

➤ JAS Programs Are Moving! <

Jayhawk Audubon Society's monthly programs will be at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center beginning with the March 25 program by Roger Boyd. All future programs are scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Discovery Center.

(continued on page 2)



Sandy Sanders Honored For Her Work with the LANP!

The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) has selected Sandy, JAS Education Chair, to receive an award for excellence, leadership and achievement in environmental education. The award recognizes Sandy's 13 years of work devising, bringing to fruition and expanding JAS's Learning About Nature Project (originally called the Wakarusa Wetland Learners Project).

Over 10,000 students have benefited from the LANP—a number to be proud of. For many children the field trip is their first time to experience a natural outdoor place. Sandy—and your contributions to JAS—made that possible.

The dinner and award ceremony is Friday, April 5, 2019, at the Sunset Zoo in Manhattan. Buy tickets on the KACEE website: http:// www.kacee.org/. Others from JAS will be going, so carpooling may be possible. Contact us through the JAS website to see about that.

Sandy credits many others for LANP's success. See page 3 for her LANP story.

Monday, March 25th Australia: The Wildlife Down Under

Australia is nearly as large as the continental US making it difficult to visit a representative sample of the country. On their 29 day tour Roger and Jan Boyd visited the west, east, and south coasts with a short extension to Tasmania. Although difficult to sum up in a few words, Australia is the land of parrots and kangaroos. Both were seen everywhere and in a wide variety of shapes, colors, and life styles from small Swift Parrots to the enormous Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo and from the rabbit-sized Red-necked Pademelon to the 6 ft. tall Red Kangaroo. Like the US, Australia is a land of contrasts and Roger's presentation will give us a taste of Australia's astonishing variety.

Roger Boyd received a BS degree from Baker University, a MS from Emporia State University, and a Ph.D. from Colorado State University before returning to Baker University to teach biology, be department chair, and director of the Baker Wetlands. He recently retired as Professor Emeritus of Biology after 42 years of service. Roger was involved with development and implementation of the mitigation plan for the K-10 project which expanded the wetlands by 410 acres and provided over 11 miles of trails and the Discovery Center for Baker students and the public to better enjoy and experience the wetlands. With his wife Jan, Roger has organized and led over 25 natural history tours to the tropics for the benefit of students and adults alike. They have traveled to 21 countries and 6 continents in the past 30 years. Roger has served on the JAS Board various times since 1978.

> ~ Joyce Wolf Program Chair



Note New Location for the Program







BYO Dinner: 5:00 pm. El Potro. 3333 Iowa St. To come to dinner RSVP to Joyce Wolf: jarbwolf39@gmail.com or 785-887-6019

Program: 7:00 pm. Baker Wetlands Discovery Center. 1365 N. 1250 Road, Lawrence

<u>Directions:</u> https://www.bakeru.edu/wetlands/ Or on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/BakerWetlands/

Jayhawk Audubon Society

City Moves Ahead on Feral Cat Program

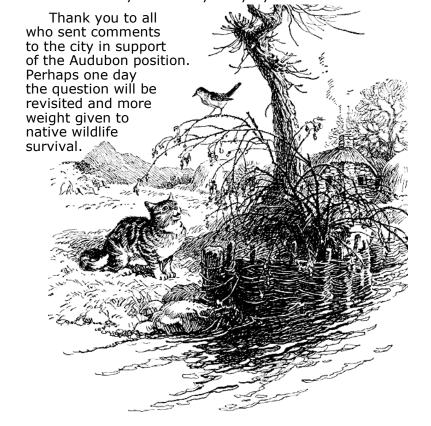
The Lawrence City Commission voted on Feb. 19 to move forward with a Trap-Neuter-Release program for feral cats in the city. The ordinance permitting a TNR program was approved unanimously on first reading. Final approval will be considered at a future meeting.

