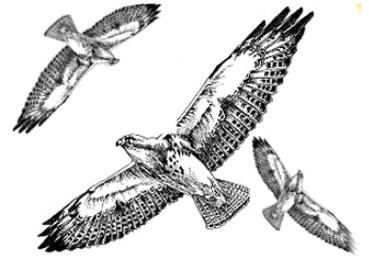


The Kettle



Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter - Est. 1983

September 2011 Vol.12 No 6 - Page 1

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

September: Hydro-fracturing (fracking) in northern Michigan

Andrea Sullivan

Come Wednesday, September 14 at 6:30 pm to the Cheboygan Area Public Library. Andrea Sullivan, Senior Geologist with the DEQ in Gaylord will present a program "Hydro-fracturing (fracking) in northern Michigan". Andrea has worked for the Gaylord DNR and DEQ for 30 years overseeing permitting, drilling, production and reclamation of over 4000 wells. Come learn about the challenges of fracking.

October: Finding Fall Mushrooms

Marilynn Smith

Come Wednesday, October 12 at 6:30 pm to the Cheboygan Area Public Library. Marilynn 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

Birds and Blooms

September 9, Friday 8 am:

Steve Baker

We will explore Pte. LaBarbe on the UP side of the bridge for migrating birds and fall blooming flowers. There should be a nice mix of songbirds, raptors, and water birds to keep us busy. Blooms hoped for include Fringed Gentians and Nodding Ladies-tresses. Meet in Mackinaw City at 8 am at the State Highway Rest Area/ Welcome Center and we will car pool to the UP. If Pte Labarbe is quiet, we can extend our trip west along US 2 and explore other coastal wetlands. Questions? Call Steve Baker [231-238-8723]

Upcoming Field Trips [cont.]

Learn about the " Bug Camp"

September 16, Friday 9 am:

Bob Vande Kopple

Bob is the resident biologist at the University of Michigan Biological Station near Pellston. Bob will lead us on a tour of the facilities and hopefully a short hike on this 10,000 acres of land preserved for scientific and environmental study. Meet at 9 am at the volleyball court at the center of the lakeside campus. Enter the Station off Riggsville Rd. (C-64) between I-75 and Pellston. Questions? Call Steve Baker [231-238-8723]

Wilderness State Park Hike to Waugashance Point

September 23, Friday 8:30 am:

Steve Baker

We will hike 2-3 miles out Waugashance Point in search of migrating shorebirds(hoping for American Golden-Plovers) and observing the unique plants that grow in this harsh environment. Plants of interest include the Pitcher's Thistle, Houghton's Goldenrod, and Butterwort. Meet in Mackinaw City at the State Highway Rest Area/ Welcome Center at 8:30 am. There may be some wet areas in the hike. Questions? Call Steve Baker [231-238-8723]

Fall Mushrooms at Colonial Point

September 25, Sunday 1 pm:

Marilynn Smith

Mycologist Marilynn Smith will lead us in search of fall mushrooms at beautiful Colonial Point Preserve as a prelude to her talk to us at the October Audubon meeting. Marilynn is fungi expert and an excellent teacher and is always willing to share her knowledge and passion for the mushrooms. Meet at 1 pm at the Colonial Point Preserve sign. Rain or shine. Directions: From Cheboygan, take Riggsville Road west to West Burt Lake Rd. Follow West Burt Lake Road to Brutus Road. Left on Brutus Rd(maybe called Indian Point Rd) for a short distance to the Preserve sign. From US-31 and Brutus area: East on Brutus Road to its end at Colonial Point Woods. The parking area and preserve sign will be on your right. Questions? Call Steve Baker [231-238-8723]

MICHIGAN AUDUBON PRESENTS



October 7-9, 2011
Calhoun County, MI

Crane Fest

Upcoming Field Trips [cont.]**Owl Banding near the St. Ignace area**
September 30, Friday 7:30 pm:*Ed Pike*

Ed has studied the owl migration through the Mackinaw Straits for over 20 years and is a veteran bird bander. We will help Ed with the setup of mist nets at dusk and then eagerly wait till dark when the Saw-whet Owl migration commences. If owls are captured, we will watch as Ed collects data on each bird, bands the bird, and then releases the bird. This is a special opportunity to view owls up close. Dress warm and bring a lawn chair. Rain date will be the next evening, Saturday, October 1. Directions: Meet at the Bridgeview Park at 7:30 pm and Ed will guide us to his banding station. To reach the Bridgeview Park, cross the Mackinaw Bridge, exit to US 2 west and immediately turn left(south) on Boulevard Drive and follow this down to the Park. Boulevard Drive is directly across from the Shell Station. Questions? Call Ed Pike [231-758-3319]

