



Wachiska Audubon Society's vision: To share the experience and love of nature—that life may flourish in all its natural diversity.

The Babbling Brook

SEPTEMBER 2012

Volume 21 - Issue 9

Annual Potluck Picnic—Thursday, September 20, 6:00 p.m., Pioneers Park Nature Center

Are You Ready for a Picnic?

by Arlys Reitan

Due to the unusually hot summer, Wachiska's annual potluck picnic was pushed back to September. Then there was a scheduling problem with our usual meeting night being chosen for the dedication of the Antelope Valley Project which would involve many of our members, so it's been decided that we'll picnic on Thursday, September 20, just one week later than our usual meeting night. This gathering will take the place of our usual September program.

Join Wachiska at 6:00 p.m. on **Thursday, September 20**, at the Pioneers Park Nature Center where we will begin the evening with our famous potluck picnic in the newly renovated and recently dedicated Bird Garden at the Ager Building. You'll remember last month we highlighted the fact that this beautiful area has been dedicated to Irene and George Alexander, long-

time Wachiska members and teachers of the Basic Bird ID Class for many years. (See August 2012 issue of *The Babbling Brook*, page 4.) George and Irene plan to attend this picnic, too. If the weather is unfavorable, the picnic will be moved indoors to the auditorium in the Prairie Building across the road.



About 7:00 p.m. Terry Genrich with the Lincoln Parks and Rec Department will update us on the latest developments in the Haines Branch Prairie Corridor project which Wachiska has voted to support. Nancy Furman might have a few comments about the nature center.

We will then disperse to a couple different areas of the park where you can inspect the prairie to see how it has been affected by the heat and drought this summer and/or trek to the old schoolhouse now onsite to see how the kids of yesteryear spent their class days. You can always merely relax in the Bird Garden for the evening, too. The night's activities will adjourn by dark.

This evening's events are free of charge to our members and the public as long as you bring a dish or two of your favorite food to share and your own table service, please. Cold drinks and coffee will be provided. No reservations are needed.

The Pioneers Park Nature Center is located at the far west end of Pioneers Park's driving loop. The actual address is 3201 South Coddington Avenue for those who want to Google map it. Then drive through the park to the west end and you'll come to the parking lot, or the intersection is West Van Dorn and South Coddington Avenue. You can find the park entrances six blocks either to the south or to the west. If you need more information, call the PPNC at 402-441-7895 during office hours.

Don't forget the date and location change above.
You don't want to miss the food and fun!

Calendar

September

- 6 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 5:15 p.m.
- 9 Field trip to local birding hotspots; meet at Oak Lake at 4:00 p.m. (page 2)
- 17 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 20 Annual Picnic, PPNC, 6:00 p.m.** (see above)
- 27 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's at 11th & G streets, 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Highlights

October

- 11 General Meeting, "Sustainability and Faith," by Rev. Kim Hinrichs
- 20-21 Fall Birdseed Sale (page 2)

November

- 8 General Meeting, "Niobrara Council's Outdoor Youth Environmental Activities," by Michelle Garwood



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

A Swift Night Out

The chittering of chimney swifts soaring high overhead is a familiar summer sound around town, yet their unseen world inside our chimneys is a little mysterious. Human expansion reduced forests with hollow trees for chimney swift habitat but also provided the brick chimneys used by this adaptive species which has been declining in recent decades. What will happen to these "flying cigars" when all the old style brick chimneys are gone? Modern chimneys have smooth metal walls that swifts can't hang onto and screens that prevent entry. "A Swift Night Out" is a continent-wide effort to raise awareness about and interest in swifts in order to protect existing breeding and roosting sites, and promote installation of chimney swift towers. As swifts begin to congregate in communal roosts prior to their migration in the fall, local Audubon chapters and birders are encouraged to become citizen scientists by locating a roost and observing it on September 7, 8, or 9 and then reporting it for a database that will map 2012 sightings. Wachiska will participate by counting swifts that enter old chimneys in the Lincoln downtown area. If you know of a swift roost and would like to submit your data, you will need to estimate the number of swifts seen from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunset and then email the following information to chimneyswift.org:

- number of swifts counted
- time
- date
- location
- broad description of the site, e.g. school, warehouse, residence, chimney swift tower, etc.
- weather conditions may also be reported

Our September field trip will begin with some afternoon birding at hotspots near the downtown area before we count chimney swifts at sunset. Meet at **4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 9**, in the parking lot on the west side of Oak Lake located on North 1st Street. Bring insect repellent, water, shoes appropriate for tallgrass, and binoculars and scope, if you have them. No entry fee is required and the public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

The Babbling Brook via Email?

