

KVAS Autumn 2010



Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society, a chapter of Illinois Audubon Society

Volume 15, issue 3

Letter from Our President:

It was a thrill for me to see right at 50 people attend the chapter's September 16th meeting. As with so many of the programs presented by a wide variety of experts during recent years, Hugh Gilbert imparted a cornucopia of information about one of *his* favorite topics: our fascinating, slithering friends, snakes. Thank you again, Hugh. I am quite certain that this meeting resulted in easing some fears and dispelling a few myths about serpents. Ecology emphasizes that we value all members of an ecosystem, and humans would benefit from continuing to increase understanding of and appreciation for these creatures as playing an equally important role as any other member. A single adult snake will eliminate hundreds of mice (and other rodents) from its locale.

During the last year the chapter has hosted programs on woodpeckers, the flat woods ecosystem, tree identification, shorebirds, snakes, and polar bears; soon we will learn more about fungi and barn owls (one of Illinois endangered). This is a wonderful variety and shows that KVAS is committed to providing the community with a diversity of opportunities to learn about the magnificence of the natural world. Debbie Newman--and Barry with his additional support--deserves a huge "Thank You!" for your great work lining up our speakers and making sure they have quality programs to share. This is a vital contribution to KVAS' service to the community.

The Fall season gives us all yet another opportunity to sharpen our skills in natural resource conservation. So, you may ask: what are the most important ways we can help improve our fragile world, when it seems so many things are going wrong (the BP oil spill, international conflicts over resources, the massive flood in Pakistan, to name a few)? There are thousands of individual actions each of us can take every day that, added together, with millions of others who want this improvement, really brings a positive result. It is clear to me that neither our nation's government nor those in other developed countries are yet leading the rest of the world to push industries and citizens to change lifestyles to the extent truly needed.

So, as with many solutions to world-wide problems, individual actions must make up the difference. Now we each have to muster the will power, and encourage others to do so, to take those "individual actions". Think of the big picture. Ethical population control is obviously the most important. After that, how can I save energy resources throughout my day--petroleum and electricity? How can I use less electricity? Which individual actions can I take to reduce air pollution (i.e. choose to compost rather than burn), water pollution (i.e. prevent soil erosion), and reduce my demand for products made thousands of miles away. The most difficult obstacle to overcome, however, is committing the time and physical work needed to take these actions; fully realize that conservation is almost always hard work, requires sacrifice! Make a little time to get out and enjoy the beautiful season we have here in Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,
Tim

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Officers:

- *President: Tim Dever 475-2366*
- *Vice-president: Debbie Newman*
- *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 Newman 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 donations 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.

Christmas Party

- The annual KVAS Christmas party will be held **Thursday, December 9, 2010** at Will and Susan Harbaugh's home - 1204 Raymond Drive, Red Bud, IL. Social hour begins at 5:30 pm with **dinner served at 6:30 pm**. A very short business meeting will follow that will include election of officers for 2011. Buffet dinner will be provided by Gourmet Catering from Steeleville, IL. The menu includes parmesan chicken breast, stuffed tenderloin, au gratin potatoes, green beans, glazed carrots, garden salad, rolls, tea and coffee all for the economical price of only \$10.00 per plate! And we will be looking for a couple of those great homemade desserts to finish off the meal. So mark your calendars now and **please RSVP by November 30** to let Susan know you will be attending and if you can bring a dessert to share - phone (618) 282-2914 or e-mail at harbaugh@htc.net. Payment can be made in advance or the evening of the party. Also, feel free to bring your own adult beverages.

- Directions to 1204 Raymond Drive, Red Bud -
1) from Waterloo and points beyond: as you

You may love to dine

out. So why not satisfy your stomach and fulfill your need to give something back to the community? **Earn up to 5% for your group** when you dine at any of the thousands of restaurants in the eScrip Dining by Rewards Network program!

