



# WETLAND'S GAZETTE

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## Brian Peters Retires as Mead Project Manager

Article by Pam Resech.

### Brian Peters' Retirement

Brian's official last day as the Mead/McMillan Property Supervisor was Friday June 26<sup>th</sup>. A position he had since July of 2012. Due to the "Safer at Home", we were unable to have a large gathering and send-off for his retirement. We were able to give him some nice parting gifts though.

Brian began his career at the Mead Wildlife Area as a Wildlife Technician in 1984. Prior to the Mead, Brian had other permanent positions with the WI-DNR starting as a Wisconsin Conservation Warden in 1980 and transferred into wildlife management shortly after that, though he maintained his Special Warden credentials until 2002. He was also a wildlife technician at the state game farm in Poynette.

A love of the outdoors and Leopold's "Sand County Almanac" were the inspiration for Brian's choice of a life and career pursuit in conservation. Brian graduated from UW-Stevens Point in 1979 with double majors in Wildlife Management and Biology.

Land management was Brian's passion, and he was very excited by the opportunity to take on the leadership role in all aspects of wildlife and property management at the Mead/McMillan Work Unit.

Brian is an avid hunter and he was dedicated to providing quality hunting experiences and preserving our hunting heritage into the future. He has several other personal interests including history-related activities such as honoring American Civil War Veterans through the Sons of Union Veterans organization and reenacting Civil War Artillery, reading, singing in church choir, wood-working, recreational shooting, and tinkering with whatever needs repair or improvement.

Hopefully, with retirement he will have more time to peruse his other hobbies.



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- *Craig Ziolkowski, Property Supervisor*
- *Pam Resech, Educator*

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## Membership Expiration Update

Historically membership expiration dates were 12 months from the date of renewal. This approach has proven to be difficult to manage and keep organized. Due to this issue, the board has decided to change membership from a rolling 12 months to set January 1st to December 31st (of each year).

We acknowledge that this may slightly decrease our membership income but hope that we will make it easier for everyone in the long run.

Renewals will be sent each year with the announcement for the annual meeting.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support!

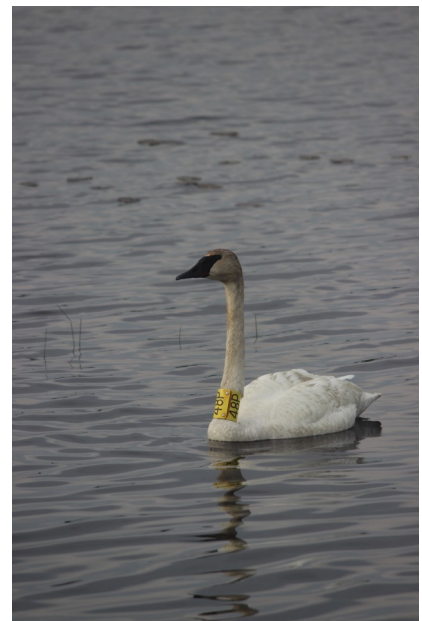




## Exploring the Mead Wildlife Area: The Rookery by Doug Urban

One of the best places to see wildlife in the Mead Wildlife Area is at the rookery located east of the Mead Education & visitor center along the Berkhahn Rookery Trail. Every time I visit the Mead I see something new and unexpected. A walk to the Mead Wildlife Rookery allowed us to see White Pelicans, Trumpeter Swans, Rock Gulls, Canada Geese, Cormorants, Sandhill Cranes and a Green Heron on August 8. My wife Mary caught a glimpse of a wolf disappearing into the tall marsh grass as well. I have also seen otters, deer, black bear, osprey, bald eagles, common loons, muskrat, badgers, fisher, snapping turtles, a Blanding's turtle, warblers, blue herons, red-winged blackbirds, sora, fox snake and more. It is about a 2-mile hike out to the rookery, but it is well worth the effort.

Be aware that the Berkhahn Rookery is a refuge area and is closed from September 1 till December 10 and is only open to deer hunters during the deer gun season during that period of time.





## New Property Supervisor at the Mead/McMillan

The Wildlife Management program is excited to announce a new Property Supervisor for the Mead/McMillan work unit. The program has hired Craig Ziolkowski as the next property supervisor to oversee operations and management of one of the largest work units in the State of Wisconsin. Craig comes to Mead/McMillan from Alaska and has a strong background in Natural Resource Management.

Below is a short bio for Craig:

Craig Ziolkowski is a biologist with over a decade of applied wildlife and fisheries management experience. Much of this work has been focused on developing abundance estimates of marine mammal and anadromous fish populations through capture-mark-recapture studies, acoustic methods, and aerial surveys among other sampling techniques. Craig's research interests are broad and currently include; shorebird, salmonid, and forest fungal ecology.

Most recently, Craig served as an Environmental Program Manager with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Spill Prevention and Response. In this role he supervised the Interagency Coordination Unit and served as the Division's Interagency Coordinator. As a biologist, he served aboard the Alaska Regional Response Team's Wildlife Protection Committee and was often called upon to provide subject matter expertise on locally sensitive resources to state and federal on-scene coordinators during spill response activities.

