



Wachiska  
Audubon Society

Wachiska Audubon Society's vision:  
To share the experience and love for nature and help protect its diversity

# The Babbling Brook

Our 52nd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2025

**FEBRUARY 2025**

**Volume 34 - Issue 2**

Wachiska Program and General Meeting - Thursday, February 13, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/6IBLpsw2208?feature=share>

## The Common and Rare: Diverse Faces of Native Plant Conservation

by Katharine F. E. Hogan, Ph.D.  
Director of Conservation, Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha

The plant communities of our Great Plains and Midwest prairies contain a host of characters—some are common and familiar faces, and many are uncommon to extremely rare. Sometimes our research finds that the common characters, like the iconic tall grasses and sunflowers, are key players in stories of how prairies change over time, drive ecological function (like plant productivity), and stabilize communities through stresses like drought. This is critical information for those of us working hard to restore and manage resilient, diverse prairies. On the other hand, other research suggests that rare plants also have similar roles to play in these stories—but how can we learn what that is when we often don't know where or in what numbers these rare species exist? This talk will be a tour through applied and fundamental research questions about conserving our prairies and an overview of upcoming conservation work on Great Plains rare plants at Lauritzen Gardens.

**Dr. Katharine Hogan** recently joined Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha as the director of a growing plant conservation program. Since 2009, she has worked in native plant and habitat conservation and restoration, from New England wetlands to the Chihuahuan Desert to the open expanses of the Nebraska



**Katharine Hogan**

Sandhills. Most recently, she did a post-doctoral research fellowship in prairie ecosystem ecology at Northern Illinois University after receiving her doctorate in natural resources science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In her free time, Dr. Hogan enjoys going on long walks (in the prairie, of course!) with her dog and partner, watercolor painting, drawing, and never following recipes while she cooks.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, February 13, at 7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, for this free, public, in-person talk which will also be live-streamed on YouTube at

<https://youtube.com/live/6IBLpsw2208?feature=share>

No registration is needed. This program can also be viewed at a later time. Check Wachiska's website for links to past programs.

### Calendar

#### February

- 3 Education/Outreach Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 13 General Meeting program on native plant conservation by Dr. Katharine Hogan, 7:00 p.m., in-person at Unitarian Church & also live-streamed; no registration needed (see link above)
- 15 **Bird EnCOUNTER, Eiseley Library** (page 2)
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 18 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

### Wish List for Prairie Pines

We appreciate all of the donations we have received for Prairie Pines so far. We will continue to accept hand or power tools, lawn items (sprinklers and hoses), or other equipment you would like to donate. We are also looking for a vehicle to transport disabled or elderly visitors as well as for maintaining trails and fences. An electric golf cart would be ideal or a UTV or side-by-side all-terrain vehicle. We are also in the market for a small- to medium-sized tractor for various duties in the future.

# Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman



I want to start off by thanking all of the generous donors to our end-of-year appeal. We received gifts for Prairie Pines, our general fund, and the prairie management fund. We have also received some great items for Prairie Pines including hoses, sprinklers, hand tools, area rugs, and more. The generosity of our members is unmatched.

Be sure and stop by the new office and say “hi” and wander around Prairie Pines. We are planning to be fully moved in by mid-February. We have not set up new hours yet, but our partner, Prairie Pines Partners, has the property open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. There are lots of trails to explore and wildlife to see.

We will be taking birdseed orders towards the end of the month, and an order form will be in the next (March) *Babbling Brook*. The distribution will be at the garage at our old office (4547 Calvert Street), so watch next month's newsletter for further details on the spring birdseed sale. The order form will also be posted on our website next month.

**NOTE:** There is a very dangerous bill that was introduced in the State Legislature this session. LB264 was introduced by Speaker Arch on behalf of the governor. It is one of the main appropriation bills and is 96 pages. Most of the bill pertains to sweeping multiple funds and putting them in the General Fund. On page 75 the bill takes 50 percent of the Nebraska Environmental Trust's funds. Be sure to check out more details and additional bills in my legislative update on page 3.

