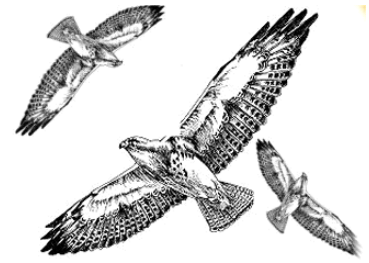


THE KETTLE



Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter - Est. 1983

SAAS meetings are held at 6:30 pm. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, September through May at the Cheboygan Area Public Library, 100 S. Bailey St. 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.

SAAS thanks **Williams Office Equipment** for donating printing costs for **The Kettle** and **Benter Chiropractic** for hosting our www.straitsareaaudubon.org.

Straits Area Audubon Society
c/o Rosanne Rynerson
10490 E. U.S. 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: _____

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

Please mail checks to:
Rosanne Rynerson - Treasurer
10490 E. U.S. 23
Cheboygan, MI 49721

Upcoming Program

February 8, Wednesday [6:30 pm] Isle Royale: Wilderness Gem

Come on Wednesday, February 8 at 6:30 pm to the Cheboygan Area Public Library for a presentation on "Isle Royale: Wilderness Gem." Accessible only by boat or seaplane, the 850-square mile Isle Royale National Park is a federally designated wilderness with one large island surrounded by more than 450 smaller islands.



Biologist Rick Barber, now director of adjunct faculty at North Central Michigan College, has been to the island five times. Most recently, in May 2011, he spent nine days back-packing 58 miles from Rock Harbor to Windigo. Rick will discuss the island's history, geology and biology, and review the wolf/moose studies that have been conducted over the years.

This ecological research is the longest running large mammal predator-prey study on earth. Rick has a bachelor's degree in biology and conservation of natural resources. Refreshments and raffle and door-prize drawings will follow the meeting.

Future Programs:

March 14 - Wildlife Rehabilitation - by Susan Good, R.N., C.W.R.

April 11 - The Grand Slam of Michigan Turtles – All Alive - by Jim McGrath

May 9 - Vehicular Air Pollution - by Tom Grahame

Upcoming Field Trips

[There are no February field trips scheduled.]

SAAS Chapter Notes:

Announcing Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative Grant

by Bobie Crongeyer, Youth Coordinator

SAAS is the primary community sponsor for the Cheboygan Middle School's Green School Project in 2012. Our volunteers have worked with the school staff and others to plan and fund this effort since last spring. In late January we learned that the school received a \$6,000 grant for its student-executed plans for a school garden, recycling, and energy conservation. Watch the *Kettle* or come to the February meeting to learn more, and how SAAS members can help our youth.

SAAS ATTENDANCE SUMMARY [2007 – 2011]

Year

2007 2008 2009 2010 2011

Number of Monthly Programs:

9 9 8 9 9

Attendance by members:

