

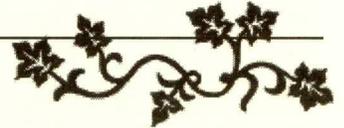
The Flyer



A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

April 2009

Monthly Meetings



• Thursday, April 16, 2009 *Greening Your Garden*

Refreshments at 7:00; meeting starts at 7:30pm

A speaker from the **Chicago Botanic Gardens School and Community Gardening Department** will present tips for an earth-friendly landscape. Gardeners are already many steps ahead in the race to become the greenest on the block, but how can we take the stewardship of the small piece of land we inhabit to the next level? There are many easy things each of us can do to make sure we are caring for our landscape in an environmentally responsible way. Learn tips on what to plant to minimize water and fertilizer use, tips for organic lawn care and how to communicate with your landscape contractor about reducing energy and chemical use on your property.



• Thursday, May 21, 2009 **Note:** There is a 5:00 p.m. **bird walk** scheduled prior to this meeting.

To start the evening off, **The DuPage Birding Club** will be on hand to talk briefly about their organization and some of their upcoming bird walks.

Then our program will begin - **Roger Tory Peterson – No Person Left Inside.**

Join us on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Roger Tory Peterson as **Joe Lill, Vice-President of the Chicago Audubon Society**, explains the effect this incredible man and his 1934 book, "A Field Guide to the Birds," has had on society and how he changed the way we look at the natural world. For information on Roger Tory Peterson: www.rtpi.org/index.php/world-of-roger-tory-peterson/biography.

• Thursday, June 18, 2009 *The "Cool Cities" Initiative*

Lonnie Morris, "Cool Cities" Chair for the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club, will be our speaker. A "Cool City" is one that has made a commitment to curb global warming by signing the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. Begun in 2005, this campaign empowers city residents and local leaders throughout the U.S. to join and encourage their cities to implement smart energy solutions. For more information: www.coolcities.us.

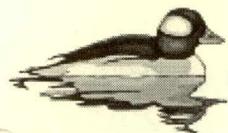


Activities and Work Days

SPECIAL, UPCOMING PRAIRIE WOODS AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

Bring the family! Everyone is invited...you DO NOT have to be a member of Prairie Woods Audubon to attend these activities. See inside page 2 for more information on these fun and educational events:

- Bird Walks at Crabtree Nature Center and Spring Valley Nature Center
- Sunset Prairie Burn at Spring Valley Nature Center
- Palatine Prairie Work Days - Spring 2009



- Backyards for Nature Fair and Native Plant Sale

Membership meetings of the Prairie Woods Audubon Society are held monthly from September to May, with the exception of December. Unless otherwise noted, membership meetings take place at Spring Valley Nature Center, located at 1111 East Schaumburg Road in Schaumburg, Illinois. All meetings are FREE and open to the public. Refreshments are served. Call the Prairie Woods Information HOTLINE at 847-622-5321 or check our website at www.prairiewoodsaudubon.org for more details and up-to-date information about all of our events.

Palatine Prairie Work Days - Spring 2009

Come out and join us for a couple hours on Saturday morning to help maintain Palatine Prairie, a designated Illinois Nature Preserve!

April 11 – 9:00am-11:00am (controlled burn, cut brush)

May 9 – 9:00-11:00am (pull garlic mustard, cut brush)

Prairie Woods Audubon Society maintains a 7 1/2 acre virgin prairie in Palatine. Over 100 species of plants grow on this high quality remnant prairie. We meet at the Margareth Reimer Reservoir parking lot at the southeast corner of Quentin Rd. and Wood Street. Palatine Prairie is located along the railroad tracks, at the far north end of the park. We supply tools, or bring your favorite loppers and/or bow saw. Please dress appropriately and bring water. Contact Cyndi Duda or Brian Herner at (847)776-8713 for further information, directions or if the weather is questionable. If you would like to be added to our email reminder list for work days send an email to cyndi.duda@comcast.net. If it is raining or snowing on any of



State endangered white lady's slipper orchid at Palatine Prairie

the above Saturdays, we will postpone that workday to Sunday morning. We are not able to use herbicides on days with precipitation.

