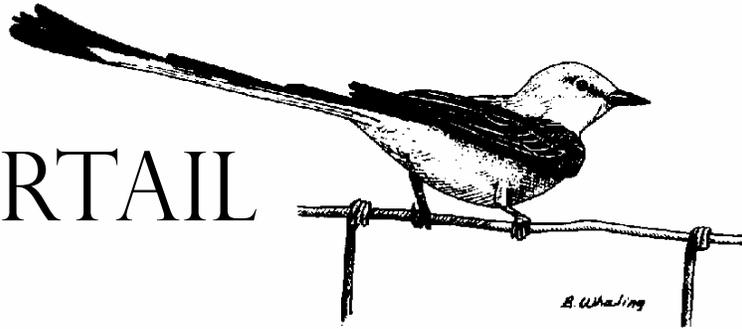


# TULSA SCISSORTAIL



TULSA  
AUDUBON  
SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER  
VOL. LXVI, NO. 2

WINTER 2004 - 2005

EDITOR: PETER LOWEN

## *From the President*

We recently lost two very good friends of Tulsa Audubon, Bob Jennings and Lyn Dickerson. We have some tributes to them in the newsletter, but I have to mention how much they meant to me. When we arrived in Tulsa in 1982, Bob was already an "institution" at Oxley Nature Center. He quickly befriended us and made us feel right at home. Our friends from Audubon and Oxley even had a baby shower at Oxley for our son Joey!

John and Lyn Dickerson also quickly befriended us when as we tried to adjust from

our Northeastern upbringings to an Oklahoma lifestyle. Lyn was always there to help, and when I was president of Tulsa Audubon in that earlier life I could always count on Lyn for support. She especially did a tremendous job getting our Audubon Adventures program in well over 100 schools.

If you have not already done so, visit [www.tulsaaudubon.org](http://www.tulsaaudubon.org) for tributes to both of these special people.

## Bird Seed Update

Thanks to everyone for another successful Bird Seed Sale. I still have an extra 2 or 3 bags of most items, so be sure to get stocked up. This is promising to be a banner year for our winter finches - Pine Siskins are everywhere already, an Evening grosbeak has been seen, and Crossbills and Pine Grosbeaks are being seen in Kansas. So don't get caught with a shortage of seed! To see what is still available, check our website or call me at 809-6325.

*John Kennington*

## TAS Upcoming Events

**Tuesday Morning Birders.** The Tuesday Morning Birders meet at 8:00am every Tuesday morning from September through March, at the Tulsa Garden Center. Trip leaders for December are listed by week. (Please see page 2 for 2005 TMB announcement.)

1st Tues	Dave Edwards	865-7598
	Bob Gard	241-4273
	Jim Thayer	494-3784
2nd Tues	Bob & Donna Germany	493-2726
3rd Tues	Jo Loyd	835-2946
4th Tues	Patty & Paul Moser	252-2824
5th Tues	Donna Horton	586-0522

**First Saturday of every month.** Bird with Oxley Nature Center Staff in Mohawk Park. Meet 8:00 am at parking lot. Call 669-6644 for details.

### December

4 Sat. **Field Trip** A hiking trip to view the Eagle roosting area with Dave Edward and Bob Gard. Call 241-4273 for details.

7 Tue. **Board Meeting** - 7:00pm at Martin Brown's house. Call 446-8667 for directions.

18 Sat. **Christmas Bird Count.** Tulsa Audubon Society will be participating in the 105th consecutive count by the National Audubon Society. For information and to participate, contact Jo Loyd 835-2946.

21 Tue. **Society Meeting** 7:30 p.m. - "Annual Show and Tell" slide presentation. Attendees are invited to bring up to 10 of their favorite slides (or digital photos) on any subject of general interest. Contact John Kennington at 809-6325. Bring goodies to share after the meeting.

### 2005 January

8 Sat. **Eagle Days.** Meet between 8 and 10 a.m. in the parking lot of the Watchable Wildlife Area, east of the Corps of Engineers Office on the north side of the Arkansas River at Lake Keystone dam. For information, contact Dave Edwards, 865-7398.

