMSA to revoke its approval of oil spill response plans for the sections of Line 5 where it runs beneath the Straits of Mackinac and other navigable waters in Michigan’s Upper and Lower Peninsulas on its pathway from Superior, Wisconsin to Sarnia, Ontario.

The legal action is the latest effort by conservation groups, businesses, and communities to protect the state’s environment and economy from another oil spill disaster. Enbridge Energy, the company which operates Line 5, is responsible for the 2010 oil disaster near Marshall, Mich., which dumped more than 800,000 gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River. That catastrophe remains the largest inland oil spill in U.S. history.

“We are taking action today to help protect people, communities, wildlife, and the Great Lakes from an oil disaster,” said Mike Shriberg, the National Wildlife Federation’s Great Lakes regional executive director.

“Michigan is home to the largest inland oil disaster in U.S. history, and we need to make sure that we never experience that again.”

Read the National Wildlife Federation’s Notice of Intent to Sue at: <http://bit.ly/24mrSQ8>

By law, pipeline operators can transport oil only if they have oil spill response plans that are approved by the authorized federal official or agency. PHMSA violated several laws in approving Enbridge Energy’s oil spill response plans for Line 5 including:

- The National Environmental Policy Act, which requires PHMSA to assess impacts on the environment, including shorelines, beaches, fish, and wildlife. The agency failed to conduct an environmental impact assessment.
- The Endangered Species Act, which mandates that PHMSA assess impacts on endangered or threatened fish and wildlife. The agency failed to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in assessing impacts to these species.
- The Oil Pollution Act, because PHMSA lacked the authority to approve oil spill response plans for sections of Line 5 where it runs through the Straits of Mackinac and other navigable waters in Michigan’s Upper and Lower Peninsulas. Under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, only the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation is authorized to approve oil spill response plans for pipelines running in, on, or under inland navigable waters—not PHMSA.

“An oil spill, and a worst-case discharge of oil in particular, may significantly harm if not destroy the unique cultural and natural resources in the shadow of Line 5,” the National Wildlife Federation’s filing states. “So, too, a spill may significantly impact or destroy the bountiful fish and wildlife, as well as the recreation and tourism the ecological resources in the area support.”

SAAS Chapter Notes

Determination of Wind Speed Michigan Audubon Society

Submitted by: Bev Kirby

In MPH	Indicators of Wind Speed
Less than 1	Smoke rises vertically
1-3	Wind direction shown by smoke or shift
4-7	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle
8-12	Leaves, small twigs in constant motion; light flag extended
13-18	Raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved
19-24	Small trees in leaf sway; crested wavelets on inland waters

A Texas Treat!!

Submitted by: Gloria and Tom Cadwalader

Your Editors recently enjoyed a "Birding Bonus" while traveling in and through the State of Texas. Being one of us is a novice birder and the other of us an avid photographer, we focused our exploration of Texas on wetlands, seashores, botanical gardens, and many wild and wonderful places off the beaten track and threw in the beautiful Mission Trail in San Antonio, on which we did a lot of birdwatching and a lot of bicycling. What a wonderful trail that is on both counts. And now for the birding...

To begin, one must keep in mind that a novice like me has many unchecked boxes on her life list, so getting lots of check marks is much easier. *And check marks I got.* And the photographer... several thousand shots were fired (with his camera). Some of the highlights for both of us were a bittern, Wilson's snipe, sora, blue wing teal,



green wing teal, (and the "birder" got a cinnamon teal though the photographer missed that), reddish egret, common snipe, caracara, vermilion flycatcher, pyrrhuloxia, and way too many more to mention. And our favorite??? Well, going into this trip neither of us had ever seen a "roadrunner", so... when entering into "Big Ben National Park" and one was walking across the road in front of us... we were ecstatic. Little did we know that the campground resident roadrunner would be in our campsite morning, noon, and night, along with many many of his friends everywhere in the park. What fun we had. For those of



you whom have not yet birded in Texas, we found most of the birding spots by searching the web and as is most often the case, when exploring those spots the birders you encounter along the trail share lots of other special spots... and the list grows and grows. Those that were particularly interesting to us were: The Mission Trail, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center and Medina Park (San Antonio), the San Antonio Botanical Garden, Padre Island National Seashore, Mustang Island State Park, Nature Preserve (Charlie's Pasture) and Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center of Aransas, and Big Ben National Park. Big Ben National Park also provided biking and hiking and exploration beyond expectation. And... as mentioned earlier, during one of those chance encounters with other birders (right in our Big Ben campground), we met John and Joan Biddock of Harbor Springs, members of the Emmet County Audubon Society, and friends of Ed Pike and Steve Baker. Small and wonderful world.

Program Schedule

April 13, 2016 - "Plight of the Monarch" Film

By: Kirby and Cindy Pringle - Dogtown Artworks, IL

May 11, 2016 - "A Shift Back to Natural Shorelines"

By: Darrell Schwalm

June 8, 2016 - "Hike and Potluck"

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by: Rose Rynerson

Please join me in welcoming our newest members, Margie Phillips and Bob Elliott; harbingers of Spring?

