



NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry- Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2018 - 2020

President:

Steve Ford

Vice President:

Christine Brodsky

Secretary

David Hollie

Treasurer

Liz Mangile

Newsletter Editor

Cindy Ford

cford@gus.pittstate.edu

December Meeting
Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Yates 102, PSU
Pittsburg, KS
Presentation

Dec. 6 — "Dragonflies of the Ozark-Ouachita Region: Natural History and Conservation", by Wade Boys, University of Arkansas Graduate Student. Wade will discuss the unique natural histories of four rare dragonflies throughout this region, as well as how we can conserve them for future generations

To receive an e-newsletter:
send your e-mail address to
Cindy Ford, Editor.

Nov/Dec 2018

VOLUME 2018 ISSUE 8

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Donates Books to Little Free Library

by Bob Mangile

***** A Little Free Library is a "take a book, return a book" free book exchange. They come in many shapes and sizes, but the most common version is a small wooden box of books. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share. *****

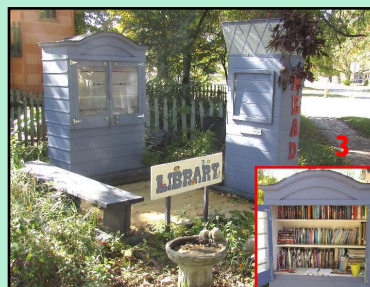
Several years ago Sperry-Galligar Audubon purchased Audubon Adventures for over a dozen fifth-grade classes in Cherokee, Crawford and Bourbon counties in Kansas. If memory serves me correctly each kit cost about \$35.00. We stopped supplying these kits after learning that teachers didn't use these kits because they were too busy testing children for the "No Child Left Behind" program. Some kits were never opened. Along with each kit classrooms got a box of supplementary materials, including books, binoculars and other nature-related items. Eventually all the boxes were returned to our chapter leaving us with our own library of books that rarely got used.

At the September 27, 2018 board meeting it was proposed that we find a new home for the books. Secretary David Hollie sug-

gested donating them to "Little Free Libraries" at various locations in Pittsburg. Most at the meeting never had heard of Little Free Libraries so David informed me where to find one in Pittsburg. And so the research began!

Grousing around on the Internet I found this link <https://littlefreelibrary.org/> that has a load of information for anyone interested. I've learned that there are now more than 75,000 Little Free Libraries in the World, all located on a searchable world map. From this link I found three Little Free Libraries in Pittsburg at the following addresses: 1707 North Locust (1), 307 West 6th Street (2), and 517 West Forrest (3). (See Photos) And after more digging I located Dawn McNay, who is involved with Pittsburg's Little Free Libraries. Fifty or more books were delivered to her for distribution to the Little Libraries and the deed was done. So, in the end, our earlier efforts to help educate the public are still being put to good use at the Free Little Libraries! Anyone can take a book or leave a book, so why not visit one? ####

(Photos by Bob Mangile)



6:00 Board Meeting Highlights David Hollie, Secretary

Mavis Benner, Wayne Bockelman, Christine Brodsky, Steve & Cindy Ford, David Hollie, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Mary Jo Meier

September minutes: Read and approved

Treasurer's Report: \$7520.49

Newsletter articles: If you want to write an article or know someone who might, articles are always welcome! Articles are due by the 10th of each month

Radio Sponsor: Bird Notes sponsorships are now live, listen for SGA meeting advertisements after Bird Notes on KRPS! **Refreshments** for October provided by Mavis Benner and

Mary Kilcher. Thank you!

Next Month's Speaker: December 6, Wade Boys - Dragonflies of the Ozarks. All speaker slots are now filled through May!