16 Sun. **Eagle Days** See January 8 information.

17 Mon. **Oxley Nature Center Winter Census.** To participate, contact Lynda Fritts, 669-6649, 341 -7431

18 Tues. **Society Meeting** 7:30 p.m. - "A View From Inside the Impenetrable Thickets: Studying the Swainson's Warbler" by Mia Revels. Ms. Revels holds a Ph.D. in Zoology and is currently an Associate Professor at Northeastern State University. Her current research topic is a study of the Swainson's Warbler.

22 Sat. **Field Trip** Lake Hefner and Lake Overholser, Oklahoma City, for gulls and wintering waterfowl. For details, contact Paul & Patty Moser, 252-2824.

*(continued on page 2)*

## TUESDAY MORNING BIRDERS

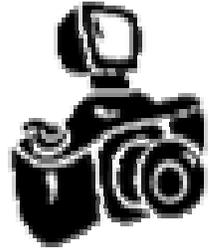
The leaders for Tuesday Morning Birders have noticed a decline in attendance for their trips. They held a meeting and decided that interested birders should meet at the Garden Center at the regular time, and those present can decide where they will go that day.

For the remainder of 2004, the trips will be led as previously scheduled, meeting at the Garden Center at 8:00am. The new format will be effective the first of January.

Neely Lowrie and Patty Moser  
Co-chairs, Tuesday Morning Birders

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, I have been chasing butterflies around with my camera all year. Please take a look at the result of this madness at my website "Butterfly Images from 2004, by Bob Gard", <http://members.aol.com/gardb/04page/index.html>



Hope you enjoy the photographs. Let me know if you encounter any problems using the website or have any suggestions for improving it.

Bob Gard

*Editor's Note: Wow!*

### February

- 1 Tue. **Board Meeting** – 7:00pm (place TBA)
- 5 Sat. **Field Trip** Lake Tenkiller for loons and waterfowl.  
Leader: Jim Arterburn 481-5077.
- 15 Tue. **Society Meeting** 7:30 p.m. - "Purple Martins" by Dick Sherry, a long-time TAS member and an active member of the Purple Martin Society.
- 27 Sun. **Field Trip** Afternoon trip with Bonnie Gall to Copan and Hulah Lakes for waterfowl and possibly owls.  
Contact Jo Loyd 835-2946.

### March

- 15 Tue. **Society Meeting** 7:30 p.m. - "Butterfly Gardening" by Jim Thayer, a long-time TAS member and butterfly expert.
- 26 Sat. **Field Trip** Redbud Valley Nature Preserve for early wildflowers and birds. Leader: Donna Horton, 587-0522



### TULSA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: John Kennington 809-6325      Vice-President: Lynda Fritts 669-6644  
Secretary: Cyndie Browning 492-5622      Treasurer: Mary Jackson 254-1350  
Recorder: Amy Lambert 272-4794, 747-4202

Directors: Martin Brown, Carol Eames, David Edwards, Bob Gard, Tomye Mainer, Patty Moser

**TAS Website: <http://www.tulsaaudubon.org>**

"**Tulsa Scissortail**" is the quarterly newsletter of the Tulsa Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2476, Tulsa, OK 74101. As the "Scissortail" newsletter goes to the printer two weeks before the date of issue, your editor needs items for that issue at least a week prior to that (For Spring 2005, that will be February 12th or so).

e-mail: [thelowenfamily@aol.com](mailto:thelowenfamily@aol.com)

Peter Lowen, Editor

## NATIONAL AUDUBON RELEASES “STATE OF THE BIRDS”

On Tuesday, October 19, The National Audubon Society released the “The State of the Birds,” a report documenting the health and abundance of North America’s birds. Appearing in the October issue of *Audubon Magazine*, “The State of the Birds” paints a disturbing picture. Almost 30% of America’s bird species are in “significant decline,” a situation that signals seriously degraded environmental conditions in the habitats these birds call home.

