



Wachiska Audubon Society's vision: To share the experience
and love of nature—that life may flourish in all its natural diversity.

The Babbling Brook

Our 41st Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2014

JUNE 2014

Volume 23 - Issue 6

General Meeting—Thursday, June 12, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College, Lincoln

The 2014 Farm Bill and Grassland Loss: What's In? What's Out? Will it Help Grassland Birds?

by Eric Zach, Ag Program Manager
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

We're number 1!! We're number 1!!! Normally that phrase is associated with reaching the pinnacle of achievement in sports. Unfortunately for Nebraska, we were number 1 in 2012 for a not-so-enviuous reason. A USDA report detailed what some have called the "second great breaking" and revealed that Nebraska lost nearly 55,000 acres of native grasslands in 2012. Since chaining ourselves to big bluestem isn't really an option, we'll need to use policy as a way to stop the bleeding.

Farm Bill conservation programs are just one way to stem the tide of grassland loss across the Great Plains. After two years of stops and starts, the 2014 Farm Bill was signed into law on February 7. The old standby programs like the Conservation Reserve Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program remain in the bill and have been joined by new programs such as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program—each having the potential to benefit habitat and wildlife.

Congress also took a very important step to help curb the grassland conversion issue when it recoupled conservation compliance to crop insurance. Although not perfect, it does penalize producers tempted to convert Nebraska's native

habitats to grain production. On June 12, **Eric Zach** of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will talk about what's in the new Farm Bill and discuss grassland conversion to cropland.

Eric is a lifelong Nebraskan, reared on a small farm near Humphrey. Growing up working on the farm, he developed a love for the outdoors, hunting and fishing with friends and family whenever he had the chance. Eric received his degree in natural resources sciences from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1998. Since then he has worked for federal and state agencies as well as for Pheasants Forever as a wildlife biologist. Currently Eric is the ag program manager for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission working to improve conservation policy, assisting with several NGPC habitat initiatives, and serving as a liaison with ag and conservation entities in the state. Outside of work, Eric and his wife, Allison, enjoy music, brewing beer, and traveling.



Before—June 2012



After—July 2013

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, June 12, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation in the Dick Administration auditorium on Union College campus, 3800 South 48th Street, in Lincoln. Look for Audubon signs on the doors of the Dick Building. An on-site ramp and elevator are available. Refreshments will be served following the presentation. (Construction on campus is complete, so parking is "back to normal.")

Calendar

June

- 2 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 3 Finance Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 3 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Field Trip to Fontenelle Forest, 8:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 12 General Meeting, "Update on the Farm Bill," by Eric Zach, Union College Dick Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 15 25th Annual Backyard Habitat Tour, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (pages 4-5)**
- 16 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.

Note: NO Legislation Committee meetings in June or July

Wachiska Audubon Office: 402-486-4846

Email: office@wachiskaaudubon.org



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Fantastic Fontenelle Forest

Fontenelle Forest protects an expansive hardwood forest covering uplands and lowlands along the Missouri River. This birder's paradise is one of the nation's largest private nature centers and a favorite destination for many birders this time of year. Expert Justin Rink will share his superb birding skills as he guides our adventure in search of eastern species that call this forest home. We'll keep our eyes and ears open for Kentucky warblers, pileated woodpeckers, prothonotary warblers, and yellow-throated warblers on our hike through the forest.

We'll meet **Saturday, June 7, at 8:00 a.m.** in the parking lot at the east end of Gifford Road. From I-80, take exit 439 and Highway 370 east to Bellevue. Turn north on Fort Crook Road and travel to Child's Road where you'll turn and drive east until it turns into Gifford Road. Bring a water bottle, insect repellent, and binoculars if you have them. Entry fee for non-members is \$5/adult and \$4/senior (62 and older). The public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.



