



Wachiska  
Audubon Society

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

# The Babbling Brook

Our 51<sup>st</sup> Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2024

JUNE 2024

Volume 33 - Issue 6

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, June 13, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/JZiRUhmDth8?feature=share>

## Orchard Street Pocket Prairie: Invitation to Optimism

by Yvonne Meyer

As a child, nature was always my happy place. I grew up on a family farm where Molly, the three-legged farm cat, and I would go down to the creek and sit on the exposed roots of a cottonwood tree and just be quiet. Nature is still where I go to find stillness, connection, and beauty.



I am a photography teacher in Lincoln High School's art department. Nurturing and empowering students is my primary purpose in life, and I love them. Teaching through the pandemic and its aftermath of widespread student disengagement and disconnection felt futile at times. No amount of effort or enthusiasm on my part seemed to impact the outcomes for many of my students. They were broken, and so was I. I needed to reclaim optimism.

I have always gardened for food and bouquets to share, but gardening with nature in mind is relatively new for me. During the pandemic when cities closed down, we saw how resilient and quickly nature reclaimed spaces. This fascinated me, and I pursued stories of regenerative farming and people working in reciprocity with the land. During this quest, I found the work of Benjamin Vogt and Doug Tallamy, and my paradigm shifted. Even in the context of global environmental degradation, one can feel hope. There is meaningful action to be taken, and we can all do it.

Orchard Street Pocket Prairie was born out of a desire to restore the little bit of land I manage to habitat and to create a soulful space for people to linger in a patch of urban nature. For the past couple of years, I have been replacing the lawn with native host plants, rain gardens, and berms and converting my easements into pollinator gardens and pocket prairies. How quickly the insects and birds have returned! I am delighted when I find passersby in standing meditation with a patch of milkweed. How lovely that this is possible here and now. There is a growing community and resources available to support the work. I will share lessons learned along the way. The story I want to share is that if you are game to try, nature is a generous partner. *Heaven is in a wild flower, and you can hold infinity in the palm of your hand.*

In addition to teaching at Lincoln High School, Yvonne Meyer has been a youth treatment specialist at the Child Guidance Center (now Hope Spoke) for 16 years. She is also an adjunct art instructor at UNL and artist-in-residence at Lux Center for the Arts. She holds a BA in sociology and an MFA in photography along with a post-baccalaureate K-12 art education endorsement. Yvonne lists gardening with nature in mind as a priority hobby along with photography, hiking in nature, managing a Facebook page of Orchard Street Pocket Prairie, and several other pastimes.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, June 13, at 7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, to learn more about this Lincoln native. This free, public, in-person talk will also be live-streamed on YouTube at

<https://youtube.com/live/JZiRUhmDth8?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.



*"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy [for] they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."*

-- Marcel Proust

### Calendar

#### June

- 3 Education Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 13 General Meeting, "Orchard Street Pocket Prairie: Invitation to Optimism," by Yvonne Meyer, 7:00 p.m. in-person at Unitarian Church and also live-streamed; no registration needed (see above)
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 18 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 "Tour the Wild Side," 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., (pages 4 - 5)

# Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

Spring migration is slowly winding down and the resident birds are getting their nests built and eggs laid. Some species already have young to feed and may pull off a second nesting later this summer. May was very busy with an Arbor Day event, the chimney swift tower dedication, Birdathon birding trips, Birdathon donations, and Give to Lincoln Day.



I want to thank all of you who donated to Birdathon and Give to Lincoln Day. We will report in next month's Babbling Brook the results of these two important fundraisers. I am amazed how many supporters we have, not only in Lincoln, but from all over. We are truly blessed to have such great people associated with us, and I'm proud to represent all of you.

We have a great annual event coming up June 22. Mark your calendar and read on the following pages all about the seven beautiful sites presented on this year's "Tour the Wild Side." Included will be a couple of giveaway drawings at this public event. Several wonderful sponsors are underwriting this year's Tour, allowing for free admission.

I had an opportunity to attend a grassland symposium sponsored by the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition held in Broken Bow. The event drew attendees from across the state from ranches, tribal leaders, government officials, and nonprofit organizations. A document of "Our Ideal Nebraska Grasslands" was drafted. Adaptive management and working together for common goals were major themes. Conservation groups like The Nature Conservancy, Audubon, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and the Nebraska Land Trust were in attendance. They will have their annual Summer Grazing Tour on June 12 at Anselmo, Nebraska.