The bottom line: the state of the birds in 2004 is not sound. In particular, a disturbing 70 percent of grassland species; 36 percent of shrub-land bird species; 25 percent of forest bird species; 13 percent of wetland species; and 23 percent of bird species in urban areas are showing “statistically significant declines.”

According to “State of the Birds,” these declines are abnormal. Not part of the natural, cyclical rise and fall of bird populations, “statistically significant declines” are due to outside factors such as loss of native grasslands, overgrazing, development of wetlands, bad forest management, invasive species, pollution, and poor land use decisions.

Audubon’s President John Flicker sees a clear message in this report. “Like the canary in the coal mine warning the miner of danger ahead, our birds are an indicator of environmental and human health,” he said. “Birds signal that we are at risk next.”

But, Flicker also sees a clear path out of trouble. “People may have created these problems, but people can solve them, if we act now,” he stated. To that end, Audubon is now addressing the findings of “State of the Birds” in its conservation agenda at the legislative and policy making level, and in the states where the greatest conservation challenges exist.

Compiled by Audubon Scientist Greg Butcher, “State of the Birds” analysis makes the case for private and public action. Based on the report’s findings, Audubon is advocating for improved grassland,

forest, and wetland protection, stronger pollution controls, partnerships with private landowners, and backyard habitat programs for homeowners.

“State of the Birds” summarizes the status of nearly 700 birds species native to the continental United States, focusing on the condition of species in each of five habitat types: grasslands, shrublands, forests, wetlands, and urban areas (the fastest growing habitat type in the U.S.). Written using USGS Breeding Bird Survey and Audubon’s WatchList - cross-referenced with Audubon’s Christmas Bird Count data, the report will be issued on a yearly basis, and will inform Audubon’s conservation agenda, identifying key areas requiring immediate action.

Birds not only serve as reliable indicators of environmental conditions, they also contribute greatly to the U.S. economy. Keeping birds - and their home habitats - in good condition is not only a good conservation policy, it is also good business. The worth of birds beyond their aesthetic and conservation value is something that is beginning to be more fully appreciated, a situation that has created allies for bird conservation in small and large business, and local governments - entities that have been historically unlikely conservation partners.

“According to the U.S. Forest Service, 70 million Americans - one-third of all adults in this country - call themselves birdwatchers. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service notes that they contribute at least \$32 billion in retail sales, \$85 billion in overall economic output, and \$13 billion in state and federal taxes, creating 863,406 jobs,” continued Flicker. “Birds also contribute to the bottom line in more subtle ways, providing free pest and weed control, distributing seeds, and pollinating flowers and crops. American businesses and communities simply cannot afford to ignore the state of the birds.”

A digest of the report was published in the October issue of *Audubon* magazine and a further analysis is available on the Audubon website, [www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds](http://www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds).

## Audubon Remembers

### Robert G. Jennings

All will remember Bob Jennings, who passed away September 15, 2004, and is now on his way to that great nature center in the heavens. He's sitting on a tree stump smoking his pipe, enjoying a fine beer and watching for another bird to add to his life list.

After graduating from Wentworth Military Academy and then the University of Missouri Kansas City with a masters in biology, he directed the Lakeside Nature Center, part of the Kansas City, Mo, Parks and Recreation Department, where he initiated an outdoor education program.

In September of 1977 he became the first director of Oxley Nature Center. For the next 25 years he led and inspired Tulsans to preserve a portion of Mohawk Park creating a nature center that is nationally renowned for its interpretive programs. Over the years Bob received many awards for his leadership as a naturalist and interpreter and recently was named a Fellow of the National Association for Interpretation, their highest honor. His commendation reads: "exemplifying career achievement in guiding the interpretive profession through instruction, mentoring, research writing, front-line interpretation, and management, and for providing outstanding support for NAI."

Among his many interests were collecting and playing Taylor guitars, observing 668 birds for his life list and tasting 842 beers for his beer list. He enjoyed traveling with his wife Kelly to musty historical sites and the Pacific Northwest and to birding hot-spots such as Attu in the Aleutians and Churchill, Canada with his friend Wally and others.