Here's how it works:

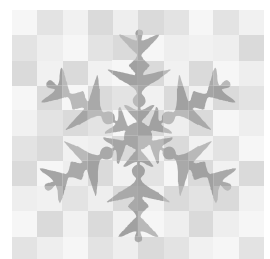
- 1) [Register your Debit and Credit Cards](#)
- 2) Search for a participating dining spot nearby or add eScrip Dining to your [Smart phone here](#)
- 3) **Use** your registered card to pay your bill on a day when contributions are available
- 4) **Earn 2.5%** on your entire bill (including food, drinks, tax and tip!) and **earn another 2.5%** if you fill out a post dine survey sent via email a few days after your dine.

That's it - piece of cake (you'll earn on the cake too!). [Please take a moment to update your cards](#) for hassle free contributions from eScrip Dining and enjoy your night out!

enter Red Bud, watch for Construction Supply (lumber yard) and just past that, make a right on Country Club, then just inside the subdivision, make a right on Raymond. The house is at the corner of Raymond and Clarence. Please enter via the front door as we will leave the garage access for the caterer.

2) from Hecker, Baldwin, Ruma and points beyond - at the four way stop in downtown Red Bud, choose Route 3 west (heading toward Waterloo) and proceed 0.9 of a mile. Watch for Clarence, then after that will be Country Club. Make a left onto Country Club, then just inside the subdivision, make a right on Raymond. The house is at the corner of Raymond and Clarence. Please enter via the front door as we will leave the garage access for the caterer.

Will & Susan Harbaugh
1204 Raymond Drive
Red Bud IL 62278
home (618) 282-2914



Your Greener Life...Our Greener Planet!

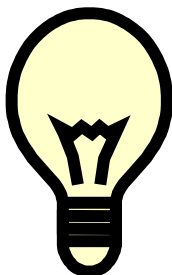
Tina McElhattan loves.nature@gmail.com 618-210-4560



I wanted to mention about the Holiday Light Recycling Drive, but they haven't really given out the locations yet. I am willing to collect lights at the next two meetings since this is going on until January 31st, but I really don't have much info to share on this yet.

<http://www.stlouisgreen.com/lightrecyclingdrive.php>

Prescription Pill and Drug Program Disposal http://p2d2program.org/index_return.html



I'm huge on recycling and keeping items out of our landfills, so I'd enjoy doing this. I'll collect items at our meetings, and then deliver them to the drop off box so that they can be properly incinerated and not end up in our water.

They take just about anything: What do you accept?

--All non controlled, non hazardous medications, this includes vitamins/supplements and homeopathic remedies, creams, oils, ointments, suppositories, etc., for information, consult lists or pharmacists. All controlled substances can be returned to the police department.

If it's a prescription, they black out their name and address info. I can leave the box on the table as members enter the auditorium and then pick it up as I leave the meeting.

If members want to drop off their items themselves, here is the correct address for the Waterloo Police Dept - 301 South Main St, Waterloo, IL 62298 - what is on the P2D2 website is the old address.

Call for Officers: Please contact Carol Neff 539 6113, Tina McElhattan loves.nature@gmail.com , or Joe Schmidt 394-0711 if you are interested in an officer, board or IAS representative position. We are still in need of a secretary.

Summing up our Summer Event— Tim Dever

Nature Festival 2010 was greeted by a very hot, humid day. Nevertheless, at least 350 people attended and many seemed to enjoy a variety of activities. The highlights this year were that over 50 children were able to assemble and take home a bluebird house, and new presentations were offered by a panel of local experts on the Kaskaskia River navigation and channelization projects, Nature Photography techniques, and on Invasive Plants. The biggest reason for the continued success of the



event in providing educational opportunities for the public is the team work and faith labor provided by the 30 volunteers (most chapter members) who "did their part". The only disappointments were that only a few (16) hummingbirds were banded--though many attendees paid for adoptions--and some of the speaking presentations were sparsely attended. The board has agreed to pursue holding the 4th Nature Festival or KAVANA Fest in 2011.



KVAS 2010 Program Calendar

All meetings will be held at 7pm at Southwestern Illinois College, Redbud Campus in the auditorium. For More Information contact Program Chairman, Debbie Newman at 618-684-4799 or skink@globaleyes.net.

