

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”

~ William James (1842-1910)

Audubon of Kansas- A Voice for Wildlife An Advocate for Prairie Conservation



Greetings Supporters and Friends,

2015 has been an exciting year for Audubon of Kansas! January got off to a great start when Philanthropy and Development Director, Monica Goss, joined the organization. Monica is expanding the organization's outreach to educate members and the broader community about Audubon's programs and activities. She organized the first member event at Mt Mitchell Heritage Prairie in September. Audubon members enjoyed prairie plant and birding tours of the property, lunch, and a guided tour of nearby glacial deposits and the extent of continental glaciations in the surrounding area, courtesy of Dr. Wakefield Dort. Look for Dr. Dort's article in this issue of *PRAIRIE WINGS*.

Ron Klataske, Audubon of Kansas Executive Director, organized and hosted several workshops throughout Kansas on the topic of Old World Bluestems this year. These workshops educated attendees on the risks to native prairies from these non-native, invasive species.

Audubon's future communications will be bolstered by a redesigned website, courtesy of Max Donnelly and the crew at Chronos Interactive, and e-newsletters. Please contact Monica Goss if you'd like to receive Audubon's e-newsletters. Audubon's Education committee, consisting of Trustees Evelyn Davis, Kelley Hurst, Beth Schultz, and Michael Donnelly, along with Monica Goss, are developing a new brochure to educate the public about Audubon of Kansas.

To stay abreast of legislative issues this year, Trustee Joyce Wolf initiated a partnership between Audubon of Kansas and the Kansas Rural Center to provide Audubon supporters with weekly legislative updates written by Paul Johnson. Please contact Monica Goss if you would like to receive these updates during the 2016 legislative session.

You'll find a diverse collection of articles in this issue of *PRAIRIE WINGS* covering pollinators and butterflies, Bison, roadside management, prairie burns and water resources. Sadly, this issue also includes a tribute to Larry Haverfield who passed away last fall. Larry was a champion crusader for wildlife, most notably for Black-footed Ferrets, an endangered species recently reintroduced to Kansas, and their choice prey, Black-tailed Prairie Dogs. Larry's work was nationally recognized by an award from Defenders of Wildlife, with the Haverfield clan, including Audubon of Kansas Trustee Cathy Lucas, attending the award presentation in Washington DC in September. Larry is immortalized in the children's book *Larry Saves the Prairie* by Matt Bergles.

Future outreach includes a one day conference planned for April 9th, 2016 in Lawrence. The conference, titled *Silent Spring 2016*, is designed to enhance public awareness of environmental issues facing both wildlife and plant communities. Attendees will learn what they can do to enhance their own yards and properties for the benefit of insects, birds and mammals.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of *PRAIRIE WINGS* and continue to support the work of Audubon of Kansas; your support is vital to achieving Audubon's mission to promote appreciation and stewardship of ecosystems, with emphasis on conservation of birds, other wildlife and critical habitat.

Warm regards,

Lisa Stickler

Board of Trustees Chair

