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**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

By Joe Tollari

A couple of summers ago, I finally had enough as I watched my otherwise healthy tomato plants dry up from the dreaded tomato blight. I took the advice of all of the garden experts and decided to let the soil in my little garden plot rest a couple of years to rid the soil of the blight. Last year, I planted three very prolific zucchini plants. (Not going to do that again!) This year, I gave up on vegetables, bought my produce from the Farmers' Market, and planted flowers – zinnias to be specific.

In the meantime, Dubuque Audubon Society participated the North American Butterfly Association's, Fourth of July Butterfly Count. We had teams at Mines of Spain and Swiss Valley counting butterflies. I joined Craig Kruse at Swiss Valley. There were quite a few Monarchs this year. Hopefully, their numbers are, at least, remaining stable. Shortly after that, the zinnias started blooming, and I noticed that butterflies were attracted to the blossoms. In fact, the zinnias brought in more butterflies than my purple coneflower and butterfly milkweed ever did. As long as there were no sudden movements on my part, I could stand

next to my patch of flowers and get great views as they came in to feed.



I may not have had a great variety, but there was a constant parade of butterflies. In addition to Monarch, I had Silver-spotted Skipper, Black Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail, Painted Lady, and Cabbage White butterflies. The Cabbage Whites seemed to prefer the flowering basil over the zinnias. There were even Goldfinches and hummingbirds visiting from time to time. It was an interesting summer.





## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Recently, the Dubuque Audubon Society received two memorial contributions.

The first donation was in the name of **Phoebe Ernzen**. Phoebe and her husband, Delbert, were avid naturalists who loved sunflowers and Bald Eagles. She found great joy in watching the natural world in her backyard. She instilled that love of nature in her children. Her oldest son, Peter, was an accomplished birdwatcher when he was in high school – not a common hobby for a high schooler.

The second donation was in the name of **Howard and Joan Higley**. Howard and Joan were active in the Dubuque Audubon Society and other conservation organizations in the Tri-States. Howard liked being out in nature and gradually picked up birdwatching from Joan. He once confided that it was Joan who was the more persistent birder. They believed strongly that we need to educate the next generation in wildlife and conservation issues. Joan was a great promoter of the Audubon Adventures program and worked to provide these nature materials to every fifth grade classroom in Dubuque.

*We thank the families of Phoebe Ernzen and Howard and Joan Higley for their generous contributions. The Board will find an appropriate project to honor them.*

## TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR HUMMINGBIRDS HAPPY

THIS ARTICLE WAS MODIFIED FROM BIRDS.COM

It's easy to attract **wild hummingbirds** to your yard – use red feeders filled with sugar-water. The feeders are available at most gardening and bird seed stores. The easiest ones to maintain seem to be the “doughnut-shaped” perch feeders! What you may not know, however, is that your sugar-water could actually hurt your birds! Follow these two basic guidelines, to ensure the health of your colorful feathered friends:

- Refresh the sugar-water (1/4 cup sugar per cup water) every 2-4 days. Sugar water can ferment quickly. The hummingbirds will continue to drink it, but the fermented mixture enlarges their livers, causing health problems. Do your iridescent friends a favor, and keep changing the feeder's water, especially in hot weather. Wash the feeder while you're at it: use only hot water and a scrub-brush, no soaps.
- Only use sugar! Avoid red food coloring – it may not be good for the birds. The red colors on the feeder itself should be enough to attract them. Use a simple mixture of four parts water to one part table sugar. Avoid any other sweeteners like honey, which will ferment more quickly.



