

Autumn 2024

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Joni Denker photo

Green-Rock Audubon Society

G-RAS



Protecting Wildlife for Tomorrow

Serving Lafayette, Green,
& Rock Counties

THE NATURALIST

G-RAS Newsletter Fall 2024

Joni's term as President is up this year, but she will be serving as Past-President in 2025. Our Vice-President, Josh Erdman, is interested in serving as President, and he has worked closely

with Joni this year learning the role and its duties. Therefore we will be nominating a Vice-President; Secretary and Treasurer at our Annual Meeting. Are you interested in any of these positions?

G-RAS Fall Schedule/Engagement

Green-Rock Audubon Annual Meeting
Where: Three Waters Reserve, N3941 Golf Course Rd, Brodhead

When: Oct 13, 2024 at 1 p.m.
What: Lunch, business meeting, and guest presentation

Complementary lunch will be provided to all that register (get a ticket on our webpage) prior to Oct 4

To register for the annual meeting, go to the Green-Rock Audubon Society website at www.greenrockaudubon.org and follow the events tab to October to register ("buy a ticket"). You can also go to the event directly:

<https://www.greenrockaudubon.org/event-details-registration/green-rock-audubon-annual-meeting>

Questions? Contact VP Josh Erdman @ 219-2554 or epnfrnrush@gmail.com



Tracy Hames
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wetlands Association

About Wisconsin Wetlands Association



WWA is a non-partisan, science-based, statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of Wisconsin's wetlands.

Executive Director, Tracy Hames and staff help individuals and communities throughout Wisconsin gain the knowledge and guidance needed to protect and care for their local wetlands.

After obtaining his Master's Degree in Natural Resources from UWSP, Tracy moved west and worked for 22 years as a waterfowl biologist protecting, restoring, and managing watershed-scale wetland projects on the Yakama Indian Reservation in eastern Washington state. He

returned to Wisconsin in 2012 to begin work with Wisconsin Wetlands Association.

Presentation Title: Wetlands, Water, Wildlife, and Watersheds

Wetlands are important landscape features helping manage the water that flows through our watersheds. This presentation will address what wetlands are, why they're important, the status of wetlands in Wisconsin, and how you can help protect and care for the wetlands in your community.

What: 2024 Annual Picnic and Bonfire

When: Saturday, November 9, 11 AM – 2 PM

Where: Androne Woods, 7101 W Cleophas Rd, Beloit

Come and celebrate late fall on our preserves with a volunteer, member, and neighbor get together! Brats, hotdogs, and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and a chair to sit on. We hope to have enough brush to have a bonfire to help keep warm. RSVPs on our website are appreciated.

What: Fall Birding

When: Saturday, September 7, 8 – 11 AM

Where: Bill Hill Park, Welty Environmental Center in Beloit and G-RAS' Gabower-Reilly Reserve, 6705 Cleophas Road, Beloit, WI

All levels of birders are welcome. We do have some binoculars available. Our leader for this hike is Vice President, Josh Erdman. Please call 608-219-2554 with any questions you may have.

What: Swift Night Out

When: Sunday, September 8, 7 PM

Where: Washington Elementary School, 811 N. Pine Street, Janesville, WI, and other sites in Janesville as needed.

Questions or to be added to the email list: Please contact Neil Deupree, deupreeneil@gmail.com

*See SCHEDULE, Page 3

* Schedule

Continued from page 2

What: Fall Tagging

When: Saturday, September 7, 1 – 3 PM

Where: G-RAS' Gabower-Reilly Reserve, 6705 Cleophas Road, Beloit, WI

Monarch butterfly tagging @ Gabower-Reilly Reserve. Every year, monarchs make their way from the Midwest down to a select number of mountain forests in central Mexico, where they winter. Check out the tall-grass prairie in late summer during what should be their peak fall migration. Monarchs will be captured using butterfly nets and tagged as part of the Monarch Watch monitoring program of the University of Kansas. We will discuss the life cycle of the monarch here in Wisconsin, threats to their survival, and learn what you can do to help them.

This event will give you a chance to see them up close and then re-release them to continue their migrations. It is a child-friendly event that is free and open to the public.



