

KVAS Summer 2008



Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society, a chapter of Illinois Audubon Society

Volume 13, Issue 3

Nature Festival update

The hard work preparing for the 1st Kaskaskia Valley Nature Festival aside, the event sure seemed like a lot of fun to me. And I have heard positive comments from many different people, only a few complaints. I estimate that about 420 people attended the event; that includes the 35 or so hard-working volunteers who made the event happen. Many children attended, a very welcome sight. It's important to note that several dozen public and private agencies or businesses contributed in important ways. These include New Athens Park Board, I-DNR, Wild Birds Unlimited, Van's Yamaha and Friends of Stemler Cave to name a few. There were committee chairs who worked for over a year to organize their particular aspect: Advertising/P.R., Hummingbird Banding, Parking & Signage, Exhibitors, Education, Guest Assistance & K.V.A.S. Promotional. Vern Kleen made the very important contribution of banding the birds and educating the public about hummingbird ecology. As expected, bird banding/release seemed to be the most popular event.

Ninety-one vehicles paid the \$2 parking donation/fee, garnering a total of \$182; as

many of you know the chapter pledged to gift half of this to the Illinois Audubon Land Acquisition Fund. IAS has received our ear-marked check of \$91. Seven members donated \$225 for festival preparations & costs. Thank you! Also Debbie Newmann, co-author of a book about building natural landscapes into your yard, granted 40% of sales to the chapter, the remainder to an Illinois Conservation group. Unfortunately, total intake did not keep pace with expenses. If we discount the cost of the re-usable shade tent (\$60) and plywood for the "stage" (\$42), the event "lost" only about \$30. Expenses as follows: Hummingbird supplies: \$33.47; Shade tent: 60.00; signage: 169.48; advertising: 64.50; plywood: 41.97; KVAS brochures: 22.92; and misc: 3.30.

Primary exhibits included: Simon Bade — native turtle collection, Hugh Gilbert — pet snakes, Tree House Animal Rescue — live raptors, education pavillion — activities, games, posters, and informational brochures, Myra Middendorf — plants for hummers and butterflies, and the Parents Teachers Friends group from St. Agatha Catholic School selling drinks and food. Speak-

ing presenters gave talks on Threatened and Endangered Species of Southwestern Illinois, as well as Nature Preserves and other protected natural areas in SW Illinois; Cave ecosystems in Southwestern Illinois; Bluebird Conservation; Starting a Native Perennial Garden for Butterflies and Hummers; and Turtles of Southwestern Illinois. All of these speakers were well-attended and received.

The weather was good -- sunny, and 73 to 91 F. The event was held at New Athens Hanft Park, with the space accommodating the event's needs pretty well. Space for 50 to 75 additional vehicles remained. Approximately 45 hummingbirds were banded--all were adopted through Vern Kleen's I.A.S. fund, and about 40 other adoptions were assigned to birds banded on the initial "test" banding on June 14th. A special thank you to the Walkers and the Lawlesses, park neighbors who allowed trapping of hummingbirds on their property during both 2008 banding sessions.

Much help will be needed for the 2009 Nature Festival to be even more successful and well-attended. The event will be held on Saturday, July 25th, 2009 from 8:00 to Noon. Please write this in on those new calendars!

Inside this issue:

<i>Fundraising</i>	2
<i>Volunteers</i>	3
<i>Going Green</i>	3
<i>TO DO list</i>	2
<i>Holiday party</i>	4
<i>Bird count</i>	4
<i>2008 schedule</i>	4

Officers:

- *President: Susan Harbaugh 618-282-2914*
- *Vice-president: Debbie Neumann*
- *Treasurer: Tim Dever*
- *Secretary: OPEN*
- *IAS Liaison: Tom May*
- *Board Members at Large: Carol Dougherty, Ralph Buettner, Krista Olson*
- *Past President: Carolyn Wright*

Committee Chairs:

- *Programs: Debbie Neumann 684-4799*
- *Field Trips: Marty Kemper 345-4444*
- *Newsletter & website: Krista Olson 473-3229 kmo6978@yahoo.com*
- *Membership: Tim Dever 475-2366*



HELP KVAS RAISE FUNDS

ONLINE:

Do you, your family, your friends surf the Internet? Do you, your family, your friends use Google or other search engines to find things? If so, change habits a bit, and help

Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society (KVAS) raise funds at the same time. Please use www.goodsearch.com and choose Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society (Red Bud). For each search you do, KVAS earns a bit. You can shop as well as search from

this website – examples are Amazon, eBay, LL Bean, Lands' End. Shopping dollars add up quicker for KVAS, and as we all know, Christmas is just around the corner. For best use, make GoodSearch your home page so each time you open the Internet, it appears.

