



2018 Trees We Love

Young children know the best tales always begin with the prologue: Once Upon a Time. Such an opening is certainty of a good story and they will nestle deeper into the lap, burrow further under the blankets, retreat to a private nook, or sit under the canopy of their favorite tree to immerse themselves in the repeat themes of a fairy tale. There's always an evil witch or stepmother, of course there are talking animals and perhaps even a sinister gnome or goblin. Above all, there is the enchantment and the knowledge that despite all odds the ending will always be happily ever after.



*Hoyers pose with an honorary nominee, a Hoptree (right), at Shoop Park
photo by Jenny Wenzel*

After 3 successful years of Trees We Love, I also look forward to the new tales and the enchantment which I will hear, read and discover when receiving the 2019 batch of tree nominations.

The folks I have met, the trees I have seen, the things I have learned and the history I have received have, in these last 3 years been fascinating, inspiring and heartening.

The beautiful trees; European Beeches (non-native) whom were most certainly planted by first immigrants and settlers; Bur Oaks who in infancy were forest trees, now on small urban plots, or stately country lawns; White Oaks who witnessed the last of the Wisconsin wild buffalo; native Larch, certainly alive prior to village creation; Camperdownii Elm, the elite tree most certainly planted in commemoration of a Civil War event. The Indian Pointer Oak, marking an ancient Indian trail; beautiful matriarch Sugar Maples, the crowning glory of autumn; the Black Maple planted at the same time as the better known historical gem, The DeKoven Center; the stately Sycamore, or as the Indians named them The Ghosts in the Forest; the native seemingly-unimportant, but-oh-so significant, Hoptree, the stately Cottonwood, Willow, Apple, Magnolia; the list goes on.



*Audrey Fedor with a photo of the Bur Oak she nominated
photo by Sue Schuit*

And the wonderful stewards and nominators and their passion and deep love for their land and the trees! The Creuzigers, while taking on the heart-breaking task of leaving their beloved, generations-old farm, took the time to nominate the massive, ancient 300+ year-old Bur Oak in an effort to save it from Foxconn construction. The Racine County Supervisors who responded immediately and pointed me in the direction of MT Boyle and Claude Lois, both able and so willing to help, and the public support and attention which ensued when reporters were contacted. The inspiring stewards, who literally altered road construction and wrapped massive tree roots to protect from exposure to ensure survival of a cherished Bur Oak. The awe-inspiring Oak Savannahs, the parks, the cemeteries, the cathedrals of pocket old-growth forest held in trust and protection in perpetuity; the fond reminiscences of no-longer-young individuals writing of childhood swings and outside movies under the spread of a beloved tree. Nominations from individuals, non-owners seeking recognition for a favorite tree in their neighborhood, along the path of a frequent, favored ramble or a pass by on a daily drive.

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*The Schlegel family by the trunk of their new Bur Oak (see photo above)
photo by Sue Schuit*

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, February 21, 7:00 p.m.

Location TBA

All members are welcome to attend!

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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American Goldfinch vs. Pine Siskin vs. Common Redpoll

Now that winter has arrived, many people have feeders out to attract the birds which stay, or migrate here for the winter. Here are three species that are often at feeders in the winter, especially at feeders with nyjer (also known as nyger or thistle) seed: the American Goldfinch, the Pine Siskin, and the Common Redpoll.

The American Goldfinch is the most expected of the three. It has molted from its familiar bright yellow breeding plumage to a much duller yellow, with an olive head, back, and breast. Its wings are still blackish in color, with two wing bars. The small conical bill is still pinkish in color. The female is a dirty grayish-brown on the head, back, and breast, also with blackish wings and having two wing bars.



The Pine Siskin is about the same size as the goldfinch but is colored quite differently. It is brownish-gray with some streaking on the back, and especially on its whitish breast and belly. The wings, especially in the male, have two rather broad yellow wing bars. The bill is short and sharply pointed. The tail, which is short and forked, also has bright yellow areas on the sides, with the male's being more noticeable. These birds are very partial to nyjer seeds when at feeders.

The last of the three, the Common Redpoll, is probably the least common of the three in most years, but during eruption years may be quite abundant. It is grayish in color with the male having light brown streaking on its sides and back. The breast is often extensively pink. The bill is short, yellowish, and quite pointy with a black mask around it. The wings are brown with two wing bars. The female is similar in appearance, but with little to no pink on her breast, which is white with heavy streaking the sides. Both sexes have a small red cap on their heads, which is where the name Redpoll came from.



Keep an eye out for these birds this winter around your feeders, especially if you put out nyjer seeds.