Land Management Report Autumn 2024

One of this summer's main activities was to mow wild parsnip before it could produce ripe seed. This was done in late June and early July at Cleophas and Gabower-Reilly Reserves.

Mowing the firebreaks and trails is ongoing and has been difficult this year in the wet areas.

Victor Illichmann was named "Volunteer of the Year" from Gathering Waters



Gathering Waters' website.
<https://gatheringwaters.org/victor-illichmann-2024-land-trust-volunteer-of-the-year/>

We used the new pole saw to clear branches and brush along the driveway to Cleophas. It had a serious blind spot when entering the road.

At Gabower-Reilly we've been prepping an area in the south half for a fall seeding of mesic and wet-mesic prairie. This included spraying weeds and brush, mowing and removing some downed wood.

Clayton Dalton with Boy Scout Troop 608 built and installed Leopold benches at Spring Creek for his Eagle Scout project. He also repainted the lettering on all of our signs as part of a Community Service project.

Volunteers have been recycling the old tree tubes that had been protecting oak seedlings.

Fred Faessler

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Donors (since our last newsletter)

Richard Ott
Diane Gruenwald
Tony & Dela Ends
Angela Hansen
Kathryn Robinson
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Annie Collins
Peter & Christine Lamar
Gladys Kayhs
Sharon Bishop
Eva & Bruce Kuzmanich
James Foss
Frank Fiorina
In memory of Kay Deupree

A Special Thank You

Thanks go out to Clayton Dalton with Boy Scout Troop 608 who built and installed 4 Leopold benches at Spring Creek. On May 5th, his troop and troop leaders helped to assemble and move the benches to the northern part of the property. Clayton and his family have lived near the Reserve for 3 or 4 generations.

Visit our website: <https://www.greenrockaudubon.org>

Like and follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/greenrockaudubon>

Stay in the know. G-RAS is a more engaged organization than it has been in the more recent past. In 2024, our Board Members have led bird hikes, botany blitzes, and land management volunteer work. We do our best to post our activities in advance to permit adequate time for our members and volunteers to plan, and prepare. It is important to remember, though, we are a



*Our
Deepest
Condolences*

Our birds have lost a champion! We are very saddened by the passing of Kay Deupree; an inspirational community leader and dedicated Bird City, and Green-Rock Audubon Society member.



*See THANK You, Page 5

* Thank You

Continued from page 4

volunteer-driven organization, and delays and/or omissions may sometimes occur. If you have ideas on activities you would like to lead, contact a Board Member, and we will discuss it at our next meeting.



G-RAS College Scholarships 2024

Hanna Chady, hrchady17@gmail.com
Milton High School
UW Whitewater
Environmental Science

Ruby Sheaffer, rubysheaffer@gmail.com
Monroe High School
Macalester College, St Paul, Minnesota
Political Science and Environmental Studies

Johnathan Flowers, johnathanflowers4321@gmail.com
Milton High School
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Conservation Biology and Political Science

Essays

Name: Hannah Chady

Current School: Milton High School

Intended School: University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

Essay Text: My name is Hannah Chady and I plan to major in Environmental Science at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater starting in the fall of 2024. I plan to take my Environmental Science major on a Wildlife Biology route to focus on how changes within the environment affect the habitats and ecosystems of wildlife. Receiving the opportunity to get a higher education will positively impact the future of the environment because I will learn ways that I can help ecosystems thrive. It will also help me get a job for a company or organization where I will help wildlife survive in cleaner environments. With my passion for the environment, my involvement in making changes, and my dedication to learning, receiving this scholarship to help me get a higher education will benefit the future of our

Our three scholarship applicants each received a grant of \$1500, thanks to the annual award from the Gibbs Foundation at Stateline Community Foundation.

environment. Ever since I was little, I have had a passion for nature and the environment. I loved getting outdoors and learning about how to help animals and their environment. I would plant flowers and milkweed for butterflies, and clean out ponds for the frogs and turtles. My dad and I even started a yearly tradition to clean up the Ice Age Trail every Earth Day. As I learned more about sustainability and how to help the environment, I made small changes to my life such as switching to bamboo toothbrushes, and thrifting clothes instead of buying new ones. When I got to high school, I discovered the Environmental Club and joined. In the club, I have helped run multiple clothing swaps, build a school pollinator garden, and organize multiple trash cleanups in the community. My passion for nature and the environment has also led me to start my backyard garden

