

KVAS Winter 2010



Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society, a chapter of Illinois Audubon Society

Volume 15, issue 1

The Next Generation

If you attended the January meeting you may remember Tim mentioned the need for volunteer speakers to present conservation and nature-related topics to grade-school classes in the Monroe-Randolph-St. Clair Co. area. The KVAS board has discussed the concept of offering or marketing the presentation of well-organized topics to a few local schools on a trial basis. We'd like to determine if the presentations could help children (A) gain a better appreciation for the area's native plants and animals and the ecosystems to which they belong, (B) understand how they can positively impact these ecosystems, and (C) learn how to better protect the area's natural resources (i.e. soil, water, native plant and animal life). Hopefully some of you have given this some thought. With a target of offering several different topics to two or three schools in Red Bud, Waterloo, New Athens, and/or Sparta for the Fall of 2010, please contact Tim Dever (475-2366, coltond98@sbcglobal.net) if you would consider helping. It does not appear that TIME is on the side of concerned citizens in the struggle to salvage a better future world for our children and grandchildren. This may be one way we can attempt to make a difference where it counts the most: young minds.

New Officers

This year our group has the pleasure to welcome some new faces into the officers group as long some experienced members. At the last meeting of 2009 elections took place with the following results: President—Tim Dever, Vice president — Deb Newman, Secretary—Open, Treasurer—Ken Young, IAS Liaison— Tom May, and our Past President—Susan Harbaugh. All of the board members from last year have agreed to stay on

and they include Krista Olson, Ralph Buettner, and Carol Daugherty. Our committee chairs remain the same except for Susan Harbaugh now heading membership.

Here's to a wonderful 2010!!



Inside this issue:

<i>Fundraising</i>	2
<i>Book nook</i>	2
<i>Going Green</i>	3
<i>Conservation web page</i>	3
<i>2009 schedule</i>	4-5
<i>Xmas bird count</i>	6
<i>Lead birds?</i>	7

Officers:

- *President: Tim Dever 475-2366*
- *Vice-president: Debbie Neumann*
- *Treasurer: Ken Young*
- *Secretary: OPEN*
- *IAS Liaison: Tom May*
- *Board Members at Large: Carol Dougherty, Ralph Buettner, Krista Olson*
- *Past President: Susan Harbaugh*

Committee Chairs:

- *Programs: Debbie Neumann 684-4799*
- *Field Trips: Marty Kemper 345-4444*
- *Newsletter & website: Krista Olson 473-3229 kmo6978@yahoo.com*
- *Membership: Susan Harbaugh*

We Nurture Nature

HELP KVAS RAISE FUNDS



ONLINE:

Help KVAS raise funds. Please use www.goodsearch.com

SHOPPING: Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society (KVAS) continues to reap the benefits of the eScrip program. The Schnucks eScrip Community Card Program simply requires a shopper to register a card and then to present it to the cashier each time when checking out at the store. Schnucks in turn makes a donation to KVAS. For 2009, our group received

\$353.82 in dona-

tions based on over 30 card holders. By comparison, in 2008, we received \$388.42. Quite impressive, wouldn't you agree? If you would like to participate in this program or know of a relative or friend you could pass a card to, contact Tim Dever. Or simply pick up some cards at the service counter next time you are at Schnucks. Card activation is as easy as calling 1-800-931-6258 or by visiting www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp. Our group ID is 500006097.



Please remember that the Nature Festival has been moved up to Saturday, July 24. The location will remain at Hanft Park in New Athens. We are still looking for volunteers to help pull off this well received

event. A lot of work and effort goes into putting on the event that is enjoyed by people from all over the area. We are adding new displays and talks this year to keep people coming back every year. If you have any ideas or can volunteer on this day or help with the work leading up to this date then please contact Tim Dever.

Book Nook by Priscilla Bollinger

I recently read Bringing Nature Home by Doug Tallamy and became so excited that I had to share my thoughts with you.

