

CAWS

222 S. Hamilton St. / Madison, WI 53703 / 255-2473/ www.madisonaudubon.org

October 2009

Living with Nature: Lessons from the Nepalese Himalaya

Free Public Program

Who: Jeffrey Potter

What: Village Life in Nepal

When: Tuesday, October 20, 2009
7:30 p.m. – Program

Where: *New Location!*

Capitol Lakes Retirement Community
333 West Main St., Madison

Parking: Free – ramp across the street
Lower levels – must use unmarked spaces
or those labeled “DNR”

What does living with nature really mean? For the people of Benchong, a remote Himalayan village in northeast Nepal, it means nearly everything comes from land on which they live. With few natural water sources, no electricity, no roads or healthcare and a limited food supply, the community is eager for development. While there is one school, there are no businesses, no shops, and no employment beyond farming.

Jeffrey Potter, a former Peace Corps volun-

teer and Fulbright Scholar to Nepal, spent more than four years living and working in Benchong, part of the conservation buffer zone of the Makalu-Barun National Park. *Because We Were Born Here* . . . his 30-year research project, seeks to document the living history of one Himalayan village as it struggles to “develop” itself and join the “modern” world. Using images and video from his research, Jeffrey will talk about the region’s ecosystem and how people have lived (and thrived) in communities completely isolated from everything we take for granted in the U.S.

Jeffrey Potter is a graduate of the NYU Film School and holds a Master’s Degree in Asian Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He lived in Asia, including Nepal, for nearly five years. He currently lives with his wife and daughter in Madison where he works for the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

You are invited to join our speaker, MAS board members and friends at the pre-program dinner at **Paisan’s Restaurant (131 W. Wilson St.)** beginning at 5:00 p.m. Please call the office at 608/255-BIRD (255-2473) if you have questions.

Next meeting: November 17, 2009 – Richard Beilfuss – Mozambique

Nominations Due for MAS Excellence Awards

Madison Audubon’s Excellence Awards program, established in 2007, recognizes individuals or groups who have worked to achieve the Society’s objectives. The awards are named in honor of our outstanding conservationists associated with Madison Audubon.

Nominations are due Dec. 31, 2009 for presentation at the annual banquet on March 30, 2010. Nominees must be from Wisconsin or have made a difference in Wisconsin in the award’s subject area. Complete information is available on the Madison Audubon Society website, www.madisonaudubon.org, or through the MAS office.

Cliff Germain Award for Excellence in Community-Based Restoration recognizes achievements in ecological restoration for habitat conservation and species preservation.

Joseph Hickey Award for Excellence in Bird Conservation honors bird research or projects that enhance bird conservation.

Sam Robbins Award for Excellence in Citizen Science acknowledges volunteer environmental monitoring—collecting data in areas such as water quality, air quality, biodiversity, climate change in a community, county or region.

James Zimmerman Award for Excellence in Environmental Education and Communication is for an individual or group devoting time, skill, and effort to educating the public about the environment.

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Madison Audubon Society

Serving Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Iowa, Jefferson, Richland and Sauk Counties

From the President

by Brand Smith

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent strategic planning survey. We received 451 replies, a great indicator of how much we all care about Madison Audubon.



Our consultants are also conducting 25 in-depth interviews of randomly selected friends, members, donors and volunteers.

The next step is a strategic planning retreat scheduled for the evening of Friday, Dec. 4 and all day Saturday, Dec. 5 at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton. Holy Wisdom's new building was constructed to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, and it offers panoramic views of nature.

If you'd like to join MAS Board members and staff at the strategic planning sessions, please contact the office to let us know you're interested. With your help, we're confident that Madison Audubon will develop a strong plan to guide our future.

Thanks for all that *you* do for MAS, Brand

Tales from Planet Earth

The UW-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies' environmental film festival will feature two films of particular interest: *Ghost Bird* – about the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker and *Wild New York* featuring urban birders.

Tales from Planet Earth takes place Nov. 6-8 in downtown Madison. Admission is free on a first-come, first-served basis. For exact dates and details (about 35 films will be screened), see the festival web site at: www.nelson.wisc.edu/tales/

Ghost Bird. When scientists recently announced that the Ivory-Billed had been found, the news was celebrated around the world as the rediscovery of a lifetime. Since then, however, no one has replicated the sighting, despite millions of federal dollars being diverted from other endangered species projects. What explains the draw of this bird? What can efforts to save it tell us about how we commodify and view endangered species as a resource over which to battle?

