

Drummings November 2025

President's Letter



Next Meeting

November 6, 2025

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

College of DuPage
Health Science Ctr, Rm 1234
425 Fawell Drive
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Hello DBCers,

Have you ever taken the DOPE test? No, I don't mean a drug test; I mean the DOPE test. I came across this recently. The DOPE test measures a bird's personality type. And by extension, those of us who hang around with birds a lot can be labeled in the same way.

So let's see how you come out. There are four classifications of birds in DOPE:

D is for Dove – Regarded as calm, friendly, helpful, harmonious, supportive. Doves value relationships and close friends, are good listeners, and try to avoid conflict. I picture that crowd of MODOs wandering around beneath a bird feeder, bumping into each other but not getting into a quarrel. Sounds pretty good.

O is for Owl – They are analytical, methodical, detail-minded, and logical (think engineer). They tend to be perfectionists, rule-followers, and need to have a lot of detailed information before they can make a decision. Not tending toward snap purchases or spontaneous plans.

P is for Peacock – The life of the party. Outgoing, enthusiastic, optimistic. Likes to be the center of attention. Friendly, confident, a risk-taker.

E is for Eagle – They are confident, decisive, results oriented, natural born leaders who enjoy power, are disciplined, and focus on achieving their goals. So who are you? Maybe at our next meeting we can each call like our bird and have a cacophany of sound!

Birdly,
Thelma Hulka

November 6 Meeting, In Person and Zoom: The Cranes of Jasper-Pulaski + 2026 DBC Officers Election

Join us on Thursday 11/6 at 7:00 pm as we welcome Nick Echterling, Jasper-Pulaski's property manager, via Zoom. [Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area](#) is home to one of the big spectacles of migration, especially in the fall. Each year, a significant portion of the Sandhill Crane population in the eastern U.S. stages through this area, and tens of thousands of cranes congregate in

a single field every night during peak season. Nick will fill us in on both the property and the cranes that migrate through it! This meeting will be hybrid format, so you can either join us at CoD or register for the Zoom meeting by [clicking here](#).



The club's annual elections will be held following the presentation, so please plan to stick around afterwards whether you're online or in person. At this meeting, we will present the slate of officers for 2026 and elect new leadership.

NOTE: There will not be a Ellyn's event ahead of this meeting.

Slate of 2026 Officers Announced!

The proposed officers for DBC's 2026 Board will be presented to members for voting at the November 6 club meeting. Here's a preview for your consideration:

President: Matt Crisler

Matt is one of the many "pandemic birders" out there, and joined DBC looking to learn more about where to go and what to look for in the area. Over the last few years, Matt has been amazed at all the opportunities that the club has helped him connect with, from bird counts to field trips to monitoring. Matt has served as the VP for 2025, adding the "Birding Adventures" series to our presentation offerings (and looking for more volunteer presenters to keep it going!) as well as leading various field trips locally and the spring Magee trip.

Vice President: OPEN

This is a most critical role to ensure the club's continuity as an organization. Without a VP, we don't have someone arranging the speakers for our monthly meetings, and we won't have someone to serve as President in 2027. No experience is necessary; you'll have lots of experience around you to help out (Matt's note - I had only been to one club meeting prior to becoming VP, so the bar is pretty low!). Please reach out to Matt Crisler crislermj@gmail.com if you're interested or would like to learn more.

Treasurer: Rich Gaul

Rich first became interested in birds during his youth in rural Illinois. He earned the Bird Watching merit

badge as a Boy Scout. While serious birding decreased as other interests grew, he still enjoyed seeing new birds (including nearly driving off the interstate in West Virginia the first time he saw a Baltimore Oriole). One of those interests was accounting and he's been a licensed CPA in Illinois for over 35 years. He recently got back into birding and is trying to combine it with his love of photography.

Corresponding Secretary: Donnalyn Quint

I became interested in birds in the late 1990s. Various factors led to my interest in birds, such as visits to my grandfather (who did mostly bird taxidermy), colleagues at work who discussed birds, and my husband, who would always tell me about unusual birds he saw. Taking that interest to the next level, I enrolled in an ornithology class at the Morton Arboretum. Some of the classes were out in the field and I was lucky to be out there in various seasons looking for birds. I joined DBC in 2003. Their combination of educational meetings, field trips, and friendly birders drew me in. I served on the Board previously as Recording Secretary and I have served on the Outreach Committee. I am looking forward to another year in 2026 as DBC Corresponding Secretary.

Recording Secretary: Robert Perez

Robert has had an interest in birding nearly his entire life. His grandmother started a life list for him when he was 2, and he learned the basic backyard birds off a placemat she had. Since graduating college, Robert has gone on several trips throughout the country and Europe specifically looking for birds. He is a life-long resident of DuPage County and is now working for the Lombard Park District. A member of the DuPage Birding Club for several years, he has tried to go on at least one field trip every month, and enjoys helping others see as many birds as possible. Robert has previously served as Vice President of DBC (2023) and then as President (2024). He is excited to return to the executive board and continue the great work DBC does by serving as its Recording Secretary.