Special Upcoming Prairie Woods Audubon Activities

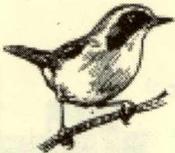
• **Sunset Fire on the Prairie**

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Spring Valley Nature Center

7:00pm to 9:00pm

Join us at Spring Valley for this special event. After a brief talk about the ecological value of and techniques used to control a prescribed prairie burn, everyone will walk outside to view a fantastic sunset prairie burn. Refreshments will be served. Rain date will be Saturday, April 18. **Advance registration will be required, with a small per person fee.** Further details will be available soon on Spring Valley Nature Center's web site, <http://www.parkfun.com/recreation/SpringValley/Events.aspx>.



• **Bird Walk - Tuesdays – April 21, April 28, May 5 and May 12, 2009 ***

Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington, IL (847.381.6592)

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (may continue beyond 10:00)

• **Backyards for Nature Fair and Native Plant Sale**

Sunday, May 3, 2009

Spring Valley Nature Center

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Turn your backyard into an ecologically friendly haven for birds, butterflies and other beneficial wildlife, while learning all types of gardening tips, at the annual Backyards for Nature Fair and Native Plant Sale. For information on plants available for sale, see www.schaumburggardenclub.com or call 847.706.6767. For general information, call Spring Valley at 847.985.2100. Also, we will be at the fair helping children build nest boxes. If anyone would like to volunteer to help out, please contact Pat Prichard at pprich39@aol.com or 847.934.0407.



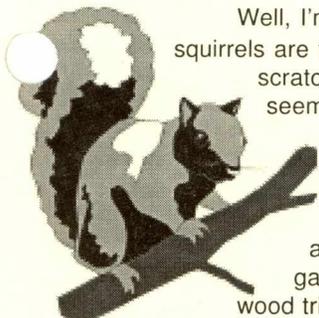
• **Bird Walk - Thursday, May 21, 2009 ***

Spring Valley Nature Center (847.985.2100)

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (prior to monthly meeting)

* No pre-registration is needed for these walks. More walks will be added; please visit our web site for the latest on upcoming walks.

Backyard Banter By Pat Pritchard



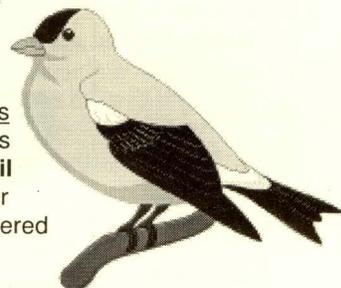
Well, I'm itching for spring. Seems the squirrels are too, these days. I see them scratching their rumps all the time! They seem anxious to get down to business, chewing on anything that happens to be in their "space"; this, of course, includes dead tree limbs, bulbs they dug up in the fall, feeders that are empty, socks full of nyjer seed, the garage door, rotten apples and the new wood trim on my screen porch.... I have nightmares of a squirrel the size of the Sears Tower stomping on my house to get to the bird seed stored in the garage.

The bird activity in the yard this winter has for the most part been pretty good, though I certainly did not experience the variety of species I have in past winters. A Red-Breasted Nuthatch here, a Red-Bellied Woodpecker there, some nice Juncos and White-Throated Sparrows, the surprise Pine Siskin on the nyjer feeder one morning having breakfast amongst the Goldfinches. Have you noticed the Goldies are, in fact, starting to molt? One was perched on the feeder one day with a ragtag feather dangling from it's wing; the others are beginning to get the yellow splotches on their heads. By the time you read this, they could already be halfway there.