180 226 235 272 254

Attendance by guests

71 249 261 253 310

Total Attendance

251 475 496 525 564

Number of Field Trips

2 9 12 18 22

Attendance by members

16 75 99 153 214

Attendance by guests

3 21 96 67 60

Total Attendance

19 95 195 220 274

Number of Earth Week Events

n/a n/a n/a 30 35

Total Attendance

n/a n/a n/a 833 836

Snakes Alive! In Schools

n/a n/a n/a n/a 170

Community nature talks

n/a n/a 12 n/a 130

Submitted by Kathy Bricker

January Meeting Decisions

by Kathy Bricker

At the January meeting, members unanimously approved a letter drafted by conservation chair Glen Matthews on the current debate over capping the amount of state land. We also agreed to cover the cost of renting the Guest House at Headlands Park for the purpose of the owl banding and star-gazing field trip on Friday, April 6. Emmet County has generously donated the use of the building in previous years and now is charging even non-profit organizations. We decided to solicit donations from trip attendees to defray the expense. Lastly, members voted to bring Jim McGrath of Nature Discovery back to Cheboygan in April, during the week of the EarthWeekPlus Expo. He will share his live Michigan turtles for an Audubon talk. During the following two days, he will give Snakes Alive! presentations before five classes of Cheboygan Middle School 5th graders and at least one class in Wolverine School. His teaching was greatly appreciated last year by the Middle School, Cheboygan Youth Center, and all who heard it. The members voted to support Jim's return through the balance in the Just Ducky Quilt Raffle fund, as long as a significant amount of other money could be raised from public donations. As of January 23, I am thrilled to report that we reached the needed fundraising goal, thanks to an anonymous supporter and to Citizens National Bank. Anyone who is interested in volunteering to help Jim show the snakes in the classrooms, please contact me.

Straits Area Audubon Society
2011 Statement of Income & Expenses

Checking account balance [January 1, 2011]: \$ 2,818.18

INCOME:

Membership 2011-2012 Season	1,275.50
Renewals (1,038.50)	
New (237.00)	
2011 Big Bird Count Donations	507.83
Snakes Alive Event Donations	812.00
Earth Week Plus 2011 Event Donations	106.25
Other Donations	197.69
Monthly Raffle Income	<u>190.50</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$3,089.77</u>

EXPENSES:

Grants awarded by SAAS:	\$ 665.00
Cheboygan Library, January, 2011	(\$100)
Cheboygan Library, December, 2011	(\$100)
Earth Week Plus 2011 Event	(\$145)
Summer Youth Camp 2011	(\$120)
Owl Research	(\$200)
Field Trip Leader Gratuities	191.00
Ferry Tickets (2, for Christmas Bird Count)*	---
Postage	234.96

Printing: <i>The Kettle</i> Newsletter**	---
Printing (posters, etc. other than newsletter)	105.59
Raffle: Prizes and Door Prizes***	---
Raffle License Fee	45.00
SAAS Website Hosting****	---
Speakers	1,475.00
Supplies	<u>232.92</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,949.47

December 31, 2011 checking account balance \$ 2,958.48

Special thanks to:

* Arnold Transit Line

** Williams Office Equipment

*** Cheboygan Co-op, Court St. Antiques & Gifts, Zany Kitchen & many individuals

**** Benter Chiropractic

FUND BALANCE REPORTS

OLD FUNDS (2010):

JUST DUCKY QUILT RAFFLE
\$812.11 Balance January, 2012

BIG BIRD COUNT EVENT: [Balance restricted for North Central Michigan Trail clean-up (±\$68) and night-sky-friendly lighting (±\$68)]

\$446.20	Balance January, 2011
- 120.00	Grant paid for summer campers' scholarships
- 63.00	Projector purchase funds put toward Snakes Alive
- 80.00	Youth center project funds put toward Snakes Alive
<u>\$183.20</u>	Balance January, 2012

EARTH WEEK EVENT

\$375.95	Balance January, 2011
-100.00	Grant paid to Earth Week Plus 2011
-220.00	Snakes Alive, an Earth Week Plus 2011 event
- 45.00	Grant paid for Earth Week Plus 2011 supplies
- 11.00	Paid toward Snakes Alive event supplies
<u>\$ 0</u>	Balance January, 2012

NEW FUNDS (2011):

BIG BIRD COUNT EVENT: [Balance restricted for youth camp/scholarships (±\$160) and spring hawk watch (±\$140)]

\$507.83	Balance January, 2011
-200.00	Grant paid for owl research
<u>\$307.83</u>	Balance January, 2012