Wild New York. Many jaded New Yorkers have come to realize that nature truly is everywhere, even in New York City. The film offers a lively profile of dedicated urban wildlife watchers and the hawks, kestrels, and Peregrine Falcons in the midst of the United States' most urbanized landscape.

Buy a "Duck" Stamp Today

by Karen Etter Hale, Executive Secretary

Have you bought your 2009-10 "Duck" Stamp yet? If you believe that Duck Stamps are for duck hunters only, please read on.

Since Duck Stamps, which are properly titled "Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation" stamps, were established in 1934, more than \$700 million has been raised for the direct protection of wetland and grassland habitat for our National Wildlife Refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas. This amounts to 5.2 million additional acres of habitat for hundreds of species of birds of all kinds – not just ducks.

Duck Stamps (for short) are one of the best bargains in the world. Out of every \$15 spent on the annual stamp, 98 percent, or \$14.70 goes directly to acquisition and perpetual easements for wildlife. These stamps can be purchased at most post offices, on the Internet, and at a variety of outdoor stores.

A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study released in July 2009, reported that one of every five Americans - 48 million of us – watch birds, everyone from the casual backyard birder to those of us who bird nearly every day. If each of us purchased one stamp each year, it would amount to \$676.2 million for on-the-ground bird conservation *each year*.

One way to show that it's not just hunters who support habitat preservation with their dollars, is to display the attractive stamp in a reusable clear plastic holder attached to your binoculars (or hat, pack, or favorite birding vest). Holders can be purchased from the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (<http://www.wsobirds.org/duckstamps.pdf>) or Wild Birds Unlimited. In addition to affixing the holder to my binocs (by punching holes in the strap with an awl), I inserted an extra slip of paper in the back with my name and contact info and a couple of emergency numbers, including the one for our local warden.

If you've read this far, I hope you've been convinced and will rush right out to buy that very important Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation stamp.

To find out more about Duck Stamps and the Duck Stamp story, see <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/>

Peter Fissel, New MAS Field Trip Chair

I've been an avid birder for many years. After moving to Madison in 1984 to take a job at the UW Memorial Library (where I've worked for the last 25 years,) my interest in birding was rekindled when I lived near the UW Arboretum for several years. It was easy to just grab my binoculars and go look for birds. I've always tried to go on at least a few MAS field trips every year, and two years ago I was asked to fill in as a trip co-leader. I decided to give it a try, and I now co-lead several trips. That led to being on the Field Trip Committee, and then Brand Smith asked if I'd be willing to be Field Trip Chair.

I've tried to go on as many of our field trips as I can this year, both to meet more of the leaders, and to get a sense of how we're doing. I've always heard from people outside of our organization that we have a very impressive trip schedule and my own experience has borne that out. Our leaders are a very knowledgeable and dedicated group, and I hope we can continue to offer a wide selection of field trips that appeal to a variety of interests and skill levels. I'd love to hear from folks who have an idea for a new field trip, or who would be willing to try leading a trip themselves. You can contact me directly (pfissel@library.wisc.edu), or call or email the MAS office and they'll pass the message on to me. And if you've never been on one of our field trips, I'd urge you to give it a try!



Pat Ready photo

Stewardship Fund Access Rule Alert

by Karen Etter Hale, Executive Secretary

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund has been exceedingly important in enabling Madison Audubon to acquire and restore important bird and wildlife habitat at our sanctuaries. Now we need your help to make sure this remains true. Please attend the Oct. 20 hearing in Madison or provide comments on the draft Stewardship Access Rule, NR 52, for the reasons outlined below.

In its 19-year history, the Stewardship Fund has protected more than 520,000 acres of land and provided unprecedented increases in public access across the state. The great success of the program is due, in large part, to the hard work of land trusts and local governments. These valuable partners have leveraged nearly \$200 million in private, federal, and local funds to match Stewardship dollars, protecting more than 63,000 acres.

