Welcome New Members


Free Camping at Lake Chicot State Park

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ARKANSAS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

Greg Butts, Director of State Parks, has approved free camping at Lake Chicot State Park for volunteers working on the Arkansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project in Chicot and Desha counties. The campsite will be near a bath house with hot showers and flush toilets and have water and electric hook-ups. Participants should be prepared to stay April 15th through June 30th. The free camping deal will be limited to only those who commit to at least two months. Contact Don R. Simons, Inter-lander, Lake Chicot State Park, 2452 Hwy 267, Lake Village, AR 71653, (501) 265-5480.

ASCA Rare Bird Alert: 753-5853 Learn what unusual birds have been seen locally. Have a Question about Audubon? Then leave message here, or asca@aristotle.net

HOTLINE


National Wildlife Federation Legislative: 202-797-6655 A 4 min. message. Updated on Tuesdays. (24 hr) /day.

Congressional Reference Service: 202-225-1772 Learn status of any Federal bill, have number or title of bill ready. (9 am to 6 pm)

SENATORS and REPRESENTATIVES


New Web Sites for National Audubon

National Audubon Society has announced its new web site at http://www.audubon.org/

We are told it will be faster, more comprehensive, and more responsive than the old one. A new mailing list service for NAS E-mail subscribers will allow greater flexibility and archival ability.

The Audubon Magazine is also on the web at http://magazine.audubon.org/ an interactive site that is updated with each issue of the magazine.

A third site for the Audubon educational program "Wild Wings: heading North" has been launched at the http://magazine.audubon.org/ site.

"A major goal of our new web sites and mailing lists is to greatly increase our ability to communicate with the general public, Audubon Chapters, members and press, providing them with ways in which they can get informed and involved," explains Victoria Shaw NAS Senior Vice President of Edu-cations and Communications. "We now have the opportunity to reach an even greater audience than before, dispensing valuable, up-to-the-minute news for those interested in birding and important environmental issues".

Eagle Deaths Mystery

The deaths of Bald Eagles on Southern Arkansas Lakes remain a mystery. The consensus is that some form of toxin is responsible, either naturally occurring or man-made. Toxicological screenings have ruled out known viruses, bacteria, heavy metals, and a host of known poisons. The die-off has included crows, a favorite food of the Eagles, which suffer similar signs of the malady. No more dead birds have been found since early February, but birds that die in the wild can be hard to spot, and quickly disappear. Plans are already afoot for next winter if the die-off continues.

Dr. Kent Thornton will be ASCA's guest speaker at the 2010 meeting.
Arkansas Audubon Society

1997 Halberg Ecology Camp

A study camp where young people can learn about natural science at Camp Clearfork on U.S. Highway 270 two miles west of Crystal Springs. Begins Sunday June 15th and ends Friday, June 20th.

What is it?

This one-week Arkansas Audubon Society camp offers young people an opportunity to study the natural environment. The camp is planned for 11- and 12-year-olds. They will study such subjects as mammals, snakes, birds, insects. Geology, Botany, and aquatic biology in the beautiful Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas. The professional staff of 18 includes a graduate nurse and a lifeguard. The students sleep in dormitories and an adult is stationed in each cabin.

Why is this camp important?

It provides children with a special outdoor experience and helps them appreciate and understand the natural environment.

Who may attend?

Any young person 11 or 12 years old, from any part of the state, who is seriously interested in learning about the outdoors. Fifty students will be enrolled.

The 1997 Halberg Ecology Camp will begin Sunday, June 15 and end Friday, June 20. The session will be held at Camp Clearfork, in the Ouachita National Forest, on U.S. Highway 270 two miles west of Crystal Springs. It is the responsibility of the parents to bring the child to the camp and to take him or her back home.

What does it cost?

Each student pays $150 to attend the camp for the week. This money goes toward the cost of room, board, and insurance. The Arkansas Audubon Society provides the remainder of the $250 needed for each student. Some partial and full scholarships are available in case of need. Anyone in need of a scholarship should add an explanatory note to the application. Each camper receives a field guide and a T-shirt.

What about recreation?

Camp Clearfork has some unique recreational opportunities. Everyone may participate in team sports, go swimming, and go fishing.

To receive an application blank, fill out and return this slip before April 16 to AAS Halberg Ecology Camp, 10 Belmont Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204.

NAME (please print) ____________________________

Address ____________________________

Date of Birth ____________________________

Reasons for wanting to attend ____________________________

AAS Spring Meeting

The Arkansas Audubon Society Spring Meeting is in Russellville on May 2-4, with Friday and Saturday evening speakers and field trips on the Saturday and Sunday mornings to local birding hotspots.

Call Barry Haas 225-5096 or e-mail babirder@aol.com

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Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Dear Fellow Arkansan and Potential STREAM TEAM Member:

Our state has some of the most unique and beautiful lakes streams, and rivers in the nation. Indeed, Arkansas' scenic waterways, great fishing, boating, and canoeing are known nationwide and millions of dollars are spent annually to enjoy these resources.