**Don't have the time to keep cleaning that bird feeder? Consider hanging some flower baskets by your windows instead – fuchsias and petunias are a few hummingbird favorites.**

### OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us!

- President:** Joe Tollari 563-583-2077  
**V-Pres.:** Ken Kiss  
**Secretary:** Wayne Buchholtz  
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 Allie Schmalz Lalith Jayawickrama  
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**Newsletter:** Michele Zuercher  
**Conservation:** Charlie Winterwood 563-588-2783  
**Marketing:** Allie Schmalz  
**Iowa Audubon Liaison:** Joe Tollari 563-583-2077  
**Web Master:** Jan Friedman: [Janfrdmn@gmail.com](mailto:Janfrdmn@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.audubondubuque.org](http://www.audubondubuque.org)



# **D**UBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



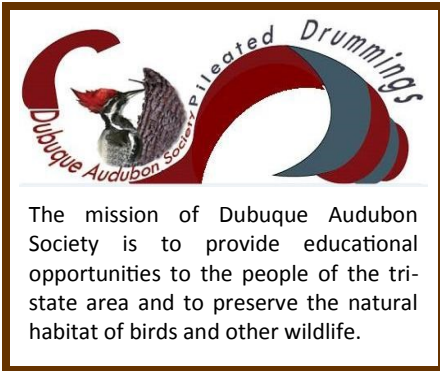
<b>October 10th Thursday</b>	<b>Dubuque Audubon Program: Decoding the Driftless</b>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque.                      5:00PM – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting                      6:00PM – The video explores the formation of this unique landform and the physical features found here. You'll soar over ancient rugged bluffs, skim the surface of primordial rivers, marvel at sacred archeological sites, and venture into deep underground secret worlds. (one hour in length)</p>
<b>October 11th Friday</b>	<b>Stars &amp; S'mores</b>	<p>7:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd, Peosta. Come and enjoy a night of stargazing and a campfire at Swiss Valley Nature Center. Program will only take place if it's a clear night.</p>
<b>October 13th Sunday</b>	<b>Walking Stick: Make Your Own</b>	<p>10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd, Peosta. Every good hike starts with the perfect walking stick. Hike along the trails and find the perfect one for you or use one of the pieces of drift wood we collected. Then come in to the nature center and spend some time decorating your stick to make it your own. Stick and supplies provided until we run out!</p>
<b>October 25th Friday</b>	<b>Halloween Hike</b>	<p>6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd, Peosta. Join us for a non-scary hike! Walk the illuminated trail and meet some colorful characters at this family favorite event. Stop into the nature center before or after your hike for Halloween crafts, face painting, smores, and a Halloween movie. Hikes leave every 15 minutes, and you must be pre-registered. Cost \$3/person (ages 4 and up). Registration link <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>October 27th Sunday</b>	<b>Honey Bees 101</b>	<p>1:00 PM – 2:00 PM. Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd, Peosta. Honey bees are an amazing insect! Come to learn all about these fantastic pollinators - from how the hive functions to the products they make and how we use them. Finally check out the nature center's very own observation hive! Note: This is not a formal beekeeping class however we will have additional resources for you at this program if you are interested in that aspect of honey bees.</p>
<b>November 10th Sunday</b>	<b>Bird Feeder Workshop</b>	<p>2:00 PM. Hurstville Interpretive Center, 18670 63rd Street, Maquoketa. Get ready to feed your winter visitors! This workshop will provide the materials and instruction for you to build a bird feeder to take home. We'll talk about the different options for bird seed. Cost is \$7. Registration required by November 3rd-call (563) 652-3783.</p>

**Dubuque Audubon Society**

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Dubuque IA 52004-3174

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**DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY**

**NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

If you are a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically a member of the local Audubon Society and do not need to sign-up separately.

Do NOT use this form to renew a membership in National Audubon Society. Use the form mailed to you by the National Audubon. There are two categories of memberships in the Dubuque Audubon Society.

**LOCAL MEMBERSHIP:** This category of membership is local chapter only. You will receive 9 issues of the local chapter newsletter, Pileated Drummings. All funds will remain with the local chapter. Membership year is from July to June.

\_\_\_\_\_ Local Chapter Dues \$10.00

**NATIONAL & LOCAL MEMBERSHIP:** If you wish to become a member of both local and national:

Go to Audubon.org → Click on "JOIN" then "Become a member"

The membership in National is \$20 per year. Any amount you give above that is considered a donation. The National membership automatically gives you membership in the local group in addition to the award winning Audubon magazine. It is a good idea to note the month you joined so you will not be confused by multiple early reminders.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

CODE: C1ZH900Z

Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society.

Mail to:

**Dubuque Audubon Society  
PO Box 3174  
Dubuque, IA 52004-3174**