The TNR program was requested by the Lawrence Humane Society, which said it would rely on volunteers to trap feral cats and take them to a veterinarian to be neutered, vaccinated, and have an ear clipped for identification purposes. Volunteers would then return the cats to the location where they were found.

The board of Jayhawk Audubon Society opposed the changes to city ordinance to allow the TNR program because of the dangers to birds and other wildlife posed by feral, stray, and owned outdoor cats. JAS President Jim Bresnahan relayed our position to the city commission at an earlier hearing and also submitted a written position statement. Our recommendations:

- 1. We urge all cat owners to keep all cats indoors, in a safe enclosed outdoor structure, or on harness or leash if accompanied by a human.
- 2. We support programs to neuter or spay cats before reproductive age and to vaccinate and register cats.
- 3. We oppose "managed" outdoor cat colonies and TNVR programs. We oppose the release of unwanted pet cats and feral cats into the wild.

Our entire statement can be viewed on the JAS website: https://www.jayhawkaudubon.org/ under the Policy tab. ~ Lynn Byczynski



JAS Programs Moving (cont. from page 1)

The board voted for the change at its February meeting, after reviewing the results of a survey about member preferences. The survey was conducted online and in person at the January seed sale. About 13 percent of respondents voted to keep the meetings at the current location, Trinity Lutheran Church. More than 82 percent voted for the Discovery Center. The rest expressed no preference. Nearly 90 percent said they would be more likely to attend or it wouldn't matter if programs were moved to the Discovery Center.

The board considered the change of venue because of problems with our older audio-visual equipment at the church. We hope members and speakers will enjoy the programs more with the high-quality AV system at the Discovery Center.

The survey also asked about preferred location for the bird seed sales, and a majority preferred Baker Wetlands for that as well. However, the board deferred action on that item until we can determine if the seed sale can return to the Senior Center when it reopens later this year.

Thanks to all who took the time to respond to the survey. See you at the Baker Wetlands!

~ Lynn Byczynski for the board

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jbresnahan@ku.edu 785-766-9625

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Black Tern. RSPB

J S Jayhawk Audubon Society

Thoughts from Sandy on the Importance of Environmental Education and the Key Role Partners Played in the Success of the Learning About Nature Project.

The Learning About Nature Project has, in some ways, been a dream-come-true experience in that I've been advocating for environmental education since becoming involved in John Strickler's efforts to train K-12 teachers in EE in the 1970s. I believe the lack of EE throughout children's lives is a contributing factor to Earth's ecosystems being used, abused and ignored rather than conserved, preserved and deeply valued. My parents provided an inherent form of EE that seems to be missing for most kids today. My dad constantly had us outside planting trees, gardening, sledding, playing "fox and geese" in the snow, or sitting around a camp fire. As Richard Louv (author of Last Child in the Woods) often points out, the legislators and policy makers he's met who give environmental issues top priority virtually always developed a deep connection with the natural world at an early age. I'm grateful to have had that youthful experience and to help provide it for many children in the "up close and personal" way made possible through the LANP.

It was JAS Education Chair Rex Powell who encouraged me to become involved in helping JAS improve the impact of its educational outreach funds. I invited a few colleagues to brainstorm possibilities which evolved into the Wakarusa Wetland Learners Project. Partnering with Alison Reber and the staff of the Kaw Valley Heritage Alliance (an organization founded by KACEE award-winner Joyce Wolf!) provided facilitators essential to early field trips. Generally, there was a lot of hesitation by both administrators and teachers about taking time from reading and math, during the No Child Left Behind era, for something most knew nothing about that wasn't even included in the required testing. What was environmental education? Plus, there was virtually no funding for field trips. By doing all the planning and providing funds for busing, as well as offering sessions to prepare teachers, the LANP made EE field trips too good of a deal to pass up. Soon educators began to see the educational benefits for their students and themselves.

