

MARCH PROGRAM

Thursday, March 9, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch Library
at Price Park

PADDLING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Not many people have paddled the full length of even a short river, much less the mighty Mississippi, but last summer the *National Audubon Society's Upper Mississippi Campaign* joined with NCSU doctoral students *John Pugh* and *Jessica Robinson* so they could do exactly that. You may remember their series of articles detailing their adventures in the *News and Record*.

Would you like to meet John and Jessica? Come to the TGPAS meeting on March 9, at the KCEF Library, to hear all about their adventures in person.



Did they really know what they were in for before they set out? Of course not. That's what an adventure is, confronting the unknown.

A huge variety of wildlife, scenery, people and experiences was in store when they started from northern Minnesota on a trip of more than two months and over 2,100 miles (over a million paddle strokes each!). If you remember that great picture of their canoe pulled up in front of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, you'll want to "paddle along" and start planning your own trip!

Field Trip, Saturday, March 18 OUTING TO WHITE PINES PRESERVE

Near the confluence of the Rocky and Deep Rivers in Chatham County is an important natural site named for the abundance of white pines, which are not normally found in this area. The terrain is hilly with one bluff about 200 feet above the river, like the more mountainous areas where the tree usually occurs. The Triangle Nature Conservancy owns the tract, and its trails are open to the public. We'll try to get there about 10:30 a.m. and hike for 2 to 3 hours.

Bring water, lunch, sturdy shoes that can get dirty, and whatever else you might need. The trail-head is just under 1.5 hours from the Sears parking lot in Friendly Center; so let's meet there at 9 AM sharp if you want to carpool. Please contact Tom Duckwall (294-1240, 337-0811 or tomfduckwall@cs.com) so he'll know how many to expect and can contact you if plans change.

Our mission: TO FOSTER APPRECIATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND ENJOYMENT OF NATURE, AND WORK FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR NATURAL HERITAGE ON THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL LEVEL.



**T. Gilbert Pearson
Audubon Society**
Updated Schedule of Events 2006

- Thurs Mar. 9** “Paddling the Mississippi River.”
Speakers: John Pugh and Jessica Robbins.
- Sat. Mar 18** Field trip to White Pine Preserve on the Deep River. RSVP*
- Sat. April 1** Laurel Bluff Trail Maintenance, 9:30 a.m. to noon. RSVP*
- Sat. April 1** Earth Day Celebration at KCE Library, Price Park, 1:00- 5:00 p.m.
Picnic lunch at the library from 12 noon – 1 pm.
- Sat. April 8** Field trip to Mason Farm and NC Botanical Garden with PBC. RSVP*
- Thurs, April 13** “Gardening to Attract Butterflies Throughout Their Lifecycle.”
Speaker: Loretta Lutman.
- Sat. April 29** Spring bird migration field trip to the Lewis home in Randolph County with PBC. RSVP*
- May 5 – 7** Audubon North Carolina Annual Meeting in Wilmington.
- Sat. May 6** Spring Bird Count with Piedmont Bird Club. RSVP*
- Thurs. May 11** “The Wild Orchids of North Carolina”. Speaker: Mike Rose.
- Sat. May 20** Wildflower walk on Laurel Bluff Trail. RSVP*
- Thurs. June 8** “Trouble on Troublesome Creek: Haw River Adventures” Speaker, Vance Arnold.
- Sat. June 10** T.G. Pearson Audubon Annual Planning Meeting, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., KCE Library
- Sat. June 17** Field trip to Caswell Game Lands, an Important Bird Area. RSVP*
- Thurs. July 13** “Local Organic Farming: Good for You, the Farmer, and the Environment”.
Speaker: Tony Kleese.
- Thurs. Aug. 10** Evening Stroll in Price Park

All Thursday evening programs are from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library at Price Park off Hobbs Road.



* RSVP – Contact the field trip leader if you’d like to participate. See the T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon newsletter at our website for details: www.tgpearsonaudubon.org

APRIL 1, 2006 – TRAIL WALKERS NEEDED FOR LAUREL BLUFF CLEAN UP

Show the Earth you care!

Join us for trail maintenance at the Laurel Bluff Trail on Lake Townsend on April 1st at 9:30 a.m. T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon sponsors this **link of the NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail** and schedules periodic clean ups.