Botanical Foray to Indian Cave

by Rachel Simpson

The Nebraska Native Plant Society invites all those interested to join in a free field trip to Indian Cave State Park (Richardson/Nemaha counties) on Saturday, June 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Krista Lang, woodland ecologist for the Northern Prairies Land Trust, will lead this botanical foray. The oak woodland at the park is one of the largest remaining blocks of this habitat in the state and is bordered by the Missouri River. Large-scale prescribed burns have been working wonders for native flora.

Trip details: Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot at the Indian Cave State Park entrance. You will need a state park pass. Bring a lunch and water. Bug spray and long pants are advised. Some terrain may be steep, so wear appropriate shoes. For those interested in carpooling from Lincoln, meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Russ's Market at 33rd Street and Highway 2 (4400 South 33rd Court). For more information, contact Rachel Simpson at rachelsimpson7@gmail.com.

Outing on Niobrara River Preserve

by Buffalo Bruce

The Western Nebraska Resources Council will be hosting a service outing July 11-13 on the Nature Conservancy's Niobrara River Preserve. We will be staying in cabins with a kitchen to fix meals. Our objective will be to enhance the native aspen and the related fauna/flora habitat by cutting invasive competition, mostly cedars. We will canoe the Niobrara River on Sunday. Lodging, food, and a canoe trip are free for all volunteers. This aspen outing has always been fun and an eye opener for folks who have never been to the area. For the non-chainsaw users, please bring loppers or bow saws. Some necessary items to bring are a hat, gloves, sleeping bag, long-sleeve shirt and pants, insect repellent, sunscreen, and enthusiasm. Optional items you may want to bring are swimsuit, camera, sunglasses, and binoculars. Boots and rain gear may make the venture more comfortable. Folks under 19 can only use chainsaws with their parents present. Hot showers are available onsite. Show up Friday afternoon or earlier if you want to check out Smith Falls and the area. Pictured is one of the 200+ waterfalls within this segment of the Niobrara River corridor. Lincoln students will receive needed community service hours credit for graduation.



Check out this link to an 11-minute video of a previous workday: <http://vimeo.com/45599182>.



An aspen community in Nebraska nurtures/complements a larger diversity of fauna and flora than any other plant community. Everyone attending will be able to add new creatures to their checklists.

The results of this outing will complement the target goals of our Nebraska Natural Legacy Project. We will be on the alert for sensitive and rare plants and animals, so bring your camera. Contact me for carpooling and more information, 402-416-3239 (cell), 308-432-3458, or buffalobruce1@gmail.com.



From the Board ...

by Ernie Rousek,
Conservation Committee

School Days on the Nebraska Prairie

My earliest contact with formal education was in the drought and depression years of the 1930s. I attended a one-room school nearly two miles from home, nestled among steep hills of prairie in central Nebraska—and it was uphill both ways. We had no playground equipment; recess was often spent on the surrounding prairie which was only cut for hay, so it had good plant diversity. We ranged quite far from the school house, so the teacher had to ring the big bell in the belfry to summon us back to class. There was no well at the school, so we had to walk a half-mile to the nearest farmstead to get buckets of water for school use. When I was in the seventh grade, we got a well drilled in the schoolyard—complete with pump and handle. What a reason to celebrate! At the start of each school year a school board member would present us with a rubber ball for our recreational use. He told us it cost a whole quarter and if we lost it to not expect a replacement.



Ernie Rousek's brass and copper creation
of his childhood schoolhouse

In the spring, patches of violet wood sorrel would show up among the grasses. These short-growing plants with clover-like leaflets had a pleasant sour taste. After a winter deprived of fresh greens, we would relish eating them and stuffing them in our overall pockets—later getting more selective and eating only the blossoms. Indian turnips were a plant we would dig up and eat, using a hatchet and coal shovel for the digging. Although their taste left a lot to be desired, somewhat like damp cardboard, it was a food source for the plains Indians. (The State Museum displays a braided chain of these tubers hanging on a Pawnee earth lodge wall.)