Members can choose to receive The Kettle newsletter either by mail or email. Notify me of address changes. I often hear from members wintering in warmer climates that they continue to enjoy our newsletter each month!

SAAS General Meeting Minutes

Date: February 10, 2016

Submitted by: Janet Trudeau, Secretary

Program: "Kirtland's Warbler Initiative - Sustaining Success"

Attendance: 25 members, 8 guests total 33

President Jean Moberly welcomed members and guests. Jim Bricker introduced our speaker Elaine Carlson who presented the program "Kirtland's Warbler Initiative - Sustaining Success". Elaine is the Director of The Kirtland's Warbler Alliance. She explained how the species listed as endangered may graduate from the Endangered Species List; how the Alliance is helping this transition by increasing the base support of Public Land Management. The Alliance, operating under Huron Pines, was formed to develop and implement a strategic outreach and funding plan to expand awareness of the Kirtland's Warbler and its connection to Michigan with a

variety of audiences especially communities located in and around the nesting habitat. Question and answer secession followed.

Al Moberly spoke on upcoming field trips.

Kathy Bricker talked on Earth Week Plus and a video was shown from last year.

As Jim McGrath will be our March speaker, SAAS will host him in several area schools with Snakes Alive. Classes in Mackinaw City, Cheboygan, Onaway, Wolverine, and two schools in Petoskey will benefit from his teachings about these often misunderstood creatures. His programs are made possible with help from the youth fund of SAAS and special grants from the Awakon Federal Credit Union and Citizens National Bank, also Nancy Waldron and the Wolverine Community Schools.

Nature sightings with Bev Kirby who talked about the Great Backyard Bird Count on February 12,13,14. Dale Giddings saw a Bobcat. Jack and Bev Kirby saw 300 Bohemian Waxwings. Fox were also seen.

Raffle Prizes were won by:

Steve Baker - Bird House
Jack Kirby - Bird Feeder Pole
Bev Kirby - Sturgeon Pin

Door Prizes were won by:

Joan Rogers - Fragile Earth Pin
Jim Bricker - Jar Of Honey donated by Dale Giddings
Sue Emerson (thanks to Steve Baker re-donating his win) - Thistle Seed Bag

Treats by: Dale Giddings, Bev & Jack Kirby, Jean Moberly, and Ann Benter.

For Your Information

Online Extras - Kettle Dropbox

Submitted by: Tom Cadwalader, Photo/Technical Editor

To view "online extras - photos and/or videos", all you the reader has to do is click on the link shown below, once there, a list of folders by month/year will be shown. You may select your choice by clicking on that folder, which, when opened will show a list of the photos/videos. The pictures/videos have a retention limit of one year. If you take bird or nature pictures and think they might be of interest to our members, send them along to: kettleeditor@gmail.com. The photographers are sharing their work with the readers and by virtue of submitting their pictures to the **Kettle** they are granting permission for you to view their work. Permission should be obtained before downloading or copying any of these pictures or videos.

Link: [Click Here For Pictures](#)

Hint: double click on the image to enlarge it

Straits Area Audubon Society 2015 - 2016 Officers

President: **Jean Moberly** - 231-268-9726
normich@gmail.com

Vice President: **Vacant**

Treasurer: **Rose Rynerson** - 231-597-9788
fiddleheadfilly4@gmail.com

Secretary: **Janet Trudeau** - 231-625-2572
jktru@icloud.com

Past President: **Dale Giddings** - 231-525-8874

Exe.Com. At-Large: **David Bricker** - 248-651-6865
brickerscd@yahoo.com

MAS Rep.: **Diane Morand** - 231-627-4282
mdlmorand@aol.com

Nature Links

Michigan Audubon Society

www.michiganaudubon.org

MNA [Michigan Nature Association]

www.michigannature.org

The Nature Conservancy

<http://nature.org/greatlakes>

Little Traverse Conservancy

www.landtrust.org

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory

www.wpbo.org

HMANA Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch

<http://hawkcount.org/>

[month_summary.php?rsite=613](http://hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?rsite=613)

Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch

www.MackinacRaptorWatch.org

Note from the Editors

All articles and photos for **THE KETTLE** should be submitted to the editors' email box (kettleeditor@gmail.com) five days BEFORE the end of a publication month. This will allow the email edition to be sent out by the 1st of the month and the printed edition to be mailed by the 4th. Thank you - Gloria Cadwalader, Publication Editor and Tom Cadwalader, Photo/Technical Editor.

SAAS THANKS

Williams Office Equipment for donating printing costs for **The Kettle**. Please consider them for all your Computer, Copier, Printer, and Fax needs.

312 West Elm Street, Cheboygan, MI 49721 Phone: 231-627-7020 -- Fax: 231-627-7477