



# KINGFISHER



NOV / DEC 2010

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 59 No. 6

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

## A Note from the President

Our newsletter will see some changes starting with the last issue. Each Kingfisher will be expanded by 2 pages, but will be published every other month and include a summer issue in July. We have more individuals who will be contributing writers, as well as a new editor, Shannon Huebscher. For the past several years Marcia Marshall and Kim Halek have done a great job as our editors with Jerry Bahls in charge of publishing. Our heartfelt thanks goes to them for their faithful service. We also encourage the membership to submit good articles for consideration. If you have some writing skills and would like to keep them sharp, give us a call.

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has just completed a very productive year thanks to the hard work of your board members and volunteers. I feel honored to work with a group of people who bring such talents and experience together to serve the greater Minneapolis area.

Some of the recent events have focused the great societal need for education and direction, from massive oil spills to the poaching of endangered "red wolves" in the Southwest. An informed, committed public must be our unending goal.

*Continued on page 2*

## November Issue

### Loise Butler: Friends upcoming volunteer events

The Friends' Invasive Plant Action Group had an active spring, and we are ready to spring into action this fall.

As a result of several successful garlic mustard removal events, and with the enthusiastic help of a group of employees from Aveda, we cleared a large swath of garlic mustard along the outside of the fence from the front gate to the back. It was fun and rewarding to uncover blue cohosh, jack-in-the-pulpit, pagoda dogwood seedlings and other native flowers and shrubs.

Now we are ready to sweep the same area for buckthorn seedlings. Park staff cleared out the mature buckthorn in the area over the last few years, so it is ready for our attention. The Friends will have two buckthorn removal events this fall. They are:

Saturday Oct 9th, 10AM-1PM

Sunday Oct 17th, 1-4 PM

Follow the signs from either garden gate to the pull site.

Wear sturdy shoes and clothes that can get dirty. We have a supply of gloves.

Please join us! Pre-registration is requested, but not required. Register by responding to this email ([jim\\_proctor@hotmail.com](mailto:jim_proctor@hotmail.com)).

Thanks,  
Jim Proctor  
Friends' Invasive Plant Action Group

## Audubon Minnesota 2010 Annual Meeting



Join us as we celebrate another great year at Audubon! Learn about Minnesota bird conservation projects from the state office, hear from special guest speakers, find out about Audubon chapter activities, and meet and mingle with fellow bird enthusiasts.

Featured speakers include Dr. Paul Kemp, Vice President of Audubon's Gulf Coast Initiative and Jeb Barzen, Director of Field Biology, International Crane Foundation. Additional speakers will be added to the agenda in the coming weeks.

**When:** Saturday, November 13, 2010, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (lunch provided)

**Where:** Wilder Center, 451 Lexington Parkway North, Saint Paul MN 55104 (free parking)

**Cost:** \$20 per person  
**Registration deadline:** November 3, 2010.

(*President's Note, continued from page 1*)

In a democracy, the primary burden falls squarely on the electorate to be as knowledgeable as is reasonably possible. Instead, we often see scapegoating replacing personal responsibility.

Recently I heard a reporter refer to Tony Hayward of BP as "the most hated man in America". Of course he defended company interests, and certainly he made a bundle of mistakes in a nearly impossible situation. But to make him shoulder most of the blame is to deny reality. Americans can curse BP and then go back to energy gluttony without much damage to their consciences. I wish the destruction of coral reefs in the Gulf would bring as much public outrage as the oil spill. It certainly has brought as much damage. When I walk into a mall or restaurant with the temperature at 68 summer, and 76 winter, I see less need to finger BP. Cars have only gotten marginally improved gas mileage in the last decade. It has taken 30 years to get Con-

gress to pass legislation for reasonable mileage standards, and still haven't gotten it right. Why do we still see incandescent bulbs on store shelves? Do we really need all those containers full of goods, shipped 1/3 of the way around the world? I'm sure you can add to the list, and I realize that people reading this, act more responsibly than most.

