

The Kettle

Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter

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 served and you may participate in the 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 East US 23
Cheboygan, Michigan 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 and classroom and field studies.

Join Straits Area Audubon Society

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STATE/ZIP CODE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NEWSLETTER BY: Email: ___ or US Mail: ___

Make checks payable to:

Straits Area Audubon Society

Single Membership: \$12

Family Membership: \$15

Mail Checks to:

Rose Rynerson, Treasurer

10490 East US 23

Cheboygan, MI 49721

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 SAAS Program - Photo Show

Submitted by Herm Boatin

Since the traditional display of Audubon members' favorite photos of wildlife, flowers, clouds, etc. was missed, due to the weather cancellation of the December meeting, members are now invited to bring their favorite photos on a flash drive. Each member's number of photos will be limited to 6 or 8 minutes, dependent upon the number of members who bring photos.

Unlike the plans for the December meeting, there will be no potluck dinner at the February meeting. However, as always, tasty snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Fish Hatchery Field Trip - Wednesday, February 19th at 1:00

Touring a Fish Hatchery!

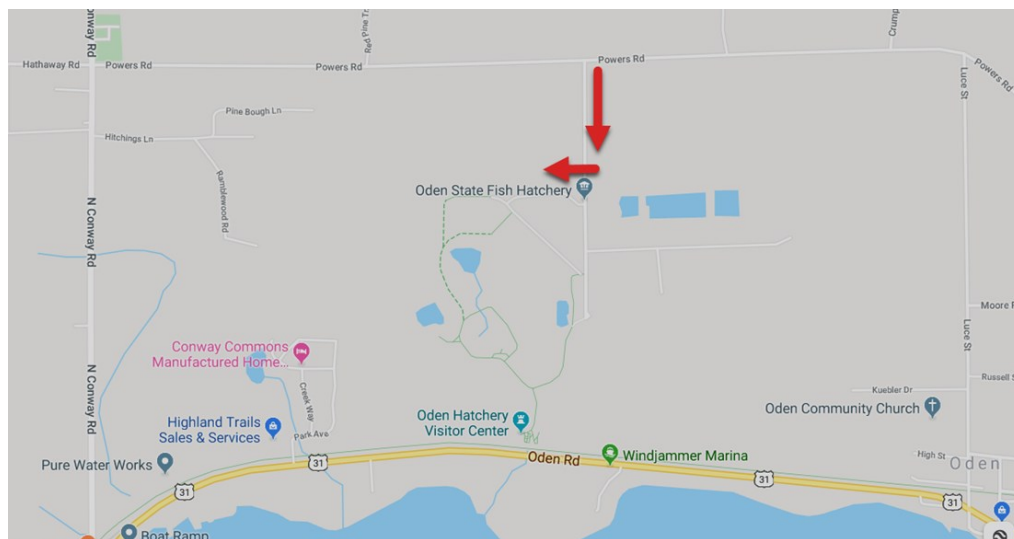
"The holidays are over and it's time to enjoy the outdoors. We need this to keep us sane!"

Submitted by Al & Jean Moberly

This is actually a follow-up to our January speaker, Randy Claramunt, Lake Huron Basin Coordinator for the DNR. We will be meeting at 1:00 pm at 8258 S. Ayr Road, which is off Powers Road (see map below). Note: This is NOT the fishery visitor center on M-31. You can park in the Visitor Parking Area near the flag pole and we will meet in the Hatchery Office. The buildings are accessible for those with disabilities. They are close together, with asphalt connecting them. There may be snow or ice on the asphalt, depending on weather conditions.

The guided tour will include visiting the three main areas of the Hatchery, which are the brood building, the nursery and the production raceway buildings. In the brood building, we will see adult brown trout, while hearing about reproduction, biosecurity and possibly population dynamics. In the nursery, everyone will get to see the developmental stages of brown and rainbow trout. From there, we will go to the production raceways, covering how the fish are grown for stocking.

The tour will finish at the production raceways. We are invited to visit more of the hatchery grounds on our own. You may be interested in a walk to view waterfowl or see and feed the trout at the Big Fish Pond or tour other habitats on the hatchery grounds.



