

Kentucky Audubon's Caws

Newsletter Insert of the Kentucky Audubon Council

Winter 2004

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Spring Meeting March 13th in Elizabethtown

The Council will meet once again in Elizabethtown the second Saturday in March from 11 AM to 2 or 3 PM EST. The delegates decided that a combination of factors, the amenities of the meeting room at Nolin Electric at 411 Ring Road and E'town's central location, make returning there for our spring meeting a wise choice. It is hoped that we will have good attendance because we have a very full agenda that will affect the Council's success and viability in the coming months and even into next year.

The planned Agenda:

Election of Officers

Budget Committee Report

Fundraising basics--writing grants. Where are we and where are other states?

Writing the **Council's history**--filling in the blanks, connecting the dots, and finding missing pieces of the puzzle

Important Bird Areas--IBA's a brief review.

Learning about nominations.

Who's on the Technical Committee?

What nominations have been received?

What is our timetable?

Lunch will be provided for the delegates.

Important Bird Area Nomination Forms Are In Distribution

Because Kentucky is one of the last 10 states to launch its Important Bird Area (IBA) identification program it has not been necessary to reinvent the wheel. When we began in the summer of 2001, we thought we would need two committees, one to set up guidelines and another, a Technical Committee, to serve as judges of the sites nominated for consideration as IBA's. However, on the Internet we found guidelines, criteria, and nomination forms used by about a half dozen other states. All that was necessary was to make some minor adaptations for Kentucky's bird species and inland terrain.

In February, the first of the nomination forms was sent out. They are being sent to environmental organizations, private and public, to colleges and universities, and to individuals. Anyone may nominate a site for IBA certification.

There is no prohibition against making copies of the nomination form and it will be available soon on the KAC Website,

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We will brainstorm at the March 13th meeting about anyone who's been left out.

Fundraising for Dummies

It has been said that the scariest step one takes in any endeavor is the first one. After that, just putting one foot ahead of the other is how progress happens. When Dan Hendricks left Kentucky, the Council suddenly needed to find someone else to guide our fundraising for a state office and hiring a state director. To date, that leader has not been found, but we can continue to make preparations for fundraising nonetheless. At the March 13th meeting we will use one of a series of the *Dummy* books as our guide for a short seminar about fundraising basics.

From the President's Perch...preparing to pass the torch. With seven months left in my term of office, I'm looking in two directions. I'm looking back at where we've been in the past three years and I'm looking forward to what lies ahead. As I look back, I see that we have managed to keep chapters in close contact by sharing newsletters and utilizing the ease and speed of Email. We've used a quarterly newsletter insert for a line of communication between chapters and the Council. Even though it is still under construction, I am most proud of the Council's Website. It has the potential to disseminate information about us inexpensively, rapidly, and easily. Name recognition plays a large part in our goal of seeking respect and gaining financial and political clout. When people around the world search for information about nature in Kentucky, it is our goal for

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to come to their attention.

As I look forward, I am pleased to see that we will be well on the way to completing the Important Bird Area project by fall when I hand the gavel, or should I say the duck call, to the next President. We are in a strong financial position for launching the effort of funding the salary of a state director and a state office for Audubon in Kentucky.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as leader of an organization whose purpose is to link Audubon Chapters in Kentucky. Our state motto, *United We Stand; Divided We Fall*, has relevance for Audubon members and their local chapters in Kentucky. United, we are over 3000 people strong. We have the potential to be a powerful voice for Kentucky's wealth of natural resources. It has been a real pleasure. Thank you, very much,

G. Wm. "Bill" Little, Jr.

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Cumberland Plateau is One of 12 Most

Threatened Wildlands in the Americas. The Cumberland Plateau is located in southeastern Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Alabama. It is second only to China's temperate zone in plant diversity and it is home to rare and endangered species such as the Eastern cougar and the Red-shouldered hawk.

The threat to this area is the paper industry. Americans are the world's worst wasters of paper and southern forests are being cut at alarming rates for newsprint, toilet paper, and copier paper. Export of wood chips from southern forests has grown 500% since 1990.

The other most threatened wildlands that made the National Resources Defense Council's list:

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Western Arctic Reserve & Tongass National Forest in Alaska
Yellowstone National Park & the Greater Rocky Mountains
Redrock Canyons in Utah
The Everglades in Florida
The Boreal Forest's Heart in Manitoba, Canada
Castle Wilderness & Bighorn Wildland in Alberta
Macal River Valley in Belize
Tahuamanu Rainforest in Peru
Olivillo Coastal Rainforest in Chile

Shouldn't we rethink paper and hemp? The NRDC, a national non-profit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists since 1970 has more than 1 million members worldwide.

Questions? Comments! Suggestions....

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