Over the past (very lucky) 13 years, the LANP has made it possible for over 10,000 elementary and middle school students to engage personally with the natural world, while learning about ecosystems. It's also enlisted hundreds of university students and community members to facilitate activities, gained support from an array of partnering individuals and organizations, and made scores of teachers and parent chaperones comfortable enough with EE to begin providing it for their students and children themselves.

To top it all off, Roger and Jon Boyd not only were key facilitators at the original Baker Wetlands site, but Discovery Center staff now does the time-consuming, behind-the-scenes work of scheduling the 11 trips, involving all 700-800 6th graders in Lawrence Public Schools, and finding knowledgeable facilitators. Roger's dedication to his vision for the wetlands, in the midst of unprecedented forces--supportive, resistive and everything in between--has also been a powerful model for how passion and perseverance can lead to an outcome that benefits and is valued by more people than ever imagined. Roger, Jon and those on the JAS BOD who've facilitated activities and provided support for the LANP have been essential parts of the project's success.

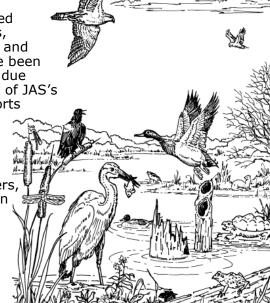
The other major arm of the LANP is thanks to Bob Hagen, KU Field Ecology instructor and a force of nature himself. (I wonder if Bob and Roger ever take time to sleep???) Fall of 2018 was our sixth year of training 35-45 Field Ecology students each year to facilitate activities teaching lake ecology basics to 150-200 6th or 7th graders at Potter Lake. So far, Central, Billy Mills, & West have been to Potter Lake Next year, Southwest will be offered the opportunity.

The LANP has been, and continues to be, a wild ride—full of hard work, surprising opportunities and meaningful engagement for all involved. My favorite motivating motto is, "The only way to know the extent of your influence is to do nothing." This is followed closely by, "Life

happens while you're making other plans." I value the planned and unplanned opportunities, relationships and influence I've been able to have due to being part of JAS's outreach efforts for the past 13 years.

Sandy Sanders, JAS Education Chair

Wetlands. Texas Dept. Of Wildlife & Parks.





HALF-EARTH:

Our Planet's Fight for Life

Dr. Edward O. Wilson's book and his movement, *HALF-EARTH*, offer a bold impassioned plan to save the earth and avoid mass extinctions. Explaining how all life on earth is inter-connected he lays forth a blueprint to <u>save half the earth for nature and half for humans</u>.

We all depend on the narrow biosphere in which we live; humans to microscopic species are part of the web. Humans are too numerous, use too many resources and pollute, causing global warming. We still have a wealth of biodiversity but are losing species rapidly. We are not owners of nature but stewards.

Wilson feels that "a great deal of the earth's biodiversity can still be saved." He asked senior naturalists to suggest the best reserves for saving plants, animals and microorganisms, and he describes these places in detail. Large parts of nature are still intact — the Amazon region, the Congo Basin, New Guinea. There are also patches of the industrialized world where nature could be restored and strung together to create corridors for wildlife. We need to stop fishing in the open sea and let marine life there recover. The oceans are part of that 50 percent.

Now, this proposal does not mean moving anybody out. Wilson feels the U.N.'s World Heritage Foundation might be a suitable manager of the Half-Earth solution. Work is now being done mapping the web of diversity-to find and name every vertebrate and invertebrate on earth. Such a project was recently accomplished in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Despite the world's peril, Harvard Professor Wilson, now 86, is no doomsayer. He's moving forward with this attainable goal and has funded four post-docs to help with this urgent work. Read this important book!

~ Linda Vidosh Zempel

Editor's Note: Visit the spiffy Half-Earth website: https://www.half-earthproject.org/

The maps are particularly fascinating with enlightening overlays and ways you can manipulate them: https://www.half-earthproject.org/maps/



Save A Strong Clean Water Act

The EPA and the Department of the Army are proposing a new definition of the scope of waters federally regulated under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The proposed rule removes historically protected rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and other waters from its "Waters of the United States" definition. This rulemaking by the EPA and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is the most far-reaching attack we have ever seen on the CWA. By drastically reducing which waters are protected, it will cause untold damage to people, wildlife, and the country as a whole.