Ski by Lantern Light - Saturday, February 29

Cheboygan State Park by Lantern Light! Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Submitted by Al & Jean Moberly

On Saturday, February 29th, join Cheboygan community members and your fellow SAAS members for the Annual Ski and Snowshoe event at Cheboygan State Park. Note: Please call the Park at 231-627-2811, if weather or trail conditions are in doubt.

* Snowshoers are welcome, however, they are asked to keep to one side of the groomed ski tracks.

Drive into the Park's entrance east of Cheboygan, off from US-23. Park at the trail head parking lot.

Beginning at the Park's trail head off Seffern Road, skiers will find approximately 1.8 miles of groomed and track-set trails lit by lanterns. Visitors can enjoy a bonfire at the trailhead, before they start out. Another bonfire is planned at the 14 Foot Shoals Cabin, which is at the halfway point, with snacks and hot chocolate available.

The Park is open throughout the winter for skiing and hiking. The lantern light skiing event will be held weather permitting. Interested participants should call ahead to confirm adequate snowfall (231-627-2811).

Note: A Recreation Passport is required for entry into all Michigan State Parks and recreation areas. Remember to check 'yes', when you renew your license plate at the Secretary of State's office.

Hike for Health at Duncan Bay - Saturday, February 22



Little Traverse Conservancy Duncan Bay Nature

Preserve Hike - 10:30 am to 12:00/Noon

Have you visited the new trails at the Duncan Bay Nature Preserve yet? Join Conservancy staff on a winter hiking excursion to the overlook on the shores of Lake Huron. After the hike, you can (optionally) order lunch at Nourish, the yummy foodie destination in downtown Cheboygan.

Please register at the Little Traverse Conservancy website <https://landtrust.org/event/hike-for-health-at-duncan-bay/> or call 231-347-0991.



MAS News

Submitted by Karen Busch, SAAS MAS Representative

[Registration for Spring Fling at Whitefish Point opens January 31st.](#) The event takes place on April 24 through 26th. Keynote Address: “The Natural History of Darien, Panama - Searching for a Harpy Eagle” by Michael Kielb.

[“Winter Birding in the U.P.” \(February 8th and 9th\)](#) still has openings. Darrell Lawson will be guiding this trip. The caravan will begin in Sault Ste. Marie and progress through the Chippewa and Mackinac Counties. Cost is \$100 for Michigan Audubon members and \$125 for non-members.

SAAS Facebook Page is Getting Noticed!

Submitted by Eileen Martini

The SAAS Executive Committee has been focusing our efforts to take full advantage of Facebook as a marketing tool to tell more people about SAAS! We appreciate all of our SAAS Facebook members, who have helped us out by “liking” our page, posting positive comments and “sharing” our posts. Remember, sharing SAAS Facebook posts directly to the other Facebook groups/pages that you belong to greatly increases our exposure! Your efforts will promote the love of birding and our events to more people than our website and the local newspaper.

Because of your efforts, our Facebook traffic has dramatically increased. For example, in the Fall of 2019, the SAAS Facebook page had fewer than 60 followers and we currently have 340. So thank you for all of your efforts and keep up the good work!

Special Announcements

[Mackinaw Straits Raptor Fest Student Scholarship Appeal](#) - To share the love of raptors, including the conservation and protection of raptors, as they live and migrate in the Straits area, Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch (MSRW) aims to offer four student scholarships to the Mackinaw Straits Raptor Fest (MSRF) held in Mackinaw City in April 2020. The student scholarship applications are available on the MSRW website. MSRW would like to invite members of the SAAS to help fund these scholarships. As a donor, you will be acknowledged on the MSRW website. To donate online, please visit our website www.mackinacraptorwatch.org or mail a check to MSRW, P.O. Box 465, Petoskey, MI 49770.

Submitted by: Eileen Martini

[Go Paperless!](#) - To conserve paper and postage, SAAS members are invited to go paperless and receive The Kettle by email. To make the switch, contact Diane Matthews through her email address at kettleeditor@gmail.com or phone 231-412-0833.

[Donation of Child-Sized Binoculars](#) - Part of the SAAS mission is to educate children about conservation, the natural world and wildlife. In the spring of 2020, SAAS plans on hosting a children’s field trip to the hawk watch site in Mackinaw City. If anyone would be able to loan or donate child sized binoculars for the event, please contact Eileen Martini at 231-445-1411 or email eileenmartini@SBC_global.net. Thank you.

