



SMOKY HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2936 Salina Kansas 67402-2936



May- June 2017

Discover Salina Naturally Coming May 7th

Discover Salina Naturally is family fun at its finest! Explore over 60 exhibits and booths, find unique things to buy, learn something new, try something new, admire the art, visit with historical reenactors, enjoy live music, savor the food and above all – have fun!

- New this year are learning experiences for children that involve horses. (including roping) and the equipment to ride them.
- Professional kite flying demonstrations and representative of the American Kite Fliers Association will answer questions. Explore the variety of kites and the creativity required to make them.
- Archery battles between opposing bunkers (safety tipped of course) will let children experiment with real archery battles.
- Bee keepers will explain their tools and answer questions about the hobby.
- Kansas Archaeologists will talk about how to participate in a “dig” and where to find them.



- Meet a Barnyard Weed Warrior and see what alternatives are offered for controlling weeds.
- Kids will love the special activities! Shuttles are available to move attendees from Lakewood Middle School or Great Plains Manufacturing’s roomy parking lots. Families can park at Lakewood Middle school and try the new paved hiking path along the river to the event. The event is free Discover Salina Naturally, Sunday, May 7, 11am—4pm at Lakewood Park in Salina.



Charles Barden

May meeting to feature trees in Kansas

Originally from the East Coast, Dr. Charles Barden is a long way from home. But his love of trees and forestry is backed by a lot of history, stemming from his days of working on his grandparents’ apple orchard in North Scituate, Rhode Island and cutting firewood to heat his childhood home. Barden began his post-secondary education in Natural Resources, where he learned about forestry and wildlife, in addition to plant, animal and soil sciences.

He decided to pursue Forestry in his graduate studies.

Dr. Barden stresses that forestry management is quite different than any other field of agriculture since, trees must be 40-80 years old prior to harvest. Additionally, Barden states, “Most people don’t think of the trees as a cash crop, but more of something they can plant now and pass onto their children and grandchildren. The value of a tree for wildlife, streambank stabilization, shade or simply aesthetics is usually much higher than the more-easily determined timber value.” May 18th at KWU

**All SHAS Program Meetings are open to the public and held at Kansas Wesleyan University, Peters Science Hall (PSH), Room 229, unless otherwise noted. Social and refreshments begin at 7:00 PM, program starts at 7:30 PM. Dinner with speaker 5:30 PM. Please RSVP Doug Rudick, 785-376-9082 or bellpark66@gmail.com if you wish to join us for the pre-meeting dinner.*



The View from My Perch

Doug Rudick, President SHAS

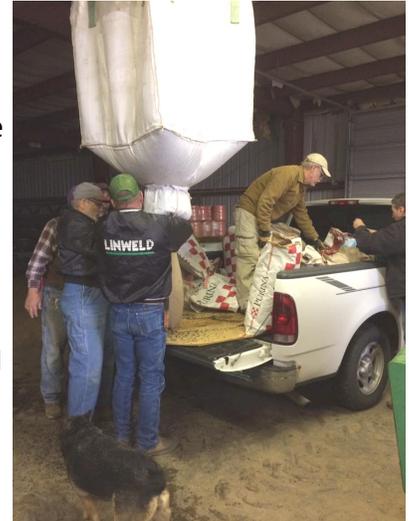


Your Audubon Chapter has been busy on many fronts! First up is Discover Salina Naturally, which will be Sunday, May 7, 2017 from 11:00am to 4:00pm. Tracing its roots back to a Green Fair in 2012, this is the 6th year for this free festival. SHAS plays a major role in producing this event. This year's event will have over 60 exhibitors including food vendors, musical entertainment, games and activities for kids, along with booths depicting environmental, cultural and historical characters from Salina's past.

All of this is presented with the not so subtle message of promoting healthy lifestyles and sustainability.

When you read Dan Baffa's Refuge report you will see how busy that committee has been working on improvements. The number of visitors are increasing and it is not unusual for me to run into four or five people enjoying the trails each time I stop by. We even received a \$25 donation from a person from North Carolina who had visited the refuge and wanted to support our efforts!