Have a great summer and safe travels!

## Arbor Day Celebration

by Mark Brohman

The Arbor Day Foundation held a celebration in Antelope Park on Saturday, May 11. The original date was Sunday, April 28, but it was postponed due to rain and heavy winds. Over 1,000 attendees enjoyed booths, kid's games, face painting, tree giveaways, live music, yoga, and other activities. At the Wachiska booth we had an opportunity to visit with lots of kids and families as they viewed and attempted to identify several prairie mammals. This was the second annual event, and the Arbor Day Foundation hopes to continue hosting the celebration.

## Where Does the Next Five Years Take Wachiska?

by Theresa Pella, Board President

As the final year of the current strategic plan is concluded, most of the priorities established five years ago for the four focus areas—Building Relationships, Advocating and Educating for the Environment, Caring for Tallgrass Prairies, and Strengthening Internal Operations—have been accomplished or are well on the way. In the upcoming months you'll be asked for input regarding what the future for Wachiska can and should look like.

The Board is working with the Heartland Center for Leadership Development ([www.heartlandcenter.info](http://www.heartlandcenter.info)) as it begins work on the next five-year strategic plan. A survey will be sent out this summer so when you see it, please complete it.

## Loss of Arnold Mendenhall

Wachiska Audubon became smaller on May 18, 2024, when we lost a key leader of many years.

Arnold Mendenhall passed away that day at the age of 81.



Arnold worked over 30 years as a rangeland management specialist for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Department of Agriculture. When he retired, he served as habitat manager at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center for several more years before "retiring" again to take on the volunteer duties as land manager for Wachiska's Klapka Prairie in 2007. He was able to carry out Mr. Klapka's wish to plant cropland to native grass. Arnold utilized USDA cost-share programs to do the seeding as well as installing cross fences and livestock watering facilities for a rotational grazing system.

During this time, Arnold served on Wachiska's conservation committee for many years in addition to taking the helm as chapter president in 2013 during which time Wachiska celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In recent years, Klapka Prairie was renamed Klapka-Mendenhall Prairie in recognition and honor of Arnold's thousands of hours toiling in the Pawnee County prairie.

Arnold is survived by his wife, Agnes, two sons, and their families. In February of this year Arnold and Agnes had moved to Kearney to be near family.

Services were held May 29 in Beloit, Kansas, near where Arnold was born and grew up.

## Swift Tower Dedication

by Mark Brohman

On May 11<sup>th</sup> Bluebirds Across Nebraska (BAN) dedicated the first chimney swift tower to be installed in Lincoln. The swift tower serves as a memorial to the late Mary Bomberger Brown (1957-2019). Dr. Bomberger Brown was a faculty member within UNL's School of Natural Resources. She was a bird enthusiast and specialized in cliff swallows, least terns, piping plovers, and several other species. For a time, Mary served on the Wachiska Board.



**Dave Titterington speaking at Swift Tower Dedication**

This tower was sponsored and underwritten by the Wild Bird Habitat Stores. It is 15 feet tall with 2.5" angle iron on the corners from top to bottom for strength and durability. It is made of salvaged barnwood with triple wall construction. The dedication was held in Hardin Hall on UNL's East Campus. The tower is located in the mini prairie on the small site just north of Hardin Hall.

Speakers at the dedication included Dave Titterington, Mike Forsberg, Dr. Larkin Powell, Sandy Siebert (president of BAN), and Steve Eno (executive director of BAN). Several Wachiska members were present, including board members Doug Campbell and Dakota Altman.

Chimney swifts have experienced a cumulative decline of 67 percent from 1966 to 2019. They use towers to nest and roost during their migration. Historically, they nested in hollow tree trunks and later in house and industrial chimneys. Chimney swifts breed across the eastern two-thirds of the U.S. and southern Canada, migrating to the Western Amazon Basin in South America. They arrive in North America March 7 - June 6.

Chimney swifts are very fast fliers, attaining speeds of 150 mph in pursuit of insects. They can consume up to three times their weight in insects daily and must fly constantly when not at the nest or roosting at night. They are not colonial nesters, and you will only find one breeding pair nesting in a single chimney; however, large numbers roost together during nonbreeding season. Unpaired birds will continue to roost together, and a nesting pair will tolerate nonbreeding birds roosting in their chimney. Nests are made of small sticks, and a glue-like saliva from a gland under their tongue attaches the nest to the chimney wall.

