



Audubon Minnesota News April 9, 2008

Audubon's Bonding Priorities – Aaarrgh!

It's been a long journey since last Fall when Audubon members chose a handful of state legislative priorities. Since this is a bonding year, several issues rose to the top as concern for our members. Some of those programs fared well during the legislative process and others, well, died.

The final setback occurred early this week when, as many of you know, the Governor took out his red pen and cut [\\$208 million](#) dollars from the State Legislature's \$925 million [bonding investment bill](#). Here are the final numbers for our bonding priorities and other projects:

Forest Legacy Easements Bonding: *Audubon - \$30 million, Legislature - \$3 million, Governor - \$3 million*

Native Prairie Conservation and Protection Bonding: *Audubon - \$10 million, Legislature - \$4 million, Governor - \$4 million*

Reinvest in Minnesota/Clean Energy (Grassland Biomass) Bonding: *Audubon - \$46 million, Legislature \$0, Governor - \$0*

Great River Park Bonding: *Audubon - \$6 million, Legislature - \$2 million, Governor - \$0*

Springbrook Nature Center: *Audubon - \$2.2 million, Legislature - \$2.5 million, Governor - \$0*

Cedar Avenue Bridge: *Audubon - \$2 million, Legislature - \$2 million, Governor - \$0*

Bell Museum: *Audubon - \$24 million, Legislature - \$24 million, Governor - \$0*

Scientific and Natural Areas: *Audubon - \$5 million, Legislature - \$1 million, Governor - \$1 million*

Metro Greenways: *Audubon - \$5 million, Legislature - \$0, Governor - \$0*

Wetlands and Waterfowl Weekend - April 11-13, Best Western Kelly Inn in Plymouth

This year the 3rd Wetlands Summit and 11th Annual Minnesota Waterfowl Symposium will be combined into one event called Wetlands and Waterfowl Weekend. The joint effort will focus on critical federal

and state legislation and new funding sources required to enhance wetland and waterfowl conservation programs. The theme is "Together for Wetlands."

For further information contact Harvey Nelson, Co-Chair, at or call 952-831-8333; Minnesota Waterfowl Association at 952-767-0320; or Bill Henke, Co-Chair, Izaak Walton League-Minnesota Division, at 651-221-0215.

Volunteers Needed – Project Birdsafe Training, 10 am to Noon, Saturday, April 12, St. Paul U of M Campus

Project BirdSafe is a collaborative project addressing the problem of bird collisions with windows in the Twin Cities. Volunteers are needed to walk monitoring routes in Minneapolis and St. Paul during spring and fall migration in search of fallen birds. Training for new volunteers will be held on Saturday, April 12th, from 10 am to Noon at the U of MN St. Paul Campus - Room 130 Ecology.

To volunteer or receive periodic updates by email please contact Joanna Eckles at birdsafemsn.com or call Audubon Minnesota at 651-739-9332.

You're Invited! Meet Arctic Circle Champion, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, Friday, April 18, 6-8:30 pm at the Patagonia, St. Paul Store, 1648 Grand Avenue, St. Paul

Congresswoman Betty McCollum is a Democrat serving her fourth term in Congress. She represents the families of Minnesota's Fourth District. Throughout her public career, McCollum has been a champion for protecting the environment, expanding health care access and fiscal responsibility. Please, join Alaska Wilderness League, Audubon Minnesota and the St. Paul Patagonia Store in thanking Representative Betty McCollum for all of her hard work in protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other special places in Alaska.

Betty will be presented with a Commemorative Award and give a brief Address at 6:30 pm. For questions about this event and to RSVP please contact Lois Norrgard at Lois@alaskawild.org or 800-322-5205. Limited space. Coffee, refreshments and hors d'oeuvres provided.

Alaska Wilderness League, Activist Training - 10 am to 3 pm, Saturday, April 19

Join Alaska Wilderness League for an engaging and informative training on critical issues that are facing Alaska's public lands, unique species, and native communities, and what you can do to help protect them for the future.