Update on KDWP&T Quail Farm: The area is too wet for planting; the plan is to wait until the spring to move forward with that project

Update on youth involvement: Possible youth outreach day at the PSU Natural History Reserve with nature walks and food in the spring. Can possibly get the PSU Wildlife and Fisheries Club to help

Next Meeting: There will be no November meeting; next meeting is December 6

Bird Seed Sale will be held Saturday, December 8



Christine

David

Liz

Steve

Financial Statement...Liz Mangile, Treasurer November/December 2018

Beginning balance-----\$7523.56

Debits

Newsletter-----	\$ 3.07
KRPS Birdsong sponsor-----	\$ 200.00
Dinner for speaker-----	\$ 22.92
Certificate at KTCCU-----	\$4000.00
Total -----	\$4225.99

Credits

3 memberships and donation-----	\$ 51.00
Total -----	\$ 51.00

Ending balance-----\$3348.57

October Presenter: Laura Downey Executive Director of KACEE

"Environmental education is for the birds....and the trees and the water and the bees and the air and the prairies...You get the picture."



Laura Downey, Executive Director of the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE), got her point across from the start of her presentation at the October club meeting: environmental education is a crucial part of our educational system if we care about the natural world around us!

For nearly 50 years, the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) has sought to accelerate environmental literacy in Kansas through non-biased, science-based education for all Kansans.

While it is clear that environmental education is important for conservation work (after all, in order to protect something, we have to know about it first), there are myriad other ways that environmental education can have a positive impact on a personal level. American children spend less than half as much time outdoors as their parents did growing up. Instead of spending their free time outside, the average American child of today spends less than half an hour of unstructured time outdoors each week, in stark contrast to the 50 hours they spend on electronic equipment each week. It is not hard to imagine the impacts that this shift has had on children's health. At the same time as children started spending more time indoors with electronics and less time outdoors, there has been noticeable increases in childhood obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma, sleep disorders, vitamin D deficiency, ADHD, and depression. While there are likely many other factors contributing to the prevalent decline in childhood health, it is not hard to connect the dots and see that more time spent outdoors would alleviate the severity of many of these problems. Indeed, studies have shown that for both adult and children, time in nature helps promote both physical and mental health.

Environmental education is not only better for personal health, but it is also better for the planet's health. Higher levels of environmental knowledge correlate significantly with a higher degree of pro-environment behavior. The more people know, the more likely they

are to recycle, be energy efficient, and conserve water. If there was one takeaway message from October's meeting, it would be that environmental education is not just for the birds, it's for our kids, ourselves, and our planet.

David Hollie



Thanks to **Mavis Benner and Mary Kilcher** for the refreshments at the October Meeting.

HAPPENINGS IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

Murder Most Fowl

By Steve Ford

On the farm a gun is not recreation, it's a tool. But this day I had chosen to forego firearms, and consequently lay fully extended on the crap-covered floor of our henhouse. Not three months ago we boasted 34 chickens (starting 28 chicks to share with Delia Lister plus my resident adults) - today but eight, most of the balance killed stone dead by a black rat snake—twice. Yet death in the coop takes many forms. This day this form had more teeth than any North American land mammal, and yes my friends, sported two penises. It was peering unflinchingly into my eyes from under the old horse stall manger, but manger or no, the Prince of Peace it was not. It was, with apologies to Joseph Conrad, the very Heart of Darkness - what some call the Virginia opossum. Its dark work lay cold and consumed not four feet distant.

The battle joined I lunged for the killer's tail, but the clever devil danced right. At times one cannot think to act, one just acts. I threw an old towel in its face, and I grabbed for the towel. Wise or rash my strategy worked as I reflexively jerked my arm back sending my adversary airborne. Its flight originated shortly after it bit into my (thinly gloved) index finger, triggering an aging, but surprisingly agile, response by your humble servant. Cashing in on my newly revitalized dexterity I was able to make a second and more focused stab at the creature's hairless tail once he had arced back to earth, and soon had him dangling like a wiggling pendulum over an orange Home Depot bucket held by my cheering wife, who, bless her, was also treating the bucket like a pendulum, but swinging it in the opposite direction (we both have advanced degrees you know). It took a while, but we finally were able to - as we say on the farm - git'er done: (1) 'Possum in the bucket, (2) lid on the bucket, (3) heavy brick on the lid, (4) bucket in the pick-up truck. Then west we went, introducing our unforgiven foe to the setting sun side of the Neosho River.



