

**AUDUBON SOCIETY -
MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS CHAPTER**

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We're on the WEB!!
www.spearheadMHAS.org

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The Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats.



Fostering environmental education and resource protection in Northern Minnesota

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Earth Day 2018...Service Learning

Spearhead was the site of service learning for BSU Environmental Sociology class. Eight students, led by Dr. Carla Norris-Raynbird, relocated canoes, swept the outside and inside of the lab, inventoried life jackets, and cleared the two fire pit areas of debris. Resident Naturalist Dan Bera was on hand to lead a hike to the Bald Eagle nest. Good conversation around the campfire wrapped the service learning /Earth Day experience. Students really loved this experience and appreciated Dan's excellent knowledge.



Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society

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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, & Butterflies - Bemidji brought together several local organizations, businesses and agencies who share a common interest in creating better habitat for birds, pollinators and people!" said Peter Buessler, MHAS President. "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).



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Only a few spots left!!

The Young Naturalist Program

A Wild Time ...

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

paddling across Spearhead Lake...

stuffing your mouth with wild berries and sampling 'lemon ants'...



How about playing a rousing game of "Fox and Squirrel"?

Grades 6-8 spend a night camping in the woods and canoeing by moonlight.



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!

2018 Young Naturalist Program
Contact George-Ann Maxson to register
218- 586-3414 / headwatersaudubon@gmail.com

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.



\$10



\$5

Celebrating Purple Martins!

2nd Annual Bemidji Bird City Celebration

Celebration

June 30

Cameron Park



<http://www.spearheadmhas.org>

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

MHAS Annual Meeting July 29

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



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

Gardens are outdoor sanctuaries for birds, insects and other wildlife. Every spring, migrating birds visit our yards looking for nourishment from our gardens and places to raise their chicks. By adding native plants to one's yard, balcony, container garden, rooftop or public space, anyone, anywhere can not only attract more birds but give them the best chance of survival in the face of climate change and urban development.

Most landscaping plants available in nurseries are exotic species from other countries. Many are prized for qualities that make them poor food sources for wildlife. They generally also require more chemicals and water to thrive, increasing maintenance time, costs and environmental hazards. Some can even become invasive.



Hummingbird Moth



Bemidji Library Planting



Longhorn Beetle

By growing native plants, local residents can help protect birds while turning your home into a private wildlife paradise. MHAS has lots of information on native plants for birds and pollinators on our website <http://www.spearheadmhas.org/birds-and-bees.php>

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.