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News From the Flock, Vol. 2007 Issue 2

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

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NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
Serving Crawford, Bourbon, and Cherokee Counties, Kansas

FEBRUARY 2007

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2

SGAS Officers

2006-2007

President:

Dr. Steve Ford

Vice President:

Jim Brumfield

Secretary

Diane McCollum

Treasurer

Liz Mangile

An Inconvenient Truth Reviewed

"Denial ain't just a river in Egypt"

Several board members recently gathered to review **AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH**, a DVD produced by Al Gore presenting information on global warming. Mark Twain's quote (above) on denial was used to characterize how common and easy it has been to overlook the effects of global warming because of the relatively gradual degrees of change which occur in one life time.

Gore's well done and visually appealing slide presentation documents the effects of climate change back over forty years to when he was first introduced to this phenomena by an undergraduate Professor, Roger Revelle. Professor Revelle was the first scientist to measure CO₂ in the earth's atmosphere. Other scientific research using carbon dating, ice and soil samples track change from prehis-

toric time is presented to further debunk the myth that what is occurring today is part of a "natural cycle."

"IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET A MAN TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING WHEN HIS SALARY DEPENDS ON HIM NOT UNDERSTANDING IT"

~ Upton Sinclair

"Of the 928 peer-reviewed articles dealing with 'climate change' published in scientific journals during the precious 10 years, not one article is in doubt as to the cause of global warming." Explains Gore as he presents compelling reasons why we need to take stewardship of our environment seriously. Along with the predictable and devastating consequences of not taking action the presentation also includes suggestions which can make a difference on national and local levels to avert

By Jim Brumfield



global catastrophic events.

"CONSENSUS AS STRONG AS THE ONE THAT HAS DEVELOPED AROUND THIS TOPIC IS RARE IN SCIENCE"
~Donald Kennedy, Editor in Chief, Science Magazine

Story continues on Page 3..

Kids Without Nature

I want to share some thoughts about a book I read recently that might interest SG Audubon folks: *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv, 2005, Algonquin Books. Louv is a newspaper columnist who has written seven books on family, nature, and community.

His thesis here is that the current generation of kids is the first to really have no connection with nature, except electronically. He makes a compelling argument--reciting results of considerable research--that this

Story continues on Page 3..

By Dr. Steve Ford

Calendar of Events

March 29th—Program TBA

April 26th—Green Team Bird Habitat Projects in Kansas By Brad Loveless

May—SGAS Annual Picnic

MEETING TIME

We will begin our

meetings at

7:30 P.M.

Yates Hall Room 102.
On the last Thursday
of the month

Minutes for the Meeting

President Steve Ford introduced the meeting by mentioning that SGAS has two highlights each year: the bird seed sale and the Christmas Bird Count. He then reported on the Christmas Bird Count, which had 12 participants on January 1, 2007, who saw 74 total species. A list of the birds seen was available.

Liz Mangile reported on the bird seed sale, which was held on December 9. Last year the club made \$203.42 on feed and \$515.45 on crafts/baked goods, while this year the club made \$310.38 on feed and \$529.55 on crafts/baked goods. This meant the club made \$129.06 more this year, for a total of \$839.93. The current balance, as of January 8, is \$6,567.05.

Liz also reported that in March there will be a new field

guide, A Compact Guide to Kansas Birds, by Ted Cable and Gregory Kennedy. She said that the club could buy the



book in bulk for ten dollars each, while they would cost \$13.95 at a store, and offered a flier for members to look at. Those interested in purchasing the book may contact Liz.

Steve thanked the volunteers who helped with the bird seed sale.

Bob Mangile reminded those present of the Backyard Habitat program through the state of Kansas. SGAS will pay the \$5 fee for members and the first deadline will be at the end of March. He had several informational handouts available.

Steve then spoke about Pegg Smith, the "one and only newsletter editor" for SGAS since the club's beginning in 1999. He said she has done "a great job" and will be recognized for her work at a later date. The new editor of the newsletter is

Delia Lister. Everyone is invited to send in articles about news, birds seen, natural history or related topics for the newsletter. Delia's e-mail address is delalister@pittstate.edu.

Those at the meeting discussed the many birds seen at feeders during the recent win-

ter storms. Birds mentioned included a pileated woodpecker, cedar waxwings, brown thrashers, a bald eagle, white-crowned sparrows and Eurasian collared doves.