## Bird EnCOUNTER Coming this Month

Bird EnCOUNTER is taking place on Saturday, February 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Loren Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior Street, in northwest Lincoln. We would like to encourage everyone—especially those with children in their lives—to participate in our annual bird celebration during the Great Backyard Bird Count. Live raptors, bird-themed games and crafts, including a fun bird-banding game brought to you by Jason and Brady with Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, await you. The event is free. Mark your calendars and plan on joining us!



*“The goal of life is to make your heartbeat match the beat of the universe, to match your nature with Nature.”*

--Joseph Campbell

## Entering Comments on Bills Before the Nebraska Legislature

by Judith Wilson

One year ago, I undertook to become an advocate for the environment by focusing on laws and activities of the Nebraska Legislature. I found that a useful tool for advocacy is entering comments on bills about to come before a committee, such as the Natural Resources Committee. Committees act as the initial gate-keeper for legislation; committees can advance a bill to General File, hold it in committee, or indefinitely postpone it. According to the *Lincoln Journal Star* (12/31/23), 110 bills advanced to General File in 2023—that's 110 out of a possible 980 bills (49 senators x 20 bills each). A bill advanced to General File will receive floor debate, possible amendments, and possible support to move it on to Select File, or second debate. If all goes well for the bill, it will reach Final Reading when it can be voted into law. Along the way, it may be amended, combined by the committee with other bills, or indefinitely postponed if it lacks support.

The Nebraska Legislature provides a website to help citizens learn what bills have been proposed, which committee they have been assigned to, and when their committee hearing is scheduled. You can submit comments through the website before the committee considers a bill, up to a posted cut-off time. Your comments become part of the record for that bill and let committee members know the public's support or opposition. If the bill continues past General File, there will be additional windows to submit comments.

This website is found at [Nebraskalegislature.gov](http://Nebraskalegislature.gov). There are many ways to do anything on the website, so it helps to spend time exploring the tabs. A quick way to learn which bills are scheduled for committee hearing is to select “Calendar,” (fourth tab down on the home page). The “Calendar” display lists the hearings scheduled for a particular date. For example, on that date, the Natural Resources Committee will consider LB20, introduced by J. Cavanaugh, described as “Require Interconnection for electricity distribution between local distribution systems and agricultural self-generation facilities.” Click on “LB20” and read the full bill under “Text Copies.” You can also click “Submit Comment Online.” After filling in some boxes, type a comment up to 500 words. Click the “Submit Comment” button at the bottom of the page and then open the email page to find a link to click to confirm your submission.

There is also a “Bill Tracker” service that allows you to track up to 15 bills and receive emails about activity on those bills. You can set up an account at [Nebraska.gov/billtracker/](http://Nebraska.gov/billtracker/). You can view all of the bills introduced in a session under the “Bills and Laws” tab on the home page. You can also “Search Bills” by Introducer, Committee Referral, Date, or Keyword. It may take some time to identify the bills you want to track. I benefitted last year from legislative updates from Wachiska Audubon and Nebraska Sierra Club as well as articles in the *Lincoln Journal Star* and the *Nebraska Examiner*.

## Monitoring Nebraska's 2025 Legislation

Nebraska's 109th Legislative session is underway beginning January 8 and ending approximately June 9. This is a 90-day session, and any legislation that is not passed, withdrawn, or indefinitely postponed will carry over to the next session beginning in January 2026. This session there were 715 bills introduced, a little under the average. The number may be down because each senator was limited to introducing 20 bills this session, or it might be because of the potential deficit the State is facing. The bill I most want to point out is **LB264** that would take 50 percent of the Nebraska Environmental Trust's funding and set a disturbing precedence to take NET funds. Here are many of the bills we will be monitoring this session:

**LB121** by Sen. Hardin prohibits land disposal of solar panels and wind turbine blades and components in Nebraska. We support recycling as many of these types of items as possible, but some parts will need to be landfilled, and this law would hamper solar and wind energy production in Nebraska.

**LB137** by Sen. Dungan prohibits homeowner associations from restricting solar panels or pollinator gardens. This is a positive step.

**LB145** by Sen. Ibach continues the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Species Assistance Fund and grant program to assist local control authorities and other weed management. This is a program we have supported in the past.

**LB163** by Sen. Spivey creates the office of Climate Action within Nebraska's Department of Environment and Energy. This is a positive step.

