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News From the Flock, Vol. 2016 Issue 4

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

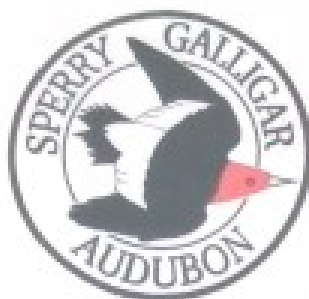
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NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry- Galligar
Audubon Chapter
Officers 2015 - 2017

President:

Wayne Bockelman

Vice President:

Megan Corrigan

Secretary

Barb Robins

Treasurer

Liz Mangile

Newsletter Editor

Cindy Ford

cford@pittstate.edu

April 2016

VOLUME 2016 ISSUE 4

Audubon of Kansas Silent Spring Conference

by Steve Ford

Sperry-Galligar Audubon has not readily embraced Audubon of Kansas, not because we're too gill darned independent, but because we're backed so far into the corner of the big state that it takes a couple of tanks of gas and a stay in a Comfort Inn to attend a meeting. Too, our geography is not really Kansas-ish. We tend to wear more seed hats than cowboy hats, and when is the last time someone from Logan County got hit by a falling walnut? That said, Delta Lister, Cindy Ford, and I attended the first "Silent Spring Conference" of Audubon of Kansas, April 9, in Lawrence. We're glad we did. The day was dense with thought-provoking, conservation-oriented information presented by smart, dynamic speakers. Quite a diversity of topics was discussed. Here are a few highlights.

Ann Birney started things off by offering an inspirational first-person portrayal of Rachel Carson whose 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, brought to light the environmental consequences of widespread use of DDT, and by extension other environmental abuses.

The now-classic book awoke the public's environmental consciousness, made Carson famous, and could be said to have ushered in the environmental movement



that led to much positive legislation.

Award-winning film-maker, Stan Lerner, showed his recent documentary on water issues called *When the Well Runs Dry*, a moving 30-minute expose focusing on the effect of declining water availability on the lives of individual farm and ranch families around the little town of Florence, Kansas. Non-renewable water from the Ogallala aquifer is being depleted so fast that within a decade or two its water will no longer be available to "mine" economically. The way of life, the way of farming and ranching, of these Kansans will be history, as will that of many others throughout the Great Plains. It's already started, thanks in part to

many families selling their land (and water rights) to big petroleum companies who of course care nothing of its heritage. One "solution" to the water shortage advanced by some genius is the building of a 350-mile canal from a huge reservoir built in eastern Kansas so that water could be pumped uphill to the thirsty cornfields of western Kansas. The bill? Over \$18 billion. (And the state is living on sofa change already!)

Another compelling program focused on the truly heroic struggles of some private landowners to re-establish the Federally Endangered black-footed ferret on their properties. The struggles include biological problems, but primarily center on objections of misinformed neighbors, non-selective poisons, politics, and archaic anti-prairie dog laws. There is progress, but it's slow.

Closer to home, there were several excellent presentations on the necessity and means of preparing pollinator gardens (the old name is butterfly garden). Pollinators of many stripes – butterflies, native bee species, and many other invertebrates – are vital for the perpetuation of native plants, as well as many ag crops and trees. Lose the pesticides and pest-free plants. Plant mostly natives, enough diversity to flower all summer. Milkweeds are great. Look up the Xerces Society on the web for books and information.

The dinner speaker was the director of the KU Museum of Natural History, Dr. Leonard Krashtalka, who gave a lavishly-illustrated talk on nothing less than the future of human existence. He said that, like the extinct human population of Easter Island, neither God nor technology will save us. Rather the multiple cultures and disciplines of modern humanity must recognize the ecological systems that sustain us and work together for that sustainability. As the title of his talk forwarded, "Tackling the Planet: Know It or Blow It."

All serious stuff for a Saturday in Lawrence, Kansas, (Delta and Cindy complained they didn't have time to get to the shoe store!), but mixed with some fun and good conversation throughout the day. We got home late and tired, but thinking we got quite a brain-full of stuff to consider. We'll go back next year. You go too!



April 28 — "Native Edible Plants", by Trent Kling. A discussion on native and wild edible plants in south-east Kansas, including foliage, nuts, fruits and berries. He will also touch on attempting to cultivate fruiting plants in this area, with special notes on good varieties for the region as well as varieties to avoid.

To receive an e-newsletter, send your e-mail address to Cindy Ford, Editor.

Board Meeting Highlights

Barb Robins, Secretary

Attending: Mavis Benner, Wayne Bockelman, Megan Corrigan, Cindy & Steve Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Barb Robins, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan;

Guest: Hermann Nonnenmacher.

