



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

Our 42nd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2015

AUGUST 2015

Volume 24 - Issue 8

Annual Picnic — Thursday, August 13, 6:00 p.m., Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, 11700 SW 100th Street, Denton

Celebrate Prairie at the Summer Picnic!

by the staff of Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

Join us at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center (SCPAC) on **Thursday, August 13**, for a summer celebration of prairie. This will be Wachiska's annual potluck picnic where we'll have a chance to enjoy great food and the late summer prairie in its full glory. We'll get a behind-the-scenes look at the wonderful things happening there all year long. We'll have uninterrupted time to enjoy the new exhibits that went into place late last year, including the 15-foot-tall big bluestem exhibit and features by prairie poet Twyla Hansen and conservation photographer Mike Forsberg. There will be opportunity after the presentation to tour the most recent addition to the property on Bennett Road that so many of you helped us protect.

Your hosts and presenters will include **Marian Langan**, Audubon Nebraska executive director; and **Kevin Poague**, operations manager, and **Jason St. Sauver**, community education director, for Spring Creek Prairie.

Your many questions will be answered, and you'll be given answers to questions you hadn't even thought you needed to know. Where was the most reliable spot for the indigo bunting this year? How many upland sandpipers did we hear? How many children actually visit the prairie? What amazing critter was found for the first time on Marian's office window? Has the bobcat been seen lately? What happened to the Henslow's sparrows after the habitat management rotations? Who is the latest celebrity to have visited? Why are so many trees cut

down? Do you see lots of monarchs out there? How are the new exhibits being received? Are there any new programs in development? What social media websites is SCPAC on? What's there to do at the prairie in the wintertime? How bad are the ticks? Can I visit SCPAC before or after the visitor center is open? Are picnics allowed? Can I bring my dog out there? Bring your curiosity with you.



Beginning at **6:00 p.m.** we'll gather at SCPAC southwest of Denton to share an indoor potluck picnic. Bring a favorite dish or two to share along with your own table service. Beverages will be provided. Bring family and friends. This will serve as our monthly meeting.

Come out early to this free event and walk the trails, take photos, scout out the butterflies and other critters so we can discuss them during the talk.

Directions to SCPAC from south Lincoln: Take Old Cheney Road to Warlick Boulevard at the first stoplight west of 14th Street. Turn southwest onto Warlick; drive through the Highway 77 intersection, reaching Denton in seven miles. At the four-way stop sign in Denton, continue straight (west) another 1/2 mile before reaching Southwest 98th Street. Turn left (south) and drive another three miles. The Audubon sign and driveway are on your left (east) immediately after the curves. This is a 20 - 30 minute drive from Old Cheney Road. For instructions from downtown or other directions, check the SCPAC website at www.springcreekprairie.org or call 402-797-2301.

Calendar

August

- 3 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 4 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Annual Picnic, Spring Creek Prairie, 6:00 p.m., program by SCPAC staff**
- 14 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 17 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 27 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.
- 30 Field Trip to Platte River near South Bend area and then to Omaha for purple martins, 3:00 p.m. (page 2)



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Walking and Flocking

If you're in the mood to meander across the Platte River on a late summer visit, how about an afternoon walk to the Platte River Connection, a former railroad bridge that crosses the river at South Bend? We'll walk the MoPac Trail three-quarters of a mile from the parking lot to the bridge where we can scan the sandbars for possible shorebirds and least terns. If conditions are favorable, we'll stop next at LaPlatte Bottoms to check the wetlands for waders. The grand finale will be the spectacular purple martin pre-migratory roost in Omaha. Peak numbers should be occurring at the end of August, so we could potentially see 60,000 martins as they descend like a giant swirling snow globe into their nightly roost. The show starts around half an hour before sunset, lasts for about an hour, and can be viewed next to Nebraska Medical Center on 44th Street immediately south of Farnam Street. The parking lot next to Clarkson Doctor's Building South is open to birders. Participants can do the entire field trip or return home after any stop.

