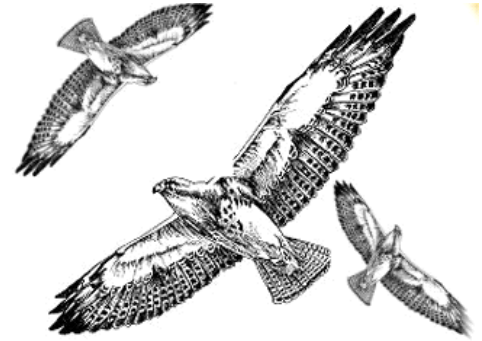


The Kettle

Straits Area Audubon Society newsletter dating from 1983



May 2010

Vol. 11 No. 5

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Meetings: PLEASE NOTE that SAAS meetings are held at the Cheboygan Area Public Library, **starting at 6:30 pm.** We thank the Library for providing this space at 100 S. Bailey St.

May Meeting – “International Lessons in Caring for Water: Great Lakes in U.S. and Africa”

by Jim Bricker



On Wednesday, May 12, at the Cheboygan Area Public Library, come and learn some “International Lessons in Caring for Water: Great Lakes in U.S. and Africa.” We will be entertained and educated by John Gannon, Ph.D., Acting Director, International Joint Commission. John was the first year-round Chief Scientist at the University of Michigan Biological Station when Kathy and I worked there in the 1970s.

Since then, he has built a career studying and promoting the quality of the Great Lakes, from Michigan and Washington, D.C. Throughout, his family has enjoyed a vacation home on Mullet Lake they have held since the 1940s. John recently consulted with people living near Africa's Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika, bringing them information about international cooperation that has helped the U.S. Great Lakes. Dr. Gannon will discuss similarities in the situation on both continents, including fish resources, invasive species like Asian carp and zebra mussels, recreation potential, industrial demands, and water quality and withdrawals.

All attendees are eligible to win the doorprize. Raffle ticket sales will support SAAS nature education activities. After the program, brownies, crackers, cheese, and a vegetable tray will be served thanks to Ann and Roger Benter, Jeanette and Randy Mateer, and Maureen and Bob Conklin.

Memorials - Homer Hilner and Imogene Callander

by Kathy Bricker

SAAS member and former president Homer Hilner died in late March after a long illness. Although we only met once, Homer impressed me with a can-do spirit, as he advised Ben and Marilee Lillie and me where to find birds for the Christmas Bird Count. Our condolences go to his widow, Wanda, and the rest of their family.

In April, occasional meeting attendee and long-time SAAS complimentary member Imogene Callander left this life. We extend our sympathy to her widower, Bruce, and all their family. These two people will be fondly remembered for their interest in nature.



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.

Dark-sky friendly Lighting Awards

by Kathy Bricker

As part of Earth Week, the Outdoor Lighting Forum presented its annual Gary L. Williams Outdoor Lighting Awards to Faith Baptist Church, nominated by SAAS. Said Pastor Jim Currie to the 35 luncheon attendees, "We chose a lighting system for

both inside and outside that would be economical, and are glad that is better for the night sky as well."



Photo by Jim Bricker

What you missed at the April meeting

by Amy Durant

"The Weather Machine Shifts Gears," the 1st Earth Week event had 92 people, 45 members and 47 guests. We learned from former television weatherman Dave Barrons that global warming is NOT some sort of a hoax from the French or anyone else, and cannot be denied by reasoning people who look at the evidence. The hardest of the evidence is ice, which is forming later and melting earlier, with ice caps and glaciers receding at tremendous rates. This giant and dangerous experiment that we are conducting on ourselves carries enormous implications for life as we know it. Dave expressed greatest concern about the acidification of the oceans. Plankton, the base of the entire food chain, need to build body walls and cannot do that in acidic water. As their populations collapse, just about everything else will follow. Anabel Dwyer circulated an Earth Day Revolution petition to send to Congress calling for action on global warming.

Before the program, Bev Kirby accepted bird sightings; new migrants are flying in daily. Alice MacFarland reported on the Cheboygan Youth Center's success-

ful construction of a bluebird box trail, thanks to SAAS support. Maureen Conklin invited everyone to register for upcoming Earth Week events, solicited volunteers for our North Central Michigan Trail cleanup near Mullett Lake later this spring, and sought pledges and ideas for projects to fund for Big Birding Day. Rose Rynerson presented the Treasurer's report and invited new members.

Delicious treats including State of Michigan sugar cookies were provided by Sue Baker, Eloise Davis, and Will Mandrick. The raffle of a multi-colored glass hummingbird feeder was won by member Roger Benter. Doorprizes of a bluebird box (donated by Alice MacFarland) was won by member Bev Kirby, an electricity use monitor (donated by Jim and Kathy Bricker) was won by member Janet Trudeau, and energy sweatshirts (donated by the National Wildlife Federation) were won by members Marilee Lillie and Glen Matthews.

We again thank the anonymous person who made a generous extra contribution that enabled SAAS to secure Dave Barrons as an Audubon speaker.

