



WARIOTO WARBLER



CLARKSVILLE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 7

APRIL 2009

WARIOTO AT A GLANCE

REGULAR MEETING: Thurs., April 2, 7:30 p.m., APSU's Sundquist Science Bldg, E106-A.

PROGRAM: Dr. Greg Butcher, National Audubon Society, will present "Birds and Climate Change."

FIELD TRIP: Sat., Apr. 25, Bicentennial Trail near Ashland City; leave at 7:00 a.m. from 8th St. lot APSU

BOARD MEETING: Sundquist Science Building, Biology Conference room, D126 at 7:00 p.m.

Visit our webpage at http://www.apsu.edu/schillers/Audubon/Warioto_Chapter.htm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Barbara Wilbur

It's hard to believe we're on the downhill side of the Warioto Audubon year! And, thus far, with the help of lots of folks, we've had a really good year. Great programs; good field trips and yummy refreshments! April sounds like it will be more of the same, especially with the terrific program lined up, thanks to Steve Hamilton's thoughtful planning. [Here's hoping you make a special effort to attend the April meeting, plus invite a friend.](#)

To keep us on schedule a nominating committee was formed during March: Suva Bastin, Daniel Moss, Sally Schiller and Paul Schwab. A slate of officers was to be presented at the April meeting, however, some committee members were very late getting notification. Therefore, I have assured them the 2009-2010 slate of officers may be presented at the May meeting. Not to worry, I feel certain the committee will get the slate completed in a timely fashion. We will be informed in plenty of time for the election and for the new officers to assume their responsibilities July 15. Thanks to the committee and thanks to those who agree to work in the trenches next year!

CHAPTER PROGRAMS, Kathy DeWein

April Program: Dr. Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society, will present "Birds and Climate Change." The talk is based on a report evaluating 40 years of Christmas Bird Count data that demonstrates a northward shifts in bird population that are attributable to global warming. Dr. Butcher co-authored the national report with other Audubon scientist. For a biography on Dr. Butcher see: <http://www.audubon.org/news/pressroom/Leaders/Butcher.html>

This promises to be a big meeting and a chance for our chapter to join with the Center of Excellence for Field Biology in bringing this speaker to Clarksville. Note that the presentation will be in room E-106A of the Sundquist Science Complex.

Dr. Butcher will present an evaluation of data for Tennessee and Kentucky at the 13th Symposium on the Natural History of Lower Tennessee and Cumberland River Valleys at Land Between The Lakes on April 3rd. More about the symposium can be found at: http://www.apsu.edu/field_biology/center/symposium2009/symposium_2009_announcement.htm

Last month: Tom Payne gave a great program on butterflies and their conservation. He explained how third world countries were able to preserve their habitats by raising butterflies for sale to collectors after releasing sixty percent of their hatchling. We were amazed by his knowledge of these delicate and hardy insects. The part of his collection he brought to show was just incredible. The colors were so vibrant and several people there tried to photograph their beauty. We had many new folks attending and had to move to a bigger room to hold the meeting. This is a problem I wish we had every meeting.

FIELD TRIPS, Chris O'Bryan

Our next field trip will be to the Bicentennial Trail in Ashland City on Saturday, April 25. This will give us an opportunity to observe spring migrants as well as enjoy wildflowers and other creatures that can be found in this diverse habitat. We will leave the 8th St. Parking Lot adjacent to the Sundquist Science Complex at 7am.

Alternatively, you can meet the group at the south end parking area on Chapmansboro Road near Marks Creek. Hope to see you there!

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=36.285646,-87.077539&spn=0.018922,0.028753&t=p&z=15>

CONSERVATION LETTER, Joe Schiller

Last month, the 4th Circuit Appeals Court once again handed down a devastating verdict to those working to end mountaintop removal mining in Southern Appalachia. The court overturned a lower federal district court ruling by Judge Joseph Goodwin that had found that the US Office of Surface Mining had not correctly considered all of the impacts on stream functions when it issued permits for mountaintop removal mining in West Virginia. The Appeals court ruling opens the way for mining companies to begin to exploit changes to the 100 foot stream buffer zone rule the Bush administration pushed through in its last weeks in office. This leaves only one last recourse for ending this madness—the clean Water Protection Act now pending before congress (<http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2009/3/8/111557/0125/910/704906>). Still, only Tennessee representatives Cooper and Cohen have cosponsored this bill. It is unlikely that republican representatives Wamp and Blackburn will cosponsor or support this bill, but where is Representative Tanner? Please pressure all of them to do so.

There is also a state bill pending before the Tennessee legislature that would make it much harder to practice mountaintop removal here in Tennessee—The TN Scenic Vistas Protection Act (<http://www.tnleaf.org/>). Senator Tim Barnes who sits on the Senate Environment, Conservation, and Tourism Committee, one of the key committees that has to approve the bill, has already pledged to support this bill. Please thank Senator Barnes for his support of this bill and start lobbying other Tennessee legislators to support this bill.

Lastly, the TN Beverage Container Recycling Act (<http://tnbottlebill.org/>), i.e. the Tennessee bottle bill, is back before the legislature. When talking to your representatives about this bill please point out the following:

- Places no new cost on beverage distributors
- Will generate hundreds of small businesses ("redemption centers")
- Will create as many as 2,000 new jobs
- Has the support of major industries and industry trade groups
- Will eventually recover 85% of 4.5 billion containers a year, compared to 10% now
- Will create access to recycling even in rural areas
- Will dramatically reduce litter while preserving the existing litter grants program
- Will keep 200,000+ tons of valuable container material out of landfills
- Will save local governments millions in waste-hauling and landfill tipping costs
- Will avoid the equivalent of 150,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases
- Will save enough energy to power 85,000 homes for a year
- Will create job training, jobs and income opportunity for nonprofits and their clients
- Has bipartisan legislative support
- Has 80% public support (UT survey)

Now, for a little good news. The Tennessee Valley Authority is evaluating proposals that could add as much new power generation from solar, wind and other renewable sources as what a typical nuclear reactor produces in electricity. (Now if we could just get them to use that fact to cancel the Bellefonte nuclear reactor project). TVA received more than 60 proposals for renewable energy power generation in response to a recent bid request. The utility now is evaluating plans for up to 1,250 megawatts of power from wind, 25 megawatts from biomass and 10 megawatts from

solar, Mr. Allen said. It is unlikely that all of these projects will be accepted, but it is also likely that much more renewable resource exists out there than was actually bid. Remember that next time one of the members of the Tennessee federal congressional delegation argues against a federal renewable portfolio standard (coming later this year) because "We don't have enough renewable energy resources here in the south." Currently, TVA generates less than 40 megawatts of power from renewable sources.

NEW MEMBER FORM

Yes, I would like to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the local chapter: Clarksville Warioto Audubon Society for the introductory rate of \$20.00.

I will receive six issues of National Audubon magazine, the Warioto Audubon society newsletter (9) issues, and help to protect America's Birds, rescue endangered wildlife and preserve vital habitat.

Please Print:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____, State _____ Zip _____

Make Checks payable to National Audubon Society and send this coupon and your check to
National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 422250 Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

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WARIOTO WARBLER NEWSLETTER is published nine times a year by the Warioto Chapter of the National Audubon Society, Clarksville, TN 37040. All National Audubon members in our area receive it, and nonmembers may subscribe to it at a subscription price of \$5.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to Warioto Audubon Chapter. Please notify us of any CHANGE OF ADDRESS,.

ARTICLES AND INFORMATION FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER ARE DUE 17 APRIL.

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