

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

May 2019

VOLUME 2019 ISSUE 5

Annual Picnic Celebrates 20 Years

This year is the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter's 20th Anniversary Picnic. Just want to get waaay ahead of things and ask if you plan to attend our **SGAS 20th Anniversary Picnic, May 30th.** at the **Homer Cole Community Center, located at 3003 N. Joplin St., Pittsburg, KS.**

It will be from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. But this year we will have it catered by **Chicken Mary's - (no potluck).** There is one "important" thing to remember and that is **"You MUST"** let me know if you plan to attend and how many people will be in your party by **Saturday, May 18th.**

Email rmangile@cox.net or call 620-231-3117. We must have numbers to get the order in on time. OK? If you have already signed up at the April meeting there is no need to do it again - we already have you on the list.

All you have to do is show up! Fried Chicken, side dishes, plates, napkins, tableware and bread & butter will be provided. Also, it was supposed to be a surprise but I let the secret out at the last meeting that Mavis Benner will purchase a large Anniversary Cake for the event. So don't miss this opportunity to get a free meal and dessert and listen to a great speaker!

Our guest speaker, Chris Pistole, will talk about "Bird Conservation in Hawaii". Hawaii's native birds include some of the most endangered species in the world. He will talk about some of the birds of Hawaii, some native and some not, seen on his trip there in July, 2018 and discuss current conservation efforts to protect them. Chris does an excellent job with this talk and the pictures are great, too.

This is listed on our web page at:
<http://sperry-galligar.com/Programs.html>

Hope to see you there.

Bob Mangile



May Meeting
Thursday, 6:00 p.m.
Homer Cole Building
Pittsburg, KS
****Presentation****

May 30 — Annual Picnic celebrating 20 years since the chapter was formed in Pittsburg. Food and program.

See details at right.



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

6:00 Board Meeting Highlights David Hollie, Secretary

Attending: Mavis Benner, Wayne Bockelman, Christine Brodsky, Steve and Cindy Ford, David Hollie, Bob and Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Mary Jo Meier, Emmett Sullivan

Treasurer's Report – \$4,154.05

Minutes from March board meeting – read and approved
April's Refreshments provided by Sharon Kennedy, thank you!

Earth Day – We had booths for both the community and campus celebrations. Overall a success and plan to participate next year.

Wildlife and Parks landscaping – planting postponed because of weather

Slate of officers for vote at meeting: President – Steve Ford; Vice/Programs Director – Mary Jo; Secretary – Christine Brodsky; Treasurer – Liz Mangile

Preparations for May Picnic: Chicken Mary's is catering – need to know how many are coming two weeks ahead of time
(sign up by May 16)

Field Trip on Saturday (April 27) to Neosho, meet at 8:00am N side of Home Depot parking lot

Bird boxes/feeders: make more over the summer, date TBD

August planning meeting: at the Ford's place, tentatively August 11

Financial Statement...Liz Mangile, Treasurer May 2019

Beginning balance-----\$4106.53

Debit

Newsletter-----\$ 2.48

Total-----\$ 2.48

Credit

2 molts-----\$ 4.00

Total-----\$ 4.00

Ending balance-----\$4108.05

Thanks for Treats at the last
two meetings:

March: Donna Smith
April: Sharon Kennedy

April Presenter: Katy Holmer



Tallgrass prairie historically covered 13 million acres (more than a third!) of Missouri. Unfortunately, extensive develop-

ment and conversion to agricultural lands has resulted in the loss of a majority of this unique ecosystem in the state. Today, less than one percent of the state supports tallgrass prairie. Fortunately for Pittsburg residents, an easy 30-minute drive can take you to Prairie State Park, a 4,000 acre preserve that contains the largest publicly-owned tract of tallgrass prairie in Missouri. For April's meeting, Katy Holmer, Natural Resource Steward of Prairie State Park, told us about the many wonderful reasons to visit the park.

The park has six hiking trails with 16 miles through the tallgrass prairie, providing visitors an up-close look at life on the prairie. Each season is different on the prairie; currently, wildflowers are blooming and birds are returning to their breeding grounds. A small population of reintroduced bison can be found grazing in the park year-round. The bison help create a diverse habitat structure across the landscape with their trails, grazed patches, and wallows.

