

## July 2010 Chapter Connection



### Chapter News & Events

#### **Washtenaw Audubon to host Spider Walk**

Eastern Michigan University professor, Cara Shillington, PhD, will lead Washtenaw Audubon's first ever spider walk on Saturday, July 17 at Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor. Dr. Shillington will identify the fascinating arachnids found at the site. The walk will begin at 9:00 a.m. and runs until Noon. More information can be found at Washtenaw Audubon's website: [www.washtenawaudubon.org](http://www.washtenawaudubon.org).

#### **Pete Dunne to Speak at the Kalamazoo Nature Center**

The Audubon Society of Kalamazoo is supporting the visit of premier birder Pete Dunne this September to the Kalamazoo Nature Center (KNC). KNC is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and Dunne's visit will be part of the special activities to recognize this milestone.

On September 10, attend Pete Dunne's Bird Watching Perspectives: "25 Things that Changed Birding" at 7:00 p.m. at the Interpretive Center. Join Pete as he recounts the events, products, ideas, people, and decisions that changed the face of birding in his lifetime. All, in sum, will bring you to a higher awareness of the elements that have made birding North America's fastest growing outdoor activity. Tickets for this presentation are \$10 or \$8 for KNC members.

"Breakfast, Birds and Banding with Pete Dunne" will be presented at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 11 at the KNC Banding Station. Participants will have breakfast with Pete and then spend the morning with him as the KNC staff are banding. Pete will lead walks around the KNC trails. This activity is limited to 25 participants and the fee is \$25 or \$20 for KNC members.

Purchase tickets online at [www.NatureCenter.org](http://www.NatureCenter.org) or call (269) 381-1574 ext. 0. The registration deadline is Monday, September 6. Space is limited so register early!

#### **Get Your Events Listed with Michigan Audubon**

Michigan Audubon may have members from your area that are not members of your chapter. To capitalize on this possibility and get them to your activities, you can list your activities on Michigan Audubon's website calendar. It only takes a few moments and you may get new members from doing it. [List My Event.](#)

#### **Chapter Pages on Michigan Audubon Website**

Please take a moment to check your chapter listing on the Michigan Audubon website. Is it current? If not, please send us the updated information. If we don't have any information posted regarding your chapter, please send us the pertinent information and a link to a website if available. We receive inquiries from the public asking for Chapter information and it would benefit you if the Michigan Audubon staff has current

information. Clicking [Chapters](#) will get you to the page with all 41 Chapters listed, then all you have to do is click on your Chapter's name and you'll be directed to its webpage. Send changes to [Wendy Tatar](#).

[Michigan Audubon Chapter Information](#)

## **Michigan Audubon Sanctuary News & Activities**

### **Programs at the Sanctuaries**

Michigan Audubon is hosting educational programs throughout 2010 at three of its' sanctuaries: Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary near Bellevue; Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary in Manistee; and the Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary located near Hastings. Check the event calendar on the Michigan Audubon website for a complete listing of the programs.

Programs for July include Invasive Species (July 10, 10:00 to Noon at Otis and July 25, 10:30 to Noon at Lake Bluff), Wildflower Hikes (July 17, 10:00 to Noon at Baker & July 24, 10:30 to Noon at Otis) and a Dragonfly Walk (July 31, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Baker). A Butterfly Hike is scheduled for August 7 from 10:00 to Noon at Baker Sanctuary. More information on these programs can be found on the website calendar of events.

### **Open House Date Announced**

The date for the autumn Open House at Vorhees Sanctuary has been set for October 16. This sanctuary has been "adopted" by students of nearby Mar-Lee School. The students in Rockne Finley's class have been creating trails, installing boardwalk where needed, installing bird houses, and creating interpretive signs for this 40-acre sanctuary located northeast of Marshall. The Open House will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and students that have worked on the project will be leading hikes. Mark your calendars now so you can attend.

### **[Event Calendar](#)**

## **More Events & News**

### **Michigan Hummingbird Festival in Colon**

The River Lake Inn in Colon will host the 4th Annual Hummingbird Festival on July 31 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Hummingbird banding, a wildlife craft show, kid's activities, educational sessions and more are planned. Michigan Audubon's Nature Bookstore will be in attendance. For a complete schedule of activities visit [Hummingbird Festival](#).

### **Artwork Helps Raise Funds for Gulf Coast Cleanup**

If you haven't seen the news regarding Olivia Bouler, an 11-year-old from New York that has raised \$70,000 for National Audubon's fund drive to help with the clean up on the Gulf shores, an article can be found here: [Artwork raises funds](#).

### **Oil Spills Toll on Wildlife**

On June 18, Melanie Driscoll, part of National Audubon's response team in the Gulf, wrote a poignant article about the work being done in the Gulf to save the birds and other wildlife. You can read "Audubon Oil Spill Response Team Update: Status of Bird Rescue Efforts" at the blog page that National Audubon has set up to keep people informed on the latest in this man-made tragedy. [National Audubon blog](#)

### **Project Examines Wind Energy in West Michigan**

A team of students lead by an Associate Professor at Grand Valley State University will be studying wind farms in other parts of North America to see if this type of energy source is viable for Michigan. Visit [Wind Energy Project](#) to read more about this

project.

### **2010-2011 Duck Stamps Now Available**

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, more informally known as the "Duck Stamp," went on sale June 25. The species on this year's Federal Stamp is an American Widgeon, created by Maryland artist Robert Bealle. The Junior Duck Stamp was created by 18-year-old Rui Huang from Columbus, Ohio and features a Hooded Merganser. The funds derived from Stamp sales go far beyond serving the hunting community. For those who visit refuges, a stamp is a "free pass" for an entire year - for a vehicle full of people at all refuges that might charge for admission. But best of all, the funds go to conserve wetland areas that are important stop over sites for migratory birds and grasslands that are important nesting habitat for many species.

Duck Stamps are available for \$15 purchase at most U. S. Post Offices, staffed National Wildlife Refuges, major sporting goods stores, and online at [FWS duckstamps](#).

As always, please let us know if there are ways we can assist your chapter, affiliate organization, or partner group. Give us a call or drop us an email anytime!

Sincerely,  
-- Michigan Audubon

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