

ChequamegonChirps



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Our September meeting will be at Cam Scott's home on the usual third Monday of the month. One important adjustment will be starting time. The first part of meeting is a **6:00 p.m. start time**. This is because after we gather at Cam's house, **N 3566 Glover Drive** we will go into the adjacent woods where we will be able to see examples of forest management practices being carried out. Joe Scott will explain goals and potential management results and rewards. The earlier starting time is so we don't run out of daylight before we come back to the house for a short business meeting. If rain would make the outside activity impractical, we will still start at 6:00 p.m. Dress accordingly according for whatever the weather and bug conditions dictate. Since much of the evening session will be outside, there won't be video availability.

Volunteering opportunities: Fall color walk at Kuse Nature Preserve on Saturday, Sept 27 from 10:00 to 12:00. Call Stacy Leonard 715-965-2318 for information. Rib Lake School Forest Day October 10. Presentations needed for 4K through second grade students from 8:30 to 10:30 Contact Scott Stalheim or Joe Scott for details.

Have you noticed?

There are comfortable outside benches at the Medford Library including two that are at the entrance. Both of these are memory of former Chequamegon Bird Club members. One reads *In loving memory of Earl Finkler who loved life and the library*. The other bench reads *In loving memory of Denise Staab*.

On the immediate west side of the mill pond Luepke street goes north.(I don't know if that is in honor of Ken but it would be appropriate.) There are attractive, old style street lights on the east side of that street. The last one, right at the curve, is an example of how even a light post can be a whimsical art statement. I didn't notice it until recently even though every time I'm in Medford I try to drive along that road through the park to admire its beauty. The combination of the river,

potential bird identification, memorial trees, camping sites, extensive walking path, with many benches, tables, gazebos and exercise equipment available. It is a striking example of results when a city, sponsors, and individuals cooperate to have an outstanding resource available for everyone.

Fifty Years of Birds in Art

“To celebrate the grand opening of Wausau’s Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in September 1976, sponsors John and Alice Woodson Forester decided that an exhibition of art depicting birds would be a good, and natural fit. Alice was the daughter of Leigh Yawkey Woodson, patron of the arts and all things beautiful in whose memory the museum was established.” The Foresters had donated their Wausau east-side residence to serve as the museum’s home. The Foresters knew artist Wisconsin Owen Gromme who agreed to call a few of his friends on their behalf to participate in a bird art show.

“The resulting exhibit, *Birds of the Lakes, Fields, and Forests*, featured 70 works by 23 artists—and a ceremony in which Gromme, to his surprise, was named “Master Wildlife Artist”—was successful beyond anyone’s wildest dreams.”

The following year it became a juried exhibition, meaning the submissions are evaluated by a panel of jurors, drawn from diverse segments of the art world. They’d determine which works to accept to produce the strongest possible show.

“Today the annual Birds in Art is recognized as the most important exhibition of its kind in the world—the one that defines the state of the art. In the years since Owen Gromme agreed to call a few friends, *Birds in Art* has showcased the work of 1,132 artists—more than 5,000 works in all—representing 46 states and 31 countries.”

“Every year since 1983, selected works from *Birds in Art* have gone on the road to other museums, including, in 1986, the first exhibition organized by an American museum for display at the Beijing Natural History Museum in China.” I wasn’t able to verify it, but I think that exhibit then continued on to Paris, then Rome or New York.”

“Renowned Canadian painter Robert Bateman spoke for virtually every artist who’s been in the exhibit when he said, ‘There’s nothing to compare *Birds in Art*. It’s internationally important, unique in the world and unique in history.’”

“Milwaukee sculptor Don Rambadt, the 2017 Master Artist, concurs, ‘For any artist who’s passionate about birds and focuses on them in their work.’ he says, ‘to be included in *Birds in Art* is the highest honor you can receive.’”

“And while the quality of the art has also been a constant, the work in general is ragingly more diverse, more daringly expressive, than it was just 20 years ago.” To illustrate this point, the 50th anniversary event will feature a retrospective of work from all the Master Artists, starting with Owen Gromme in 1976 to Gunnar Tryggmo, the gifted Swedish painter who was honored in 2024. The idea is to show the range, breadth and evolution of *Birds in Art*. We will have the opportunity to see work by icons of the genre like Gromme, Arthur Singer, Keith Shackleton and Maynard Reece, combined with the work juried in this year, will really be exciting.”

This information came from an article in the latest issue of ***Our Wisconsin*** by Tom Davis. There is more information and pictures in the article. The magazine is a delightful combination of articles, pictures and information about Wisconsin. If you aren’t aware of this bi-monthly magazine, you are missing an opportunity to expand your knowledge of Wisconsin while viewing exceptional photography.

This year’s *Birds in Art* exhibit is from September 6 to January 4. For information about workshops, and artists’ demonstrations, check lywam.org or call 715-845-7010. The museum is located at 700 N. 12th Street in Wausau. Admission is always free.

(personal note here) In addition to the bird art exhibits, the building and grounds are worth a visit in themselves. Weather permitting, go to the third floor outside garden area for one of the best views of fall color. It musis a good place to people watch. When we attended with our young family, I was struck by the number and diversity of people who came to this art exhibit. Hunters who stopped by after a morning with their dogs, people in their Sunday finest, bib overall wearers, and all ages attended to enjoy the beautiful artistry of birds. We are very fortunate to have such a worldwide recognized resource in our backyard.

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Club contacts

Website: Chequamegonbirdclub.org

Information: Info@chequamegonbirdclub.org

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September happenings

10 th Full moon	A couple crazy numbers
10 th Grandparent's Day	for September migration
Earliest fall color begins	7 th 4,386,700 over WI
21 st New moon	8 th 58.4 million birds in flight
22 nd First day of Autumn	over the U.S.A.