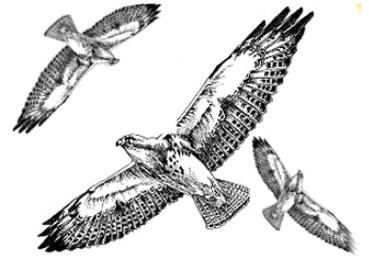


The Kettle



Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter - Est. 1983

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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 Roger and Ann Benter and **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 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

SAAS Events Calendar

Upcoming Programs

October: Finding Fall Mushrooms

Marilynn Smith



Come Wednesday, October 12 at 6:30 pm to the Cheboygan Area Public Library. Marilyn Smith, northern Michigan's mushroom expert, will present a program "Finding Fall Mushrooms." It will focus on learning to identify edible fall mushrooms, with tips on how you can tell for sure which kinds are edible and choice. Fall mushrooms are more tasty and delicious than spring morels so you will not want to miss this presentation.

November: The Amazing Amazon

Joey Arbaugh

Come Wednesday, November 9 at 6:30 pm to the Cheboygan Area Public Library. Joey Arbaugh will present "The Amazing Amazon." Joey has explored the Brazil's Amazon region on more than a dozen trips. She will share her experiences and photographs from trekking, bird-watching, and nature discovery in this jungle paradise.

Upcoming Field Trips

Fall Hike in the Pigeon River Country, October 11, Tuesday 9:00 am:

Don and Donna Mittlestat will guide us to one of their favorite spots in the PRC. The fall colors should be peak and hopefully we will encounter some interesting birds (Towhees nest here) and Elk are a possibility. Meet at 9 am in Wolverine at the riverside park across from the Old Train Depot.

For information, call Don or Donna at 231-525-0169

Field Trip/ Work day Wednesday, October 12

The Michigan Nature Association [MNA] would welcome any help in a work day at the Fred Dye Preserve north of Moran. This is better known as the Prairie Coneflower Preserve and is one of only a handful of sites where this beautiful plant occurs in Michigan.

Work will consist of cutting woody brush and pulling invasives. Come and learn the fascinating history of this unique preserve and find out the story of "the baby rock". Much can be accomplished in just a few hours with many willing hands. Wear gloves and boots and bring water and snacks.

Contact Steve Baker for time. 231-238-8723

Upcoming Field Trips [cont.]

A Taste of Cave Exploration

October 15, Saturday 9 am



We will travel to the Michigan Karst Conservancy property near Trout Lake in the eastern UP. Aubrey Golden will guide us about the preserve and point out the unique geological features of this limestone area. Fall colors may still be holding on in this beautiful maple forest. There will be an opportunity to explore a short way into an extensive cave system for those interested. If you want to try caving, bring along a headlight, a back up flashlight, and a helmet(bike helmet or hard hat will work). No gear which has been in other caves will be permitted due to the possibility of disease transmission to the bats that live here. Meet at 9 am in Mackinaw City at the Welcome Center/Highway Rest area and we will carpool across to the UP. Questions? Steve 231-238-8723

Fall Waterfowl of the St. Ignace Area

October 28, Friday 8:30 am:

Steve Baker and Ed Pike

We will check out several shoreline areas of the straits as well as some inland lakes in search of waterfowl. Each fall thousands of diving ducks gather offshore and in protected bays of the Mackinaw Straits. We hope to see up to 20 species of waterfowl as well as migrating raptors and maybe even some early Snow Buntings. Meet Ed and Steve at the Bridgeview Park at the north west end of the bridge and we will carpool to a variety of sites. We will stop for lunch somewhere and there will be an option to continue birding after lunch. Questions? Call Steve Baker [231-238-8723]

Field Trip Reports

Birds and Blooms September 9 Field Trip

by Bev Kirby



What a great late summer day for 11 enthusiastic birders and botany lovers to hike out to Waugoshance Point at Wilderness State Park. Not many birds were sighted but a common yellowthroat along the shore of Cecil Bay finally popped up where we could see it. Also in the bay, a loon was calling, and a bald eagle which seemed unusually big, landed on a spit of land just off shore with great views for all. Our best birds of the day were the 7 black-bellied plovers on the beach at Waugoshance Point, with 3 or 4 still in beautiful breeding plumage.