Because of increases in printing and postage, Wachiska has decided to offer *The Babbling Brook* by email in the next few months. If you would like to be included in this group, contact the office at wachiskaoffice@inebraska.com or 402-486-4846. It will be awhile before the procedure gets set up and tested, but we would appreciate knowing your wishes at this time. The newsletter will still be offered by snail mail to everyone who wishes to receive it.

October Birdseed Sale

Plan now to order next month!

by Elizabeth Nelson, Birdseed Sale Coordinator

The Wachiska Fall Birdseed Sale will happen in October. The order form will be included in the October *Babbling Brook* and on our website.



Mark your calendars

Completed order form and payment will be due at the Wachiska office by **October 10** (or postmarked by that date).

Pick up days will be Saturday and Sunday, **October 20 and 21**, at Midwest Roofing, 1938 Yolande Avenue in Lincoln.

We will be offering our usual wide selection of seeds and treats. Please be thinking of what you would like to feed your hungry winter friends. The Fall Birdseed Sale is one of Wachiska's primary fundraisers, and we count on your support!

If you have questions or if you can help during the distribution/pickup days, please call Elizabeth at 402-770-3485.

Technology Volunteer Needed

Do you enjoy keeping up with the latest on computers and the Internet? Are people always coming to you for help with their computers? How about putting those skills to work and help the environment at the same time? Wachiska Audubon is looking for such a volunteer to help keep our office computers in tip-top shape!

Wachiska is great at caring for the environment; unfortunately we are not always as skilled with our computers! We are asking for a volunteer who can stop in the Wachiska office two or three times per month and make sure our two Windows 7 computers stay organized. Our office manager and other member volunteers sometimes have "how-to" questions, and we need someone who can help with answers.

Here is a list of the types of things we need help with:

1. Stop by the office two to three times per month during weekday afternoons between 1:30 and 5:30 p.m.
2. Assist staff members with how-to-use common software like email, Word, Excel, web browsers, etc.
3. Translate computer jargon into English for us "regular" folks.
4. Help configure and update the computers to protect against new viruses.
5. Help with backing up data.
6. Work with our webmaster to help to continue improving our website.

All in all, we feel this would require about five hours of your volunteer time per month. If interested, please contact Arlys at the Wachiska office through email or phone. We look forward to hearing from you! Contact wachiskaoffice@inebraska.com or 402-486-4846.



From the Board ...

by Gary Fehr

Advantages of a Sustainable Food System

Wachiska's stated mission includes advocacy of our natural environment and sustainability. As a group we have accomplished wonderful and significant goals over our nearly 40-year history with the prairie assets we have acquired and now maintain. An interesting question is, are there other aspects of sustainability that we as Wachiska members should be aware of and support? I believe knowledge of our food choices and where our food comes from ties in closely to the overall health of our environment, such as our Nebraska prairies. Such a significant portion of our global ecosystem has been converted to permanent food production that we must be aware of the correlation between food and environment.



Gary Fehr

Most of us realize we all live on planet Earth and our choices, writ large, can impact the environment. Still, modern society has insulated us so thoroughly from direct contact with our food sources that it is easy to lose sight of the connection between food and environment when walking down the supermarket aisle.

Let's look at a few advantages that a sustainable food system brings to the (dining) table:

- Reduced dependence on fossil fuel and chemical inputs
- Elimination of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)
- Retaining the soil as a long term, live resource rather than a temporary store of nutrients to be mined and discarded
- Use of natural methods for pest and weed control
- Improved water quality through reduction in soil nitrates
- Humane treatment of food animals
- Reduced water usage through moisture conservation
- Protection of local wildlife habitat

Space does not permit us to discuss each in detail, but let's elaborate on some points here, for example the use of chemical inputs and GMOs. As reported in the *New York Times* and *USA Today*, the glyphosate herbicide Roundup and GMO strains of plants, co-developed and co-marketed with the glyphosate herbicide Roundup, account for 90 percent of soybeans and 70 percent of corn and cotton in the U.S. Mother Nature, never one to sit idly by, has lately been answering in the form of weeds that have become increasingly resistant to the herbicide. The conventional response is to use even more Roundup in a desperate attempt to fight back.

