



AOK: Defending habitats and wildlife, ensuring the next generation of stewardship and expanding appreciation for our natural world.

July, 2021

News & Updates

[Visit our Website](#)

Fish ladder installed at our Hutton Niobrara Sanctuary

Have you ever wondered how small fish move upstream? Even though small fish do not make long-distance migrations like salmon, they do move up and down streams to take advantage of available food sources and access suitable habitats for various life stages. There is no way a fish a couple inches long could possibly climb if the distance was more than a couple inches, unless....

[Read the full article](#)



Follow along at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/mount-mitchell-heritage-prairie>

Or add to our project by downloading the app: <https://www.inaturalist.org/signup>

Documenting wildlife at our Sanctuaries

AOK has started a new initiative to document as many plants and animals on our sanctuaries as possible. This information is necessary to determine whether our land management strategies are producing the predicted outcomes. We are using iNaturalist to assist with the documentation for several reasons. First, not only are we collecting data for our own purpose, the data is also used by scientists to document the distribution of species. Second, the app uses computer intelligence and crowd-sourcing to assist with the identification of species; therefore, anyone can contribute because you do not need expert knowledge to identify the plant or animal – just upload the photograph! Third, AOK (or anyone) can create ‘projects’ to gather information on particular areas. Mount Mitchell is the first sanctuary to get started and to date, there have been 128 observations of 89 species by 10 observers.

Looking for an excellent speaker at your next meeting?

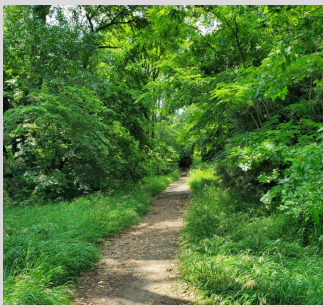
Audubon of Kansas is pleased to offer presentations on various topics to your Audubon chapter, community group, garden club, scouting or 4H group, or any other group. AOK wants to meet people where they are to share the passion of wildlife conservation with new audiences. Jackie joined Audubon of Kansas in January 2021 as Executive Director. Previously, she was an Associate Professor at The Ohio State University at Lima, so she has lots of

experience making information easy to understand. Presentations cover a wide variety of topics including the history of Audubon of Kansas, prairie-chicken biology, using native plants to enhance bird habitat, national park travel logs, birding by ear, avian anatomy, bird migration, and other topics. She is also willing to consider covering other natural history topics if you wish. Click below for a current list.

[List of Presentations](#)



Our Board shares their favorite walks, hikes and birding spots!



Dan Baffa recommends Lakewood Park as a wild oasis in an urban area

Lakewood Park is a 100 acre gem in Salina near Ohio and Pacific Avenues. It has hiking trails that weave through a wide variety of ecosystems including prairie, woodlands and water, that attracts a large variety of birds and other flora and fauna. The entire site is developed around an old sandpit, which is now dedicated to nature interpretation and recreation.

[More information about Lakewood Park](#)

AOK welcomes a new Director of Philanthropy

From its genesis, AOK's mission has guided us in preserving and protecting wildlife and ecosystems throughout the central Great Plains. We continue to follow that enduring vision with the hiring of our new Director of Philanthropy, Kelley Hurst. She joins Jackie Augustine, Executive Director; Nathalie Kind-Chalmers, Business Administrator; and Lana Arrowsmith, Hutton Niobrara Coordinator, who are all dedicated to ensuring continuity with the extraordinary work of the past while helping build AOK's capacity for the future.

[More about our team](#)



We've gone virtual!

Like so many other businesses during the pandemic, we realized that with our AOK team spread among various cities throughout Kansas and Nebraska, we have no need to spend our precious dollars on a physical space. As of June 1st our team has fully embraced a virtual world. This means that you can rest assured that every dollar donated is going towards the business of conservation in the central Great Plains. Have a question? Reach us at 785-537-4385

***We look forward to unveiling our new logo to you in the next
News & Updates edition!***

Please contact us?

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Nathalie Kind - Business Administration - Donations, Memorials, Website, Newsletter, Membership
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