*(continued on page 5)*

### Lyn Dickerson

Tulsa Audubon Society and Native Plant Society Members will remember the smile and sweet voice of Lyn Dickerson who passed away on Sunday August 15, 2004. She and John (who passed away in 2001) were so ready to share their love and knowledge of birds, wild flowers, and all of nature that they led field trips and worked steadfastly to encourage and promote these organizations as well as Oxley Nature Center.



From 1981 to 1985 they hosted the monthly meetings of Tulsa Audubon Society, introducing the new members and guests and making everyone feel at ease. Lyn was an educator in background and was chairman of the TAS Education committee during the 1980s; she was instrumental in getting Audubon Adventures started in all elementary schools in the Tulsa Area.

She also performed the hard work of connecting Tulsa Audubon members as speakers for the many requests TAS received from schools and other organizations. Lyn was one of those who spoke and shared their memories at the 60th Anniversary celebration of Tulsa Audubon Society.

Lyn quietly took on whatever job was asked of her when TAS was so actively growing. As a long-time member of the Tuesday Morning Birders, we celebrated her birthday and their wedding anniversary (both on Nov. 13) with a special cake at the TMB snack time -- usually indoors at the Corps of Engineers Building at Keystone Dam or at Oxley Nature Center. She had a delightful sense of humor. We will miss her very much.

*by Laurel Upshaw, Historian*

# BioBlitz! 2004

by Cyndie Browning

BioBlitz! is a so-called "rapid inventory of biological diversity" hosted, in Oklahoma, by the Oklahoma Biological Survey and conducted by scientists, students, and volunteers (like me!!) from around the state and the region. Every living thing except domesticated animals and humans in a designated area of public land as can be found and identified in 24 consecutive hours is counted. BioBlitz! always begins at 3:00 p.m. on a Friday and concludes at 3:00 p.m. on the Saturday. A running tally is displayed during the event and the final results are announced at the conclusion of each BioBlitz!

BioBlitzes have become regular events around the country since the Smithsonian Institution held the first one in 1996 in Washington, DC. BioBlitzes in Oklahoma began in September 2001 at the Sutton Urban Wilderness in Norman (2001), and were subsequently held at the Broken Bow Reservoir in McCurtain County (2002), Boiling Springs State Park in Woodward (2003), and this year, at the Okmulgee State Park and nearby Okmulgee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on Sept 10-11. I'm proud to say I've worked on the last three.

OU and OSU always send a contingent of students and teachers, as well as the Oklahoma City Zoo, and I remember seeing one van from one of the Texas university/college campuses in Texarkana, TX!!

This year, my birdin' buddy Phil Floyd and I started birding at the Okmulgee NWR right at 3:00 o'clock

Friday afternoon. There didn't seem to be a lot of birds around, perhaps because it was hot (being September, y'know) and the area around Okmulgee doesn't offer much variety in birding habitat. Still, we lucked out and stumbled on a "woodpecker swamp" on the Refuge with lots of shallow water and dead trees, where we found 17 species at that one stop!! including Wood Ducks, Great and Little Blue Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Downy and Red-headed Woodpeckers, Great Crested Flycatcher, E. Kingbird, and one other unidentifiable Empid species (the bird never uttered a sound, just sat there and looked back at us), American and Fish Crows, Common Yellowthroat, and Indigo Bunting. In the two days we hunted for birds, we found 35 of the 74 birds counted in those 24 hours (that is, after everyone who found birds pooled their results), and we were well-pleased with our contribution.

Incidentally, the total number of species found in Okmulgee was 1,155!!!! and included birds (74), reptiles and amphibians (34, of which 14 were snakes), aquatic invertebrates (84), diatoms (55), mosses (12), algae (4), liverworts (3--whatever those are!), plants (388), fishes (29), mammals (20), and terrestrial invertebrates (y'know, bugs!!) which accounted for a whopping 458 of the total species found and identified in 24 hours!!

Next year, the BioBlitz! will be at Mohawk Park right here in Tulsa so I'm REALLY lookin' forward to that and hope you will, too. After all, how often do you get to observe and participate in real science happening right in your own backyard??

