



For the Love of...Trees

Article by Sue Schuit; see page 3 for more winning trees!

Woodman, spare that tree! / Touch not a single bough! /
In youth it sheltered me, / and I'll protect it now.

- George P. Morris, "Woodman, Spare That Tree"



2016 Trees We Love: Bur Oak (John Krerowicz)

2016 swiftly filled to the brim with contention, negativity, conflict and discord; its dregs have left many of us with a certain unease in the air... I know that I, for one, am happy to see it pass. If you are like me you may have spent a more-than-ordinary amount of time seeking shelter from the storm in ways that gave personal solace. I suspect many of you were like myself; long, solitary rambles, flocking for companionship with folks who share our interests, perhaps immersing yourself in your favorite literature, art, history, or sports; jogging, long walks with the dogs and time spent doing whatever brought you escape from the seemingly endless cacophony of friction and quarrels.

I was fortunately able to spend a large amount of my personal time this last year "out of the weeds and into the trees." I, like countless others, am a tree lover. Quite simply, trees feed my soul. I love the patterns tree branches draw against the white winter sky; tree trunks etched by newly fallen snow produces an ethereal beauty that the finest artists cannot mimic. I love the shiny, florescent greens which fuzzy the tips of branches and blur our horizon in the spring, the hard-to-imagine-in-the-midst-of-winter explosion of countless hues of green in the summer, and of course, the jaw-dropping, breathtakingly poignant beauty of autumn foliage.

So, not surprisingly, several years ago when my husband pointed out a beautifully written article (author: Kevin Nolan of Cassity Tree Service) honoring and lamenting the removal of a grandiose 200 year old Bur Oak, due solely to the whims of a new homeowner, I was brought to tears. Kevin's homage to this superb Oak, his search for ordinances that would have helped to protect this living

Trees We Love, continued-

piece of history, this truly splendid gift of nature, proved fruitless; the Bur Oak was removed in 2014.

This moving article was a subject I pondered many times in the ensuing months. How could a program be created that could enhance appreciation, respect and stewardship for trees? What could, even for a small moment, inspire folks to look at trees with admiration, reverence and a sense of wonder of their magic, their majesty and the mystery of their ageless secrets silently soaring above our heads?

And the seed was sown. What more fitting organization to implement Trees We Love but Hoy Audubon, as the program perfectly complements Hoy's mission statement of conservation? At the time I was the Hoy Conservation Chair, and after board discussion and approval, I applied for grant funding for the creation of Trees We Love, 2016. We received funding support and sponsorship from the WE Foundation, National Audubon, and Ketterhagen Memorials.

Nomination forms were designed and distributed, Fran Brinkman, Rick Fare (Hoy members) and myself formed an ad hoc committee and we were thrilled to receive 18 nominations in this, our first year. Nominations were received from Union Grove, Burlington, Racine and Kenosha; from homeowners, from tree admirers, from park employees and from conservationists. We received nominations for Catalpas, Cedars, Oaks, Maples, American Beeches, European Beeches, Sycamores, Willows, Apples and Elms. We were delighted.



2016 Trees We Love: Sugar Maple (John Krerowicz)

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Email addresses of Board members are available at: www.hoyaudubon.org

**Next Board of Directors Meeting:
Thursday, February 16, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**

*Sealed Air YMCA, 8501 Campus Drive
Mount Pleasant, WI 53406*

All members are welcome to attend!

Open committee positions:

Field Trip Chair
Conservation Chair

Contact Hoy to help!
Newsletter Editor

Kristin Wegner

Ideas for the newsletter?