For any gardener/homeowner, Tallamy's book is a MUST read. I suggest that it will change the way you view gardening forever. He challenges long-held, entrenched gardening habits which foster the use of European and Asian ornamental exotics. Professor and Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, Tallamy has been focusing his research on the relationship between our native plant, insect and animal communities and how exotic ornamentals threaten the very existence of our American wildlife, from birds to butterflies. He presents, in an articulate easy to understand manner, how American wildlife has evolved with American plant species. Yet, since this country continues to build massive housing developments with mostly nonnative

plants, native wildlife cannot be sustained by these nonnative plants. Many of the ideas and facts presented are not new; however, the new idea he presents is simple: replace exotics with natives. I had many "aha" or "Eureka" moments. Tallamy's clear and succinct writing style crystallized these thoughts in a cohesive manner, revealing the impacts that each of us as gardeners/landowners have in relation to the "big picture". Bringing Nature Home is an easy read and the *many* color photographs is an added bonus. It is because of this book that I have taken it upon myself to purchase 20 books and send them to influential people I know across the country. Possibly you will also feel the call, after reading Bringing Nature Home.

Happy reading



Your Greener Life...Our Greener Planet!

Practical Ideas for Eco-Living By: Debbie Newman



For those of you who read this column in the last newsletter, information is now available on the new Illinois incentive program for replacing old power-guzzling appliances. This is being funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the stimulus package) and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

This is quite a deal!! First, there are rebates on ENERGY STAR qualified appliances (clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, room air conditioners) available for purchases occurring **April 16 through April 25, 2010, only**. The website below lists participating retailers. Most chains like Sears, Home Depot, and Lowes are listed, as are hundreds of local retailers. Rebates are for 15% off the cost of the appliance. **In addition**, a mail-in rebate will be available upon pick-up and recycling of your old unit. Refrigerators & freezers will receive \$100 rebate for recycling, clothes washers & dishwashers will receive \$50. One rebate per product category, per household is allowable, so for example you can get a rebate on both a freezer and a dishwasher. For more info, check out: http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/dceo/Bureaus/Energy_Recycling/Appliances2.htm

Rebates on highly efficient heating and cooling equipment (gas and propane furnaces, central AC, air-source heat pumps, gas boilers) will be available starting Jan 31, 2010, and go until funds are de-

pleted. Rebates range from \$350 to \$1200. In addition, rebates on ENERGY STAR qualified electric heat pump, gas storage, and gas tankless water heaters begin Jan 31, 2010, and continue until funds are depleted, with rebates of 25% off the price of the unit. Here's the link for this info: http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/dceo/Bureaus/Energy_Recycling/Energy+Star+Rebates/

Appliances are major contributors to our individual carbon footprint. But the small stuff also adds up. In the next issue, I'll tackle some of these small things we can do to cut our energy usage and save money. In the meantime, don't forget **Earth Hour, March 27, 2010 at 8:30pm**. This global event urges businesses and individuals to turn off the lights for one hour on this date, as part of a campaign to raise awareness about the tie between energy usage, carbon emissions, and climate change. Many of the large cities around the world participate, and there are some fascinating photos of partly darkened skylines of Chicago and other places from years past. Now is the time to get our towns right here in Southwest Illinois to participate! Or even just darken your own house. For more information or to formally sign up go to <https://www.myearthhour.org/home>. (Or you can also just participate without signing up!)

Website Request Working for a Better Future

Our group should lead by example and show others how to live "green". We have added a page on the website to give suggestions to conserve natural resources and reducing one's carbon footprint. Tim has agreed to field all suggestions to be posted on the website. If you have any suggestions such as: using public transportation, buy local food and produce when possible, use a bicycle for close errands, adjust your thermostat for maximum effi-

ciency, and consider how far food travels to get to your table.

