

# The Chat



Newsletter of the Robert Cooper Audubon Society, serving East Central Indiana

Volume 37, No. 4

Sept./Oct. 2011

## Sunday, September 11 Time for a Picnic!

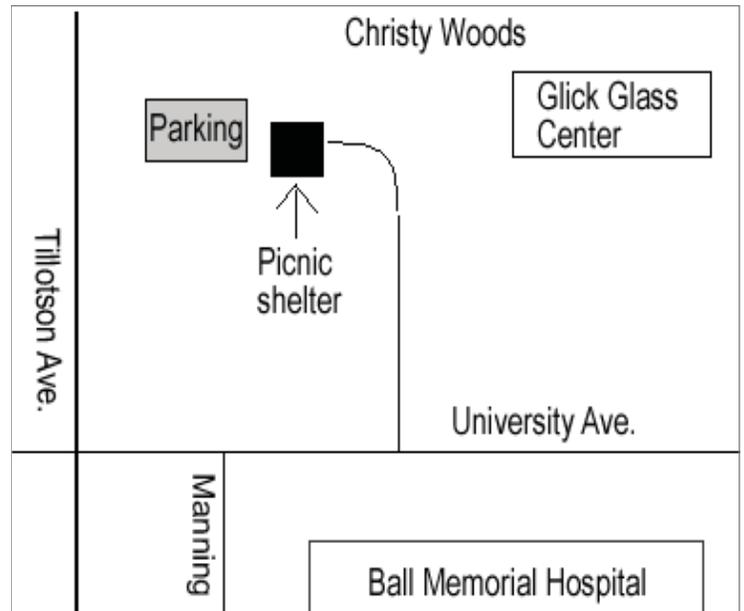
Join us for our wonderful fall picnic! We'll kick off our 2011-12 program season with a picnic and nature walk at the Christy Woods picnic shelter, at the south edge of Ball State's campus, on Sunday, September 11.

The picnic will begin at **1:00 pm** and last until 4:00 p.m. Please bring a hot or cold dish, salad, or dessert to share and your own tableware. Audubon will be providing hamburger/vegetarian burgers, drinks, and sides. (The meat will be free-range, all-natural.)

Afterwards, we'll have the opportunity to tour Christy Woods' beautifully maintained 18 acres, which include mature forest, prairie, and wetland. The greenhouses will also be open for tours.

Be sure to bring your binoculars to look for the many migratory birds that stop over at Christy Woods on their way south each fall. And bring a friend or two as well!

*Enter Christy Woods parking lot from University Ave.*



### September 9, 6:15 pm A Swift Night Out

A special Friday night program at **Kennedy Library** (Muncie) offers an exciting opportunity to learn more about a special little species.

Shirley Needham, our guest speaker, is a Fulton County wildlife rehabilitator who specializes in Chimney Swifts. Her program will focus on their natural history and conservation.

All are welcome immediately after her presentation to be a citizen-scientist for a night. We'll meet downtown after the program to record the swifts' fascinating aerial acrobats as they begin to congregate in communal roosts prior to their migration in the fall. We hope you can come learn about this astounding little bird!



### October 10, 7:00 pm Sigma Xi Program

Come and learn about some of Ball State's most interesting research activities! On Monday, October 10, we'll be having a joint meeting with the BSU Chapter of Sigma Xi **at the E.B. Ball Center**. Sigma Xi is the world's oldest and largest scientific research organization. Ball State graduate students will present their research, with emphasis in environmental science, through oral and poster presentations.

Sigma Xi will be providing refreshments, courtesy of Ball State University provost Terry King (who will be in attendance). Other featured speakers include Jennifer Wagner, our new Program Chair.

NOTE the special meeting location and start time: The E.B. Ball Center is located just to the west of Minnetrista. The program will start at 7 pm.

### Grant awarded

The Robert Cooper Audubon Society has been awarded \$15,000 from the Community Foundation of Muncie & Delaware County to advance our TogetherGreen project at Hughes Woods/Cardinal Greenway (Muncie) and to begin Phase 2 restoration work along the Greenway to Prairie Creek.