Despite the fact that 78% of land trust properties are open for hunting, when the Stewardship Fund was reauthorized in 2007, the legislature changed the public access requirement, adding restrictions

that could severely limit the ability of local units of governments and non-profits to leverage other sources of funding to stretch limited state dollars. This very controversial provision requires that lands acquired with Stewardship funds be open to five nature based outdoor activities: hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and cross country skiing. The legislature provided for exceptions if the Natural Resources Board determines it is necessary to prohibit one or more of the activities to protect public safety, to protect a unique animal or plant community, or to accommodate other usership patterns as defined by rule.

A 29-member Citizen Advisory Committee met from July 2008 through January 2009 to provide input on developing the Stewardship Access Rule. While Madison Audubon did not serve on the committee, we provided input and testimony at every opportunity.

Now you have an opportunity to comment on the draft Stewardship Access Rule, NR 52. The Madison hearing will be on **Tuesday, Oct. 20 at Madison Area Technical College (Student Lounge - 142C), 3550 Anderson St.** An informational session at 6:00 p.m. precedes the

hearing at 6:30 p.m. If you cannot attend, written comments may be submitted until Oct. 30, 2009 to Mr. Douglas Haag, DNR Bureau of Facilities and Lands, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or DouglasJ.Haag@Wisconsin.gov.

It is Madison Audubon's strong opinion that each property needs to be assessed separately because not all uses are compatible at all times in all places. For example, having dozens of volunteers scattered across many acres of prairie collecting seed (2-3 times per week for 2 months or more in the fall) is not compatible with hunting on the same property. While we believe it is very important to provide public access whenever possible, the flexibility to control the types of activities and where and when they occur is equally important. Our recommendation is to provide your own personal examples of user compatibility or incompatibility for the DNR to consider.

For more information, including details about four additional hearings across the state, see <http://dnr.wi.gov/stewardship/rule.html> or contact Karen Etter Hale at the MAS office at by email masoffice@mailbag.com or phone 608-255-BIRD (2473).

MAD Camp 2009

This year's MAD Camp was another rousing success! Madison Audubon Society worked with middle school students from Madison's east and west-side schools to develop a better understanding of the natural world around them. Our program examined the importance of water, prairies, and forests as they relate to ecology and human impacts on each community. Activities included water quality testing, stream bio-monitoring, birding, nature walks, insect collecting and other games and activities. In addition to these fun activities, campers conducted service activities at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton the Aldo Leopold Center in Monona, and garbage collection around their schools (Cherokee Middle School and Georgia O'Keefe Middle School).

A sincere thank you for everyone involved in this year's MAD Camp! Special recognition goes to lead teacher Amanda Lederer - Biology Lecturer at UW-Platteville, and the interns who assisted, Kevin Riggie, Kristi McGrinley, and Katie Wipfli whose special skills contributed greatly to this year's camp experience.



October 7th Workshop for New or Experienced Bird Mentors

Wednesday, 9:15 am at Sequoia Library (corner of Midvale & Tokay Blvds.) You will have the chance to view the PowerPoint slideshows, practice with equipment set up/operation, check out the Bird Mentor Kit with binoculars, share experiences, and have questions answered. Find out about the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) held annually in February and see our NEW PP "Birding in Winter" for use with classes to promote the GBBC. This workshop can help you with presentations to school groups or senior centers. Please join other Bird Mentors on Wed., October 7th 9:15. **QUESTIONS???** Email (dwyllie@chorus.net) or call Dee (833-2744).

Fall Field Trips

Saturday, Oct. 10: Migrant Songbirds of Pheasant Branch Conservancy

The focus of this field trip will be sparrow species, including White-throated, Lincoln's and many others. We will also look for late warblers, flycatchers, thrushes and other fall migrants.

Meet at the Dane County Unit of Pheasant Branch Conservancy, about 1-1/2 miles north of Century Ave. in Middleton on Pheasant Branch Rd. This is the third parking lot for the conservancy on the right as you drive north out of Middleton. The field trip begins at 7:15 a.m. Bring warm clothes for cool early morning fall weather. Call trip leader Mike McDowell at (608) 831-9989 with any questions.

Sunday, Oct. 18: Mississippi Waterfowl

.....> NEW! <.....

