THE GOLDFINCH

DAVIESS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2002

MEETING 7PM AT THE RALPH CENTER, KENTUCKY WESLEYAN COLLEGE, APRIL 8^{TH} "WHAT PEOPLE SAY YOU CANNOT DO, YOU TRY AND FIND YOU CAN"

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Pam Flowers

We would like to invite everybody in town to come hear Pam Flowers describe her unbelievable journey all alone, (unless you count her team of 8 sled dogs) across 2500 miles of cold and barren Arctic land beginning at Barrow, Alaska. We believe this program is ideal for students from grade 4 on up as well as for Girl Scouts, 4-H Club members, and Girls and Boys Club kids.

We would like to ask our club members to take a moment to think of 3 friends, coworkers, or neighbors that you might contact to invite to attend this program at a different location. At 7 PM, April 8, we will meet at the Ralph Center, it's at the corner of S. Griffith and College Drive, on Kentucky Wesleyan's Campus.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 Earth Day Doin's

2 Turn off TV Week

3 March Field Trip Report

A Barbara Kingsolver's *Pridigal Summe*r a book review

5 How Sweet It Is! *Krispy Kreme* Sale is April 27

It Takes A Village
Thank You, Garden Gate Nursery and E. M.
Ford Insurance Agency, businesses that gave us free counsel and permission for the transplanting of an offshoot of The World's Largest Sassafrass.

Ms. Flowers will offer her book, *Alone Across the Arctic* for sale at the meeting and will autograph copies for us. She is not charging our club a speaker's fee. To show our appreciation, we encourage you to buy a copy of the book.

Now, for your convenience, here is a place for you to write the names and phone numbers of people you might invite to our program. We promise, your friends will thank you for letting them know about this exciting first-hand account from a true American pioneer.

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2	 	 	 _

3._____

Thanks! See you Monday.

...And for Teachers and Group Leaders

Pam Flowers has a Web site that is chock full of recommended reading, writing subject ideas, *Brain Busters*, and fun activities that will enhance your students' learning experience. Ms. Flowers has outlined study topics that emanate from her experience like ripples on a pond's surface. There is so much to learn, such as geography, fitness, motivational strength, positive thinking, mathematics, appreciation for the beauty of nature and more.

We encourage you visit the Website at http://www.pamflowers.com

for pre and post program supplements

Prodigal Summer, required reading

Many members of our chapter, indeed bird watchers and environmentalists across Kentucky and the region know the family name, The Kingsolvers. I'm referring to the parents of Rob, a professor at Kentucky Wesleyan College who presented a program to our club featuring the wildflowers of Audubon State Park. A Kingsolver-bymarriage, attorney Jacqueline, did the legal work pro bono for making our organization meet not-for-profit guidelines, a 501 (C) 3 tax exempt corporation. Another Kingsolver, daughter Barbara, is an author. Her latest novel, Prodigal Summer, will make you aware of the influence that the bird watcherenvironmentalist parents have had upon their daughter.

Bert Powell, one of our club patriarchs, has observed that often the children of tree huggers choose to avoid our passionate pursuit of things winged and natural. It is possible that our zeal makes our young weary and, to our dismay, some of them take a road away from ours, in some families they take a road 180 degrees away.

We like to think that we've made an impression on our kids, and from time to time even the polar opposites will confess that all our excited searches through field guides and our spirited debates about the birds we saw have left a lasting, and positive, impression on their lives. One can hope.

Ms. Kingsolver has set her stories in the Appalachian region of Kentucky, around three different groups of characters each dealing with conflicts between the way environmentalists see our world and *them*, the others who seem to be the majority. Little known snippets and tidbits of earthfriendly wisdom are woven into the story. The characters talk about what's wrong with fescue, and one ponders about how it is ok when a snake cleans out a nest full of almost fledged birds even though it hurts like hell and harming the snake is only to be a

brief and passing consideration.

The Public Library has both a copy of the book and a set of 10 audio tape recordings of the unabridged narrative read by the author. It is recommended that if you have the equipment, earphones, or housemates who will tolerate 15 hours of talking out loud, that you read along while Ms. Kingsolver speaks her own dialect and inflection through the words and thoughts of her characters. Listening to the book on tape is a marvelous automobile travel companion for trips of 1 to 2 hours or more.

Ms. Kingsolver's book tells the story of Kentucky people living lives and interacting with long-held values and way wrong ideas butting heads with family, friends, and neighbors considered to be weirdo's, bird nerds, environazis. You know the looks of dismay these disparate groups exhibit when they think or speak of each other, the eyes rolling back, the heads slowly turning side to side. The conflicts in Ms. Kingsolver's novel are real, all around us, and important. You really have to read *Prodigal Summer*.

Turn off your TV Week is April 21-27 Worried about missing the news? No problem: Bad weather is coming. The economy is in awful shape. Holy Wars are going strong. A Hollywood couple is breaking up. U.S. energy policy was not plagiarized from the oil companies' proposals; any similariy is entirely coincidental. One team beat the other.

Here's a Recycling Tip

Listerine's PocketPaks are the rage now, but like paper packets of artificial sweetener, there is a lot of waste in their packaging. Karl Gruen, a friend from Louisivlle, sends us this idea for empty plastic snap shut containers: Fill them with postcard stamps, 21 cents now, and put them in your luggage or purse when you travel. You could fill one for a friend who is departing on a journey with the request to be sent postcards from afar. And to make addressing postcards easy, type address labels before you depart so you can simply peel and stick and, if it's Tuesday, get out there and see Belgium!