- John Dixon

2018 Trees We Love, continued

Trees We Love is a quality program, spanning many months. We begin in March or so and award in November. It takes the time and the passion of many. Special thanks to the Trees We Love Committee (Fran Brinkman, Rick Fare, John Krerowicz and Helen Pugh) and much thanks and appreciation to the many sponsors and contributors such as: Audubon Society, Phil and Mary Hines, Ketterhagen Memorials, Michaels Signs, Pugh Foundation, Runzheimer Foundation and WE Foundation. The assistance and encouragement of the Racine Historical Museum's archivist, Mary Kay Nelson, has been vital and Matt Koepnick's (city forester) input and assistance has been essential. Very special thanks to Kevin Nolan, arborist, you've been the inspiration for the program, the countless hours you've volunteered, your cheering, your support, your enthusiasm and advice has been crucial. Thanks to all.

May Trees We Love continue to encourage and inspire folks to get out of the weeds and into the trees, to protect and appreciate our living history, and to perhaps ensure that these grand and noble trees live out their lives happily ever after.

- Sue Schuit



*Black Maple at the DeKoven Center in Autumn,
photo by Sue Schuit*



*This White Oak's trunk appears to have a profile of a buffalo head!
photo by John Krerowicz*

2018 Trees We Love Winners

Tree	Approx. Age	Location & Connections
Black Maple	170 years	<i>Racine</i> Nominator: Ralph Anderson Stewards: The DeKoven Center
White Oak (Buffaloak)	210 years	<i>Burlington</i> Stewards: Steve and Tracy Swantz
Bur Oak	188 years	<i>Racine</i> Nominator: Audrey Fedor Stewards: Tricia & Matt Schlegel

Honorary 2018 Awardees

Tree	Approx. Age	Location & Connections
Hoptree <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	(unknown)	<i>Racine</i> Shoop Park
Cottonwood	100-120 years	<i>Kansasville</i> Nominator: Judy Amundsen
Bur Oak	300+ years!	<i>Mount Pleasant</i> Nominators: George and Vellabe Creuziger

Visit hoyaudubon.org/TreesWeLove for more details about these amazing trees!

Upcoming Activities

Remember: Winter weather can be unpredictable. If you are unsure whether a field trip will take place, please use good judgment when deciding whether to attend.

Thursday, January 10, 7:00 p.m. (**2nd** Thursday in January)

Hoy Meeting, Program: Reptiles and Amphibians of Wisconsin
Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast's Trefoil Oaks Program Center
 3901 1st St, Kenosha, WI 53144

Julia Robson, Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use conservation biologist, will discuss why we need reptiles and amphibians (HINT: it helps birds) and also will talk about how to help such species even in your own backyard.

Saturday, January 19, 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 7, 7:00 p.m.

Hoy Meeting, Program: Bears of North America

Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast's Trefoil Oaks Program Center
 3901 1st St, Kenosha, WI 53144

Randy Hetzel, a career wildlife biologist who has worked with bears in Wyoming and Wisconsin, will discuss biology, ecology, and stories about Grizzly, Black, and Polar Bears.

Friday, February 15 through Monday, February 18

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 16, 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 7, 7:00 p.m.

Hoy Meeting: Wetland Monitoring

Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast's Trefoil Oaks Program Center
 3901 1st St, Kenosha, WI 53144

Rita Flores Wiskowski and Judith Huf are nature enthusiasts who volunteered for Milwaukee County Park's citizen science Wetland Monitoring Project. This presentation will feature photos and videos of pond life – from the super cute to the downright beautiful to the very weird to the creepy crawly.

Saturday, March 16, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

EcoFest Racine

Gateway Technical College

1001 S. Main Street, Racine, WI 53403

Visit Hoy's table (and many other interesting tables!) at EcoFest!

Saturday, March 23, 8:30 a.m. (or 9:00 a.m. at Eagle Lake)

Hoy Field Trip: Eagle Lake Waterfowl

Meet at Hwy 20 Park and Ride at 8:30 a.m. if you're carpooling

We'll arrive at Eagle Lake park (north side) at 9:00 a.m. We'll bird the lake then check the wetlands near the intersection of Hwy 11 and 75 on the way back. **Check our website prior to the trip;** if the lake is still frozen by late March, we may go birding elsewhere.

We're Writing to Say Thanks!

Thanks to a contribution made by Richard and Ann Pettibone of Drewco Work Holding Corporation, Hoy Audubon has procured several hundred very nice, shiny pens which include our name and our website address. The pens will be handed out to individuals who express an interest in birding at events such as Milaeger's Farmers Market, EcoFest, the Earth Day Festival, and bird walks. Thank you from all of us at Hoy!



- ◆ 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.

Join or renew online at: www.hoyaudubon.org/donate/

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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.

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