Jim Brumfield introduced the evening's speaker, Dr. Harry Krug, Professor Emeritus and former chairperson of the PSU art department. Dr. Krug showed several examples of his serigraphic prints with themes of nature, space exploration and life/death. His work reflects the rational/cognitive balanced against instincts/emotions, as well as conscious versus unconscious reality. He also told stories of his experiences in nature and how these shaped his perception and his art.

After the program, Steve thanked Carol Newcomb and Barb Robins for the refreshments. Dorothy Overbeck was the winner of the door prize, two tickets to a chili supper.

The meeting was then adjourned. The next meeting will be on February 22, 2007.

By Diane McCallum

Pegg Smith Steps Down as Newsletter Editor

As many of you know, Pegg Smith has stepped down as newsletter editor for the SG Audubon Chapter, but she assures us that she will still maintain an active interest in the club. Delia Lister, the new Nature Reach Director in PSU's Biology Department, will take over.

On behalf of the chapter I want to thank Pegg for her long-term contributions. The chapter began in 1999 and, believe it or not, Pegg has been its only newsletter editor. Her excellent photographs of monthly meetings and special events, her careful handling of

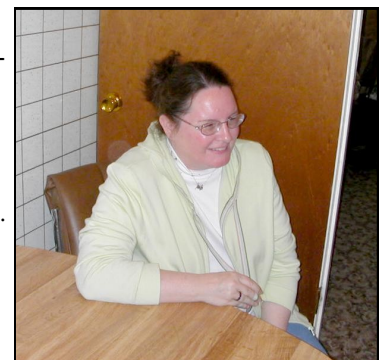
news items and essays, and her eye for design and decoration has kept the newsletter ever fresh, informative, and fun. Pegg's efforts on our behalf occurred in a busy time in her life. When she agreed to assume the editor's position in 1999, she was the Pittsburg High School's secretary and school psychologist paraprofessional. She subsequently earned her Master's Degree in Psychology at PSU, then went on to earn an Ed.S. (Educational Specialist) Degree in School Psychology. She now holds the position of School Psychologist for District #5, Jasper, MO,

where she is responsible for kids from pre-school levels to high school. She is also the School Psychologist for Lamar High School.

Pegg maintains her interest in photography (She was medical photographer for St. Jude's Hospital from 1976 – 1986.), including wildlife photography, and writes the newsletter for the Little Balkans Quilt Guild. She is a member of the School Psychologist Association at the state and local level, and maintains what sounds to me a

small ecosystem at home—seven birds, two dogs, and a cat.

Thanks again for all of your good work, Pegg.



By Dr. Steve Ford

Christmas Bird Count

Twelve birders in seven parties participated in the annual Minedland Christmas Bird Count on a sunny, cool New Year's Day in the heavily strip-mined area northwest of Columbus. This was part of National Audubon's venerable CBC, a "citizen science" effort that monitors avian diversity and abundance nation-wide. The species count was strong this year, 74 species, which is five or six higher than in most previous years. Sparrow abundance seemed a little low. Our intrepid mascot, the red-

headed woodpecker, suffered this year. We saw just five. Their numbers do fluctuate considerably year-to-year (two years ago 56 were counted). Red-winged blackbirds topped the abundance list at 2,351, followed by starlings (1,382) and horned larks (1,220 - although I know for a fact Roger Willis counted the same lark 200 times!) Some nice sightings included a canvasback, ring-neck pheasant, three bald eagles, four hermit thrushes - and probably best of all - two prairie falcons. It's always great to see so much

By Dr. Steve Ford

diverse "life" in the middle of a seemingly dormant winter!

Some new for us this year was a "compilation party." Most birders met in the evening at the Mangile's for dinner (thanks Bob, Liz and Mavis), followed by a round-robin-type discussion of the day's "take" of birds. Additional bird counters were John Hartley, Dave Hen-nis, Larry Herbert, Barry and Ellen Jones, Rick Tucker, Roger Willis, and Cindy and Steve Ford. Consider joining in the count next year - you don't have to be an expert.



Check Out
the Web Site:

[http://
pwp.surfglobal.
net/rmangile/](http://pwp.surfglobal.net/rmangile/)

For Last
Minute Field
Trip Notices.



Kids Without Nature (cont.)