As your Kansas Riverkeeper, I spend many of my days on the Kansas River defending it from polluters. The Clean Water Act is at the heart of much of my work. I'm calling for everyone who cares about our health, our businesses, and our overall economy to comment on this proposed rule. Read more about the proposed rule: https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0149-0003. Also on this website are addresses if you prefer to send a written comment in the mail.

Here's a link for on-line comments: https://actionnetwork.org/letters/the-clean-water-act-depends-on-you

All comments are due by April 15, 2019.

The Clean Water Act gave us the legal framework to clean the nation's waterways after decades of neglect had turned some of our rivers into flowing dumps of chemicals, flammable trash, and debris by the 1960s. And it gives any citizen the right to sue polluters to protect our waterways. The Clean Water Act is foundational to the work of Friends of the Kaw. For one thing, it gives us legal standing to file citizens' suits against polluters, standing we would lose on waterways excluded from the Act's protection. We must fight to preserve this right.

Since all waters are connected, this proposal would put every waterway at risk. Please file a comment and join FOK in fighting for the heart of the Clean Water Act.

For the river,

Dawn Buehler Kansas Riverkeeper® & Executive Director FOK

Tough to believe, as patchy snow lingers on shaded ground, but soon the year will turn. Spring and our summer resident migratory birds will brighten woods, fields, and yards. Visit the Plants for Birds section of the JAS website to learn about plants you can add to your yard to provide food & shelter for these oh-so welcome visitors.

Kaw Valley Eagles Day 2019 almost didn't happen. Our original date, 1/26, was icy and frigid so we had to cancel. Thanks to a lot of work by the ED committee, super cooperation by USD 497 and flexible exhibitors, Eagles Day perched at Billy Mills Middle School on 2/16. Attendance was down some because of less publicity, but it was a day full of learning and entertainment for those who came.

SPONSORS: Many thanks to our loyal, bighearted sponsors for supporting this gift to our community: US Army Corps of Engineers, Jayhawk Audubon Society, Lawrence Public Schools, Chickadee Checkoff, Westar Energy Green Team, Home Depot, ICL Performance Products, Baker Wetlands, Lawrence Public Works.



Fresh Air * Fresh Ideas * Fresh You

3/7: Woodcock/Owl Walk at Shawnee State Fishing Lake. 6:15p - 7:15p. Topeka Audubon. More info at: http://www.topekaaudubonsociety.org/calendar

3/10: Meet the Critters. 1 - 3 p. Baker Wetlands Discovery Center. Free, but must register in advance: mglade@bakeru.edu or 785-594-4703.

3/12: Native Garden Office Hours. 6 - 7p at Lawrence Public Library. Get answers to your native plant questions from Kaw Valley Native Plant experts. Also on 3/19 6-7p; 3/21 2-3p; 3/26 6-7p; 3/28 10-11a. To learn more: https://www.facebook.com/KVNPC/

3/13 & 3/14: Nature's Newborns. 10-11a. BW Discovery Center. Preschool & siblings. Free but must register. mglade@bakeru.edu or 785-594-4703.

3/18: <u>Kaw Valley Bluebird Association Spring Meeting</u>. (rescheduled from 3/4.) Public/new members welcome. 7p. Redeemer Lutheran Church. 2700 Lawrence Ave. Come learn about bluebird trails.

3/21: Riparian Buffer Restoration Workday. Friends of the Kaw. 4-7p. Plant natives to protect our watershed! Also 3/30 12-3p; 4/11 4-7p; 4/20 8-10a; 5/11 9-12a. Sign up, map, and more info at http://kansasriver.org/

3/21 to 3/24: Nebraska Crane Festival. Kearney, NE Crane viewing trips, speakers. Must register: http://ne.audubon.org/birds/crane-festival
Topeka & Burroughs Audubon have crane trips too.

