

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

April Program

“Plight of the Monarch” Film

April 13, 2016 (6:00 p.m.)

By: Kirby & Cathy Pringle - Dogtown Artworks

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

This month we are treated to a professional nature film, “Plight of the Monarch” by Kirby and Cindy Pringle of Dogtown Artworks and Roadsides for Wildlife. Kirby and Cindy are driving from Tuscola, IL to give this program in northern lower Michigan. These professional photographers and authors have raised and released monarch butterflies for 15 years, including 800 during just the last two years. When they noticed a sharp decline in the butterfly population, the two decided to



make monarchs the focus of their third book "The Butterfly That Would Not Fly." Since 1994, biologists have surveyed the overwintering population of monarch. The highest count took place during the winter of 1996-97 when approximately 1 billion monarchs were spread out over approximately 50 acres at reserves in Central Mexico. By the winter of 2013-2014, only 33 million were found on 1.65 acres, showing a population decline of more than 90%. The 22-minute documentary based on the book focuses on habitat loss related to the mowing and poisoning of milkweed. Milkweed is the only plant on which the monarch lays its eggs and the only plant the caterpillar will eat. The film has been shown in person from Florida to Georgia to Iowa and broadcast on the Eastern Illinois University PBS affiliate. After the program, we will share nature sightings and upcoming field trips. Refreshments, door and raffle prizes will follow.



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Scheduled Field Trips

Observe Owl Research Activities at The Cheboygan State Park w/Ed Pike MSRW (Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch) April 15, 2016, Friday 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Al & Jean Moberly

Pre-registered participants will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the gate to the Lighthouse Point Cabin, Cheboygan State Park (rain date Saturday April 16). We will take a hike along the Lake Huron beach and at dusk set the nets and return to the cabin area for a bon fire till the net check which occur every hour. Field trip ends at 1:00 a.m.

Limited space available to observe the Owl Research that SAAS supports with a donation to Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch. This field trip is limited to 15 people. SAAS members should register as soon as possible before the event is opened for public registration (\$15 will be charged for non-members.) Make a reservation by contacting Ed Pike at 231-758-3319 (afternoon or evening) or at EdandAnne6750@gmail.com.

About the ongoing Owl Research project. This Owl banding/survey is a constant effort site with netting occurring every night the weather is good from March 20 till May 15. MSRW has hired 2 biologists/banders to conduct the project where we hope to capture and band Northern Saw-whet, Long-eared, Barred, and Great-horned Owls; with the possibility of Boreal and Short-eared Owls at some time during the survey period. You can check on owls captured this spring at MackinacRaptorWatch.org (news). Capturing owls on any particular night is hoped for but not guaranteed; however this should be prime time for owl migration. Bring a chair, flashlight, non-alcoholic beverage, and snacks depending on how long you plan on staying (the nets are set at dusk and closed at dawn the following morning). In the past, few owls are captured until after 10 p.m.

Field Trip Reports

Snowshoe or Hike Banwell Preserve March 12, 2016

Submitted by: Al & Jean Moberly

March 12 was a perfect day to be outside, unseasonably warm with bright sunshine. The spring weather combined with the beauty of Banwell Preserve made for an enjoyable walk through the woods. Tracks spread out in the soft snow were large. A turkey track was so big it could have been from a giant prehistoric turkey!

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Birds seen were chickadees, belted kingfisher, red breasted nuthatch and a beautiful red tailed hawk. When the hawk flew over, Kathy said "say hello to Kevin" (Kevin is the migratory bird counter in Mackinaw City).



Participating in the field trip were Mike and Chris Grant, Doug Fuller, Jim and Kathy Bricker and Al and Jean Moberly.

Other Events

EarthWeekPlus 2016

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

Thanks in part to the sponsorship of SAAS, EarthWeekPlus continues to promote appreciation of our planet and the need to care for it properly. Below is a snapshot of what you can attend and do for free as we help Cheboygan County residents learn more about nature:

April 19, 10:30 a.m. Sustainable Gardening talk by Dr. Larry Dyer. (I heard him talk last year about Saving Vegetable Seeds and HIGHLY recommend him!)

April 23 Expo, 12 to 3:30 p.m. at Cheboygan High School with 28+ displays and three of four presentations featuring live animals. You can enjoy an awesome presentation with lots of visuals called Voices of the Past about Native Americans and their use of the environment. Live animals will be enjoyed by all ages at the programs: Reptiles Are Cool!, Bats of the World, and Transformers-A Bug's Life (which features aquatic insects and will be presented by SAAS member Herm Boatin). Once again, SAAS will host the Wildlife Discovery Room, which attracts hundreds of people a year to learn about nature and our organization. Please contact me at 231-627-4830 if you can volunteer in the room. We need all the help possible!