The trip will meet at the Home Depot on Verona Rd. just south of the Beltline at 5:00 a.m., where we will carpool and then head out. Our first stop will be Bagley Bottoms and then a quick stop at Wyalusing State Park. Then we will probably drive to Villa Louis in Prairie du Chien before heading north along the river. At some point, we will probably cross over to the west side of the river since the viewing is better in spots. Otherwise, we will stay primarily on the WI side. The trip will possibly go as far north as La Crosse. Please be aware that it is at least an hour and a half drive from Madison to Prairie Du Chien and that this travel time increases the farther north you go. La Crosse is two solid hours of driving to get back to Madison. The trip will last until late afternoon. Please bring appropriate gear for the weather. We will be driving during most of the trip but may spend some time at certain locations if the birding is good. Also, please bring binoculars, spotting scopes, walkie-talkies (two-way radios). We will probably stop for lunch in Lansing, IA, but you may wish to bring snacks along as well. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions about the trip, contact Chris West at either: (608) 647-6403, (608) 475-9016 or Chris.W.Birder@gmail.com

Sunday, Oct. 25: Scope Day at Goose Pond

Join us for scope viewing at Goose Pond during the late fall migration when ducks, geese and swans are most likely to be

present. Spotting scopes will be set up along Prairie Ln. for visitor use on Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Members will be on hand to help visitors locate and identify waterfowl on the pond. If the weather is inclement, the scopes will not be set up. Check the website for a map to Goose Pond. If you have questions, call Dorothy Haines at (608) 221-1948 or the MAS office.

Saturday, Oct. 31: Migrant Songbirds of Pheasant Branch Conservancy

The focus of this trip will be sparrow species, including White-throated, Lincoln's, White-crowned, Clay-colored and others. We will also look for late fall migrants.

Meet at the Dane County Unit of Pheasant Branch Conservancy, about 1-1/2 miles north of Century Ave. in Middleton on Pheasant Branch Rd. This is the third parking lot for the conservancy on the right as you drive north out of Middleton. The field trip begins at 7:15 a.m. Bring warm clothes for cool early morning fall weather. Call trip leader Mike McDowell at (608) 831-9989 with any questions.

Sunday, Nov. 1: Lake Michigan Birding

Join us as we bird Lake Michigan and its shoreline. This trip is timed to coincide with the migration of hawks and waterfowl through Milwaukee and Ozaukee counties. We will be scoping the lake for specialties like Surf, Black and White-winged Scoters, Long-tailed Duck, Harlequin Duck and Red-throated Loon. If the weather cooperates we will have excellent views of migrant hawks from some of the lakeside bluffs. Unusual raptors seen from the hawk watch in past years include Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Rough-legged Hawk and Goshawk. Be sure to dress for the weather and bring a scope if you have one. A high ratio of scopes to people will make this trip more enjoyable for everyone. We will meet to carpool in the middle of the parking lot of the east side Cub Foods at 6:30 a.m. From Hwy 30 take Hwy 51 (Stoughton Road) north to Nakoosa Tr., turn right and proceed east to Cub Foods. We will return to Cub Foods between 4:30 and 6 p.m. If you have questions, contact Aaron at (608) 294-9618 or agstutz@sbcglobal.net.

2,197 Songbirds Fledged in 2009

by Mark and Sue Martin and Pat Ready

Thanks to over 25 volunteers, 2,197 songbirds fledged from 23 Madison Audubon Society nest box trails. Two new trails were added and nest box numbers increased from 329 to 453. These numbers do not include Tree Swallow boxes at Faville Grove Sanctuary that are cleaned out at the end of the nesting season. Last year 1,574 birds fledged from 329 nest boxes.

Twelve of the trails are in ideal Eastern Bluebird habitat and overall 860 bluebirds fledged. Richard Knutsen's trail at the DNR's Poynette Game Farm produced a record of 208 bluebirds or 5 per nest box. Brian Doverspike and Becky Anderson also had four bluebirds per box on a trail at the Unimin property near Portage. One bird box was used by a family of flying squirrels that raised three young. Unlike last year, Brian and Becky did not have any problems with black bears destroying nest boxes.



Curt and Arlys Caslvaka monitored a trail at the Pope Farm Park west of Middleton. Mara McDonald from UW-Madison placed color bands on all the bluebirds and about half

of the Tree Swallows. The plan is to band birds for two more years to help determine site fidelity and return rates.