With the peaks and lulls of different kinds of birds

appearing in the yard (or not) over the years, one gets to pondering how much these little guys are affected by climate change. If you haven't already seen the report or mention of it in the newspaper, in February the National Audubon Society issued one drawing from 40 years of Christmas Bird Count data that documents a shift among bird populations coincident with warmer winters. Among the big movers that you might have seen here: Purple Finch and Pine Siskin. More than half of the 305 bird species in North America are spending the winter about 35 miles farther north than they did 40 years ago. If you're curious, find out more at: www.birdsandclimate.audubon.org.

April is chock full of things to do! Join us on **April 4** for the Sunset Fire on the Prairie. Go on a bird walk. April is Environmental Awareness Month...participate in our recycling program. **April 1** is World Habitat Awareness Month, **April 5** begins National Week of the Ocean, **April 13** is International Plant Appreciation Day (give your ficus a hug!), **April 19** begins National Volunteer Week (we always need your help for Prairie Work Days and special events...hint, hint!), **April 22** is Earth Day and **April 24** is Arbor Day....plant a native tree! The feathered and furry ones will love you for it!



Flying Wild Educator Workshop

Flying WILD is an exciting new education program that provides interactive, interdisciplinary, standards-based activities to help students understand the importance of migratory birds and their conservation. Targeted for middle school grades, but adaptable to other levels, the program includes teacher-led, student-led and volunteer-led learning activities which provide opportunities to engage students in real-world learning. Topics ranging from basic bird biology, identification and ecology, to bird conservation service learning activities such as bird festivals and monitoring projects promote greater environmental stewardship.



During the workshop participants will receive:

- The 366-page manual, *Flying WILD: An Educator's Guide to Celebrating Birds*
- Illinois Learning Standards Correlation Guide of Flying WILD Activities
- Additional resource materials
- Introduction to community resources
- A completion certificate
- CPDU's

Who should attend? Educators, nature center staff, youth group leaders – anyone interested in using hands-on activities about birds and bird conservation to encourage learning in science and other subjects will benefit.

Date: Friday, April 24, 2009

Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)

Location: Stillman Nature Center

33 West Penny Road

South Barrington, Illinois 60010

Instructor: Cyndi Duda, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Registration Information

Please visit www.stillmanncc.org to print the registration form and mail with check payable to "Stillman Nature Center".

Questions? Contact Stillman Nature Center at (847) 428-6957 or stillnc@wildblue.net

For more information about the workshop, contact Cyndi Duda at (847) 381-2253 ext. 13, or email: cyndi_duda@fws.gov

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847-358-2632

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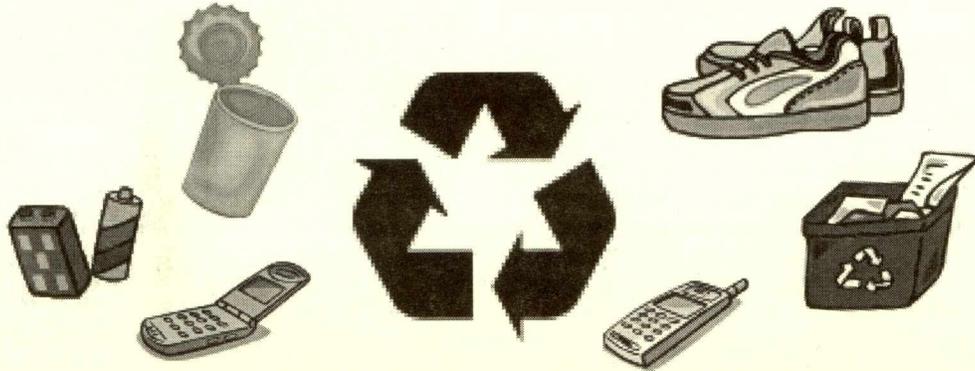
Hospitality
Cyndi Duda
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Tami Zuck
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April Recycling Event

At press time (March 1st), we were still in the process of determining what our recycling event will be for April. As there are different ways to recycle various items, we need to focus on a program that allows greatest number of people to participate by recycling a commonly used item(s). We might repeat last year's successful Nike "ReUse-A-Shoe" program, or may instead be focused on collecting cell phones, ink cartridges, household batteries, etc. The collection site will be at the Spring Valley Nature Center. The event will take place from April 1st through April 30th. If you would like to help out with this year's recycling effort, or have any suggestions for this year's program, please contact Pat Prichard at pprich39@aol.com or 847.934.0407. In the meantime, please check our web site for details on this year's recycling event.



