

NOVEMBER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2010
Conservation of Common Loons

Kevin Kenow, an Onalaska resident, will present a program on 'Research in Support of Common Loon Conservation'. The presentation will cover life history, current status of common loons in the Great Lakes region, and current research efforts to provide information to support the development and implementation of regional common loon conservation strategies.

Common loon populations in the Great Lakes region appear to be generally stable over the past decade. Yet, concerns about the effects of habitat alteration, contaminants, disease, and potential impact of climate change on common loon populations have recently surfaced. For example, a substantial number of loons have succumbed to recent outbreaks of Type E botulism in the Great Lakes. Many questions also have been raised concerning potential impacts of the Gulf Oil Spill on loons that traditionally winter in the Gulf of Mexico.

Kevin brings 24 years of experience as a research wildlife biologist with the USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in La Crosse. He has conducted research on a variety of projects related to conserving migratory birds and their habitats. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Minnesota-St. Paul and Master's Degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Current projects include evaluating the vegetation response to seasonal pool-wide water level reductions on the Upper Mississippi River and assessing the level and impacts of boating disturbance to waterfowl on important staging areas during fall migration, factors that may have consequences on common loon productivity. He is also studying the migratory movements and foraging patterns of fish-eating waterbirds (with emphasis on common loons) while migrating through the Great Lakes in association with a USGS study on avian botulism.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

OCTOBER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2010

Special Joint Meeting with Sierra Club

Marge Gibson from the Raptor Education Group, Inc. (REGI) will share some of her stories of many years working with birds through, research, rehabilitation and education. She will bring a number of beautiful raptors, all of which are permanent residents of REGI due to non-releasable conditions. This is a rare opportunity to get up close and personal with some of the raptors of REGI, learn their stories, how they came to be with REGI as well as some of their interesting natural history.

Marge Gibson founded Raptor Education Group, Inc. (REGI) in 1990 along with her husband Don. She has worked with wildlife for over 30 years beginning with raptors as a field biologist and has worked with many high profile field projects including the California Condor Recovery Team and the Bald Eagle Capture and Health Assessment Program in Valdez, Alaska following the Valdez Oil Spill where she was team captain. In addition, Marge teaches wildlife rehabilitation internationally.

In the beginning, REGI was focused on public education programs and supporting field research on avian species. While specializing in large raptors and swans, all avian species are accepted for rehabilitation at the center. Since its beginning, thousands of raptors and other avian species have been patients at the wildlife center. REGI averages 500 new patients annually and conducts up to 200 educational programs.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010
UTAH'S RED ROCK CANYON LANDS

Clayton Daughenbaugh, conservation organizer with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance will present a program on AN AMERICAN ICON: UTAH'S RED ROCK CANYON LANDS. America's red rock canyon lands wilderness, located in southern Utah, draws pilgrims from across the country and around the world. It is the largest network of undesignated wilderness lands remaining in the lower 48 states.

The program includes "Wild Utah", a multi-media slide show documenting citizen efforts to designate public lands in southern Utah's spectacular canyon country as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. This 15- minute journey through red rock splendor, narrated by Robert Redford invites viewers to participate in the movement to

protect these unique lands. "These are spectacular public lands owned by all Americans. As citizens we have a great opportunity to act to protect these special places," Daughenbaugh said.

Daughenbaugh also serves as the volunteer Chair of the Sierra Club's National Wildlands Committee and is the author of "Common Sense Democracy: How to Complete the American Revolution in Your Neighborhood" written from two decades as Chicago community organizer

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MAY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2010
Butterflies of the Coulee Region

Mike Reese has been an educator in Wautoma, Wisconsin for over 25 years, and spends much of his spare time taking nature photographs throughout Wisconsin. He also maintains a web site on the butterflies of Wisconsin (<http://wisconsinbutterflies.org>), but is often distracted from butterflies to take other insect photos, especially damselflies, dragonflies, tiger beetles, and robber flies. He provided most of the photos for the book *Damselflies of the Northwoods*, has maintained the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) sightings page since 2001, writes a quarterly article for their *American Butterflies* magazine summarizing the sightings, and has been the editor for the Wisconsin NABA butterfly counts since 2002. In addition, he is the state coordinator for the Butterflies and Moths of North America web site.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

APRIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2010
Dragonflies and Damselflies of Western Wisconsin

Bob Dubois will present a program on “Enjoying the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Western Wisconsin”. The talk will focus on citizen enjoyment of the dragonflies and damselflies of northern Wisconsin through understanding the many fascinating aspects of their biology, ecology, and behavior. He will give tips about identifying damselflies and information about how folks can become involved in Wisconsin’s statewide dragonfly and damselfly survey (WOS). Bob DuBois is an aquatic ecologist with the Bureau of Endangered Resources in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). He gives talks and leads outings and workshops that focus on Wisconsin’s dragonflies and damselflies. He leads citizen monitoring efforts for dragonflies and damselflies through the Wisconsin Odonata Survey (WOS), curates the DNR Odonata collection, and manages the DNR Odonata web site, (<http://inventory.wiatri.net/odonata>).

He has published a field guide to Damselflies of the North Woods, found here, (<http://www.kollathstensaas.com/>) and is currently preparing a field guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Rocky Mountains. He has written over 3 dozen scientific research articles on various topics related to the management and protection of dragonflies, damselflies, and stream trout fisheries.

DuBois has worked for the DNR since 1983 and is stationed at the WDNR Superior Service Center in Douglas County. Phone (715) 392-6976. Bob lives in Superior with his wife Linda, two dogs, a cat, and whichever of his three adult daughters happens to be home at the time. In his “spare” time he loves to teach (anything he knows about), canoe, fish for trout, and chase dragonflies.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

MARCH MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010
Muraviovka Park

Barb Thompson is the Outdoor Education Center Coordinator for the West Salem School District and, since 1996, a summer volunteer at the Muraviovka Park For Sustainable Land Use, a crane reserve environmental education camp in Siberia.

She will talk about the birds of the park, what Americans are doing to help increase environmental knowledge/ethics through teachers and children in the area and the joys and sorrows one feels when working with another culture in another country.

The park is a beautiful wetland/upland complex where temperate, tropical and mountain flora and fauna converge to create areas of unimaginable bio-diversity.

The endangered Red-crowned and White-napped Cranes nest there, with at least four other cranes species using the park lands a resting areas on their yearly migrations.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

FEBRUARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010
The Life of the Mississippi River

Edward J Lagace, Winona District Park Ranger will talk about the river and our social impact on it with some discussion of climate change. It will be combined with a slide show of the river and bluffs in all seasons with the sounds of swans geese, ducks, and eagles in the background, flute music and a meditation session.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

JANUARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010
Pot Luck and Annual Meeting

We are meeting in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse

Street. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

Potluck begins at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and your own dishes and utensils.

Following a brief business meeting to elect officers, members and guests are invited to share their pictures of special trips and of the outdoors.

A notebook computer and projector will be available if you would like to share digital pictures. Please bring them on a CD or flash drive. If this setup doesn't work for your photos, please bring your own equipment or talk to Dan Jackson to work out the details.

In recent years, the pictures that have been shared included birds, reptiles, amphibians, and other nature subjects. There have also been short presentations on special nature trips taken by members.

In addition to pictures, please bring suggestions for field trips and/or speakers for the coming year. The board is always interested in ideas to make our programming better and fresh ideas are appreciated.