Our TogetherGreen project over the last year has been successful in clearing the invasive plants from Hughes Woods and the adjoining Greenway, planting 1,000 native trees and shrubs, plus 1,300 native

*continued on page 3*

# October 15 & 30 Field Trips

On **Saturday, October 15**, we'll visit **Eagle Marsh**, a 716-acre wetland preserve on the southwest edge of Fort Wayne. The trip will be led by experienced Ft. Wayne birder Jim Haw.



*Carpoolers* will leave from the Cooper Science parking lot, on Ball State's campus, at **6:30 am**. *To get there on your own*: From I-69 exit onto W. Jefferson Blvd., heading northeast. Travel about 0.6 miles to Engle Rd. Turn right and go another 0.6 miles to the park entrance on the right. We'll rendezvous at **8 am** at the **Eagle Marsh Barn**, near the entrance. For more information about Eagle Marsh, visit [www.lrwp.org/eaglemarsh.php](http://www.lrwp.org/eaglemarsh.php). **Please contact Field Trip Chair Rose Jeffery**, at [rosemariejeffery@gmail.com](mailto:rosemariejeffery@gmail.com), if you plan to go on this trip!

On **Sunday, October 30**, we'll look for migrating waterfowl at **Summit Lake State Park**, under the expert guidance of Randy Jones, and then we'll continue on to nearby **Zeigler Woods**. There Co-president Jon Creek will lead us on a tour of the restoration work that our chapter helped facilitate in 2010.

*Carpoolers* will leave from the Cooper Science parking lot at **12:15 pm**. The group will meet at the Nature Area, at the intersection of Henry Co. Roads 500 E and 750 N, at **1 pm**. Please contact Rose Jeffery, [rosemariejeffery@gmail.com](mailto:rosemariejeffery@gmail.com), if you plan to carpool.

## Loss of former Education Chair

Our chapter lost a wonderful environmental educator on July 6, with the death of Sara Jarvis.

In 2008 Sara received our Clyde W. Hibbs Conservation Education Award, recognizing her work in challenging students in elementary and middle school science classrooms for 30 years – most of those years at Washington Carver Elementary and more recently at Northside Middle School.

She made a career of finding creative, innovative ways to allow children to encounter nature in tangible, meaningful ways, both in the classroom and outdoors.

Sara also served as our Education Chair from August 2010 to March 2011, and during that time she led several groups of students in workdays at the Hughes Nature Preserve, as part of our TogetherGreen Grant Project.

She will be greatly missed by our chapter and by the thousands of students she has influenced.

## Send Us Your Nominations!

Our November 14 awards banquet will honor individuals and organizations that have made noteworthy contributions to the environment in our region, perhaps even the state, in these categories:

- Robert H. and Esther (Munro) Cooper Conservation Award: the chapter's highest honor, for overall contributions to, conservation of, and appreciation for, the natural environment
- Phyllis Yuhas Wildlife Habitat Preservation: for development or preservation of habitat that contains significant wildlife and/or native plant life populations
- Richard Greene Public Service: for active involvement in serving the public's environmental interests and concerns
- Clyde W. Hibbs Conservation Education Award: for excellence in educating the area's children, youth, and / or adults on conservation issues and practices
- Charles Wise Youth Conservation Award: for excellence in conservation practices by a youth under age 18

To make the event a success, we need your help. If you know of an individual or organization that deserves recognition for its service to the natural environment in any of the above categories, please send your nomination, along with a description of the nominee and his or her contact information, to Sarah McKillip at [smregister@bsu.edu](mailto:smregister@bsu.edu) or at the following address: 2804 W. Sun Valley Pkwy. Muncie, IN 47303. *Be sure to include your own name, phone number, address, and email address.*

Award nominees need not reside in our chapter's seven-county region and they need no affiliation with the Audubon Society. Nominations must be received by **October 10**.

**RCAS awarded grant,**  
*continued from page 1*

grass plugs. Except for the hot, dry period in July, the weather has cooperated and the plants are thriving.

Students from Motivate our Minds participated in a field day in July to learn about restoration practices and

install their own areas of native plants. Other participants have included Boy Scouts, students from Northside Middle School and Ball State, and AmeriCorp workers.