"nature deficit" leads to adults with little value for nature. Also, importantly, it results in a significant number of kids and adults who are rather deficient in creativity; sociability; and mental ability in many other endeavors, including math and literature. He says that kids need free time to play in nature, if only in a brushy backyard or park, in order to develop a sense of place, independence, and self-knowledge. He also notes adult psychologi-

cal needs for natural things, such as the fact that hospitalized adults recover more quickly if their hospital windows look out at a view of trees rather than other buildings. Most schools or parents do not take kids outside, and even traditional organizations, like Scouts, currently focus more on urban and indoor activities than campcraft and nature study. Given an environmental future which seems to be more and more ominous,

By Dr. Steve Ford

younger generations need more, not less, understanding of nature. Louv says conservation organizations can play a big role toward this end. I highly



recommend this fascinating, readable book, especially if you have influence over kids and a concern for nature.

*"If children
sense genuine
adult
enthusiasm,
they'll want to
emulate that
interest."*

*~Richard
Louv*

An Inconvenient Truth Reviewed (cont.)

The discussion following the viewing of this compelling documentary included a decision to purchase two copies of the DVD one to give to Greenbush for distribution to schools and one to available to SGA members. If you wish to borrow this DVD, **AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH**, contact Bob Mangile either by telephone: 620-231-3117 or email:

rmangile@surfglobal.net.

by Jim Brumfield

Global Warming: What YOU can do....



- Light bulbs matter. Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Avoid plastic bags when possible and invest in stronger reusable bags.
- Skip the wash before the wash. According to consumer's report the pre-rinsing dishes does not improve a dishwasher's ability to clean them.
- Forget preheating. It is usually unnecessary to pre-heat your oven except when baking bread or pastries. Avoid opening the oven to look at your food.
- Glass takes more than one million years to decompose. Recycle glass

~From Vanity Fair, May 2006.

Application for Membership
Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

For an introductory rate of \$20.00 you will become a member of both organizations, receive 4 copies of Audubon Magazine annually and the Sperry-Galligar Newsletter.

For rate of \$15.00 you will become a member of Sperry-Galligar Audubon and receive the regular 8 newsletters per year informing you of all our local activities.

If you wish to join the National as well as the Local Chapter : Please make your check out to: National Audubon Society

If you wish to join just the Local Sperry Galligar Audubon : Please make your check out to Sperry Galligar Audubon.

And mail to:

Jim Brumfield

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

P.O. Box 205

Pittsburg, Kansas 66762-0205

- ☐ YES I wish to become a member, of both organizations (\$20.00)
☐ YES I wish to become a member of the local chapter only (\$15.00)

Name _____
Please Print

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____

Chapter Code: J 10 7XCH



FINANCIAL STATEMENT
By Liz Mangile

Starting Balance

11/10/06.....\$5758.11

DEBITS

11/25/06—Stamps for Newsletter..... \$46.80
11/27/06—Newsletter.....\$20.41
12/05/06—Cash Box.....\$100.00
12/06/06—Travel Expenses for Speaker.....\$20.00
12/11/06—Feed Sale Expenses.....\$1468.50
01/04/07—Stamps for Newsletter.....\$31.20
01/05/07—Newsletter.....\$19.58
01/05/07—State Sales Tax for Feed Sale.....\$120.37
Total.....\$1826.86

CREDITS

12/11/06—Feed Sale\$2543.80
12/18/06—Flute Sale.....\$32.00
01/05/07—Local Dues.....\$60.00
Total.....\$2635.80

Balance as of 01/08/07.....\$6567.05

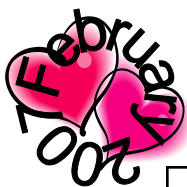
Worth the Early Rise... By John Hartley

Sometimes the early birder gets the bird. Returning from a visit to relatives in Iowa, John and Julie Hartley took a three mile side trip to Heritage Park, Olathe, KS. From the Kansas Birdlist, they learned there was a red throated loon to be seen on the small lake in the park. This loon was way out of range and rare to this area of Kansas. John and Julie spotted and heard it at 8:30 in the morning. It was Julie's first spotting of any kind of loon. It was worth leaving Des Moines at 5:30 AM.



Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
Newsletter
P.O. Box 205
Pittsburg, KS 66762
Meetings are held the last Thurs-

day of the month. No meetings in June July, or August. (Nov/Dec meeting date to be announced) From 7:30 pm to 9 pm, in Rm 102, Yates Hall. PSU Campus, Pittsburg, Kansas. Refreshments served and Guests Welcome.



Articles for submission may be sent to SGAS Newsletter editor-
Delia Lister
delialister@hotmail.com
Published monthly
Next Deadline is March 6th 2007

**Attention All
Members**

The board meetings are held at 6:00 pm on the 3rd floor of Heckert-Wells Hall PSU Campus – All members are invited to attend– watch your e-mail or call Bob Mangile