Nine trails are in ideal Tree Swallow habitat. At Goose Pond there were problems with raccoon predation on three of the five trails with high predation on 28 nest boxes that Laurie Armstrong monitors. Our guess is that when a raccoon learns that nest boxes contain eggs/young they check all boxes they find. Laurie's 28 boxes east of Goose Pond Road had 17 Tree Swallows fledge while 16 boxes west of Goose Pond Road monitored by Mark and Sue had 72 Tree Swallows fledge. This year we added PVC to the pipes but still had predation problems and now we are checking into other types of predator guards.

Jim Goodno checked 60 Tree Swallow

Columbia County	Volunteers	Boxes	BB	TS	HW	BC
Arlington	Bill Grogan & Judy Benade	17		19		
Erstad Prairie	Mark & Jenny McGinnley	14	2	59		
G.P. Ankenbrandt Pr.	Brand Smith	14		35		
G.P. Browne & Jill's Pr.	Mark & Sue Martin	16		72		
G.P. Hopkins Road Pr.	Laurie Armstrong	9		4		
G.P. Lapinski-Kitze Pr.	Brand Smith, Heisley Lewison	14		64		
G.P. Sue Ames Pr.	Laurie Armstrong	14		13		
Portage- Unimin	Brian Doverspike/Becky Anderson	21	85	26	23	8
Poy. DNR Game Farm.	Richard Knutsen	42	208	75	47	7
Poy. DNR Mackenzie C.	Ruth Ann Lee	8	24	4	20	
Wyocena - Wildland	Mark & Sue Martin	26	29	43	25	
Dane County						
Dunn Township	Don Schmidt	8	15	6		
Madison - Owen Park	Nolan Pope	7	22	13	5	
Middleton - Pope Farm	Curt & Arlys Caslavaka	19	48	26	15	
Eastern Dane Co - 5 trails	Pat Ready	85	307	149	50	
Sun Prairie Golf Course	Sally & Dick Keyel	28	43	28	40	
Jefferson County						
Zeloski Marsh	Jim Goodno	69		306		
Lafayette County						
Blanchardville	Jim & Marci Hess	12	31	15	7	
Waushara County						
Camp Luwisomo	Sally & Mark Martin	30	70	44	35	30
2,197 birds fledged in 2009	Totals	453	884	1,001	267	45
1,574 birds fledged in 2008	Totals	329	567	789	192	26

BB - Eastern Bluebird, TS - Tree Swallow, HW - House Wren, BC - Black-capped Chickadee

and 60 Wood Duck boxes at Zeloski Marsh (part of the Lake Mills State Wildlife Area) that provides excellent swallow and Wood Duck habitat. Two boxes were placed back to back on each post. Jim found 59 Tree Swallow nests in the swallow boxes and 8 swallow nests in Wood Duck boxes.

Sally and Dick Keyel with assistance from Kent Hall (Mr. Bluebird) monitored a new 28 box trail at the Sun Prairie Golf Course. They enjoyed checking the boxes from a golf cart and golfers enjoyed seeing bluebirds and looked forward to seeing the Keyels doing their weekly checks. Sally and Dick moved some boxes to avoid House Sparrow problems but ended up fledging 111 songbirds.



Stan Druckemiller

Thanks again to Jerry Martin who made and donated 103 high-quality, cedar nest boxes. If you are interested in assisting or establishing a nest box trail contact us. Next year our goal is to produce one songbird for each of MAS 2,500 members. Also thanks to Kent Hall, director with the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, who again provided assistance with our bird trails.

Goose Pond Highlights Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and Frogs

By Mark and Sue Martin

We found an immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Goose Pond the last week of August. This is a rare find in Wisconsin and a number



of birders were able to view the bird. The heron was usually found about one hour before sunset feeding in shallow water on the Manthe farm (south of Kampen Road and east of Goose Pond Road). Since there are no fish in the pond this year, Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets are mostly feeding on frogs.

High water the past two years provided ideal "frog rearing habitat" and we are seeing good numbers of frogs away from the pond. One night we heard a noise in the kitchen and found a green frog. We have no idea how he got into the kitchen. Usually green frogs are in or very near



water. A few nights later Sue found a small tree frog sitting on the Leopold bench on the

deck. Maybe the frogs thought that in the house or yard they were safe from the herons.

Northern Harriers Nest at Goose Pond

Our goal was to restore enough prairie to attract a pair of breeding Northern Harriers. Harriers are the only ground-nesting hawk in Wisconsin and require extensive grassland habitat. They feed on small mammals such as meadow voles.