Craig holds a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and has completed

advanced coursework at the University of Alaska. He likes to hike, camp, fish and bird watch in his free time. Craig, and his spouse Carrie, are the proud parents of an Alaskan poodle and truly excited to be back in central Wisconsin!

Craig will be starting in his role on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please feel free to reach out and introduce yourself to Craig once he gets started.







## Halloween Spooktacular is Cancelled

Due to the risk posed by the Covid-19 virus the Halloween Spooktacular is cancelled for this year. We hope to see our Spooky little friends next year.



Great Blue Heron  
By Marguerite Timmerman



## A Reading List For Outdoor Enthusiasts

**THE LAST SEASON** by Eric Blehm. A backcountry ranger disappears in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California.

**GHOST RIDER-TRAVELS ON THE HEALING ROAD** by Neil Peart. Man loses his wife and daughter and goes on a 14 month, 55,000 mile motorcycle ride to find a reason to keep living.

**THE MASKED RIDER: CYCLING IN WEST AFRICA** by Neil Peart. The challenges of cycling in Cameroon.

**INTO THIN AIR** by Jom Krakauer. A personal account of the 1996 Mount Everest disaster.

**DOCTOR ON EVEREST** by Keenneth Kamler M.D. A personal account of the 1996 Mount Everest disaster with a different perspective.

**THE SINGING WILDERNESS** by Sigurd Olson. A vibrant book describing the nature of the Boundary Waters and Quetico wilderness.

**THE LAST RHINOS** by Lawrence Anthony. The battle to save an animal from extinction.

**The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession** by Mark Obmascik. Birdwatchers quest to see the most species of birds in North America in 365 days.

**The Grail Bird: The Rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker** by Tim Gallagher.

**TOUCHING THE VOID** by Joe Simpson. Classic story of survival following a mountain climbing accident in Peru.

**THE WHITE SPIDER** by Heinrich Harrer. Ascent of the Eiger in Switzerland in 1938.

**THE SNOW LEOPARD** by Peter Matthiessen. Gets to the heart of why we climb mountains. Takes place in the Himalayas.

**THE MEASURE OF A MOUNTAIN** by Bruce Barcott: Well-written account of climbing Mount Rainier.

**HOLDING FAST-THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE MOUNT HOOD TRAGEDY** by Karen James. Told from the perspective of a wife who loses her husband on Mount Hood.

**DANCING AT THE RASCAL FAIR** by Ivan Doig. The struggles of immigrants on a ranch in Montana.

If you like to read during the pandemic or during the winter months check out these outdoor-related books as recommended by Doug Urban.



## Mead Images by Marguerite

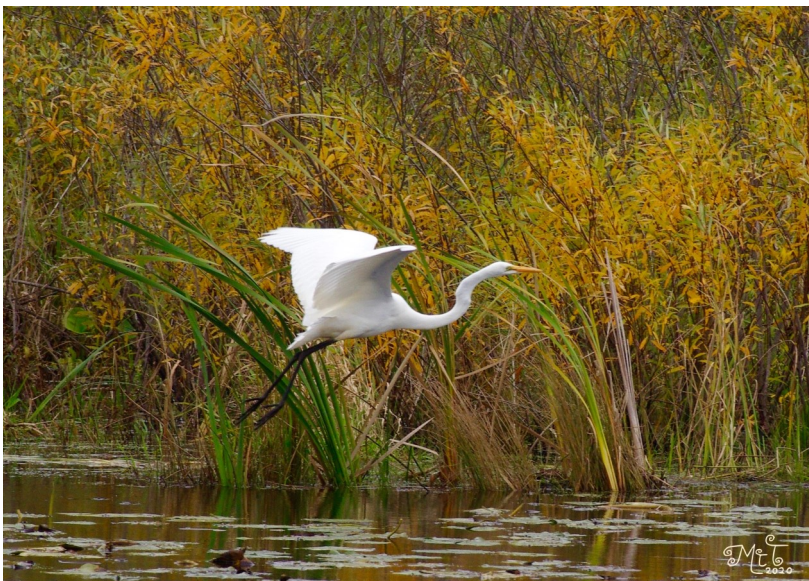
Photography by Marguerite Timmerman



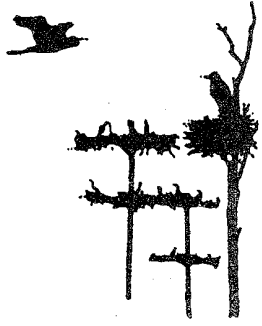
Swan Signets



Black-eyed Susans  
by Doug Urban



Great Egret Landing



**Friends of  
Mead/McMillan  
Association, Inc.**  
201517 Cty Hwy S  
Milladore, WI 54454

Mailing Address

Wetland's Gazette

## **The Brightside of the Covic-19 Pandemic**

The Covid-19 Pandemic has changed the way we live, work, shop, vacation and interact with people. People have spent more time outdoors this summer camping, biking, kayaking, fishing and hiking. Luckily we have had one of the nicest summers that I can remember. The weather has been perfect for outdoor activities in Central Wisconsin. This Fall the trees have displayed some of the brightest red and orange colors in recent memory.

"The search for places where singing can be heard goes on everywhere. It seems to be a part of the hunger that all of us have for a time when we were closer to lakes and rivers, to mountains and forests." ... Sigurd Olson