
THE GOLDFINCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL 2004

MEETINGS EACH 2ND MONDAY SEPTEMBER THRU JUNE

AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 7TH & J.R. MILLER BOULEVARD

WEST NILE VIRUS IN OUR BACKYARD

PRESENTER IS DAVID GALLOWAY, SR,
HEALTH ENVIRONMENTALIST AT
DAVIESS COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.
SUPPER WITH THE SPEAKER IS 5:30 AT
THE MOONLITE. EVERYONE IS INVITED.

Pop Quiz Time! Gottcha! Try to answer these 5 easy questions. If you score 100%, you are excused from attending this month's meeting. If you miss 2 or fewer, you are pretty much in the know about the virus that is believed to have come to North America from Africa. You will still benefit from the information that will be explained to us, so it is in your best interest to attend. If you answer 3 or more questions incorrectly, attendance is mandatory. You are at serious risk unless you plan to seal up your house and stay indoors for the next 7 months.

1. Mosquito bites are a gender thing:
 - a. Females are bitten much more often than males.
 - b. Females are not bitten more often than males, but they react with more intense itching for longer duration than males.
 - c. Only the female mosquito bites in order to take-in protein for egg laying.
 - d. It is only the female mosquito that bites because it is a feminine characteristic to be annoying.
2. Kentucky has not had as many cases of WNV as some other states.
 - a. Latitude is in our favor, we are too far north and mosquitoes, the carriers, like weather to be hotter with more humidity.
 - b. Kentuckians are lazy couch potatoes

who only watch TV and therefore are at much lower risk for mosquito bites.

- b. Kentucky has a low population of African Americans and they get West Nile Virus more than other ethnic groups.
 - c. West Nile Virus was introduced [ain't that a fine howdy do] in North America first in New York state and spread from there. So it is just a matter of time until we catch up.
3. You are what ~~you~~ they eat.
- a. Eat garlic, mosquitoes hate the smell and won't come near you
 - b. Eat mutton, people in Africa have antibodies to West Nile Virus and mutton is a major part of their diet.
 - c. Eat small quantities of DEET. It repels mosquitoes.
 - d. Diet is not a factor unless it is possible that overeating is a risk factor. It's just logical; the bigger the person, the greater the skin surface and therefore the larger the banquet table.
4. Dress for success
- a. Wear light colored clothing especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes do most of their biting.
 - b. Don't wear low slung pants and cropped tops that expose your belly. It's like painting a bull's eye for mosquitoes.
 - c. Mosquitoes can, and do, bite through clothing, so it doesn't matter what you wear.
 - d. Don't wear polyester. Old people wear it and they get WNV a lot.

Question 5 is on page 3

April Calendar

April 1-5th 6:45-7:15 PM

5 planets will be visible at dusk.

Face south toward Daviess County High School. Using the moon as a starting point, here's your map:

Moon
Saturn

Jupiter Mars
Venus

Mercury

Procrastinators, heads up! You will next be able to see all these planets at once, all bunched up on the same side of the solar system in 2040. Might wanna get out there, NOW!

April 1-May 4th

The Kites of Kyushu, a collection of 17 handcrafted kites from the southern Japanese island of Kyushu on display at the Evansville Museum's Transportation Center. April is National Kite Month.

April 10th thru May 2nd

Newburgh Herb Fest in Indiana at the Newburgh Country Store 222 W. Jennings St. Of things-to-do before you die, this is a must! It is the midwest's largest outdoor **Herbs & Perennials Plant Market**. On Saturdays there are **Herbal Symposiums** that require a ticket (800) 382-0938. There is a new organic market, **Club Organic**, outside of town on Hwy 261 that is definitely worth your time, and....our field trip gourmards recommend that you treat yourself to some time in the slow lane beside the river on the patio (sunset is ahhh!) at **Edgewater Grill**.

Life is short. Do this!

April 12th 10 AM- 1 PM

Rhea Ewing's Girl Scout Gold Award **Nature Trail Project** hike and planning session at the 4-H Camp lake in Dawson Springs
rheaewing@charter.net

April 12th 7 PM

7 PM **West Nile Virus** will be the monthly meeting's program topic

Saturday, April 17th 7:30 AM-? ?

Field Trip to Perry County, IN to see wildflowers and for spring migrant birding. Meet at Rural King behind McDonalds on Hwy 60 E.

Wildflower Extravaganza at Audubon State Park in Henderson. Naturalist led walks all day. (270) 826-4424

Monday & Tuesday, April 19-20th

8:30-2PM **Cravens School Earth Day Celebration**. Our Education Committee is planning hands-on fun and learning sessions for both days. To volunteer mjisselchirp45@aol.com or 926-3321.