But back to my original point. There's too much scapegoating going on, which belies the real issue, that we bear the responsibility for the need to deep-water drill in the first place. I don't want one more hole in the bottom of the Chuckchi Sea or the Arctic Refuge, so that we can try to perpetuate an unsustainable lifestyle. Can you imagine where our kids will be when China and India use energy at the same rate as each American? As a country we are still way behind Europe, for example, in energy conservation and alternative fuel adaptation. Perhaps too many of us are willing to spend too much money on en-

ergy and goods. Are we training an entire generation to fulfill their dreams with an ever-increasing need for resource intensive purchases? Do we expect government to do for us what we should be doing for ourselves? It belongs to us all to do everything we can to pass on a sustainable culture to the next generations.

I don't believe that we should live like hermits to minimize our use of resources, but we need to maximize the enjoyment of resource use. I reject the notion that using less energy must necessarily lower our standard of living. To the contrary, we can show others how we can improve our lives while consuming less. And maybe in the process, avoid another economic meltdown.

- Jim Egge

## Wood Lake Nature Center Environmental Book Club Fall Reading List

Join other adults to discuss some wonderful environmental and outdoor recreation based books. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome! Here is the fall book list; all are available at local libraries.

September: *The Unnatural History of the Sea* by Callum Roberts

October: *Spirits of the Wild* by Gary Ferguson

November: *The Ghost with Trembling Wings* by Scott Weidensaul

December: *Tales of a River Rat* by Kenny Salwey

Please call to register 612-861-9365

Tuesdays, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14 6:30pm-8pm \$5/person, Free for members

For more information contact:

Amy Markle

Naturalist

Wood Lake Nature Center

612-861-9369

## Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2010-2011 Contacts

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	Www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org		
Audubon Minnesota	Www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		
			<b>MOU Rare Bird Alert: 763-780-8890</b>

# Wilderness

Audubon has a sister organization in Minnesota that specializes as a watchdog for the unique wilderness that we claim in our state. This is the Quetico Superior Foundation, and it has a website, [www.queticosuperior.org](http://www.queticosuperior.org). Their publication, "Wilderness News" is a well-written newsletter for anyone who feels an attachment to the BWCA and Quetico Provincial Park, as well as Voyageurs Nat. Park and its environs.

The summer 2010 issue features an article about a Harvard educated, Chicago lawyer named Frank Hubachek. Frank was a child of wealth, who grew up in northern Minnesota, and at a young age understood the need to experience nature in an unspoiled settings. He was a hard-nosed advocate of wilderness preservation, even when his business clients were intimidated, and he was threatened with arson. He was man of generosity, humility, energy, and foresight, illustrated by his interruption of university studies to join the French infantry to fight Germans in WWI. He became one of the first pilots of the U. S. Navy's flying boats. His sister Mary Reynolds, endowed with similar character, moved to Paris and actively supported the French Resistance until discovered. She escaped by hiking across the Pyrenees just ahead of the Gestapo. These are the kinds of people it took to take on the fight against unchecked power of industrialists, who saw Minnesota as land to be plundered.

Hubachek's courage, finances, and legal knowledge enabled him, with his partner Charlie Kelly, to form the Quetico-Superior Council. This led to passage of the Shipstead-Nolan

Act of 1930, which began the protection of what was to become the BWCAW.

On a fishing trip in 1936, Hubachek got wind that a lumber company was planning to clear-cut a stand of old-growth timber on Basswood Lake. He quickly used his own funds to buy the tract, which became the site of his lodge and later the Wilderness Research Center. He and his crew planted half a million trees around Basswood Lake. He worked to pass bills to restrict air travel into the wilderness and to eliminate private ownership, including his own. Hubachek donated over 4 square miles of land to the Forest Service, making him the largest donor ever.

