

LAKELAND AUDUBON SOCIETY



The Chat



October 2026

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, October 27

7:00 PM

Lions Field House

270 Elkhorn Road (Highway 67), Williams Bay, WI

Free and open to the public!

Community Conservation: From Wisconsin to the World

By Teri Allendorf



Orangutans, Photo provided by BadgerTalks



Learn how conservation in Wisconsin has influenced conservation around the world. Dr. Teri Allendorf will describe Community Conservation's research and projects with numerous communities to protect biodiversity, including endangered species such as yellow-tailed woolly monkeys in Peru, orangutans in Malaysia, chimpanzees in Cameroon and tigers in Nepal, among many others.

About the Speaker

Dr. Teri Allendorf is a conservation biologist who has worked on issues of local communities and conservation since 1994. She was a member of USAID's Biodiversity Team, a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal, and has partnered with NGOs and communities on conservation issues in Nepal, Myanmar, China, and India. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles in journals and taught courses at the University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Future Generations University, as well as short courses in India and Namibia. She has also consulted on biodiversity and forestry projects for USAID in Tanzania, Mozambique, Uganda, Nepal, Guatemala, and Guyana. Currently, she is the director of Community Conservation, based in Viroqua, WI.



The Hazards of Lawn Chemicals

Be made aware of when these products will be used in your neighborhood.

By Heather Cudworth

We've all heard how dangerous herbicides and pesticides used outdoors can be to wildlife, but somehow many of us forget that they are toxic to humans as well. 2,4-D, one of the most common chemicals used in lawn herbicides, is considered to be "possibly carcinogenic to humans" by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and has been linked to increased risks of Parkinson's disease, autoimmunity, and thyroid disease. Glyphosate and Dicamba, two other common herbicide ingredients, have been shown in studies to increase the risks of some forms of cancer greatly. Is a dandelion-free lawn really worth dying for? Most of us who care about the natural world have probably decided not, but others around us continue to put us at risk.

Fortunately, Wisconsin residents have a way to avoid some of these dangers. Wisconsin law provides for advance notification of landscape sprayings happening on your block or immediately adjacent blocks, if you choose to register. Being on the Wisconsin Landscape Pesticide Registry won't protect you from neighbors who do their own spraying or institutions who have their own employees spray, but any professional applicator has to notify anyone listed on the registry for a particular property about any sprayings at least twelve hours in advance. When you're aware, keeping windows closed and staying away from the sprayed area until after the next heavy rainfall can do a lot toward keeping you, your family members, and your household pets safe!

Go to the [DATCP Home Landscape Pesticide Registry](#) to sign up. The enrollment period runs from November 1 to February 1 and then is good for the whole 2027 spraying season.

Project FeederWatch

This year will mark its 40th anniversary.



Northern Cardinal by Bob Vuxinic

What is FeederWatch?

Project FeederWatch turns your love of feeding birds into scientific discoveries. FeederWatch is a November-April survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. While most people focus on birds coming to bird feeding stations, you don't even need a feeder! All you need is an area from which you like to watch birds. Plus, the schedule is completely flexible: you can count every week or once all winter, for as much or as little time as you like. Learn more and Sign up at: [FeederWatch](#)

A little history

According to the official history, the project's roots trace back to the Ontario Bird Feeder Survey launched in 1976 at Long Point Bird Observatory in Canada. That survey expanded into the United States in the late 1970s, and in 1986 it was formally established under the name FeederWatch.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada have continued the project ever since, with the first large-scale U.S. rollout occurring in the winter of 1987–88 [FeederWatch](#). As of 2025, the project has been active for 39 years (1986–2025). This long-running dataset is one of the most extensive citizen science collections in ornithology, allowing researchers to track winter bird abundance, distribution, and trends over decades.

Heard of Bird Friendly Coffee?

Try a cup on us at one of our upcoming meetings.

Bird Friendly® coffee is 100% shade-grown and Smithsonian-certified organic, protecting bird habitats while promoting sustainable coffee and cocoa farming.



[Learn more online!](#)

What is Bird Friendly Coffee?

Bird Friendly® coffee is certified by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and represents the highest standard for environmentally sustainable coffee. To earn this certification, coffee must be shade-grown under a canopy of trees, providing a rich, forest-like habitat for migratory and local birds. The farms maintain biodiversity, tree height, and foliage cover, creating a natural ecosystem that supports wildlife while producing high-quality coffee beans.

This coffee is also organic and often Fair Trade certified, ensuring that it is grown without harmful chemicals and supports ethical labor practices. Shade-grown coffee matures more slowly than sun-grown coffee, resulting in beans that are richer in oils and sugars, which enhances flavor and aroma.