Please submit your suggestions to Tim Dever at coltond98@sbcglobal.net so that he can compile a list to be posted on the website. Check the website for more details. [Www.e-kvas.org](http://www.e-kvas.org)



KVAS

KVAS 2010 Program Calendar

All meetings will be held at 7pm at Southwestern Illinois College, Redbud Campus in the auditorium, **except the May 20 & June 19 (see below)**. For More Information contact Program Chairman, Debbie Newman at 618-684-4799 or skink@globaleyes.net.

the "greeter (G) and treater (T)" schedule for 2010 meetings. Mark your calendars ahead of time so you will remember to fulfill your "duty" and thank you to everybody who so graciously volunteered!

March – No Program

April 16 – Dr. Corinne Carey, biology teacher at Southwest Illinois College will provide a program on **Shorebird Migration Patterns**. April 16 – Corinne Carey, Associate Professor of Biology at Southwestern Illinois College will provide a program on **Migratory Patterns of Shorebirds**. Corinne will talk about migratory patterns of shorebirds with special attention to species migrating through central US and Illinois. She will also discuss timing of migration especially in response to seasonal blooms of invertebrates, and will give us some tips on identification. Dr. Carey received her B.S. and M.S. in Biology from Northern Michigan University in Marquette Michigan, and Ph.D. in Biology from University of North Dakota. Her research interests include preservation and conservation of neotropical migrants with emphasis on migratory shorebirds; evolution of migration in response to seasonal blooms of invertebrates. G-Youngs, T-Feldkers and Carolyn W.

May 20 – Program will be held at Randolph County Conservation Area at 6:30 pm. Mark Brown, Illinois Department of Natural Resources District Forester in Sparta will give a short talk and lead us on a walk to learn tree identification. Mark has been with IDNR Forestry for 22 years and has worked in 22 counties. This should be a good opportunity to hone our tree ID skills. **For those interested in coming early (6pm) bring a sack supper and visit fellow KVASers.** Wear appropriate footwear for the hike. And bring your digital camera if you want to review your new tree ID skills later! Program rain or shine...unless we're having lightning storms.

June 19 -- 2011 Planning Meeting. Bring a sack lunch, your binoculars, and ideas! KVAS members Ralph and Karen Buettner are inviting us to their farm near Fults for this year's planning meeting. We'll start the day at 9:30 with a field trip for those who want to participate. The Buettner farm has some high quality glades and lots of shrubland and woodland breeding birds. At noon we'll have lunch and start our planning for 2011 activities. Follow Route 3, South of Waterloo, going past the John Deere dealership. Turn West (right) on to KASKASKIA ROAD follow approximately 8.5 miles, passing through the small towns of Burksville and St. Joe. Turn right onto FULTS ROAD, follow for 9/10ths mile, turn slight left on to GRANT ROAD, follow 4/10ths mile, then turn right on to HELLER DRIVE (this is a rock road) and follow until the road ends at our farm (4309 HELLER DRIVE), always staying to the right as you follow HELLER DRIVE.

September 16 – KVAS member, Hugh Gilbert **Snakes: Facts and Myths**, including live specimens! Be sure to bring/invite children G-Judy M, T-Newmans and Susan H

October 21 – Dr. Walter Sundberg, **Mushrooms are More Than What Comes in a Can.** G-Roger W, T-Jack N and Tim D

November 18 – Merle Schmierbach **Conservation and Natural History of the Barn Owl.** G-Tim D; T-Annika O and Tom M

December – Christmas Party

Thank you all for your generosity. We will try to have the SWIC staff get the coffee maker and hot water going (BYOTB--bring your own tea bags).