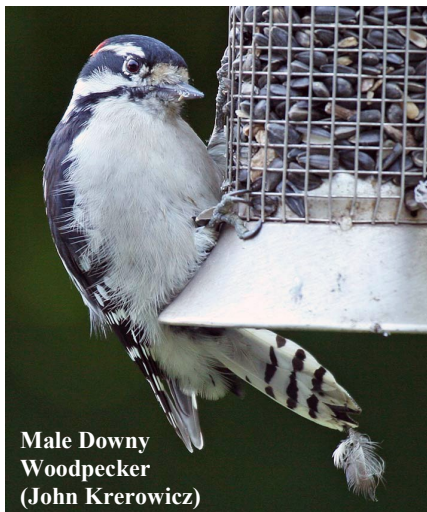
Send your suggestions, recaps of birding seminars/activities, fun facts, and birding tidbits to the Newsletter Editor at:
Hoy Audubon, PO Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404 or email to:
hoynewsletter@hoyaudubon.org

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Downy vs. Hairy Woodpecker

Now that winter is here, many birders have their bird feeders up and stocked. Two of the regular visitors to the suet, peanuts, and sunflower seeds we provide are the Downy Woodpecker and the Hairy Woodpecker. These two woodpecker species are quite similar so here are a few field marks which hopefully will help with their identification. Probably the most striking difference between the two is size but this is difficult to determine if the two are not seen together. The Downy Woodpecker is the smaller of the two, being a little under 7 inches in length, slightly larger than, say, a House Sparrow.

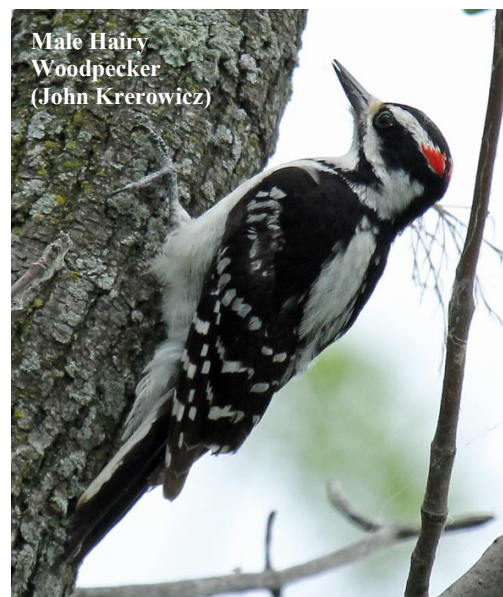


Male Downy Woodpecker
(John Krerowicz)

Unlike the Hairy Woodpecker, the Downy has a very small black bill with many white bristles at the base which covers the base quite a bit. The male Downy has a small red spot on the back of its head, and if seen well, has two or three small black bars on the white outer tail feathers, which the female Downy, and both the male and female Hairy Woodpecker, lack. Both male and female Downies have a black and white facial pattern with a black cap, white supercilium, black auriculars, a white malar, and a black moustache stripe. The back and underparts are white, with a black rump best seen in flight, and black wing speckled and barred with white.

The call of a Downy is quite distinctive being a short, flat “pik” whereas the call of the Hairy is a sharp, loud, “peek” which is higher pitched. If heard, this often is the best way to tell the two apart.

The Hairy Woodpecker is essentially a larger version of the Downy, being the size of a Red-bellied Woodpecker. One key distinguishing visual factor is the Hairy’s much longer, thicker bill with just a sparse covering of white bristles at the base of the black bill. The male also has the small red spot on the back of the head but no black bars on the white outer tail feathers. The female Hairy is very similar to a female Downy except for being larger with the much longer, thicker, black bill.



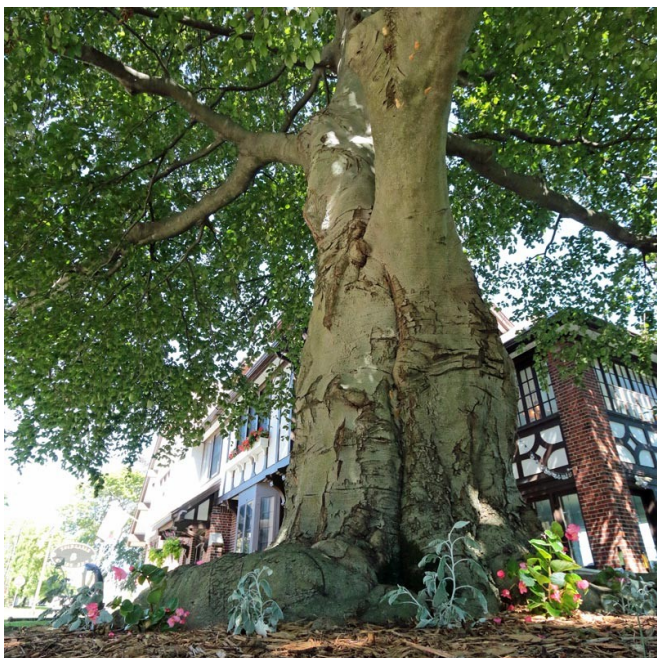
Male Hairy Woodpecker
(John Krerowicz)

