

CCLC Field Notes



Project

Notes

Magic of Migration with Larry Bennett at 2012 Annual Meeting

The magic of bird migration and our role in it is the topic of the Chippewa County Land Conservancy's annual meeting on Monday, May 14, beginning at 5:30 PM at the Chippewa Valley Bible Church and moving to Kemper Woods for refreshments, a brief business meeting, and a bird hike.

Highlighting the meeting will be a program on bird migration and identification by Larry Bennett. He'll also explain how protecting landscapes is important in sustaining



healthy bird populations.

Larry is a well-known bird enthusiast from Eau Claire, frequently seen on local television or interviewed in the local press when they need a knowledgeable

source about bird behavior, population, feeding, and housing. He's best known for his work with the Beaver Creek Bird Club and has counseled numerous groups interested in birds, including the Bluebird Babes, a group of women who install and monitor bluebird boxes around an Eau Claire golf course. He frequently presents programs about birds to

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*Larry Bennett
and Bluebird
Box*

Our Conservation Scorecard

6 Conservation Easements
4 Properties Owned
**1 Property Transferred to
Local Government**
772 acres Protected



Blue Winged Warbler

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<p><i>Bird Hike follows at Kemper Woods from page 1</i></p>	<p>groups.</p> <p>After Larry's presentation, we'll adjourn to the nearby Kemper Woods, where after refreshments, a few brief reports about the Conservancy, and an annual election of directors, Larry will take us on a bird hike through the Kemper Woods. The variety of habitats there should provide a wealth of opportunities to spot some interesting birds.</p> <p>Our hosts at the Church are the Boy Scouts of Troop 72, who are eager to learn about the birds as well.</p> <p>The Chippewa Valley Bible Church is at 513 E. South Ave., Chippewa Falls (1 block east of K-Mart). Park on the east side and use the main door, proceed to the middle of the hall, turn left, and go to the last room on the left at the end of the hall.</p> <p>Kemper Woods is 1.2 miles east of the Church, just across Hwy 29 on 50th Ave (Stilson Rd).</p> <p>Kemper Woods is one of the properties that the Chippewa County Land Conservancy was involved in protecting. It is now permanently protected for public recreation with a focus on bird study. It is now owned by Chippewa County.</p>
<p><i>Wildlife Habitat of CCLC Lands</i></p> <p><i>By Dan Simonson, CCLC Board Member</i></p>	<p>The Chippewa County land trust has acquired a wide variety of land types over the years that currently supports bird habitats that are favored by a number of larger species, including gamebirds.</p> <p>Many of the wooded and lowland acres of the land trust are former farm lands and farm woodlots that historically had cattle grazing for many years, but have since been abandoned for that use. It is common to encounter some of the following birds that have reclaimed these habitats; wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, pheasant, mourning dove (yes they are a legal game bird in Wisconsin), sandhill cranes (currently being considered for legal game bird status), a variety of owls and other predatory species, turkey vulture or buzzard (depending on where you're from), hawks, eagles and a wide variety of waterfowl.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>con't on page 3</i></p>

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<p><i>Wildlife Habitat of CCLC Lands, from page 2</i></p> <p><i>Cerulean Warbler</i></p>	<p>Some of the land trust properties contain older growth tree species like white pine, oak, cottonwood, maple, and basswood. These older trees are prone to die-off and consequently become standing dead trees that are important for cavity nesting birds. Our property known as Huettner property on the southeast side of lake Wissota is a good example of these previously-farmed areas that now contain a number of mature and dead trees.</p> <p>This is an excellent time of year to witness bird nesting activity in these woods because of the birds frequent movements amid a sparse foliage of springtime. Also the male turkeys are displaying and you should be able to hear the drumming of ruffed grouse, trumpeting sandhill cranes, and I recently heard some daylight hooting of owls from a nest they currently occupy in northern Chippewa County. For folks who are partial to the many species of smaller birds, well, there are many and I will leave that to our annual meeting speaker. Check with our directors for additional information about each of our properties and what you might be able to see. There is a lot of detailed information we don't know about these properties and their wildlife habitat potential. Your visit to these properties can help us broaden our knowledge and develop a more complete understanding of their importance in our local areas.</p> <div data-bbox="263 545 668 813" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p><i>Notable Bird Species</i></p>	<p>Forest Transition: Waterfowl & wetland birds, Trumpeter Swans; Prairie Chicken and other grassland birds</p> <p>Western Coulee & Ridges: Cerulean Warbler, Bald Eagle, Turkey</p> <p>North Central Forest: Neotropical migrant songbirds, Spruce and Ruffed Grouse, Goshawk, Osprey, Common Loon</p>