Your Chance to Grow

Dorothy Woosley and Jim Bricker serve as the 2010 nominating committee. We need officers to have a club – it's that simple. Two positions secured, two to go. Will you volunteer? It's only a 1-year commitment, with fun people, programs, and outings, and lots of folks to help you.



Photo by Terry Riegler

The Saga of the Bluebird Trails

by Alice MacFarland



Kyle Williams, Debbie Turnbull,
Courtney Christopher, Robert Luebke,
Photo by Terry Riegler

A woman who worked with youth
Had very lively ones, forsooth!
So, with Audubon Debra had words
On a project about birds.

Soon Darrell, Rick and Bob
Were recruited for the job
Of measuring and sawing to fit
The wood for many a kit.

Along came Gary and Molly
Who thought the project just jolly.
With hammer, nails, paint and fun
They and the kids got the houses done.

A house contest and bluebird quizzes
Helped make the youth bird whizzes.
A poster and Amanda's library display
Were the order of the day.

Poles were sunk in the ground
Lots of adults around.
Gary, Jane, Jim, and Steve took joy
Along with Randy, Alice and Roy.

April first, six boxes went on
At the Middle School near the lawn.
For J.J., Emily, Christina, Rachel and Kyle
It took a very short while.

Four boxes at Major City Park
All went on before dark.
Cheboygan Lumber donated wood was the
best
Making a home for a bluebird nest.

Newspapers reported on the installation
And the Earth Week demonstration
With Dale Giddings from Wolverine
Helping out at the scene.

To the Eagles Aerie the kids flew
To give the ladies and men a view
Of the trails and boxes they built
To provide homes on a still.

The mighty Eagles, ladies and men,
Heeded the call of the children
And donated for signs without fail
To guide visitors on the trail.

Soon natives will build their nests
Birds hatching and growing their best
Boxes protecting from invasions
By birds from other nations.

Summer counting, banding and tracking;
Monitoring will not be lacking.
Blue wing flashes and joyous birdsong
We hope will not take too long.

Fall repair and cleaning
Will take on new meaning,
Awaiting Spring in 2011
For another piece of heaven!

Beyond Earth Week

by Kathy Bricker

Throughout Earth Week, many people approached SAAS organizers to ask 'what next, what do we do now that we are excited about xxxxxx?' Some want to convene regular local food potlucks to discuss organic gardening tips; others want to join a workshop on solar porches; many want to stargaze regularly; a few want to launch a community garden; a lot want to sponsor outdoor time to give youth fun and healthy alternatives to alcohol and drugs; and so

the list of possibilities goes on. On Wednesday, May 26, from 6 to 8 p.m., Earth Week volunteer presenter Bill Nash of the White Feather Wellness Project will host a local-foods potluck dinner to discuss what might be done. Anyone interested in sharing ideas and initiative is invited to come to his home near Indian River. For directions, contact Bill at nash-goog@aol.com or call 238-0898. Let's make every day Earth Day!

Presidential Chirpings

by Kathy Bricker

Thanks to all for a fun 3 years as SAAS president. I feel honored for the chance to serve you for the maximum time permitted by our bylaws and get to know our wonderful members better.

Thanks also to everyone who participated in Earth Week Cheboygan County. What a success! Over 9 days, the 31 family events drew 925 attendees. This community outreach to celebrate, appreciate, and protect our area's natural resources was enabled by 75 financial sponsors, advertisers, doorprize donors, and dozens of presenters and volunteers.

Although space prevents listing everyone, we honor the Straits Area Concerned Citizens for Peace and Justice and the National Wildlife Federation, groups which led the first 3 Earth Day celebrations in Cheboygan.

I appreciate the time and energy of a core committee that met 11 times since November. To mention some of the key people -- Brenda Archambo, Jim Bricker, Marie Bartlett, Gloria Cadwalader, Judi Chimner, Maureen Conklin, Laren Corie, Roy MacFarland, Jeanette and Randy Mateer, Cindy Lou Poquette, Terry Riegler, Rose Rynerson, and Judy Vanderhart.

Please visit www.earthweekcheboygan.com for the full sponsor list and many photos. Coming together, we did it!



Recycling at Glens.
Photo by Kathy Brickrt

Vote for Your Granting Choices

by Maureen Conklin

The following possible projects were proposed by members and are ready for you to select which we will fund. We will support these projects with money raised from the Big Birding Day on May 19. Anyone may pledge to give a dime or more for every species of bird seen that day. Usually, about 100 species are spotted. We all bird-watch and dine at a restaurant together, making the Spring Big Birding Day both fun and social.