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]

Red-headed Woodpecker at the Kirby's feeder.
[8/21/2011]

Photo by J. Kirby

SAAS CHAPTER NOTES**TREASURER'S UPDATE***By Rosanne Rynerson*

Welcome back! I am hoping each of you had a great summer. Earlier in the season I was "please-please-pleased-to-meet" a chestnut-sided warbler in my backyard. Delightful! Over the summer money has been flying in, too – your generous pledges for last May's Big Bird Count. \$434.83 has been collected and \$137.50 more is expected yet. I will be sending receipts for each of your Big Bird Count Day pledges soon. Currently the check book balance is \$2,759.03. Please read Kathy Bricker's terrific article in this newsletter about grants and scholarships SAAS made in our 2010 Season. Membership renewals for this 2011 Season are now due. The Boatins', Bronson's, Christophers', Crongeyers', Davis', Dotys', Johnstons', King's, Lyon's, Magee's, Martin's, Matthews', Muschell's, Riegler/Davis', Schwalm's, Summers', Veselenaks' and Willman's are paid through May 2012 ---- everyone else, here's your reminder/invitation (with sugar on top). Feel free to email or call me if you have questions. Unfortunately, I am out of town the week of our September meeting but look forward to seeing you all in October. Enjoy nature!

SAAS Volunteer StaffPresident: Roger BenterVice President: Jim BrickerTreasurer: Rosanne RynersonSecretary: Mary LiebnerStaff Coordinator / Past President: Kathy BrickerExecutive Com. At-Large: Bobie CrongeyerM A S Representative: Donna MittlestatGreeter: Susan EmersonGreeter Assistants: Dale Rieger, Connie Rieger, Alice MacFarlandField Trips: Steve BakerBird Counts: Ed PikeConservation Chair: Glen MatthewsRaffle/Door Prize: Judy VanderhartRaffle Assistants: Maureen Conklin, Roy MacFarlandRefreshments: Molly Ferguson, Alice MacFarland, Dorothy WoosleyNature Sightings: Bev KirbyYouth Outreach: [Position available]Kettle Editor: Jack KirbyKettle Producer: Ann BenterAudiovisual/Web Master: Roy MacFarland

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

SAAS CHAPTER NOTES [cont.]

SAAS GRANTS AWARDED

On May 11 and via absentee ballots, 24 members voted as follows for how to grant the funds raised on Big Birding Day. On that day, 125 species were seen. So far, more than \$400 has been raised, with about a dozen pledges still on their way to us.

The top six vote-getters were as indicated below;

- 1 - Support owl research in the Straits of Mackinaw region; [23 votes]
- 2 - Offer a summer nature camp scholarship to Cheboygan County student who has proven an interest in nature and conservation; [19 votes]
- 3 - Establish a more formal spring hawk watch in Mackinaw City; [17 votes]
- 4 - Support migration research at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory by paying modest honoraria to volunteer counters for mileage costs; [15 votes]
- 5 - Encourage people to switch to night-sky-friendly lighting; [14 votes]
- 6 - Partner with Mackinaw City Historical Village to erect an informational sign across from Headlands about raptors and other migrants that use the area; [11 votes]

The Executive Committee has selected the top three vote-getters for grants. Of the total amount raised, 39% has been awarded to Ed Pike for owl banding research, 32% will enable youth scholarships to nature camps, and 29% will go into a fund to help establish a more formal hawk watch in Mackinaw City.

Thanks to SAAS for Dark Sky Award

Thank you, sincerely, for the honor bestowed upon REHMANN, a CPA firm, by the Outdoor Lighting Forum. The newspaper articles were an added bonus. We appreciate Audubon for recognizing our efforts and bringing to our attention, the contribution that we can continue to make with the Dark Sky Initiative. We truly enjoyed the wonderful lunch at the Park Garden Café and the very informative presentation. I actually saw the NASA representative on the news in May, doing a feature at the Traverse City Theatre regarding the space shuttle launch. It was fun to recognize her and know what her work entails. [cont]

SAAS CHAPTER NOTES [cont.]

Thanks again to Audubon for nominating us for an award. Enjoy the Dark Skies of Northern Michigan!!

Annette M. Eustice, CPA, CGFM



Presentation by Kathy Bricker to Annette M. Eustice

Scholarship Grant Winners

Amber Bourcier and Madelyn Maltby



Photo by K. Bricker

Madelyn Maltby of Cheboygan and naturalist Mike Supernault pose with a tree fungus that Madelyn discovered during the Indian River Natural History Field School. Madelyn attended camp in August with a scholarship from Straits Area Audubon Society. Not shown is Amber Bourcier of Wolverine, another Audubon scholarship winner.

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]