Hubachek's property became the Research Center in 1948. Facilities were made available to foresters, teachers, and students from all over the world. Researchers worked on developing a white pine strain that would be resistant to "blister rust", and they learned much about fire's benefits to forest ecology. Eventually all the buildings were moved to Fall Lake outside the BWCAW. His son Bill, and his daughter Midge supervised the center, and now have relinquished control to the U of Minnesota. In recent years, focus of research has been on the effects of warming the soil on forest biomes.

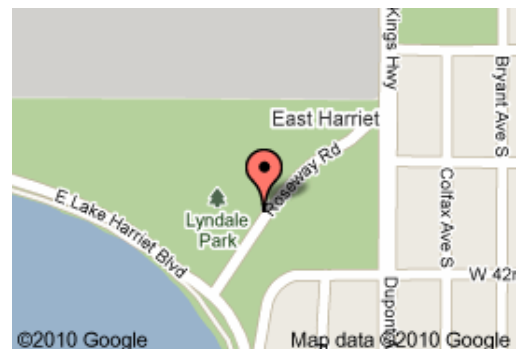
- Jim Egge



## Come to Our Next Event!

**"Birding for Beginners"**  
 ~ Paul Fusco  
  
**DATE:** Saturday, Nov 6th

**TIME:** 8:00AM  
  
**AT:** Robert's Bird Sanctuary  
*Road map here* —>



## Volunteer Opportunities!

We welcome volunteers from everywhere. Birders of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Send us an e-mail message or call the numbers listed below to get further details on meeting times and places.

Volunteer Opportunities currently open:

- Field Trip Leaders (3 – 9 hrs/mon.) – Lead from 1 – 3 field trips/month (actually leading only one trip would be greatly appreciated).
- Education Committee Chair (4 hrs/mon.) – Chair Education Committee and develop programs for in-school visits and adult environmental education.
- Education Committee members — Assist the Education Chair in carrying out the education programs. Advise the Education chair on education issues.
- Conservation Committee members (2 hrs/mon.) – Assist Conservation Committee Chair in carrying out

programs and offer advice on environmental matters.

- Important Bird Areas (IBAs) Nomination writer (10 – 20 hrs/yr) – Write up nominations for IBAs in the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis membership area.

- Birdathon Coordinator (10 hrs/yr) – Coordinate the annual Birdathon Fundraiser each year. It is usually held sometime during the spring migration.

MORE INFORMATION:

Jerry Bahls (763) 572-2333 / jobaud@comcast.net

Vice President John Arthur (952) 931-0819



## Member Poetry Corner



### Fall Mumbler

Muffled mumbles—  
inside the forest's edge.  
White-throated Sparrows  
are passing through.  
  
Almost reluctantly,  
a full, clear, whistled  
Signature call sounds.

Just once.  
  
Then, back to mumbling.  
  
Saving the best  
for spring.

### Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

Black-tipped whites set sail  
glide, flap, turn—in unison  
Silent symphony

- *Both poems by Clem Nagel*

## American Birding Association Hires New President

*Excerpt from ABA Press Release*

Jeffrey A. Gordon has been hired as President of the American Birding Association. Jeff has broad experience in the for-profit birding industry, including ecotourism, festivals, publishing, and optics. Many of you know him as a widely published writer and photographer. He is also a popular presenter at birding festivals across the country. Jeff will assume his duties at ABA headquarters in Colorado Springs on November 1, 2010.

While Jeff has accepted the position of chief executive officer, currently titled as President, a proposed bylaw amendment is under consideration that would change the title to Executive Director. In any case, his responsibilities will not be affected.

Whatever the title, Jeff is the right guy for the job. That said, he will need the help and cooperation of our staff, our board, and our membership to meet the many challenges that lie ahead. Please give him your full support. Thank you.