Please attend the May meeting or call or email me with your top five choices of the following 12 possibilities:

1. Researching owls during their migration through a long-standing banding project;
2. Continuing to educate the community about night-sky-friendly lighting through printed materials and programs;
3. Continuing to conduct and buy supplies for the North Central Michigan Trail Cleanup along Mullett Lake that SAAS initiated in 2010;
4. Encouraging youth to clean their roadways during spring break 2011, perhaps through a contest;
1. Expanding the SAAS partnership with the Cheboygan Youth Center beyond bluebirds;
2. Helping Friends of the Cheboygan Area Public Library buy a portable electronic projector to loan to non-profit groups for talks outside the Library;
3. Covering part of the costs for a member volunteer to attend and either report back to SAAS at a meeting, write a Kettle article, or lead a field trip to: October 8 to 10, 2010 Environmental Education Conference at UMBS, "Engaging Students in Science and Stewardship";
4. Ditto above to: May 2011 Michigan Recycling Coalition Conference;
5. Ditto above to: May 2011 Michigan Audubon Society Conference;
6. Ditto above to: April 2011 Ornithological Congress in Petoskey;
7. Ditto above to: April 2011 Spring Fling at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory;
8. Developing and offering some sort of scholarship to Cheboygan student who has proven an interest in nature and commitment to conservation.



Thanks to Mary Kress and Cyndi Kress for donating t-shirts to SAAS to sell during Earth Week. They cost \$10 each and supplies are limited. Get yours at the May meeting!

Photo by Jim Bricker



Will Mandrick
Photo by Steve

Field Trip Reports

by Steve Baker

HEADLANDS. An enthusiastic group of 16 folks joined for a delicious potluck dinner on April 9 at the Headlands by Mackinaw City. After dinner all helped Ed Pike set up his owl banding nets and looked forward to viewing a Saw-whet Owl up close. A roaring bonfire on the beach kept all warm as Kathy Bricker pointed out the spring constellations and planets in the night sky. Unfortunately no owls were captured this night as the winds were northerly which is unfavorable for migration.

Still, we all had an enjoyable and informative evening and look forward to next years

event where this birder's optimism promises we might capture owls.

WILL MANDRICK'S SUGAR SHACK. On March 20, 10 folks were treated to a tour of Willie's maple syrup operation. Willie runs a very efficient one man facility on the shores of Munro Lake. We were shown the entire process, from the sap gathering, sap boiling, and filtering before the final product of golden delicious syrup is finished. The fragrant warmth of the sugar shack was a perfect place to gather on this sunny but cool day. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup, so Willie is very busy stoking the boiler fire this time of year. Thanks Willie for sharing with us.

Upcoming Field Trips

by Steve Baker

Big Birding Day Wednesday, May 19

This annual event is an all day, all out effort to see as many species of birds as possible. As a fund raiser for the Straits Area Audubon Society, anyone may pledge

to give an amount per species seen. Typically at least 100 species are found. We will meet at 6 am just west of Mackinaw City across the street from the entrance to the Headlands (note change in meeting place). Loaner binoculars and bird books will be available. Pack a breakfast, lunch, and snacks.

Grass Bay Nature Hike and Potluck Wednesday, June 9

Stroll to Lake Huron through the Michigan Nature Conservancy's Grass Bay Preserve with accomplished naturalists. Meet at Cordwood Shores community center at 3 p.m. to carpool. Following the hike will be a potluck meal starting about 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to the potluck, even if you cannot join the hike. Entertainment will feature a slide show overview of Earth Week Cheboygan County 2010. Call Alice or Roy MacFarland at 597-8173 for direc-

No bird escapes us.
Photo by Steve Baker



Team Up to Clean Up

by Doug Fuller, Little Traverse Conservancy

The Little Traverse Conservancy welcomes people from Straits Area Audubon Society at our Thursday, July 8 work session at the Adolph and Margaret Gauthier Preserve. On the western outskirts of Cheboygan adjacent to Lake Huron, the Cheboygan Marsh and the Little Black River, this preserve is a "diamond in the rough"

with the emphasis on rough. We will make it nicer for people and a better home for wildlife by cleaning up the junk that litters it. Come anytime between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. We also have five preserves in Cheboygan County that need volunteer monitors. Call 231-347-0991 for more information.

Join Straits Area Audubon
Society

NAME:

Kettle Contribution Due Dates
In order to deliver The Kettle in a timely matter, please submit your photos and articles by the following due dates: 8/25/10

ADDRESS:

Send your submissions to
saas_kettle@yahoo.com

TELEPHONE:

SAAS thanks Benter Chiropractic for hosting www.straitsareaudubon.org AND to the Benters and Williams Office Supply for printing the *Kettle*.

E-MAIL:

Coming Events

Mark your calendars now to be sure you can attend:

Make checks payable to:
Straits Area Audubon
Society

- 5/12 Monthly program: "International Lessons in Caring for Water by John Gannon, Ph.D.
- 5/19 Field trip: Spring Bird Count Fundraiser
- 5/26 Earth Week Followup Potluck
- 6/9 Field trip: Grass Bay Nature Preserve and Member Potluck

Please mail checks to:
Rosanne Rynerson,
Treasurer
10490 E. U.S. 23
Cheboygan, MI 49721

Single Membership: \$12

SAAS meetings are held at the Cheboygan Area Public Library.
The scheduling of a meeting or program in the Cheboygan Area Public Library does not in any way constitute an endorsement by the library of the group or organization; its activities; or of the ideas and opinions expressed during the course of meetings or programs.

Family Membership: \$15

Straits Area Audubon Society
c/o Rosanne Rynerson
10490 E. U.S. 23
Cheboygan, MI 49721