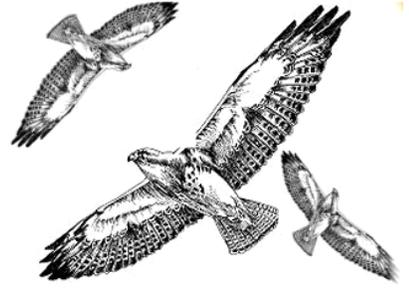


The Kettle



Straits Area Audubon Society newsletter dating from 1983

November 2010 Vol. 11 No 8

SAAS meetings are held at the Cheboygan Area Public Library, 100 S. Bailey St. at 6:30 pm. Refreshments will be provided. You may also 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 Roger and Ann Benter and Williams Office Supply for donating printing costs for the *Kettle*, and Benter Chiropractic for hosting 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 fieldtrips, 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 Programs

Nov 10 **Down Upon the Suwannee River**
by Dale and Connie Rieger

The Suwannee River, made famous by the songs of Stephen Foster, stretches from the Okefenokee Swamp in southeast Georgia to Florida's shore along the Gulf of Mexico. Dale and Connie Rieger will take you on their 150 mile Suwannee canoe trip, showing you the old Florida not seen from the freeways and tourist traps.

Dec 8 **Potluck and Member Slide Fest**
by Roger Benter

Do you have cool nature pictures or stories you'd like to share with others, yet don't want to give a full Audubon program? Your opportunity is our annual Slide Fest and holiday potluck dinner. The potluck will feature everyone's culinary talents, so bring a dish to pass and your own table service. NOTE that dinner STARTS AT 6 pm, one-half hour earlier than normal meetings to give us plenty of time to eat. After dessert, we will enjoy images and stories from any members and guests. Bring up to 20 pictures per person in a photo album to pass around, or on a computer disk or thumb drive. The meeting will end at least by 8:45 p.m.

Chapter Notes

Oct 15 **Just Ducky Quilt Raffle**
by Kathy Bricker

The Just Ducky quilt was won by Frank Fisher of Cheboygan. Thank you again to the Rivertown Patchworkers for making and donating this attractive quilt to SAAS.

In all, 1,000 tickets were sold, thanks to the organizing and marketing skills of Alice MacFarland. She worked on this raffle for over a year, with a push this summer. We thank her and all who sold tickets: Roy MacFarland, Kathy Bricker, Jeanette Mateer, Maureen Conklin, Kathy Davis, Terry Riegler, Diane Morand, Gloria Cadwalader, Rose Rynerson, Judy VanderHart, Dorothy Woosley, Ann Benter, Joan Rogers, Marie Bartlett, Bev Kirby and Vicki Lyon.

For displaying and advertising the quilt, we appreciate Glen's, K-Mart, Cheboygan Street Fair, Citizens' National Bank, Straits Area Federal Credit Union, 1st Community Bank, Calcite Credit Union, First Federal Bank, Rogers Jewelers, Cheboygan Used Books, and the Cheboygan Daily Tribune.

Members voted to donate half the net proceeds to Cheboygan schools. Recently, we presented \$800 to Linda Chase, Principal of Cheboygan Middle School. Science teacher Patti Dobias will buy three high-grade microscopes to improve demonstrations of nature to students for years to come.

Upcoming Field Trips

Dec 18 **Christmas Bird Count**
by Ed Pike

Meet at 7:30 am at Cheboygan McDonalds to join the 25th annual SAAS Christmas Bird Count. We will split into groups to bird-watch all day, traveling within 7.5 miles of the junction of M-33 and M-27. If you live within that circle, you can assist by counting your feeder birds. Some people split the day between home and helping in the field. Our record count in 2008 tallied more than 3,500 birds of 49 species. Our lowest was 31 species. For more information, call Ed Pike at 231-758-3319.

Field Trip Reports

Jun 2 **Trail Cleanup**
by Darrell Schwalm

The North Central State Trail clean-up on June 2 was a very successful event, with 13 volunteers, a record for SAAS. This marks our second year to volunteer to clean this stretch along Mullett Lake. I am sure that the bicycle trail has never looked better. It was also nice to have some new helpers. Besides cleaning the trail, two volunteers opened up every tent caterpillar nest to allow the birds to get to the caterpillars. There were some broken signs that we reported to the DNRE.

Jun 6 **Grass Bay and Potluck**
by Jim Bricker

June 6 brought out a couple dozen people to enjoy a field trip to Grass Bay, led by Roy MacFarland. His timing was perfect, as we barely dodged a tremendous rain squall that struck as we returned to the cars. Following a potluck at Cordwood Shores, we enjoyed nature movies by Tom Cadwalader and an Earth Week slide show.

Jun 18 **Bluebird Trail**
by Kathy Bricker

On a trip designed to show bluebirds to Cheboygan Youth Center children, 8 SAAS members gathered on June 18 at the home of Dale Giddings. He showed us the homes of eastern bluebirds, tree swallows, and black-capped chickadees, all living in some of the extensive network of nest boxes he has established. An added bonus was donning bee-suits and heavy gloves for a tour of the beehives, above which an Eastern kingbird had built its nest. Dale explained it was like living next to a take-out restaurant.

September and October Trip Reports Next Month