Two large pre-migratory roosts in Lincoln include Irving Middle School and the Bethany Center (Cotner and Holdrege). A good time to view them roosting is mid- to late-August.

BAN hopes to erect several more towers around Nebraska and within the City of Lincoln. A contribution of \$4,000 includes a tower, installation, and a plaque featuring your company or organization's logo and name or an individual name(s) on the tower, and signage. A dedication ceremony will commemorate your contribution. Smaller donations are welcome. For more information or to donate, contact Steve Eno at 402-783-3011.

## Longnose Gar

by Richard Peterson

For several years after I retired, I walked the gravel bars along the South Fork of the Big Nemaha River in Richardson County hunting for agates, native artifacts, and Pleistocene fossils. This involved wading across the river to get from one bar to the next, sometimes through knee-high water. Some crossings were easier than others; one crossing, in particular, was across a wide area where a number of narrow, shallow, but fast-moving rivulets cut through the sand and pea gravel allowing the water to keep moving downstream.

Longnose gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*) ancestors first appeared over 240 million years ago in the Triassic. Some refer to them as living fossils. They have a green-to-olive-brown torpedo-shaped body with a white belly and are armored with interlocking, rhomboid, ganoid scales. Their elongated jaw forms a long snout nearly three times the length of the head. The snout includes numerous sharp, villiform teeth. Gar can breathe both air and water, allowing them to inhabit aquatic environments low in oxygen. The longnose gar has no major predators.

Living typically 15 - 20 years, gar feed on small fish, crustacean, and insects mostly at night, near the water surface. They are sexually dimorphic, with females being larger than males in most parameters. Male longnose gar mature sexually in 3 - 4 years while females take 6 years. They spawn in late April to early June and have a clutch of about 30,000 eggs. As many as 15 males may be with the female during the spawn. While in this phase, frequent splashing and gulping of water takes place. Rapid and violent quivering occurs as the eggs and sperm are released. The eggs become very sticky with a toxic adhesive coating that helps them stick to substrate like stones and vegetation in the shallow water. The greenish eggs are toxic to humans, other mammals, and birds.

As I approached the crossing with the rivulets, I noticed up ahead a commotion that included a lot of movement and splashing. The largest gar was four feet long and facing the current, barely covered by the fast-moving water. On either side of the gar were smaller ones, each three-feet long. The males were doing most of the splashing while the female only wiggled occasionally. I realized I was watching a spawning event, gar depositing and fertilizing eggs. I decided to cross the rivulet out of sight a number of yards behind them so as not to interrupt the event.

# Wachiska Audubon's

This year's "Tour the Wild Side" includes a couple of landscapes featured in prior years to showcase how native plants can improve the landscape over time. Others include a self-proclaimed "pocket prairie," a prairie in the making, an example of stormwater best management practices, one intended to be compatible with pets and socializing, and one owned by How's It Growin' Bob Henrickson and his wife, Pat.

The free (donations accepted) Tour will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday, June 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A downloadable map is available on Wachiska's website, [www.wachiskaaudubon.org](http://www.wachiskaaudubon.org), and Facebook page. On this self-guided tour, there will be opportunities to sign up for drawings with experiences like a tour of the Raptor Conservation Alliance facility and a prairie butterfly walk.



## **Yvonne Meyer 5011 Dudley Street**

With intent to create habitat for creatures and beauty for passersby, Yvonne has been

converting her double lot into a series of gardens. Orchard Street Pocket Prairie features full sun native plants. Three small ponds provide year-round drink and include flowering plants. With the goal of creating a closed system, she has repurposed branches and yard cuttings into a series of berms that function as rain gardens. She continues to develop native layers under a mature canopy of ponderosa pines. Gardens range from full sun to full shade.

## **Patty Spitzer & Sam Welsch 4501 Eden Drive**

Seven years ago, the transition from conventional suburban yard to native prairie plant space began and the Garden on Eden was born. The project began in the large backyard under the invaluable direction of Emily Levine. Several islands/corridors of prairie plants were created in the sea of turf



grass. Crab apple, serviceberry, aronia berry, and plum joined the established elderberry tree.