Meet at **3:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, August 30**, on the south side of the Capitol in Lincoln at 15th and H streets across the street from the governor's mansion. Anyone preferring to meet in South Bend can join the group around 3:45 p.m. in the parking lot a half mile south of town on 328th Street. Recommended items to bring include insect repellent, water bottle, and binoculars and scope if you have them. Some martin watchers like to bring a hat in the unlikely but possible event they'll receive a martin "offering" from the sky. The public is welcome to this free trip. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

Clyde and Thelma Gewacke Prairie Story

by Stu Luttich, Conservation Committee Chair

On Sunday afternoon, June 28, Wachiska held an appreciation tour at the Clyde and Thelma Gewacke Prairie for those who contributed to the purchase of this 10-acre tract located 2.5 miles west and ½-mile north of Ohiowa. Those attending included Elizabeth Nelson, Wachiska president; Dr. Paul Johnsgard, noted ornithologist; and Margaret (Gewacke) Nichols, previous owner of the prairie. Others attending included visitors from Vermont as well as other Wachiska members.

Belle Prairie Township was originally organized by the early and mostly German settlers from Iowa, Illinois, and Pennsylvania in 1872, and called "Beautiful Prairie" due to what was thought to be "...the pleasing lay of the land." Later the township was renamed "Belle Prairie" in honor "...of a very pretty girl who lived here at that time with her parents..." but whose recorded identity has been lost in the mists of history. This prairie is basically a tiny remnant of what once was a beautiful sea of grass in the 36-section (23,040-acre) Belle Prairie Township.



On May 30, 1873, Samuel Holderness staked a homestead claim to the 155-acre NE ¼ of Section 02, including the tract that remains as unbroken native tallgrass prairie today, and had the claim approved with a patented Certification in Deed from the Government of the United States of America. Holderness was one of the first four people to settle in Belle Prairie Township; the other three were Thomas and George Matson and Samuel Remley. Subsequently, titled ownership to the property frequently changed until March 1919, when William George Gewacke (Margaret Gewacke Nichols' grandfather) received title to the east ½ of the quarter-section, where the remaining prairie is located, from James Ovens in exchange for \$10,000. In November 1945, the land was inherited by William George Gewacke's two sons, Clyde (Margaret's father) and John Gewacke. Later land transactions resulted in Clyde and Thelma Gewacke acquiring titled ownership to the property. With the death of Clyde and Thelma Gewacke, Margaret Nichols inherited the land, including the prairie. Subsequently, Margaret sold the land, except for the prairie, to Larry and Darcy Nun.

In August 2001, Margaret asked Wachiska Audubon if the chapter would be interested in holding a conservation easement to honor the memory of her late father and mother. Clyde had long held a particular protective appreciation for this remaining tract of unplowed native prairie. On October 10, 2002, a prairie conservation easement agreement was signed between Margaret Nichols and Wachiska. A dedication ceremony took place in August 2004. In 2014, Margaret sold the prairie to the Wachiska Audubon Land Management LLC with the prairie conservation easement continuing to be held by the chapter.

The Wachiska Audubon Land Management LLC agreed to purchase title to the prairie primarily because it is one of the few remaining pristine unbroken tallgrass prairie remnants in Fillmore County. It hosts tallgrass prairie nesting bird species such as bobolinks and dickcissels and is one of the few prairies that still retains a resemblance of what once was the dominant ecological tallgrass prairie complex from one horizon to the next. Then came the plow with the corn and soybean obsession driving tallgrass prairies toward the edge of oblivion.



From the Board ...

by Joe Francis, Director at Large

What's Your Favorite Bird?

For me, this question is an easy answer—the rose-breasted grosbeak (RBG). As early as I can remember, looking at the RBG in field guides intrigued me. I'm talking *early*, like pre-grade school. Mom and Dad were members of the Norfolk Izaak Walton League, and in the summer the moms would have special activities with the kids. One day we were in the League club house making birdhouses and someone came running in and announced, "There's a rose-breasted grosbeak in the big cottonwood!" We ran out and were treated to a look at a male RBG. Flash forward a number of decades and our annual family trip to Niobrara State Park. We were beginning the walk back from the old railroad bridge, and my son insisted on taking the long way. Guess what we saw? Another cooperative RBG! It was a treat and maybe, just maybe, I'll get to see one with my grandkids!