May 7, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tour of Hammond Bay Biological Station

May 7, 1 p.m. Tour of Cheboygan Water Treatment Plant

May 14, 11 a.m. Guided Sturgeon Viewing

May 14, 1 p.m. Hawks Above Mackinaw

May 21, 2 p.m. Tour of Cheboygan River Front Range Lighthouse

May 28, 10 a.m. Cycle the North Central State Trail

Date pending Tour the USGS Research Vessel Arctics

For meeting places, directions, registration and other information, please visit www.earthweekplus.org or pick up a printed flyer at your library.

News of Interest

MSRW

(Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch)

Submitted by: Judy Frock

Spring raptor migration is in full swing at the Straits, and our professional counter, Kevin Georg, is quite busy. Among the 1534 raptors counted as of March 25, 2016, were 334 Bald Eagles, 644 Red-tailed Hawks, 246 Golden Eagles, and 2 Black Vultures.

Visit our website: www.MackinacRaptorWatch.org for the up-to-date count.

We are pleased that people are having opportunities to learn about our organization and its goals. We are quickly becoming known in other states. On March 22, Kathy Bricker gave a program at the Cheboygan Public Library about the raptor migration across the Straits. Also, MSRW has appeared recently in several periodicals. The March Mackinac Journal has a raptor on the cover and a lengthy article, with photographs, by Betty Soddors. The April Traverse Magazine lists the Mackinaw Raptor Fest in its events section and also as part of an article entitled "10 Ways To Wing North In April". The March-April issue of the national publication of Audubon tells in "Strait Talk" (p-8) about the joint effort of Michigan's Petoskey Audubon Society and the Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch in surveying the waterfowl migrating through the Straits of Mackinac because of the Line 5 issue. We appreciate all of the fine media coverage.

When you read this, the first Mackinaw Raptor Fest will have happened. Hopefully, a number of you were able to participate. If you haven't yet been to Mackinaw City to view the raptor migration, look for our sign on W. Central Avenue any day between now and June 5th from 10 AM to 4 PM and be a part of the eternal circle of life!

Snakes Alive!

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

March 16, 17, and 18, 2016 brought nervous giggles and delighted smiles to the youth of northern lower Michigan, as

they experienced some of the snakes of Michigan. SAAS hired Jim McGrath of Nature Discovery to show Michigan snakes to eleven school classes and at a community program at Indian River Area Library. This marked our fifth consecutive year of snake education for Cheboygan 5th graders.



Most people caught their breath when Jim began to lift the snakes out of the bags. As we walked around so that students could handle his 8-year-old female black rat snake (who just had babies the week before), they became more confident about their safety and the delight of being with snakes.



In Onaway, one girl confessed to her classmate, "I'm a little nervous but I still want to hold it SO bad!" A Cheboygan student wrote afterward: "This morning, when I went into the life skills room, I was terrified. I left, very interested and happy. I

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learned that snakes aren't as terrible as I thought. People sell them out to be evil, and they are not! I have found that I like

snakes, and I'm not scared anymore. Snakes are very awesome!" From another student (stet): "Snakes dedley or frendly? Today I lerned that snakes are not what you think they are. They are much better....You should defintaly hold a snake whenever you get a good chance...They are really sweet cretures. So yes they are frendly not dedley!"

All told, 550 people learned about snakes or frogs and had the chance to handle them. Besides the SAAS meeting, Jim McGrath presented before 5 classes at Cheboygan Middle School, 2 at Onaway, 1 each at Wolverine, Mackinaw City, Petoskey Children's Nursery, and Petoskey Children's Montessori House, and the Indian River Area Library. These talks were enabled by the Straits Area Audubon Society Youth Fund, Nancy Waldron, Awakon Federal Credit Union, Citizens National Bank, Petoskey Co-operative Nursery School, Petoskey Childrens' Montessori House, and Wolverine School.



Assisting with showing the reptiles were Eowyn Bates, Jim and Kathy Bricker, Dale Giddings, Joan Moran, Rosanne Rynerson, and Matt Weeber

DAM "Digital Asset Management" "Whats that all about?"

Submitted by: Tom Cadwalader

Most of us have and use computers. We have all sorts of documents and contact info stored on our computer hard drives. If you are a birder you may use a camera quite a bit, and have lots of nature and family pictures stored on your computers and even your smart phones. The reality of digital assets is that no digital storage solution is immune to data loss. In the computer world they say there are two types of computer users. Those who have suffered a hard drive failure and those that are going to have a hard drive failure.

All of the info we have on our computer's drive has value to us and the loss of it, some of it irreplaceable, would be a concern. Backing up your computer is the best insurance against a total loss of your precious files. In this brief article I want to share with you a back up strategy that is easy to manage and inexpensive.