**LB167** by Sen. Couse continues the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act, a good program that needs to be continued.

**LB 261** by Sen. Arch would take \$15M from Nebraska Environmental Trust by June 30, 2027, and give \$10M to the Water Sustainability Fund and \$5M to the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Fund.

**LB264** by Sen. Arch would take 50 percent of the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) funds **forever** and give 1/2 to the Water Resources Cash Fund and 1/2 to the State Park Cash Revolving Fund. The NET has \$26M to award grants in the 2025 cycle—this bill would take \$13M. It ignores the will of the citizens who voted for the Lottery in Nebraska with the proceeds going to the NET, schools, the State Fair, and Problem Gamblers. This bill may be unconstitutional. Taking the funds directly circumvents the grant application process where the best projects are funded. Next year, senators could propose a bill taking the other 50 percent for other purposes.

**LB317** by Sen. Brandt would merge the Department of Natural Resources with the Department of Environment and Energy and change the name to the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. Creating super-sized state agencies has always been troublesome in the past, and this would probably be no different. These two agencies have different missions and duties and merging them will create problems.

**LB377** by Sen. Brandt would extend the term limits for Nebraska Game and Parks board members from two four-year terms to three four-year terms. Those nine commissioners have power over establishing policy and laws controlling the State's wildlife and parks. This would allow them to serve for 12 years instead of 8.

**LB484** by Sen. Quick redefines ag and horticultural land to include solar and wind farms. This will help promote solar and wind farms.

**LB503** by Sen. Bosn establishes American Energy Friendly Counties in NE and creates a grant program to benefit renewable energy facilities.

**LB531** by Sen. Kauth provides an exception to the requirement that buildings constructed with state funds comply with the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code.

**LB540** by Sen. Holdcroft would create the Nebraska Apiary Advisory Board. Even though this would pertain mostly to commercial honeybees, there could be some benefits to native bees.

**LB590** by Sen. Moser allows mitigation banks and in-lieu of fees for incidental taking of threatened and endangered species.

**LB638** by Sen. Ibach directs the Department of Natural Resources to apply for a grant of \$25M from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund to be paid out in five annual installments of \$5M, into the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Cash Fund. If LB264 passes, this \$5M would represent 38 percent of NET funds; if LB264 does not pass, it represents 19 percent of NET funds. NET grants are only allowed for up to three years—this is a five-year request and sets a dangerous precedence in the grant process.

**LB652** by Sen. Hansen would terminate the Board of Educational Lands and Funds on July 1, 2027, and provide for the sale of school lands. Some of these lands contain valuable and unique habitat, and this short-sighted management of State-owned land could be destructive.

**LB663** by Sen. Storer changes provisions relating to conditional use or special exception determinations by county planning commissions and county boards. This needs to be followed.

**LB673** by Sen. Raybould would transfer \$500M from the Perkins County Canal Project Fund to the Water Sustainability Fund on or before June 30, 2025. This would probably end the Perkins Canal Project.

**LB674** by Sen. Raybould would transfer \$250M from the Perkins County Canal Project Fund to the General Fund and \$250M to the Water Sustainability Fund. This would probably end the Perkins Canal Project.

**LB695** by Sen. Dover would require the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District to construct a dam, secure funding, and engage in flood control measures to protect Battle Creek, Nebraska. We need to monitor the plan if the bill passes.

There are also several Constitutional Amendments that will have hearings and be voted on by the Nebraska Legislature and would then need to be voted on by the citizens. Two of these amendments are:

**LR22CA** by Sen. Dungan is a Constitutional Amendment to provide the right to a clean and healthy natural environment and that the State and political subdivisions serve as trustee of the natural resources of Nebraska. Several states have passed similar amendments.

**LR28CA** by Sen. Hansen would eliminate the Board of Educational Lands and Funds. See also LB652 above.

## Donate a Portion of Income Tax Refund to the Nebraska Wildlife Conservation Fund

by Julie Geiser, NEBRASKAland Magazine  
NGPC Public Information Officer

This tax season, consider donating a portion of your refund to the Nebraska Wildlife Conservation Fund when filling out your 1040N form. This fund supports Nebraska's nongame and endangered wildlife that do not fall under the Pitman-Robertson Act which protects game and furbearing species.

