

A LOOK BACK AT 2006 by Kenyon Stebbins

The year 2006 was another busy one for PRAS, and we hope you enjoyed not only our indoor programs, but also our outings. Here's a summary of most of what happened. Hope to see you out there in 2007!

2006 Indoor Programs: Our programs were as follows:

January 10: Life along the Boyne River, by Larry Maltby – 65 folks
February 14: Isle Royale National Park, by Mark Gleason -- 64 folks
March 14: Michigan Land Use Institute in N. Michigan, by Rob Wooley -- 27 folks
April 11: Saving Birds Through Habitat, by Kay Charter -- 55 folks
May 9: Owl Banding at Cheboygan State Park & Pointe LaBarbe by Ed Pike – 42 folks
June 13: Outdoor potluck at Bayfront Park – 42 folks
September 12: The North Country Trail by Joan Young -- 57 folks
October 10: Seasons with Sea Turtles by Kathy Bricker – 57 folks
November 14: Whitefish Point Observatory by Jerry Ziarno – 50 folks
December 12: Members' Slide Fest & Holiday Treats – 37 folks

A total of **496 people** attended these **10 programs**, for an average of 50 folks per program. A big thanks to each presenter for sharing his and her knowledge and enthusiasm with us (and to Sally Stebbins and Margo Hodder for organizing them)!

2006 Outdoor Activities:

Jan. 22: Cross-country ski at LTC's Goodhart Farms Preservfe (Cindy Mom) -- 13 folks
Feb. 11: Cross-country ski at Waldron Fen (Margo Hodder) -- 12 folks
Feb. 25: Winter Rafting Trip on the Jordan River (Sally Stebbins) -- 12 folks
March 25 Showshoeing the North Country Trail (Sally Stebbins) – 18 folks
April 15 Birding the Bear River Pathway (Sally Stebbins) – 22 folks
April 28-30 Whitefish Point Bird Observatory Spring Fling -- ???
May 2,9,16,23, 30 Bird walks at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve (Sally Stebbins) – 72 folks
May 4,18,25 Bird walks at Spring Lake Park (Sally Stebbins) – 45 folks
May 13 North American Migratory Bird Count – 8 folks
May 14 Birding the Waldron Fen (Sally Stebbins) --13 folks
May 20 Dingman Marsh birding (John Kafer) – 12 folks
May 27 Birding by Ear at NCMC (Sally Stebbins) -- 18 folks
June 3 Birding LTC's Susan Creek Preserve (Sally Stebbins) -- 23 folks
June 5 Birding Fisherman's Island State Park (Jill Anderson & Sharon Szczesny) – 13 folks
June 8 Birding at Pond Hill Farm (John & JoAnne Biddick) -- 22 folks
June 11 Birding along the Boyne River (Audrey Etienne) – 10 folks
July 8 "Bird Sit" at the Williams' home near Camp Michigania (Glen Williams) – 6 folks
July 13 Biking & birding along the Sturgeon River (Margo Hodder) - 11 folks
July 15 Birds & Blooms at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve (Sally Stebbins) – 12 folks
July 26 Paddling to the Black Hole (Cindy Mom) – cancelled due to inclement weather
Aug. 5 Birds & Blooms at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve (Sally Stebbins) – 23 folks
Aug. 10 Chimney Swifts in downtown Petoskey (Cindy Mom) – 19 folks
Aug. 26 Birding the North Country Trail (Dick & Linda Taylor) – 15 folks
Sept. 2 Waldron Fen Nature Walk (Nancy Waldron) – 30 folks
Sept. 30 Birding Susan Creek Preserve & Biking from West Park (Margo Hodder) – rained out
Oct. 8 Fall Colors at the Johnston Preserve (Sally Stebbins) – 27 folks
Nov. 4 Birding the Straits area (Steve Baker) – 24 folks
Dec. 14 Christmas Bird Count – 25 folks

A total of **481 people** participated in these **30 outings**, for an average of 16 folks per outing. A big thanks to each field trip leader, and to Sally Stebbins, for coordinating them!

2006 Treat Providers: Our indoor programs are made extra special, thanks to the delicious treats that seem to almost magically appear on the table each month. Thanks to the following folks for their "magic", and to Kris Skornia for coordinating this important effort!

January 11—Jo Mertz, Tom Ritchie, & Jane Smith Jake Snider
February 9 -- Ron Krause, Connie Vorenkamp, & Dolores Wehrenberg
March 8 —Cynthia Donahey, Linda Rachwitz, & Glen Williams
April 12 – Margo Hodder, John Kafer, & Hank Ross
May 9 – Suzie Frisk, Evelyn Howell, Tom Ritchie & Sharon Taylor
Sept. 12 – Cindy Hofstetter, Martha Lancaster, & Roberta Vanderbreggen
Oct. 10 – Loretta Knight, Carol McCarus, & Mary Trout
Nov. 14 – Joey Arbaugh, Linda Rachwitz, & Marilynn Smith