Neighbors of Hughes Woods have responded to the invasive removal model by addressing their own invasives with the help of TG workers.

The success of TogetherGreen has hinged on bringing together various groups and individuals to work on a common project that benefits the community. **Thanks to the Community Foundation and to all who volunteered their time and energy!**

Read more about our TG project at [www.cooperaudubon.org](http://www.cooperaudubon.org).

# Living Lightly Fair: Sept. 10, 9 am - 5

Living Lightly, a resource fair for sustainable lifestyles, will soon be here!

This year's fair – focusing on *water* – will take place on **Saturday, Sept. 10**, at Minnetrista. The day is packed full of speakers, vendors in the Green Marketplace, music, art, kids' activities, and more – all with the aim of inspiring fair-goers to live more sustainably and save resources, energy, and money in the process!

The **featured presentation** will be *Tapped*, an inspiring documentary about the far-reaching problems created by the big business of bottled water.

The day will end with the **music of Jennie DeVoe**, one of the Midwest's most highly respected and well-known independent singer/songwriters. If you like, enjoy her concert with a glass of wine from Wilson Winery.

Best of all, admission – including speakers and music – is **FREE!** Visit [www.livinglightlyfair.org](http://www.livinglightlyfair.org) for complete information about the day's activities.



## LIVING LIGHTLY 2011 SCHEDULE

	MUSIC	CHILDREN	SPEAKERS	
9 am			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Is your lawn hurting Indiana waterways?</b> – Marija Watson</li> <li>• <b>Greening your interior design choices for home or business</b> – Lois Green</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>9:00-9:50</i></p>	GREEN MARKETPLACE & BUILDING A RIVER OF FISH  All day, 9:00-4:00
10 am		<b>Water &amp; You activities</b> <i>10:00-12:00</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rain barrel and rain garden DIY</b> – Allan Henderson &amp; Tami Coleman</li> <li>• <b>Renewable energy for the home</b> – Craig Porter</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>10:00-10:50</i></p>	
	<b>Ron Beach &amp; Ric Dwenger</b> <i>10:30-11:15</i>	<b>Minnetrista Theatre Preserves Performance</b> <i>10:30-11:15</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reducing and reusing water in your home</b> – David Stanley</li> <li>• <b>Organic gardening 101</b> – Tom Gordy</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>11:00-11:50</i></p>	
11 am				
12 pm	<b>Banister Family Bluegrass Band</b> <i>12:00-1:00</i>			
1 pm		<b>Water &amp; You activities</b> <i>1:00-3:00</i>	<b>FEATURED PRESENTATION</b> <b>Muncie premiere of <i>Tapped</i></b> Q & A with Falon French <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1:00-2:20</i></p>	
2 pm		<b>Minnetrista Theatre Preserves Performance</b> <i>1:30-2:15</i>		
3 pm				
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscaping with sustainable materials</b> – Meg Calkins</li> <li>• <b>Retrofitting older houses for energy savings</b> – Jeremy Mussoni &amp; Stephanie Hays-Mussoni</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>2:30-3:20</i></p>	
4 pm	<b>FEATURED MUSIC</b> <b>Jennie DeVoe</b> <i>3:30-4:45</i>			

Robert Cooper Audubon Society



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*The Chat* is published 5 times a year by the Robert Cooper Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, serving Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, and Randolph counties.

**Dates for Your Calendar**

- Sept. 9:** A Swift Night Out
- Sept. 10:** Living Lightly Fair
- Sept. 11:** Annual fall picnic
- Oct. 10:** Sigma Xi joint meeting
- Oct. 10:** Awards nomination deadline
- Oct. 15:** Eagle Marsh field trip
- Oct 30:** Summit Lake & Zeigler Woods field trip

**Chapter Website:** [www.cooperaudubon.org](http://www.cooperaudubon.org)

**Email:** [cooperaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:cooperaudubon@gmail.com)

**Meetings**

Program meetings are held on the second Monday of each month (except July & August) at Minnetrista

1200 N. Minnetrista Parkway  
Muncie, IN

**7:00 pm:** Refreshments & chapter business

**7:15 pm:** Scheduled program



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- Treasurer Nona Nunnely 284-0751

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