APRIL CALENDAR

MONDAY THE 8TH

MONTHLY MEETING WITH PAM FLOWERS PROGRAM OF SLIDES AND BOOK SIGNING. MEETING WILL BE AT THE RALPH CENTER ON WESLEYAN'S CAMPUS AT S. GRIFFITH & COLLEGE DRIVE.

SATURDAY THE 13TH

FIELD TRIP TO AUDUBON STATE PARK TO SEE SPRING WILDFLOWERS AND LOOK FOR MIGRATING BIRDS. ERIC WILLIAMS WILL LEAD THE TRIP. MEET AT THE BACK OF MOONLITE BARBECUE PARKING LOT AT 9 AM TO CARAVAN AND CARPOOL.

SUNDAY THE 14TH

Owensboro Community College Bird Count at 2 PM. Meet at the south parking lot across from Deer Park Elementary. Goal is to try for the 100th species after 28 months of census records.

SATURDAY APRIL THE 20TH

Our chapter's presentation will be a board and table display at First Christian Church's neighborhood Earth Day celebration from 11 AM until 2 PM. Workers are needed. Contact Mike Henshaw 275-4250 or Carolyn Williams 683-5863 to sign-up.

SATURDAY APRIL 27TH

MAKE IT A POINT TO STOP BY K-MART AT WESLEYAN PARK PLAZA BETWEEN 9 AND 11 AM TO BUY A BOX OF KRISPY KREME DOUGHNUTS DURING OUR SPRING FUNDRAISER. THESE SINFULLY SOFT AND SWEET PASTRIES FREEZE AND COME BACK TO LIFE GOOD AS NEW WITH ABOUT 30 SECONDS IN THE MICROWAVE. TO HAWK DOUGHNUTS SIGN-UP AT THE MEETING APRIL 8.

Earth Day Tree Plantings Planned

Jim Durrell, a faithful delegate to the Kentucky Audubon Council from Frankfort, propagates American Chestnut trees. At the spring K.A.C. meeting at Buckley Sanctuary, Jim gave us 2 little trees that we plan to plant somewhere along the path of Tornado 2000. We hope to get permission from Kentucky Wesleyan College to locate the trees on the campus where so many trees fell. We also plan to transplant a sapling from the World's Largest Sassafras on Frederica Street to the Historic Tree Museum at Panther Creek Park. Date TBA due to rain.

March Field Trip was Worth the Exertion

Looking up at the 45 to 60 degree grade of the hill to be climbed to return to our cars, I thought about printing a degree of difficulty advisory in the newsletter before future field trips. However after all 11 souls, some hearty and some not so much, had made it back up the steep incline, I thought better of my idea. You see, if I'd told our members how steep the hills were at L.B. Davidson Wildlife Management Area, some of the group would have finked out. They'd have been the poorer for their decision to avoid chancing a slide down the muddy leaf covered bluff. Thoreau's words under the newsletter header on page 1 sum up the truth about what is and is not possible.

We found 10 wildflowers in bloom: False Rue Anemone, Purple Dead-nettle, Star Chickweed, Early Saxifrage, Bloodroot, Cut-leaf Toothwort, Yellow Corydalis, Spring Beauty, Dutchman's Breeches, and Harbinger-of-Spring.

We identified 27 species of birds. An intrepid American Woodcock was the showstopper. This bird stood in the leaf litter of the forest floor, almost perfectly still, giving everyone a perfect profile view from a distance of only 5 to 10 feet.

In addition to gobs of wiggly Bullfrog eggs, Rob Rold helped us find and identify 5 Amphibians: Salamanders were Eastern Zigzag, Two-lined, and Slimy plus Upland Chorus Frog and an aquatic stage Red-spotted Newt.

Volunteer Work Sheets

Members will be offered a packet of calendar style forms at our April meeting. These forms should be used to record the volunteer work each person does for our Audubon chapter. The value of this record is dual in nature. The individual will benefit when tax time rolls around and the chapter and community will benefit if and when we apply for grants and use the detail of donated hours as evidence of our service to our region.

CHAPTER INVOLVEMENTAS SEEN

I MUST SAY THAT

I AM GLAD TO SEE THE PARTICIPATION WE HAVE AT

OUR MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS.

AFTER HEARING FROM OTHER CHAPTERS AROUND THE

STATE DURING THE QUARTERLY KENTUCKY AUDUBON

COUNCIL MEETING, I REALIZE WE ARE DOING VERY

WELL. HOWEVER, THERE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE ROOM

FOR IMPROVEMENT. WE HAVE ABOUT 110 FOLKS ON

OUR MONTHLY MAILING LIST BUT SEEM TO HAVE 10 TO

12 WHO PARTICIPATE IN FIELD TRIPS AND 25-30 WHO

ATTEND THE MONTHLY PROGRAMS. THE EXCHANGE

OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION BETWEEN PEOPLE WITH

COMMON INTERESTS REALLY BOOSTS ONES

UNDERSTANDING AND KNOWLEDGE IN A WIDE RANGE

Officers and directors:

President Mike Henshaw

Vice President/Program Chair and

Field Trips Rob Rold

Secretary Madeline Oetinger

Treasurer Rose Ann Radzelovage

Education Carolyn Williams

Publicity G. Wm. (Bill) Little, Jr.

Webmaster Eric Williams

Newsletter Brenda Little

Community College Count Chas. Morris

of topics. Whether it's songbirds, habitat, herps and amphibians, clean water and air, wildflowers or some other environmental issue. The chapter is full of folks with very diverse backgrounds who would like nothing better than to share the knowledge they have acquired. So come out and meet your fellow chapter members and have a great time. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Your President. Mike Henshaw

The Daviess County Audubon Society 306 Hoover Hill Road Hartford, KY 42347-9522

The Goldfinch April 2002