Over 2,000 species of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and plants are considered nongame species in Nebraska, representing over 95 percent of all species in the state. Some of these species are declining, endangered, or on the brink of extinction.

The Nebraska Wildlife Conservation Fund is the state's primary source of funding for monitoring, researching, managing, and conserving at-risk species such as the whooping crane, swift fox, western prairie fringed orchid, and blowout penstemon. By supporting the fund, you are taking an active part in conserving our state's diverse and priceless wildlife for future generations.

Donations have a big impact as they are matched with other grants, so every \$1 donated becomes \$4 for helping wildlife. The Wildlife Conservation Fund makes a variety of projects possible, including:

- ◆ improving habitat across Nebraska for at-risk species by using funds to restore prairies and control invasive species. Habitat created with these funds also benefits many game species, providing needed cover and food sources.
- ◆ preventing future endangered species listings by funding reintroduction projects such as the now-thriving peregrine falcon, while continuing to fund pollinator and bat surveys, reptile and amphibian research, and a long-billed curlew habitat study,
- ◆ connecting wildlife and Nebraskans through projects like "wildcams" for peregrine falcons and ospreys where people can watch these spectacular bird species on video.

Funding generated through the 1040N tax form is vital; without it, education and research programs would not be possible. You may donate all or a portion of your tax refund to the Wildlife Conservation Fund. For those not receiving a state tax refund, contributions via checks can be mailed to Nebraska Wildlife Conservation Fund, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, PO Box 30370, Lincoln NE 68503-0370. Online donations can be made at [OutdoorNebraska.gov](https://OutdoorNebraska.gov); search "Wildlife Conservation Fund" and follow the secure link.

*"When opportunity knocks, some people are in the backyard looking for four-leaf clovers."*

--Polish Proverb



## Prairie Pines Partners

by Naomi Kohles, Chair

Prairie Pines Partners (PPP) is thrilled to partner with Wachiska Audubon in managing the Prairie Pines Nature Preserve (PPNP). Over the past few months, Wachiska members may have heard about our nonprofit organization as we have been actively assisting in the property transfer process from the University of Nebraska Foundation to Wachiska Audubon.

Prairie Pines Partners became part of the PPNP story in 2009 when it was established to ensure that the vision of Walt and Virginia Bagley was upheld. Our mission is to provide leadership in developing Prairie Pines as a site of natural resource conservation for education, research, and recreation for all. As a result of our efforts, we offer free public access every Friday and Saturday, managed by over 30 volunteers (many of whom are Master Naturalists) and two parttime employees. In 2024, we welcomed over 2,750 visitors. In addition to regular access, PPP hosts a variety of onsite events and activities, including Run Four the Pines and Nature Rendezvous. We also collaborate with local organizations and schools such as the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for Nature at Nightfall; Lincoln Public Library for Around the Town Storytime; student groups at Wesleyan, UNL, and LPS Zoo School on student and community service projects (including deer and pollinator surveys and invasive amur honeysuckle removal). Additionally, we offer summer Day Care Tours.

PPP operates as a separate nonprofit from Wachiska, with our own board of directors. We will continue to lead conservation, education, and access efforts onsite, while taking on additional responsibilities including shared site management, operations, and expenses. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Pines!

## Street Tree Voucher Program

by Mark Brohman

The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department offers a cost-share assistance program to property owners in Lincoln who want to purchase and plant a street tree or multiple trees on the City right-of-way adjacent to their property. The \$300 voucher is good towards the purchase and installation of a tree at participating local nurseries. The remaining balance of the cost of the tree and installation will be at the homeowner's expense. Certain conditions and requirements apply to the program. Call 402-441-7847, option "0," for more information. When you call, they will look up your address and advise you if you are eligible.

## Chickenhawk

by Richard Peterson

Chickenhawk is an unofficial name for the Cooper's, sharp-shinned, and red-tailed hawks. Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks do hunt birds, but chickens are not a significant part of their diet. Red-tailed hawks may opportunistically hunt free-range poultry but are mainly predators of small mammals. These hawks have been mislabeled as pests and hunted as such. Even with efforts at common name changes, new guidebooks, and education, in rural areas widespread colloquial use of the term "chickenhawk" remains.