Every other year in September, Prairie State Park hosts a Prairie Jubilee. A multitude of activities are available, such as a living history loop where visitors can interact with



interpreters in historical dress, make crafts, go on a hay ride to see the bison, and even enjoy bison meat for lunch. The next Prairie Jubilee will be held in September of 2020, so mark your calendars! In the meantime, there are activities going on in the park every month. Upcoming events at Prairie State Park:

Monthly Bison Hikes (registration required)

Monthly Nature Bingo

Wildflower Walks: May 26 and June 8

Hug-a-Herp Day – June 22

David Hollie

HAPPENINGS IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

April Fieldtrip to Neosho Wildlife Area



I awoke with some trepidation on Saturday, April 27, expecting to hear the patter of raindrops that had been forecast for that morning, but all was quiet. I peeked outside and was rewarded with a mostly clear sky. What luck! It meant a much more successful bird walk when I met with eight other Auduboners at Neosho Wildlife Area. Despite a rather brisk wind, we saw at least 35 species. We were also able to examine some of the improvements made to the place, although not all of them met with our approval (especially the big, new parking lot).

Highlights of the trip included a horned grebe, a peregrine falcon, a yellow-breasted chat, what was most likely a pair of red-breasted mergansers, and a barred owl sitting in a tree and observing us. We also saw turkey vultures, a red-shouldered hawk, many blue-winged teal and lesser yellowlegs, shovelers, spotted sandpipers, cormorants, buffleheads, pied-billed grebes, coots, Forster's terns, an eastern phoebe, an eastern kingbird, a Baltimore oriole, a great blue heron and white pelicans. Besides birds, we saw flowers (groundsel and verbena), butterflies (Red Admiral, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail), and two deer that ran right past our parked vehicles.

It was an enjoyable morning of short drives, quick stops to reach for binoculars and bird books, longer pauses while we gazed in various directions and chatted. Good company and good birding.

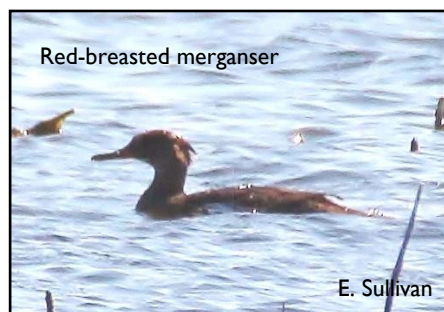
I hope to see you at the next bird walk!

Written by Diane McCallum



Horned grebe

R. Mangile



Red-breasted merganser

E. Sullivan

Sightings.....



Bring in the Hummers



Native columbine



Coral honeysuckle



Garden canna lily

Thank you to retiring board members for their good service:

David Hollie—Secretary—graduated with a Masters' Degree

Christine Brodsky—Vice President—will become Secretary

Also thanks to **Liz Mangile** for her continued service as Treasurer

Thanks to serving a second year as President: **Steve Ford**

Welcome to the board as Vice President: **Mary Jo Meier**

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

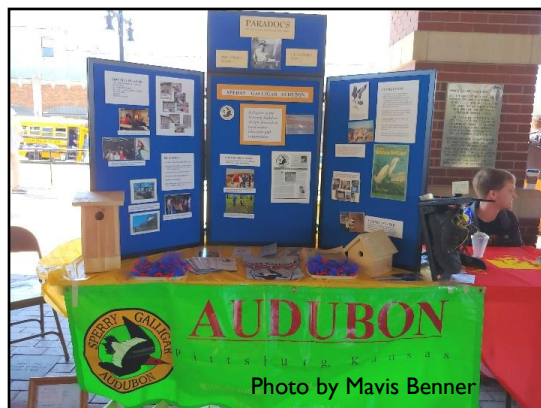


Photo by Mavis Benner

Sperry-Galligar Celebrates Earth Day

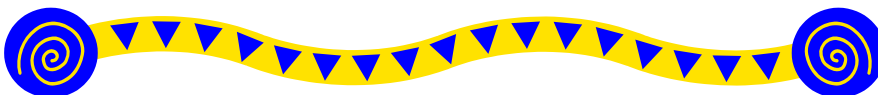
Sperry-Galligar Audubon was asked to participate in two Earth Day events: Pittsburg Community and on the Pittsburg State University campus. A beautiful day contributed to a successful first year celebration in downtown Pittsburg. Eighteen booths sported information about conservation organizations, including recycling, solar panels, bee cultivation, and of course nature. Thank you to those Audubon members who sat at the tables fielding questions and inquiries.

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.