Dick Ashford, ABA Board Chair

Source: <http://www.aba.org/news/aba100410.pdf>

### Thank You Letter From a Member!

My name is Gina P. Several years ago, I was a member of the Audubon Society and the local chapter sent me periodic newsletters (I believe yours). One of those newsletters offered a scholarship to the Audubon Center of the Northwoods in Sandstone and it was given to my daughter. I know that it's been several years, but I just wanted you to know how much we appreciated it. I don't think my daughter understood how much that experience would mean until later. She is now 23 and attending Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado. Her major is Fine Arts in writing and she takes environmental classes whenever she can. She cares deeply for the environment and I'd like to think that her experiences at this camp helped shaped some of her views.

Shortly after camp, I had to cancel several memberships due to financial challenges. I have recently rejoined the Audubon Society and I am now in a position where I can give back. In honor of your generosity and to continue to support the Audubon Society, I've designated 100% of my United Way contributions to the Audubon Center of the Northwoods. If you have a scholarship fund, please let me know - I'd like to make a contribution.

I will keep an eye out for some future meetings and hope to meet you someday.

Gratefully Yours,

Gina P.

*Reprinted with permission*

### Give to the Max Day

On Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, GiveMN is once again sponsoring a day to encourage people to give to their favorite nonprofit. By donating on that day, you make the nonprofit you choose eligible for additional funds. Throughout the event, an individual donor will be chosen to have an extra \$1,000 donated to the charity that received their original donation. Also, the charity with the most individual donors that day will receive \$20,000 and the second place charity will receive \$10,000. What a wonderful way to make funds available to your local Audubon chapter.

To donate on that day, go to either website: GiveMN.org or AudubonChapterofMinneapolis.org. Thanks for your support.

### Antarctica and the Falkland Islands

*Donna and Jerry Bahls*

Jerry (Past-President ACM) and Donna (Board, Springbrook Nature Center Foundation) Bahls, long time environmentalists and amateur bird watchers and photographers, recently traveled to the Falkland Islands and the Antarctic via the eastern coast of South America.

Both of these areas are more than 50 degrees South (think Calgary) and are isolated by oceans from other land forms. Jerry and Donna will share photos (5 different penguins) and thoughts on the special habitats and bird life as well as the southern hemisphere mammals in these unique locations. Yes, ice can be beautiful!

## Duck Stamp

By purchasing a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called a "duck stamp") for \$15, birders and conservationists can protect wetland and wildlife habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System. 98 cents of every dollar generated goes to land acquisition.

This year, you can also buy a \$25 duck stamp silk cachet, to help heal Gulf Coast wetlands. The funds will be used to acquire

wetlands for inclusion in the more than thirty-eight national wildlife refuges along the Gulf Coast.

A junior duck stamp is also available for \$5. Any of these choices is a wonderful way to help protect our migratory birds. Duck stamps may be purchased at your local post office or online. The bird featured on the 2010-2011 stamp is the American wigeon.



## **New Penguin Species Discovered in Peru**

Researchers in northern Peru made an exciting new discovery - they unearthed the fossilized remains of a 36-million-year-old so-called "giant penguin". Not only did they find a large portion of the remains, they also found that the bird had feathers as well. According to study coauthor, Julia Clarke, "This is our first look at the feathers in a fossil penguin." These feathers have been "so well preserved that scientists have been able to study the microscopic pigment-bearing nubbins called melanosomes that give the plumes their color."

Weighing in around "55 to 60 kilograms, or roughly twice what today's emperor penguins average," the newly named Inkayacu paracasensis is estimated to have been as long as 1.5 meters while swimming. Their beaks were approximately 23 centimeters long and skinny in shape. "The feathers and the flipper's bone structure are adapted to swimming instead of flying, suggesting that some of the bigger changes in the evolution of the penguinhood had already occurred."

After analysis was conducted on the fossilized feathers, it was found that their plumes

were not the black and white that we are familiar with many penguin species of today. Rather, these prehistoric penguins had feathers of "soft grays and reddish browns." The melanosomes pigments "put color in a feather but Clarke notes that they can also strengthen a feather against fracturing. And this protection might matter to penguins, which 'fly' in water, a substance 800 times denser than air."