Call To Order (Wayne): 6:05 p.m.

Minutes (Barb): Read and approved.

Treasurer's Report (Liz): Checking account balance of \$5,759.45

Next Month's Program will be on native fruits of Kansas.

May's Picnic Program will, at last, feature the cassowaries. Publicity for tonight's program appeared in the Globe and

Morning Sun: announcement on KRPS.

Refreshments tonight will be provided by Megan, Liz, and Mary Tersinar.

Newsletter: Cindy contributed an enlightening and timely article on Sperry and Galliar.

Rail Fence is finished, complete with SGAS sign.

Field Trips: Only two gathered for carpooling to Prairie State Park.

Audubon of Kansas Conference: Cindy and Steve plan to attend.

Summer Camp Program Possibility: Delia announced that she would like to have Dr. Larry Quinalty present a session on gourmet Dutch oven cooking on July 29 as a part of a one-day camp. The cost would probably be \$15. Delia will announce it at tonight's meeting to determine interest.

Slate of Officer Candidates for 2016-17: When questioned, all current officers agreed to serve next year.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the slate

Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Financial Statement

Liz Mangile, Treasurer

April 2016

Beginning balance	\$ 5762.78
Credit	
Local dues & Ant molt	\$ 42.00
Total	\$ 42.00
Debit	
Newsletter	\$ 3.33
Total	\$ 3.33
Ending balance	\$5801.45

GOOD EATS

Megan Corrigan, Liz Mangile, & Mary Tersinar
Thanks for the refreshments at the
March meeting.

March Meeting Presenter: Rick Hines



Exactly where is Botswana? Is there much wildlife, and is it all desert? Rick Hines, a board member of the Kansas chapter of the Nature Conservancy and frequent world traveler, answered these questions and more in his March 31 presentation, "Botswana: Africa's Garden of Eden."

Nestled among Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa, Botswana was

formerly called Bechuanaland and was a British protectorate until 1966. It actually is mostly desert—the Kalahari Desert occupies 80-85% of the country and is the home of the San, or Bushmen. Even though it never experienced the conflict and upheaval that some other African nations did, it was the poorest country in the world between 1964 and 1967. The two largest deposits of diamonds in the world were discovered in 1967, and revenue from those mines were shared with the people. Consequently, Botswana had the highest per capita income in the world in 2006 (it is sparsely populated, with a little over 2 million).



Even though a huge percentage of the land is desert, Botswana is incredibly rich in wildlife, owing to the wetlands and delta surrounding the Okavango river and the efforts to create national parks and to ban big game hunting. National parks, wildlife preserves, and concessionsaires (government land grants for safari tour companies) comprise one-fourth of the country.

During its wet and dry seasons, the Okavango has created an environment of plains, marshes, and tree-covered islands that provide ideal wildlife habitats. Poaching is infrequent, resulting in a population of 300,000-400,000 wild elephants, or 40-45% of the African elephants in the world.

Rick and his wife stayed in sumptuous safari camps, driving through the delta and experiencing breathtaking close encounters with much wild fauna. Their photos rival National Geographic spreads, especially the leopard and elephant shots. Many varieties of gazelles and antelope were seen, which Rick shared with us, as well as hippos, giraffes, lions, cheetahs, wild painted dogs, warthogs, and hyenas.

Because he had an Audubon-devoted audience, Rick included photos of spectacularly beautiful birds, including hornbills, bustards, secretary birds, storks, bee-eaters, fish eagles, marsh owls, kingfishers, hammerheads, Egyptian geese, and guinea fowl. A most-popular vote would probably have been won by the lilac-breasted roller, whose many colors out-glammed even our painted bunting. Even the starlings were gorgeous—why weren't those gifted to America?



Our thanks to Rick for letting us see and understand a little-known part of natural Africa.

Barb Robins

SPERRY-GALLIGAR Audubon Happenings

THEODORE M. SPERRY AWARD FOR
ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

In the March 2016 SGAS Newsletter, Cindy Ford wrote a nice article on our organization's namesake(s), i.e., Theodore Sperry & Gladys Galligar. So I thought I'd add more to the story with information gleaned from the Society for Ecological Restoration's (SER) web site: <http://www.ser.org/home>.

Have you heard of the Theodore M. Sperry Award that is given every two years by SER? Named for Theodore M. Sperry, the American botanist and ecologist that pioneered early efforts to restore tallgrass prairie in the Midwestern U.S., this award honors individuals that have

made a significant contribution to the science and/or practice of ecological restoration."