[Cont P3 C1]

Field Trip Reports [cont]

Black-bellied plovers



Photo by J Kirby

We heard them call to each other prior to lift-off as they continued on their southern journey. A coyote ran off the beach when he saw us approaching. American toad, green and leopard frogs, garter snakes, praying mantis, and 2 clouds of flying ants kept us busy. Then there were the flowers. We have never ever seen so many fringed gentians as there were that day. Wow! They were everywhere and truly spectacular! Two rare white gentians were also spotted. Houghton's goldenrod, pitcher's thistle, nodding ladies'-tresses, brook lobelia, Indian paintbrush, tall white asters, grass-of-Parnassus, oxeye daisy, brushy cinqfoil, purple gerardia, soapwort gentian and bottle gentian were some of the many flowers seen and noted. A late blooming butterwort, and a blooming twinflower were surprise finds, as was a blooming death camas, which many of us had not seen before. Another great Steve Baker field trip. Looking forward to the next.

Fringed gentians



Photo by J Kirby

**Wilderness State
Park Hike to
Waugoshance Point
September 23 Field
Trip**

By Bev Kirby



With great anticipation of finding American Golden-plovers, nine hikers led by Steve Baker, walked out to Waugoshance Point to find horned larks and sanderlings on the beach. Black-bellied plovers, one of which was dramatically plumaged, entertained us as they searched for food among the rocks. Many flocks of blue jays flew overhead, while

Cont. P3 C2

Cont. from P3 C1

American Golden-plover



Photo by J Kirby

merlins, a sharp-shinned hawk, American kestrels, northern flickers, 2 great blue herons, American pipits and 100 or so common mergansers were seen in the morning. Many plants were noted along the shoreline and forest edge. Fringed gentians, turtlehead, death camas, brook lobelia, boneset, tall white asters, Houghton's goldenrod, pitcher plants, butterwort, grass-of-Parnassus, and a few nodding ladies'-tresses were found. The highlight of the day was when we went over to the Sturgeon Bay area and immediately found our target bird....5 beautiful American golden-plovers quite close to us on the shore. These birds have one of the longest migrations of any shorebird, flying from their breeding grounds in the high Arctic to southern South America. It was our good fortune that they stopped on the Lake Michigan shore for us to admire. A few black-bellied plovers were with them, which gave us a good chance to compare the two species. A lone killdeer made it a three plover species day. Another great SAAS northern Michigan trip enjoyed by all.

Pitcher plant



Photo by J Kirby

MICHIGAN AUDUBON PRESENTS



October 7-9, 2011
Calhoun County, MI

Crane Fest

Field Trip Reports [cont]

Colonial Point Mushrooms September 25 Field Trip

By Steve Baker

Mycologist Marilyn Smith led an enthusiastic group of 21 around the beautiful Colonial point Forest on September 25. It was a perfect day to enjoy a hike and learn about the fall mushrooms with such a knowledgeable leader as Marilyn. Many species were identified and several choice edibles were collected with Marilyn's guidance.



Puff Balls



Photo by J. Kirby

I especially enjoy the colorful common names for the various mushroom species such as Turkey Tail, Artist's Fungus, Hen of the Woods, and Bear Tooth. FYI, the log I took home definitely glows in the dark with a bioluminescence as Marilyn predicted. We also saw first hand the sad future of our Beech trees as they are all dying from the devastating effects of an introduced Scale insect and a fungus.

Field Trippers



Photo by S. Baker

SAAS CHAPTER NOTES

SAAS Volunteer Staff

President: Roger Benter
Vice President: Jim Bricker
Treasurer: Rosanne Rynerson
Secretary: Mary Liebner
Staff Coordinator / Past President: Kathy Bricker
Executive Com. At-Large: Bobie Crongeyer
M A S Representative: Donna Mittlestat
Greeter: Susan Emerson
Greeter Assistants: Dale Rieger, Connie Rieger, Alice MacFarland
Field Trips: Steve Baker
Bird Counts: Ed Pike
Conservation Chair: Glen Matthews
Raffle/Door Prize: Judy Vanderhart
Raffle Assistants: Maureen Conklin, Roy MacFarland
Refreshments: Molly Ferguson, Alice MacFarland, Dorothy Woosley
Nature Sightings: Bev Kirby
Youth Outreach: [Position available]
Kettle Editor: Jack Kirby
Kettle Producer: Ann Benter
Audiovisual/Web Master: Roy MacFarland

Anyone wishing to join the SAAS Volunteer Staff please contact Kathy Bricker [231-627-4830]

Useful Website Links

Michigan Ferns

<http://homepage.mac.com/chpeirce/ferns/index.html>

Michigan Wildflowers

<http://homepage.mac.com/chpeirce/wildflowers/index.html>

Online guide to Flowers, Plants, Trees and more!

<http://www.plantguide.org/>

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]