



# Chappee Rapids Reporter

[www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](http://www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org)

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

Volume 24. No. 4

Summer 2009

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## Here's the Dirt

Howard Lorenz will present a program on "The Soils of Marinette County" at our April 16 meeting.

Lorenz, a retired soils scientist for Marinette County and author of the book "Soils Survey of Marinette County", will give us a closer look at the individual soils throughout the more than a thousand miles of

Marinette County.

Howard will also share his knowledge of the bedrock and glacial geology of the county.

Election of officers for 2009-10 will also be held. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 16** at 7:00 p.m. in Room M-110 at the UW-Marinette. □

## Take a Hike!

We have several upcoming outings planned, with something for everyone.

**April 18** - Crane Count

**May 9** - Portage Marsh Walk

**Aug 4** - Harmony Prairie Walk

*For details about these outings, please turn to page six.*

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## Tuesday Bird Walks

### Tuesday Morning Bird Walks

**May 5 - 8:00 am** Denise Taylor's Farm— Denise Taylor - (906) 863-7397

**May 12 - 7:30 am** Pond Road, Peshtigo Harbor -Joan Campbell - (715) 732-1277

**May 19 - 7:30 am** Seagull Bar, Off Red Arrow Park - Joan Campbell - (715) 732-1277

**May 26 - 7:30 am** Pond Road, Peshtigo Harbor - Joan Campbell - (715) 732-1277

### Tuesday Evening Bird Walks

**May 12 - 6:30 pm** Harmony Hardwoods Arboretum –Howard Lorenz - (715) 582-4311

**May 19 - 6:30 pm** Menominee City Cemetery - Bob Brisson - (906) 863-6850

*-For more details about these walks, please turn to page six-*

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## The Chappee Rapids Reporter

The Chappee Rapids Reporter is the newsletter of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society. The Chappee Rapids Reporter is published four times per year.

Readers are encouraged to submit artwork, press releases, articles, expressions of opinion, letters and any information which may be interesting to Chappee Rapids Audubon members.

Articles may be submitted on paper (handwritten or typed) or by email. Send submissions to Laurie Lata, N2946 Shore Drive, Marinette, WI 54143. [plata@new.rr.com](mailto:plata@new.rr.com)

The opinions expressed in the Chappee Rapids Reporter are not necessarily those of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society or the Editor. The contents of the Chappee Rapids Reporter may be used without permission in other publications if acknowledgment of the source is noted.

The Chappee Rapids Reporter is mailed to all members of Chappee Rapids Audubon and available at

[chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](http://chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org).

Notice of latest newsletter posting is e-mailed to members who have elected to receive the newsletter electronically.

Editor .....Laurie Lata  
Web Site

[www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](http://www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org)

## Chappee Rapids Audubon Officers

President - Paul Lata

Vice President - Trygve Rhude

Secretary - Joan Campbell

Treasurer - Marlene Nelson

Programs - Vacant

Librarian/Historian - Vacant

Conservation - Wendel Johnson

Field Trips - Carmen Bugaj

MI Audubon Delegate -

Dale Leitzke

WI Audubon Delegate -

Ethyle Block

Newsletter -Laurie Lata

Legislative - Trygve Rhude

Education - John Helfert

Chappee Rapids Site -

Denise Taylor

Website -Vacant

## Message from the President

After a long winter it's time to get outside. Well, there's a lot going on out there. We were pleased to have members of the Bay de Noc Naturalists at our banquet. Now they will reciprocate by guiding us on a tour of Portage Marsh just south of Escanaba.

As usual, we have a great selection of May bird walks. The Crane Count is coming up and the Girl Scouts have indicated some

interest in another wildflower walk.

Later in the summer we will take a walk through the prairie at the Harmony Hardwoods. The prairie has come a long way in the last few years.

Looking ahead to the fall we are hoping to take a trip to a cranberry bog and, if all goes well, build a bird viewing platform at Peshtigo Harbor. See you outside.

- Paul

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## Write Those Letters! Better Northwoods Forest Management

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, covering 1.5 million acres in Wisconsin's Northwoods, is a special place, but in the past six years, the 17 major timber sales proposed in the CNNF have put clean water, wildlife habitat, and the biodiversity of the region at risk. Many rare and sensitive species like Northern Goshawk and Red-Shouldered Hawk are seeing population declines throughout the CNNF, and the Forest Service continues to

propose new timber sales one on top of the other.