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<p><i>From the President: Looking back over an amazing year</i></p>	<p>Dear Chippewa County Land Conservancy member,</p> <p>In looking back on the past year, it seems fitting to reflect on the many successes the Conservancy has had in its efforts to protect open space and natural areas in Chippewa County. These properties have been generously donated to the Conservancy by landowners who have a deep respect for the land and are committed to safeguarding these special places that sustain us all in so many ways. Often times these projects are the culmination of many years of effort. Sometimes they come to fruition, as in the Joas Park Nature Preserve, and sometimes they don't. However, when they do, they are lasting tributes to these landowners and their families. And as we see increasing pressure on our natural resources, we can feel a sense of accomplishment and appreciation for the positive impact we've made on our community.</p> <p>To further this thought, in October of 2011, I attended the National Land Trust Alliance's "Rally 2011" conference in Milwaukee. Over 200 land trusts and 1400 conservation leaders attended from all across the United States. I found the conference motivating and inspiring, with many in-depth and informative workshops, field trips and seminars. I was impressed by the number of land trusts that are now operating throughout the country, from small volunteer groups such as ours, to those who are large and fully staffed. It was encouraging to meet and mingle with these other like-minded individuals, from so many different states and different walks of life, yet with a single purpose.</p> <p>Back at home, the Conservancy was busy pursuing projects that were brought to the group by landowners looking to preserve their private lands. There are several properties that remain works in progress. Several board members and other volunteers worked diligently, creating trails through the Joas Park Nature Preserve. That trail work will continue this year. In addition, the size of the board was expanded from eight directors to nine and we welcomed Tom Joas and Anthony Schuster as new directors. Unfortunately, we also</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>cont on page 5</i></p>

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<p><i>President's message, from page 4</i></p>	<p>bid adieu to our longtime friend and valued board member Jerry Brost as he moved on to other areas of interest. Furthermore, as part of our ongoing commitment, we spent time monitoring our existing properties to ensure that our standards for stewardship were met. And lastly, incorporating some of the ideas obtained from the conference, we have created a strategic plan to aid us in our continued efforts to improve our executive, outreach, and land management activities in 2012.</p> <p>In summary of the CCLC experience this year, I can say with certainty that I have come away with a renewed sense of hope, enthusiasm and commitment to our mission. It became apparent to me that even during difficult economic times and in an increasingly polarized political climate, Americans of all ideologies continue to invest time, money and effort in protecting the health of their land, water and air. They remain committed to the health of their planet and as the Taoist philosopher Lao Tse is believed to have said... "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."</p>
<p><i>Election of Directors: Elect three at Annual Meeting</i></p>	<p>Three board members will be elected at the annual members meeting on Monday, May 14. Three current board members are running for re-election: John Molloy, Pat Andress, and Jerry Sazama.</p> <p>John has been a board member since it's earliest days and is our ear to the ground in the eastern part of the county. Pat has been a board member since 2003 and is especially interested in outreach and member communication. Jerry joined the board in 2007. He's our legal expert and has a passion for building trails at Joas Preserve.</p> <p>Nominations for board member can be made at the meeting. Members interested in serving on the board are encouraged to contact a current board member. The board meets monthly, in addition to periodic field activities.</p>
<p><i>Lots of ways to Help!</i></p>	<p>We're looking for volunteers for many tasks, from webmaster to treasurer, from land management work to invasives removal. Interested? Contact us: CCLC@chippewaconservancy.com</p>

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*Thanks
To Our
Friends*

Our organization requires funds for the expenses involved in conserving land. We have received many donated services, but appreciate the financial support of the following donors during 2011-12:

Individuals:

Raymond & Patricia Andress

Michael & Ann Arneson

Barbara McNaughton Bernhardt

Don & Delores Bichner Bill Boyd

Gerald & Jerilyn Brost Eleanor Flunker

Dr. Gary Gienapp

Ruth Anne Gilbertson & John Lauson

Bob & Connie Hartshorn Gerald & Mary Jacobson

Joseph Joas Trust Tom Joas

Thomas & Pamela Kell Charles Kemper

Joseph & Bonnie Knight Ron & Lynn Krages

William & Janice Kroll Bill & Karen Lea

Mark Levesseur Sally L. Lewis

Richard A. Magyar Jan & Jill Mayer

Dan Masterpole & Kathy Lembezeder

Kenneth Parejko Dr. Gordon Polder

Karen & John Possley Steven D. Schmuki

Anthony & Nancy Schuster Dan & Ida Simonson

Important >

Richard Smith & Pat McKearn

Bill & Peggy Sprague Steve Thaler

Jane & Roger Whiting

Businesses:

LaRue Construction Northwestern Bank

Your membership support tells others that our goals are shared by a broad cross-section of the community!