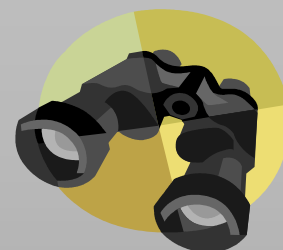
Now we all like happy endings, but you'll notice that our story is not quite over. Happiness is illusive, isn't it?

The rest of that day I walked tall - the hero of the farm and all, but to Cindy's GREAT chagrin, and mine too or course (if Momma ain't happy . . . right?) the last in a long series of henhouse murders occurred the very next night - I'm not making this up. Another dead hen, another 'possum; this time actually sleeping in the manger. But by now I'm an experienced avenger, so this guy was in the bucket in no time (despite a small dispute at the rim). Bucket - lid - brick - pick-up. No problem-o, but instead of immediately transporting the inmate, I went back to the house for breakfast; Cindy left in the car for a conference in Lawrence. In just a few hours I was to meet the manager of a restaurant in McCune to discuss, ironically enough, meeting there for the Mined Land Christmas Bird Count, so, thinks I, I'll just have lunch there, then drop my furry captive just down the road, again to the growing 'possum preserve west of the Neosho.

I swagger out to the truck at lunchtime, my mind drifting to breaded tenderloin. Everything's intact - bucket, lid, brick. Even the tailgate is up and latched. I lift the lid, you know, just to make sure. You also know it's coming - no 'possum. I couldn't believe it. Empty. Cavernous. It was as if Houdini himself had made a girl disappear before my very eyes! I actually looked a second time, like somehow I had missed seeing a large opossum in an empty bucket the first time. Gone and gone.

Cindy hand-up swears she knows nothing about the case of the missing marsupial -absolutely did not take it to Lawrence as a joke. She's family and I choose to believe her.

Sightings.....



Emmett's Pics



Cobaea Penstemon
Figwort Family.

Montgomery Co. KS
May 19, 2018,

This species may be found growing in native prairies. It has large flowers compared to the more common and widely distributed penstemon .

Notice how it looks like a garden snapdragon.

Send your newsletter articles, bird sightings, and nature notes to C. Ford by Jan. 10.

**Application for Membership
Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society**

For first-time National Audubon membership, send \$20.00 and become a member of both organizations, receive 6 copies of Audubon Magazine annually and 8 copies of Sperry-Galligar Newsletter. *Please make your check to: Sperry-Galligar Audubon.*

____ *YES I wish to become a FIRST-TIME member of National Audubon and Sperry-Galligar Audubon. (\$20.00).*

For only local or renewal membership, send \$15.00 for membership of Sperry-Galligar Audubon and receive the 8 newsletters per year informing you of all our local activities. *Please make your check to: Sperry-Galligar Audubon*

____ *YES I wish to become a RENEWING member of the local chapter (\$15.00).*

Future National Audubon renewals: *Send Audubon mailer forms directly to National.*

Mail to:

**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
816 E. Atkinson Ave
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762**

Please Print



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____

**Events &
Miscellany**



ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE

Audubon Bird Seed Sale will be held Saturday, **December 8**, at Meadowbrook Mall from 9:00 to 4:00.

The truck with seed bags will be located on the west parking lot. Drive up to load.

The crafts and goodies table will be inside the north entrance of the mall.

Mark your calendar for the Annual Christmas Bird Count.

New Year's Day

Meet 7:15 — Farm to Market Store in McCune, Crawford Co. Rd. 50 off Hwy 400. Turn north at Pete's Phillips 66 gas station.

**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
Newsletter
816 Atkinson Ave.
Pittsburg, KS 66762
Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month. No meetings in June July, or August. (Nov/Dec meeting date to be announced.)
7:00 pm to 9 pm, in Room 102, Yates Hall.
PSU Campus, Pittsburg, KS.
Refreshments served. Guests welcome.**



Visit our website:

<http://sperry-galligar.com/>

Attention All Members

Pay membership dues in September. Please consider paying local membership dues. Our chapter receives 100% of the local dues only. HOWEVER, you can subscribe to both. Either way you get the newsletter.