Birders like to know the bird's common name so others know which bird they are talking about. We are content to let the academics change the scientific name, but we want to know when in New York or California that we are talking about the same bird. The American Ornithologist Society (AOS) Committee on Clarification and Nomenclature is responsible for establishing officially used English names. "It could change these names every week, if it so chose." Some changes are for the good, some are not.

A good example: The Sixth Edition of the AOU (now AOS) Checklist of American Birds in 1983 changed the common name of the sparrow hawk to the American kestrel. Sparrows are only a minor part of their diet, so why have the word sparrow as part of the common name? All well and good. But recently the academics, using DNA analysis, have shown that this bird may be more closely related to falcons than to kestrels. So, common names of birds have and will be changed to clarify. All for the good.

In the 1960s, however, the naming committee adopted a policy of hostility to patronyms, a species name commemorating an individual. These are referred to as eponymous names e.g., Lewis's woodpecker, Ross's goose, Wilson's plover, etc. Today, the politically correct committee seems to think that if the person honored at the time, some over 200 years ago, does not fit into today's mold of correct thinking, then that person's name should not be used as part of the common name. Lewis, for those who do not recall, was Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Common names of our history.

In 2023, the AOS found approximately 152 North American birds and 111 South American birds named after people. The underlying fault with these people is that they may have "committed racist acts." Reminds me of the mindset of Congress in the early 1950s.

The renaming effort continued in 2024 with a subset of eponymous-named bird species yet to be finally selected that are found primarily in the United States and Canada. Eventually, the South American birds will be scrutinized. This means that newly-agreed-upon name changes will have to be finalized and field guides, websites, etc. all updated. The process will take years. Stay tuned.

## Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's Free Plant Talk Webinars

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is currently offering free Plant Talk webinars open to the public. Registration is required and can be done online. Each session is being recorded and will be emailed to registrants following the real-time Zoom event. All webinars occur at 12:00 noon on Zoom.

### The Great Plants of 2025

Feb. 6 - The arboretum's long-standing grant programs support a variety of community landscape projects. Arboretum Sustainable Landscape Specialists Sarah Buckley and Brad Kindler work with communities, nonprofits, businesses, and homeowners to plan and plant sustainable landscapes. Learn the ways the arboretum can assist with landscape projects.

### The Importance of Greenspaces in Healthcare Facilities — A Panel Discussion with Nebraska Experts

Feb. 13 - Hear from healthcare experts at Syracuse Area Health and Florence Home Healthcare/Royale Oaks Assisted Living in Omaha about the benefits of integrating greenspaces into healthcare facilities. The administrators behind these green infrastructure projects will also offer insights into why and how they supported these green infrastructure projects.

### Conversation with Nebraska Native Plant Photographer Drew Granville

Feb. 27 - Drew Granville, photographer for the Nebraska Native Plant Society, will use photos to discuss some of the interesting plants he's come across in his field work and what he's learning about native plants from his up-close encounters with them.

### Planting Around Trees

March 6 - Plant communities under trees provide a living mulch that protects trees from mower damage and over-mulching and benefits wildlife. Sarah Buckley will discuss how to transition fading turf grass to plantings that will thrive. We'll also offer tips for how to successfully plant in existing mulch beds around mature trees and how to establish plantings that can grow with newly planted trees.

### Oaks, Willows, and Prunus

March 13 - Oak, willow, and cherry trees are keystone species that support native insects. NSA staff Justin Evertson, Bob Henrickson, and Brad Kindler will discuss examples of each and what planting them could look like in your landscape.

More information on the Plant Talks and registration details are available online: <https://plantnebraska.org/>. Click on "Event Calendar," then "Plant Talks" to register.

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"All it takes is one bloom of hope  
to make a spiritual garden."

--Terri Guillemets

# Climate Change Update

by Chuck Francis

## Finland Adapts through Action to Counter Climate Change

The popular press in the U.S. is full of information on current climate change and its impacts on the future of our shared global ecosystem. Yet this compelling issue was essentially ignored by both parties during last fall's presidential debates. In fact, we have climate change deniers in top ranks of this new administration.