A variety of wildflowers caught our attention. Shell leaf penstemon, before their blue balloon-like blossoms opened up, made a pleasant pop when compressed. We noticed that every yucca pod had several rows of seeds eaten by a larva but with some seeds always left to mature. We found in later years that

this was the payment that a moth, which laid the egg creating the larva, exacted for pollinating the blossom.

The scaring by an occasional, almost stepped on, bull snake was taken in stride as was the bluish grey streak of a blue racer. The warbling of western meadowlarks was a welcome prairie sound. Thirteen-striped ground squirrels, which we called gophers, were plentiful and probably kept the snakes well fed.

Some of the hillsides were too steep to mow for hay, so the dead grass accumulated. We put this to use by setting up tree branches in teepee form on the schoolyard and gathering armloads of dead grass to cover the branches, making the teepees habitable until the next windy day.

I believe that my early exposure to prairies made me more aware of them and their decline in numbers and that something should be done to protect them. This first effort was my leasing of the 230-acre Nine-Mile Prairie in the name of Wachiska Audubon in 1978, for a four-year period from the Airport Authority which was not concerned in the prairie's protection. This was finally achieved in 1982. Then, beginning 17 years ago, I was involved in helping protect the 27 prairies by Wachiska Audubon. I have also been on the boards of Spring Creek Prairie and Nine-Mile Prairie and involved in many prairie burns and prairie sign construction. I am now 87 and even have some big bluestem engraved on my tombstone.

Editor's Note: Currently Ernie is not an official Board member, but he has served on the Board numerous times over the past 40 years in addition to chairing the conservation committee. Ernie was the chapter's fifth president in 1980-1981. Our prairie project has benefited from thousands of volunteer hours given by Ernie who is one of only three people to have received both the Earthkeeper Award and the President's Award from Wachiska Audubon.

New Members to Audubon

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

This month we have been informed by National Audubon that the following people have joined Audubon at the national level:

Kelsey Drey
Sherry Jirkovsky
Kristine Sarver

Evelyn Dorman
Mark Lukin
Lolene Williams

At the local level, Mary Commers has become a Friend of Wachiska.

A special welcome is extended to all. Why not take a chance on meeting our group by attending a meeting, program, field trip, or the annual picnic this summer? (Watch for picnic details next month).

25 Years of Showcasing Area Backyard Bird Habitats

by Anne and Lynn Senkbeil, Event Coordinators



Wachiska Audubon Society's 25th annual Backyard Habitat Tour will once again be held on **Father's Day** from **11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** For a quarter century, the most diverse and interesting wildlife habitat gardens in the Lincoln area have been showcased for the public. Set aside **June 15th** to see the great gardens of Lincoln. Homeowners will be on hand to answer questions. Visitors can begin at any location. Maps and brochures will be available at each site. A donation of \$7 is suggested and children under 12 are free.

This year's sites and hosts are as follows:

1301 Piedmont Road—Kim & Gary Goranson

These formal English gardens have their basis in a circa 1930 landscape design, original to and complementary of the residential architecture. Planting beds are defined by hedges of boxwood, privet, spirea, and barberry. English roses, ornamental shrubs, and specimen trees have been selected to complement the developing hedges, rhododendrons, azaleas, and hydrangeas.

A cottage garden was established just west of the greenhouse in the spring of 2013. This delightful area with its bench, small fountain, picket fence, and arbor receives good afternoon light and is ideal for dahlias, cannas, roses, marigolds, and zinnias. Spring blooms include several varieties of irises, daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths. Among the several dozen peonies, including tree peonies, are plants with decades of history.

The miniature garden represents the Nebraska homestead photos from the archives of the State Historical Society which have proved valuable in its construction.

The sheltered ecosystem of the Piedmont neighborhood makes possible the cultivation of plant varieties not often seen on the dry, windy plains, but common to eastern climates.

Maple Lodge, 2030 Euclid Avenue—Missy Hasselbalch

A double-gated wrought iron fence surrounds these grounds that have for more than a century offered beauty and peace to the casual observer or the meandering wanderer who has the opportunity to visit the gardens of Maple Lodge.