I can't claim to be an accomplished birder, or really a birder at all, but I'm surrounded by them at Wachiska board meetings, so I put the question to them. I prefaced the question with "native North American" bird. Not surprisingly, it turned out to be an interesting exercise . . .

Bob Boyce – western meadowlark – It sings and flies along with Bob as he rides his bike in rural Nebraska.

Arnold Mendenhall – cardinal – In winter he gets to look out his window at them while they gorge themselves at his feeders.

Sam Truax – mourning dove and its Texas "cousin," the white-winged dove – They are numerous and all can enjoy seeing them at feeders. Additionally, they are popular hunted species which through related fees help fund a lot of habitat for other birds.

Arlys Reitan – black-capped chickadee – Like Arlys, the chickadees have nothing but energy and are constantly on the move (my words, not hers). They sing along and keep Arlys company on her morning walks with her neighbor.

Ben Vogt – lesser prairie chicken – He's never seen one but has the utmost respect for birds that require ten thousand acres per bird to survive.

Gary Fehr – great horned owl – Gary can't get away from their piercing yellow eyes and the fact that they are such incredible hunters.

Ken Reitan – red-headed woodpecker – They nest on Ken's childhood Iowa farm and "the color of the bird's head is such a deep red, not an ordinary red."

Jessi Umberger – dark-eyed junco – They warm her winter days.

Lana Novak – blue heron – On her trips as a child there was always one on the bridge between Yutan and Venice. It prompted her to do one of the paint-by-numbers pictures of a blue heron that ended up on her bedroom wall.

Tim Knott – bobolink – They are striking in their contrast and such wonderful indicators of a healthy prairie.

Stu Luttich – I'm not sure what to do with Stu . . . He said the question wasn't fair because if someone picked a favorite, it would be a disservice to all others. He did indicate that watching a red-tailed or ferruginous hawk "lazily and gently circling in the sky high above" on a warm sunny afternoon was hard to beat.

Elizabeth Nelson – She was in Stu's camp and resented having to pick one; however, Elizabeth came up with the black-billed magpie – It's not commonly seen in Nebraska, so it is a treat to see one with its "long tail and stark black-and-white coloring."

What I found astonishing in this exercise is where's the indigo bunting, the scarlet tanager, the blue bird, the Baltimore oriole, the gold finch? Not a single warbler!?! Not to mention shore birds or waterfowl!

But back to the question, Joe Francis (yes, I've already listed a favorite, but I agree with Stu and Elizabeth that you can't have just one favorite, and I'm writing this). The jenny wren and cardinal. Why? Because they were my mom's favorites and we can all agree, moms are always right!

Twilight on the Tallgrass

Jason St. Sauver, the Birdnerd at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, needs some expert Wachiska Audubon help with the upcoming Twilight on the Tallgrass festival on Saturday evening, September 26, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. This year the festival will celebrate the harvest moon with wagon rides, bird walks, astronomy, and more.

Jason could use a little more help on the planning committee, if anyone is interested, or on the night of the event helping in many ways.

If you're able to help, drop him a note or call the Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center office, jstsauver@audubon.org or 402-797-2301.



2015 Birdathon Donors

Birdathon 2015 brought annual donations from almost 250 members, friends, and supporters of Wachiska Audubon. As the chapter's only major fundraiser during the year, it is gratifying to know that our mission is supported by those who have similar concerns for birds, their habitat, and all of nature in our world. In addition, many folks chose to give through Give to Lincoln Day (see donor list on the next page). Thank you so much to each donor for every contribution.