The heart of any back up strategy is the 3,2,1 rule, and that rule simply says that you need 3 copies of any digital file you don't want to lose. One copy is on the computer, one copy is on some medium near the computer when you use it, and the third copy is off-site somewhere. The second copy protects us from both corrupted files and equipment failure. The third copy does likewise but adds the extra protection in case of theft, flooding, or fire.

To effectively implement this 3,2,1 plan you will need some equipment. The most cost effective and easy to use is a portable external hard drive. I would suggest you buy 2 portable hard drives that connect to your computer via USB 3 cable, one for the second copy and one for the third copy. These hard drives can be purchased for around \$80 for a 1TB capacity. There are now wireless versions of this type of drive but at a higher cost. You will need a capacity that is near double the capacity of the computer you are backing up. You could also use one external hard drive and use a cloud service for your third or off-site copy.

Services like Drop Box, Google Drive and iCloud offer free storage for up to 1GB and you can get 1TB for about \$10 per month.

You will also need software... a Back-Up Program. Most computers and external drives that you buy come with this software, so you shouldn't need to purchase any. This software makes a full copy of your computer and then on some frequency tracks the changes to the computer's drive and saves updated versions of the current drive state. So from there you can go back in time to restore any single file or the whole computer. Ever have the moment "Oh NO...I wish I hadn't deleted that file yesterday"? With this software you can go back to the point just before you deleted the file and then restore the file. Mac computers have software called "Time Machine" which runs automatically in the background. You don't even know its working to protect your files. But if something bad happens... its there for you to pick and choose what you want back.

So, to get all of this into motion... you connect an external drive to the computer and set up the software to do its thing. Once you have a full back up on the first drive you can disconnect it and connect the second drive and let the software do its thing again on that drive. You would then take the drive you used first and store it somewhere like your office, a relative's house or whatever. After that, every so often (weekly/monthly/daily) swap out the drives again. So no more than one (weeks/months/days) worth of changes should ever be lost.

Now if you use a cloud service for the offsite storage, well... you are "Golden" you don't need to worry about swapping out drives. You just need to be sure to do whatever your cloud's service requires you to do to back up the files. Here again I think the back up software can make backing up to the cloud easy.

A few words about smartphones and tablets. I think the best stagey here is to have all of these devices synced to each other. So your files, like address lists and photos, are on each device. If storage capacity is an issue with photos and video, I would download all of the photos and video to the computer, so then the pictures on the phone or tablet can be deleted, freeing up space. I can say that in the Apple world the phones and iPads can be backed up automatically to the cloud for free, up to 5 GB, after that you have to buy more memory. I would expect that android devices offer similar options.

One final word about backing up pictures. I think a great option for the really special captures is to have prints made. Even consider a photo book for travel photos or special events. I think having a picture printed out is still a very special thing. To me it's far more satisfying to see a nice print versus seeing the image on a computer screen.

New Species... "Red-faced Editor"

Submitted by: Gloria Cadwalader

The birding spots referenced in the "A Texas Treat" article in the March edition of the Kettle included "Big Ben National Park". As I am sure most of you know, there is no Big Ben National Park, either in the USA *or in England*. However, there is a Big Bend National Park in the USA and that is where the authors of the article really were and where the Red-faced Editor was "spotted". So... now that you know the truth... we will move on to the next birding adventure for this author. We are now in Arizona and some of the birding spots have been equally as exciting to a novice birder. We have visited the East and West Saguaro National Parks, the Desert Museum, the Tohono Chul Park, the Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park, and the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. All of which have been treasures for a birder. Here is one of the masterful pictures my on-site photographer took of a Cactus Wren.



SAAS Chapter Notes

Program Schedule

May 11, 2016 - "A Shift Back to Natural Shorelines"
By: Darrell Schwalm

June 8, 2016 - "Hike and Potluck"

SAAS General Meeting Minutes

Date: March 9, 2016

Submitted by: Janet Trudeau, Secretary

Program: Green Frogs, Vernal Ponds-Extreme Weather

Attendance: 34 members, 76 guests

Dale Giddings, filling in for President Jean Moberly, welcomed everyone. He introduced our speaker Jim McGrath who presented the program "Green Frogs, Vernal Ponds-Extreme Weather". Frogs are called indicator species they can be used to indicate the health of the environment. Michigan has 13 species of frogs including Spring Peepers, Chorus Frogs, and Wood Frogs. Green Frogs are the most wide spread and adaptable. Extreme weather plays a part in recognizing biodiversity value. Due to changing weather patterns the temporary ponds are drying up before the tadpoles can mature destroying the entire years reproductive out put. Vernal ponds are the most biologically rich in natural communities in temperate regions and the most reproductive for amphibians.

No business meeting followed the program.

Raffle prizes were won by two guests and Roger Benter

Door prizes were won by Gary Kackstetter, BD Gillig, and Sue Emerson

Refreshments by Kathy and Jim Bricker, Dale Giddings, and Linda Rogers.

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

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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

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.

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