

# The Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Vol. 35, No. 4  
March/April 2008



## The Great Lakes: What You Can Do to Help!

By June Summers

In the previous three Meadowlarks Loretta Morrell outlined the legislative actions that are on going to clean up and restore the Great Lakes. How can you help? The following items will give you a few ideas:

- Prescription medication doesn't belong in our waste water stream, which ends up in Lake Ontario. For years we were told to pour out-dated prescription medication into the toilet and flush it. The technology in our sewage treatment plants has not changed significantly since World War II and was not designed to remove prescription drugs. Unfortunately a percentage of many of the prescriptions we use are passed through our bodies un-used. Birth control medication is particularly hazardous because it can bring about sexual changes in fish and other aquatic organisms. If you need to dispose of unused medication, put it in the trash. If you want to make sure it does not get into the hands of someone else, crush it, add some water put it back in the bottle, add small strips of newspaper, paper towels, cat litter or sand.
- Storm sewers: don't pour anything down them except water. The only storm sewers in Monroe County that empty into a water treatment plant are the one in the

City. The storm sewers in all other town in Monroe County go untreated into nearby streams. These small streams flow into larger ones that flow into Lake Ontario.

- If you canoe or kayak, and are not someone with a licensed boat, you might not know to wash your boat between uses. Your small boats can carry small invasive species that clog our water ways and use natural resource in excess depriving our native species.
- Use less fertilizer on your lawn. This is especially important if a stream runs through your lawn. Leave 10-15 ft wide borders of brush, small trees or tall grass along the stream to act as a filter. This border will act as a filter to keep the fertilizer out of the stream.
- Do you have standing water in your yard in the spring? Are you tempted to put in a drain? Let it stand. By allowing the water to filter through the soil or evaporate it is filtered and cleaned as it enters back into the water system.
- To learn more about the issues facing the Great Lakes visit the Healing Our Waters coalition website, <http://www.healingourwaters.org>.
- Finally, you can help by joining the Audubon Action network, <http://audubonaction.org/audubon/join.html>. Join our part-

ner in the fight to clean up and preserve the Great Lakes, Environmental Advocates of NY, <http://www.eany.org/issues/greatlakes.html>,

### Thank You!

Thank you!

Thank you to all the Annual Campaign 2007 Donors. We know that each and every gift was from your heart.

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## March Program

Wednesday, March 26, 2008, 7:30 p.m.  
Brighton Town Hall Downstairs Meeting Room  
2300 Elmwood Avenue, Brighton

### The Great Lakes, How Do We Protect Them?

The five Great Lakes (Huron, Michigan, Superior, Erie and Ontario) contain an estimated 6 quadrillion gallons of fresh water, with only the polar ice caps and Lake Baikal in Siberia containing more. This translates into nearly one fifth of the world's freshwater supply, and about 95% of North America's fresh water supply.

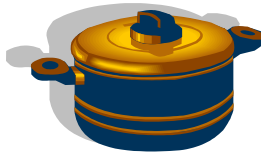
Rochester is located on one of the largest fresh water lakes in the world, Lake Ontario. This enormous natural resource is coveted by the rest of the world. How do we clean up the pollution problem areas? How do we protect the Great Lakes from aquatic invasive species that threaten biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, natural resources, and human health? How do we keep the wetland ecosystems that border the lakes intact, and keep the fresh water here? Wayne Howard of the Rochester chapter of the Sierra Club will update us on international, national, and state legislation that addresses these issues.

## April Program

Wednesday, April 23, 2007 6:30 pm  
Carmen Clark Lodge, Brighton Town Park  
777 Westfall Road, Brighton

### Members and Friends Night

Our annual potluck supper. Please bring a dish to pass, slides, pictures or an item to share. Don't forget your plate and silverware.



If your last name begins with A – L please bring a vegetable or dessert. If your last name begins with M – Z please bring a main dish. We will provide lemonade and iced tea.

## Teachers, Flying Wild Workshop

Is an educational program offered by the same folks that brought you Project Wild. Flying Wild focuses on birds and their conservation. Workshops will be scheduled for this winter. If you are a teacher and interested in hearing more about this program, call David Semple, (585) 223-8369.

## First Sunday Hikes 2008

### Ellison Park, Blossom Road

Genesee Valley Audubon will meet in the parking lot off Blossom Rd. marked Orchard Grove and Creekside Lodges. We will meet in the corner of the parking lot near the road away from the parking lot entrance. This park the Irondequoit Creek bottom land; therefore it is wet and hilly.

#### Please Wear Boots.

**WARNING: This is a very DOGGY park**, if you don't like dogs this is not the park for you.

Call June Summers at (585) 865-6047 before the hike if you have questions; you might not be able to reach her the day of the hike.

March 2 - 3:00 p.m.

April 6 - 3:00 p.m.

May 4 - 8:00 a.m.

June 1 - 8:00 a.m.

July 6 - 8:00 a.m.

Aug. 3 - 8:00 a.m.

Sept. 7 - 3:00 p.m.

Oct. 5 - 3:00 p.m.