\$200 and above

Nancy Hinnah
Gail Lockard
Christine Mackie
Arnold & Agnes Mendenhall
Linda Sullivan

\$100 - \$199

Ann Boisclair
Linda R Brown
Ron & Karen Case
Bev Cunningham
Lynn Darling
Peg & Larry Fletcher
Priscilla & Ed Grew
Norm & Ruth Griswold
Phyllis & Gary Hergenrader
Mark & Deanna Hutchins
William Janssen
Jeffrey Jens
Kile & Virginia Johnson
Sylvia & Norman Kempf
Stu Luttich
Paul & Irene Marcussen
Gates Minnick
Virginia Myers
Elizabeth & Daniel Nelson
Nancy Oster
Nancy Packard
Don & Joanne Pepperl
Allison & Gary Petersen
Andi & Wes Peterson
Ken & Arlys Reitan
Eileen Rock & Tom Stalder
Ernie & Audrey Rousek
Moni Usasz & Terri Brown
Pat & Loi Vo
Charles Wright
Merlin & Darlene Wright

\$1 - \$99

Trudy & Bill Adams
Margaret Allington
Rex & Angela Amack
Brigid Amos
Joan Anderson
Larry & Shirley Anderson
Catherine Angle
Larry & Kendy Angle

Marguerite Babcock
Britton & Barbara Bailey
Terri & Randy Bangert
Nancy & Larry Bare
Dave & Marti Barnhouse
Mary Barton
Linda & Sherm Bastron
Anne Beurivage & Jack Conway
Cara & Cal Bentz
Louie & Grace Bentzinger
Deborah & Tom Berger
Mark & Susan Bigham
Ann Birky
Dick & Paula Boyd
Honey Lou Boyum
Leona & Bryson Braziel
Phil & Anna Brey
David Brown
Martha & Greg Brown
Anne Bruce
Lynda Bryson
Mary Burrow
Doug & Mary Campbell
Peggy Caplinger
Mike & Bobbi Carlin
Thomas Carr, Jr
Patrice Chandler
John & Mary Clark
Stephen Cloyd
Dave & Cindy Cochran
Cindy Rutan & Dean Cole
Foster & Kim Collins
Mary Commers
Shirley Condon
Jim & Judi Cook
Gerry Cox
Lelia Coyne
Ann & Nicholas Cusick
Glen & Bonnie Dappen
Barbara Day
Mike & Donna DeKalb
Wilfred & Audrey DeVries
Barbara DiBernard & Judith Gibson
John Dietrich
Kirk & Joan Dietrich
Elizabeth & Mark Dietz
Cliff & Jeanne Dill
Gerald & Karen Dimon
Curt Donaldson

Gayle & Sarge Dubinsky
Roger & Janet Ehlers
Larry Einemann
John & Martha Eischeid
Cheryl & Franklin Eldridge
Shirley Engle
Elizabeth & H J Evermann
Laurence Falk
G Stephen Ferris
Molly Fisher
Maureen Flierl
Allan Freye
David & Anne Frye
Nancy Furman
Doug Gardels
Wanda Gardner
Donna & Russ Genung
Mary & Robert Givehand
Mary Gordon
David & Lois Goss
Richard Gray, Jr
Alyce Green
Robert Hancock
Jill Hanshaw
Joyce Harb
Deanna Harris
Klaus Hartmann
Harry & Karen Heafer
Clarice Hedrick
Linda Helton
Kathleen Helzer
Diana & Alexander Henriques
Sandra Herzinger
Rod & Pat Hier
Kathleen & Gary Hiji
Robert Hike
Robert Hillestad
Heidi Hillhouse
Gary & Susanne Hinkley
Roger & Jan Hirsch
Dorothy & George Holden
Cliff Hollestelle
Judy Homolka
Ruth & Care Hudson
Betty Jackson
Nila & Dennis Jacobson
John & Jayne James
Karen & John Janovy
Esa Jarvi

Mary Jasnowski
Janet Jenkins
Ken Johnson
Nancy Johnson
Sally Johnson
Susan Joy
Robert & Martha Kaul
Thomas Kiefer
Mary & Jim King
Mel Knaak
June Knudsen
Derald Kohles
Sue & Bob Kohles
Paul Konig
Kathleen Krone
Darrell Kruse
Addie Lancaster
Alice Lane
Marian Langan
Laddie Lastoka
Robert & Ruth Lawrence
Lorraine Leiser & David Taylor
Karl Linderholm & Lynne Brehm
Ninette Lookabaugh
Hope Ludwick
George & Cindy Maly
Eugene Martin
Jean McBride
Coleen McCormick
Jim McKee & Linda Hillegass
Edith Meints
William & Lillian Mesner
Karen Messenger
Geraldine & Roger Meyer
Gretel Mientka
Kevin Miller
Roger & Margaret Miller
Sharon Mohatt
Rosalind Morris
Anne Morrow
David & Ann Myers
Jim & Patty Neid
Phyllis & Larry Niebuhr
Dale & Sharon Nielsen
Jim Nissen
James & Virginia Norsworthy
Chris & Maggie Olson
Tory O'Neal