*See SCHOLARSHIP, Page 6

* Scholarships

Continued from page 5

and get outside by doing things such as biking, kayaking, and hiking. All of this experience has led me to pursue an Environmental Science major. With this major, I hope to gain experience to help me attain my two goals. The first is to help reduce the amount of endangered species due to habitat destruction by pollution. The second is to reduce the amount of plastics that end up in the oceans. This scholarship would help me achieve my goals by providing me with the opportunity to further my education. This would then allow me to learn more about the environment and how each part interacts with plants, animals, and humans. In turn, I can find ways, whether by myself or through a company or organization, to attain my goals of helping reduce the number of endangered species and reducing the amount of plastics that end up in the oceans. I hope to make a difference starting in my community, and then work my way to achieving sustainability and a cleaner environment in other parts of the world.

Name: Ruby Sheaffer

Current School: Monroe High School, Class of 2024

Intended School: Macalester College, Class of 2028

Essay Text: It's not every girl's dream to work in government. But it is mine. I grew up on my parent's organic vegetable farm about an hour south of Madison. My summers were spent in the fields, my evenings listening to the frogs singing in the treeline. My parents diligently taught me and my siblings the importance and reward of being a steward of the environment. While this may not seem like an upbringing that would foster a passion for government, it definitely did for me. I am determined to use this passion for government in conjunction with my passion for the environment to create positive change. Throughout high school, I've engaged in environmental education however possible. I am a member of the school's environmental club, Club Earth, which allowed me to explore local environmental opportunities. This school year, I also took Advanced Placement Environmental Science, which was very eye opening. I had some idea about the issues and challenges facing our planet but was unaware of many other issues. This class also provided a general understanding of different environments

and how they functioned. Through this class, I learned that I am most interested in issues related to environmental change, like maintaining water quality, fighting invasive species, and mitigating the effects of climate change. I am confident that working in government will provide me with the means to make meaningful environmental change. But without higher education, my goals are much, much harder to accomplish. Many of the jobs that I am interested in, like those in policy, public service, and legislation, are dependent on skills and information that I will learn in college. Further, many internships that are often the start of students' political careers are internships facilitated by colleges. This fall, I will enter into my freshman year at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. Here, I hope to study both political science and environmental studies. Macalester College has a stellar reputation for both political science and environmental studies, and its location opens many doors that otherwise would be closed. I am certain that my education at Macalester will prepare me well for a future working in government and being a steward of the environment.

Name: Jonathan Mark Flowers

Current School: Milton High School

Intended School: University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Essay Text: My name is Jonathan Flowers and I currently attend Milton High School as a Senior. I intend to major in Conservation Biology along with political science at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. I desire to pursue a career in law and seek to become an environmental lawyer. From there, I want to become an environmental politician and potentially rise the political landscape to serve in the House of Congress. The sciences at my high school have always interested me, and I became especially interested in Biology after taking Honors Biology my Freshman year. I took AP Biology my Junior year and upon taking Environmental Science this year, I've understood what I care deeply about. Biology is of great interest to me and saving the environment is what I'm truly passionate about. I know I can work to reduce carbon emissions, create more efficient recycling systems, and preserve endan-

*See SCHOLARSHIPS, Page 7

* Scholarships

Continued from page 6

gered species. A particular area of issue within me is the struggle between the validity of zoos. Zoos provide and protect endangered animals, but they give them depressing lives filled with constant stress. Zoos should be a place where only injured animals stay, not where animals are bred, captured, and placed. Humans, in a span of 24 hours, have been on this Earth for a total of three seconds. Three seconds and humans have magnified global warming on an unheard-of scale, melting polar ice caps and leading to mass extinction. Our elders and ancestors have told us it will be a problem my generation must solve, and I will be a part of the first steps. I grew up thinking money was everything. I thought becoming a doctor and living a wealthy life was the way to success, but it isn't. I may live a happy life, but it won't be fulfilling. A fulfilling life is one where I know I made a difference to save humanity, to save all creatures, to save this planet. My education in Conservation Biology at Minnesota will give me the knowledge and tools to understand the true depth of the issues our world faces and solutions to potentially solve them. My strong aptitude in mathematics allows me to make calculated plans and diagrams for solving important issues. The political science

