



KINGFISHER



May 2009

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 58 No. 4

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

At the May program meeting, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis will hold a brief Annual Meeting to elect three Board Members for a three-year term. (The Bylaws stipulate that 3 members are elected for 3 year terms.) This is a very important event for the Chapter's future. Not so much for any shift in the Chapter's policies, but more for the continuity of the Chapter itself. We currently have six vacancies on the Board; three of these vacancies are for terms that end in May and consequently if the current election has a full slate of candidates, the vacancies will fall to three. These three vacancies can be filled through appointments by the Board, so having the critical mass of Board members to conduct the business of the Chapter is at stake.

In addition to the three Board members (bylaws require them to be elected by the general membership), the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are elected at the April Board meeting by the Board (required by bylaws) and they assume their offices at the May Board meeting. We expect to have a new President and Vice President. At the time I'm writing this, we do not have candidates for either office. None of the candidates for office need to be on the Board. so anyone is a potential officer. The past President has the option of being on the Board and I expect to serve in that capacity, because the next President probably will not have any experience leading the Chapter. I hope to be there to give appropriate advice.

As the current President, I want to thank Susan Anderson and her Nominating Committee (Jim Egge and Trudi Poquette) for doing the difficult job of recruiting nominees for the Board and Chapter offices. These are unprecedented times with the severe downturn in the economy plus huge demands on our personal time. Finding the time to serve in an all-volunteer organization can be very difficult due to the lack of resources, both financial and technical. It can also be very rewarding because it frees one to be very innovative and unrestricted by a bureaucracy. Susan and her team have done an outstanding job in bring forth their slate of candidates. Of course, none of us could have done it without your help. And if there are still a few vacancies, please help us out—I think you will find it rewarding.

THE BIRDS NEED YOU!!

—Jerry Bahls

May Program

Backyard Gardening – Yes, You Can!

Successful vegetable gardening simplified

Join a national movement promoting backyard gardening—even our First Family is planting a garden on the White House lawn! You can't get more local than a few feet away from your kitchen. Join Bruce Blair of Welch Permaculture Gardens as he explains how you can enjoy fresh vegetables by planting a small 4x6 garden this summer. He has compiled all the information you will need to be successful in our climate.

Bruce will model his layering concept which eliminates the heavy chore of tearing up your grass. Various gardening plans will demonstrate the numerous combinations of vegetables we can grow starting this spring through early fall. Bring your questions for this timely presentation.

**Tuesday, May 5th
at 7:00 PM
Mayflower Church**



Nominating Committee Report

At this time we have a number of highly qualified people who are interested in joining the Board and or one of the committees. For various reasons, no one has been able to make a firm commitment. We hope that soon we will have a slate of exciting new candidates to present to the membership.

Martha Allen has agreed to remain on the Board as Secretary. Ernie Gunderson will remain as Treasurer. We are still in need of a President and Vice President.

Please call Susan Anderson at 612.331.1117 if you are interested in becoming an officer of the Board; a Board member or a member of any of the following committees: Education, Conservation, Publicity or Membership.

Email is susan331@mac.com.

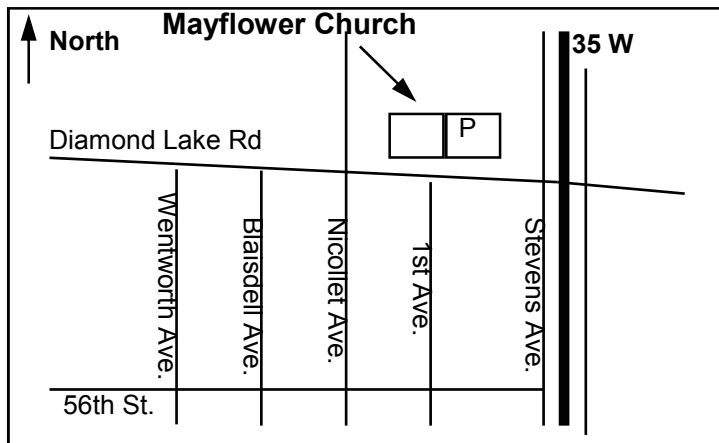
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, May 5th, 2009

"Backyard Gardening" with Bruce Blair

TIME: Program at 7:00 PM

AT: Mayflower Church, Minneapolis
35W & Diamond Lake (road map below)



6th Annual Wood Duck Jump

Jerry Bahls will again host a special field trip to his home to view the annual jump of the baby wood ducks. The trip (jump) will occur some time in May between 7:00 and 11:30 AM, depending upon the hatch date. If you are interested in attending, please call Jerry at 763.572.2333 to get on his call list. Since there is a video camera in the box, a one day's notice will be given to those who want to see this magical moment. Wood ducks hatch and the next day, they jump. Reserve the whole morning to watch the babies in the box before the jump and then review the video (instant replay) afterwards. Coffee and cookies will be provided.