Continued on page 5

Birdathon Donors Continued

Bob & Sherry Parish	Midge Reeder	David Sebek	JoAnne Thiele
Tom & Gretchen Pesek	Pam & Rick Reinhardt	Roselyn Shaffer	Rosemary & Mel Thornton
Gale & Julie Pokorny	Jane & Peter Reinkordt	Peggy Siedhoff	Alice & Delmar Timm
William & Martha Powers	Cecily Ricard	Roxanne Smith	Verjean Vannier
Mary Lou Pritchard	Carolyn & Bruce Riddell	Chris & Vicki Sommerich	Clarence Vlasak
Loris Purtzer	Mary Rodaway	Robert & Nancy Sorensen	Mike & Jane Voorhies
Kathie Putensen	Annabelle & Melvin Rumbaugh	Carol Stewart	Carol Wagener
Mary Kay Quinlan	Don & Marge Saiser	Kristol & Kevin Stoner	Kevin & Doreen Wailes
Petronela Radu & Mikil Foss	Roger & Janet Sasse	JoAnn & Dorothy Stransky	Ron Ward
Ellen Rainbolt & Bill Achord	Patricia Sawyer	Ned & Linda Stringham	Don & Diane Weldon
Nancy Rakes	Starla & Scott Schleicher	Scott & Nancy Stuckey	Robert White
Phyllis Reagan	Marjorie Schmidt	Clare & Bobbie Sward	Ron & Susan Whitney
	Rick Schneider & Diana Pilson	Laura & Dennis Tegmeier	Karel & Linda Znamenacek

2015 Give to Lincoln Day Donors

Records show 86 donations to Wachiska were received from Give to Lincoln Day on May 28. Net proceeds to the chapter came to just over \$4,700, which included almost \$500 in our portion of the \$300,000 match provided by partners of the Lincoln Community Foundation, sponsor of this fourth annual event. Over \$3.2 million was raised for 327 nonprofits in our community during this campaign. Thank you to each of those donors listed below.

\$200 and above

Charles & Barbara Francis
Will Sheehan
Bruce E Wendorff
Denise A Wiemer

anonymous
anonymous
anonymous
Barbara Bailey
Britton Bailey
Laurence Ballard

Maureen Franklin
Linnea M Fredrickson
Sue Ann Gardner
William C Garthright
Rachel Garver
Colleen Geisel
S Beth Goble
Jocelyn Golden
Patsy A Hackley
Twyla Hansen
Laurie A Haszard
Linda & Norman Helzer
Christine Hodges

Phyllis G Narveson
Marilyn Nelson
Barbara Nieveen
Mary Bray Pipher
Duane Polzien
Gerald D Poppe
James F Pyrzynski
Carolyn Rieke
Rebecca H Seth
Judith Smith
Sara Stephenson
Marilyn Tabor
Mark Van Roojen
Lyle & Joyce Vannier
Verjean Vannier
Anne Vidaver
Dennis E Vodehnal
Patricia Warner
Wild Bird Habitat Store
Rebecca M Williams
Judith Wilson
M Susan Windle

\$100 - \$199

Diane R Bartels
Gary T Fehr
Nicole Fleck-Tooze
Carolyn Hall
Ingrid Kirst
Linda A Maslowski
Neva Pruess
J J Rice
Betty M Safranek
Barbara Straus
Jerry Wiggle

Ingrid Bangers
Lola M Barry
Mary A Barton
Gwen C Batcher
Jennifer Becwar
Marilyn K Brendle
Mark Brohman
John Carlini
Scott Chaffin
Shirley A Condon
Carole S Curry
Anne DeVries & Andrew Pitcher
Richard Dienstbier
Christie M Dionisopoulos
Dennis E Dohner
Kelly Fisher
Joe Francis