The focal point of the main garden is the pergola which is draped in grape vines. The front of the pergola supports a kitchen fountain with water streaming from a lion's mouth. The kitchen garden has been converted to a tulip-cutting garden with hundreds of planted tulips.

A square hedge delineates the rose garden with several varieties, and their fragrance can be detected throughout the yard. Tea roses are planted along the front of the round back porch. The secret garden is the latest addition to the collection. There are small sculptures, unique ground cover, and a child's bench.

1315 South 21st Street—Christian Petersen

The gardens at this site remain a work in progress. The homeowner bought the house in 1984 and subsequently added the driveway, garage, pergola, and antique wrought iron fencing. In 1989, the lot to the south provided an opportunity to incorporate a fish pond and a copper-roofed garden house.

The windows are from Lincoln's Hovland-Swanson department store. Hammered copper corbels were salvaged from the Creighton building in Omaha's Jobber's Canyon.

1315 Fall Creek Road—Sue & Dan Wurm

Ten years ago the homeowners moved into a heavily shaded yard with a footprint of walking paths, a circular patio, and plant beds of evergreens and shrubs already existing. The next two years were spent transforming the yard by putting flowers back into the beds along with flowering shrubs and specimen trees.

With the shade of canopying silver maples and a row of 70-foot pines, hostas, ferns, and specimen trees thrived in the coolness of the land. More plants were frequently added to areas of sun found throughout the yard.

Over the past years the yard has undergone many changes, as do most yards. Neighbors cut down the row of 70-foot pines that had provided shade for more than half of this yard. Windstorms, snow, and ice have left a maple tree, a large magnolia, and a 50-year-old redbud without much canopy. A 60-foot row of tall yews had to be removed and again shade was lost. In addition, a 45-foot spruce was lost due to a new sewer line at the same time it became necessary to move the entire rose garden. There have been wonderful opportunities to change planting designs as things have changed.

7520 South 70th Street—Bob & Vicki Northrup

This garden covers 3 1/3 acres, and the large trees and a few shrubs were planted in the early '70s. The homeowners purchased the property in 1997 and have added many more trees, shrubs, and flowers with the goal to always have something in bloom and to create outdoor "rooms" by using plant material to create focal points. The landscape changed due to the removal of many dead pines, and many varieties of spruce and shrubs have been added to maintain the perimeter privacy. The renovation started four years ago and is maturing. This past winter many mature yews were lost and a variety of plants are now replacing them. These homeowners have learned that "the one thing you can count on when gardening in Nebraska is change."

12000 Wheatridge Drive, Walton—Allison & Gary Petersen

These homeowners love living on an acreage. When they built the house they sited it so it preserved a sweeping view on the pond and prairie grasses. Rewards have included seeing a gosling taking that first step out of the goose nest, herons patrolling the

pond edges for frogs, a fox sunning itself on the banks, and ducks making a stopover during migration.

The pond has been enlarged with boulders placed around the banks. A new berm provides protection and privacy for one of the new patios, which is the “secret patio” since it is not visible from any road. The other pond patio is more of a social space with a fire pit and a great view of sunsets reflected on the water.

The Sunken Gardens, 27th and D streets—Steve Nosal

The Sunken Gardens of Lincoln, located at the southwest corner of 27th and D streets, has been the pride and joy of its citizens since its completion in the spring of 1931. In 1906, the area which is considered the base of the Sunken Gardens was donated by Henry and Sarah Frey. Construction of a new bridge over 27th Street and Capital Parkway tamed Antelope Creek which ran through this corner lot, leaving behind a large depression in the middle.

For years the lot was primarily used during the winter by the neighboring children for sledding as well as a convenient neighborhood dumping site.

This 1.5-acre lot was designed and built over the winter of 1930 during the Great Depression. The project was part of a government program to provide 200 temporary jobs for the unemployed. Crews were allowed to work only an eight-hour shift at the rate of 40 cents/hour for two days a week, netting \$6.40/week. The program included tasks ranging from tree trimming to construction which created the Sunken Gardens.

