



The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

Trumpeter

Volume 44 Issue 2—Bloomington MN
www.MRVAC.org

September & October 2010

Anne Hanley, Editor
anne_hanley90@hotmail.com

*Special Presentations Sept 23 and Oct 28
Open to the Public*

September 23, 2010 - Sharon Stiteler
www.birdchick.com

Birding in Panama

An adventure in rainbow colored birds and mind-bendingly cute mammals. You will enjoy Sharon's enthusiastic presentation and great photos from the Canopy Tower in Panama.

October 28, 2010 - Dr. George Fenwick
President, American Bird Conservancy

Bird Conservation: 21st Century Threats and Solutions

To ensure that future generations continue to enjoy the abundance and diversity of birds we know today, it is important that our management of bird populations is based on solid science, and that management decisions are planned with the long-term view in mind. This talk will outline current threats to birds, and solutions moving forward. Dr. Fenwick will also present the newly published *American Bird Conservancy Guide to Bird Conservation*. Copies will be available for purchase and signing after the talk.

When: Please join us from **7:00-7:30 pm** to socialize over cookies. A brief business meeting and the featured speaker begin at **7:30 pm**. The meeting will conclude before 9:00 pm.

Where: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 3801 American Blvd E, Bloomington. Accessible by Hiawatha Light Rail line, American Blvd. stop. Hwy 494 to 34th Ave – S to American Blvd; turn left and go 2 blocks. Center will be on your right.

Terry's Perch

by Terry Houle, MRVAC President

On 22 July, 2010 I was privileged to take part in a volunteer recognition event at the newly re-opened Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MVNWR). I accepted an award for the work the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter (MRVAC) has done for clean-up and invasive species removal on the refuge. Thanks to all of you who helped with those projects.

In addition to offering field trips and programs, we are called on to be good stewards of Mother Earth and so please continue to help where you can, when you can and in whatever way you can.

In addition to habitat protection, like helping with clean ups and invasive species removal, you can also help by speaking up when you see bad choices being made by local, state or federal government. One example we heard about at a MRVAC meeting was the repositioning of a cell tower in northern Minnesota (out of the migratory flight path) that was triggered by someone who wrote a letter to the editor of the Duluth paper. Another great example of the work of a small group of committed citizens is our local wildlife refuge, formed due to citizen lobbying.

As the saying goes 'All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing' but as Margaret Mead said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

So, as always, I call on you to be Earth Stewards and take up those fights. Make your opinions known – so few people do, you can be assured your legislator will listen. At the state representative level, I've heard that 5 or 6 comments on an issue is a lot – so even just a few people can make a big difference.

MRVAC Chapter News

Treats Needed for September Meeting

If you can bring a few dozen cookies, bars or some easy- to-eat snack to share at the September or October meeting, please call Terry at 952-686-1493.

Holiday Auction November 18

Put November 18, 2010 on your calendar and plan to attend our fall fundraiser at the Refuge Visitor Center in Bloomington. We're looking for a great assortment of donated items, services and homemade goodies to auction off. We need bidders also! If you have something to donate or are willing to contact companies or organizations who might make an in-kind contribution, please contact Anne Hanley at 952-936-0811. (We'd also be delighted to have an Auction coordinator.)

Patti Larson Joins the Board

By Terry Houle, MRVAC President

I'm happy to announce that Patti Larson, the MRVAC Membership Coordinator, has joined the MRVAC board, bringing our complement up to eight people. The by-laws call for 9 members, so there is still one opening. If you would be willing to serve a 1, 2 or 3 year term on the board of directors, we'd be delighted if you would nominate yourself. Our monthly meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Please email me at **Terry99@gmail.com** or call me at 952-686-1493 to volunteer.

Support your Local Audubon Chapter

We rely on our members and supporters to keep us going. Please make a contribution to help underwrite printing the Trumpeter and providing honoraria for our meeting speakers.

While we do receive about \$2500 annually from National Audubon to help support chapter expenses, (about one-eighth of our annual budget) we count on raising at least \$5,000 through this appeal.

Any size donation is appreciated.

Please make your check payable to MRVAC and mail to MRVAC, PO Box 20400, Bloomington MN 55420 or use the enclosed envelope.