One feeding habit that may help is that a Downy will feed on weed stalks close to the ground or very thin tree branches, something a Hairy Woodpecker seldom does. The best way for id’ing them is to see them together, or to hear them, but with these tips hopefully seeing them separately will be easier.

-John Dixon

Trees We Love, continued from page 1 -

We considered all nominations and John Krerowicz (Hoy board member) generously gave of his time and supplied beautiful photographs of every tree. Kevin Nolan volunteered many hours to site visit every nomination, measured diameter and height and estimated approximate age. Matt Koepnick, City of Racine forester, became involved and discussions occurred, advice was received, votes were cast and trees were awarded.



2016 Trees We Love: European Beech (John Krerowicz)

Trees We Love, 2016 funding sponsored 4 tree awardees. Of course each and every tree was, and is, worthy of recognition, appreciation and stewardship. The four 2016 Trees We Love awardees received a bronze plaque stating species, size, age and Hoy Audubon Society recognition, a framed picture and an historically researched narrative written from the trees perspective. It has truly been a shared labor of love.

The Trees We Love, 2016 awardees are:

Bur Oak King, 14828 Plank Road, Racine, proud stewards: the Knutson family. 49" Diameter at Breast Height, 70' Height, age approx. 245 years. (See page 1 for photo.)

Matriarch Sugar Maple, 613 51st Drive, Union Grove, proud stewards: the Bergs family. 33" DBH, 85' Height, age approx. 165 years. (See page 1 for photo.)

Mother of the Woods – The European Beech Queen, 1121 Lake Ave., Racine, proud stewards: Lochnaier Inn, the Johnson family. 56" DBH, 60' Height, approx. age 224 years. (Pictured above.)

Stately Sycamore, 12th St. and Horlick Drive, Racine, proud stewards: the City of Racine. 39" DBH, 95' Height, approx. age 110 years. (Pictured at right.)



**Interested in becoming involved or
hearing more about Hoy's
Trees We Love?**

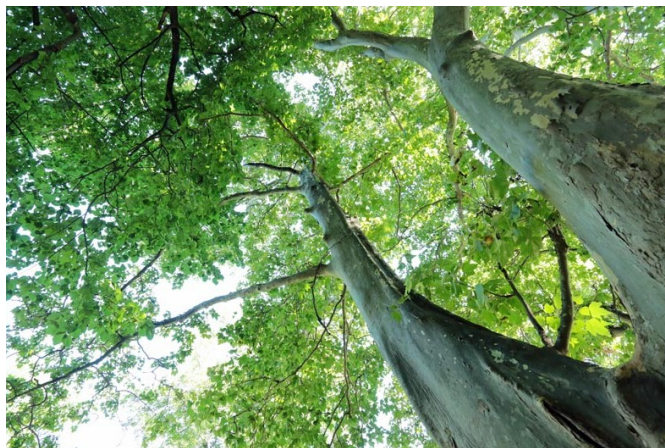
Please contact: Sue Schuit
262-752-5955
or salav@wi.rr.com

There are certain trees that have an emotional effect on us, be it for their age, size, beauty, significance in our lives, or a combination of all this and more. For trees give our world and everything in it the breath of life, and yet they ask for nothing in return, other than, to simply be, a tree.

We are excited to learn that so many of us agree.

It is our hope to continue and expand the Trees We Love in upcoming years. We have been thrilled with the response, the enthusiasm and the many folks who have come forward to share with us their heritage trees, their personal trees, their landmark trees, their Trees They Love.

