



The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

Trumpeter

Volume 52 Issue 4—Bloomington MN
www.MRVAC.org

January & February 2019

Anne Hanley, articles editor
Greg Burnes, field trips editor

Holiday Auction Raises Money for Educational Projects

We had a successful and entertaining Holiday Auction at the Refuge Visitor Center on November 15. We raised \$2226 (a bit less than the \$2700 we raised last year).

Our fabulous auctioneers, Monica Rauchwarter and Scott Clark sold many fabulous items donated by members as well as from these generous companies and local organizations:

All Seasons Wild Bird Store - Bloomington
Artistry Theater, Bloomington
David Fong's
Vortex Optics
Fantastic Sam's
Great Harvest Bread Company
Lakewinds Natural Foods – Richfield & Minnetonka
L.L. Bean
Lunds/Byerly's
Mia - Minneapolis Institute of Arts
National Eagle Center, Wabasha
Nothing Bundt Cakes, Eden Prairie
Science Museum of Minnesota
Valley Natural Foods Co-op (Burnsville)

Donations via Give to the Max day totaled \$1312.76.

Thanks to everyone who donated either at the auction or online.

If you would like to make a donation to support the chapter, we're happy to offer several options:

- Drop off a check at a meeting or mail a check, payable to MRVAC. Our mailing address is MRVAC, PO Box 20400 Bloomington, MN 55420.
- Donate online with a credit card at GiveMN.org: <https://givemn.org/organization/Minnesota-River-Valley-Audubon-Chapter>

Special Presentations Jan 24 and Feb 22

Time & location details for both events below

January 24 at 7:30 pm

**Bill Marengo & Paul Egeland
Birding Santa Marta, Colombia**

The northern most extension of the Andes resides in northern Colombia in the Guajira peninsula. Take a peek at this endemic rich area of the world as Bill Marengo and Paul Egeland share their birding and cultural experiences from their visit to this area that hosts the Santa Marta (the highest coastal range in the world) and Perija mountain ranges.

February 28 at 7:30 pm

**Beth Brown & Christopher Smith – Minnesota
Department of Transportation
Roads to Conservation**

Chris and Beth from the Office of Environmental Stewardship of the Minnesota Department of Transportation have the responsibility of conserving and protecting the natural resources along our state's highways. They will provide an overview of the MN DOT stewardship program and highlight some of the staff's efforts to protect and nurture plants, fish, birds and other fauna in and around roadside habitat.

Information about both meetings

When: Please join us from 7:00-7:30 pm to socialize over cookies. From 7:30 – 8:45 pm we have a brief business meeting and the featured speaker.

Where: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 3815 American Blvd E, Bloomington. Hwy 494 to 34th Ave – S to American Blvd; turn left and go 2 blocks. Center will be on your right. Use the staff entrance in the center of the building (not the east door). There is plenty of free parking.

Public Transit: Via light rail, Blue line - exit at American Blvd and walk east about ¼ mile.



MRVAC Chapter News

Call for Trumpeter Award Nominations

Each spring for 15 of the past 17 years, MRVAC has presented the Trumpeter Award to one of its members for outstanding long-term contributions to MRVAC. We are soliciting nominations from you; tell us who you think should be our next recipient. Please send in a nomination by Jan. 31. The selection committee, which is composed of the previous years' recipients, will review the nominations and forward their choice to the Board. The award will be presented at a subsequent meeting.

There are two ways to get a nomination form:

- Find the nomination form at www.mrvac.org – on the “About Us” tab.
- Call Becky Lystig (651-452-1133) to have a copy mailed to you.

Completed applications can be sent to her at markbeckylystig@comcast.net or mailed to Becky Lystig, 1741 Sartell Ave, Eagan, MN 55122.

Previous Trumpeter Award recipients:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2001 Karol Gresser | 2008 Jack Mauritz |
| 2002 Joe White | 2009 George Tkach |
| 2003 Pat & Jack Telfer | 2010 Bob Leis |
| 2004 Edith Grace Quam | 2011 Hanley-Skinner |
| 2005 Craig Mandel | 2012 Steve Weston |
| 2006 John Rehbein | 2013 Bob Williams |
| 2007 Lois Norrgard | 2016 Mark & Becky Lystig |
| | 2018 Dave & Rita Baden |

Pictures from the Auction



One of the book tables



Jewelry and art



Bread, cake,

wine, candy, honey



Gift certificates and textiles



Wreath & SF seeds



And lots of snacks for the participants to enjoy





Events and News

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Centers Winter Hours

Bloomington Education and Visitor Center
3815 American Blvd. East
Bloomington, MN 55425
Phone: 952-854-5900

Regular September to May hours at the Bloomington Education and Visitor Center are Wednesday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Rapids Lake Education Center
15865 Rapids Lake Rd. (formerly Carver Highlands Dr.)
Carver, MN 55315
Phone: 952-361-4500

The Rapids Lake Education Center is open to the public and school groups during the school year on Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Check the events calendar on-line for
www.fws.gov/refuge/Minnesota_Valley/Events.html

Recycling News

You can help keep Minnesota's recyclables as saleable as possible by only recycling items that are clean and actually able to be recycled. China now is only purchasing cardboard for recycling because so much of the plastic, glass and metal from the US was dirty and contained too many items that can't be recycled.