You can help stop this pattern of too much logging, too fast, and in too many important areas for wildlife habitat and clean water! Please take a moment to let your elected officials know that it's time for a new, more responsible approach to forest management in the Northwoods. Go to the **Environmental Law and Policy Center website** to learn more.

□

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## E-Newsletter

If you have computer access, consider the advantages of having your newsletter delivered electronically - save paper, save Chappee Rapids Audubon money, more pictures (and in color). When the newsletter is ready, you receive an e-mail message with a link.

Clicking on the link takes you directly to our website where you view the newsletter and print it (in color) if you wish.

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, let us know by e-mailing [info@chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](mailto:info@chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org).

# Calendar of Events

## April

**16- April Meeting**  
**Soils of Marinette County**  
**Speaker: Howard Lorenz**  
Details on page one.

**18 - International Crane**  
**Foundation Sandhill**  
**Crane Count**  
Details on page six

**24- Earth Week Film**  
**“Tara, Journey to the**  
**Head of the Climate**  
**Machine”**  
Noon - Room M-117  
at UW-Marinette.  
Free and open to the  
public.

Documentary on research done  
for the Damocles Project  
(Developing Arctic  
Modeling and Observing  
Capabilities for Long-Term  
Environmental Studies)  
between 2006 and 2008.

The film tells the daily life  
onboard the schooner Tara  
during this extraordinary  
mission.

## May

**5- Tuesday Morning Bird**  
**Walk - 8:00 am**  
**Denise Taylor Farm**  
Leader: Denise Taylor  
Details on page six

**9- Portage Marsh Outing**  
**with Bay de Noc**  
**Naturalists**  
Details on page six

**12- Tuesday Morning Bird**  
**Walk - 7:30 am**  
**Pond Road, Peshtigo Harbor**  
Leader: Joan Campbell  
Details on page six

**12- Tuesday Evening Bird**  
**Walk - 6:30 pm**  
**Harmony Hardwoods**  
Leader: Howard Lorenz  
Details on page six

**19- Tuesday Morning Bird**  
**Walk - 7:30 am**  
**Seagull Bar**  
Leader: Joan Campbell  
Details on page six

## May (cont'd)

**19- Tuesday Evening Bird**  
**Walk - 6:30 pm**  
**Menominee City Cemetery**  
Leader: Bob Brisson  
Details on page six

**26- Tuesday Morning Bird**  
**Walk - 7:30 am**  
**Pond Road, Peshtigo Harbor**  
Leader: Joan Campbell  
Details on page six

## August

**4- Harmony Arboretum**  
**Prairie Walk & Picnic**  
Details on page six

## October

**TBA- Bog Walk**

# Did You Know?

by John Helfert

Cypress, *cupressus sempervirens*, is one of the most durable woods in the world. The doors of St Peter's in Rome are made of cypress and show no signs of disintegration after 1,200 years.

The white birch's bark has no tannin, an acid compound very common in most bark. Their cells are empty and reflect the light in all directions. This is the same phenomenon that makes snow white.



The oaks are struck by lightning more frequently than any other tree.

Our biggest tree, *sequoiadendron giganteum*, is actually called "big tree." It reaches a height of 272 feet, is 101 feet in circumference, and its bark is two feet thick. One "big tree" (General Sherman) has a volume of 600,000 board feet, enough to build 80 five-room houses. The root system covers over three acres. It is 3,800 years old and 36 feet in diameter.

## 2009 Banquet a Success

Over 110 people enjoyed the twentieth annual Environmental Achievement Awards Banquet held on March 20 at Schussler's. Eric Hansen, author, activist, explorer, and poet, entertained with a slide show tour entitled, "The Poetry and the Practicalities of Hiking Michigan's Upper Peninsula."

The Organization/Group Environmental Achievement Award was presented to Friends of the Carney Fen. The award was presented by Judith Johnson, who told of how her father, Leroy Lintereur, instilled love of the Fen in her family and others. The Friends of the Carney Fen have spent over five years inventorying the flora and fauna, and especially the orchid species, at the Fen in order to have it designated as a protected area. The Fen will finally be officially designated as a

protected natural area by the state of Michigan this summer.

