

EARTHSTAR

NEWSLETTER OF THE MACOMB AUDUBON SOCIETY

<http://www.macombaudubon.org>

Volume 44 number 5, September - October 2017

Programs

September 11, 2017, 7:00pm - Annual Bonfire at Lake St. Clair Metropark

Grab your lawn chair, roasting forks, hot dogs/buns, s'mores fixin's and a beverage and join us for a fun evening around the fire! Bring a potluck dessert to share if you would like. Mustard and Catsup will be provided. In the event of rain, we'll move inside the nature center and put a fire in the fireplace! Bring a friend!

October 2, 2017, 7:00pm – All About Skulls – Brenda Suchenek

In preparation for the spooky Halloween season, we'll learn all about animal skulls! Brenda Suchenek from the Sterling Heights Nature center will bring a variety of skulls for us to experience and she'll tell us all about the special adaptations animals have for snacking on their preferred prey. Brenda Suchenek is the Assistant Naturalist at the Sterling Heights nature Center and she loves teaching individuals about nature!

Editor's Note

I believe it time we got a new Editor for the Earthstar. I have been doing this for the last eleven years and it is time to move on. I'm sure there is someone in our Society that can do a better job than I have been doing lately. So think about it and let Randy or I know if you are interested.

Thanks, Bill Clark

2017 Stony Creek Bird Walks

Saturday October 14, 8:30am - Stony Creek's Snell Service Road and creek corridor

Meet / park at 8:30am on south side of Snell Road, just west of the tall white communications tower that overlooks the park. Pull as far out of the traffic lane as possible. The West Branch of Stony Creek runs through this area, which hosts one of the last healthy bat populations in the park. Our bats have been nearly wiped out by WNS - White-nose Syndrome (fungus), as elsewhere across the eastern U.S.

FYI Birders – The trail barricades on marsh loop that were in place during eagle nesting season, were removed in early August, and the trail mowed. I neglected to mention this in my last update. The barricades will be going back up the end of January, assuming the eagles will be nesting next year, and their nest tree is still standing. So these next months are your best opportunity for closer viewing of the eagle nest, and potentially the eagles. Merlin are frequent fall visitors to the nest area as well.

Good Birding

Ruth Glass

Stony Creek Nature Center Volunteer

Macomb Audubon Society The Macomb Audubon Society is a chapter of the Michigan Audubon society. Meetings are normally held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the **Sterling Heights Nature Center located at 42700 Utica Rd.(south and east of the Van Dyke/Utica Rd. intersection, north of 19 mile Rd.)**

Events of the Society are open to the public.

The mission of the Macomb Audubon Society is to:

.Promote interest in the world of nature and to aid in the conservation of natural resources.

Provide an outlet for nature activities via field trips.

Provide an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge and experience through lectures, films, discussions and newsletters.

Aid organizations that provide people of all ages with opportunities to experience these above given objectives.

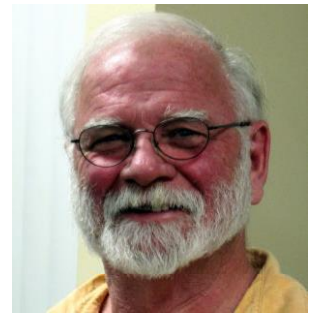
People can support our efforts by becoming members. **To become a member, complete the form on the inside back cover. Members receive this newsletter, the Earthstar.**

Earthstar Deadline

We appreciate relevant information or articles of interest to the Macomb Audubon membership for review for publication in the Earthstar. **If you have material that you wish to submit, please send it by the 12th of the preceding month to: Bill Clark 53253 North Ave Macomb MI 48042.**

Email: wtclark1@comcast.net

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Good habitat management is important to maintain or improve biodiversity. Both plants and animals benefit when an ecosystem approach is applied to our parks or even private land. With the recent resignation of George Phifer from the metro-parks we will see a new era management style to the metro-parks. The metro-parks have a lot to offer visitors today and with new management perhaps there will be even more in the future. We will need to wait and see. As much as we associate habitat management as the role of our local, state and federal lands, it is really the job of all of use. We can each contribute, and we should.

Over the years I have planted thousands of trees on my 15 acres. Some have made it, some have become food for rabbits, deer and meadow voles. That is supposed to happen to some. Several years ago I planted 50 American chestnut trees on my property. It appeared that three had survived until last year when I discovered five more that finally made it above the raspberry bushes. The other day as I was picking wild blackberries (27 qt. so far) I discovered three more. I also found a couple of tulip trees that I had planted years ago. It seemed like the mild winter and the right mixture of sunshine and rain has made many of my trees and shrubs to rise above the goldenrod. My persimmons have grown more this year than in the last five years combined. Some of the blackberry bushes that will produce berries next year exceed nine feet in height. As I was picking the blackberries and listening to the catbirds and towhee, and finding myself bleeding from the blackberry bushes I began to ponder how sad it would be to have never experienced nature in this way. To never work your way through a blackberry thicket, to never experience a blizzard by snowshoeing through it, to never take a canoe ride would truly be a life that I would never like to have lived. Watching birds and butterflies during the day and the stars, the moon and the northern lights at night are other joys that make life worth living. I encourage everyone to go outside enjoy the sights and sounds that are all around us. If walking is difficult simply drive to a site, take a lawn chair and set it next to a river, a lake , a forest, or a field. You will be totally amazed at what will pass by you if you sit in one place long enough. Have a great summer and fall.

Randy Baker

August Ice Cream Social



We're Proud Supporters of Macomb Audubon Society

Lake St. Clair Nature Center
 Sterling Heights Nature Center,
 Seven Ponds Nature Center,
 Stony Creek Nature Center,
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For the best bird seed
 At the best prices
 Uncle Luke's feed store
 6691 Livernois
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To contact the Macomb Audubon Society by e-mail the address is macombaudubon@gmail.com
 To join the Macomb Audubon Mailing list please send an e-mail To: macombaudubon-subscribe@Yahoogroups.com

Macomb Audubon Society Dues

Please make checks payable to **Macomb Audubon Society** and send to: Beverlee Babcock
 Macomb Audubon Membership 50229 Pepper Tree Dr. Macomb Mi, 48044.

Your name and the names of family members (Please Print)

Family membership applies to family members living at the same address

Name _____
 Address _____ City _____
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 New Member _____ Renewal _____ Check One _____ Family Membership \$20.00
 Total Amount enclosed \$ _____ Individual Membership \$15.00
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Each year Macomb Audubon makes a membership list available to members. Check here if you wish to have your telephone number **left off** the list _____

Email Address _____ (optional)

Check here to receive the Earthstar by Email only _____

Check here if a Michigan Audubon member _____ Check here if a National Audubon member _____

I (we) are interested in becoming a Macomb Audubon volunteer. Please contact me _____

Macomb Audubon Society

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