Source: [http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/63919/title/A\\_giant\\_penguin\\_plume](http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/63919/title/A_giant_penguin_plume)

## **Upcoming Events with the Minneapolis Audubon Society**

### **Friday, November 12, 2010 1 p.m.**

Dr. Phil Jenni of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center will talk on the Science of Compassion - bird recovery and rehab. Please join us for the program and refreshments. All are welcome.

### **Friday, December 10, 2010 1 p.m.**

Ted & Barbara Galambos will show outstanding photographs of Dakota and Montana scenes. Please join us for the program and refreshments. All are welcome.

For more information contact:

Minneapolis Audubon Society

Barbara Franklin

Bryant Square (31<sup>st</sup> & Bryant Avenue S)

952-926-4205

[bbfrankli@gmail.com](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)

## **Find us on Facebook!**

We are now on Facebook, and we would love to have you join us to enter your bird observations and information of other interests to those of us who love birds. Just go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and in the search field type *Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis*. Hope to see you there!

## News about Roberts Bird Sanctuary

*Update on the Revitalization Project and the draft management plan for Roberts*

The public input period for the Roberts Bird Sanctuary Revitalization Project ended September 15. Thank you to everyone who attended the ACM meeting on September 7 and the recreation center meetings in August and to everyone who completed a survey. We received many thoughtful comments and suggestions about how to revitalize the sanctuary; we also collected a lot of useful data about how the site is used. It is clear that many of you care deeply about Roberts and want to help with this project. You can be certain this message will be given to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB).

We're in the process of consolidating the input results. They will be presented to the MPRB in mid-October. The MPRB will review the results for possible incorporation into the draft management plan for Roberts. The timeline for writing the management plan is now in a state of flux due to recent budget-related layoffs at the MPRB. We should have a better sense of when things will happen in a few weeks. Please check the ACM website for updates.

*Autumn is a great time to pull buckthorn at Roberts and William Berry Woods*

Volunteers are wanted for buckthorn pulls this fall at Roberts Bird Sanctuary and William Berry Woods. All pulls are from 9:30 am to noon. Bring your own gloves if you have them. We have a limited number of pairs. Thanks to a donation from People for Parks, we have six weed wrenches to use at the pulls. We could use shovels and root talons, however, so if you have them, please bring them.

The pulls will not take place if it is raining or snowing heavily or if thunder and/or lightning are in the area. The pulls listed below are the ones scheduled so far. We hope to hold more pulls. Please check the ACM website for additional pulls.

The dates for the pulls at Roberts are Saturday, Oct. 16 and Saturday, Nov. 13. Meet at the visitors' shelter on the east end of the sanctuary next to the Peace Garden (the west end is next to the band shell). If you arrive late, look for signs directing volunteers to the pull site.

The date for the pull at William Berry Woods is Saturday, October 30. William Berry Woods is located between lakes Harriet and Calhoun, bounded by William Berry Parkway and Richfield Road. Look for signs directing volunteers to the pull site.

The pulls are co-sponsored by the ACM, the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. For more information about all the pulls, contact Connie at [cpepin@bitstream.net](mailto:cpepin@bitstream.net) or 612.922.1253.

*Saturday, November 6 walk at Roberts at 8 am*

Join us on for one more walk at Roberts. This walk on Saturday, November 6 will give you a chance to check out the sanctuary in late fall/early winter. The walk starts at 8 am at the visitors' shelter on the east end of the sanctuary next to the Peace Garden and across the street from the Rose Garden and lasts an hour. The walk will not take place during heavy rain or snow or if there is thunder and/or lightning in the area. The walk is free and open to everyone.

Paul Fusco will lead this novice walk focusing on the winter birds at Roberts. Paul is well known for his work with Osprey. If there is interest, Paul is willing to extend the walk over to Lake Harriet to observe the bird activity by the water.