In contrast, sustainable practices strive to employ natural means of weed control such as mulching, living ground covers, and crop rotation. Such practices encourage the presence of beneficial insects to prey on pests. Living ground covers deter emergence of invasive weeds. Healthy, rich soils produce healthy plants that can better resist disease naturally. Such soil has a rich microbiology that no synthetically-concocted cocktail can replace. The soil is not merely a substance to prop up the roots, but an essential foundation that sources the plant with nutrients and moisture.

My favorite example of what should be our view of the natural world's tie to agriculture comes from Louis Bromfield, a prominent author and soil conservationist in the 1940s. In *Pleasant Valley*, Bromfield relates a story of a neighboring farmer who understood the advantages of farming in harmony with the larger eco-structure:

I followed him along the fence row and presently he knelt and parted the bushes and beckoned to me... 'Can't see 'em, can you? Look, over there just by that hole in the stump.' I looked and then slowly I saw what he was pointing at. They sat in a little circle in a tiny nest, none of them much bigger than the end of one of old Walter's big thumbs – seven tiny quail. They sat very still not moving a feather, lost among the dry, brown leaves.

Bromfield's neighbor didn't just have a soft spot for cute baby birds. He fully acknowledged the economic role they played:

Old Walter stood up and said, 'They used to laugh at me for letting the bushes grow up in my fence rows, but they don't any more. When the chinch bugs come along all ready to eat up my corn, these little fellows will take care of 'em... Last year Henry Talbot, down the road, lost ten acres of corn all taken by the bugs. Henry's a nut for clear fence rows. He doesn't leave enough cover along 'em for a grasshopper.'

'...That fence row beside you', he said, 'is just full of birds—quail and song sparrows and thrushes—the farmer's best protection.'

How can we as Wachiska members help the environment via our food choices? Expand your vegetable garden. Consider diverting some of your hard-earned dollars to supporting local farmers instead of corporate agriculture. Try out a farmer's market in addition to the grocery store—quiz the vendors on their growing practices and they will be eager to share with you. Or try out one of the great natural food stores in Lincoln. We also have a unique resource right here in Nebraska where you can order online from sustainable farmers around the state and pick it up in Lincoln—check out www.nebraskafood.org. Help the birds by supporting sustainably produced food!

Gary is Wachiska's treasurer. By day, he is a computer systems engineer for Union Pacific Railroad. While he enjoys anything involving numbers, he also values the natural environment and caring for it through conservation and sustainable agriculture. Besides Wachiska, Gary has served as treasurer and operations manager for Nebraska Food Cooperative.

Birdathon 2012 Goal is within Reach

by Tim Knott

Thank you to everyone who made a Birdathon donation this year either directly through our annual fund drive or indirectly through Give to Lincoln Day May 17. We appreciate your understanding of the necessity of having a fund drive and the importance of each member family making a donation.

Although we haven't yet reached our goal, we are getting closer, but support from all our members will be needed. You can still send in your donation and be part of this year's Birdathon. Just mark your check for Birdathon and send it to our office at Wachiska Audubon, 4547 Calvert Street, Suite 10, Lincoln NE 68506.

A number of volunteers helped with this year's fundraising effort and deserve my thanks and the thanks of the whole chapter. Our envelope stuffers, sealers, and stampers worked hard to get the 2,000+ letters in the mail in early April. They are **Betty Safranek, Shari Schwartz, Anne Vidaver, Bud** and **Phyllis Narveson, Clarice Hedrick, Bob Boyce,** and **Jane Fredrickson.** Phone callers are a vital part of the success of our fund drive. Even after Give to Lincoln Day was completed, they helped to remind members that we still needed their support to reach our goal. Phone crew members are **Anne Vidaver, Lelia Coyne, Bob Boyce, Gary Fehr, Jessi Umberger, John Carlini, Shari Schwartz, Sam** and **Ida Truax, Ken Reitan,** and **Tim Knott.**

Marge Shriver sent thank-you notes. **Camy Svoboda** entered donations into our database. **Gary Fehr** made the bank deposits and kept our records up to date. Our bird hike leaders on Birdathon Weekend, May 12 and May 13, were the best. They were **Larry Einemann, John Carlini,** and **Shari Schwartz.** **Arlys Reitan** kept a record of each check received, supplied me with lists of potential donors and volunteers, and made sure that we stayed on task. If I missed your name, you deserve a double thank you! I appreciate you all for helping Wachiska have a successful fundraiser this year.