Harriers are common spring and fall migrants at Goose Pond and are rarely seen in summer. Harriers have a courtship display where the males goes high into the sky and then pulls in his wings and heads toward the ground. He then begins climbing again. This summer we were seeing a pair on occasion in the same general area but did not witness any courtship display.

Usually 3 to 5 eggs are laid and incubation is about 30 to 32 days. In June we thought there might be a pair nesting but did not want to check out the area and attract predators to the nest.

One evening in early August, Sue sighted four young harriers that were calling loudly (food begging) that just fledged in the 60 acres of three-year old prairie north of Kampen Rd. and east of Highway I. What a treat to see these birds flying around! This is probably the first Northern Harrier nest at Goose Pond in many decades. Randy Hoffman also saw a family of harriers at Schoeneberg's Marsh in early August. We hope the pair will return to nest next year.

Jill's Prairie

A prairie was named for Jill Martin who passed away this spring. Jill and Jerry have been long-time supporters of Madison Audubon Society. Jill had many friends who were teachers, Civil War history buffs, and quilting friends in Gurnee, Illinois. At Jill's memorial service, a number of people mentioned that they would like to visit Jill's Prairie at Goose Pond.

On a beautiful August afternoon, Jerry and seven friends visited Goose Pond to remember and talk about what a special friend Jill was.

Rental Space for Boats Available at Goose Pond

Looking for space to store your boat for the winter? Contact Mark or Sue at (608) 635-4160 or goosep@chorus.net for more information.

A Look at Flood Recovery Along the Crawfish - One Year Later

The unprecedented flood last summer left many of us wondering what would become of our invaluable restorations and prairie remnants that appeared so heavily damaged when the waters receded. Last summer following the flood, areas that should have shown colorful and diverse displays of sunflowers, orchids and lush grasses looked like nothing more than mudflats of swirling flies and mosquitoes with the tattered remains of a few barely recognizable prairie plants still encrusted in silt. One glance at these areas and our reaction was a feeling of total devastation and panic with a lingering sense of curiosity as to what would happen next. To our knowledge, there was no information on the impact of prolonged summer flooding in prairie ecosystems. This led to many questions and much speculation as to how the prairies would respond. Will species return from dormant roots or from the seedbank? How will reed canary grass and other invasive species respond to this disturbance? What will happen to the already threatened silphium borer moth? And what about the orchids!? One year later, some of our questions have been answered but many outcomes are yet to be seen.

Today, after the first full growing season, things are still far from normal and it's hard to know exactly how things will eventually pan out. Many species appear to be steadily recolonizing by roots and/or seeds but other species are yet to be detected. As a general observation, there seems to be a shift towards wetland species and a few oddball prairie plants that were better able to cope with the flood. On Faville and Snapper, wetland pockets seem to have expanded with a corresponding shrinkage in prairie. Plenty of bare ground is still abundant in the most heavily impacted areas, including the two remnants, with a

profusion of annual weeds such as mare's tail and ragweed filling in unoccupied space.

Interestingly, some prairie plants were more abundant this year than ever before. It's hard to imagine that Faville Prairie has ever displayed a stronger bloom of spiderwort or prairie roses. In late June a solid haze of deep blue could be seen on



the ridge from any distance and the fragrance of rose flowers was intoxicating, generating a deep, steady hum from the mass of bees foraging about. Further down the ridge on Martin Prairie the rattlesnake master had expanded over several acres of the restoration with a thick stand of hearty, robust plants, flowering at eye level. Walking through the sea of rattlesnake master transported you out of Wisconsin, evoking thoughts of traveling through the yucca plains of Mexico.

Although many native species appear to be showing promising signs of return, some noxious weeds are coming back stronger than ever. Sweet clover, more so than any other weed, appears to have benefited greatly from the disturbance. An enormous flush of first year seedlings has emerged in areas, forming a solid ground cover on old field sites adjacent to Snapper and Faville. Next year promises to be a challenging time controlling this invasive biennial weed. The situation is less obvious for the status of reed canary grass. Unfortunately, ripe seeds were falling as flood waters were rising, washing seeds all up and down the floodplain. At this point there is little we can do but step up our control efforts as we did this spring, and continue treating isolated

populations of reed canary grass throughout the floodplain, with the help of summer interns, volunteers and hired contractors.