Unfortunately, many of our lakes, streams and rivers have been affected by problems which have damaged them. They need your help.

The Arkansas STREAM TEAM program is a special program for Arkansas to learn skills to help our waterways such as litter pickup, water quality monitoring, fish habitat placement, and streambank restoration.

The first STREAM TEAM Streams and Rivers Conference is planned for April 11, 12 and 13, 1997 at the DeGray State Park Lodge located on Lake DeGray near Arkadelphia and will feature classes and workshops for both adults and children on how rivers and streams work, what problems they have and how you can help.

It promises to be an entertaining and educational event for everyone, so mark your calendars now. We hope to see you at the conference, however if you can not attend and you are interested in joining STREAM TEAM, please contact The Stream Team Coordinator, #2 Natural Resource Drive, Little Rock AR 72205.

cordially,
Steve N. Wilson Director

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
Field Trips: Mel White, see entry above.
Education & Youth Activities: DeLynn Holloman, & Norma Childers see their entries above.
Conservation: DeLynn Holloman above.
Membership: Myra & Carl Hunyon, 3123 Cypress, NLR 72116, 708-0088(H), 982-1911(W), 982-5540(FAX)
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FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, April 19th. 7:30 a.m.
Spring warbler trip to Pinnacle Mt. State Park and Arkansas River. The woods should be full of migrants, so we'll walk several of the trails at Pinnacle looking and listening. Later, we may stop by the lake and the river to check for ospreys and pelicans. This trip could stretch into the afternoon, depending on what kind of luck we're having, so bring a snack if you want; or, you can leave at lunchtime. The trails could be muddy, so bring appropriate footwear. Meet at the West Summit picnic area parking lot, near Kingfisher Trail.

Friday May 16th. OR Saturday May 17th. (Duplicate trips)
The annual red-cockaded woodpecker field trip to the Fensenthal National Refuge to see birds and wildflowers will be on Friday 16th and 17th of May. Ruth McDonald will lead the field trips to the nesting trees of the red-cockaded woodpeckers and it is a sure thing that they will be seen. Among many other water, wading and songbirds a prothonotary warbler will be seen. Wood ducks, Mississippi kites and wild turkeys are common in some areas. The two days are repeat field trips, making it possible for people to attend only one day. Participants are to bring their lunch and the refuge and the lunch will be outside of the refuge at the Fensenthal picnic area where there are restrooms and tables. Wildflower enthusiasts will see among other things ripe fruit of mayhaw trees which are native to the swamps and are edible.

Those coming from the east can gather at the Fensenthal National Wildlife Refuge on U.S. 82 west of Crossett by 8:15 AM and those coming from the west can meet Carl Amason at the King's Inn Best Western Hotel and Restaurant in El Dorado by 8:00 AM. The two groups will meet at the Shallow Lake Road off U.S. 82 at 8:30 AM. The field trip should be over by 4:00 PM, giving participants time to return home by dusk or shortly thereafter.

For more information contact Ruth McDonald at the Fensenthal National Wildlife Refuge, P. O. Box 1157, Crossett, AR 71635 or call during business hours 501-364-3168 or contact Carl R. Amason, P.O. Box 164, Calion, AR 71724 or call 501-748-2362, and the best time to contact Carl is after the sun has gone down.

Thursday April 10th, 7pm Regular monthly meeting at Arkansas Game and Fish Commission building, 2 commission, 2 Natural Resources Drive in Little Rock. Take West Markham Street, west until just before it crosses the freeway (I-430) and turn North onto Natural Resource Drive, and follow the signs for AG&F. This month Vickie McDonald, a professor at UCA and nationally known bird expert, will talk about the Seaside Sparrow.

Thursday, May 8th. Regular monthly meeting at the AG&F together to make this one of the best events of the year. ASCA will provide utensils, plates, and drinks. Just bring a favorite food item and binoculars.

Call Barry Haas 225-5096.

Saturday April 12th, 8am - 3pm. Crash Bird Course at Pinnacle Mountain State Park Visitors Center. Co-sponsored by ASCA and Pinnacle Mountain State Park.

Spring

NOTES

Thursday July 10th. 7pm An extra special meeting this month as we will have Dr. Kent Thornton as our speaker, who will give us the latest information on the Bald Eagle die-off that has plagued Arkansas for the last couple of years. Don't miss this one.
ASCA's Crash Bird Course

Where?
Pinnacle
Mountain
State Park
Visitors Center
868-5806

8am to 3pm  April 12th

A great way for beginning birdwatchers to learn more about identification, binoculars, field guides and much more. Reservations required. There is a $8.00 fee for materials to everyone registered.

ASCA = The Audubon Society of Central Arkansas.
Non-member? We would like to invite you to one of our meetings (turn over for schedule and directions) and consider joining us for only $20 the first year.
Call Barry Haas 225-5096 or babirder@aol.com
Please pass this flyer onto a friend.