I recently learned that **black plastic microwave cooking trays are not accepted** – they should be put in the trash. That seemed odd to me, as there is a number on the underside of the tray. Here's what I found on-line: "Plastic items are sorted by optical scanners which use the reflection of light to identify the types of plastics. Black plastic doesn't reflect light, so cannot be seen and sorted by the scanners and could end up contaminating other materials such as glass bottles. Microwave food trays which are normally black are also made of a special type of plastic which cannot be easily recycled."

Remember that tissues and paper towels can be placed in Organics recycling, but not in your single sort Paper-Glass-Metal-Plastic bin.

Plastic bags should be taken to a special bag recycling location (e.g. at Cub Foods), not put in your recycling bin. Why? The main reason is that the bags get caught in the single-sort equipment. Your best option is to bring reusable bags on all your shopping trips.

Events at the International Owl Center

Monthly Pellet Dissection Day (free pellet dissection with every admission) January 12 and February 2, 2019

Expert-led Owl Prowl to call in wild owls (\$10/non-member, \$7/member) January 26. RSVP to karla@internationalowlcenter.org

International Festival of Owls (www.festivalofowls.com) March 1-3: World Owl Hall of Fame speakers include Paula Enriquez from Mexico and Richard Raid from Florida. We also plan to have a book signing of "Owls of the World" by Heimo Mikkola from Finland and a pre-release signing of a new children's owl book by Christie Gove Berg. There will also be a professional chainsaw carver carving a dead ash log into an elaborate owl bench.

Dinner at the Lake - Omashkooz: Returning a Native

Saturday, February 9 - 6:00 pm
Audubon Center of the North Woods, Sandstone MN

After a wonderful banquet dinner, Mike Schrage, Wildlife Biologist for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, will talk about the reintroduction of elk to Minnesota. Omashkooz is the Ojibwe word for elk. Mike will talk about the efforts of the Fond du Lac Band, the University of Minnesota and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to investigate the feasibility of restoring elk to parts of northeast Minnesota. He'll talk about the history and ecology of elk in the eastern United States and the process for restoring elk to northeast Minnesota.

Overnight lodging is also available - call 320-245-2648 to inquire. Adults: \$35; Children ages 5-12 yrs: \$17. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Learn more and reserve online audubon-center.org/calendar.

Olympic Peninsula Birdfest

April 12-14, 2019

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction, raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: John Marzluff, professor of wildlife science at the University of Washington and author. Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 9-11, 2019 or extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 14-16, 2019: three days exploring northwest coastal Washington. To learn more and register, visit www.olympicbirdfest.org



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

Beginning birders are welcome on all field trips:

MN Valley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Bird Watching

Saturday, January 5, 8:00 am,
Bass Ponds 2501 86th St. East, Bloomington 55425.
Craig Mandel 952-240-7647

Join us for a winter season bird walk. Trumpeter Swans, a mix of ducks, Rough-legged Hawks, Bald Eagles and Northern Shrikes are a few of the species that over-winter on the Refuge. Bring your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather as we search for these and other species of birds on the Refuge. Craig Mandel 952-240-7647, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

Northern Minnesota - Sax/Zim Bog Birding Days

Thursday, Friday, January 17-18, 2019, 7:00 am
Craig Mandel 952-240-7647

\$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members

Thursday we will meet in Duluth and travel to one of the best birding spots in the nation – the Sax/Zim Bog. Recent reports of Great Gray and Northern Hawk Owls, along with numerous other species should get your 2019 birding checklist off to a great start. On Friday we will again start in Duluth and possibly bird in Duluth, Two Harbors or make our way up to Lake and/or Aitkin County depending on what is being seen. Please contact Craig to register for this trip.

MN Valley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Bird Watching

Monday, January 28, 8:00 am, Bass ponds
Bass Ponds 2501 86th St. East, Bloomington 55425.
Craig Mandel 952-240-7647

Join us for a winter season bird walk. Trumpeter Swans, a mix of ducks, Rough-legged Hawks, Bald Eagles and Northern Shrikes are a few of the species that over-winter on the Refuge. Bring your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather as we search for these and other species of birds on the Refuge. Craig Mandel 952-240-7647, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

Here are some non-MRVAC bird and outdoor festivals you may enjoy:

Sax-Zim Bog Winter Birding Festival

February 15-17, 2019
<http://www.saxzimbirdingfestival.com/birding-festival/registration/>

Audubon Center of the North Woods Winter Family Weekend February 15-18, 2019

54165 Audubon Dr. Sandstone, MN 55072

February 15-18, 2019 - President's Day Weekend
Embrace winter over the long President's Day Weekend. Treat your family to 3 nights/4 days of discovery, learning and fun; age-specific and all-family program options to choose from. Whether you're looking for snow activities, skiing/snowshoeing, nature learning or quality family time, we have something for the whole family. For more details or to register call 1-888-404-7743 or visit Audubon-center.org

International Festival of Owls

March 1-3, 2019

World Owl Hall of Fame speakers include Paula Enriquez from Mexico and Richard Raid from Florida. We also plan to have a book signing of "Owls of the World" by Heimo Mikkola from Finland and a pre-release signing of a new children's owl book by Christie Gove Berg. There will also be a professional chainsaw carver carving a dead ash log into an elaborate owl bench. (www.festivalofowls.com)

Audubon's Nebraska Crane Festival

March 21-24, 2019 in Kearney Nebraska
<http://ne.audubon.org/birds/crane-festival>