



# Audubon Log

## Bimonthly Newsletter of the Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society

September - October 1994

### ***What's Going On In The East River***

***Wednesday, September 14, 1994  
7:00 p.m.  
Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary***

It's that time of year again, and to start our program series we will feature Jon Bechle. Jon will tell us "What's Going On In The East River." Jon is Watershed Manager for Brown County and has been a crucial figure in the East River Redemption for years. As the entire world undoubtedly knows, the East River was called "Spirit" or "Manitou" by the Native Americans inhabiting this region. White man crudely translated that to "Devil" River. Later, the local powers thought that a bit too sinister so the benign appellation "East" was applied to this long suffering stream.

And suffer it indeed did. We old timers can remember its reeking body of putrescence sloshing up and downstream in a gagging waltz with the tides. Today it almost sparkles and gurgles in comparison. Naturally it took a lot of time and work to make this clean up happen. Federal and local regulations, cooperation of miles of riverback landowners and dedicated individuals on the federal, local, industrial and agricultural levels all had a hand in this metamorphosis. Jon Bechle follows a line of people who coordinated the clean up and now he is on the cutting edge. Having worked with him on several projects, I can attest that we could not wish for a sharper blade.

The program will start at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. After the program, we will ebb or flow down to the Estuary Room for refreshments. Once again, those two Grande Dames, Lavonne Galbraith and Carmella Blecha, will keep us properly refreshed.

### ***The Green Bay Remedial Action Plan At Work***

***Wednesday, October 12, 1994  
7:00 p.m.  
Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary***

You may occasionally read about the Remedial Action Plan. The organization meets on the average of about once a month in Green Bay, Appleton, Oshkosh, Waupaca and other locations. The group is working its activities upstream. One of the key activists is Bill Hafs, the Brown County Conservationist.

Bill will define the scope of the Remedial Action Plan's activities with the help of slides, charts and maps. Bill will tell us how this business got started, what the hot spots are in the Fox River system, what projects are in the works, and how the organization is trying to get the upstream communities involved. It took about 150 years of neglect and abuse to turn the watershed into its current sad state of affairs, but the past several years have brought improvements. It's a real challenge to keep making progress during times of increased usage.

As with everything in the conservation/environmental field, good things do not just happen. It takes the efforts of a lot of dedicated people. Maybe things do not happen as rapidly as we hope, but with groups like the Remedial Action Plan who keep plugging away, eventually things fall into place.

Our meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary. After the meeting, the current will carry us down to the Estuary Room where we will do more bottom feeding on cookies, bars, etc.

***The Public Is Invited  
Hope To See You There***



## Wetlands Information Directory Now Available

The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council recently introduced the first edition of the *Great Lakes Wetlands Information Directory*. The directory is part of a multi-faceted citizen outreach project. The project titled, "Mobilizing Citizens to Protect Great Lakes Wetlands," also includes the development of several wetland training videos, publication of *Citizens' Wetland Report* newsletter, coordination of citizen wetland protection teams, and publication of a book of case studies detailing successful citizen wetland initiatives.

The first edition of the *Great Lakes Wetlands Information Directory* focuses on citizen wetland protection. They have attempted to list all agencies and organizations that assist citizens with the protection of wetlands within the Great Lakes Basin.

The directory can serve as a vital tool for networking with other wetland conservation organizations and as a catalog for locating important wetland information including: maps, videotapes, slide shows, publications, brochures, government documents, etc. No wetlands advocate within the Great Lakes Region should be without one.

Copies of the directory can be obtained by sending a check or money order of \$5.00 per copy to: Wetlands Director, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, P.O. Box 300, Conway, MI 49722. Checks payable to: TOMWC.

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Plan NOW to Attend the

National Audubon Society



1995

Great Lakes Regional Conference

July 7 thru July 9

at

Olivet College

Olivet, Michigan

Olivet is located between Lansing and Battle Creek.

Make new friends and keep the old at the 1995 Great Lakes Regional Conference July 7-9, 1995 at Olivet College in Olivet, Michigan. Field trips, workshops, and informative and stimulating presentations on key conservation issues and other matters of interest will all be a part of next year's regional conference. But, best of all will be the opportunity to network, chat and just plain have fun with fellow Auduboners from around the region.