Be on the lookout for increased cooperation with Lakewood Discovery Center. Your Board will be exploring ways SHAS and LDC can assist each other in promoting environmental education.



The Importance of Sandhill Cranes for the Soul by Neva Heikes

Every March two important migrations occur (Yeah, I know that was some time ago. I got busy and forgot to turn in the article in to the powers that be. So anyway back to my story.)The Sandhill Cranes start heading north towards their breeding ground and dedicated bird watchers following to witness another year of this phenomenal spectacle. During this migration the cranes bottleneck their numbers on the Platte River in Nebraska. Eighty five percent of the population passes thru the region to the delight of the traveling crane addicts. And while all these birders are in the area, what a great opportunity to come together in a conference of friendship, the love of nature and conservation education. During the third weekend in March, the Rivers and Wildlife Conference in Kearney NE. occur with field trips, talks and wild-life goodies to buy.

I have been going 26 years now and what impresses me almost more than the birds are the people I meet. Where else can you have breakfast with someone from Kodiak Island Alaska, lunch with someone from Canada and dinner with someone from Japan? The first timers are the best, they want to do everything the conference has to offer. They don't realize that the day will start at 4:00 am and run non-stop until 9:00 pm or later. It is very hard to stay awake in a nice warm dark room, no matter how interesting the speaker. And what speakers we've had from Joel Sartore, Thomas Mangelsen and Jane Goodall (Yes, the Jane Goodall) and one of my personal favorites outside of Dr. Goodall, John Acorn, The Nature Nut from PBS. And this year we listened to Jane Alexander, the Oscar and Emmy award actor who is a very passionate conservationist. I can't believe I sat across the breakfast table from this Hollywood elite discussing the plight of elephants and gorillas in Africa and the conservation happening in China. What an incredible weekend.

This year has been tough for my family with the loss of my brother to cancer. But for one weekend I could forget about loss, cancer and doctors. A sunrise blind tour on the beautiful Platte River with warm pink light breaking the horizon to the sounds and sights of thousands of cranes has a way of lifting the soul even if it for a brief moment or in my brother's case forever.



Sanctuary Activities by Dan Baffa



The Wednesday work party continues to exist with Ted Zerger and myself, Scott Seirer and Jason Alfonso. We have accomplished much work in sometimes a couple of hours. So much needs to be done.

What has been done is to spray the most invasive areas of smooth brome in a two acre area in the prairie portion of the refuge. This was done last fall. Due to the irregularities of the smooth brome stands that the KDWPT grant identified as eligible for the grant some areas were missed. I thought that if we were to burn these areas in late winter we could identify the areas I missed spraying last fall. We attempted to burn in March but the weather man was not cooperative. Our burn crew could not manage the change in winds that the weather man did not predict. The fire got away from us and burned only 75% of what we wanted to burn. Not taking a second chance I mowed the unburned portion of our proposed planting area.

So I missed some spots and thought I would spray the day before a rain event. I bought gas, filled the air bubble and filled three 5 gallon water jugs. Off to the refuge I felt everything was in place. I opened the shed door and saw that the John Deere mower that would pull the sprayer that we borrowed from Dave and Kathy Roy, had a flat tire. Wait, I remembered I had just filled the air bubble! Looking at the air bubble pressure gage it read zero. Off to "Harbor Freight" where I bought the bubble. No warranty, no replacement parts. So I thought that "Auto Zone" might have the parts, they didn't and thought we need an air bubble so I bought a new one (\$39.00).

Filled the tire with "Fix-a-Flat" and air from the bubble and thought, "wow I'm ready!" Filled the sprayer and tried it out and the sprayer didn't spray. Called the manufacturer and they said it sounds like a bad check valve. When asked where I could get parts they said the local farm stores. Off to "Tractor Supply". Called before I got there and they said we have some parts but I would have to look myself. Realizing that this is a borrowed sprayer and could not return it inoperable I bought a new pump (\$59.00). Thought we were set.