2010 Field Trips

April 10 – 9am. Don't miss this joint KVAS, Salt Lick Point Reserve Committee, Clifftop, and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission hike to the Salt Lick Point Land and Water Reserve near Valmeyer. We will start our walk on the new Johnson Trail, which traverses along the base of the bluffs. On one side are woods with many vernal amphibian pools; on the other side wooded talus slope rising up to the scenic limestone cliffs. In the spring, parts of the trail sport a gorgeous wildflower display. And of course some migrant birds will be about in the woods. Easy walking for much of the hike; for those wanting a longer hike we can wind our way up to the top of the bluff and view some hill prairies and the St. Louis Arch! For those who wish, we can go have lunch at the Corner Pub in Valmeyer afterwards. Directions: Travel State Route 156 down to old Valmeyer. In town, turn right onto Bluff Rd, go to the Rock City sign and turn right and immediate left at kiosk/parking area.

April 24— The Southern Illinois Audubon Society is sponsoring the birding blitz of southernmost Illinois. We are interested in building the participation in this event. The blitz is modeled on the famous Cape May, New Jersey and south Texas events. We are seeking participation of birding groups in an event that will award a cup / plaque to the winning team each year as well as attendant publicity etc. Information on the past events is at www.birdingblitz.org. Please contact us if your group has an interest in participating in the event. Joe Merkelbach President SIAS

May 8 — Spring Bird Count. Contact your county organizer for more information. Monroe: Mary Regan (618) 234-1609 mary.glfnbrder@gmail.com; St. Clair: Richard Call, (618) 233-1143; Randolph: Tim Dever (is contact, but not compiler) (618) 475-2366 coltond98@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, July 24, 2010: 3rd Annual Nature Fest Hanft Park, New Athens, IL

September 25 – 10am. Learn more about solar power and other energy measures at KVAS members Debbie and Barry Newman's house. In 2009, the Newman's installed a 2 Kilowatt photovoltaic system, reducing their energy consumption by about 40%. Come view the installation and join in the discussion about alternative energy. If you'd like to stay for a hike, bring a sack lunch and we'll continue our discussions in the woods afterwards. (Newman's will provide drinks). Directions: come through Ava on State Route 4, towards Oraville. You'll pass Sato Road on the left, you'll go up a hill and see a driveway to your right, go down and back up a second hill and our driveway is the next one (right before the mailboxes, it's the 2nd driveway after Sato Road.) You can't see the house from the road, but you'll know you're at the right place if it says 6420 on the house.

December — Holiday Bash

December 18 — Christmas Bird Count

IBET wire- Cardinal Facts

Cardinals are year-round resident throughout their range. Nearly 90% of banded individuals that were found dead came from same 10-minute block of latitude and longitude where banded, and those found

dead at greater distances show no directional pattern in movements. Reports of possible migration may be accounted for by dispersing juveniles; no known record of a breeding bird recovered at great dis-

tance in the following winter."

So I guess cardinals are homebodies and pretty much stay in the same location year round.

Christmas Bird Count—Tim Dever

Nine field volunteers and two families of feeder watchers contributed to the ongoing Christmas Bird Count conducted in the new Athens area; 2009 was the 14th year for this count. This 177 square mile circle includes about 18 miles of the Kaskaskia River and Baldwin Lake, as well as the towns of Baldwin, Marissa, Fayetteville, and rural Red Bud and Hecker. This year the group worked hard through the slightly snowy weather to locate over 46,000 birds of 100 different species. In accord with National Audubon Society rules, the group located four of these species during the week of the count (but not on Dec 19th--day of the count). The group expended more driving miles and fewer

walking miles than last year, partly due to the poor AM weather. Twenty-two waterfowl species were recorded, including 19,500 snow geese, 12 pied-billed grebes, and 43 horned grebes, and seven diurnal and four nocturnal birds of prey (including two short-eared owls at Peabody River King north) were seen/heard. The woodland birds mostly appeared in higher numbers this year, except brown creeper, Winter wren, Carolina wren, and golden-crowned kinglet. Species that seem to be declining on this count are red-headed woodpecker, American kestrel, Eastern bluebird, loggerhead shrike, Northern harrier and Northern bob-

white. One species "new" to the cumulative list for this count was located--orange-crowned warbler. Unusual or rare species included: Eastern phoebe, Winter wren, Wilson's snipe, red-breasted nuthatch, turkey vulture, least sandpiper, purple finch, brown thrasher, and lapland longspur. A big thank you to all you dedicated counters: Marty and Bob, Marvin, Elizabeth and Roy, the Sheibels, the Wrights, Cindy, Krista, Trish, and last but not least, our newest and youngest counter, Anika, who got one of our red-tailed hawks this year and birded for four hours! We need more help next year; I bet you'll have fun if you join us! See you on December 18th, 2010. Tim