Please renew your support today! A return form and envelope are included with this newsletter.


Contributions to the Conservancy qualify as tax deductible charitable contributions.

Thank you for all you do to help conserve natural landscapes in the Chippewa County area.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>CCLC Preserves Protect Habitat For Wide Variety of Species</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>by Alison Sazama</i></p>	<p>The CCLC's protected properties all serve as important habitat preserves for our county, which lies at the juncture of three different ecological land types, giving us a wide variety of species.</p> <p>Kemper's Woods is an undeniably important place for many species of birds as Dr. Charlie Kemper's research over the past 50 years can attest to. On this 80 acre parcel which was placed under protection by the CCLC in 2007, Dr. Kemper banded over 80,000 birds over the last 50 years, including 36 different species of grassland birds and neotropical migratory songbirds that are species of concern and were banded at this property. Three other preserves are within a 10 mile radius, and so the same species are likely to be present on these sites as well.</p> <p>Joas Park Nature Preserve, Huettner Preserve, and Boyd Park Nature Preserve: The Joas property contains a small pond and spring fed stream. The west side Huettner Preserve borders a portion of Paint creek. The Boyd Park Nature Preserve is within feet of Pine Harbor on Lake Wissota. These waters and the wetlands associated with them are recognized for their importance to migratory birds, especially waterfowl and shorebirds. Wetlands provide breeding and non-breeding habitat for many Wisconsin birds. Of Wisconsin's 370 species of resident and migratory birds, nearly 40 percent of them live in or extensively use wetlands such as this.</p> <p>Many bird species require large expanses of continuous habitat, especially the grassland birds and forest interior songbird species. For many neotropical migrant birds, these forests support source populations that supplement populations in areas with lower quality habitat. In particular, the forests in northern Wisconsin are part of a larger swath that now supports the highest bird species richness of any region north of Mexico. The CCLC's protected properties listed here support the integrity of this forested landscape and are helping to maintain the diversity of breeding birds in the region.</p> <p><i>Watch for more information at www.chippewaconservancy.org.</i></p>

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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Our Mission and Vision</i></p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p>Mission of the Chippewa County Land Conservancy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect and preserve natural and scenic Chippewa County Lands. <p>Our Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain greenspace as growth occurs • Protect groundwater and a healthy environment • Keep a Central Park (Irvine Park) Vision: thinking about the future landscape and how to integrate greenspaces into it • Maintain the quality of life through a connection with nature • Protect land at a scale that an individual person could not achieve • Preserve scenic beauty • Provide subsequent generations with at least the natural resources that we have • Protect from the effects of global warming • Protect biodiversity • Offer alternatives to development </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: center;">  </div> </div>																																				
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Board of Directors 2011-2012</i></p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Alison Sazama</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Chippewa Falls</td> <td style="width: 15%;">723-7438</td> <td style="width: 35%;">President</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Smith</td> <td>New Auburn</td> <td>967-2164</td> <td>Vice Pres</td> </tr> <tr> <td>David Nashold</td> <td>Chippewa Falls</td> <td>726-2086</td> <td>Secretary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tom Joas</td> <td>Chippewa Falls</td> <td>723-8173</td> <td>Treasurer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Molloy</td> <td>Boyd</td> <td>644-3314</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jerry Sazama</td> <td>Chippewa Falls</td> <td>723-6955</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pat Andress</td> <td>Chippewa Falls</td> <td>723-9157</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dan Simonson</td> <td>Chippewa Falls</td> <td>723-9649</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tony Schuster</td> <td>Chippewa Falls</td> <td>723-6114</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p> <p>Newsletter editor & Web: Richard Smith</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.chippewaconservancy.com</p>	Alison Sazama	Chippewa Falls	723-7438	President	Richard Smith	New Auburn	967-2164	Vice Pres	David Nashold	Chippewa Falls	726-2086	Secretary	Tom Joas	Chippewa Falls	723-8173	Treasurer	John Molloy	Boyd	644-3314		Jerry Sazama	Chippewa Falls	723-6955		Pat Andress	Chippewa Falls	723-9157		Dan Simonson	Chippewa Falls	723-9649		Tony Schuster	Chippewa Falls	723-6114	
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