Get back to the refuge and find the new pump is not compatible with the old hosing. Go back to TS and get a new manifold with some fittings. Get back to the refuge and realize that the manifold and fittings don't mix. Think that Orshelin's might be better and the kid helping me was little help. Back to the refuge with parts and accessories. I felt confident. Get to the refuge with the wrong fitting sizes and give up for the day.

On the way home I pick up the right materials to make the sprayer work. Realizing that there is good chance for rain in the afternoon I head back to the refuge thinking I might be able to spray before the rain hits because the herbicide is rain fast in four hours. Wrong. So I spray the areas missed last fall and go over the same areas that I sprayed for a second and third time to use up chemicals I had left. The third times a charm. Lo and behold on the same path I had traveled two times before I get stuck in the mud the third time. No Problem, I've got four wheel drive in my car and I'll pull it out. Bad idea. The car gets stuck. So I call my refuge cohort Ted Zerger to pull me out. While maneuvering his vehicle to pull me out his truck breaks and the truck won't start. So Vera Zerger comes to the rescue and brings a new solenoid.



Try to dig out the car and put gravel under the wheels, attach a tow rope from Ted's pickup and start to pull, but the rope breaks, twice. Call a towing service and they are there shortly. \$75.00 and they pulled the mower out too!

Not an actual picture but the way the editor of this newsletter pictured the situation!



SMOKY HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2936 Salina, Kansas 67402-2936

P.O. Box 2936 Salina Kansas 67402-2936

Non Profit
Organization
POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #90
Salina KS 67401

Bluebird trail update by Kathy Roy

Almost a month into the 2017 season! I and my daughter, Theresa have walked the trail to check boxes three times. I am attaching the Excel sheet to show notes to date. We have several active boxes.

The water level of pond as of today was at the 3ft under 0 mark. The trail today was very wet in several areas. One box (29) on the NW LOOP has a different nest. It may be a Chickadee or a Nuthatch. Nest materials are similar for both, eggs are similar, and the bird I saw fly out had a black cap on head, but went too fast to see if nuthatch or chickadee. Will hopefully see better on future walks.

There were approximately 5 small white eggs, with brown speckling in the nest today. Box 32 back at North fence line that is so tall, has blue eggs for Bluebirds, and with help of my mirror, I think there are 5 eggs. Some tall person expected to be the person checking on that box I guess!

Birds noted on walks:

Great Blue Heron
Turkey Vultures
Mallards
Blue-winged Teal
American Coot
Kildeer
Mourning Doves

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Bluejay
Black-capped Chickadee ?
White-breasted Nuthatch ?
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Double-crested Cormorant-Two-4/20/17

PRESIDENT	Doug Rudick bellpark66@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Mark Neubrand, mneubrand@cox.net
TREASURER	Dan Baffa danbaffal@yahoo.com
SECRETARY	Jaci Novak, jln7266@hotmail.com
SMOKY HILLS AUDUBON HAROLD LEAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY	Groups should check with Dan Baffa before scheduling a trip and to arrange for guided nature tours. Dan Baffa, 620-271-8891, danbaffal@yahoo.com
HOSPITALITY	Kathie & Dave Roy, 785-392-2002, droy@dsoelectricwb.com
(Newsletter/Facebook Contributors)	Mark Neubrand, mneubrand@cox.net
Certified Habitat Backyard chairman	Bonnie Neubrand neubrandb@yahoo.com
Publicity Chairman	Nona Miller nona.miller@salina.org
Newsletter Editor	Mark Neubrand mneubrand@cox.net
DISCOVER SALINA NATURALLY	Mark Neubrand, mneubrand@cox.net
BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE	Doug Rudick, Mark Neubrand, Dan Baffa, Jaci Novak, Stephanie Welter, Bonnie Neubrand, David Tanksley, Shelly Tanksley, Ted Zenger, Gordan Gorton, Dave Roy, Kathie Roy, Neva Heikes, Jason Alfonso, Glenda Hopkins, Scott Seirer and Jenna Miller
SHAS WEB SITE	http://www.smokyhillsaudubon.com
AUDUBON OF KANSAS WEBSITE	http://www.audubonofkansas.org