Jean Hulbert
Sitaram Jaswal
Ron J Johnson
Marjorie Kennedy
Jeanne Kern
Jon MacDowell
Tom Malmstrom
Marilyn D McNabb
Kevin Miller
Cheryl A Moncure

\$1 - \$99

Nancy Aden
Judy & Raymond Althouse
Frank Andelt

Most Recent Wachiska Members

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

The list of new members is smaller this month which is the usual case for August, but we want to welcome each of these people to our chapter. New National Audubon memberships have been received from Paul Canny and Sharon Godfrey. New members to the Friends of Wachiska (local) list are Barb Beall, Tony & Pat Brown, Karen Faubel, Rod Koch, Troy Kash-Brown, Marylyde Kornfeld, Patricia Lickei, and George McMillan. Hope to see some of you at the August 13 picnic at Spring Creek Prairie!

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Are Public Health and Clean Energy at Odds?

This column has looked at the National Audubon Society's extraordinary study of the effects of climate change on our birds. We've examined how federally-protected birds and ecosystem values play a part in the siting of wind projects at the state level. This month we'll look at important decisions for Lancaster County affecting our part in the transition from coal-generated electricity to clean energy. There will be several opportunities for Wachiskans to weigh in.

The first opportunity will be at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19, at the meeting of the Lancaster County Planning Commission. Under consideration will be zoning regulations for wind industry development. Many subjects are regulated, with perhaps the most important being limits in decibels of sound. Sound is regulated for the purpose of protecting public health. If the Planning Commission in August and the County Board at their September meeting accept the current proposal for decibel limits, wind will most likely go undeveloped in Lancaster County. I believe a resolution is available that offers a high level of confidence that public health will be protected and still permits wind energy development here.

Who has an interest in the outcome?

- Farmers whose operations are compatible with placement of wind turbines on their land in exchange for regular payments to supplement volatile commodity prices
- Acreage owners who hoped for a neighborly relationship with industrial agriculture but hadn't expected an industrial wind generation project neighbor
- County taxpayers who will benefit substantially from wind project payments
- People in the future who will benefit or suffer from our choices affecting future climate stability

Last November a study by Health Canada reported objectively-measured health outcomes in two Canadian provinces. Previously, studies of health effects of wind turbine noise have all been based on self-reported health effects. Health Canada studied 1,238 households, a comprehensive study. Measurements were taken by an actimeter, a wrist-worn monitor of sleep, cortisol levels in hair that measure stress, and blood pressure and heart rate using standardized procedures.

Health Canada's study found no significant association between wind turbine noise exposure and hair cortisol levels or high blood pressure levels or resting heart rate. Wind turbine noise levels near participants' homes were not associated with sleep efficiency, the rate of awakenings, total sleep time, or how long

it took to fall asleep. In other words, these two Canadian provinces regulate wind turbine noise at a high level of protection of public health. Prince Edward Island uses an informal noise limit of 45 dBA. Ontario's regs range from 40 dBA to 51 dBA in rural areas with permitted turbine noise increasing with wind speed. Were Lancaster County to accept a night-time limit of 45 dBA, the wind developer, Volkswind, wrote the Planning Department on June 12, their project could move ahead. That level of sound seems to be within the practices and rules of the two Canadian provinces that best available information says protects human health well.

Wind energy is regulated under a "special permit." For comparison, the decibel level limits for other activities under the Noise Control Ordinance for the agricultural land use category in Lancaster County is:

6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	75 dBA
10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.	50 dBA

Some argue that wind turbine noise health effects are indirect, mediated through "annoyance," which is self-reported. Annoyance, I believe, is too weak a basis for regulation. It is subjective. Studies have repeatedly shown levels of annoyance correlate to the subject's attitudes to wind development in general and whether the person receives payments for land use. The Health Canada study reports annoyance to be directed more at factors such as the sight of turbines, blinking lights, shadows, etc., than noise.