Who: Anyone who is concerned with the issues and threats facing Alaskan wild lands and wildlife or who wants to learn more about what you can do to help protect our beautiful Wild Alaska.

What: An interactive training that explores both current legislation affecting Alaska's wild lands as well as methods to build your skills to reach out and make a difference in your community. Director of Field Operations for Alaska Wilderness League, Liz VanDenzen, will share strategies for successful grassroots organizing.

Where: Golden Valley Library – Meeting room, 830 Winnetka Ave N Golden Valley MN 55427

When: Saturday April 19, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, coffee and pastries plus lunch will be provided

For more information, please call Lois Norrgard at 952-881-7282 or email lois@alaskawild.org to RSVP.

Hey, it's time to get a haircut! Audubon is Aveda's Earth Month Partner

Aveda Corporation has chosen Audubon as an Earth Month Partner again this year. In April, Aveda and its salons and spas will raise money for clean water as part of this year's "Every Drop Matters" Campaign. Audubon, with its Mississippi River Initiative and Important Bird Areas along the River, will be one of the fiscal recipients of this campaign.

Check it out! National Audubon Society's New Green Headquarters

Audubon Settling into New Headquarters-Audubon has relocated to a new headquarters at 225 Varick Street in New York's dynamic Hudson Square district. The move will result in a solid combination of financial, employee, and energy efficiency improvements that will benefit Audubon and its conservation mission well into the future. Our new home office was designed and constructed applying the highest green design standards. Audubon is once again raising the standard for environmentally responsible workplaces and anticipates that our new office will be viewed as the greenest rental in New York City!

Ramsey Festival Celebrates Birds of Spring

The third annual Ramsey County Bird Festival – Where Birds and People Meet is a free celebration of springtime birds, running from May 1 through May 4, 2008. The volunteer-run festival highlights the many interesting birds found in St. Paul and suburbs and is designed to attract families and others to birding, America's most popular outdoor activity.

Walks are scheduled to give a bird's eye view of areas where swans, eagles and loons nest and where migrating warblers feed. Other tours will look at resident birds like cardinals, blue jays and chickadees. A low-cost dinner will feature nationally known bird expert, speaker and humorist, Al Batt. His talk will be: Bird Stories: Finding wings of joy and feathered miracles. Snippets from a life gone to the birds.

Also on the festival's schedule is a day full of displays, demos and hikes at Harriet Alexander Nature Center in Roseville, a birding adventure by canoe and a tour of the rarely open Arden Hills Army Training Site (formerly known as the Twin Cities Arsenal). A special ceremony will be held at AHATS finalizing the site and adjacent Rice Creek as an Audubon Minnesota Important Bird Site. Bird walks and events, most of which are free and open to everyone, will be led by the area's birding enthusiasts.

Save the Date for this Summer! Two Audubon Minnesota Member-Appreciation Events!

Birdwatching and Bagels, 8 am, Monday, June 30th, Belwin: Birdwatch with us at one of the largest remaining undeveloped tracts of land near the Metro-area. Belwin is located on 1,300 acres near Afton and is used by St. Paul school kids for outdoor instruction. The land, not open to the public without special permission, contains woods, wetlands, tallgrass prairies, goat prairies, oak savannas, spring-fed cold water streams, marshes, floating bogs, potholes, oak and maple/basswood forests and farmland being restored to prairie. We'll birdwatch and top-off the morning with bagels, juice and coffee. Free. RSVP by June 25th.

Birds, Beer and Baseball, 7 pm, Monday, July 28th, Twins vs White Sox: Audubon Twins fans, bring your family and friends to this evening's Twins game at the Metrodome. We're working on getting a section of a sky box donated (no guarantees yet!). At the very least, we'll all sit together, drink beer, eat peanuts and talk about birds and of course, baseball! \$20/person. RSVP by July 9th.

RSVP to me (Susan A Solterman) at ssolterman@audubon.org or 651-260-7040. Carpooling available for both events.

Susan Audette Solterman
Policy Director
Audubon Minnesota
2357 Ventura Drive #106
St. Paul, MN 55125
651-260-7040 cel