

Kentucky Audubon's Caws

Spring 2003

Kentucky Audubon Council is on the World Wide Web

We have been fortunate to recruit two talented and environmentally astute young men to design a Web site for the Council. Eric Williams, a Private Lands Biologist with Kentucky Fish & Wildlife based in Madisonville has agreed to serve as our Webmaster. Rob Rold, who is a Fishery Biologist also with Fish & Wildlife as well as being a nature photographer, has agreed to work with Eric to give the Council's Web site an allure by using photography featuring the beauty of our state.

The Web site is in its earliest stages of construction and therefore is not ready for the publication of the domain name that has been chosen to access it. By going to the Council's site, visitors will be able to learn about Audubon in Kentucky. The Web site will better unite the 6 chapters in the state. It will give us a stronger voice and will put more umph behind our efforts. It will allow us to reach out to people around the state, the U.S. and the world.

At the Council's Web site each chapter will have:

- a cyber stage where its leaders may be profiled

- mailboxes where chapter leaders may be contacted

- where current and past newsletters may be posted

- and where its mission statement, calendar of programs, announcements and events may be made available to the public.

Our Web site is a major step forward for us all.

Chapter Reports

Buckley Hills is proud to have sponsored the most Audubon Adventure classrooms of all the other chapters in the state. This is a proud tradition in the Lexington area schools. Buckley Hills is making a large investment in our state's future naturalists.

Daviess County has recently completed a Birdathon fundraiser. This is the second effort in 3 years for the Owensboro area chapter. The proceeds are planned for educational supplies such as binoculars, field guides, and elementary level nature activity books.

Frankfort is struggling with the problem of low attendance at meetings. Jim Durrell reported at the spring meeting of the KAC that it is a mystery as to why a city the size of Frankfort does not have a good turnout for Audubon programs. It is said that the first step in solving a problem is to recognize that there is one. For our Frankfort friends, the next step is to try to find what works to improve attendance.

Henderson is still not active at this time. It is the oldest chapter in the state and there is still hope locally and at the National Audubon Society that a reorganization and reactivation is possible. Perhaps nearby chapters, Daviess County Audubon Society and Evansville (Indiana) Audubon Society, can help support the revitalization effort.

Little River has conducted bird and wildflower walks this spring. They also have made gifts of tree seedlings to the members of their community.

The Louisville Nature Center was the sight of **Louisville Audubon Society's** community outreach in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day in May. There were bird walks, feeder demonstrations, and bird identification classes for the public.

Coming Soon to a Theater Near You

A film based on the Sandhill Crane, *Winged Migration*, has been released by Sony and is getting very good publicity. We have been able to learn of 3 areas where the movie will be shown this summer. Beginning July 11th the Baxter Avenue Cinemas in **Louisville** will run the movie. Then on July 18th in **Nashville, Tennessee** at Green Hills Theatre, you can catch the film. Stadium 16 in **Evansville, Indiana** has the film scheduled soon, but the dates could not be determined for two reasons. (1) The young lady answering the phone at the movie office did not know the run date, and (2) the theatre did not respond to our emailed inquiry. So those of you who live in the Tri-State area will need to watch for schedule announcements.

Family Fun Day at Buckley Sanctuary

On August 3rd, there will be a picnic lunch and entertainment as a gift to the families in the area around Versailles, Kentucky. Tim and Debbie Williams and their summer interns will host this event. Buckley Hills Audubon Society helps to sponsor the costs related to the day. There is no admission charge for people who attend. After lunch, Tim, the Sanctuary Manager, arranges for local personalities to present short programs. In years past there have been raptor rehab demonstrations that culminated in the release of a healed bird of prey, a nearby farm brought its llamas and alpacas, and a reptile zoo brought exhibits.

Heartwood Forest Council meeting in Blanton Forest

Approximately 300 people attended the Memorial Day week-end meeting set in an old growth forest near Pineville in Harlan County recently. There were celebrities such as Granny D, the 93 year young lady who walked across America to bring attention to the effort to enact Campaign Finance Reform legislation. Granny D participated in a bird walk at dawn and was a vocal participant in various sessions but she was not a keynote speaker. Public speaking is "not my thing", she explained. Woody Harralson who played the bartender on the sitcom *Cheers* attended the gathering and was the keynote speaker on Sunday morning. Harralson has been arrested for his stance on legalizing the growing of industrial hemp for the purpose of decreasing the public demand for paper products made from wood.

The people who attended the Forest Council's meeting are a true cross section of the population. There is a wide range of ages, careers, and life styles represented. A significant portion of the group of activists with concerns about the environment are college students. As he looked out at the Peace Circle around him, Woody Harralson spoke of being reminded of the protests in the 1960's when it was mere students and common people who forced our country to stop the war in Viet Nam. He referred to the major concerns of the people at the conference such as mountaintop removal by the coal industry, clear cutting by timber companies, chip mills that are decimating southern forests which he described as *the beasts*. He asked that we do everything we can to stop feeding the beasts. He reminded everyone that by making conservation a way of life, we can exert great power over the beasts that do the polluting to satisfy the consumers' demands.

You may be wondering why a report of Heartwood's meeting is being printed in the Kentucky Audubon Council's newsletter insert. It is because there is a need for alliances between environmental organizations. Audubon is different from Heartwood. The Council is a 501 (C) 3 organization which means that we are limited to a very small percentage of the time and funds we can allocate to political involvement. Our major thrust is education. Heartwood is not a charitable organization for income tax purposes and they lobby actively. We need them and they need us.