*Bob Jennings, from page 4*

Genealogy, reading, creating an eclectic collection of music CDs, and watching British murder mysteries were other favorite interests. As he put it in one of his Oxley newsletter columns: "I'm curious, a gift I'm profoundly thankful for. Just think how boring it would be never to wonder why."

Bob was known for his "From the Stump" columns in the Oxley Nature Center newsletter. When his friends decided he might

never get "off the stump" and write a book, they collected several of his columns and published the book *From the Stump*.

He coauthored a bird guide of Midwest birds that will be published in the spring by Lone Pine Press, Canada.



*(continued on page 6)*

# Recorder's Report

Recorder: Amy Lambert Mail: 12006 E. 80th Street North  
lambert.a@sbcglobal.net Owasso, OK 74055



Amy Lambert 272-4794 or Pat Seibert 747-4202

Species	Date	Count	Location	Observer
E Peach-faced Lovebird	29-Sep-04	5	17th & Wheeling	S. Carlson
F Common Loon	17-Oct-04	1	Lake Yahola	Carrell, Mitchell, Woodward
R Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	28-Oct-04	12	Swan Lake	M. Mutzig
R Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	29-Oct-04	13	Swan Lake	C. Smith
O Bonaparte's Gull	19-Oct-04	3	Lynn Lane Reservoir	J. Loyd, et al
F Herring Gull	17-Oct-04	2	Lake Yahola	Carrell, Mitchell, Woodward
O Common Nighthawk	31-Oct-04	1	Residence, Tulsa	T. Mitchell
O Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	27-Sep-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
L Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	02-Nov-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	B. Gard, et al
F Red-breasted Nuthatch	27-Sep-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
F Golden-crowned Kinglet	17-Oct-04	3	Oxley Nature Center	Carrell, Mitchell, Woodward
O Yellow Warbler	27-Sep-04	7	Oxley Nature Center	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
F Yellow-rumped Warbler	11-Oct-04	25	Residence, Tulsa	T. Mitchell
O Yellow-throated Warbler	27-Sep-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
O Yellow-throated Warbler	29-Sep-04	1	Mohawk Park	Loyd/Seibert
O Black-and-white Warbler	05-Oct-04	1	Residence, Tulsa	J. Crampton
O Black-and-white Warbler	17-Oct-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	Carrell, Mitchell, Woodward
O Black-and-white Warbler	19-Oct-04	1	Mohawk Park	J. Loyd, et al
O Ovenbird	15-Oct-04	1	Williams Ctr Green	Loyd/Seibert
O Northern Waterthrush	26-Sep-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
O Wilson's Warbler	17-Oct-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	Carrell, Mitchell, Woodward
O Wilson's Warbler	19-Oct-04	1	Mohawk Park	J. Loyd, et al
F Spotted Towhee	17-Oct-04	25	Oxley Nature Center	Carrell, Mitchell, Woodward
F Le Conte's Sparrow	17-Oct-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	Carrell, Mitchell, Woodward
F Dark-eyed Junco	11-Oct-04	3	Residence, Tulsa	T. Mitchell
O Orchard Oriole	27-Sep-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
F Pine Siskin	05-Oct-04	1	Osage Trail	P. Moser, et al

O = Out of Date    R = Rare    F=First    L=Last    E=Exotic

*Bob Jennings, from page 5*

He is survived by his wife and soul mate of 34 years Kelly (Kathryn Lynn) Jennings and a multitude of friends.

Friends may make contributions in his memory to the National Association for Interpretation (P.O. Box 2246 Ft Collins, CO 80522) or the Mary K. Oxley Nature Center Association (PO Box 35812 Tulsa, OK 74153-0812)

" The geese pass swiftly, but the song does not. I sit in the growing dusk and remember the gift sent down. I cannot fly and I cannot match their song, but I can, for a moment

find their freedom within myself. It is enough." —From the Stump, Goose Music.