Thank you to ACM member Steve Greenfield for leading several walks at Roberts this past spring and summer. One of our duties related to the adoption of Roberts was to hold regularly scheduled walks at the sanctuary. Thanks to Steve's generous donation of his time and talents, we were able to fulfill this duty. Many people have commented favorably on Steve's knowledge of birds and his friendly approach to leading walks. Keep your fingers crossed that we can get him to lead walks next year as well.

We're always looking for more leaders. If you have any interest in leading one or more walks at Roberts, email me at [heal0055@umn.edu](mailto:heal0055@umn.edu). You don't have to be a bird expert or an experienced leader and you can schedule the walk(s) for a time that works for you.

*Recent donations to the Roberts Revitalization Project*

In September, People for Parks, a local non-profit citizens group, donated six weed wrenches for use at Roberts and William Berry Woods. The wrenches will be put to good use by volunteers during pulls at both sites.

At its September meeting, the ACM Board donated a garden cart for use at Roberts. The cart, which looks like a child's wagon on steroids, will be used to haul the weed wrenches and other supplies around the sanctuary during pulls.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has generously allowed us store the wrenches and cart as well as other pull supplies in a shed located just outside Roberts. The ACM Board donated a lock for the shed.

Thank you to People for Parks, the ACM, and the MPRB for these donations. Holding pulls will be much easier to do thanks to your generosity.

*Buckthorn pulls this fall at Roberts and William Berry Woods*

There are pulls scheduled so far at Roberts for Saturday, October 16 and Saturday, November 13. Both pulls are from 9:30 to noon. Meet at the visitors' shelter on the east end of the sanctuary (next to the Peace Garden and across the street from the Rose Garden). If you arrive late, look for signs directing volunteers to the pull site.

There is one pull scheduled so far for William Berry Woods, which is located between lakes Harriet and Calhoun.

## **Three Rivers Park District Events**

### **Recycled Bird Feeders**

Prepare a feast for the birds. Make bird feeders using milk cartons, pinecones, or meshing. Learn which birdseed attracts which birds. Receive some seed to take home. 20% discount for groups of 4 or more.

**WHERE:** Eastman Nature Center, 13351 Elm Creek Road, Dayton, MN 55369

**WHEN:** Saturday November 27th, 2010 from 1:30PM - 3:00PM

*Restricted to participants age 5 and older. The fee for this event is \$5.00 (taxes may apply)*

### **Bird Banding**

Close encounters with wild birds! See wild songbirds being safely trapped, studied and tagged with numbered rings. You may get a chance to hear a bird's heartbeat and help release it. Groups can call (763) 694-7650 to reserve a start time.

**WHERE:** Lowry Nature Center (at Shorebird Pond), 7025 Victoria Drive, Victoria, MN 55386

**WHEN:** Saturday November 13th, 2010 from 9:00AM - 12:00PM

*Restricted to participants age 4 and older. This event is free.*

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER  
November/December 2010



**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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



**LOCAL CHAPTER**

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

PO BOX 3801

Minneapolis, MN 55403

Incentive Code:

**C9ZM020Z**



**Calendar of Events**

October

5 History of Birds & Birding in Minnesota ~ Bob Janssen

16 Buckthorn pull at Roberts from 9:30 - noon

26 Conservation Committee meeting at Uptown Lunds from 6 - 7 pm

26 ACM Board meeting at Uptown Lunds from 7 - 9 pm

30 Buckthorn pull at William Berry Woods from 9:30 - noon

November

9 Antarctica ~ Donna & Jerry Bahls

13 Buckthorn pull at Roberts from 9:30 - noon

13 Audubon Minnesota annual meeting - Check Audubon Minnesota's website for more information

23 Conservation Committee meeting at Uptown Lunds from 6 - 7 pm

23 ACM Board meeting at Uptown Lunds from 7 - 9 pm

December

7 Birding & Technology

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. Check website for details!

The Kingfisher is published every other month beginning with the January issue.

**Electronic Kingfisher**

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net)