"SER is an international not-for-profit organization based in Washington, DC. SER's mission is to promote ecological restoration as a means of sustaining the diversity of life on Earth and re-establishing an ecologically healthy relationship between nature and culture. With members in more than 70 countries and 14 regional chapters worldwide, SER's global network represents the world's foremost source of scientific and practical expertise on the repair of degraded ecosystems."

In 1994 the first SER Theodore Sperry Award was presented by Dr. Sperry himself! "When Dr. Sperry was introduced, after a brief bio, he received a long, standing ovation. While he was presenting the award to Marc [Matsil], he "stole the show" with his charm and wit. This was the only time that Dr. Sperry presented this award because he passed away the next spring." Bob Mangie

Wildlife Watching On the Run...

For the past several weeks I have been training for the Joplin Half Marathon on May 21st. As a nature enthusiast, it would be impossible not to pay attention to the coming and going of neighborhood wildlife while hitting the pavement. Just this last week I observed two bluebirds fighting over an insect of some sort as well as a pair of pileated woodpeckers setting up shop. I can always count on irritating a mockingbird or two as I run through their territories. Opossums nev-

er seem to mind my presence on the road, but a young skunk didn't feel the same way last fall--once he started stomping

his feet I decided it would be better to skip getting a personal record and just wait until the

Highlights from Sperry-
Galligar Audubon Chapter
Meeting

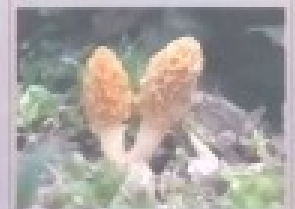
Birds spotted include purple martins, red-headed woodpecker, northern flicker, cedar waxwings, barred owl, bluebird eggs. Diane McCallum received her 200-bird pin.

President Wayne Bockelman reminded us of the first state Audubon of Kansas conference in Lawrence on April 9.

Delta Lister would like to schedule Dr. Larry Quinalty to present a workshop on gourmet Dutch oven cooking if there is enough interest. It would be held at a one-day summer camp on July 29. Please contact her if you'd like to attend. Cost would be around \$15.

Next month we will elect officers for next year. Please consider people you'd like to nominate to serve. Also next month, the Kling's will talk about their orchards. Would we be interested in taking a field trip to their grounds? If so, Wayne will schedule one. Barb Robins

Sightings.....

Woodland
Mushrooms

Morel



Earth Scar



"Turkey Tail" Shelf

Send your newsletter articles, bird sightings, and nature notes to C. Ford by May 10.

**Application for Membership
Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society**

For first-time National Audubon membership, send \$20.00 and become a member of both organizations, receive 6 copies of Audubon Magazine annually and 8 copies of Sperry-Galligar Newsletter. Please make your check to: Sperry-Galligar Audubon.

YES / I wish to become a FIRST-TIME member of National Audubon and Sperry-Galligar Audubon. (\$20.00).

For only local or renewal membership, send \$15.00 for membership of Sperry-Galligar Audubon and receive the 8 newsletters per year informing you of all our local activities. Please make your check to: Sperry-Galligar Audubon

YES / I wish to become a RENEWING member of the local chapter (\$15.00).

Future National Audubon renewals: Send Audubon mailer forms directly to National.

Mail to:
Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
816 E. Atkinson Ave
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762



Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____

**Events &
Miscellany**



Annual May Chapter Picnic

Mark your calendars for the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Indoor Picnic and Program on May 26.

Chicken will be provided by the club. Bring a covered dish, plates, cup, and silverware.

Beware of Neonictenoids

If you are shopping for landscape plants this spring, watch carefully for a tag that says the plant is treated with neonictenoids. This is a powerful systemic pesticide which has been shown to kill bees and other pollinators. The pesticide can stay in the plant for nearly five years.

Some plant nurseries have vowed to sell plants WITHOUT the neonictenoids. Be sure to ask whether the plants are treated with this pesticide. I, personally, have found several plants, including blueberries, with neonictenoid tags at Home Depot. Last year I returned the plants for money back. I do not want them in my yard.

With declining populations of pollinators, I cannot understand why companies are treating plants that may harm pollinators. And, I sure do not want to be eating the pesticide in my blueberries!

**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
Newsletter**
816 Atkinson Ave.
Pittsburg, KS 66762
Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month. No meetings in June July, or August. (Nov/Dec meeting date to be announced.) 7:00 pm to 9 pm, in Room 102, Yates Hall, PSU Campus, Pittsburg, KS.
Refreshments served. Guests welcome.



Visit our website:

<http://sperry-galligar.com/>



**Attention All
Members**

Pay membership dues in September. Please consider paying local membership dues. Our chapter receives 100% of the local dues only. **HOWEVER**, you can subscribe to both. Either way you get the newsletter.