



SMOKY HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2936 Salina, Kansas 67402-2936

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Think globally...act locally!

January—February—March 2025



## Bob Gress to speak on Warblers January 16th

In the United States and Canada, there are over 50 species of regular occurring members of the Wood-Warblers family, *Parulidae*. Many are brightly colored and searching for them and seeing them is both challenging and memorable. They're small, active and most occupy the highest parts of trees or the densest parts of the understory. Their variety of colors, behaviors, and habitats make them favorites for many birdwatchers. Warblers are also some of the most challenging birds to photograph! Unlike most programs about birds, this is not about identification. Join us as we discover things we never learn from bird field guides! Bob Gress is the former director of the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita and co-founder of [www.BirdsInFocus.com](http://www.BirdsInFocus.com).

Bob has photographed wildlife in wild places throughout North American, Central America, South America, Asia, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. Over 5,000 of his wildlife photos have been published and have been seen in a variety of magazines and in more than eighty books. Currently, Pete Janzen and Bob are finishing up ***The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hot Spots, Second Edition, Revised and Expanded***.

Our September program will be held in Room 229 of the Peters Science Hall. The public is invited to meet our speaker at 7:00 pm, the program begins at 7:30.



## February 20th Tyler Glidden McPherson Museum

Tyler Glidden took over his role as Executive Director of the McPherson Museum & Arts Foundation on Dec. 15, 2022. A native of Washington, Kan., Glidden moved to McPherson in 2016. Most recently, he served as the senior director and wellness director for the McPherson Family YMCA and the McPherson Recreation Commission.

Glidden is a 2010 graduate of Fort Hays State University and earned his graduate degree in 2012. His past experience includes coordination of continuing education programming for the University of Kansas Medical Center Education Center in Hays. He also spent time as an adjunct professor for Central Christian College of Kansas.



Tyler Glidden

In his spare time, Glidden enjoys the outdoors, volunteering, barbecuing, and spending time with his family of five. Glidden enjoys talking with museum visitors and working with community partners to help grow the museum. He finds non-profit work to be rewarding and enjoy working on community projects. The McPherson Museum was founded in 1890 as part of McPherson College before it partnered with the City of McPherson in 1968. The McPherson Museum & Arts Foundation was formed in 1984 and took control of the museum in 1998. The current location, 1111 E. Kansas, was built in 2013. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 1 :00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., admission is free.

The meeting will be in room 229 in Kansas Wesleyan's Peters Science Hall. You may come early and meet the speaker at 7:00 with the program beginning at 7:30.



## The View from My Perch By Cheryl Higgins



Winter has finally reached us. As I am writing this vehicles are sliding off the icy roads and we are preparing for a blizzard. I pray for all that have to be out reach home with all their loved ones. We have been praying for precipitation, rain is wonderful but if it comes as snow at least that is something. I have to admit that I do love sitting in my warm house watching the snow come down and coat everything with it's beauty. The snow drifts piling up in such an artful way. I do love a winter wonderland.



My feeders are all a flutter as well. The Red-Bellied and Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Titmouse, Cardinals, Juncos, Finches and Sparrows. Their visits bring such joy. I wonder if they are going to be as impressed with the weather as I am. We are truly blessed to have our house all around us and heated.

The Christmas Bird Count went well. We had 21 people participate. Almost 1/3 of them it was their first time. It was so exciting to see familiar faces, most all have been to other events. I hope that they all had a fun experience. As a group we spotted 66 total species and 5,662 individual birds.

The temperature and the wind was better than some years. I was disappointed that the water was frozen. In our quadrant we did not see any water fowl, which is very unusual we even made two stops just to make sure. We did see a bald eagle and a barred owl in the morning.

Many thanks to Dr Byron Grauerholz for his work on compiling all of the information that was obtained in each quadrant and getting that sent off. He is an avid birder with much expertise and I am excited to tell you that he has agreed to do our presentation next November at KWU. He will share more on how we do the Christmas Bird Count, the different jobs there are and common and not so common birds that you might see.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all again when our presentations start back up on January 16th. We have a fun filled year planned and I hope that you will enjoy. I pray you all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Audubon group trip planned March 22nd to Maxwell wildlife refuge

Now is the time to make your reservations for a 10:00 am tram tour at the Maxwell wildlife refuge. The tour consist of a ride in large trams that take about 45 minutes and are led by Bisson experts that will share there knowledge of the Maxwell preserve and the 250+ bison that occupy the open range. Cost of the tour is \$15.00 Call Cheryl at 785-577-2408

You will be up close to the bison so bring your cameras and record the event. Reservations are required to make sure they have enough capacity for everyone.