Thank you to donors for Birdathon contributions received between July 26 through August 28 as shown below:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Allen | Dick & Jacqui Herman | George & Virginia Myers |
| Ann & Peter Bleed | Sandra Herzinger | Jim Nissen |
| Molly Boyd | Roger & Jan Hirsch | Bill & Jan Norris |
| Honey Lou & Forest Boyum | Chris Hodges & Brian Wertz | Jim & Virginia Norsworthy |
| Delma Bruning | Dorothy & George Holdren | Ruth Orth |
| Jack Buehler | Faye Holdsworth | Wes & Andi Peterson |
| Richard Carman & Laura Hays | Jane & Mark Holt | John & Nancy Power |
| Stephen Cloyd | John & Karen Janovy | Kirsten & Tom Powers |
| Connie & Jon Cole | Tim Janssen | William & Martha Powers |
| Doris Cole | Ken Johnson | Diane Pratt |
| Bev Cunningham | Nancy Johnson | Mary Lou Pritchard |
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| Jeanette Ecklund | June Knudsen | Bob Raymond |
| Jay Edgar | Bob Koerner | Midge Reeder |
| Elizabeth & HJ Evermann | Julia Larson | Jane & Peter Reinkordt |
| Wayne & Joann Ficke | Ninette & Bob Lookabaugh | Mitch Renteria |
| Gary Floyd & Sarah Kohlhof | Stu Lutich | Mary & Bob Rogge |
| Mike & Patty Forsberg | Elvina Lyman | Patricia Sawyer |
| Mikil Foss & Petronela Radu | Mary Lou Meier | Barbara & Jay Schmidt |
| Aaron & Carrie Foster | Karen Messenger | Kathy & Jay Tschetter |
| Ron & Kay Fox | Allison & Daniel Meyer | Pat & Loi Vo |
| Nancy Furman | Geraldine & Roger Meyer | Darrell & Lois Watts |
| Linda Graham | VT & Joyce Miller | |
| Janet & CW Haws | Gates Minnick | |
| Tom & Candy Henning | Cindy Miserez | |

Water: the Crisis is Now

by Chuck and Barb Francis

Population & Environment Committee

Three percent of Earth's finite supply is fresh water; two-thirds of that is locked in ice caps and glaciers. We survive on what is left in groundwater and surface supplies in rivers and lakes—and we wait for rain. The parched Midwest is in crisis due to lack of precipitation for crop production and other human needs. Just as other species adapt, we need to modify our behavior to conserve available water and use it efficiently.

Short-term and local changes are those we are making personally at home and in our community. We can install low-flow shower heads and low-flush toilets, take short showers, recycle wash water into the garden, be aware of water bills, and take care of leaks. In the yard we can water sparingly in cooler morning hours and choose to let lawns go dormant until it rains. Installing rain barrels, planting native species that are drought tolerant, and designing rain gardens can all help. See this website for 100 ideas to save water at home:

<http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/>.

In the community we can lobby for more native plantings in parks, opt for minimum irrigation and maintenance of areas with less frequent use, and plan for long-term development of water storage areas to capture run-off that currently goes out through storm sewers. City parks can be a wonderful place to demonstrate drought-tolerant plantings and the beauty of native restored prairies rather than monocultures of high-cost turf. There are many ways to raise awareness in the community. See http://www.americanwater.com/49ways_saving_tips.php.