Nov. 2 - 3:00 p.m.

Dec. 7 - 3:00 p.m.

## Winter Field Trip

Save the Date: Sat. March 15, 2008

Joni Dubner will lead a winter hike (no more than 2 hours) in Mendon Ponds Park. Come out, walk a trail and feed the chickadees, tufted titmice & nuthatches while enjoying nature. Fun for the whole family!! All are welcome to participate in this outdoor adventure on selected Saturdays.



We will meet at 9 am in the Nature Center Parking lot on Pond Rd off of Clover St (the southernmost of the 3 park entrances off Clover) Bring sunflower seeds and dress for the weather (wear boots, warm clothes, etc.) Seed will be provided with a donation.

## Environmental Forum

On Thursday, April 19, the Sierra Club will host its annual environmental forum at the First Unitarian Church at 220 South Winton Road. This year's theme is *Transportation Alternatives for Rochester – A Vision for the Future*. Several prominent speakers involved with alternative fuel choices have been invited to speak. The forum begins at 6:00 pm; the first speaker will begin at 7:15 pm.

## Wanted: Sponsors for the Rochester Falconcam



As spring is approaching so is the beginning of another year with Genesee Valley Audubon Society managing the Rochester Falconcam. Genesee Valley Audubon relies on corporate sponsorship to continue to bring the high quality images that are enjoyed from the Rochester Falconcam. There are still some sponsorship opportunities available for the 2008 season.

The four levels of corporate sponsorship are platinum, gold, silver and sponsorship. All levels will recognize your generosity with a link to your company's website on the Rochester Falconcam's Sponsorship page. Larger donations will lead to more prominent placement of your company's logo. Our platinum, gold and silver levels will give 10 of your employees the opportunity to participate in a Falcon Watch with an experienced guide. Plus Genesee Valley Audubon will display your company brochure at its table during the International Migratory Bird Day event held May 10-11, 2008.

The benefits increase with each sponsorship level, with the platinum sponsor (donations of \$10,000.00 or more) having the opportunity to name a young falcon in accordance with guidelines established by GVAS and the Rochester Falconcam.

For further information about corporate sponsorship please contact Lisa McKeown at (585) 899-9616 or by email at [sponsorship@rfalconcam.com](mailto:sponsorship@rfalconcam.com).



Looking for hungry chickadees on a recent GVAS walk in Mendon Ponds Park led by Joni Dubner. The next walk is March 15.

## Biofuels-Promises and Problems

Monday, March 24  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Brighton Town Hall Auditorium  
2300 Elmwood Avenue

The Federation of Monroe County Environmentalists invites the public to join them in a participatory discussion lead by Jeff Gutterman, chairman Delphi's next generation fuels forum, and Jason Masters, president Northern Biodiesel. Free. For more information check out the FMCE website at [fmce.org](http://fmce.org) or contact Sally Howard at 507-2112.

### High Acres Landfill Tour

On Monday, May 19 at 3:00 pm, The Federation of Monroe County Environmentalists is planning a fieldtrip to Waste Management's High Acres Landfill venue. Participants will meet at High Acres and then be bused around the facility for a tour of the landfill itself as well as the methane plant. Only a few seats remain and they will be assigned first come first serve. If interested contact Mary Ann Cady at (585) 248-8959.

Saturday, April 5 at 8:00 am the Rochester Birding Association (RBA) will also offer a birding trip of the same area. Many species of birds have been noted migrating through the area; sixty species have been reported breeding in the area during previous breeding bird surveys.

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# *The Meadowlark*

P.O. Box 886, Adams Basin, NY 14410-0886

GVAS: A chapter of the National Audubon Society

The mission of GVAS is to promote conservation of the environment through education and to advocate for its protection, focusing on birds and other wildlife in western New York.

**Keep up-to-date with our NEW web site, [www.gvaudubon.org](http://www.gvaudubon.org)**

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*The Meadowlark* is published the 1st of September, November, January, March, and April. Articles for the Meadowlark should be submitted four weeks prior to the date of publication. Send articles to Joanne Mitchell, 169 Black Walnut Dr., Rochester, NY 14615, or at [GJMitch@localnet.com](mailto:GJMitch@localnet.com).

**Meadowlark staff:** *Editor & Layout*, Joanne Mitchell; *Business Editor*, vacant; *Printing*, Community News; *Distribution*, vacant.

## **Woodcarvers Show April 12**

The Genesee Valley Woodcarvers invite members of the Audubon Society to attend their 24th Annual Show, Competition, and Sale. Categories include waterfowl, seabirds and shorebirds, songbirds, birds of prey, and working decoys. Most club members are avid birders and would be delighted to share their avian carvings with other appreciative bird lovers.

Genesee Valley Woodcarvers Show  
Rochester Museum and Science Center  
Eisenhart Auditorium

657 East Avenue, Rochester, New York  
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (free soap carving for children at 2:00)

Free Admission

Raffle of works by local artists (prize pictures on web)

More info at: [www.gvwoodcarvers.com](http://www.gvwoodcarvers.com)