Our Field Trips

Sat. May 9, Murphy-Hanrehan Regional Park: for intermediate and experienced birders, 10:00 AM to Noon.

Sat. May 16, T. S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary: for beginning and intermediate birders, 9:00 to 10:30 AM.

Wed. May 20, St. John's University and Stearns County, 7:00 AM to 1:00/4:00 PM.

Sat. June 6, Bluebirds: a family friendly trip, Anoka Riverfront Regional Park, 10:00 to 11:00 AM.

Summer Joint Programs

Again this summer the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the Izaak Walton League, Breckenridge Chapter will hold joint meetings over the summer on May 26th, June 23rd, July 28th and August 25th at 7:30 PM. The meetings will be held at the Breckenridge Chapter House located at 8816 West River Road in Brooklyn Park. The schedule is –

- May 26 Darby Nelson, Conservation Minnesota (President), Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council (Member)
- June 23 Nancy Gibson, Co-founder of The International Wolf Center, "Beyond Deer, Pheasants and Walleyes"
- July 28 TBA
- August 25 Gene Merriam, The Freshwater Society President, Water related topic TBA

Please circle these dates on your calendar. Watch for announcements of other speakers this summer. Tell a friend and bring a friend.

Urban Bird Festival

The annual Urban Bird Festival in Ramsey County—a fun, free celebration of springtime birds—kicks off on May 13. Additional details and dinner registration information are available at:

<http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/parks/NaturalResources/urbanbirdfestival>

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2008-2009 Contacts

President	Jerry Bahls	763 572 2333	jobaud@comcast.net
Vice President	Amy Carlson		alc5628@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Ernie Gunderson	612-721-9103	
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Marcia Marshall	612-871-6611	marciamarshall@comcast.net
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Kim Halek	763-427-8656	mnvogelfrau05@visi.com
Audubon Center of the North Woods	www.audubon-center.org		
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	www.geocities.com/audubon.geo		
Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

**MOU Rare Bird Alert:
763-780-8890**

AUDUBON PARK AND SPRING WINGDING

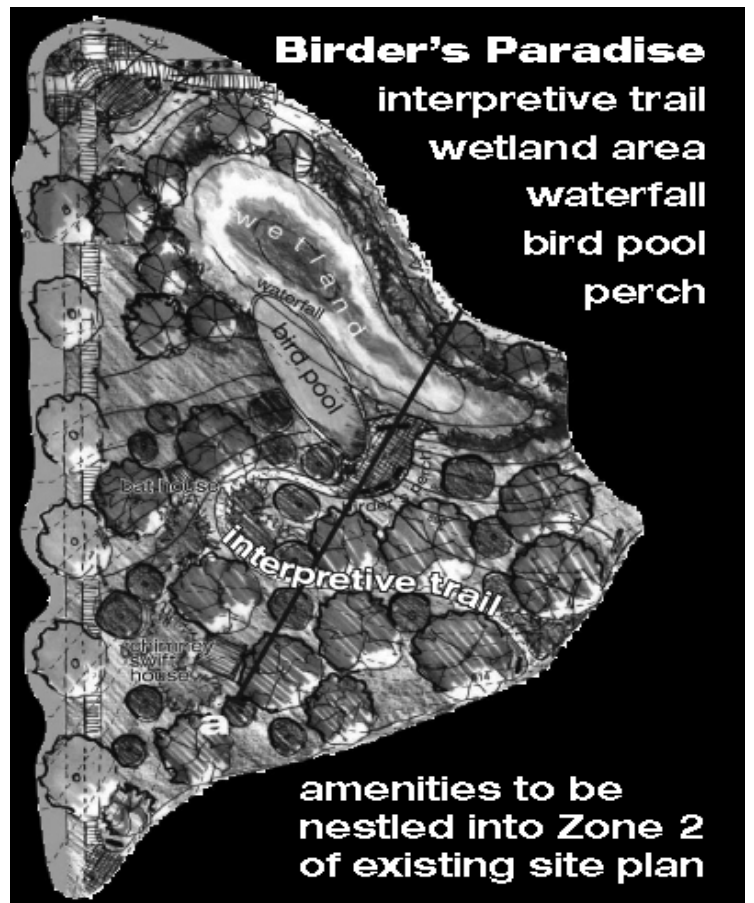
Mark Fox

Audubon Park is both a neighborhood in Northeast Minneapolis and a green space nestled at the heart of that neighborhood. The people of Audubon Park cherish natural elements woven through their urban landscape. We are stewards of the environment, working to bring nature home.