For agriculture, there are active education programs developed by University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension to help farmers make sound irrigation and other water use decisions. From scheduling irrigation to installing water-efficient drip systems, there are many ways to produce “more crop per drop” of water. A task force of Extension specialists and educators is providing advice for farmers, acreage and homeowners with ways to conserve and use water efficiently: <http://water.unl.edu>. The university's Water Center is part of a nationwide network of scientists and educators working toward better water use and ways to conserve this vital resource for the long-term needs in food production and other sectors of society.

We often focus on current issues and shift priorities in response to crises. For water use in Nebraska, the crisis is now. There are competing users lobbying for help in preserving their access to fresh water for farming, city water supplies, recreation, and preserving vital wildlife habitat. We have cooperative arrangements with neighboring states to maintain minimal flows in streams that cross state lines. These agreements have large financial implications and costs to the taxpayers if we do not comply with legal requirements and obligations.

Some dimensions of the long-term water challenge are less obvious than the immediate crises of watering lawns or filling a swimming pool. Our diets high in animal protein depend on much higher levels of water use for food production than those composed of mostly plant protein sources. Growing high water use crops such as corn and then converting this vital grain to

biofuels consumes water at all steps in the process, contributing to higher water consumption as well as increases in food costs. Establishing artificial lakes in a prairie region where there is high evapotranspiration (water loss) in summer creates an inefficient use of a scarce resource that could be redirected to more vital human uses. We often lack a life-cycle assessment of products and water use alternatives that would allow us to make rational decisions about how to distribute this resource for the greatest human good, as well as how this impacts other species in the larger ecosystem.

As we wait for rain, the good news is that a crisis brings attention to our vital water resource. The shortage of water causes us to pause and think about ways in which we can each reduce personal water use, as well as seek options at the community and state level to increase water capture from precipitation, then store and use it efficiently. There is a finite amount of water in the global system, and we need to better understand and learn how to use this resource that is vital to life, for us and for the environment.

New Members Recognized

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

These people have joined National Audubon recently. With a national membership comes an automatic membership in the local chapter.

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Karie Decker | Willis Knake |
| Sabyasachi Mahapatra | PJ Peters |
| Curtis Embree | Douglas Nern |
| David Wilmarth | James Williams |
| Ralph Tipken | Sue Eckley |
| Keith Meininger | Jean Murphy |
| Coleen McCormick | Christine Jillson |
| Edna Forrest | Joey Hotz |
| Ruth Elwell | |

These folks have recently joined as Friends of Wachiska:

Ryan Armbrust Mark Mayer Cathy Kieffe

Some individuals and families choose to join both groups above. However one decides to support the cause, we thank them and welcome them to Wachiska Audubon!

Beer, Brats, & Birds

Join the Pioneers Park Nature Center to support the birds and environmental education by attending a fundraiser on Friday, September 28. A social hour with music begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner provided by Hy-Vee at 7:00. End the evening with an 8:00 stroll through the nature center. Call PPNC at 402-441-7895 for ticket information.

W.A.R.B.L.E.R

(Wachiska Audubon Readers' Bulletins, Letters, and Environmental Reports)

From *National Geographic*

Young and clever mountain gorillas in Rwanda are making the best out of a bad situation. Every year, poachers set thousands of spring-loaded branch and rope snares in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park to catch antelope and other animals. Sometimes gorillas get trapped.

But check this out: Recently, a tracker working for the Karisoke Research Center, a local gorilla conservation organization, witnessed three juvenile gorillas *systematically dismantling traps* in the forest, the first report of its kind. The speed and confidence exhibited by the young gorillas may mean this is not the first time they've destroyed a trap—and, hopefully, it won't be the last.

Submitted by Bob Boyce

Keep Saving those Calendars

Our Wachiska member is still able to use whatever calendars (old or new) that we can furnish her for her classroom use. "Wow, it sounds like a treasure trove! I'm always looking for variety! Yes, we can always use calendar pictures on all topics of good taste.

Ode to the Prairie

by Linda Stringham

Ah! to age tactically like the prairie
to appear to give in
to progress, to fences, to railroad tracks
to houses, highways—even hybrids in corn rows

to allow tallgrass to be ripped from the roots
of your scalp by plows
barbed wired defining your features

to submit to all manner of infusions, intrusions
hammered steel, concrete, weed killers

to accept borders, government, settlements
even artificial turf and wind farms

yet every now and then
to rise again
lashing out in furious power
a tantrum of thunder
a volley of hailstones
a fiery maelstrom

then calm yourself brilliantly
in rain rinsed clarity
to let the poets write.