MRVAC is a 501(c)3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. If requested, we will mail you a receipt to document your gift.

Here is my donation to MRVAC of \$ _____

given on (fill in date) _____ by:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Yes, please send me a receipt

Special Offer – Become a New Member

If you are not already an Audubon member, we encourage you to join. An introductory one-year membership is \$20.

I want to join National Audubon & MRVAC – C0ZM050Z

Title: (Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss/Mr. & Mrs) _____

Name(s) _____

Mail this form and a check, payable to National Audubon Society, to Audubon Membership Data Center
PO Box 422246-2246
Palm Coast, FL 32142

Your gift to Audubon is tax deductible except for the \$7.50 fair market value of Audubon magazine. Please allow 4-6 weeks for the arrival of your first issue.

Treasurer's Report for 2009-2010

By Bob Williams, MRVAC Treasurer

The fiscal year for MRVAC ended May 31, 2010. On the whole it was another successful year with no real surprises. We took in a total of \$16,175 which was \$1,325 under what we budgeted. As expected in these difficult times, our income from Birdathon, the Holiday Auction and general contributions all came in under budget. On the other hand, we were able to control our expenses and keep our net as a positive number.

We were able to grant \$4,000 to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge for busing and for summer programs. We gave \$2,000 to the Audubon Center for the North Woods to help pay for the production of a video. And we gave \$500 to Working Together for the Minnesota River to kickstart their project to create a master website for the Minnesota River Valley **<http://mnrriver.org>**. We were also able to purchase a digital projector for the chapter, which allows us to give programs at a wider variety of locations.

Conservation and Environmental Education News

Fall Events at Audubon Center of the North Woods in Sandstone, MN

Renewable Trail Run/Walk - October 9, 2010 Race starts at 9 a.m., awards ceremony is at 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy the beautiful fall foliage in a gorgeous lakeside refuge. 5K run is over trails on the 535-acre Audubon Center property - 10 K run is part trail and part around Grindstone Lake. **All proceeds go towards the development and improvement of energy education curriculum at the Audubon Center of the North Woods.**

Registered racers receive long-sleeve t-shirt, goodie bag, post-race refreshments. Free camping is available the night before and day of the race – inside lodging is also available; reservations required. Register online at www.audubon-center.org/trailrun.htm or via phone - 888-404-7743.

Fall Open House - October 9, 2010 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Enjoy a free, activity-filled day of family fun while enjoying the beautiful fall colors on the shores of Grindstone Lake near Sandstone, MN! Enjoy wildlife programs, apple cider pressing, climbing wall, zip line, face painting, art & craft fair, scavenger hunt, and much more. Lunch is available for purchase.

New this year!! Voyageur (10-passenger) Canoe Rides

Call 888-404-7743 or visit www.audubon-center.org/openhouse.html for more info!

Women's Wellness & Adventure Weekend
October 1-3, 2010

All-inclusive, complete holistic retreat - comfy lodging, wonderful food, and a variety of classes and activities to choose from. Lodging, meals and all programming are included in the weekend fee. All-inclusive weekend package rates \$245-\$265. Call 1-888-404-7743, Email: fenner@audubon-center.org or read more online at http://www.audubon-center.org/womens_wellness.htm

Fall Programs at the Refuge

Please check the Refuge web site for details:
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/minnesotavalley>

MRVAC River 's Edge Cleanup

By Terry Houle, MRVAC President

On June 19th, 2010 a group of volunteers spent the morning cleaning up at Sorenson Landing, part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge at the end of Lyndale Ave. South in Bloomington. The crew consisted of 3 MRVAC volunteers plus 8 Cub Scouts with their parents. It was a win/win since the river banks were cleaner and I think the Cub Scouts and their parents left a little wiser.

This is the second year we held our cleanup on the Refuge vs. the old location near Richardson Nature Center. Hope to see you at the next one in June 2011.

Buckthorn Removal – Fall and Early Winter is Prime Time

If you have buckthorn to get rid of on your property, fall is a great time to work on removing it. The plants are pulling sap down into the roots so cutting plus herbicide treatments are much more effective now than during spring and summer. Do check carefully that you are not cutting a native tree like chokecherry, black cherry and nannyberry plants, all of which bear black fruit.