Submitted by: Eileen Martini

Snakes Alive

Submitted by Jim Bricker

Thanks to SAAS, Jim McGrath from Nature Discovery near Lansing soon will bring his 'Snakes Alive' program to area schools. From February 18th through 21st, he will be attending many 5th grade and high school classes in Mackinaw City, Pellston, Petoskey and Harbor Springs.

This is the twelfth year that Mr. McGrath will be educating youth about snakes in Northern Lower Michigan. His work has been enabled by the dedication and generosity of many funders. We especially appreciate the 2020 generous grants from Presque Isle Electric and Gas Co-op Families First Fund and from SAAS member, Nancy Waldron. In addition, Citizens National Bank, Awakon Federal Credit Union, Straits Area Federal Credit Union, Coffman Hardware, Petoskey Plastics and Petoskey Regional Audubon Society have contributed.



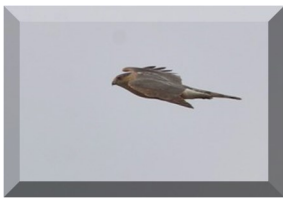
For the first time this year, thanks to a new grant from Earth Week Plus, Jim McGrath will be able to return on April 15, 16, 18 and bring a selection of both Michigan reptiles and amphibians to the Earth Week Plus Expo at the Cheboygan High School on April 18th.

Through seeing and handling live animals, people gain a better understanding and appreciation of Michigan's wildlife and will be more likely to protect snakes and their habitats.

In 2019, Jim conducted 22 hours of outreach at 15 schools and sponsoring businesses, reaching 603 people. Per Dennis Mikus from Coffman Hardware: "I was amazed anyone could accomplish what Jim McGrath did. At the outset of his talks, several students in each class pushed their chairs back and were poised to flee the room. By the end of the hour, all were eager to hold the snakes and even accessorize - wrapping the snakes around their necks."

"Hawk"

A slaty gray arrow streaked past my window, the second bird of the new year.



The first, in muted brown, less sure, had not begun feeding yet beneath the feeder where it sat.

Without chase, fight, or fuss, Cooper's Hawk killed Mourning Dove, as it must.

Poem Written by Kathy Bricker on 1/01/20

Cheboygan Christmas Bird Count December 21, 2019

Submitted by: Ed Pike

The 35th annual Cheboygan Christmas Bird Count was conducted on December 21, 2019. The count is sponsored by the Straits Area Audubon Society. The weather was quite nice for a CBC, with temps ranging from 20 to 39 degrees. There was 8 to 10 inches of snow on the ground, with light south winds. It was partly cloudy with occasional sun. The still water in the area was frozen.

Eight hardy people ventured out, mostly by car to count birds. Four people counted birds from the comfort of their homes, counting at their feeders. The people traveling around counting birds were: Steve Baker, Bert Ebbers, Dale Giddings, Bill Grigg, Darrell Lawson, Kathy Lawson, Ed Pike and Bruce Seeger. Feeder counters were: Patricia Barrette, Jim Bricker, Pat Esther and Karen Martin.

A total of 50 species of birds were counted with a total number of individuals at 3043. The average number of species seen was 46, making this an above average count. The number of individuals counted is average for all years. However, for the years with 49 or more species counted, 2019 is well below the average of 4116 individuals. This supports comments from people reporting not seeing as many birds coming into feeders. Two unusual species were the sightings of an American kestrel and a brown thrasher coming into a feeder.

Thanks to all the participants who helped make this a successful Cheboygan Christmas Bird Count for 2019.

January Meeting Minutes

STRAITS AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 8, 2020

Respectfully submitted by: Eileen Martini

Attendance: 37 Attendees (31 Members, 6 Guests)

“Managing Fisheries in a Continually Changing Lake Huron,” was the title of the presentation made by Randy Claramunt at the SAAS meeting this month. Randy is the Lake Huron Basin Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. His presentation included helping the audience better understand fish populations and their conservation. Randy touched on the invasive species threatening the balance in the Great Lakes and how they affect the fish that live there, threats to the area & food web destruction. He identified the role of the DNR Fisheries Division. Randy went into detail about stocking, regulation and habitat. He shared how and why the DNR chooses what and when to restock to lakes and rivers. Randy also spoke about Sturgeon for Tomorrow, an organization that is near and dear to the hearts of many people who reside in the Straits Area.