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847-358-2632

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Cyndi Duda
847-776-8713

Conservation
Jim Peterson
847-885-4634

**Membership/
Database**
Brian Herner
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Program
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Population
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Fund Raising
Louis & Sylvia
Vassmer
847-358-2632

**PLEASE NOTE! Prairie Woods Audubon has a website!
www.prairiewoodsaudubon.org**



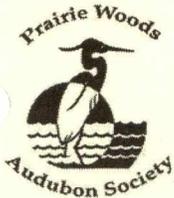
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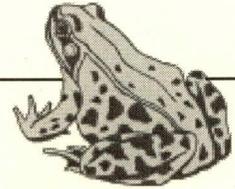
The Flyer



A C H A P T E R O F T H E N A T I O N A L A U D U B O N S O C I E T Y

March 2009

Monthly Meetings



• **Thursday, March 19, 2009**

Refreshments at 7:00; meeting starts at 7:30pm

Amphibian Re-Introduction and Buckthorn Study in Lake County, Illinois

Allison Sacerdote, doctoral candidate at NIU Department of Biological Sciences, will talk about her research on flatwoods wetland habitat restoration and the re-introduction of extirpated amphibians, and the impact of the European buckthorn invasion on amphibians and mammals in northern Illinois. This research was conducted in Lake County, but is applicable to many other forested, wetland habitats in the region.

• **Thursday, April 16, 2009**

Greening Your Garden

A speaker from the Chicago Botanic Gardens School and Community Gardening Department will present tips for an earth-friendly landscape. Gardeners are already many steps ahead in the race to become the greenest on the block, but how can we take the stewardship of the small piece of land we inhabit to the next level? There are many easy things each of us can do to make sure we are caring for our landscape in an environmentally responsible way. Learn tips on what to plant to minimize water and fertilizer use, tips for organic lawn care and how to communicate with your landscape contractor about reducing energy and chemical use on your property.

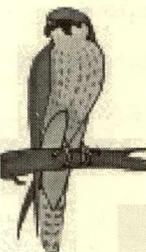


Note: We will have a June program.....mark your calendars! Due to extreme weather conditions, our regularly scheduled January meeting was canceled. But we have invited our scheduled speaker for January, **Lonnie Morris**, to come in June and present "Cool Cities." The specific date, along with the program description, will be on our web site soon and in our upcoming April newsletter.

Activities and Work Days

SPECIAL, UPCOMING PRAIRIE WOODS AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

Bring the family! Everyone is invited...you DO NOT have to be a member of Prairie Woods Audubon to attend these activities. See inside page 2 for more information on these fun and educational events.



• **Saturday, March 7, 2009 "Not Just Owls...But Raptors, Too!"**

Spring Valley Nature Center, 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m



• **Saturday, April 4, 2009 Sunset Prairie Burn**

Spring Valley Nature Center (Will be held in the early evening; time not yet determined)



• **Palatine Prairie Work Days - Spring 2009**

See article inside for more information, directions, etc.



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Palatine Prairie Work Days - Spring 2009

Come out and join us for a couple hours on Saturday morning to help maintain Palatine Prairie, a designated Illinois Nature Preserve!