Mark your calendar NOW and reserve the date!

## Out In The Field Upcoming field trips opportunities

### ▼ Toft Point in Early Autumn Saturday, September 24, 1994

Our own Carl Scholz, the droll troll of Door County, will lead us on this first field trip of the season. It will tie in with the program he will give us in November on the Natural Areas of Door County. Toft Point is difficult to find. It's a secluded place, enhanced by huge trees and preserved against encroaching developments. The area is patrolled by a variety of birds and animals as befits its pristine state.

We will meet and carpool at the parking lot of the Bay Beach Sanctuary near the manager's residence at 8:30 a.m. Next, it's off to the Sandpiper Restaurant in Baileys Harbor at around 10:00 a.m. where we will make a pit stop and meet with the others from Door County. From there it is only a short hop to Toft Point. We drive into the area on an isolated lane, park at a gate in the woods and walk for a few miles. After that we will go back to the Sandpiper for lunch. We'll circulate a petition among ourselves, begging Carl to show us a few more Door County gems. Those who have to leave can depart after lunch, and those who wish to stay can make up another caravan for exploration.

### ▼ Plants of the Railroad Museum Saturday, October 22, 1994

Our field trip to the National Railroad Museum last November revealed a lot of brush. This year, some brush has been thinned out and we've found a couple of huge ancient apple trees, some cherry tree relics sprouting from old stumps, along with some plum and oak trees. We're in the process of opening up a riverbank trail where there are neat things to see.

This land was once an old settlement area, dating back to the 1700's. The results of both use and abuse of this area are evident, but much of the damage has healed itself over time.

There are over 30 acres for us to play in. There is a resident fox family, but being rather shy folk, they may not show up to greet us. Geese browse on the grass at migration time and we are giving the bird nourishing plants a chance to thrive.

We will meet in the parking lot of the National Railroad Museum, 2285 South Broadway in Green Bay at 9:30 a.m. We are anticipating at least a few hours of investigating, depending on the curiosity of the participants. Plan on a couple of miles of walking, some easy and some rough. We'll try to have both some plant and rail experts with us.

*Jerry Lemerond*

## Board Meetings

The N.E.W. Audubon Society's Board of Directors meets every third Wednesday of the month. Chapter members are invited to become involved in board activities. The following are upcoming meeting dates:

Sept. 21 ▼ Oct. 19 ▼ Nov. 16 ▼ Dec. 21

Jan. 18 ▼ Feb. 15 ▼ March 15 ▼ April 19

# The Medicinal Uses of Wild Species

Many people ask, "Do we really need to save all species? What good is that weed, anyway?" In fact, "that weed" -- or mold or fungus -- might save your life or that of someone you dearly love.

Currently, about 25 percent of prescription medicines sold in the United States contain at least one compound originally derived from a plant. The value of such medicines was estimated in 1984 to be more than \$20 billion. Some are famous -- taxol from the Pacific yew tree and vincristine and vinblastine from the Madagascar periwinkle, but the list of medicines derived from Nature is far longer.

In the future, the diseases we cure with the help of chemicals derived from plants, molds, marine invertebrates and other obscure wild species will be even longer if we do not obliterate those species first. In testimony before the Subcommittee on Environment and Natural Resources of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Dr. Thomas Eisner, Director of the Cornell Institute for Research and Chemical Ecology, said "The chemical treasury of nature is literally disappearing before we have had a chance to assess it. ... We cannot afford, in years ahead, to be deprived of the inventions of nature. Chemicals such as taxol and FK 506 could not have been designed by human ingenuity -- both compounds were totally unforeseen in chemical structures and therapeutic action."

Dr. Eisner proceeded to point out that in order to protect themselves from competition in natural habitats, plants produce defense mechanisms, such as poisonous or repellent components. It is these repellents that botanical garden plants often lack that makes the difference when considering the chemical properties for medicinal purposes.