Frank & Ernest



KVAS

www.e-kvas.org We Nurture Nature

Avoid Biting the Bullet—Submitted by Carolyn Wright

In a recent article in “Living Bird” published by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology evidence is presented regarding the hazards of using lead bullets in big game hunting. Throughout the United States, birds such as eagles, ravens, vultures, and in the west condors are showing evidence of severe lead toxicity. Hunters usually butcher deer and other large game animals in the field and leave their gut piles for wildlife. Lead, being a very soft material, fragments upon impact, leaving small lead flakes throughout the animal’s body. These fragments are ingested by birds, animals, and humans who eat the venison or elk meat. In Iowa 115 Bald Eagles brought to Iowa wildlife rehabilitators have been tested for the presence of lead. Of those 62 contained abnormally high lead levels in their blood, liver, or bone.

In California, lead ammunition has been banned in Condor country, but in Arizona there is no such ban. As you know many Condors live in the area of the Grand Canyon. Recently Condors have started dying. Blood tests revealed that most of these birds had died of lead poisoning. Upon studying the problem, it turned out that there were lots of gut piles and rifle-killed deer remains that hunters had not found. This is what Condors had been feeding on. It has been necessary to capture Condors and do intensive intervention including chelation therapy for the acute birds. This is an expensive and difficult procedure, but without this effort the wild Condor population would not survive. Of Bald and Golden eagles tested for lead poisoning by researchers, 60% to 75% were found to have elevated lead levels, and 14% indicated clinical poisoning. Lead stays in the blood for two weeks, then moves into soft tissue and from there into bone, marrow, and brain where it remains.

In North Dakota, a physician in Bismark was shocked upon watching a presentation on the lead problem in California Condors. The x-ray of a deer carcass showed hundreds of pieces of lead shrapnel. He decided to test random samples of rifle-killed venison to determine if any lead was present. They chose to test the “Hunters for the Hungry” food bank. They randomly selected ground venison packets from different butchers. Of the 100 packets tested, 59 contained lead fragments in the meat. These fragments are so soft and powder like that they would not be felt when biting down on them. North Dakota recalled all of the meat as did neighboring Minnesota. The physician noted that ANY lead exposure in children is too much. He recommended that all hunters change immediately to copper or steel bullets.

That is the simple solution. Stop selling lead bullets, and switch to copper and steel ammunition. That is all that it would take to solve the problem. No one is suggesting that hunting be banned. Only that lead bullets be banned. Few of our environmental problems have such a simple solution. The NRA is opposing this simple fix for reasons which no one can understand.

Bottom line: If you are eating venison shot with lead shot, you are probably eating lead, and feeding it to your family. SERIOUS food for thought!



Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society

611 S. East ST.

New Athens, IL 62264.

Phone: 745-2366

E-mail: coltond98@sbcglobal.net

Please take a look at your address label.

It will read "Individual dues paid thru xxxx" or "Family dues paid thru xxxx"

If your dues are not paid for 2010, please submit them to the KVAS Treasurer by March 31, 2010.

