

Flathead Audubon Society (FAS)
Report for COCEEC Meeting Spring 2010
www.flatheadaudubon.org

Owen Sowerwine Natural Area: Owen Sowerwine's status as a Natural Area has been secured for another 10 years! At the end of February we signed a new 10 year license with Mt Department of Natural Resources. Owen Sowerwine is a 442 acre parcel of School Trust Land in the braided section of the Flathead River, with a portion of the Stillwater running through it. FAS continues to monitor useage and maintenance. Sign on to volunteer for the Spring/Summer monitoring season. See our website for more info.

May Potluck and Silent Auction: Come join us on May 10th for the final meeting of the season at Whitefish Community Center for our traditional business meeting, potluck and silent auction .

Beauty of Birds: Flathead Audubon's Spring Birding course will be held Wednesday evenings in April in Kalispell. The theme this year is "Birding Hotspots." Sign up and join us at Flathead High School. There will also be a bird class held in Whitefish this year! May 13. See website for details.

Spring Field Trips: Exciting trips planned for Spring. See our website for details. Smith Lake, Call of the Barred Owl, Marty Cohen Stroll and International Migratory Bird Day.

TogetherGreen Fellowship: Flathead Audubon's Conservation Educator, Nancy Zapotocki, is one of 40 individuals nationwide selected as a 2009 *TogetherGreen* Fellow by National Audubon and Toyota. Nancy will be working on a watershed education, habitat restoration and peer mentoring project with at-risk students and others at the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area and State Important Bird Area. The goal is to increase watershed knowledge and stewardship of the local environment, as well as to inspire personal discovery and growth. The classroom and field work will occur this Spring.

General Meeting Program: April 12th will feature FAS Board member and Wildlife Biologist Steve Gniadek speaking on wildlife research and monitoring projects in Glacier National Park during the past decade. 7 PM at The Summit in Kalispell.

Conservation Education: Spring 2010 activities include:

- School, pre-school and community presentations on birds and habitat and conservation education: Creston Hatchery Days, Tally Lake program, "Our Nesting Neighbors" at Kalispell Library.
- Riparian Media Campaign led and coordinated by Flathead Conservation District. Kick-off April 19th. Education on the importance of riparian and vegetation buffers. Partners: Flathead Conservation District w/ Flathead Audubon, Missoula WQD, Gallatin WQD, Lewis and Clark County WQD, Ravalli and Lake County Enviro Health.
- Earth Day – Keep the Flathead Clean and Green. Education booths and activities for the family at Depot Park in Kalispell. April 17th from 9 AM to noon. Sponsored by Kalispell Parks and Recreation.
- Flathead Forestry Expo. Saturday May 8th. Education booths and activities for families. Live birds with Lynn Vaught and Wildlife Return.
- Planning for 3rd Annual Raptor Day in Memory of Rod Ash at Lone Pine State Park by Flathead Audubon and Lone Pine State Park with partial funding by Art Ortenberg. Make a note of the date in your calendars – September 11th!
- Pileated Post new "Kidz Korner" on local natural history, includes activities. Send in writings from your budding student authors!! "Kids sharing nature with kids."
- CORE *Watershed Education Committee*. Continue work with graduate student Lori Curtis and Committee on Watershed Source Book, includes natural and cultural history and impacts on the watershed and successes. Due to be completed 2010.