In stark contrast, Finland in the far North of Europe is taking positive steps to prepare their citizens and economy for obvious changes in climate. It is essential to unpack and study the threats to our future, as the progressive Finns have and to explore adaptive solutions they have pursued in response to this reality.

Eminent Canadian climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe from Texas Tech University calls climate change more than just an environmental concern. It is a threat multiplier that impacts many of the most serious issues facing people around the globe: "hunger, poverty, lack of access to clean water, injustice, refugee crises, and more" (Dr. Hayhoe's website).

Based on overwhelming scientific evidence, we need to accept that climate change is real and that much of the current crisis is caused by human activities. We must move beyond current debates, climate denial, and political posturing and take rational steps to prepare for realities we face today and into the future.

What are people in Finland doing to counter impacts of climate change? Dr. Hayhoe's website and that of *Climate News* describe current projects aimed at political, energy, and environmental decisions to meet their challenge. The country has implemented a strategy to become carbon-neutral by 2035 and to do this without controversial carbon credits often misused by industry.

Wikipedia reports statistics on Finnish energy use and climate-disrupting emissions from multiple sectors of society: transportation, burning peat and coal for fuel, manufacturing and other industrial activities, and agriculture. This assessment helps quantify their quest to reduce GHG emissions and design legislation to enforce needed changes to reach their neutrality goal. They recognize that modifications to current operations in business and personal energy use will be costly and perplexing to citizens accustomed to consumption habits developed over the past century; yet they are willing to pay this price to reduce their polluting carbon outputs and thus stabilize the environment. They are focused on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind and reducing imports from Russia. Another example is a massive underground thermal storage cavern near Vantaa, the

fourth largest city, which will store enough energy to heat the city for a full year. Finland is moving away from wood chips as a fuel and legislating use of renewable forestry toward construction. Finns are concerned about economics and environment.

Such changes in the U.S. will be difficult as we challenge the fossil fuel industry, give up a second car and use more public transportation, take vacations closer to home, turn down thermostats, and pressure utilities to switch to renewable sources. Many people are taking these steps, yet others are pushing problems into the future. We can learn from Europe how to adapt to emerging climate realities. Science provides overwhelming evidence about climate change and its impacts; bold steps are needed to preserve our fragile ecosystems and stabilize climate for survival of people and all living creatures. It is foolish to prolong current debates. Our time to act is now, and we can learn from Finland and other countries about viable paths to the future.

Thanks to Barb Hoppe Johnson for the article from *Inside Climate News* and to Marilyn McNabb, Barb Francis, and Arlys Reitan for edits.

## Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center February Programs

Great Backyard Bird Count Bird Outings  
Friday, February 14, 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Saturday, February 15, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Join an experienced birder and fellow birders for outings along the trails, counting species and numbers of birds seen for the GBBC. All are welcome, from beginning birders to experts. Free admission, registration preferred.

Details on all events at <https://springcreek.audubon.org/events>; 402-797-2301.

Note: The visitor center is open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Weekend winter hours (November through February) are Saturday-Sunday 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Trails are open sunrise to sunset 7 days a week. Free admission!

## Memorials Received

Recently Wachiska has received memorial donations as follows:

— In memory of Carl Wolfe from Mike and Theresa Stichter Fritz in Colorado

— In memory of Stuart and LaVera Schlichtemeier from their daughter, Lori Schlichtemeier Dworak in Idaho

## Public Officials

### **President Donald Trump**

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 Deb Fischer**

1248 O St Ste 1111, 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://fischer.senate.gov>

### **Senator Pete Ricketts**

1248 O St Ste 1000, Lincoln NE 68508  
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605  
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-224-5213  
E-mail at website: <http://ricketts.senate.gov>

### **Congressman Mike Flood (1<sup>st</sup> District)**

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

### **Congressman Don Bacon (2<sup>nd</sup> District)**

13906 Gold Cir Ste 101, Omaha NE 68144  
Omaha phone: 888-221-7452  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452  
E-mail at website: <https://bacon.house.gov>

### **Congressman Adrian Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> District)**

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361  
Scottsbluff phone: 308-633-6333 Fax: 308-633-6335  
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 Jim Pillen**