*compiled from the NAI Website*



Artwork from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory website

# You know you're a birder when...

from the Internet - Author unknown

1. Someone yells, "DUCK!", and you look up and shout, "WHERE?"
2. You criticize television programs and commercials that depict a bald eagle but play a red-tailed hawk call.
3. One of your kids is named Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine or Phoebe.
4. Your spouse says, "It's either me or the birds," and you have to think about it.
5. You try to talk your kid into going to college in Belize so that you have an excuse to go and bird there.
6. A machine at work is making a squeaking noise and you describe it to maintenance as sounding like a black-and-white warbler.
7. You spend only 15 minutes preparing dinner for your family but 30 minutes mixing and placing seed for your birds.
8. You wake your spouse at 5:30 a.m. and exclaim, "Say, is that a nuthatch I'm hearing outside the window?"
9. You identify calls of birds in the soundtracks of television shows and movies.
10. You lose friends and perhaps even your spouse from fighting over the pronunciation of the word "pileated."
11. You know what birds USED to be called before the English name was changed, so you use them all in, "Look, there's a common egret, American egret, great egret, or whatever they're calling it these days."
12. You spend most of the day on Saturday, after getting up at 4 a.m., making a five-hour drive in near-zero weather in snow and sleet with wet feet and inadequate clothing while looking for an unusual bird, and then exclaim "YES!" with a big grin on Monday morning when someone at work asks you if you had a good weekend.
13. You are the only one in the room who doesn't think "prairie chicken" and "yellow-bellied sapsucker" is funny.
14. The nastiest words in your vocabulary come out exclusively while birding.
15. In your worst nightmare, "Private - No Trespassing" signs circle around your head.
16. When it comes to chasing after birds, you sometimes, in fact regularly, walk the very thin line between courage and plain ol' stupidity.
17. You enjoy living, love your family and friends, have life insurance and worry about your health - but routinely attempt suicide every time you get behind the wheel of a car because you're always looking for birds and never at the road.
18. No, you don't think all those little brown birds in the field guide look the same.
19. Every last gift or card you receive has a bird somewhere on it.
20. That vacation spot you promise your family with wide expanses of sandy beach - also has a great migrant trap at the sewage plant.
21. Before getting into the passenger side of your car at night, your spouse feels around the seat for road kill.

**NAS/TAS Introductory Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check:*

\$20 1 yr Introductory     \$30 2 yr Introductory

\$15 1 yr Student Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 1 yr Introductory Senior

Check enclosed, payable to: **National Audubon Society chapter T01/7XCH (please put on check)**

Please bill me

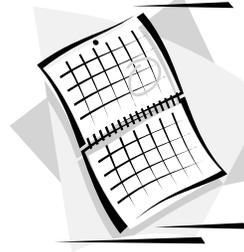
Mail to: National Audubon Society  
Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 52529  
Boulder, CO 80322

**T01/7XCH must be on check and envelope**

OR, for only Tulsa Audubon Society  
\$10 Local membership - includes

**Tulsa Scissortail.** Mail check to:

Tulsa Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 2476  
Tulsa, OK 74101

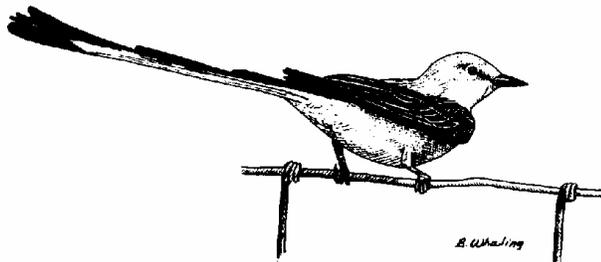


**Save the Date!!!**

**December 18th**

The Tulsa County Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for Saturday, December 18th, 2004. Our own dependable and reliable Jo Loyd (835-2946) will again coordinate the event. The post-count chili party will be at Patty and Paul Moser's house (252-2824). Call now to participate in this Tulsa tradition!

Tulsa Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 2476  
Tulsa, OK 74101



Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Permit No. 2195

*Please share your "Scissortail" with friends and encourage them to join!*