March 14 – 9-11:00am (cut firebreak for controlled burn, cut brush)

April 11 – 9:00am-11:00am (controlled burn, cut brush)

May 9 – 9:00-11:00am (pull garlic mustard, cut brush)

Prairie Woods Audubon Society maintains a 7 1/2 acre virgin prairie in Palatine. Over 100 species of plants grow on this high quality remnant prairie. We meet at the Margareth Reimer Reservoir parking lot at the southeast corner of Quentin Rd. and Wood Street. Palatine Prairie is located along the railroad tracks, at the far north end of the park. We supply tools, or bring your favorite loppers and/or bow saw. Please dress appropriately and bring water. Contact Cyndi Duda or Brian Herner at (847)776-8713 for further information, directions or if the weather is questionable. If you would like to be added to our email reminder list for work days send an email to cyndi.duda@comcast.net. If it is raining or snowing on any of



State endangered white lady's slipper orchid at Palatine Prairie

the above Saturdays, we will postpone that workday to Sunday morning. We are not able to use herbicides on days with precipitation.

Special Upcoming Prairie Woods Audubon Activities



• Saturday, March 7, 2009: "Not Just Owls...But Raptors, Too!"

Spring Valley Nature Center 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Mark Spreyer of the Stillman Nature Center in South Barrington will be on hand to talk about what he often calls "sissy birds" (known to the rest of us as raptors or birds of prey). **Linda Breuer of Barnswallow** in Wauconda will also be on hand to add her own raptor insights. Join us to learn more about hawks, falcons, vultures and...maybe, owls. Live hawks and falcons will be presented, as well as a unique video that puts the "rap" in raptor. Please contact Spring Valley Nature Center in advance to reserve a seat: 847-985-2100. **Free.**



• Saturday, April 4, 2009: Sunset Prairie Burn

Spring Valley Nature Center

Will be held in the early evening; time not yet determined

Join us at Spring Valley for this special event. After a brief talk about the ecological value of and techniques used to control a prescribed prairie burn, everyone will walk outside to view a fantastic sunset prairie burn. Refreshments will be served. Rain date will be Saturday, April 18. **Advance registration will be required, with a small per person fee.** Further details will be available soon on Spring Valley Nature Center's web site, <http://www.parkfun.com/recreation/SpringValley/Events.aspx>.

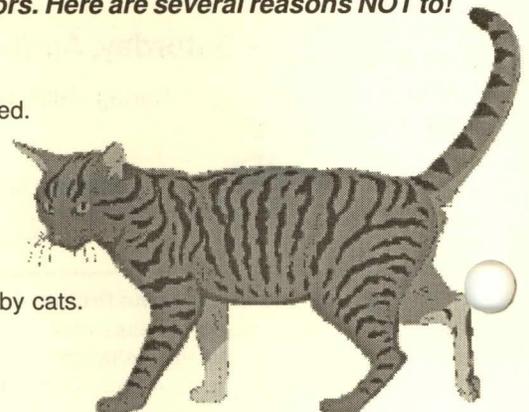


If you love wildlife, keep your cats indoors

Reprinted from the Lake County(Illinois) Audubon website

With warmer weather approaching, you may be tempted to let your cats outdoors. Here are several reasons NOT to!

- Everyday, cats kill between 4 and 5 million birds in the U.S. alone.
- Collar bells don't work. Birds and other wildlife do not associate bells with being stalked.
- Ground-nesting birds are very susceptible to predation by cats.
- Even well-fed cats will hunt small wild animals.
- Most young birds leave the nest before they are able to fly well, spending a day or two days on the ground as they learn. These fledglings are frequently caught by cats.
- Most of the birds caught by cats, but not killed outright, die of their injuries or infection.
- Cats that kill small rodents can eliminate a critical food source for owls and hawks.



Prairie Woods' Own Cyndi Duda Honored!

