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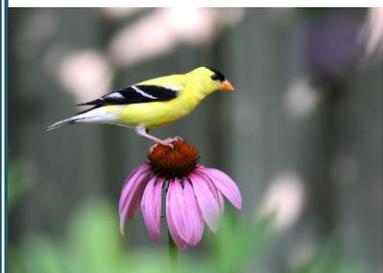
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 Audubon



**BIRD CITY**  
MINNESOTA



## Bird City Bald Eagle Day Celebration

### Saturday, June 22nd

For this year's Bird City Minnesota celebration, Bemidji is hosting an area wide National Eagle Day celebration. Activities being planned include:

**"Bald Eagles: From Near Extinction to Recovery in Our Lifetime" - Paul Bunyan Park/Bemidji Waterfront**

- Presentations by local eagle experts, researchers, historians, and native indigenous storytellers
- Games and art activities for kids

**Bald Eagle Research & Management - Norway Beach Visitor Center, Chippewa National Forest**

- Demonstrate research techniques used to learn about Bald Eagles; tree climbing, eagle banding, nature hike and eagle nest viewing

**Active Eagle Nest Viewing - Lake Bemidji State Park, Neilson Spearhead Center**

- Naturalist-led hike to view active eagle nest in Bemidji State Park and MHAS Neilson Spearhead Center, build an eagle nest kids/family activity at Lake Bemidji State Park

The Bemidji area's history with saving the bald eagle goes back to the late 1960s when a young biologist, John Mathisen, came to work on the Chippewa National Forest. John was contacted by the California-based food products company, Hunt and Wesson, about creating a "Children's Bald Eagle Nesting Area in Minnesota". Nationwide, kids were asked to send in labels from pudding snack packs, canned beans and other company products. In return, Hunt and Wesson would buy protective nesting land for eagles within the Chippewa National Forest in the children's names. Over a million and a half labels were collected. Enough funds were raised to not only purchase land, but begin research too.

The celebration will involve diverse partners, including Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society, Minnesota Master Naturalists, Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, City of Bemidji, local veterans' organizations, tribal representatives, Headwaters Science Center, and The Nature Connection - a local non-profit organization dedicated to "Enhance appreciation, awareness, respect, and exploration of nature". The Nature Connection does educational programs with live eagles, owls, hawks and other wildlife.

A schedule of events with more specific times and locations will be available on the MHAS website soon [www.spearheadmhas.org](http://www.spearheadmhas.org)

## Northern MN Environmental Science Award Winners

MHAS congratulates these young scientists for their outstanding projects at the 2019 Regional Science Fair! We awarded them gift certificates to the Headwaters Science Center.

Leelah Kiehne of Bemidji Middle School  
"Biodegradable Breakdown"

Ian Hamann of Bemidji Middle School  
"A Lead Filled Drink"

## Young Naturalist Program Summer 2019

### Summer Day Camps are Filling Fast!



**Beginning to plan summer activities** for your child or grandchild? Consider a week spent out of doors at the Neilson Spearhead Center, chasing bugs, wading in streams and cattail marshes, exploring miles of woodland trails, canoeing on Spearhead Lake, and gathering around naturalist Dan Bera as he narrates tales of Spearhead.

**Sessions are filling fast!** Inquire about openings by emailing [headwatersaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:headwatersaudubon@gmail.com) or calling George-Ann at 218-586-3414.

Check for updates at [www.spearheadmhas.org](http://www.spearheadmhas.org) under the Young Naturalist Program tab.

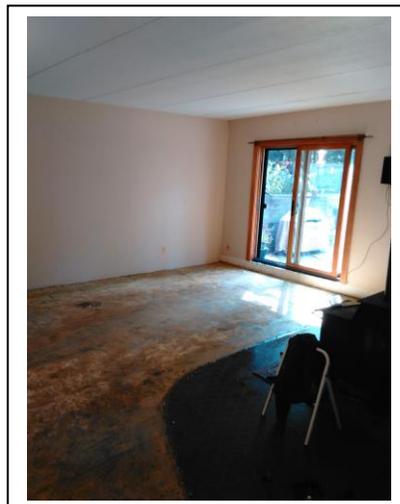


### Support the Young Naturalist Program!

Our campers are in need of gently used canoes. Write to [headwatersaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:headwatersaudubon@gmail.com) if you would like to donate a canoe.



## Updates on the Caretakers' Residence



Before Renovation

In early fall of 2018, the caretakers moved out and began removing all the carpeting in the earth home. The floors were cleaned and sealed and vinyl planking was installed throughout. The HVAC contractors and plumbers were busy as well, putting in a new heating and cooling system and replacing the water heater, water softener and kitchen appliances.

