

NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry- Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2019 - 2021

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April 2020

VOLUME 2020 ISSUE 4

A Spring for the Books, but Still Spring by Steve Ford

First of all I hope you and yours are well and not going stir-crazy. We're fortunate as nature lovers not to be dependent on groups – pleasant as it often is on field trips – for appreciation of nature's wonder and beauty. Before I get running down my usual rabbit holes though, a word of business. We just don't know the future regarding the next Sperry-Galligar Audubon meeting or who might be the speaker.

Some of the medical experts we're hearing from in the national news are predicting some decline in Corvid 19 in the summer months, but are concerned about a resurgence in the fall. Our first meeting of the season traditionally is the last Thursday of September, but . . . who knows whether it will be advisable for groups to congregate then--specially groups like ours who have many members who no longer get carded when we buy a beer. Perhaps one indication as to when it might be ok to meet again is when Pitt State reinstitutes face-to-face classes; in fact it is doubtful we can use Yates 102 before that time. We'll try to publish a September newsletter to stay in touch.

Back to my rabbit hole:

Cindy and I are keeping busy planting some 120

small loblolly pines, and upgrading fencing, the latter to keep our two young, highly rambunctious Pyrenees "pups" from constantly escaping to visit our neighbors, among other mischief.

To those ends we needed to drive to Tractor Supply for fencing. We both wore masks, mine being the dust-catcher type, which, to spread great humor in these serious times, I drew on with a magic marker to resemble a beaver. You know, long buck-tooth incisors, whiskers, and a cute little nose. I thought it was pretty funny,

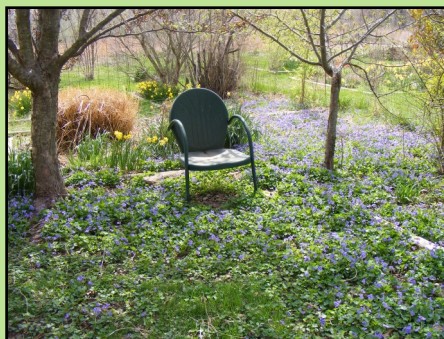
but no one seemed to be all that amused in Tractor Supply. I'm pretty sure a few people actually turned away. Cindy said it was because instead of looking like a beaver I more resembled a rat. She thought the next time we come to town I should emphasize the beaver motif by fabricating a big cardboard beaver tail attached to the back of my belt, and maybe carry a sharpened stick. I decided not to do that. A crazy old man is one thing, a damned lunatic is quite another.

Anyway, though the pandemic is in full blossom, so is spring. Chipping sparrows have replaced the juncos. The trees are sprouting leaves, which hosts the insects, which feed the northbound warblers. Parula warblers are singing their burrrrrrrr-up along the creek, and a gorgeous "golden swamp bird" – a prothonotary

warbler - is checking out the bluebird box on the back porch. Our Carolina wren is feeding nestlings in the canoe hanging over the porch, and the goldfinches at the feeder are turning their cheery mustard yellow. Frogs – leopard, chorus, tree, and cricket - are at full throat, and the wood ducks are squealing across

the pits. Columbines are blooming in the garden, and we're anticipating the hummers any day. Morels are being seen by those who can see them, which alas does not include me, but I do enjoy the carpets of golden ragwort currently in the woods. It seems to me the plum thickets are especially gaudy this year.

The pandemic will pass, but spring – in one form or another- is truly eternal. Please find ways to enjoy it my friends, and stay safe.



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

**April & May
Meetings**

CANCELLED

Watch for announcements about the fall meetings.

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
April 2020
Liz Mangile, Treasurer

Beginning balance-----	\$4688.02
Credits	
Membership and 2 birdhouses-----	\$ 54.00
Total-----	\$ 54.00
Debits	
Earth Day brochures-----	\$ 83.92
Total-----	\$ 83.92
Ending balance-----	\$4658.10



Bald Eagle and Nest (Photo by Gary Eitel)



Carolina Chickadee's Nest Materials (Photo by Delia Lister)



Plainbelly Watersnake
 (Photo by Delia Lister)

SIGNS OF SPRING



Male Eastern Box Turtle (Photo by Delia Lister)



Bullfrog Tadpole and
 Adult
 (Photo by Delia Lister)



Nashville Warbler (Photo by Delia Lister)

Emmett's Pics

Sightings.....



Blue False Indigo



Harlan's Red Tail



Bald Eagle



Chicken of the Woods

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**



Earth Day

April 22, 2020

**Check out Delia Lister's youtube
Earth Day message from Pittsburg
State University's Nature Reach**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnGCVWkRGK4&feature=youtu.be>

**No Sperry-Galligar Newsletter
in May.**



Prothonotary Warbler

**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.