The Lincoln-Lancaster Planning Department has set up an excellent website at <http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/dev/wind/index.htm>. Sources for this column can be found in my comments on the proposed regulations on the website at <http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/dev/wind/public-comments/mcnabb-email.pdf>.

Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission members are Jeanelle Lust, chair; Chris Hove, vice chair; Cathy Beecham, Michael Cornelius, Tracy Corr, Maja Harris, Dennis Scheer, and Ken Weber .

Prairie Jazz Festival Set for August

Tickets are now on sale for the inaugural Prairie Jazz Festival Saturday, August 29, at the tallgrass prairie at Pioneers Park Nature Center. The Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center are hosting the event from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m., with music from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Performers include Annette Murrell with Jim Williamson opening for the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra. General admission tickets are \$40. Concert-goers may bring their own food (no drinks), chairs, and blankets. Chairs can be rented for \$4. VIP tickets are \$100 and include premium chair seating and a catered picnic. All proceeds will benefit Pioneers Park Nature Center. Tickets and more information is available at prairiejazzfestival.org.

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 Sasse

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 287, 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://sasse.senate.gov>

Senator Deb Fischer

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://fischer.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 Brad Ashford (2nd District)

7126 Pacific St, Omaha NE 68106
Omaha phone: 402-916-5678
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452
E-mail at website: <http://ashford.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 Pete Ricketts

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 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—many people choose both. 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 local membership dues remain 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 _____ County _____ 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 office@wachiskaaudubon.org or 402-486-4846.

AND / 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 _____ County _____ 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

C5ZP040Z

Members Sign Up to Receive *The Babbling Brook* Online

You can help Wachiska save paper and reduce the cost of printing and mailing *The Babbling Brook*. Each month's newsletter will be posted online by the first day of each month. Our electronic subscribers will receive an email the first of each month with a direct link to the online newsletter.

If you would like to join the 128 other *Babbling Brook* readers and switch from paper to online delivery, please send an email to newsletter@wachiskaaudubon.org and put "Electronic Newsletter" in the subject line. We'll get you converted over. Thanks!



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.



Wachiska Audubon Society
4547 Calvert St Ste 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643
402-486-4846
office@wachiskaaudubon.org
www.wachiskaaudubon.org

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2015

OFFICERS

President.....	*Elizabeth Nelson.....	402-770-3485
Vice President.....	*Jessi Umberger (Otoe).....	402-580-3057
Recording Secretary.....	*Bob Boyce.....	402-770-6865
Treasurer.....	*Gary Fehr.....	402-570-4382
Immediate Past President.....	*Arnold Mendenhall (Hickman)	402-525-4884

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large.....	*Joe Francis.....	402-489-7965
Director at Large.....	*Mitch Renteria.....	402-483-7275
Director at Large.....	*Benjamin Vogt.....	402-499-5851
Conservation.....	*Stu Luttich (Geneva).....	402-759-3597
Education.....	*Lauren Dinan.....	308-390-3961
Field Trips.....	John Carlini.....	402-475-7275
	*Ken Reitan.....	402-423-3540
Hospitality.....	Cheryl Moncure.....	402-488-0036
Legislation.....	Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm).....	402-796-2114
	*Sam Truax.....	402-325-9012
Membership.....	Joyce Vannier.....	402-570-8469
	*Lana Novak.....	402-475-8693
Monthly Programs/General Meetings.....	Arlys Reitan.....	WAS office 402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor.....	Arlys Reitan.....	WAS office 402-486-4846
Population/Environment.....	*Colleen Babcock.....	308-850-0445
Publicity/Public Relations.....	Jeanne Kern.....	402-423-0428

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions.....	Kevin Poague.....	402-797-2301
NAS Regional Board Member.....	Michele Crist (Boise, ID).....	208-863-1918
Newsletter Layout.....	Linda Sullivan.....	402-580-8515
Raptor Recovery.....	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. Posts change 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.

Memorial Received

The Nebraska Herbal Society sent a donation to Wachiska in memory of their long-time member, Carrie Pierson. The chapter appreciates these gifts and has notified Mrs. Pierson's family.