

Hickory Hills Highlights

***News from the Hickory Hills Chapter of Illinois Audubon Society
Stewards of Bremer Sanctuary Winter 2013-2014***



*Merry Christmas and a Happy
and Peace-filled New Year!*

Come kick off the new year with the annual Bremer Wildlife Sanctuary New Year's Day walk. We'll meet at 11 a.m. on January 1st at the Sanctuary's barn. After the walk, join us for a soup and chili lunch!

In addition to our annual Owl Prowl, we finished the 2013 program with two very informative and timely programs. Each was devoted to different insect pollinators. Each of these groups of pollinators is in decline.

In October, Ron Niehaus, a local beekeeper presented his program on honeybees. These non-native bees are vital for the pollination of many of our crops as well as for the production of honey. Whole colonies are collapsing and the exact cause is uncertain. Disease, pesticide use, and possibly genetically modified crops are implicated.



population.

In November, Kirby and Cindy Pringle, presented their video documentary and program entitled *Plight of the Monarch*. Numbers of this well-known butterfly have fallen precipitously. In addition to loss of the Monarch caterpillar's only food source (Milkweed), collisions with automobiles, pesticides, and drought conditions during the past two summers have severely impacted the

In the next few weeks, the Chapter will be working on programs for 2014. Stay-tuned for e-news updates as well as a calendar in our next newsletter!

H & B Bremer Wildlife Sanctuary happenings –



Coffeen Pre-K students enjoy a day “In the Wild” with Chapter Education Chairman, Geri Kinnaman



Restoration is an ongoing activity. Without intervention, our prairies would, over time, convert (succeed) to shrubland, then to woodland. Woodland would become congested with spindly new growth and invasive species (both native and non-native). Fire and mowing are two of the primary tools our volunteers employ. To assist diversity (both of plant species and their genetic components), seeds are collected from nearby restorations and broadcast at Bremer Sanctuary in appropriate habitats. Conversely, seed from Bremer Sanctuary may be spread at other restorations as well.



A section of Bremer’s prairie was burned this fall.



Volunteers of all ages collected seeds in Ken Schaal's woods. These will eventually be spread in Bremer Sanctuary's forest.



Often, seed is spread by hand. This time, however, seed was mixed with potash and heavy equipment used to spread the mix of prairie seeds.



Member Nancy Redman took this photo of a leucistic American Goldfinch at her feeder. Not an albino, it has pigmented wings and a pale yellow wash on its head and nape.

Mower extraordinaire, Carl Savage, has been taking a Creative Mowing class! Or so it would seem.

Member Keith Hedrick shot this photo with his Samsung phone as he flew over one fall day.



Immediately after the Monarch Butterfly program in November, the Chapter held a short business meeting. The Chapter has two office positions: Treasurer and Secretary. Officers serve for one year but can be re-elected. At this year's meeting, Don Krefft was re-elected Treasurer and Education Chairman Geri Kinnaman was elected Secretary. Earlier in the summer, former Secretary Jerry Prater took on the role of Chapter Representative to the Illinois Audubon Society Board of Directors. Congratulations to each of you. Your service to the Chapter and the Sanctuary is very much appreciated as is the service of all the volunteers.

New volunteers are always welcome. There is much to be done. Join us for coffee, cookies, camaraderie and even work on Tuesday and Thursday mornings! Please note that the Chapter is still in need of someone who will take over or begin anew Bremer Sanctuary's website.

The Hickory Hills Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society is governed by a Board of Directors. The following are members of this Board:

Henry Eilers - Restoration
Vicki Hedrick - Bluebird Trail, Newsletter
Jim Hefley - Bluebird Trail, Building
Gale Johnson - Building
Geri Kinnaman - Education Chairperson, Secretary
Don Krefft - Treasurer & Restoration
Sonya Lockett - Bulletin Board
Jerry Prater - IAS Chapter Representative, Building
Dick Rompasky - Building
Carl Savage - Membership Chairperson
Ken Schaal - Restoration Chairperson

If you are receiving this newsletter via the Postal Service and would like to help us reduce our costs so more of our funds can go toward programs and activities here at the Sanctuary, please send Vicki Hedrick (vikij5@yahoo.com) your email address. Include your name and street address so Vicki knows who to remove from our hard copy list.

Join us at Hickory Hills Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society! We are the stewards of IAS' Helen and Betty Bremer Wildlife Sanctuary. Your membership includes the Hickory Hills newsletter, chapter email updates, voting privileges, the opportunity to head a committee or hold an office, Cardinal News, Illinois Audubon Magazine, admission to IAS sanctuaries, and the opportunity to attend chapter and state-wide events.

IAS/HICKORY HILLS CHAPTER NEW MEMBERS FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (all categories include chapter dues):

Friend \$ 35 _____ Steward \$ 60+ _____ Advocate \$510+ _____

Friend Plus \$ 40 _____ Guardian \$110+ _____ Benefactor \$1,010+ _____

Legacy \$5,010+ _____

Make check payable to: Illinois Audubon Society, PO Box 2547, Springfield,IL 62708-2457

Or by Credit Card by providing the following information:

Circle: Visa MasterCard Amex Discover

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date (MM) _____ (YYYY) _____

Signature: _____

Please do not use this form to renew your membership. Annual renewals will be sent out by the IAS office approximately one month prior to due date.

You may also join online: <http://www.illinoisauduon.org/JOIN/Join.html>

OR

You may join Friends of Bremer Sanctuary: yearly membership is \$10 payable directly to membership chair Carl Savage or mailed to Hickory Hills Chapter, PO Box 395 Hillsboro, IL 62049. Membership is due each January 1. A Friend receives the chapter newsletter, email updates (if email address is provided), has sanctuary privileges, is invited to all chapter activities and events and may volunteer for the Sanctuary. A Friend does not have voting rights in chapter business nor can a Friend hold office or chair a committee.