By Tami L. Zuck, editor

On February 7, 2009, long-time Prairie Woods member Cyndi Duda was honored by the Palatine Park District as a **Volunteer of the Year!** At a luncheon held at the Cotillion in Palatine, Cyndi and other volunteers received an award for their years of community service to the Park District. Specifically, Cyndi was recognized for her contributions to the community revolving around her work on Palatine Prairie as a member of Prairie Woods. This 7 1/2 acre virgin prairie remnant is owned by the Water Reclamation District of Cook County and Palatine Park District and is maintained by Prairie Woods Audubon volunteers of which Cyndi is the current steward. The program for the event outlined Cyndi's accomplishments: "As a teacher, scientist and "volunteer supreme", Ms. Duda has had a profound impact on the community. She gives 200% to Prairie Woods Audubon Society, committing herself to not only working hard at maintaining Palatine Prairie's pristine condition, but educating the



Several Prairie Woods members attended the awards banquet; pictured, from left to right: Detlef Schmidt, Brigitte Schmidt, Brian Herner, Cyndi with her award, Sylvia Vassmer, Louis Vassmer and Tami Zuck.

community about the village's special treasure. Cyndi has tirelessly worked on the Prairie for over 15 years cutting and hauling brush, applying herbicide, instructing scout troops and area children on prairie education and habitat, leading prairie burns, working with park district officials when needed, and educating individuals from youth to seniors. She has lead hikes throughout Palatine and the surrounding community, inspiring others to appreciate nature and wildlife around us. She seldom misses meetings no matter how hectic her schedule was that day. She is always one of the first to step forward when volunteers are needed for an activity, fund raiser or educational opportunity. Cyndi has been consistently a special volunteer who has devoted herself to the community of Palatine in which she lives, caring about nature and conservation."

Congratulations Cyndi!!



The Flyer welcomes your photos!

Please send any photos of interesting birds and other wildlife from your backyard feeders, outings, fields trips and vacations. Email all images to tamizuck@comcast.net.



At right is an Eastern towhee who has visited my feeders several times daily all this past fall and winter. He usually feeds on the ground under my sunflower seed feeders. This is indeed an unusual sighting for this time of year in northern Illinois!

- Tami L. Zuck, editor



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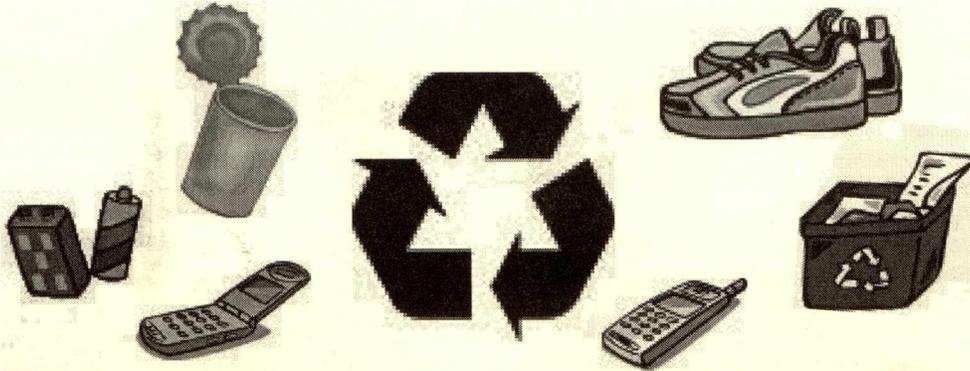
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Upcoming April Recycling Event

Last year Prairie Woods partnered with the Sierra Club Northwest Chapter and Spring Valley Nature Center to conduct what turned out to be a very successful recycling effort throughout the month of April. We collected athletic shoes, which were taken to the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) in Glenview, to in turn be sent to Nike to recycle into material for playground and running surfaces. This year we will have another recycling event in the month of April, though it has not yet been determined what we will be collecting for recycling. The details of this event will be available soon on our website and at the monthly meeting in March, as well as in the April newsletter. Please direct any questions/ comments to Pat Prichard, phone 847-934-0407 or email pprich39@aol.com.



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