GENERAL FUND BALANCE \$1,655.34

Submitted by: Rosanne Rynerson, Treasurer - January 10, 2012

December Potluck

by Kathy Bricker

December was the giving season for SAAS. First, we gave one another a tasty and healthy potluck. Then during a brief meeting, members voted or confirmed various grants. We donated \$100 to the Cheboygan Area Public Library in appreciation for the use of the monthly

meeting space. We approved a grant of \$300 to EarthWeekPlus for an Eco-Tastic Experience for youth winners of the Earth-Friendly Project challenge. We confirmed a grant of \$200 to Ed Pike for Owl Research in the Straits of Mackinac. Then, we were "given" photos by Tom Cadwalader (including sharp-tailed grouse in their courtship ritual, dancing at a lek), Kathy Bricker (highlights of EarthWeekPlus 2011), Don and Donna Mittlestat (cool area birds, including northern orioles), Steve Baker (spectacular dewdrop reflections), Diane Morand (on her adventure to Churchill to see polar bears), Karen Busch (close-up and personal with rare birds at Fort Morgan Banding Station in Alabama), and Dale Rieger (assorted humor: you had to be there!). New member Jennie Cox won the door prize of the Cardinal coffee mug donated by Zany Kitchen.

SAAS Volunteer Staff

<u>President:</u>	Roger Benter
<u>Vice President:</u>	Jim Bricker
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Rosanne Rynerson
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mary Liebner
<u>Past President:</u>	Kathy Bricker
<u>Executive Com:</u>	Bobie Crongeyer
<u>MAS Rep:</u>	Donna Mittlestat
<u>Greeter:</u>	Susan Emerson
<u>Greeter Assist:</u>	Dale Rieger, Connie Rieger, Alice MacFarland
<u>Field Trips:</u>	Steve Baker
<u>Bird Counts:</u>	Ed Pike Steve Baker
<u>Conservation:</u>	Glen Matthews
<u>Raffle/Door Prize:</u>	Judy Vanderhart
<u>Raffle Assistants:</u>	Maureen Conklin, Roy MacFarland
<u>Refreshments:</u>	Molly Ferguson, Alice MacFarland, Dorothy Woosley
<u>Nature Sightings:</u>	Bev Kirby
<u>Youth Outreach:</u>	Bobie Crongeyer
<u>Kettle Editor:</u>	Jack Kirby
<u>Kettle Producer:</u>	Ann Benter
<u>Audiovisual/ Web Master:</u>	Roy MacFarland

Who is Michigan Audubon

by Donna Mittlestat

Michigan Audubon Society (MAS) was formed and incorporated in 1904, and is the state's oldest conservation organization. The Straits Area Audubon Society (SAAS) is a member of the MAS. There are about 2000 members of the MAS. Thirty nine local chapters are affiliated with the state organization. MAS is governed by a volunteer board of directors and three full time staff are employed at their headquarters. Volunteers are used throughout the organization helping

out at their many sanctuaries. Volunteers also help with birding events across the state such as the: Annual Conference, Crane Fest, Tawas Point Birding Festival, Migration Celebration, campouts and field trips. Hundreds of volunteers throughout the state gather data for seasonal surveys, migration counts, and the Annual Christmas Bird Count. This data is ultimately compiled in MAS's science journal, Michigan Birds and Natural History. As of Jan. 1 2012 MAS office is located at Bengal Wildlife Center in Bath, MI.

Nature Links

Michigan Audubon Society



www.michiganaudubon.org

Little Traverse Conservancy

www.landtrust.org

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory

www.wpbo.org

Winter Birds around the Soo a field trip Feb. 11-12

Don't Forget: The 15th annual GBBC takes place February 17-20, 2012.



www.birdcount.org

Rare Winter Bird; Great Gray Owl



Photo by J Kirby

This Great Gray Owl was viewed by Bev and Jack Kirby at Kingsville, Ontario.

Note from the Editor

All articles and photos for *THE KETTLE* should be submitted to the editor's e-mail box one week BEFORE the end of a publication month. This will allow the e-mail edition to be sent out by the first of the month and the printed edition to be mailed by the 4th day of the month.

Thank you. **Jack Kirby** [[jskirby@wowway.com](mailto:jkirby@wowway.com)]