Thank you again, Arlys, for your thoughtfulness. It never would have occurred to me to ask you to put a note in the newsletter. The results have been wonderful!"

Linda Geisert

Appreciate Our Vendors

Recently, Joyce Vannier and Arlys Reitan were working on cleaning up our database. When Arlys mentioned this to Betty, owner of All Needs Computer and Mailing Services where the Wachiska newsletter is printed and prepared for mailing, Betty offered to perform an added function that would simplify our mailings, cut down on the returned mail, and bring our addresses up to date. This saved many dollars on the Birdathon mailing. When we emailed her that her list of NCOALink matches were helpful and eliminated a lot of "dead wood" from our database, Betty replied, "Thank you so much for the kind words. I really enjoy working with your organization."

No wonder Betty Cummings was voted the "2006 Outstanding Women-owned Business of the Year." Wachiska office workers agree!

Dr. Johnsgard Receives Prestigious National Award



Paul Johnsgard

Paul A. Johnsgard received the 2012 Ralph W. Schreiber Conservation Award from the American Ornithologists' Union. The award presentation was made at the North American Ornithological Conference in Vancouver last month. For additional information see www.aou.org/awards/senior/conservation/.

Chris Thody Joining SCP Staff

by Marian Langan, Audubon Nebraska

We are delighted to welcome Chris Thody to the Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center staff. Many of you know Chris already from her years of working in conservation and education. She replaces Ruth Lionberger who did a great job of increasing SCPAC's partnerships in the Crete community. Finding someone with Chris's talent will allow us to seamlessly build on that work. Chris is also a member of the Wachiska Board and chairs the chapter's education committee.



Chris Thody

Public Officials

President Barack Obama

1600 Pennsylvania Av NW, Washington DC 20500-0001
Comment line: 202-456-1111
Phone: 202-456-1414 Fax: 202-456-2461
E-mail at website: <http://whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Senator Ben Nelson

440 N 8th St Ste 120, Lincoln NE 68508
Lincoln phone: 402-441-4600 Fax: 402-476-8753
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-6551 Fax: 202-228-0012
E-mail at website: <http://bennelson.senate.gov/contact.me.cfm>

Senator Mike Johanns

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 294, Lincoln NE 68508-3803
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-228-0436
E-mail: mike_johanns@johanns.senate.gov

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1st District)

301 S 13th St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508-2537
Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686
E-mail at website: <http://fortenberry.house.gov/>

Congressman Lee Terry (2nd District)

11717 Burt St Ste 106, Omaha NE 68154
Omaha phone: 402-397-9944
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452
E-mail at website: <http://leeterry.house.gov/>

Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
Scottsbluff phone: 308-632-3333 Fax: 308-635-3049
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov/>

Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

Governor Dave Heineman

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848
Phone: 402-471-2244 Fax: 402-471-6031
E-mail: dave.heineman@nebraska.gov

State Senator _____

District ___ State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604
State Capitol Switchboard 402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301
E-mail: commish@lancaster.ne.gov

Mayor Chris Beutler

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 208, Lincoln NE 68508-2828
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120
E-mail: mayor@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln City Council

402-441-7515
E-mail: council@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor, 926 P St, Lincoln NE 68508
E-mail: oped@journalstar.com

Membership

Wachiska offers two choices of membership. Local membership, called Friends of Wachiska, includes receiving *The Babbling Brook*, our chapter's monthly newsletter. It also includes voting privileges and attendance at monthly meetings, programs, and field trips. All membership dues from a local membership stay with Wachiska to support chapter activities such as prairie preservation and education.

Membership in the National Audubon Society also includes membership in our local chapter, Wachiska. You will receive *Audubon* magazine from National Audubon along with *The Babbling Brook*.

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

_____ \$20 Individual/Friend

_____ \$50 Sustainer

_____ \$30 Families

_____ \$100 Patron

Make checks payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds remain with our local chapter. Mail to:

Wachiska Audubon Society
Attention: Membership Committee
4547 Calvert St Ste 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643

As a conservation organization, our goal is to use our natural resources wisely. Materials and postage are considerable, and we do not want to waste them. When your address changes or if you are receiving *The Babbling Brook* and would rather not get it, please notify us at wachiskaoffice@inebraska.com or 402-486-4846.