degree I seek will give me the ability to understand how our government functions, how all governments function, and how different sides see other potential solutions/problems as more important. I've discovered my passion for the environment, and through life experiences found I can guide others and hold my own in debate. Throughout everyday life, I actively engage in debates and question ideas around me, arguing consistently with others and attempting to understand their point of view. I have been Captain of Varsity XC for the past three years and Captain of Varsity Track for two years, and through the experiences I gained, I found what it was like to lead people. I found what it was like to understand many different viewpoints and create an equal solution. I strive every day to make changes to the environment around me. I pick up trash wherever I see it, including going on walks with my grandpa at times to clean up the side of the road. The lack of knowledge of recycling is a deep concern of mine, and whenever I can, I ensure everything is sorted properly within the garbage/recycling at our house. Someone has to make a difference in this world, and it will be me.

Fall 2024 Advocacy Report – Advocacy Works!

By Susan Johnson

2024 has been an extremely busy, and successful year in Wisconsin for bird and wildlife environmental conservation and advocacy! A major piece of legislation protecting wetlands was passed, and signed into law on April 3, 2024. The Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant Program, formerly known as SB222, was a bipartisan victory for our wetland birds. Michelle Parker, Vice President of Audubon Great Lakes noted that millions of birds travel to and through Wisconsin every spring during their annual migration. "SB222 is a big win for Wisconsin's birds and other wildlife that depend on Wisconsin's wetlands."

Brian Vigue, Policy Director of Freshwater for Audubon Great Lakes, lobbied heavily in the State Capitol for this legislation, and assisted local Audubon chapters in their advocacy for it,

too. It was one of the primary topics for the 2023 Audubon Great Lakes Advocacy Day at the State Capitol, where members and policy experts met with 28 state legislators to discuss the importance of SB222. In addition, Audubon members sent more than 1500 letters to their legislators in support of this bill. Vigue emphasized that wetlands not only provide essential habitat for many bird species, including Black Terns and Great Egrets, but can also protect our local communities from flooding. In the past ten years, Wisconsin reported roughly \$365 million in property damage from flooding, and flooding is expected to increase as climate change intensifies. Wetlands absorb and store excess rainfall and runoff. They slowly release excess water into nearby streams during storms. Vigue said, "we applaud the Wisconsin

* Advocacy Report, Page 8

✱ Advocacy Report

Continued from page 7



Photos: Audubon Great Lakes

Brian Vigue, Policy Director of Freshwater for Audubon Great Lakes, next to SB 222, the Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant Program, which was signed into law.

Legislature, including lead sponsors, State Senator Romaine Quinn (R-Cameron), and state Representative Loren Oldenburd (R-Viroqua), for recognizing the incredible benefits that wetlands provide . . ." The 2 million dollars this legislation provides will help local governments restore and conserve their area wetlands.

In addition to this springtime legislative success, Wisconsin conservationists witnessed a major judicial victory this summer. It was a case brought on by Governor Tony Evers against the State Legislature's Joint Finance Committee. The

suit named co-chairs Sen. Howard Marklein, R-Spring Green, and Rep. Mark Born, R-Beaver Dam, as defendants, as well as Senate President Chris Kapenga, R-Delafield, and Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, who are co-chairs of the Committee on Employment Relations. Over recent years, it had become routine for members of the Joint Finance Committee to reject Knowles-Nelson projects through interference or inaction without any stated grounds, reasonable, or unreasonable.

On July 5, 2024, the Wisconsin State Supreme Court ruled 6-1 that it is unconstitutional for members of the Joint Finance Committee to anonymously object to conservation projects being applied for through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grants. This practice presented an imbalance of power that goes against the principles of separation of powers, with an equal balance among all branches of government. As Justice Rebecca Dallet stated in her opinion, "Our decision neither enhances executive power, nor curtails legislative power. We simply confine legislature to lawmaking and leave the execution of the laws to the executive as the Wisconsin Constitution commands."