Tuesday, April 20th

Hummingbirds by Sharon Sorenson, naturalist, author, and columnist will be the speaker at the Evansville Audubon Society meeting at Wesselman Woods Nature Center at 7 PM.

April 22-June 6, Mystique in Eloquent Watercolors Canadian artist, Evelyn Konrad, and area artist, Greg Powell, exhibit at Audubon State Park 10 AM to 5 PM daily. 827-1893

Saturday, April 24th 8-10 AM

Monthly **Bird Count at Ben Hawes Park**. Steve Hahus 733-9342

11 AM-2 PM Earth Day Celebration at First Christian Church. Free lunch. Stop by Daviess County Audubon Society's booth.

Ticked Off

Quiz Continued from Page 1

5. Location. Location. Location
- You are more likely to be bitten near areas where mosquitoes breed and that is anywhere water stands for 4 days or more, in birdbaths, gutters, even in litter such as discarded paper or Styrofoam cups.
 - Go to Little League games. Senior Citizens are more likely to die from WNV and mosquitoes won't notice you if you hang out with lots of little kids.
 - Take a picnic with you to the park and you'll be safe. Ants have worked out a deal with mosquitoes to stay off each other's turf.
 - Use cemetery roads to walk or jog rather than the GreenBelt Park. Mosquitoes don't go there because there is formaldehyde in the atmosphere from all the embalming.

Cause I said so answers: 1.c 2.d 3.d 4.c 5.a

March Program was by Michelle Webber, A One-Woman Army

You should kick yourself if you missed the March meeting. Michelle Webber is a tiny young woman, but like the lyrics of *High Hopes*, (remember the ant moving the rubber tree plant?), she is a giant in her field of botany. Her field is located at Mammoth Cave National Park. Michelle is not one to back away from a challenge. She is toiling mightily to repopulate the forests, fields, and stream banks around Mammoth Cave with native plants and to remove invasive non-native plants on hundreds of acres. She invites the public to come down, roll up its sleeves, kneel down beside her and plant up a storm. Scout Troops, civic organizations, even individuals have responded to her call for help.

Michelle showed slides of some of the orchids she is planting and their beauty is breathtaking. President Rob Rold expressed our chapter's interest in being a part of the valiant effort underway even as he realized that our ranks are spread thin already. Working alongside Michelle would be a learning experience, not only in horticulture, but in optimism and positive thinking as well. Interested? She's Michele_Webber@nps.gov

Interviewed in the tiny living room of her new travel trailer at Rough River, Kathryn Clay shares her find of a new product for what really bugs her. She exclaimed that she knew March is when the ticks first bite each year, but nonetheless she wound up in the ER at Baptist East for help in removing one of the two hated bugs that bit her week before last. Even before the bites, she had planned to buy some clothing that is impregnated with insect repellent.

Kathryn is now taking a 21-day prescription of antibiotics. She was unable to find a shirt or pants that repel mosquitoes, ticks, ants, flies and such in Louisville. She did find them available from a very respected mail-order store in Vermont, Orvis. The brand is called Bug Off and is made to continue repelling bugs for 25 washings.

We have asked Orvis to ship a pair of pants and a shirt that will be modeled for your inspection at the April 25th meeting. The Bug Off clothes are not cheap. The shirt for women costs \$69 and the pants \$79, plus shipping. Kathryn asks that we consider her costs of emergency care and medicine as we give consideration to this protective clothing purchase.

February's Field Trip Prize Goes to the Bluebirds

by **Rose Ann Radzelovage**

Seven members of our club attended the field trip on February 28th to the Radzelovage Farm in Hancock County. It was an incredibly beautiful day. A total of 22 species were found. In addition to seeing a pair of Pileated woodpeckers fly past us, the most heartwarming sight were so many pairs of Eastern bluebirds with the sun glistening on their blue bodies.

Other species that are not seen day in and day out were the Brown thrasher, Purple finch, Golden-crowned kinglet, and the Field sparrow.

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The Goldfinch
306 Hoover Hill Road
Hartford, Kentucky 42347

April 2004

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Please check the address label above to determine the expiration date of your membership.

To renew your membership, please send a check for \$10 to Charles Morris, Treasurer

1400 Woodbridge Trail, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301. Your newsletter subscription is part of your local membership dues. Please include this page with your check so that your old address label can be used to update your newsletter subscription. Thank you.

We strongly urge you first to keep your membership current on the local level and then if you wish you may renew your membership in The National Audubon Society as well. The National Audubon Society has sent a small amount of money to our chapter the past two years, termed a 'Safety Net'. The amount is not enough to pay for our newsletter. We need your local dues. Thanks.

Officers 2003-2005

President	Rob Rold 684-3209
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daviessaudubon.org