The refuge is located in McPherson County about six miles north of Canton. Its story began in 1859 when Henry Gault Maxwell drove a small herd of bison to the area and established a homestead. He later dreamed of preserving a piece of the prairie so future generations could experience what the region was like before it was settled.



Smoky Hills Audubon has made several trips over the years to enjoy the buffalo in their natural habitat. The photo from an October trip in 2018 found everyone bundled up for the chilly weather





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## March 20th Benjamin Reed, Washburn University biology professor

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Benjamin Reed is returning to Smoky Hills Audubon because his program was so well received and our members want him back! Dr. Benjamin Reed, he goes where turtles go, and that can include a thorny forest, a sunbaked prairie, a patch of poison ivy or elbow-deep in a dark hole. Like a submarine sonar technician, field biologists listen to a receiver and the faint changes in volume as they sweep the Yagi antenna around, walking in the direction that produces the loudest beeps, like a game of hot and cold.

Reed and his students record the location, weight and size of each turtle they locate. They keep track throughout the year of when turtles become active in the spring, when they start brumation in the fall and how much they may move throughout a year.

“Having this iconic species of the Midwest, it's not going to look good if our populations in Kansas go away because we're not doing practice that conserves them and manages them appropriately,” Reed said. “Box turtles are actually a really important component of an ecosystem. They can live 35 to 50 years, some up to 100. I'm hoping to track the same turtles for 35 or more years.”

The meeting will be in room 229 in Kansas Wesleyan's Peters Science Hall. You may come early and meet the speaker at 7:00 with the program beginning at 7:30.



## The Public is Invited to celebrate National Prairie Day on June 7th Tours - Native plants - Birding - Hiking at our own little pond on the prairie

Smoky Hills Audubon invites everyone to visit our Little Pond on the Prairie on National Prairie Day in 2025. . The **Purpose is to** raise awareness about the importance of prairie ecosystems and their preservation . Smoky Hills Audubon invites the general public to celebrate National Prairie Day at the Sanctuary, 2700 West Stimmel Road. *National Prairie Day* is celebrated annually on the first Saturday of June.

It was created by the Missouri Prairie Foundation to raise awareness of a North American ecosystem that has

a significant biodiversity value and needs preservation. The Dyck Arboretum will have a representative at the event with native plants to sell. The arboretum sold a lot of plants last year to local gardeners seeking quality native plants. Prairies are characterized by a combination of grasses, herbs and shrubs as the dominant type of vegetation, moderate rainfall, and a temperate climate.





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Organization  
POSTAGE

**PAID**

Permit # 90  
Salina KS 67401

Looking for us on the web? We invite you to explore [www.smokyhillsaudubon.com](http://www.smokyhillsaudubon.com) If you have suggestions or contributions contact Mark at [markneubrand@gmail.com](mailto:markneubrand@gmail.com)

Look for us on Facebook <https://smokyhillsaudubon.com/>

### Activities Calendar

**January 16th** — Bob Gress Chasing Warblers

**February 1st**—Master Naturalist nestbox  
Academy Olathe KS

**February 20th** — Tyler Glidden McPherson  
Museum

**March 14th noon** Smoky Valley Home Edu-  
cators field trip to the sanctuary

**March 20th** — Benjamin Reed Turtles

**March 22nd**—10 am trip to the Maxwell  
Wildlife Refuge Reservations required

**April 17th** — Victoria Burnett Great Plains  
Nature Center in Wichita

**May 15th** — Jason Graves Monarchs

**June 7th** National Prairie Days

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<b>SMOKY HILLS AUDUBON HAROLD LEAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY</b>	David Higgins <a href="mailto:chedavhiggins@gmail.com">chedavhiggins@gmail.com</a> 785-577-2409 The 67 acre Sanctuary located at 2800 West Stimmel Road is open to the public from dawn to dusk and has 2.5+ miles of hiking trails of prairie, woodlands and pond banks.
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