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848  
Phone: 402-471-2244 Fax: 402-471-6031  
E-mail at website: <http://governor.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 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508  
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301  
E-mail: [commish@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:commish@lancaster.ne.gov)

### **Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 301, Lincoln NE 68508-2828  
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120  
E-mail: [mayor@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mayor@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln City Council**

402-441-7515  
E-mail: [councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

Letters to the Editor, 21<sup>st</sup> and N St, Lincoln NE 68508  
E-mail: [oped@journalstar.com](mailto:oped@journalstar.com)

## **Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!**

This local chapter membership provides you with voting privileges and access to all our events, programs, and committees, **plus 100 percent of your membership donation goes directly to the Wachiska chapter. In addition, Friend members receive our monthly newsletter, *The Babbling Brook*, in their choice of print or electronic form.**

### **Friends of Wachiska (local membership)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ \$25 Individual/Friend
- \_\_\_ \$35 Family Friend
- \_\_\_ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- \_\_\_ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- \_\_\_ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- \_\_\_ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- \_\_\_ \$1,000 Peregrine Falcon Friend

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds will remain with our local chapter and are tax deductible. Mail to:

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



American Goldfinches

\_\_\_ **I prefer to receive my newsletter by email.**

Please note: If you are already a member of National Audubon Society (NAS) you automatically become a member of Wachiska, but not a Wachiska Friend member. Only Wachiska Friends receive the printed newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact the National Audubon Society directly.

*The Babbling Brook* (ISSN #1068-2104) is published monthly by Wachiska Audubon Society. The known office of publication is 4547 Calvert St Ste 10, Lincoln NE 68506-5643. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Send address changes to *The Babbling Brook*  
Wachiska Audubon Society, 4547 Calvert St Ste 10  
Lincoln NE 68506-5643



*The Babbling Brook* is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.

## REMEMBERING WACHISKA'S HISTORY

Wachiska means "stream" or "creek" in the languages of Indigenous people of eastern Nebraska, the Omaha and Ponca.

The environmental stewardship efforts of the Wachiska Audubon Society take place on the past, present, and future homelands of the Pawnee, Ponca, Otoe-Missouria, and Omaha Peoples, as well as those of the relocated Ho-Chunk, Sac and Fox, and Ioway. We humbly join our efforts with theirs in honoring and stewarding this land of prairies, rivers, and streams.

## Wachiska Audubon Society

4547 Calvert St Ste 10

Lincoln NE 68506-5643

402-486-4846

office@WachiskaAudubon.org

www.WachiskaAudubon.org

## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2025

Executive Director ..... Mark Brohman  
Office Administrator..... Arlys Reitan

### OFFICERS

President ..... \*Theresa Pella  
Vice President ..... \*Ann Briggs  
Secretary ..... \*April Stevenson  
Treasurer/Finance ..... \*Carol Bodeen

### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large ..... \*Dakota Altman  
Director at Large ..... \*Doug Campbell  
Director at Large ..... \*Andrea Faas  
Director at Large ..... \*Ethan Freese  
Director at Large ..... \*Stu Luttich  
Director at Large ..... \*Tom Lynch  
Director at Large ..... \*Roxanne Smith  
Director at Large ..... \*Kris Powers  
Conservation ..... \*Ross Scott  
Education/Outreach..... \*Tim Knott  
Membership..... Linda Brown

\*Denotes voting Board member

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846.

If you missed a monthly program or want to view one again, Wachiska Audubon's monthly programs are available on YouTube via the homepage at [www.WachiskaAudubon.org](http://www.WachiskaAudubon.org).

Wachiska is participating with Give Nebraska. Through a payroll deduction system, your donations will be automatically withdrawn from your paycheck. There are 75 nonprofit agencies that are beneficiaries, and more than 100 worksites participate. You can give a little each paycheck, and your contributions can add up. Your donations through Give Nebraska are tax deductible. Check with your employer to see if they are part of Give Nebraska.

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

## Mission Statement of the Wachiska Audubon Society

**The mission of the Wachiska Audubon Society is to bring people together to preserve and restore tallgrass prairies and other natural ecosystems, promote birding, support native wildlife, provide nature education, and advocate for the sustainability of our natural community.**

## 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**.