See websites.

3/23: Earth, Fire and Water. KS Sierra Club Luncheon.

11:30a. BW Discovery Center. Buy ticket at: http://kansas.sierraclub.org/2019-kansas-sierraclub-fundraiser/

3/25: <u>Australia: The Wildlife Down Under.</u> JAS program with Roger Boyd. 7p. Free. BW Discovery Center.

3/26: Herpetology in Haiti. 7p. Spooner Hall at KU.

3/30: <u>Sunrise Project Dig In!</u> 12-3p. All ages. 1501 Learnard. Lunch at noon/free will donation. Gardening 12-3. Live music! https://sunriseprojectks.org/event/dig-in/

3/30: <u>Tour of Buck Creek with Rex Buchanan</u>. 2-4p. Kansas Land Trust. Free. Map and advisements: <u>https://www.facebook.com/events/307539553297738/</u>

4/3: <u>Spring Bird Walk at KCP&L Wetlands</u>. 7a. Burroughs Audubon. Contact: <u>malcolmgold@gmail.com</u> or 608-807-6086. For more info and map: http://burroughs.org/its-free/field-trips-programs/

4/6: Sunrise Project Plant Sale. 9a-2p. 501 Learnard Ave. Vegetables, herbs & native plants.

https://www.facebook.com/sunriseprojectks/

More native plant sales at https://www.facebook.com/

KVNPC/ 2/16 post. Also in next month's newsletter!



Dark-eyed Juncos will soon be off To Canada & Alaska to nest. Hopping about our yards, they bring a smile even on the gloomiest of winter days. When one morning they are suddenly nowhere to be found, the consolation is that spring has arrived in their stead.



Join the Nature Book Club

The club meets quarterly at the library on the Wednesday at the change of season. The next Meeting is on the Spring Equinox, March 20, from 6:30 - 8:00 p in Library Meeting Room A.

Read a nature-connected book, fiction or nonfiction, and come ready to discuss it with the group. It can be your latest read or an old favorite book to share that is related to nature or the environment. Group leaders, Jake Vail & Shirley Braunlich, will also share ideas for what to read next.

An RSVP is helpful, but not required. Questions? Contact Shirley:

sbraunlich@lplks.org

Cheers! Shirley & Jake

Kansas Birding Big Year 2019

You have until April 1 to sign up for the Kansas Birding Big Year contest sponsored by KS Wildlife & Parks. Compete with the state's top birders for prizes! Guidelines and registration found at:

https://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Wildlife-Diversity/2019-Kansas-Birding-Big-Year

Programs of the Jayhawk Audubon Society are free.

All are welcome!

JAS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



How to Disappear: Notes on Invisibility in a Time of Transparency

by Akiko Busch Reviewed by McKay Stangler

For many years now Akiko Busch has flown under the central radar of mainstream nature writing—a result, perhaps, of the fact that her books are somewhat difficult to classify. This is a compliment, of course; the works of many great writers, from Rebecca Solnit to Chet Raymo, can be difficult to classify. Woe unto that nature writer whose work neatly fits a chain bookstore's categories.

Since graduating from Bennington in 1976, Busch has made her name as a prolific writer on topics ranging from design to patience to open-water swimming. Her 2007 book *Nine Ways to Cross a River* focused on the latter; Busch famously swims across the Hudson River once a year. (A swim I imagine to be slightly cleaner than a similar traverse of our Kaw.) Her writing is subtly powerful, in the way of Annie Dillard: each sentence seems quiet and self-contained, but the accumulated effect is sometimes overwhelming.