If you cut some buckthorn earlier this summer, try to re-find the stumps, make a fresh cut and apply "Roundup" type herbicide so it doesn't sprout next spring from the stump.

For tips and techniques, there is good information at http://www.eminnetonka.com/public_works/natural_resources/restoration/invasive_plants.cfm and on the DNR web site <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/index.html>

Successful Refuge Visitor Center Rededication

On August 7 the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge rededicated the refurbished Visitor Center and celebrated the reopening of the much more energy efficient building and the new exhibits. More than 400 people enjoyed a wide variety of activities both inside and outside. Several MRVAC members assisted with the festivities and a good time was had by all.



FIELD TRIPS – join us. All trips are free unless otherwise noted.



Minnesota River Valley
Audubon Chapter
P.O. Box 20400
Bloomington, MN 55420

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Minneapolis, Minn.
PERMIT NO. 227**

Old Cedar Avenue, Bridge, MVNWR, Bloomington

9500 Old Cedar Ave, Bloomington
Saturday, September 11, 2010 at 4:00 pm
Craig Mandel - 952-546-3407

With a variety of habitats at the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge, it is a great location to search for fall migrants. Birders of all skill levels are welcome on these walks.

Isanti County Birding Day (call for meeting location)

Monday, September 13, 2010 at 7:00 am
Craig Mandel - 952-546-3407

There are lots of locations to search for warblers, shorebirds and waterfowl in Isanti County. Some of the locations may include Cedar Creek Natural Area, Springvale and Wayside County parks. Additionally, we will check out Crooked Road WMA and Green Lake.

Louisville Swamp, MN Valley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

3801 145th St. W. Shakopee
Saturday, September 18, 2010 at 8:30
George Skinner & Anne Hanley – 952-936-0811

Hike the oak savannah, woods and riparian habitats near the Renaissance Festival. We usually walk 2-3 miles. Bring a hat, water, a snack and bug repellent. Long sleeves and long pants recommended. We finish the hike by 11:30 am. Beginning birders welcome.

Old Cedar Avenue, Bridge, MVNWR, Bloomington

9500 Old Cedar Ave, Bloomington
Saturday, September 18, 2010 at 4:00 pm
Craig Mandel - 952-546-3407

Fillmore County Birds (call for meeting location)

Sunday - Tuesday, September 19-21, 2010
Craig Mandel - 952-546-3407

\$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members
Join us for a trip to Southeastern Minnesota. We will look for fall migrants and local residents in Fillmore County. Some of the locations may include Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Forestville State Park and the Brightsdale and Isinours units of the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.

Rapids Lake Education Center, Carver (MVNWR)

15865 Carver Highlands Drive, Carver
Saturday, October 2, 2010 at 8:30

Bird around the new Education Center and along the Minnesota River. In addition to birds, we'll keep our eyes open for the two river otters that were released here in August. Beginning birders welcome!

Southern Minnesota Birds (call for meeting location)

Saturday - Monday, October 2-4, 2010
Craig Mandel - 952-546-3407

\$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members
On this tour, we will bird in Waseca, Faribault and Martin
(continued next column)

Address Service Requested

Counties. We will search for migrating waterfowl and sparrows. With luck we may turn up a Scoter, flocks of American Golden Plovers and American Pipit's. We will also check for Harris's, White-crowned, White-throated Sparrows and with luck maybe see a Le Conte's or Nelson's Sparrow.

Old Cedar Avenue, Bridge, MVNWR, Bloomington

Saturday, October 16, 2010 at 4:00 pm
Craig Mandel - 952-546-3407

Birders of all skill levels are welcome on these walks.

Stearns County Birding Day

Monday, October 18, 2010
Craig Mandel - 952-546-3407

On this birding day, we will explore eastern Stearns County with likely stops at St. John's University, Warner Lake & Upper Spunk Lake county parks. There are also 10 sewage ponds and lots of lakes to search for waterfowl, including Scoter's, gulls and late shorebirds.

Old Cedar Avenue, Bridge, MVNWR, Bloomington

9500 Old Cedar Ave, Bloomington
Saturday, October 23, 2010 at 4:00 pm
Craig Mandel - 952-546-3407

Birders of all skill levels are welcome on these walks.