Although the credit for the original design had been given to Fred Goebel, the park’s floriculturist, it appears that his son, Henry, had been instrumental in conceptualizing and designing the master plan of this new garden. During an interview with Henry Goebel in 1991, it was learned he had presented to his father the idea of landscaping the south slopes into a terraced floral display. He also proposed installing an electric waterfall plus the two reflection pools at the base of the garden—a rather novel and expensive plan during a period of hard times.

After a \$1.2 million renovation in 2005, this endowed gem is still beaming with multi-colored floral arrangements that are redesigned yearly. The garden’s annual display is complemented by spring flowering bulbs, species of trees, shrubs, and perennials for seasonal love interest. The upper level “healing garden,” traditionally designed as a white garden, creates a refreshing space for reflection. The living ponds overflow with water lilies, both tropical and winter-hardy, that sparkle in the midday sun, while the playful koi swim from one edge of the pond to the other, begging for attention.

The newly designed garden today is ADA accessible to all with modern facilities for all types of functions. The new pavilion is representative of Lincoln’s historical landmarks and the changing of the seasons. Other art works include the bronze statue of “Reveille,” “Rebekka at the Well,” and other historical pieces.

Can You ID this Bird?

by Arlys Reitan, Office Administrator

As you’ve heard tell before, quite often and especially in the spring, the Wachiska office gets numerous inquiries by phone and email about unfamiliar birds people see in their yards. This is a fun question to receive; however, still not being much of a bird identifier, I must rely on others’ skills and experience.

In May such an inquiry was made by Amy Burg who wrote: “This little visitor has been in and out of my yard for about five days now. I identified it in my book as a Swainson’s thrush, but it says they aren’t in this area. Online I read that during migration they are widespread. Can anyone



Swainson’s thrush

confirm my guess that this is indeed a Swainson’s thrush? It definitely has the eye ring and the light color that goes across the “nose,” white throat/upper chest, and is sort of a greenish/grayish brown on the neck/upper back. I’m sorry the photos aren’t very clear, but my zoom camera is broken. I’m very excited that it chose my yard to take a break during migration. I’ve never seen one before, so this has been quite a treat. I so very much appreciate your time!”

That afternoon I contacted our Audubon master birder extraordinaire, Kevin Poague, at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, who rushed this reply back to Amy and me:

“Yes, this looks like a Swainson’s thrush. They are common migrants in Nebraska in the spring and fall, but they nest farther north.”

Thanks to Amy and Kevin for their interest and expertise. (BTW, I learned during this exchange that this would not be considered one of the LBBs or LBJs as that designation usually refers to sparrows—LBBs, little brown birds or LBJs, little brown jobbers.)

Exceptional Programs Offered by PPNC

This summer will bring opportunities for youth and adults to enjoy the outdoors by participating in programs at Pioneers Park Nature Center. Call 402-441-7895 for details on specific events.

Programs for everyone include Backyard Composting, Animal Antics, Froggy Went a Huntin’, Butterfly Count, Rock and Mineral Grinding Party, and Family Nature Night. Sessions geared for youth would be Children’s Garden Fun and Garden Tea Parties. In addition, there will be Wilderness Nature Camps and Camp Discovery which each run for a week. Adults can look forward to Coffee House on the Prairie, Beer Brats and Bees, and Fresh Herbal Food.

Wachiska Celebrates Earth Day

by Jessica Umberger for the P&E Committee



Filled with excitement, Wachiska's population and environment committee planned an Earth Day booth to be held at the new location of Union Plaza on April 12. Focusing on Nebraska's common backyard birds and their nesting activities, visitors were able to make a burlap nesting pouch (below) filled with yarn, dried grass, and cotton in the hopes of attracting nesting birds to their backyard. Burlap materials used to make the pouches were recycled

from larger sacks donated by the Wild Bird Habitat Store. Displayed was a lovely tri-fold showing various nesting materials utilized by our backyard birds as well as common nests and eggs that folks may be seeing this time of year. We handed out Wachiska newsletters and copies of *Audubon* magazines.