Above all, the flood of 2008 has further impressed upon us the urgency and importance of our work at Faville Grove Sanctuary. Small, isolated prairie remnants, like Faville and Snapper, must be expanded if we are to maintain their diversity over time. By transferring seeds out of remnants to restore nearby lands, we are helping to preserve and expand the populations of a multitude of rare prairie plants and animals that once dominated the river floodplain. By restoring the surrounding landscape we are allowing genes to flow over a much larger area, thereby strengthening the genetic

pool and creating an added level of insurance when local disasters do occur. One particular case has helped to reaffirm the importance of this concept. Worries about the fate of the threatened silphium borer moth were assuaged when a new population of individuals was discovered on the opposite end of the sanctuary, outside the flood damaged area. By enlarging habitat size across the landscape, we helped to prevent the local extinction of at least one species, ensuring the survival, as Leopold puts it, of one more "cog in the land mechanism." We plan to continue expanding the habitat area of the refuge by restoring more land, further stabilizing and reviving the great Crawfish Prairie.

Editor's note: For the complete article go to <http://www.madisonaudubon.org/audubon/sanctuaries/favillegrove/news-letter.asp>

Donations Received in August QUARTER-ACRE MAKER

Richard and Jane Dana

MY OWN VISION

Peter and Marsha Cannon

Charles and Anne Frihart

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF A PERSON

In Memory of Jill Martin

John and Jenet Bakke

In Memory of *Sinikka's Mom and Dad*

Jane Raymond

Membership, Renewal and Donation Form

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Join Madison Audubon Society, or give a gift membership.

TIME TO RENEW?

Check your Madison Audubon CAWS address label to determine your renewal date. Please renew two months before that date to keep your membership current and avoid missing any issues of the CAWS.

Tip: Renewing through the MAS office directs more of your donation to local activities and conservation projects.

Update: We now send an annual renewal notice. In the future we plan to offer a renewal option via the MAS website.

MAKE A DONATION

Help make Madison Audubon's vision a reality. We offer education about the natural world, opportunities to advocate for the environment, and two wildlife sanctuaries with natural habitat where you can learn about the beauty and value of nature.

MAIL TO:

MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY
222 S. Hamilton St., Suite #1
Madison, WI 53703

Madison Audubon Society, Inc. is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Madison Audubon's financial statement is available upon request.

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YES! I want to

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___ **Give a gift membership to:**

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Address _____
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___ **Renew/upgrade my membership**

___ **Make a donation**

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Please send notification of this gift to:

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State _____ ZIP _____
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[] Please do not acknowledge my Gift in Madison Audubon CAWS.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

New membership

[] \$25 New or Gift \$ _____

Renewal

[] \$25 Student/senior _____
[] \$60 Family _____
[] \$40 Renewal _____
[] \$20 CAWS newsletter Only (non-member) _____

Over and Above Member

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[] Benefactor \$500 _____
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Donation

[] Acre-Maker, \$2,500 or more can purchase and restore one acre of land _____
[] Half-Acre-Maker, \$1,250-\$2,499 _____
[] Quarter-Acre-Maker, \$625-\$1,249 _____
[] Adopt-an-Acre, \$100 a year for three years (\$300 total). Here is my first installment. _____
[] Nest Egg, \$50 a year for three years (\$150 total). Here is my first installment. _____
[] My Own Vision _____

Total enclosed/charged \$ _____

Please make check payable to Madison Audubon Society,

OR please charge my

[] VISA [] Master Card

Name on card _____

Card # _____

Expiration date ____/____/____

Signature _____

MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Vice-president: Debra Weitzel
Goose Pond resident managers:
Mark and Sue Martin
Faville Grove Sanctuary managers:
David Musolf, Roger Packard
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CAWS printer: Roemer Printing

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The mission of the Madison Audubon Society is to educate our members and the public about the natural world and the threats that natural systems are facing, to engage in advocacy to preserve and protect these systems, and to develop and maintain sanctuaries to save and restore natural habitat.