Environmental and Ethical Benefits

- Supports bird conservation: Provides critical habitat for migratory and local birds
- Protects biodiversity: Maintains native trees, shrubs, and plants that shelter wildlife
- Sustainable farming: Encourages family-run farms in Latin America to adopt eco-friendly practices

Choosing **Smithsonian Bird Friendly® coffee** allows you to enjoy **high-quality, flavorful coffee** while actively supporting **bird conservation, biodiversity, and sustainable farming practices**. Look for the official Bird Friendly label to ensure the coffee meets the strict certification standards, rather than relying on generic "shade-grown" or "bird-friendly" marketing claims.

Want more of the scoop?

Watch the following webinars and documentaries on YouTube:

- [Mighty Migrations 2026: Kirstin Hill, Bird-Friendly Coffee](#)
- [Bird Friendly Certified Coffee: Proudly Serving Biodiversity!](#)
- [Conservation Science: Amanda Rodewald Discusses Shade Grown Coffee](#)
- [Shade Grown Coffee: Bird Conservation in Your Cup with Katie Fallon](#)



UNSEEN NEIGHBORS: WHAT'S BEING SWEEPED AWAY WITH YOUR LEAVES?



**MOURNING CLOAK
BUTTERFLY**
(Adult form; shelters
under leaf litter)



GLOW WORM
(and Firefly
Larvae form)



**POLYPHEMUS
MOTH**
(Adult form; cocoons
are within leaves)



LUNA MOTH
(Adult form; cocoons
are hidden within leaves)



harvestsavvy.com

WHY 'LEAVE THE LEAVES'?

Leaf litter is a critical, complex overwintering habitat for thousands of beneficial insects, providing food and shelter that ensures spring life. Bagging them up is a huge loss.

#LEAVETHELEAVES



A WORLD FULL OF FUNGI



This Fall produced an abundance of different types of fungus.

By Kevin Dickey

The wet, rainy summer weather made for an autumn that put on quite a show for those willing to take the time to look. Different forms of fungus are found virtually everywhere throughout the world, even in our own bodies. In the woods, however, these rather intriguing organisms perform some very important tasks, such as decomposing organic materials so they can return to the soil, creating beneficial symbiotic relationships with plants through a network of roots, and facilitating ecological balance as part of the food chain in various ways. I encourage you to take a look at the photos I took on a few of my outings earlier this fall to get a sense of the amazing diversity of this unique life form.

Disclaimer: Wild fungi can be notoriously difficult to identify from a single photograph alone, and many species are inedible or toxic. Never consume any wild mushroom without an in-person verification by a qualified mycologist.



Giant Puffball



False Turkey Tail



Shrimp of the Woods



Dog Vomit Slime Mold



White Jelly Fungus



Zoned Cork-tooth



Mustard Yellow Polypore



Violet-toothed Polypore



Pine Dye Polypore



Green Elfcups



Shingled Hedgehog



Honey Mushrooms



Smooth Parasol



Short-stemmed Slippery Jack



Brittlegill



White Button Mushrooms



Dyer's Polypore



Clouded Agaric



American Slippery Jack



White Cheese Polypore



Amethyst Deceiver



Ganoderma sessile



Pigskin Poison Puffball



Hoof fungus

Field Trip

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Geneva Lake Shoreline – Walworth County, WI



Join us for a birding outing along the shores of beautiful Geneva Lake. We will stop at various points along the lakeshore and look for birds, primarily waterfowl. This area is a “Birding Hotspot” on eBird, as 139 different species of birds have been reported.

We will meet behind the Lake Geneva Public Library ([918 W Main Street, Lake Geneva, WI](https://www.lakelandaudubon.com/contact)) along the Lake Geneva shore path to start the field trip. Dress appropriately for the weather, as conditions along Geneva Lake at this time of year can be quite blustery.

Please contact us and let us know if you are interested in attending this field trip.

<https://lakelandaudubon.com/contact> Call or Text: +1 (262) 729-9702

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Bird Walks

Saturdays

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Big Foot Beach State Park

N1550 S Lakeshore Drive, Lake Geneva, WI

Meet in the main parking area to the right of the entrance station a little before 11:00 AM. A state park sticker (\$28, \$13 if age 65 or older) or daily pass (\$8, \$3 if age 65 or older) is required to enter Big Foot Beach State Park.

Sundays

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

White River County Park

6503 Sheridan Springs Road, Lyons, WI

Get out and enjoy one of the best parks Walworth County has to offer. We'll walk the trails and be on the lookout for birds and other critters. We'll also watch for plant blooms and other interesting elements of nature. Meet at the kiosk by the parking lot a little before 11:00 AM.

Please contact us to let us know you are interested in attending a walk.

<https://lakelandaudubon.com/contact>

Call or Text: +1 (262) 729-9702

The Chat is the newsletter of the Lakeland Audubon Chapter of the National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 473, Elkhorn, WI 53121. Subscription is \$15 per year for printed copies sent by US mail.