Guided by this ideal, the Audubon Park community has adopted a plan to transform our namesake park. The plan preserves the best existing elements, and adds amenities to help people better connect with nature. We aim to create a sanctuary within the city, for birds and for people.

The park's setting, within a traditional neighborhood, offers genuine human-scale opportunities. The planned features and plantings will serve as a guide and inspiration for all visitors. An interpretive trail will explain how people can create intimate personal sanctuaries in their own back yards. Nature has no borders, and the park plan is only the centerpiece of a vision for an entire neighborhood alive with flora and fauna.

The people of Audubon Park do more than dream. We have actively pursued implementation of our vision. Our neighborhood association has applied for, and won, several grants to bring the concept plan to the next level of detail. We are cultivating long-term relationships, as we understand dreams are seldom built overnight.



The Audubon Society has been an essential partner from the start of the planning process. We have sought its advice on features friendly to birds and the people who enjoy watching them. We want our park to be open and welcoming to all of Minneapolis, and beyond.

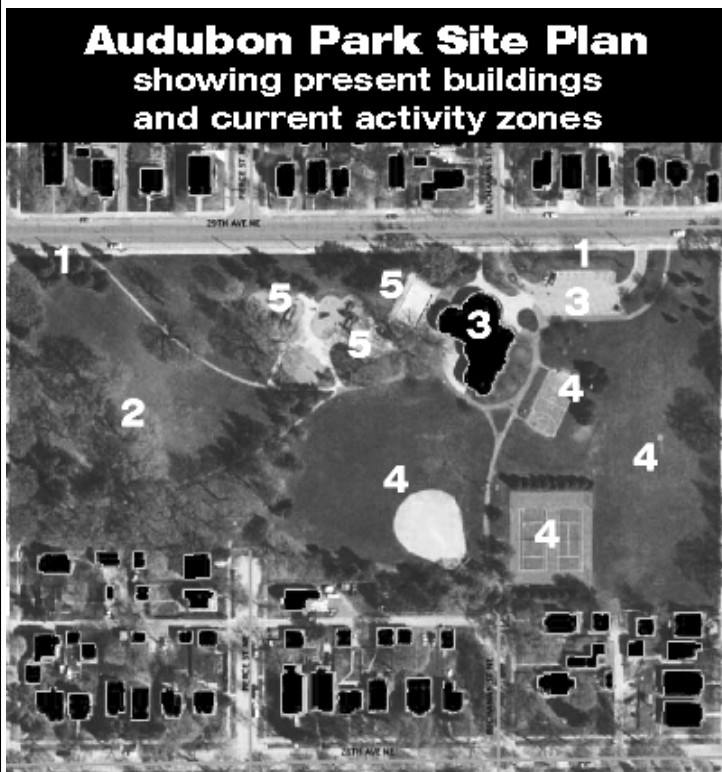
The people of Audubon Park invite the members of the Audubon Society to take a look at what we have, what we share, and what we can do to inspire each other. Read more about our Birder's Paradise online at Audubon-Neighborhood.org/ParkPlan.

You're welcome to stop by for our Spring WingDing community festival on Saturday, April 25, 11 to 2.

Springbrook Auction Event

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation is holding its Annual Auction Event on Saturday, May 2nd. Last year this event raised over \$10,000 for scholarships, equipment and supplies for Springbrook Nature Center. The event will be held at North Air Event Center, 6831 Highway 65 NE, Fridley. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$25 per person. Adults Only. Purchase tickets at the Nature Center or go to our website: <http://www.springbrooknaturecenter.org>.

All proceeds benefit Springbrook Nature Center.



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
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KINGFISHER
May 2009



National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join! Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and my local chapter at the special introductory rate of \$20! Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

Yes, I'd like to join! As a senior citizen or student, I am able to join for only \$15!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Send this application and make check payable to:

National Audubon Society
P.O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250



LOCAL CHAPTER
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO BOX 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Incentive Code:
C9ZM020Z

Calendar of Events

APRIL

- 25** Field Trip
- 25** Spring WingDing

MAY

- 4** Springbrook Auction
- 5** Chapter Program 7:00 pm
- 9** Field Trip
- 13** Urban Bird Festival
- 16** Field Trip
- 20** Field Trip

Board meetings are held every month on the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Lund's store on Lake Street just west of Hennepin (except in July).

All are welcome to programs, trips and board meetings. Call Jerry Bahls for details!

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Electronic Kingfisher

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Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net