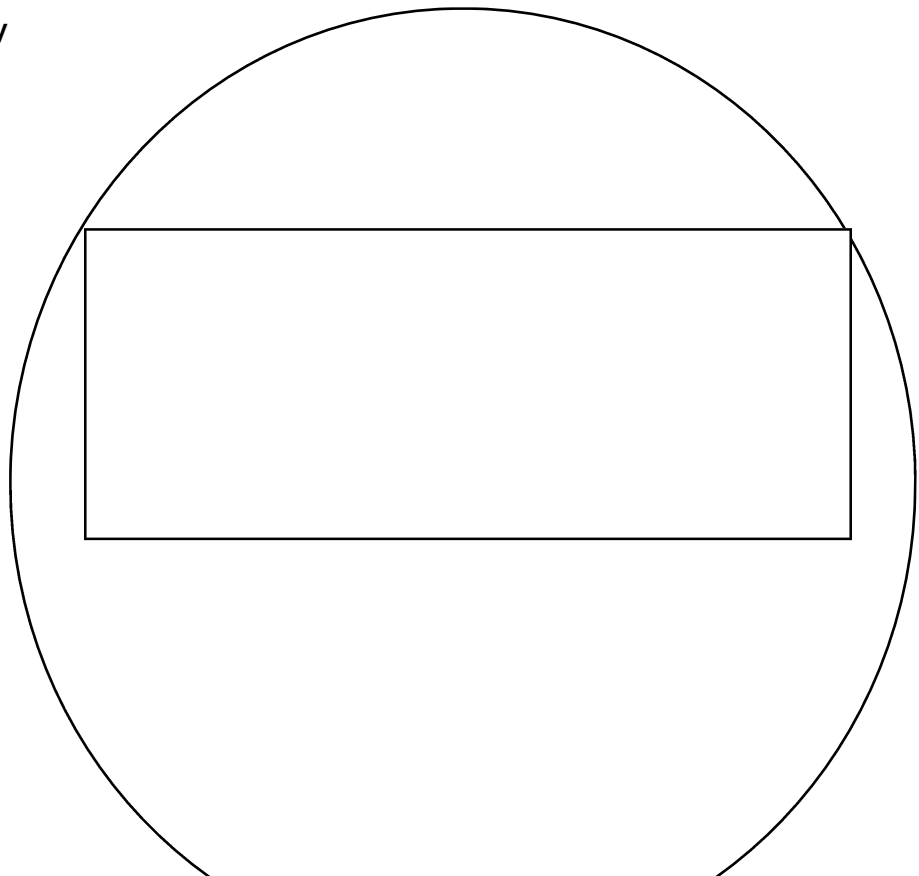
Send to: Ken Young, 637 White Oak, Chester, IL 62233

As of April 1, 2010, anyone in arrears for two years, will be dropped from our membership roster.

It is not the intention of KVAS to remove anyone from the membership roll who genuinely wants to be a member. But we must stay in good standing with the Illinois Audubon Society regarding a percentage of members in both our organization and IAS. It is important we remain eligible for IAS insurance coverage for our events and outings.

Susan Harbaugh is the Membership Chair and is maintaining the list, so if you have a discrepancy or change with your label, please report it to her.

You can reach her via e-mail (harbaugh@htc.net) or by phone (282-2914).



Mission: To promote appreciation and increase knowledge of wild bird life, plants, animals and other living organisms, and of the environment that supports them, and to further conservation of natural resources.

Meetings: Held at 7pm, 3rd Thursday of each month, SWIC Campus at Red Bud, 500 W. South 4th St. or as announced.

Membership Application

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

(information is not for publication)

Membership Class

Student: _____ \$6

Individual: _____ \$8

Family: _____ \$10

We are members of IAS at the _____ level.

Maintenance of chapter status within Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) requires that a minimum of 51% of our membership also be IAS members, with a minimum of 25 IAS members in our chapter. We encourage members to join IAS as well as KVAS. Membership in the IAS, at the family or above level, fulfills 2 memberships towards our IAS requirements.

Please fill out the application to the left and send it, with a check made out to:

Ken Young

KVAS Treasurer

637 White Oak

Chester, IL 62233



To become an IAS member check out their website at:

www.illinoisaudubon.org

Or Call:(217)544-BIRD