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 January thru August 2008, our group received \$229.37 in donations based on over 30 card holders. By comparison, for the same time period in 2007, we had received \$93.36. Quite an impressive increase, 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 Susan Harbaugh (harbaugh@htc.net or phone 282-2914). 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.

Call for Nominations

To Do:

Per the KVAS By-Laws, "Two months prior to the annual meeting the

president with the approval of the board shall appoint a nominating committee of at least three members. This committee shall report its recommendations for the officers and three board members at large at the annual meeting. At which time, there will be an opportunity for nominations from the floor." So to stay in compliance with our by-laws, a nominating committee consisting of Ralph Buettner, Carol Dougherty, and Krista Olson was appointed at the October 16 meeting. Ralph, Carol and Krista will be checking with current board members to see if he/she is interested in another term as well as looking for input from

any KVAS member interested in a board position.

Officer positions are as follows: "President-The president shall function as the main officer of the chapter, preside at all meetings and administer these by-laws. Vice President-The vice president shall act in the absence of the president and carry out other duties assigned by the president. Secretary-The secretary shall keep all non-financial records, keep minutes of the chapter and board meetings and carry on all correspondence of the chapter. Treasurer-The treasurer shall keep all financial records and handle all financial transactions of the chapter. The treasurer shall keep a register of the chapter membership. IAS Representative-The representative to the IAS shall attend meetings of the IAS board, represent

the views of the chapter, and report back to the chapter. The representative shall also prepare for the IAS an annual report of the chapter's activities and a list of officers and their addresses."

Also our by-laws cover a Board of Directors as follows: "The board shall consist of the officers having been elected at the annual meeting, the immediate past president, and three elected members at large,"

Therefore, at our annual meeting, the Christmas party scheduled for December 11, 2008, an election of the Board of Directors will be held. We hope to promise fair and unbiased elections, no hanging chads or voter fraud, and quick tabulations without Supreme Court intervention.



Going Green

This month we're encouraging our members to carpool to KVAS events or other places as well. There are many people in the same area that could benefit by riding together to the monthly meetings or field trips.

By carpooling we are reducing carbon emissions, saving money on gas, and hopefully getting to know our fellow members better.

Anyone interested in becoming a contact person for their area, or wanting to carpool to and from KVAS functions, please feel comfortable enough to contact each other. If there are any issues please contact a board member. We will keep an updated list of people by area and pass information on to others. Here is a list by regions of our membership.

New Athens/Freeburg/

Lenzburg: Roy & Elizabeth Brown, Doug DesPain, Dever Family, Tom May, Helen McCloskey, Nancy & Al Metcalf, Carol Neff, Stan & Mary Nie-

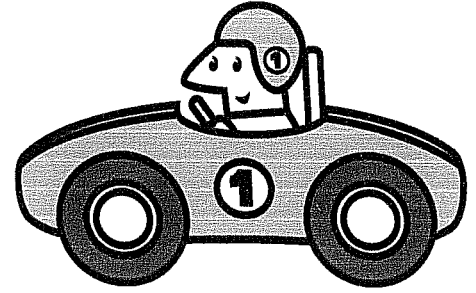
mann, and Pamela Schmidt.

Red Bud: Sister Dorothy Ax, Carol Dougherty, Harry Gravelin, Susan Harbaugh, Charlotte Liefer, McGuigan Family, and Krista Olson.

Waterloo/Columbia: Ed & Sandy Bachesta, Ralph Buettner, Paul & Karlene Feldker, Dennis & Anne Fitzwilliam, Dennis Jacobsen, Tish Turner, Daryl & Mary Messamore, Jack Norman, Shelt & Nancy Roy, and Carolyn Wright.

Belleville/ O'Fallon/ Fairview Hts/ Swansea/ Collinsville: Connie Campbell, Christine & Patrick Durbin, Mary Flannery, Donna Jensen, Ray Latimer, Janet Wright, Neil & Caroline Leeper, Judy McLeod, Delores Miller, Claire Junger, Kathy & Pat O'Neil, Mary Parker, Dea Phillips, Vickie Raymer, Dennis & Mary Regan, Joan Sadorf, and Jack Story.

Millstadt: Terry & Teresa Catello, Bob Englebretson, Mike



& Stephanie Jacob, Weck Family, and Taylor Family.

Chester: Joan Bade, Knop family, Judith McFaddin, Donna Wasson, and Ken & Mildred Young.

Sparta/Ava/Coulterville/ Percy/Steelville/ Baldwin:

Gary Adams, Brenda Barner, Priscilla Bollinger, Jill Cooks-Doering, Hugh Gilbert, Purnie Harris, Debbie & Barry Newmann, Susan Polino, Mary Ann Quivey, Sanders Family and Doris Thomson.

Troy: Dawn & Leo Brekendorf, and Karen & James LeClerc.

Oakdale: Charles Giedeman, and Roger Weber.

Lebanon: Sharon Geil, and James Jost.