This decision represents a major victory for all land conservancies in the state, as it puts the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program back on track. 99% of Wisconsinites live within five miles of a Knowles-Nelson Project. Moreover, the nearly unanimous ruling, 6-1, with the more conservative justices Bradley and Hagedorn ruling with the majority, indicates that the Supreme Court's judgment was based on solid legal principles, and not political ideology.





Black Oil Sunflower



Nijer (Thistle)



Green/Rock Audubon Society Fall Bird Seed Sale

	Size		Sell	Purchased Amount
<u>Black Oil Sunflower</u>	50 lb	\$	23.35	\$
	25 lb	\$	12.70	\$
<u>Nyjer (Thistle) Seed</u>	25 lb	\$	29.25	\$
	10 lb	\$	15.00	\$
<u>No Waste Mix</u>	20 lb	\$	14.20	\$
<u>Woodpecker Mix</u>	20 lb	\$	19.90	\$
<u>Cardinal Mix</u>	36 lb	\$	24.20	\$
	18 lb	\$	13.40	\$
<u>Safflower</u>	25 lb	\$	31.90	\$
<u>Variety Suet 6 pk</u>		\$	9.50	\$
<u>Suet Crazy Nutty</u>		\$	1.90	\$
<u>Suet High Energy</u>		\$	1.90	\$
<u>Suet Orange</u>		\$	1.90	\$
<u>Suet Berry</u>		\$	1.90	\$

To calculate your total cost, please use numbers from the 'sell' column. Total: \$ _____

To make a purchase contact:

Andrea Short 608-921-7367

budztobirdz@yahoo.com

Sale ends October 13!

Green/Rock Audubon You may bring your check and order form to the G-RAS annual meeting on October 13, or mail it to G-RAS, p.o. Box 1986, Janesville, WI 53547-1986

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

We will deliver your order!





Join Green-Rock Audubon Society

Your Name: _____
 Your Mailing Address: _____
 Your E-mail: _____
 Would you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically? ____

Two Ways to Join

___ I wish to join Green-Rock Audubon Society, I understand that I will not receive the Audubon Magazine, but all dues will go to G-RAS.

Dues: \$10 Senior or Student, \$15 Single Membership, \$20 Couple

• To pay by mail, make checks payable to G-RAS, and mail this form along with the check to this address:

Green-Rock Audubon
 Attn: Treasurer
 P.O. Box 1986
 Janesville, WI 53547-1986

• To pay online visit <https://www.greenrockaudubon.org/donate>

___ I wish to join the National Audubon Society's normal membership.
 (Please <http://action.audubon.org/donate/chapter-membership?chapter=Z18> to complete this membership.)

___ I wish to donate an additional \$ _____ to support GRAS's conservation efforts.

Volunteering Interests I would like to volunteer for...

- Whatever is Needed
- Burning
- Brushing
- Spraying
- Seed Collecting
- Planting

I can volunteer at:

- Whenever is Needed
- Androne Woods
- Cleophas Reserve
- Spring Creek Reserve
- Gabower-Reilly Reserve
- The Pond (Janesville)

Donate Beyond Membership I would like to donate to...

- Whatever is Needed
- Purchasing Herbicides
- Purchasing Spray Equipment

I want my donation to support G-RAS's efforts to manage or maintain...

- Androne Woods
- Cleophas Reserve
- Spring Creek Reserve
- Gabower-Reilly Reserve

Times I can usually volunteer:

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday

Volunteer Coordinator:

Fred Faessler
fred.faessler53@gmail.com

(Please mail checks according to the directions above or visit our website.)

Membership Form Inside

Green-Rock Audubon Society (G-RAS) membership for one year with quarterly newsletter Green-Rock Naturalist from Green-Rock Audubon Society (all dues go to G-RAS).

- Senior or Student membership \$10
- Single person membership \$15
- Couples membership \$20



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Board of Directors

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Your Articles are needed!

Your articles for the Winter issue will be needed soon. If you could, please, get them to me as soon as possible, I would appreciate it.

Thank you very much.
Carol Herzig, Editor
caherzig@gmail.com