Wildlife sightings discussion was led by Bev Kirby. The leucistic bald eagle in Michigan was discussed.

Dale & Connie Reiger discussed the Children’s Trail behind the recreation center in Cheboygan. SAAS maintains the birdhouses on this trail. A native flower garden is slated for this site in May 2020. Contact Jeanette Mateer for questions or to assist with that project.

SAAS Raffle winners: Judy Frock chose a hummingbird feeder, while Janet LaDuc opted for a wooden bird feeder.

Rose Rynerson discussed the options for the awarding/gifting of grants, which SAAS gives yearly. Suggestions for grant recipients should be forwarded to Rose.

Sally Dizon has graciously volunteered to coordinate/lead the snack table for SAAS monthly meetings. Field trips were discussed and detailed in The Kettle.

After the meeting, attendees were treated to an amazing snack table, which they washed down with the aromatic brews of our resident barista, Glen Matthews.

Treasurer's Year End Financial Report

STRAITS AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY 2019 YEAREND STATEMENT

Checking Account Balance on January 1, 2019 \$1,876.31

INCOME:

Dues, renewals	\$1,233.00
Dues, new	240.00
Door raffles	289.00
Donations, General Fund	1,243.50
Donations for Snakes Alive	2,790.00
Big Bird Day Count Proceeds	<u>1,234.85</u>
TOTAL INCOME:	\$7,030.35

EXPENSES:

Speaker gratuities	\$ 480.00
Snakes Alive! 2019	2,236.00
Field Trip Leader gratuities	0.00
Kettle Printing & Postage	474.95
Other Printing & Postage	188.00
Miscellaneous charges	<u>204.74</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES:	- <u>3,583.69</u>

NET CASH FLOW: + 3,446.66

Checking Account Balance on December 31, 2019 \$5,322.97

FUND BALANCES:

\$2,587.71	General Fund
1,234.85	Big Bird Day
1,200.41	Snakes Alive! 2020
<u>\$300.00</u>	Bird List Project
\$5,322.97	

Prepared by Rosanne Rynerson, Treasurer, January 4, 2019

Per Rose: "If you have any questions regarding the above numbers, please touch base with me at the next meeting or call me at 231-597-9788."

Program Schedule 2020

February 12, 2020	Member Slide Show (no potluck)
March 11, 2020	Off-Trail Backpacking in Denali National Park By: Rick Barber
April 8, 2020	Secrets of Songbird Nesting: You Can Watch It Happen By: Susan Kielb
May 13, 2020	TBA

STRAITS AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

2019 - 2020 OFFICERS

President: Herm Boatin 313-580-5439

hermboatin@gmail.com

V.President: Dale Giddings 231-525-8874

Treasurer: Rose Rynerson 231-597-9788

fiddleheadfilly4@gmail.com

Secretary: Eileen Martini 231-445-1411

EileenMartini@SBCglobal.net

Past President: Jean Moberly

231-268-9726 normich@gmail.com

Exe.Com. At Large: Cyndi Kress

231-238-4079 cakress@cynergycomm.net

MAS Rep: Karen Busch 231-818-2901

kbusch4980@gmail.com

ONLINE EXTRAS

If you take a bird / nature picture and think it might be of interest to our members, send it to kettleeditor@gmail.com.

THE KETTLE EDITOR

All input for The Kettle should be submitted to the Editor's email box :

kettleeditor@gmail.com five days PRIOR to the 1st day of the month.

NATURE LINKS

Straits Area Audubon Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/straitsareaaudubonsociety

MAS (Michigan Audubon Society)

www.michiganaudubon.org

Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch

www.MackinacRaptorWatch.org

Hawk Migration Assoc. of North America

www.hmana.org

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory

www.wpbo.org

MNA (Michigan Nature Association)

www.michigannature.org

The Nature Conservancy

<http://nature.org/greatlakes>

Little Traverse Conservancy www.landtrust.org

Williams Office Equipment, 312 W. Elm Street, Cheboygan, MI 49721

Please consider this service for your computer, copier, printer and fax needs.