

A LOOK BACK AT 2009, PRAS's 43rd year!

The year 2009 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 2010!

2009 Indoor Programs: Our programs were as follows:

January 13: A Spring Visit to South Georgia Island, by Russ Allen – 45 folks

February 10: Learning about Michigan Owls, by Ed Pike – 28 folks

March 10: Wild Orchids of Northern Michigan" by Steve Baker – 37 folks

April 8: Getting Kids Outdoors, by Molly Ames Baker – 23 folks

May 13: Trails in the Tip" by Emily Meyerson -- 25 folks

June 10: Outdoor potluck at Bayfront Park – 21 folks

September 8: Sulfide Mining: Do the Risks Outweigh the Benefits?, by Mary Campbell -- 27 folks

October 13: Protecting Utah's Red Rock Canyonlands, by Clayton Daughenbaugh -- 37 folks

November 10: Our Vanishing Dark Skies, by MaryLou Tanton– 27 folks

December 8: Members' Slide Fest & Holiday Treats – 9 folks

A total of **279 people** attended these **10 programs**, for an average of 28 folks per program. A big thanks to each presenter for sharing his and her knowledge and enthusiasm with us, and to Nancy Nowitzke for organizing them!

2009 Outdoor Activities:

Jan. 9 Twilight Cross Country Ski at Goodhart Farms (Cindy Mom) – 8 folks

Feb. 21 Snowshoe the Greenwood Sanctuary near Wolverine (Sally Pickering) -- 7 folks

March 15 Snowshoe in the Joy Valley (Margo Hodder) – 15 folks

April 19 Birding the Dunmaglas Golf Course near Charlevoix (Joel & Nancy Epstein) – 13 folks

May 5, 12, 19, 26 & June 2 Bird walks at Pond Hill Farm (John & Joanne Biddick) – 77 folks

May 7, 21, 28 Bird walks at Spring Lake Park (Sally Stebbins) – 30 folks

May 9 North American Migratory Bird Count – 12 folks

May 16 Dingman Marsh birding (no leader) – 8 folks (rain shortened)

May 24 Birding the Waldron Fen (Nancy Waldron) – 27 folks

May 30 Birding the Oden Fish Hatchery (Sally Stebbins) – 21 folks

June 2 Chimney Swifts in downtown Petoskey (Cindy Mom) -- 24 folks

June 3, 10, 17, 24 Surveying the Nesting Birds of the Bear River (Cindy Mom & Sally Stebbins) -- 22 folks

June 5 Orchid trip near Straits Area (Steve Baker) -- 15 folks

June 14 Birding along the Boyne River (Evelyn & Jim Howell) – 11 folks

June 19 Bird the trail from Magnus Park to Bay Harbor (Margo Hodder) – 9 folks

June 27 Nesting Birds at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve (Sally Stebbins) – 12 folks

July 18 Paddling French Farm Lake with Cynthia Donahey & Art Schoolmaster – 8 folks

July 24 Paddling Indian River Spreads (Mullett Lake) (Jill Ryan) – 7 folks

July 27 Paddling Burt Lake's Maple Bay & Bullhead Bay (Jake Snider) – 11 folks

August 6 Birding LTC's Susan Creek Preserve (Sally Stebbins) – 11 folks

August 12 Paddling to, and hiking in, Oden Island (Cindy Mom) – 11 folks

August 20 Birding at Dingman Marsh (Sally Stebbins) -- 4 folks

August 27 Birding LTC's Johnston Preserve (Sally Stebbins) – 25 folks

Sept. 13 Birding Wilderness State Park & Sturgeon Bay (Dick & Linda Taylor) – 23 folks

Sept. 27 Birding Pond Hill Farm (John & Joanne Biddick) -- 10 folks

Oct. 3 Fall Walk at the Waldron Fen (Nancy Waldron) – 14 folks

Oct. 23 Birding the Straits area (Steve Baker) – 9 folks

Dec. 14 Christmas Bird Count – 18 folks

In 2009 a total of **462 people** participated in these **36 outings**, for an average of 13 folks per outing. A big thanks to each field trip leader, and to Sally Stebbins, for coordinating them!

2009 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 Evelyn Howell for coordinating this important effort!

January 13 – Kathy Bricker, & Nancy Stamm

February 12 – Jim & Evelyn Howell, & Tom & Margaret Ritchie

March 13 – Nancy Epstein, Ron Krause, & Sally Stebbins

April 8 – Joan Nowak, Sharon Szczesny, &

May 13 –Audrey & Clint Etienne, Susie Frisk, & Glen Williams

Sept. 9 – Clint & Audrey Etienne, & Jim & Evelyn Howell

Oct. 13 – Susan Friske, Jake Snider, & Glen & Linn Williams

Nov. 10 – Cynthia Donahey, Martha Lancaster, & Nancy Stamm