November 18 – Merle Schmierbach will present a program on **Conservation and Natural History of the Barn Owl**. Trained as a field biologist with a MS from the University of Illinois, Merle also worked as the University's naturalist managing all of their natural areas in Central Illinois. Since that time he has worked primarily in the educational field. In 2008, Merle and his wife had a pair of barn owls nest in the old oak tree in their front yard in St. Clair County. Merle is on a mission to help this state-endangered bird, doing programs and projects such as building and installing nest boxes for the owls. Join the speaker for pizza/pasta at DiCarlos at 5:30. G-Tim D; T-Annika O and Tom M

December 9 – Christmas Party, Harbaugh Residence, Red Bud, IL

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

December 18 — Christmas Bird Count

FRIENDS OF KVAS:

2nd Annual
Silent Auction Fundraiser
to benefit

Open Space Conservation

hosted by the

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development
with special guest

Dr. Peter RAVEN

President Emeritus, Missouri Botanical Garden
“A Conservation Vision for Southwestern Illinois”

Saturday, November 13th, 2010

5 o'clock in the evening

The Falls 300 Admiral Weinel Boulevard Columbia, Illinois
www.seethefalls.com

A Ticket to this event includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and an open bar (dress: *cocktail attire*)

For Tickets Contact:

Megan Riechmann (618) 566-4451 x25 or megan.riechmann@swircd.org

In Advance: \$60/person or \$100/couple At The Door: \$70/person or \$115/couple

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development
406 East Main Mascoutah, Illinois 62258 www.swircd.org

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Hummingbird Stats 2010

- Number of **official** festivals: 15
- Number of unscheduled (mini)festivals: several
- Number of visitors at **official** festivals: 50 to 1000+
- Number of birds banded at **official** festivals: 487
- Number of birds adopted: 1225 (includes birds at unscheduled festivals)
- Adopt-A-Bird Income (for the IAS Land Acquisition Fund): \$6635
- Acknowledgment letters sent to persons whose adopted birds from previous festivals were recaptured in 2010: 181
- Number of pounds of sugar used to attract the hummingbirds: 1000s
- Number of hours donated and miles driven by festival volunteers: countless
- Number of new Audubon members: several

A compilation of accumulative results since the Adopt-A-Bird project first began in 2003.

Hummingbird Adoptions: Accumulative Results

Year	Hummingbirds Adopted	Dollars
2003	131	\$ 651
2004	343	\$ 2000
2005	574	\$ 3002
2006	598	\$ 3235
2007	772	\$ 4035
2008	1391	\$ 7130
2009	1231	\$ 6290
2010	1225	\$ 6520
Total	5034	\$32863



Red Tailed Tagged

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) has started a mark re-sighting and satellite telemetry study on red-tailed hawks in Illinois as part of our ongoing efforts to evaluate non-lethal solutions to wildlife conflicts at airports. For the mark/re-sighting study, we are marking and relocating roughly 200 red-tailed hawks/year from a major airport in the Chicago region. This year the tags are green with white numbers ranging from 000 to 200. Next year (2011) the tags will be white with black numbers ranging from 000 to 200, and the following year (2012) tags will be orange with black numbers ranging from 000 to 200. We want to determine if there is a difference in the return rates of the birds back to the airport, depending on how far away from the airport we move them. If anyone observes a marked hawk, please feel free to contact Craig Pullins (craig.k.pullins@aphis.usda.gov) at (773) 686-6742 or Travis Guerrant (travis.guerrant@aphis.usda.gov) at (773) 686-6955. It would be helpful if you could provide the date, time, and GPS location of where the bird was observed, but any information you can provide would be helpful. Thanks for your assistance.

Saw Whet owl Trip - Carolynn Benninghoff

There were twenty-one of us clearly intent on having a great time while questing for birds being banded, extraordinary works of art, whooping cranes flying with ultra-lights and a "six-pack of owls." Our first stop was the Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, where we observed banding of songbirds and a red-tailed hawk. Here, Mary Glenn Kirkland was treated to an early 90th birthday present (See photo).