OR

National Membership in National Audubon Society

Dues from new (introductory) memberships and for first-time gifts will be returned to Wachiska if this coupon is used:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

Enclose introductory membership fee of \$20.

Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to:

Wachiska Audubon Society
Attention: Membership Committee
4547 Calvert St Ste 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643

C2ZP040Z

Fall Plant Sale at Arboretum

On Saturday, September 8, there will be a fall plant sale on East Campus from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Consult the online plant catalog at <http://arboretum.unl.edu/onlinestore> or call 402-310-9937 for details.

Audubon 2013 Calendars

Wachiska is now taking orders for the gorgeous 2013 wall and desk calendars. This time there are eight designs and they are as beautiful as ever! Topics are The World of Trees (new), Nature, Wildflowers, National Parks, Songbirds, Butterflies, Engagement Calendar, and Birds Page-a-Day Gallery. Check these out at the next meeting, look for an email announcement, or call the office for details.

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Lincoln NE 68506-5643



The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.



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4547 Calvert St Ste 10
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402-486-4846
wachiskaoffice@inebraska.com
www.wachiskaaudubon.org

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2012

OFFICERS

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| President..... | *Anne Vidaver | 402-435-0832 |
| Vice-President | *Arnold Mendenhall (Hickman)..... | 402-525-4884 |
| Recording Secretary..... | *Bob Boyce..... | 402-770-6865 |
| Corresponding Secretary..... | *Marge Shriver..... | 402-423-9287 |
| Treasurer..... | *Gary Fehr..... | 402-570-4382 |
| Immediate Past President..... | *Chuck Francis..... | 402-483-6727 |

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Director at Large..... | *Bob DenHartog (Raymond) | 402-937-3872 |
| Director at Large..... | *Barbara DiBernard | 402-466-0117 |
| Director at Large..... | *Jessi Umberger | 402-580-3057 |
| Conservation..... | *Heidi Hillhouse | 402-470-7350 |
| Education..... | *Chris Thody (Martell) | 402-499-0133 |
| Field Trips | John Carlini..... | 402-475-7275 |
| | *Ken Reitan..... | 402-423-3540 |
| Fundraising..... | Vacant | |
| Hospitality | Cheryl Moncure..... | 402-488-0036 |
| Legislation..... | Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm) | 402-796-2114 |
| | *Bruce Mellberg..... | 402-570-3681 |
| Membership..... | Joyce Vannier..... | 402-489-4611 |
| | *Barb Francis | 402-483-6727 |
| Monthly Programs/General Meetings | Arlys Reitan | WAS office 402-486-4846 |
| Newsletter Editor..... | Arlys Reitan | WAS office 402-486-4846 |
| Population/Environment | *Chuck Francis..... | 402-483-6727 |
| Program Coordinator | Tim Knott..... | 402-483-5656 |
| Publicity/Public Relations..... | Jeanne Kern..... | 402-423-0428 |

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Bird Questions..... | Irene Alexander | 402-423-9495 |
| NAS Regional Board Member..... | Pete Cannon (Madison, WI) | 608-251-1276 |
| Newsletter Layout..... | Deb Sabata | 402-730-1344 |
| Raptor Recovery Nebraska | Betsy Finch (Elmwood)..... | 402-994-2009 |
| Executive Director Audubon Nebraska | Marian Langan | 402-797-2301 |
| Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director | vacant | 402-797-2301 |
| Webmaster..... | Dan Staehr..... | 402-440-5869 |

NEBirds Website

Check out the email discussion at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NEBirds/> to learn of the latest sightings and interesting tales of Nebraska's most avid birders and those interested in Nebraska birds and their ecology. Information changes daily—and even more often when excitement arises. Offerings of recent sightings, questions, and new photos are all welcome.

Wachiska Audubon Society's financial records are available for examination in the office.

A Gift to the Future

A bequest to Wachiska Audubon Society is a gift to future generations enabling our natural heritage to continue. For wills, trusts, and gifts, our legal name is **Wachiska Audubon Society**. Our Federal Tax ID number is **51-0229888**.