KAVANA set for 2009

The board has agreed to plan another nature festival. The date for 2009 is Saturday, July 25. Tim Dever has agreed to be co-chair for this event, but is looking for someone help take on this task.

Committee chairs are also needed in each group including : Advertising/ P.R., Hummingbird Banding, Park-

ing & Signage, Exhibitors, Education, Guest Assistance & K.V.A.S. Promotional.

Anyone interested in becoming a committee chair or ready to volunteer for a specific task, please contact Tim.

KVAS is very excited to work with a great group of volunteers again and have a wonderful turn out to help edu-

cate ourselves and the public about our native animals, plants and their habitat. It takes a team to make something like this event to happen. Get involved. Pull together. Take initiative. Be responsible. Help others learn what KVAS is about and how they can help us "nurture nature."



KVAS 2008 CALENDAR - PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

All meetings are Free and Open to the Public. All meetings will be held at 7pm at Southwestern Illinois College, Red Bud Campus in the auditorium. For More Information contact Program Chairman, Debbie Newman at 618-684-4799 or skink@globaleyes.net.

**=meeting

****November 20** – Martin Kemper, our new District Natural Heritage Biologist in Southwest Illinois (and long-time KVAS member), will give us a program entitled **Comments on Illinois Biodiversity**.

December 11– Thursday, 6:30p.m. Christmas Party World Shooting Complex. Anyone interested in bringing a dessert please contact Susan Harbaugh.

December 20, Saturday- Christmas Bird Count. Contact Tim Dever for more information

Preliminary Calendar for 2009 discussed at last Board Meeting

Stay tuned for official list of speakers and field trips planned as information comes in.

January 15– Board Meeting

February — Backyard bird count

February 19 - Show and Tell

April 16– speaker

May—Spring bird count

May 21—Speaker

June 13– Planning meeting

July – KAVANA 2009

August—Board Meeting

September 17—Speaker

October 15—Speaker

November 19 –Speaker

December –Holiday Party, Christmas Bird count.

Outings to be added later.

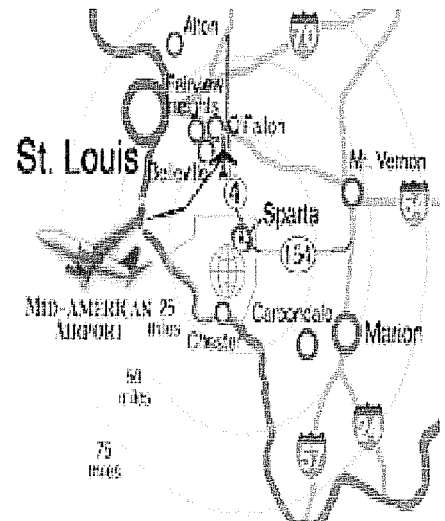
Important DATE!

Christmas Party Decided

Join KVAS for our annual meeting and Christmas dinner Thursday, Dec. 11. This year we will convene at the 17th Street Bar & Grill located in the World Shooting and Recreation Complex near Sparta. The restaurant has a full bar, so if you want to socialize you can arrive at 6pm. Dinner will be at 6:30 with our annual business meet-

ing to follow. The BBQ is allowing us to bring in a few desserts for after the meal. The restaurant would like an approximate headcount since we'll just be ordering off the general menu. Please respond by Dec 6th to Debbie Newman, skink@globaleyes.net 618-684-4799.

Directions: 5 miles north of Sparta, Illinois on State Route 4, turn west onto County Road 18
World Shooting & Recreational Complex
One Main Event Lane
Sparta, IL 62286
17th Street bar and grill 295-2754



Christmas Bird Count 2008

Saturday, December 20th.

This will be the 109th annual count; it is the longest-running citizen-dependent database on birds in the world. We will meet at 6:30 AM at the

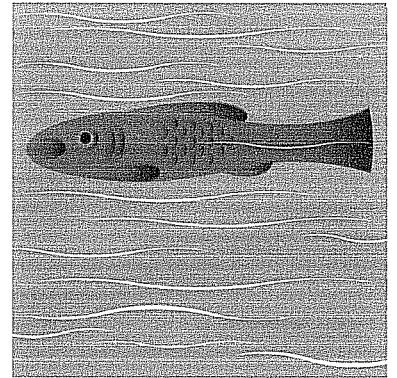
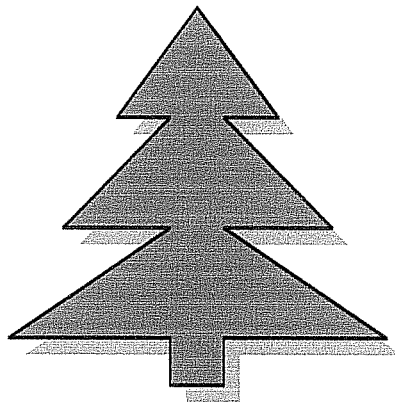
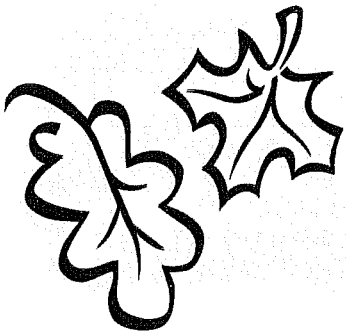
marina in New Athens. If anybody is interested in recording the owls earlier in the morning, let Tim know. It would be appreciated if you contact Tim either way, as it is fairly important to plan