Next was the International Crane Foundation where we enjoyed cranes from all over the world. Cranes are some of nature's most elegant works of art, and our visit to the ICF set the stage for our next stop, the Leigh-Yawkey Woodson Art Museum. What a thrill it was to take in the diverse artistic forms in which birds can be represented.

Finally, it was time for saw-whet owls at the Linwood Springs

Research Station, actually the home of Gene and Lorraine Jacobs. Gene shared information about the research being conducted there on saw-whet owls. The station has banded over 11,000 owls. When the owls are caught they are put head-first into orange juice containers, which are taped together, like a "six pack." (Thanks to Mary for the metaphor.) While there, 10 owls were caught and banded, with many in our group adopting and releasing the owls.

We rose early to get to Necedah Wildlife Refuge, where unfortunately the cranes and ultra-lights had already departed. We

Back row: Mary McMahon, Don Kaiser, Shirley Combs, Barbara Brown, Edith Tibble Front row: Carolynn Benninghoff, Tom May, David Hultgren, Christy Schisler, Judy Burks, Kathy Stokes, Mary Glenn Kirkland, Joyce Ellis, Ed Zielezinski, Marianne Zielezinski, Kay Mathon Not shown: Mary Oglesby, Lucy Oglesby, Kylie Knippenberg, Bonnie Duman, Greg Schechter



did see a couple whoopers and some eagles.

Our group proved that you can "hoot with the owls *and* soar with the eagles," but you might have to first indulge in a six pack.

Duck Stamps are Not just for the Duck Hunters

Officially known as the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, this year's stamp went on sale June 25 for the 2010-2011 season. Featured is the American widgeon by Robert Bealle of Waldorf, Maryland. The stamp was chosen from 224 entries by a five judge panel.

Originally created in 1934, the stamp was the federal license required for hunting migratory waterfowl. With indiscriminate killing of birds in the early 20th century and then the draining of wetlands for agricultural purposes, funding was needed to buy wetlands to reverse the population decline.

Since then the stamps have raised \$750 million dollars to purchase or lease nearly six million acres of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Produced by the Fish & Wildlife Service, the fifteen-dollar fee for the stamp goes into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund raising \$25million a year.

Hunters have to purchase the duck stamp. Imagine if all the bird watchers and nature lovers in the United States purchased one too. That would add a lot of bucks to the purchase of habitat. It not only helps the waterfowl we love to watch, but also any other wet-

land species including frogs, plants, insects and reptiles.

A fifteen-dollar bargain, 98% is used to buy habitat. The stamp can also be used as admission to any of the 550 national wildlife refuges in the United States such as Crab Orchard. The stamps can be purchased at some post offices and usually any sporting goods store that sells hunting licenses..

Once the season is over, donate the stamp to Illinois Audubon's Stamp program. For the price of a tee shirt, the Duck Stamp is a good buy and a great cause.

Board Meeting notes from September 16th:

