

# BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

Volume 29, no. 8  
April 1994

## MONTHLY MEETING

### Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge and Prairie Learning Center

**Pauline Drobney**

Pauline Drobney is the Biologist planning research and restoration of 5000 acres of prairie and savanna at the Walnut Creek Wildlife Refuge. Her presentation will describe what the refuge is now, current activities under way to protect and restore refuge land, and long term plans for the largest reconstructed tallgrass prairie.

**Thursday, April 21st, 7:30 PM**

Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, I.S.U., Ames

## FIELD TRIP

### Hendrickson's Marsh and Colo Ponds

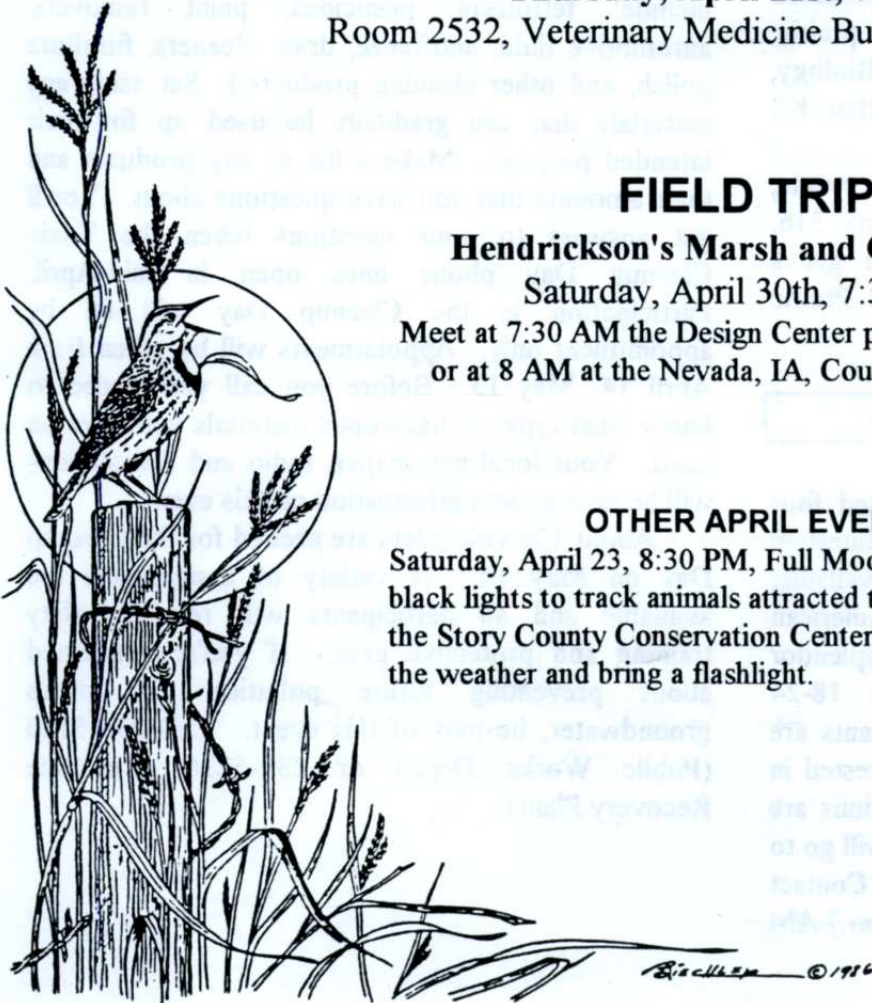
**Saturday, April 30th, 7:30 AM**

Meet at 7:30 AM the Design Center parking lot, I.S.U.

or at 8 AM at the Nevada, IA, Courthouse, by the cannon

## OTHER APRIL EVENTS

Saturday, April 23, 8:30 PM, Full Moon Hike, Join naturalists using black lights to track animals attracted to feeding stations. Meet at the Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight.



