



Photo illustration/Ron Klataske Photos

Notable BRIEFS

Memorial

Contributions/Remembrances

The Audubon of Kansas extended family has lost a number of wonderful friends during the last couple of years. AOK has received memorial contributions as a reflection of their shared appreciation of nature and the natural world. We thank everyone who has honored their loved ones and friends in this manner. Though saddened, we are honored and committed to doing good work in their memory. They include the following:

Honorable James C. Johnson
Larry Haverfield
Christopher Silva
William Falk
Camilla Young
Margaret Kinne
Dana Bloom
Honorable Gene B. Penland
Denis Conley
Harold Lear

Awards and Recognition of Excellence

Periodically AOK presents a series of awards recognizing the exceptional work and leadership of uniquely dedicated people. The most recent awards were presented to **Senator Marci Francisco** for Exceptional Legislative Leadership; **Governor Mike Hayden** for his leadership on Water & Wetland Conservation; **Joyce Wolf** for a Lifetime Legacy of Leadership & Dedication for the Natural World and Audubon at Every Level; **Jayhawk Audubon Society** for Excellence in Leadership, Nature Education, Conservation Advocacy & Partnership Outreach; **Emily Hunter Connell** for her leadership Inspiring Appreciation for the Flint Hills' Natural & Cultural Heritage; and **Carol Klataske** for her dedication & tireless work as Volunteer of the Year 2013-14. On the national stage, we all take pride in the Spirit of Defenders Award for CITIZEN ADVOCACY presented by

Defenders of Wildlife to **The Family of Larry Haverfield**. Another native Kansan, **Dr. Clait Braun**, received the SCIENCE award for his steadfast research on sage-grouse and other grouse species.

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge -

As a direct result of Audubon of Kansas' strong advocacy, and support generated from outreach, the US Fish and Wildlife Service planning team developed a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Quivira NWR that we enthusiastically endorse. We are appreciative of the Service's statement that, "*As part of the [plan], Quivira Refuge will be closed to all hunting activities when whooping cranes are present.*" AOK also emphasized the importance of protecting Black Rails and King Rails, and diminishing disturbance to these and similar species that rely on the wetlands. The new plan "*does not allow the hunting of certain species that are not common or are closely associated with potential impacts to species of concern, such as rail, woodcock, snipe, sandhill crane, and prairie-chicken.*" The importance of restoration of the refuge's wetlands and prairies was a central planning theme. Our comments and the plan can be viewed at http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/planning/ccp/ks/qvr/documents/qvr_final/qvr_ccpfinal_appendixes.pdf

Horses Optional – AOK hosted trail rides on the **Hutton Niobrara Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary** in September. Nebraska riders with Paints and Quarter Horses joined Bob McElroy and Ron Klataske with Tennessee Walkers for the three day event, organized by Al Brock of Valentine as part of the Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway series of trail rides. Trails on the sanctuary are designed for hiking and horseback riding. The two guesthouses provide year-round lodging opportunities.

An AOK Conference:

Silent Spring 2016

Please reserve the date and plan to join Audubon of Kansas (AOK) on April 9, 2016 for the Conference: "*Silent Spring 2016: Threats to Birds, Bees and other Wildlife*" at the Lawrence Holiday Inn (just south of the West Lawrence I-70 exit). Registration will start at 8:00 am followed by the first presentation at 9:00 am with the re-enactment of Rachel Carson by Ann Birney. We'll have a screening of Stephen Lerner's film "When the Well Runs Dry" with commentary provided by Tom Averill and Matthew Sanderson. During other sessions there will be lots of information on habitat restoration at all levels, concurrent sessions on wildlife issues, and opportunities to visit with like-minded folks about various solutions to the threats to birds, bees and other wildlife posed by pesticides, loss of habitat and climate change. The final keynote will be given by Dr. Leonard Krishtalka, Director of the KU Museum of Natural History. Registration information is available on the AOK website (audubonofkansas.org). – Joyce Wolf, Evelyn Davis, Cathy Lucas, Mary Powell, & Beth Schultz, Conference Organizers.