A suggestion was made and agreed upon that the Nature Festival "programs" or "schedules" should probably be distributed at the Information Center, rather than by the parking workers. It was agreed that this will increase activity at that center sufficiently to require up to 4 volunteers to staff it, but may result in persuading attendees to notice and get involved with a greater variety of activities offered (than just the hummer events). The group discussed the need to clarify public relations and advertising to make sure our event is listed as a Nature/ Hummingbird Festival, rather than just a Hummingbird Festival, to continue to keep low the emphasis on hummingbird banding and releases. Tim Dever and Tom May presented a few more suggestions for increasing the number of birds that can be trapped. A feeding station has now been established near the center of the park and it is likely that trapping can take place there next year, in addition to trying to expand trapping to other willing neighbors of the park. Some suggested conducting another "drawing" (raffle) next year on some nice prizes (similar to the hummer feeder station from 2009), to generate additional interest in the Festival. The group, at length, discussed the possibility of scheduling the event in June to, hopefully, avoid the hottest of the hot weather. Tentatively it is slated for June 11, 2011, pending that Vern Kleen is available that date and that other major events are not already scheduled then. Tom recommended a field trip idea of taking a group of members to visit the Stairs residence (in lower Southern Illinois) to view their station that attracts up to 800 hummers at one time, during 2011. Concerning the Christmas, or December, meeting, the group agreed to a date of December 9th and to accept the Harbaugh's gracious offer of hosting the meeting for a second year in a row. The catering will likely be provided by the same group as in 2009, though the idea of a member-provided potluck was discussed. Krista Olson requested that members submit items and articles for the newsletter by about October 15th so she can get the Fall issue out by November 1st. The group discussed the Birding the Bottomlands event that has been proposed for May 21st by the Chester chamber of commerce and the Fish and Wildlife office (Middle Mississippi NWR), among others, agreeing that some volunteers from the chapter will be needed. Dates were presented for the 2011 Cliff Top Festival (May 14th) and the Bioblitz at Salt Lick Point Reserve (same date), as well as for the Spring Bird Count (May 7th).

Tim Dever

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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 2011, please submit them to the KVAS Treasurer by March 31, 2011.

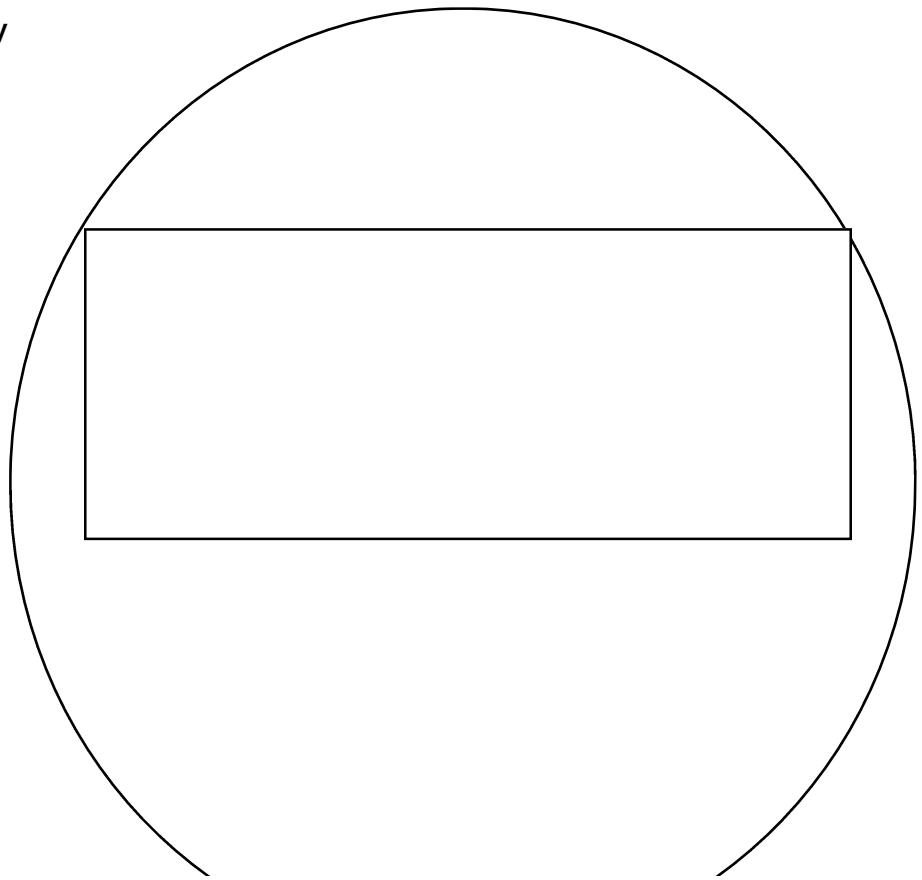
Send to: Ken Young, 637 White Oak, Chester, IL 62233

As of April 1, 2011, 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