### Upcoming Prairie Events

End April/Early May- Clean-up and burn at the Mortensen Rd. prairie in Ames, call Sherry Dragula (233-1532) if you would like to be notified when the burn date is set.

May 6, 6:30 PM- Ames High Prairie, Tom Rosburg, grassland ecologist at I.S.U. will present a program entitled: "Fire: food for the Prairie". The prairie is on the west side of the High School, 20th & Ridgewood.

May 21, 10 AM-3 PM- "Sow your Wild Oats Day", Walnut Creek Wildlife Refuge. Informative booths, guest speakers, music, seed planting. West 109th St. South, Prairie City, IA. Call Shelly Sentyrz, 994-2415.

June 3-5, Loess Hills Prairie Seminar at the Loess Hills Wildlife Area near Onawa. No registration or fee, food is available if ordered in advance. Contact Western Hills AEA, 712-274-6083.

July 12-16, North American Prairie Conference, "Prairie Biodiversity", Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. Prairie field trips, information booths, presentations on all aspects of prairie. Contact: Dr. John Zimmerman, Div. of Biology, Ackert Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

For a more complete listing of prairie events, contact the Iowa Prairie Network, P.O. Box 516, Mason City, IA 50402. For \$1 you can get a brochure they have just developed "Native Prairie Management".

### Wildlife Shrubs and Trees Available

Rebecca Shivers has generously donated four types of wildlife shrubs and trees to Big Bluestem Audubon for a fundraiser. The following are available: 16 Nanking Cherries 3-4 foot, 20 American Cranberrybush- 18-24 inch, 20 Red Splendor Crabapples- 3-4 foot, 13 Serviceberries- 18-24 inches. The plants are bare root. These plants are excellent for attracting birds. If you are interested in obtaining any of the above, suggested donations are \$3 for shrubs and \$5 for trees. All proceeds will go to our Big Bluestem Audubon Society. Contact Rebecca Shivers by April 15 at 294-3481 from 7 AM - 3 PM or at 233-2733 other times.

292-0691

### Conservation Center Hosts Wanted

The Story County Conservation Center will open for weekend visitors at McFarland Park the weekend of April 9-10 and ending the weekend of October 29-30. The center will be open 1-5 PM on Saturday and Sunday during this time period. Center hosts are needed to greet the public, answer questions, provide information and assist the public as they visit the center and the park.

The Center will provide the information you need to act as a host. Contact the Center at 232-2516 (day, Mon.-Fri.) if you can help on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon this spring or summer.

### Story County Toxic Clean Up Day

A Toxic Clean Up Day will be held on Saturday, May 14th at the Ames City Hall west (back) parking lot. Start today by taking an inventory of the hazardous materials in your house and garage. (These include: fertilizers, pesticides, paint removers, automotive fluid, antifreeze, drain cleaners, furniture polish, and other cleaning products.) Set aside any materials that can gradually be used up for their intended purpose. Make a list of any products and their amounts that you have questions about. You'll get answers to your questions when the Toxic Cleanup Day phone lines open in mid-April. Participation in the Cleanup Day will be by appointment only. Appointments will be taken from April 14- May 13. Before you call you'll need to know what types of hazardous materials you have on hand. Your local newspaper, radio and TV stations will be giving more information on this event.

About 100 volunteers are needed for the Cleanup Day on May 14. A variety of assignments are available and all participants will receive safety training and protective gear. If you're concerned about preventing future pollution of Iowa's groundwater, be part of this event. Call 239-5160 (Public Works Dept.) or 239-5236 (Resource Recovery Plant).