The Laurel Bluff Trail runs between Lake Brandt Road and Church Street along the edge of Reedy Fork Creek and the southern shore of the tip of Lake Townsend. We plan to have two teams, one starting at each end of the trail (see directions below,) picking up trash and doing minor trail maintenance along the way until we meet in the middle.

Wear sturdy shoes and gloves and bring a small pruning tool if you have one. We’re sure



to see some spring wildflowers and waterfowl that will make the trail clean-up an enjoyable task. We’ll be finished by noon so that you can head

over to Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library at Price Park for Earth Day activities in the afternoon.

Please call Ann Walter-Fromson (299-9494) for further directions if you can help out with this important environmental conservation effort.

Directions—Laurel Bluff Trail

The eastern end of the trail is on Church Street 0.2 mile south of the intersection with Plainfield Road where there is a small gravel parking area. The trail is marked with a sign. The western trail head is just south of the spillway at Lake Brandt dam 0.1 mile north of Lake Brandt Marina entrance. Parking is available outside the marina gate as well as at the trailhead.

EARTH DAY “APRIL FIRST”

No fooling. The Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library is holding an Earth Day celebration April 1, from 1 to 5 pm. Our T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society will be participating in this event. We will have several hands on activities for children and adults. There will be many other groups participating outdoors. There will be nature hikes, face painting, a nature exhibit, things to make, nature games, etc. If the weather is bad everything will be inside. In the morning there is a city wide cleanup sponsored by Greensboro Beautiful. We hope people will help clean up on the Laurel Bluff Trail in the morning then venture over to the library in Price Park for fun, hiking or relaxation. Please check the www.greensborolibrary.org website for more information about Earth Day. Check our website, www.tgpearsonaudubon.org for our programs and field trips. If you would like to volunteer to help us with our activities please call.

Earth Day - Sue Cole, 854-3346

Laurel Bluff Trail - Ann Walter-Fromson, 299-9494.

It's easy and fun.

PROGRAM APRIL 13, KCE Library, 7 PM Observations of a Butterfly Gardener, a slide show and talk by Loretta Lutman

Loretta Lutman has been raising butterflies for 12 years in her own garden. She loved being outdoors and thought gardening would be the way to do it. She became a photographer to document what she was learning about the life cycles of the butterflies in her yard. The butterflies, the needed plants and close observation have taught her much about these wonderful creatures.

She has been volunteering at the NC Zoo since 1993. There she has helped establish and maintain the butterfly garden in the North American Exhibit and is known as “The Butterfly Lady.” She is also learning about hummingbirds as that garden is next to the butterfly garden. There will be a handout of recommended plants to draw both to your garden.

Field Trip Saturday, April 8 Mason Farm and NC Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill

This is one of those special places that is such a joy to visit. We will look for migratory birds, butterflies and wildflowers in this UNC owned nature preserve. The NC Botanical garden displays a diversity of plant habitats and usually has some plants for sale. We can lunch at a local restaurant or some may decide to picnic. This is a joint trip with the Piedmont Bird Club and is led by Dennis Burnette. Check our website for information about meeting time and place a week before the trip or call Sue Cole, 854-3346.

Field Trip Saturday, April 29

Enjoy a **walk on private land in the Uwharries** in Randolph Co. to find spring migrants and breeding birds. Jane and Mark Lewis are our hosts. They have a wonderful home using passive and active solar energy located on acreage with woods, meadows and a stream. Jane knows where the birds are and what they are up to. This is a joint trip with the Piedmont Bird Club. Check our website, www.tgpearsonaudubon.org, for information about meeting time and place a week before the trip, or call Sue Cole, 854-3346.



Lake Daniel & Audubon Natural Area 2005 Breeding Season Birdhouse Survey

After spending the summer watching over the several TGPAS Blue Bird boxes, Dan Chambers, TGPAS member and recently appointed (he volunteered!) TGPAS Natural Area overseer, provided us with a summary of his findings. Throughout the summer Dan would send pictures taken of the nests as the eggs progressed from egg to fledgling. I thought you might be interested in his findings.



“We had 48 Eastern Bluebirds, 15 Carolina Chickadees, and 13 House Wrens



fledge.

Two of the fourteen boxes were not successful. Success is defined as having at least one bird

fledge from the nest. One box had twelve birds fledge from three sets of eggs.”

Chapter Officers

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Keep up to date with the status of the Outlying Landing Field proposed for Washington County in eastern North Carolina, near the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

<http://www.NoOLF.com>