Throughout the yard, echinacea, monarda, yarrow, senna, sage, liatris, coreopsis, primrose, penstemon, milkweed, Joe pye weed, button bush, rattle snake master, lead plant, and more can be found. In addition, there is a vegetable garden, raspberry plants, currant bushes, strawberry plants, and peach trees. The front yard began its transition three years ago. At the time of the first Tour, you may remember the front yard was in its preparation stage with the killing of turf by smothering it with cardboard, compost, and mulch. Today a serviceberry tree, red bud tree (volunteer), sedge, anise hyssop, bleeding hearts, asters, mountain mint, echinacea, milkweed, primrose, joe pye weed, monarda, sedum, wild geranium, and more grace the space under the giant oak tree. Despite the awful drought and hot weather, most plants have survived without being watered! Go native prairie plants! Note: please be aware that the backyard may be challenging to those with mobility issues.



## **Alison Krohn & Carey Taylor**

### **3929 Washington Street**



Native and nonnative plants fill a front yard free of lawn except for the strip between the sidewalk and street. Several stormwater best management practices are in place: rain gardens front and back, with a reduced driveway footprint and permeable paving block walks/patio. Many lessons have been learned here, and the explorations continue! Native plants include a pawpaw patch,

upland sedges, and lots of forbs along the driveway.

*"In some native languages the term for plants translates to those who take care of us."*

# “Tour the Wild Side”

## Emily Herrick – 1309 Garfield Street

Every year is another experiment at this Near South property, “To Make a Prairie...”. A variety of native and nonnative plants can be found in an established prairie garden, a dense shade garden, a newly planted prairie garden, and around the backyard. New this year is a recently reseeded “bee lawn.” Lead plant, chokeberry, penstemon, little bluestem, wild strawberry, anemones, pitcher sage, and more can be seen.



## Hanna Pinneo & Matthew Boring 1311 North 37th Street

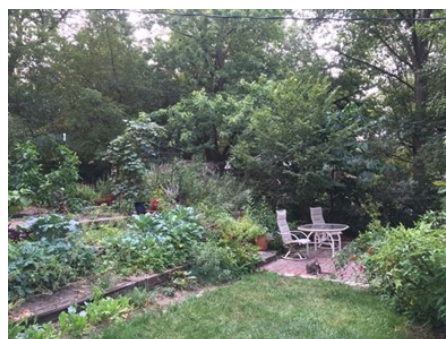


Since Hanna and Matthew purchased this house in 2017 the garden has been in a constant state of change. The backyard needed to be more compatible with pets and socializing which has required hardy but beautiful perennials. Removing a large ash tree from the front yard provided the opportunity for new tree planting and a large full sun pollinator garden.

## Mike Malloy & Martha Tanner 5638 Lenox Avenue

When the homeowners purchased their house in May 2021, the backyard was filled with vines, wild lettuce, and scrub trees. Now there are 20 kinds of plants including coneflower, golden alexanders, hyssop, blazing star, and columbine. They are in the third year of their project to build prairie habitat for butterflies, birds, and bees.

## Bob Henrickson & Pat England 4040 South 42nd Street



Bob purchased this site in 1994, inheriting a nice assortment of maturing shade trees. Over the years, he has worked on creating a landscape to live in, planting a variety of understory trees and shrubs on the property and converted most of the lawn areas over to landscape beds. The plantings emphasize low maintenance with a variety of plants including many species of herbaceous perennials for sun

and shade, herbs for food and medicine, vegetables, a sedge meadow, native grasses, and groundcovers. The plantings add beauty and interest while providing habitat for wildlife, especially for pollinators and songbirds.

*Sponsors of this year’s event include Wild Bird Habitat Store, Great Plains Nursery, Midwest Natives Nursery, LES Pollinator Program, Schrader Landscape Design, Union Bank & Trust, U-Stop, Nebraska Nursery, Runza and Campbell’s Nursery. Their support for this important event is greatly appreciated!*

# Climate Change Update

by Chuck Francis

Education & Outreach Committee

## Global Climate Boundaries

Canaries in cages used to be carried by coal miners into the mines, since these small-bodied birds were more sensitive than people to carbon monoxide. When the birds collapsed, miners knew it was time to remediate air quality or escape before they breathed toxic fumes that would soon be fatal.

Today we have more sophisticated technologies to detect pending threats to life. Tornadoes that hit Nebraska in April were detected early on radar and accurately tracked, triggering widespread warnings that drove many to lower rooms and building interiors to wait out the storm. We emerged to learn of damage in northeast Lincoln, Waverly, and Elkhorn, but miraculously no one was killed in Nebraska.

