Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society Wins Grant from National Audubon Society for Local Native Plant Project

MHAS has been awarded a National Audubon Society grant to continue the ‘Birds, Bees, & Butterflies – Bemidji’ initiative promoting the planting of native trees, shrubs, and flowers for birds and pollinators. The grant application process was highly competitive. MHAS was one of 35 awardees out of 89 applications. Our project is also featured in the Spring Issue of Audubon Magazine (on-line and print).

“Birds, Bees, and butterflies have several things in common – they all depend on native plants; they play an important role in pollination; and all face increasing pressures from loss of habitat, diseases, and non-native invasive competitors.”

Birds, Bees, & Butterflies – Bemidji has planned a number of activities for 2018, including:

- Demonstration gardens at the Watermark Art Center, Bemidji Middle School, Sanford Bemidji Cancer Center meditation garden, BSU campus plantings, and Leech Lake Tribal College.
- Workshops: “How to get started with native plants” community workshop, May 22; and “Native plants in downtown planters and small spaces” May 30.
- 2018 Top 10 Native Plants promotion: Ten native plants important to birds and pollinators are being highlighted for people in the Bemidji area to consider adding to their yards, gardens and planters. We are working with local nurseries and garden centers to have these available for their customers. Look for a special sales promotion event in June! The Bemidji Garden Club will have some of these Top Ten Native Plants at their annual plant sale, May 19th at the Beltrami County Fairgrounds.
- Other events: Join us for our 2018 Bemidji Bird City celebration June 30, and our 2nd annual Monarch Festival in August (check the MHAS website or Facebook page for more details).
Celebrating Purple Martins!
2nd Annual Bemidji Bird City Celebration
June 30
Cameron Park

The celebration will run from 9 am to 3 pm. The whole family will enjoy:
- presentations
- purple martin demonstrations
- kid activities
- pontoon rides
- vendors

Also – check out Bemidji State Park for their associated programming. Come out and make a day of it!

Bemidji Bird City Partners: Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society, City of Bemidji, Headwaters Science Center, Bogs & Logs - Master Naturalists, Bemidji State University, Visit Bemidji, MN Department of Natural Resources

Support the YNP by purchasing a Spearhead T-shirt (Youth S/M/L/XL, or adult S/M/L/XL) or Water Bottle. Call Beth Oja at (218) 333-0830 for more information and to purchase.

Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society Wins Grant...cont’d from page 1

Fifteen groups are currently involved in Birds, Bees & Butterflies – Bemidji. In addition to MHAS these are: Bemidji Parks and Recreation, Bemidji Garden Club, Bog & Logs Chapter of Minnesota Master Naturalists, Beltrami County Master Gardeners, Bemidji State University Sustainability Office, Bemidji Downtown Alliance, Visit Bemidji, Watermark Art Center, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Bemidji School District, 3 local nurseries and 2 local garden centers.

About the grant...
The National Audubon Society’s Coleman and Susan Burke Center for Native Plants was established to promote the use of native plants that benefit birds in human communities. The center provides small grants to support Audubon network Plants for Birds activities that will increase the visibility, reach, and impact of Audubon’s Plants for Birds programming across the country.

MHAS Annual Meeting July 29
The Neilson Spearhead Center welcomes MHAS members and interested public to our annual meeting and potluck. Come out for an afternoon walk, see what MHAS is up to and join us for potluck at beautiful Spearhead!

FREE EVENT --- PUBLIC INVITED!
- 3:00 – 4:30 ‘Early Bird’ NSC trail walk
- 4:30 – 5:00 ‘Meet n Greet’ – informal discussions, socializing, table-top display of MHAS current initiatives
- 5:00 – 6:00 B-B-Q Meal – then head back inside
- 6:00 – 6:30 Short presentations: ethnobotany, Leech Lake initiatives, ABC project
- 6:30 Annual meeting – Future directions of MHAS

Support the YNP by purchasing a Spearhead T-shirt

For More Information and Registration Forms...
See the Young Naturalist page at
www.spearheadMHAS.org

Week-long sessions begin June 18 and end on Aug 17. Young people in grades 2-12 are welcome. Bring a friend!

How about playing a rousing games of “Fox and Squirrel”? Grades 6-8 spend a night camping in the woods and canoeing by moonlight.

paddling across Spearhead Lake...

stuffing your mouth with wild berries and sampling ‘lemon ants’...

in the woods for nature-loving kids. That’s the reputation of our nature day camp. Naturalist Dan Bera leads campers through cattail swamps and trekking up the "Amazon"...