- ### Madison Audubon Wishlist
- Quality binoculars
 - Digital (LCD) projector
 - Mule utility vehicle
 - Rider mower/snow blower in working condition
 - Energy efficient washing machine
 - Household/deck furniture
 - Small, custom-routed, wood signs





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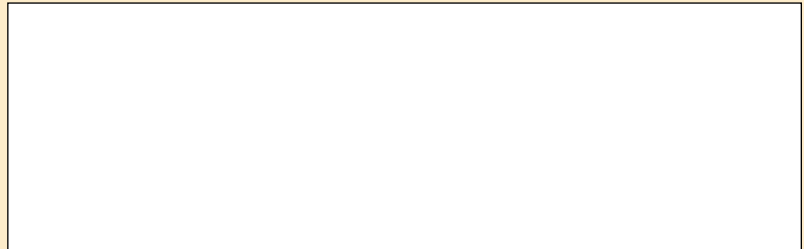
**Save the Date:
 MAS Banquet**

Madison Audubon's spring banquet will be held on **Tuesday, March 30, 2010** in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. Our featured speaker will be Bill Volkert, Natural Resource Educator at Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area. In addition, our Excellence Awards will recognize local people for their work in environmental conservation and education. We look forward to seeing you next March!



**Is it time to renew your membership?
 See form on page 7 and help MAS.**

Return Service Requested



**Seed Collecting Volunteers
 Needed**

Goose Pond: We will be collecting a wide variety of seed for a 9-acre dry-mesic planting at the Erstad Prairie. The winter wheat has been harvested and the land awaits volunteers in November to spread prairie seed. We also hope to collect seed for the Lapinski-Kitze Prairie for planting in the fall of 2010.

No seed cleaning experience is needed. We have plenty of gloves and nippers. Seed will be collected every Saturday from Sept. 12 though Oct. 31 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Goose Pond Sanctuary. Meet at the manager's residence (W7503 Kampen Rd.) by the farm buildings northwest of the west pond. Contact Mark or Sue at (608) 635-4160 or goosep@chorus.net for details. On Saturdays call (608) 333-9645.

Faville Grove: Regular seed collecting events begin Sept. 5 and continue every Saturday morning and afternoon and every Wednesday morning through October. We'll meet each morning at 9:30 and work until noon. Saturday afternoons, we will meet at 1:30 and work until 4 p.m. Meet at the sanctuary sign on Prairie Lane and travel from there a short distance to our collecting spot for the day.

Directions: From Madison, take I-94 east to the Lake Mills/Waterloo exit (Highway 89), go north approximately 1.75 miles and turn right onto County G. Travel north on G about 1.5 miles and turn right onto Prairie Lane. Work parties will meet near the Faville Grove Sanctuary sign.

Buy Bird Seed, Support MAS!

Mounds Pet Food Warehouse has been a long-time supporter of Madison Audubon Society. They have donated items for MAS raffles, and made it convenient for their customers to purchase bird seed to be used at Goose Pond Sanctuary. Now, Mounds has created a new way for customers to contribute.

During October, for each bag of bird seed sold, Mounds will make a donation to MAS. Sales at any Mounds store location will qualify for this contribution. For more information about this opportunity, go to www.moundspet.com.

We thank Mounds Pet Food Warehouse for their past support, and for their generosity in offering this partnership.

Support Madison Audubon and Community Shares through Workplace Giving!

Madison Audubon Society is a member of Community Shares of Wisconsin, your local connection with 52 grassroots, nonprofit organizations that build social and economic equity and a healthy environment.

Community Shares raises funds for its member agencies – including Madison Audubon Society – through workplace giving campaigns at over 100 private sector employers in the Greater Madison area. Public sector employees can contribute to Community Shares and its member agencies through their Combined Campaign.

Please consider giving to Community Shares of Wisconsin through your employer's workplace giving campaign. You can support Madison Audubon Society by designating your gift to Madison Audubon Society, and we will receive 100% of your contribution with no part of your gift retained for administrative purposes! Or, you can direct your gift to Community Shares and support Madison Audubon Society along with many other worthy nonprofits. Both types of gifts are needed and appreciated.

To learn more about Community Shares of Wisconsin's workplace giving program, or to start a Community Shares campaign at your workplace, please visit www.communityshares.com or call (608) 256-1066.

One more way you can help is to volunteer to help Madison Audubon meet our annual 50 hour volunteer contribution to Community Shares. For details, please call MAS financial assistant John Minnich at (606) 327-0129.

Thank you for your support of Madison Audubon Society and Community Shares of Wisconsin!