



APRIL 2024

Happy FIFTH Anniversary to the Meadowlarks. We were chartered under GFWC Wyoming (GFWCW) in April 2019. Mary Lee Dixon was President of GFWCW at that time. Trish Peoples suggested the name Meadowlarks after our State Bird.

The Larks held a meeting on March 27. Please see the additional attachment to see what business was conducted.

Birthday: Carol is on 15th, Birthstone, Diamond, Signs are Aries and Taurus.

Chasing Success: *There was once a businessman who was sitting by the beach in a small Brazilian village. As he sat, he saw a Brazilian fisherman rowing a small boat towards the shore having caught quite few big fish.*

The businessman was impressed and asked the fisherman, “How long does it take you to catch so many fish?” The fisherman replied, “Oh, just a short while.”

“Then why don’t you stay longer at sea and catch even more?” “This is enough to feed my whole family,” the fisherman said.

The businessman then asked, “So, what do you do for the rest of the day?”

The fisherman replied, “Well, I usually wake up early in the morning, go out to sea and catch a few fish, then go back and play with my kids. In the afternoon, I take a nap with my wife, and when evening comes, I join my buddies in the village for a drink — we play guitar, sing and dance throughout the night.”

The businessman offered a suggestion to the fisherman. “I have a PhD in business management. I could help you to become a more successful person. From now on, you should spend more time at sea and try to catch as many fish as possible. When you have saved enough money, you could buy a bigger boat and catch even more fish. Soon you will be able to afford to buy more boats, set up your own company, your own production plant for canned food and a distribution network. By then, you will have moved out of this village and to Sao Paulo, where you can set up a HQ to manage your other branches.”

The fisherman continues, “And after that?”

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The businessman laughs heartily, “After that, you can live like a king in your own house, and when the time is right, you can go public and float your shares in the Stock Exchange, and you will be rich.”

The fisherman asks, “And after that?”

The businessman says, “After that, you can finally retire, you can move to a house by the fishing village, wake up early in the morning, catch a few fish, then return home to play with kids, have a nice afternoon nap with your wife, and when evening comes, you can join your buddies for a drink, play the guitar, sing and dance throughout the night!”

The fisherman was puzzled, “Isn’t that what I am doing now?”

Moral: *What if all our effort is focused on the wrong thing? We spend every day of our lives trying to get ahead. Our focus is so strong on becoming successful that we forget what success really is.*



LET'S READ

*The book review this month is from Mary Lee- **The Secret Life of Sunflowers** by Marta Molnar. It's the story of how Vincent Van Gogh became famous. It goes back and forth from his time (1890s) and family to today and a woman who inherited her grandmother's house and found letters and a diary about the family. She isn't quite sure if she is a great, great, great anything to Van Gogh but the book is well written and fast moving plus the author throws in some humor. It is available in our library.*

DID YOU KNOW? *To celebrate our club this month I will highlight the Western Meadowlark. The buoyant, flutelike melody of the Western Meadowlark ringing out across a field can brighten anyone's day. Meadowlarks are often more easily heard than seen unless you spot a male singing from a fence post. This colorful member of the blackbird family flashes a vibrant yellow breast crossed by a distinctive, black, V-shaped band. Look and listen for these stout ground feeders in grasslands, meadows, pastures, and along marsh edges throughout the West and Midwest where flocks strut and feed on seeds and insects.*

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The female Western Meadowlark chooses a nest spot on the ground in pasture, prairie, or other grassland habitat. She seeks out a small dip or depression such as a cow footprint, often shielded by dense vegetation that can make the nest difficult to see.

Nest Description** - Working alone, the female Western Meadowlark uses her bill to shape a depression in the soil into a cup-like shape, then lines the nest with soft, dry grasses and the pliable stems of shrubs. Although some nests are simple grass-lined bowls, Western Meadowlarks often use the vegetation around the nest cup as an anchor to create a hoodlike, waterproof dome over the nest by weaving together grass and shrub stems. When finished the nest is 7–8 inches across, with a cup that is 4–5 inches across and 2–3 inches deep. It can take 6–8 days for the female to build the season's first nest. As the parents move back and forth from the nest they create short "runways" into surrounding grasslands. (The Larks arrived at the Beville pastures on March 9 and 10 and I did not know they are a member of the blackbird family). **Source: Internet, All About Birds

"See You" next month, stay safe. Happy April Fool's Day!

**MEADOWLARKS
MEETING MARCH 27TH
PROJECTS**

The following projects were discussed and voted upon during the March 27th meeting: (As usual, these are at your discretion what you want to participate in).

***Coalition for the Homeless** – Continued support. Will need some painting in the future of a couple of sheds on the property. Always in need of paper products such as paper towels and toilet paper. We will hold a winter hat and glove drive at the Market.*

***Meals of Hope** – Another project addressing Food Insecurity. Packing meals for those in need. Larks are going to participate in the next project. Date, time, and cost for our club to be determined.*

***Veterans Rock (VR)** - Continued Support – currently accepting new and used small apartment sized appliances such as 5 cup coffee pots, 1.5-2 qt slow cookers, toasters and hand mixers.*

This is an ongoing project. On May 4 VFW 11453 to which Trish and Mary Lee are members is having a bike drive in the parking lot of Town and Country. Donated bikes will go to VR.

Project Lifesaver – *Wrist Bracelets with GPS to locate missing persons who may wander off. Bracelets are worn by many elderly, dementia, and handicapped patients. Julie explained that this project is fully funded by Cheyenne Police and Laramie County Sheriff's departments. What is needed is about once a month persons to go to the homes to change the batteries. Volunteers will have to pass a background check, (provided by Police Dept at no charge), and the Larks will work in teams to go into the homes.*

Meadowlarks Market – *Our own fundraising project. New chair is Trish Peoples with co-chairs Mary Lee Dixon and Flo Beville. Date is October 26 and a sign up sheet will be provided for participation. Karen is also staying on for one more year, Patty offered to help as much as she can to learn the process.*

Irlen's Syndrome – *Screening children and adults for reading disabilities due to Irlen's Syndrome. Volunteers may take the two day training and participate in screenings. Next training is set for July 12 and 13. Contact Nancy Kaufman for more information.*

Social Outings – *A summer picnic was mentioned. Board and Brush was suggested. Patty and Flo will coordinate.*

Other Meeting/News – *The Annual Convention for GFWCW is being held April 25-27 in Laramie. Cost for attending just that Saturday on the 27th is \$20. Our own Karen Kent is running for President Select at the State Level. Go on over the hill and show your support and vote for her. For more information, feel free to contact Patty or Flo.*