Accepting the award was Kip Knudson, a member of Friends of the Carney Fen.

The Leroy Lintereur Individual Environmental Achievement Award was presented to Howard Lorenz for his time over the years in sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm of soils and our natural environment, especially with children. Most recently, Howard is recognized for his video of orchids, which he produced after thousands of hours and miles photographing over 32 orchid species.

The raffle netted \$700. Proceeds will be used for the Chappée Rapids Audubon Society Special Projects Fund, especially a viewing platform to be constructed at Peshtigo Harbor. (See details on the facing page) □

### *In Recognition of a Special Place - The Carney Bog*

".....This bog is first of all a haven, a refuge for plants and insects that are rare elsewhere and nonexistent in many parts of the north. It is a key unit in maintaining the diversity of living things that is now recognized as essential if life on earth is to survive. Rare orchids are found here, and sedges, butterflies and beetles, not only in the bog itself, but in the encroaching conifer swamps and hemlock ridges....."

- Leroy Lintereur and Judith Johnson

- *The Herald-Leader*, April 17, 1991

### **Special Thanks to the Following for Door Prizes and Raffle Items for the Banquet**

A J Floral  
Aurora Books  
Marge Bjork  
Bob Brisson  
Rich Campbell  
Kristine Danielson Jewelry  
James Hammett  
John's Taxidermy  
Bruce Johnson  
Beverly Hayward Johnson  
Kuber's Feed Mill  
Lloyd-Flanders Industries, Inc.

Marinette Camera Fair  
Marinette Farm & Garden  
Menard's  
Wayne & Marlene Nelson  
Peshtigo Feed Mill  
Peshtigo National Bank  
Peshtigo Pharmacy  
Trygve Rhude  
Schussler's Supper Club  
Tractor Supply  
Wind Rose North



# Take a Hike! - Upcoming Outings

## May 9 - Portage Marsh - Escanaba

Come see some new birds and make some new friends on this joint outing with the Escanaba Bay de Noc Naturalists. The Portage Marsh will be full of shore birds, waterfowl and song birds in mid May. Meet at the marsh at **9:00 am**, CDT. The outing will last about 2 hours. Lunch at Breezy Point will follow. For more info or to car pool, call Laurie at (715) 735-5961. □

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## TUESDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS

**May 5 - 8:00 am- Taylor Farm, Wallace** -Denise Taylor -906-863-7397. Denise's farm is in the U.P and it is always a pleasure to go there to bird watch. We will start in her yard and go through her woods, which have both high and low areas, and end at the open fields where grassland species might be found singing. Migration will be just beginning, so we should see the first of the warblers coming through along with the common woodland species found there. Contact Denise for directions.

**May 12 - 7:30 am.-Pond Road, Peshtigo Harbor-** Joan Campbell-715-732-1277. Early morning offers the best birding opportunities here, especially if there is a wind from the south the night before. We will walk a circle starting where the gravel road begins. We will bird the road to the bay, head north through the woods along the bay coming out in the field where the bluebirds nest and back the cars. Migration will be in full swing and we should get shorebirds, waterbirds, many passerines and possibly the resident Merlin. Plan on a 3 to 3 1/2 hour walk.

**May 19 - 7:30 am- Seagull Bar, Off Red Arrow Park** -Joan Campbell-715-732-1277. Seagull Bar is listed as an Important Bird Area and in the Great Wisconsin Birding & Nature Trail that the State of Wisconsin has developed. This is a very special place to birds and we could see any number of shorebirds and waterbirds and find passerines in the woods. Plan on about a 3-4 hour walk, so layered clothing with a windbreaker is advisable.

**May 26 - 7:00 am-Pond Road, Peshtigo Harbor** - Joan Campbell -715-732-1277. It's back to Pond road for more excellent birding. This is Joan's favorite birding place and expect the unexpected as there could be a wader that is not normally seen here.

## TUESDAY EVENING BIRD WALKS

**May 12- 6:30 pm- Harmony Hardwoods.** Howard Lorenz - 715-582-4311. We are fortunate to have this stand of majestic old hardwoods near us. Along with the migration of passerines, the wildflowers will be in full bloom. A newly fledged great-horned owl or the beautiful scarlet tanager that's nested here every year could be seen.