Her latest is *How to Disappear*, and it could not be more timely. It has become fashionable, of course, to lament how public and visible our lives are, online or otherwise. "Presentation of self" has morphed from a niche sociological concept to the central daily concern of many social media users. Busch surveys all this and says: *stop*. Make yourself less visible, and you will be amazed at what you see. To put it more clearly: stop trying to make yourself seen, and nature will show you what truly matters.

There is a long tradition of disappearance in nature writing. Thoreau wanted to merge with his Concord landscape. Dillard wanted to become one with Tinker Creek. Abbey wanted to blend seamlessly with the desert. Perhaps this is the Taoist impulse made manifest: there is part of us that wants to become one, metaphysically or perhaps even physically, with our surroundings. The travel writer Vivian Swift writes that her favorite temperature is 78 degrees, because the skin can no longer sense a boundary with what is outside of it. Unscientific, perhaps, but a lovely thought.

Busch returns a few times to Narcissus, that old villain of self-adoration, and writes that he "appears in each culture and each generation in his own particular guise." Today that guise is liking, click-chasing, photo filters, the endless parade of thumbs-ups and careful framing and anxious scrolling. What, Busch wonders, are we doing? Why are we offering up private experience for public consumption, which creates a world in which "ideas of an interior self are easily devalued"?

The focus on the self leads to something worse: ignorance of the world around us, and especially the creatures contained therein. Busch spends time discussing animal camouflage and how "invisibility seems woven into the very structure of being and behavior." Think about the casual invisibility we encounter in small, even mundane ways. I know that when all the chattering birds at my feeders go suddenly silent, something is amiss. Perhaps our neighborhood Cooper's Hawk is perched on a nearby pole. Perhaps that awful cat from two doors down is on the prowl. Our brain is attuned to these little developments. Somewhere deep within the recesses of our DNA, we know that when the birds go silent, something isn't right.

Or think of deer, possum, rabbits: if you surprise one, the first thing it will likely do is freeze. Yes, it gives the animal a chance to determine the risk you present, but that moment as a statue affords the animal a brief moment of invisibility. Non-human animals have figured out something important about cloaking and fading into the background, something that we seem to have yet to figure out.

I'm tempted to say that Busch's book is more necessary than ever, but decrying the visibility and surveillance of our culture feels like shouting into a hurricane. What will it take to overcome our newfound penchant for peacocking? When will we take Busch's advice about fading into the background, walking slowly into the woods, and seeing what is hidden?

Maybe it just takes accumulated individual action. So do it yourself: detach, disengage, and fade out. See what happens when you don't highlight the self. Become invisible and you'll merge with nature more than you ever thought possible.

There is an American Woodcock, a master of invisibility, in this picture. Very soon males will be displaying above our fields.



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Crested Pigeons. By Roger Boyd

Become a Member: Just \$20 to join both National Audubon and Jayhawk Chapter.

____National Audubon Society membership is \$20.00. Members receive four issues per year of the Audubon magazine and will be enlisted as members of the Jayhawk Chapter. All members also receive 9 issues of the JAS newsletter per year and are entitled to discounts on the books and feeders we sell to raise funds to support education and conservation projects. (Make your check payable to National Audubon Society and mail to our JAS membership chair at the address below. You may also join National Audubon online at https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2? df id=9431&9431.donation=form1&s src=2015 AUDHP topbanner-button-menu.)

Chapter-only membership to Jayhawk Audubon Society is \$10.00. (Make check payable to Jayhawk Audubon Society.) You will not receive the Audubon magazine. Those with National Audubon memberships are encouraged to support the chapter by voluntarily paying these dues. Chapter membership expires annually in July. JAS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

____ **To join or donate to Audubon of Kansas** make check payable to AOK or use this online link - http://www.audubonofkansas.org/joindonate/.

Please send this completed form and your check to JAS Membership Chairs at the following address:

Wayne Kennedy, 1308 Crosswinds CT. #1	Lawrence KS 66046. E-mail contact: w.a.k.e.n.n.z@gmail.com.	
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