The humidity problems are no longer an issue and the air is much healthier to breathe.

The house looks amazing and the difference is much appreciated!



After Renovation

## MHAS Annual Meeting Sunday, August 11

### FREE EVENT --- PUBLIC INVITED!

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!

- 3:00 – 4:30 ‘Early Bird’ NSC trail walk
- 4:30 – 5:00 ‘Meet n Greet’ – informal discussion of current initiatives
- 5:00 – 6:00 BBQ Meal
- 6:00 – 6:30 Expert Presentations
- 6:30 Annual meeting

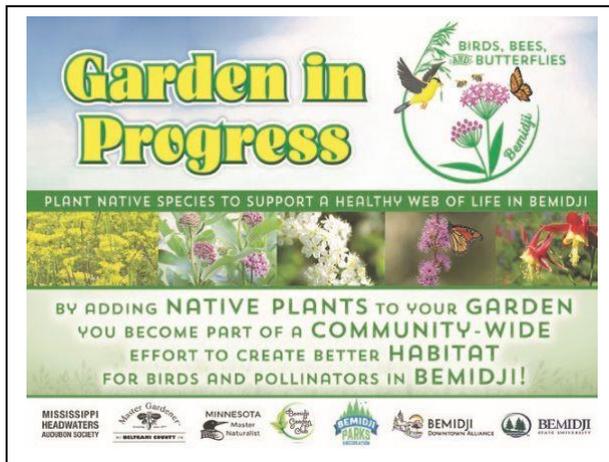


### Birds, Bees, & Butterflies

Bemidji is off to another busy season. MHAS is working together with more than a dozen local organizations and businesses to promote planting native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers for birds and pollinators in our area. In January we submitted a proposal to the second round of National Audubon's "Plants for Birds Burke Grant Program". There were 61 applications from 30 states, requesting over \$400,000 worth of support. Twenty of the proposals were accepted - **including ours!**

Here is some of what BBBB will be doing in 2019:

- **New bird and pollinator-friendly demonstration plantings** are planned at Bemidji City Hall, Beltrami County History Center, Conifer Villas housing project, Bemidji State University campus, Leech Lake Tribal College Solar Array, our own Neilson Spearhead Center and even more locations.



- **‘Top Ten’ campaign:** BBBB selected ten local native plants important to birds and pollinators to highlight in 2019. They include 5 species for sunny sites and 5 shade tolerant species. Look for them at Hills Country Greenhouse, Nature's Edge Garden Center, and Ace on the Lake Hardware. A community-wide 'Top 10' promotion event will be held June 15-16 (Father's Day weekend).
- **How to Get Started with Native Plants** workshop and planting event at the Beltrami County History Center (June, TBD).
- **Get Outdoors!** Using newly purchased field guides, binoculars, and other materials, trained Bemidji Parks and Recreation staff, MHAS and other local experts will engage youth and families in outdoor nature exploration and science activities.
- Look for **‘Celebrating Bemidji Wildflowers’** banners on Bemidji downtown light posts featuring native wildflowers.
- New BBBB signs, flyers, and banners now include **Ojibwe plant names** and uses in respect of their knowledge and understanding of these species.

There are plenty of activities to get involved with this season. Let us know if you want to volunteer or participate. For more or updated information, visit our webpage:

[www.spearheadmhas.org/birds-and-bees](http://www.spearheadmhas.org/birds-and-bees). MHAS received funding for this project from National Audubon Society's Coleman and Susan Burke Center for Native Plants.



**AUDUBON SOCIETY -  
MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS CHAPTER**

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Bemidji, MN  
56619  
headwatersaudubon@gmail.com

We're on the WEB!!  
[www.spearheadMHAS.org](http://www.spearheadMHAS.org)

Non-profit organization  
US Postage paid  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
Permit #28

*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

## MHAS Board

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**At Large Members**

Bill Sea

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## A New Education Building for Neilson Spearhead Center?

The MHAS Board is exploring whether to build a new education building at the Neilson Spearhead Center. This past winter, a survey and several input meetings were held with members and users to gather ideas on what kinds of improvements should be considered. A larger, flexible classroom/meeting space to accommodate a variety of activities and uses was a common theme. Just as important, people expressed the desire to maintain the rustic, natural character of the Neilson Spearhead Center.

The Board is being assisted by Widseth, Smith Nolting to prepare a conceptual floorplan and building design for the needs we've identified. Preliminary sketches are being drafted. We hope to have a final rendering by early summer.

If successful, this project can be a milestone in the history of Neilson Spearhead Center. Our vision is to keep the natural beauty people associate with our preserve, the legacy it represents – and at the same time offer exciting new opportunities for visitor programs and use by a range of community groups.