For, "It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see". – Henry D. Thoreau



2016 Trees We Love: Sycamore (John Krerowicz)



February 17-20, 2017: Mark your calendars for the
Great Backyard Bird Count

in which bird watchers count birds and report their sightings via eBird. Last year, birders from over 130 countries submitted more than 162,000 checklists! It's fun and it helps us learn more about the birds we love. Visit <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/> for more info.

Upcoming Activities

Thursday, January 5, 7:00 p.m.

Hoy Meeting, Program: Monitoring Wisconsin's Bats

Sealed Air YMCA, 8501 Campus Drive, Mount Pleasant, WI 53406

Welcome back Professor Deanna Byrnes, Associate Professor of Biology at Carthage College. Deanna will talk to us about her local long-term project in which her students gather and share data with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as part of a citizen monitoring program to help define the ecological needs of Wisconsin's bat species.

Saturday, January 21, 9:00 a.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Kenosha Lakefront Birding

7825 First Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53143

We'll meet at the Southport Park parking area (just north of the Kenosha Sand Dunes). Dress warmly!

Thursday, February 2, 7:00 p.m.

Hoy Meeting, Program:

Sealed Air YMCA, 8501 Campus Drive, Mount Pleasant, WI 53406

Join us for an informative evening with Sister Rejane Cytacki the newly appointed Executive Director of the Eco-Justice Center in Racine. The Eco-Justice Center is a 15-acre farm containing woodland, wetland, and pasture, which a variety of animals—honey bees, guinea fowl, chickens, ducks, rabbits, goats and alpaca—call their home. We will learn about environmental topics such as organic gardening, beekeeping, water conservation, renewable energy, farm animal care, and more.

Friday, February 17 through Monday, February 20

The Great Backyard Bird Count!

A world-wide, joint effort by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, and Bird Studies Canada—open to all. Visit gbbc.birdcount.org for more information.

Saturday, February 18, 9:00 a.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Waterfowl and Gulls on the Racine Lakefront
Myers Park, Racine

We'll begin at Myers Park then make our way northward to the Racine Harbor. Bring your binoculars (and spotting scope if possible) and dress for the weather!

Thursday, March 2, 7:00 p.m.

Hoy Meeting, Program: Wisconsin's Proud Bird Conservation Tradition – What's the Future?

Sealed Air YMCA, 8501 Campus Drive, Mount Pleasant, WI 53406

Michael John Jaeger, President of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, will provide an overview of the long tradition of bird conservation in Wisconsin, highlighting some of the remarkable individuals who contributed to that legacy. He will encourage us to remember our past accomplishments as inspiration for the conservation challenges we face today.

Saturday, March 25, 8:00 a.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Eagle Lake Waterfowl

Meet at Hwy 20 / I-94 Park and Ride

Prior to birding at Eagle Lake, we'll check the wetlands west and north of the intersection of Hwy 11 and 75. We'll then meet at Eagle Lake Park (north side of the lake, south of Church Rd.) sometime after 9:00 a.m. **Check our website prior to the trip;** if the lake is still frozen by late March, we may go birding elsewhere.

Advice for Winter Birding

What to Wear: Weather can be unpredictable, so warm layers are advised. Comfortable, waterproof footwear is a must, as are a warm coat, hat, and gloves. Hand warmers are highly recommended.

Finding Your Field Trip: Visit Hoy's website for driving directions and maps (when available).

Watch the Weather: Heavy snow, icy roadways, poor visibility, or other potentially hazardous conditions may cause a field trip to be cancelled. We post cancellations on Hoy's website and the Hoy Facebook page/group whenever it is possible to do so ahead of time. **If you are unsure whether a field trip will take place, please use good judgment when deciding whether to attend.**

- ◆ View the Hoy Honker in full color at www.hoyaudubon.org
- ◆ Visit Hoy on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HoyAudubonSociety

Join [Hoy Audubon](http://www.hoyaudubon.org) or renew your Membership!

Renewals for Hoy Audubon Society "Chapter Supporter" memberships are due on July 1 of each calendar year. Chapter Supporter dues are \$15 per individual.

Please send a check payable to **Hoy Audubon Society**.

Total amount enclosed: _____

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Hoy distributes newsletters and field trip announcements by email. Please enter your email address below to be added to this distribution.

Email _____

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