### Iowa Ornithologists' Union will meet in Ames

May 20-22 marks the dates of the I.O.U. spring meeting. Four area field trips and presentations by noted ornithologists highlight the weekend. Field trips will leave at 7 AM Saturday and Sunday for : Brookside Park, Ledges State Park, Colo Ponds/Hendrickson Marsh, Little Wall Lake/Bob Pyle Marsh. Leaders and helpers are needed for the field trips. This is a fun way to meet birders from all over the state. On Saturday at 7 PM, California Gnatcatcher specialist Jon Atwood will be speaking. On Saturday afternoon, Jim Dinsmore will speak on the topic of his new book, the abundance of wildlife in Iowa at the time of settlement. (If you missed Jim Dinsmore's presentation at our Audubon meeting last month you will want to come to this.) Copies of Jim's book will be available and Jim will sign them. The indoor presentations will be held at the Maple/Willow/Larch dorms on campus. Assistance is needed at the registration table on Friday evening or Saturday late morning. If you can help with field trips, registration, or miscellaneous tasks, please call Hank Zaletel at 239-1200 (day) or 382-5427 (eve.). A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the April meeting.

### Nominations for BBAS Officers and Board Members

Nominations are being taken for Board member and Officer slots for the Big Bluestem Audubon Society. If you would like to serve on the Board please contact Nominating Committee member Sherry Dragula 233-1532 or Maridel Jackson 964-0140. Elections will be held at our May meeting.

### March 26 Field Trip Report

Twelve members and friends enjoyed a sunny afternoon of birding on March 26th. We started at Hallett's quarry, then visited Little Wall Lake, and finished up at Bob Pyle Marsh. 38 species of birds were found. Waterfowl seen were; Snow, Canada and White-fronted Geese, Ring-necked Duck, Mallard, N. Shoveler, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead Duck, Common Merganser, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Widgeon, Coots, and Pied-billed Grebe.

### Saylorville Area Bird Surveys

Surveys are being conducted this spring and summer in various parts of the Saylorville area by Corps of Engineers staff, DNR staff and interested volunteers. Birds being surveyed include: shorebirds, herons and egrets, and bald eagles. Different areas are being surveyed for different birds. If you have some time to devote to surveying, contact Maridel Jackson and she will provide you with more detailed information on what needs to be done, plus forms to fill out. She can be reached at 410 S.W. Westview, Ankeny, IA 50021, 515-964-0140.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I'd like to join as a new member of the National Audubon Society and of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society, Chapter H-57. Please send me *Audubon magazine*, *The Big Bluestem Flyer* and my membership card. Introductory membership is \$20.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: National Audubon Society and include chapter code H-57 on the check. Send To: Mark Widrlechner, Membership Chair, 2121 Burnett Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010

## CURRENTLY PLANNED EVENTS

\*May 1, Sunday, 2-4 PM Wildflower Walk at Christiansen Forest Preserve  
May 8, Sunday, 7:30 AM Warbler Watch at McFarland Park and Peterson Pits  
May 19, Thursday, 7:30 PM Meeting: "Photographer's View of Trees", Betty Stanley  
\*May 20-22, Friday-Sunday Iowa Ornithologists' Union Meeting, Ames  
June 11, Saturday, 8 AM Birders' Breakfast and Hike, Ledges State Park  
July 9, Saturday, 5 PM Purple Martin Viewing & Errington Marsh

Unless otherwise specified, the location for BBAS meetings is Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, I.S.U., Ames, Iowa.

\* These are events of interest to Audubon members but are not sponsored by the Big Bluestem Audubon Society.

### BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY 1993-1994 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Maridel Jackson, 964-0140

VICE PRESIDENT & MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Mark Widrlechner, 233-1532

SECRETARY: Joyce Bahrenfus, 432-3396

TREASURER: Barb Bettis, 232-4863

Kay Niyo, 292-5130

Jon Bahrenfus, 432-3396

Hank Zaletel, 382-5427

Paul Ovrom, 292-8862

Rebecca Shivvers, 233-2733

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Sherry Dragula, 233-1532

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BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY  
2121 BURNETT AVE.  
AMES, IA 50010

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AMES, IA

SHERRY DRAGULA  
MARK WIDRLECHNER  
2121 BURNETT AVE  
AMES IA 50010