A special thank you to those who volunteered and helped make Earth Day 2014 such a wonderful success: Colleen Babcock, Mary King, Marilyn Leuenberger, Bruce Mellberg, Colleen Geisel, and Leah Umberger. Hope to see you all at Earth Day 2015!



Burlap pouches made by kids

Earth Day at Doane College

by Bob Boyce, Recording Secretary

Wachiska was invited to Doane College's Earth Day observance as "honored visitors." When President Elizabeth Nelson was not able to go, chapter member Lynette Zimmer and I represented Wachiska. During our visit, we were informed about the "Green Fund" which is funded by a \$10 student fee and is available for projects to make Doane more energy-sustainable.

We had a close-up view and explanation of a project consisting of a set of solar panels which produce enough electricity for the college to offset the "vampire" usage of the college computers (the electricity used when the computers are shut down). We also saw a children's outdoor discovery area, an educational introduction for children to natural surroundings which they can use to create and play with.

Doane's president signed a pledge to work toward making the college entirely carbon neutral, in concert with other colleges and universities across the country. A number of student groups had booths relating to sustainability and the environment.

W.A.R.B.L.E.R

(Wachiska Audubon Readers' Bulletins, Letters, and Environmental Reports)

Wachiska on Cable Channel 5 TV

Cable Channel 5 TV will feature a program discussing Wachiska's Backyard Habitat Tour and showcasing its 25th anniversary. The program will air most days during June around 11:00 or 11:30 a.m. and at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Waterfest at Holmes Lake Park

On Saturday, June 7, the City of Lincoln will host its fifth Waterfest at Holmes Lake Park from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This family event is held every two years to celebrate our most valuable resource—water. It also serves as a way to connect people to their local water sources. Each attendee receives a "water passport" that they carry with them to each exhibitor's booth where they then learn about various water bodies in Nebraska and what they can do to improve local water quality. After this "world water tour," attendees can redeem their passport for a prize. In addition to all the fun science information presented at booths, there will be an opportunity for the public to learn how to enjoy lakes and rivers by fly fishing or canoeing.

This free public event, that boasts an attendance up to 3,000 people, is provided through a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and other volunteer partnerships and sponsorships with the private and public sectors. All are welcome at this pet-friendly event to enjoy the free food and beverages until they're gone as well as music performed by the String Beans.

For more information about this event, visit lincoln.ne.gov keyword: waterfest.

From our Members

The following comment was received from active members who have been spending the past year in Europe but still receiving *The Babbling Brook*: "Sounds like we are missing another great [general] meeting. I hear from different people about their attending another wonderful Wachiska program."

This comment came in today's Birdathon envelope: "I appreciate your email updates and monthly programs."

And another last week: "I support everything you do."

Point to Ponder

"When you rise in the morning, form a resolution to make the day a happy one for a fellow creature." -- Sydney Smith

Public Officials

President Barack Obama

1600 Pennsylvania Av NW, Washington DC 20500-0001
Comment line: 202-456-1111
Phone: 202-456-1414 Fax: 202-456-2461
E-mail at website: <http://whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Senator Mike Johanns

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Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
Scottsbluff phone: 308-632-3333 Fax: 308-635-3049
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov/>

Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

Governor Dave Heineman

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848
Phone: 402-471-2244 Fax: 402-471-6031
E-mail: dave.heineman@nebraska.gov

State Senator

District _____ State Capitol

PO Box 94604

Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

State Capitol Switchboard 402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508
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E-mail: commish@lancaster.ne.gov

Mayor Chris Beutler

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 208, Lincoln NE 68508-2828
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Lincoln City Council

402-441-7515
E-mail: council@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor, 926 P St, Lincoln NE 68508
E-mail: oped@journalstar.com

Membership

Wachiska offers two choices of membership. Local membership, called Friends of Wachiska, includes receiving *The Babbling Brook*, our chapter's monthly newsletter. It also includes voting privileges and attendance at monthly meetings, programs, and field trips. All membership dues from a local membership stay with Wachiska to support chapter activities such as prairie preservation and education.