We are accustomed to responding to pending events and feel confident that our children are protected at schools and we in our workplaces with adequate warnings and sirens sounding alarms. Anthropologists describe our reactions as similar to Neanderthal peoples who recognized the threat of a bear at the mouth of the cave and took immediate action. They were less able to detect a change in water quality that threatens health or changes in climate that could melt polar ice caps and raise sea levels.

Today we have information instantly available on computers and cell phones and adequate time to react and change behaviors to alleviate challenges of weather and other climatic changes. But do we heed the warnings?

Climate deniers seem oblivious to very real and universally-accepted information on rising levels of carbon dioxide, melting of floating parts of the West Antarctic ice sheet, and higher frequency of severe weather. For political or financial reasons, they continue to debate the “inconvenient truth” of climate change. The recent book *Breaking Boundaries: The Science of Our Planet* (Johan Rockström and Owen Gaffney from Stockholm Resilience Centre and Potsdam Institute, Penguin Random House, 2021) makes a compelling case for why we need to change our collective behaviors if we want to back off from boundaries already exceeded or soon approaching. A trailer for the movie is available on line at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gb6wQtNjblk> and the movie is on Netflix.

Any rational person who is keeping up with the news is not pressured by political ideology, is concerned for the long-term future, understands the world is changing, and believes in science must follow overwhelming evidence and remember these realities when voting. We face an existential threat from

those who would rather look over their shoulders and follow irrational beliefs, continue to squander resources considered infinite, and make decisions based on emotional and comfortable ideology rather than on truth, reason, and common sense.

Our survival in the future depends on making rational resource and climate decisions today. These decisions influence the future quality of air, water, and soil that support our environment and all creatures in the biosphere. Seventeen measures identified by the U.N. as the Sustainable Development Goals must be achieved or surpassed by 2030; otherwise, our physical well-being into the next Century is very much in doubt.

## Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act

In April, President Biden signed a bipartisan bill reauthorizing and enhancing a program that provides funding throughout the Americas for partnerships to benefit migratory birds and their habitats. The Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act reauthorizes critical funding for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) program and increases its accessibility for partners.

The legislation was introduced in the House by Representatives María Elvira Salazar (R-FL), Rick Larsen (D-WA), Dave Joyce (R-OH), and Mary Peltola (D-AK). A Senate version was introduced by Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and John Boozman (R-AR).

“As migratory birds face unprecedented threats from habitat loss and a changing climate, it is imperative that programs like this are able to meet the challenges of the moment,” said Elizabeth Gray, CEO of the National Audubon Society. “This legislation recognizes that conservation knows no boundaries, and reversing troubling declines in bird populations means investing in habitats and communities throughout the hemisphere. We thank the sponsors for their leadership and urge full funding of this critical program going forward.”

In addition to benefitting habitats and communities, conserving migratory birds is important to the 96 million Americans who engage in birdwatching, contributing \$100 billion to the U.S. economy each year. The new legislation also enhances the program by lowering cost-share requirements for partners from a three-to-one to a two-to-one match.

Since 2002, NMBCA has funded 700 projects in 35 countries throughout the Western Hemisphere. The program has benefitted more than five million acres of habitat across the nesting, stopover, and wintering grounds for more than 350 species that migrate each year between the U.S. and Canada, and Latin America and the Caribbean. For example, the NMBCA has conserved key forested landscapes for cerulean warblers from the Appalachian Mountains to the Andes Mountains in Colombia.

## Public Officials

### **President Joe Biden**

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**

301 S 13<sup>th</sup> St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508 (1<sup>st</sup> District)  
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.

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## 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 - 2024

Executive Director ..... Mark Brohman

Office Administrator..... Arlys Reitan

### OFFICERS

President ..... \*Theresa Pella

Vice President ..... \*Andrea Faas

Secretary ..... \*April Stevenson

Treasurer/Finance..... \*Carol Bodeen

### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large ..... \*Dakota Altman

Director at Large ..... \*Ann Briggs

Director at Large ..... \*Doug Campbell

Director at Large ..... \*Ethan Freese

Director at Large ..... \*Stu Luttich

Director at Large ..... \*Tom Lynch

Director at Large ..... \*Mercy Manzanares

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 or email the Wachiska office.

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**.