and organize the event ahead of time as much as possible. Look forward to a fun day outdoors appreciating and learning about birds and contributing to that valuable data base.

Thursday, November 20, 2008 7pm

Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society Presents:

Marty Kemper



COMMENTS ON ILLINOIS BIODIVERSITY

Our new District Natural Heritage Biologist in Southwest Illinois (and long-time KVAS member), will give us a program.

Large Auditorium at SWIC in Red Bud.

Thursday, November 20, 7pm



KVAS

www.e-kvas.org

We Nurture Nature

Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society

1204 Raymond Dr
Red Bud, IL 62278

Phone: 618-282-2914
E-mail: harbaugh@htc.net

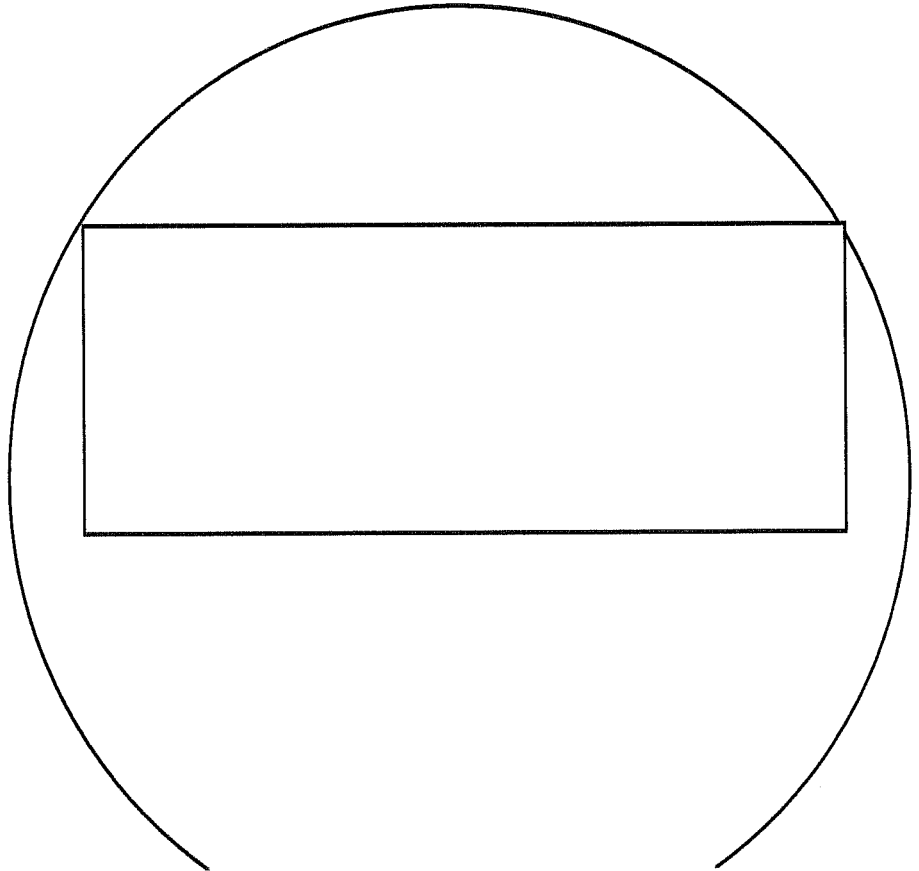
We're on the web
www.e-kvas.org



KVAS

www.e-kvas.org

We Nurture Nature



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: _____ \$5

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.

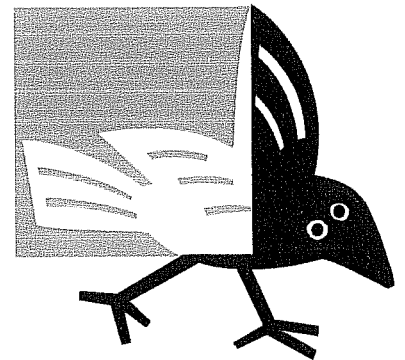
Please fill out the application to the left and send it, with a check made out to:

Tim Dever

KVAS Treasurer

611 S. East ST.

New Athens, IL 62264.



To become an IAS member check out their website at:

www.illinoisaudubon.org

Or Call:(217)544-BIRD