**May 19 -6:30 pm-Menominee City Cemetery.** Bob Brisson -906-863-6850. We will walk the perimeter of the grounds to look for woodland species of birds and wildflowers. We'll scope a bald eagle nest in a tall white pine across the Menominee River. The trail leads to the road that goes through the cemetery back to our cars.

## April 18- Crane Count

**Saturday, April 18 from 5:30 – 7:30 A.M.** will offer bird enthusiasts the chance to trek to area wetlands in Marinette County and enjoy a springtime sunrise while on the lookout during the 33rd Annual Midwest Sandhill Crane Count.

In addition to cranes, counters enjoy the early morning activities of songbirds, waterfowl and mammals.

Interested volunteers should contact Laurie at (715) 735-5961. □



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## August 4 -

### Harmony Arboretum Prairie Walk and Picnic

Here is your chance to learn more about and enjoy this newly established prairie with a presentation and walk. A summer picnic/ potluck will follow.

Gregg Cleereman will update us on the work of the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Dept. and the development of the prairie before leading us on the walk.

Meet at the Harmony Arboretum shelter at **6:00 pm**. Bring a main dish or salad to share. Beverages will be provided. Bring your family and friends.

For more information, call Carmen at (715) 582-4165. □



## Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

After five years of recording record dates for early spring events the winds have turned and I am now shivering through a “late” spring. It is April 6th at this writing and I have yet to hear any frogs or woodcocks. My latest date for frogs here is April 14th and I have actually seen a few woodcocks darting across roads but no aerial displays. Today I saw my first Mourning cloak butterfly, a beautiful creature in a much protected spot but still looking quite out of place amongst the brown vegetation fighting the 20 mph winds! The maples are struggling to bloom, no dandelions and really not much green in the lawns or the sloughs, but it is still early and we have the whole season ahead of us.

Looking back at this last winter it seems everyone agrees we had a bit of snow and a reasonable amount of cold weather with many lows in the 15 to 20 below range and not many days above freezing. This led to a great snow pack that is still lingering in the woods. Feeder activity was brisk for most people with large flocks of pine siskens everywhere! The siskens are still present at my feeders in much smaller

numbers, still accompanied by many juncos and those now golden goldfinches. White tailed deer are out in the fields by day and many look a bit more ragged than usual. I have noticed rather more raccoons dead on the roadways this spring, but so far fewer skunks...well we can all breathe easier for that!

The 7th of March brought the robins back in numbers and Joan Campbell reported cranes. Bill and I don't see cranes until the 14th here at the farm and Joan's date would seem more correct. The third week of March brought some real warmth and killdeer, redwings, bluebirds, song sparrows, grackles and then marsh hawks. I then traveled to Lower Michigan via US 2 along Lake Michigan. The snows across the UP were still quite deep but melting quickly revealing many deer carcasses from the past winter. Each carcass was surrounded by 2 to 10 ravens feasting contentedly. This scene continued from Rapid River all the way to the Mackinac Bridge...the most ravens I have ever seen in one day. What a nutritional boon for the ravens at nesting time!

Since my return to the UP I noticed that kestrels, cowbirds and Brewers blackbirds have

moved onto the farm. I may have seen a fox sparrow near dusk this evening. As this cold high pressure moves out of here later this week I suspect we'll see many more sparrows, snipe, swallows and thrushes work their way northward. Waterfowl will continue to move for the spring fishing; did I miss the swans? Any reports? I have seen a few Great blue herons.

I am waiting anxiously for the winds to subside so that I may return to walking in the woodlands. I am certain I am missing a fine spring blossom—a dog violet, hepatica, or bloodroot unfurling. Yet it is the spring's beginnings that I am most familiar with - that I have most studied, that is most prevalent in my mind. For instance the sparkling white blossoms of a Juneberry tree in the warm April sun carpeted beneath with golden trout lilies. I have read that Juneberry, or Shad as it is sometimes called, is included in a book about the trees we will meet in Heaven. I personally have not read the book, but the thoughts of knowing these plants in such a place makes perfect sense to me. Enjoy our beautiful plant companions this season! □

## Chappee Rapids Audubon Society Membership Form

This is a  
**NEW**   **RENEWAL**  
Membership (circle one)

### Membership

#### Category:

- Individual \$4.00
- Family \$5.00
- Supporting \$10.00
- Contributing \$25.00
- Donor \$50.00
- Other Donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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