Mr. Steve Brewer, manager of Bioproducts Chemistry at Monsanto-Searle, reported that his analysis of the twenty best-selling drugs in the United States shows that most benefitted from natural products research.

Dr. Michael Grever, Associate Director, Developmental Therapeutics Program of the National Cancer Institute, said recent improvements in screening technology will significantly expand the potential for finding medically useful substances.

Dr. Linda McMahan, Executive Director of the Berry Botanic Garden in Portland, Oregon, called plants "little chemical warfare factories." She reported that 349 of 556 rare or endemic plants found in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho were related to plants of known value for food, medicine, poisons, or other uses.

*Endangered Species Coalition*

## Taking Action

The Endangered Species Act is up for reauthorization and is facing the toughest fight in its 21-year history. Those concerned with the future of this act are invited to attend a conference put on

by the Endangered Species Coalition.

Date: Saturday, September 24, 1994

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Place: Memorial Union, UW-Madison Campus

Cost: \$30 registration fee

The conference is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Audubon Council and Madison Audubon Society. For more information call (608) 257-4501.

## 1994-95 Chapter Leaders

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Social & Refreshments	Lavonne Galbraith 1145 Loch Dr., GB 54304	498-2248
	Carmella Blecha 2766 Northwood Rd., GB 54313	434-1807
Past President	Terrie Howe 2479 Vagabond, GB 54302	465-8263

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I want to join Audubon and receive six issues of Audubon magazine and six issues of the local Audubon Log annually.

Enclosed is my introductory \$20 membership fee.

Please renew my current Audubon membership, \$30 renewal fee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form to: Ron Eichhorn, Membership Chair,  
1020 S. Irwin Ave., Green Bay, WI 54301

Checks payable to: National Audubon Society

## Gifts with a Message

It is never too early to start thinking about holiday gifts for special people. How about the following books which can be ordered from most bookstores:

**Clean and Green** by Annie Berthold Bond (\$8.95). A complete guide to nontoxic and environmentally safe housekeeping.

**Noah's Garden** by Sara Stein (\$21.95). Learn how to restore the ecology of your own backyard.

**Requiem For a Lawnmower** by Sally Wasowski (\$15.95). A look at easy gardening with native plants.

**The Natural Lawn & Alternatives** by Margaret Roach (\$6.95). Ms. Roach says we spend \$16.9 billion to raise "living astroturf" with the aid of 70 million pounds of pesticides a year. She says chemical-free lawn care is touted as being to the 90's what recycling was to the 80's. There are many new breeds of grass that resist insects without pesticides, as well as mosses, ground lovers and prairie wildflowers. It's probably a lot less work, less expensive and not so boring to try some of these ideas.

*L. Galbraith*

## Any News?

Is there something you would like to share with Log readers? Please send it to Mary Novotny, c/o Audubon Log, 882 Hubbard St., Green Bay, WI 54303. The deadline for the next issue (Nov.-Dec.) is October 1, 1994.

## A Closer Look for Latin Americans

The Fairfax Audubon Society in Virginia is collecting used binoculars for financially-strapped conservation and education groups and institutes in Latin America. The goal of this project is to offer Latin Americans a closer look at the wonders of their countries and help conserve their treasures.

Conservationists in the tropics desperately need binoculars for environmental education. Even an old pair of binoculars can easily cost more than a month's salary in Latin America, far beyond the reach of most students and groups.

So far the project has donated over 150 binoculars, several telescopes and copies of **Birds of Colombia** books to needy conservation/education groups in Columbia, Costa Rica, Chile and Mexico. Over 100 requests remain unfilled for additional binoculars and reference books.

Volunteers from the Fairfax Audubon Society have a local optics expert check and repair the donated binoculars. Then recruit responsible travelers to hand-deliver the binoculars to donor recipients in Latin America. All recipients are recognized universities and respected conservation groups.

To help out, local Audubon chapter members can send old and/or used binoculars to Fairfax Audubon Society, c/o Gary Filerman, 1322 Banquo Court, McLean, VA 22102.

*Muchas Gracias!*

**N.E.W. Audubon Society**  
2561 Woodridge Lane  
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