Membership in the National Audubon Society also includes membership in our local chapter, Wachiska. You will receive *Audubon* magazine from National Audubon along with *The Babbling Brook*.

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

_____ \$20 Individual/Friend

_____ \$50 Sustainer

_____ \$30 Families

_____ \$100 Patron

Make checks payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds remain with our local chapter. Mail to:

Wachiska Audubon Society
Attention: Membership Committee
4547 Calvert St Ste 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643

As a conservation organization, our goal is to use our natural resources wisely. Materials and postage are considerable, and we do not want to waste them. When your address changes or if you are receiving *The Babbling Brook* and would rather not get it, please notify us at office@wachiskaaudubon.org or 402-486-4846.

OR

National Membership in National Audubon Society

Dues from new (introductory) memberships and for first-time gifts will be returned to Wachiska if this coupon is used:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

Enclose introductory membership fee of \$20.

Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to:

Wachiska Audubon Society
Attention: Membership Committee
4547 Calvert St Ste 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643

C4ZP040Z

Birdathon Donations

Please remember to return your Birdathon envelopes and donations as soon as you can. The list of contributors along with Give to Lincoln Day donors will appear in next month's *Babbling Brook*. We have a long way to go to reach our goal or to match last year's gifts.

Every dollar counts. Thank you for your consideration and support!



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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2014

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Corresponding Secretary.....	*Joe Francis.....	402-489-7965
Treasurer.....	*Gary Fehr.....	402-570-4382
Immediate Past President.....	*Arnold Mendenhall (Hickman)	402-525-4884

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large.....	*Mitch Renteria.....	402-483-7275
Director at Large.....	*Benjamin Vogt.....	402-499-5851
Director at Large.....	*vacant.....	
Conservation.....	*Heidi Hillhouse.....	402-470-7350
Education.....	*Lauren Dinan.....	308-390-3961
Field Trips	John Carlini.....	402-475-7275
	*Ken Reitan.....	402-423-3540
Fundraising.....	vacant.....	
Hospitality.....	Cheryl Moncure.....	402-488-0036
Legislation.....	Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm).....	402-796-2114
	*Sam Truax.....	402-325-9012
Membership.....	Joyce Vannier.....	402-489-4611
	*Lana Novak.....	402-475-8693
Monthly Programs/General Meetings	Arlys Reitan..... WAS office	402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor.....	Arlys Reitan..... WAS office	402-486-4846
Population/Environment	*Colleen Babcock.....	308-850-0445
Program Coordinator	Tim Knott.....	402-483-5656
Publicity/Public Relations.....	Jeanne Kern.....	402-423-0428

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions.....	vacant.....	
NAS Regional Board Member.....	Michele Crist (Boise, ID).....	208-863-1918
Newsletter Layout.....	Linda Sullivan.....	402-580-8515
Raptor Recovery.....	Betsy Finch (Elmwood).....	402-994-2009
Executive Director Audubon Nebraska	Marian Langan.....	402-797-2301
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director	Roger Furrer.....	402-797-2301
Webmaster.....	Dan Staehr.....	402-440-5869

NEBirds Website

Check out the email discussion at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NEBirds/> to learn of the latest sightings and interesting tales of Nebraska's most avid birders and those interested in Nebraska birds and their ecology. Information changes daily—and even more often when excitement arises. Offerings of recent sightings, questions, and new photos are all welcome.

Wachiska Audubon Society's financial records are available for examination in the office.

A Gift to the Future

A bequest to Wachiska Audubon Society is a gift to future generations enabling our natural heritage to continue. For wills, trusts, and gifts, our legal name is **Wachiska Audubon Society**. Our Federal Tax ID number is **51-0229888**.