Director: OPEN

Directors provide input to the executive committee about the direction of the club, as well as help out with various ad-hoc events throughout the year like the August breakfast or the auction. (Matt's note - Throughout 2025, the executive committee has had discussions about various elements of the club's operations that could use streamlining/modernizing to help us address current challenges. I do intend to try to make progress on this over the course of 2026, so if you have opinions about the state of the club, this is a fantastic way to put those to good use!) Please reach out to Matt Crisler crislermj@gmail.com if you're interested or would like to learn more.

Director: Jim Mateski

As Director during 2025, Jim helped plan, organize, and run the Birding and Breakfast picnic and Volunteer Luncheon/birdwalk. This included quickly obtaining preserve permits to lock-in desired dates. Jim attended all Auction Team planning meetings and helped set-up equipment, supplies, and raffle prizes during the event. He also worked the DBC booth at the Gull Floic to include pick-up and delivery of DBC display screens.

Director: Steve Constantelos

Steve grew up in DuPage County and became interested in birding back in the mist of the early 1990s while living in Virginia, tracking pileated woodpeckers, dodging mockingbirds, and monitoring bluebird

boxes. Since returning to the area, he's helped lead many of our local bird counts and big days, and volunteers for Chicago Bird Collision Monitors. Avian interests include our resident/breeding songbirds (especially sparrows) and holistically protecting birds throughout our hemisphere, from South America to Canada, across the U.S. and Caribbean. Steve served as the DBC's President in 2021 and he has continued to volunteer, leading field trips, performing editorial and organizational work, and administering our YouTube channel.

Other volunteer opportunities: Help spread the word about all things DBC by volunteering for one of our collegial Communications team roles. Contribute to the publishing of the **Drummings Newsletter**, share club happenings on **Instagram**, or take up one of our two **Webmaster** positions. We can find something to suit your interests and skills, and help you develop new ones!

If you would like to volunteer or want more information, please email Matt at crislermj@gmail.com. The DBC wants you!

2025 Auction Breaks All Records!

The 2025 DBC Auction and Fundraiser was worth the wait according to participants. Our first auction since 2019, the October 9 event was certainly a big night for the DuPage Birding Club as it smashed records for number of items auctioned, volume of books and bazaar items, cool raffle items, number of participants, and funds raised. The sold-out event hosted 100+ people, including DBC members, forest preserve staff, and family and friends.

A Lively and Fast-Paced Evening

Auctioneers Denis Kania and Jeff Chapman set a lively pace as they auctioned a wide range of optics, artwork, feeders and supplies, experiences, gift baskets, and more. The always popular Birders' Bazaar was especially loaded with books as DBC liquidated its Lending Library, which had become less relevant as it aged now that many resources are available online. It was treasure hunting at its best at the Free and \$3 tables! And thanks to Erva Tool and Manufacturing, one of our donors, every attendee could go home with a BirdBath Purifying Disk for their birdbaths.



Auction Raises \$7,600!

Preliminary tallies in round numbers put the auction results at \$7,100 from the 60+ items auctioned during the event and another \$600 from the Raffle and Birders' Bazaar. This figure exceeds all prior auction results. Good work, team!

Proceeds fund club operations such as our speaker program and outreach events and our Grants and Donations Program, which has donated \$21,367 to bird- and conservation-related programs since 2019.



Photos by Diann Bilderback

A Shout-Out to our Donors and Volunteers

This event couldn't happen without a lot of helping hands. First, a big thanks to our generous donors in the business community. Please remember them in your fall and holiday shopping and your giving program.

American Bird Conservancy
American Birding Association
Barn Owl Garden Center
Buikema's Ace Hardware Wheaton
BWD (formerly Bird Watcher's Digest)
Chicago Bird Alliance
Conservation Foundation
Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Dean's Beans Fair Trade Coffee
DuPage Forest Preserve
Ellyn's Tap and Grill

Erva Tool and Manufacturing
Fermilab Natural Areas
Field Guides, Inc.
Illinois Audubon Society
Indiana Audubon Society
International Crane Foundation
Morton Arboretum
Red Hill Birding
Schaumburg Boomers
The Growing Place
Wild Birds Unlimited (Lisle)



Chris Cudworth and winning bidder Jeannine Kannegiesser. Photo by Jeff Reiter

Thank you to all the members who donated auction, raffle, and bazaar items. Your hand-crafted items, beautiful artwork, and rehomed treasures added eclectic variety and spice to our offerings. A special thank you to artist and teacher **Chris Cudworth**, who created a painting of a Blackburnian Warbler and framed it live during the event. It was auctioned at the close of the evening.

Thank you to the 20+ volunteers the night of the auction who hauled in boxes, set up tables, and supported the auction process. You brought order to the mayhem and helped us stay organized!

And finally, thanks to the committee who made this event happen: Diann Bilderback, Denis Kania, Jeff Reiter, Jim Mateski, Lindsay Vacek, John Baker, and Steve Mineck. Job well done!

DBC Volunteer Luncheon Held at St. James Farm

The DuPage Birding Club celebrated its many volunteers on October 18 with a luncheon at St. James Farm. The event kicked off with a bird walk followed by lunch and a bird bingo game. Mark Freeburg led the bird walk in absolutely perfect weather. Notable birds included: Purple Finch, Fox Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and an Osprey.

The event honored members who have volunteered on behalf of the club in the last year. This includes Board members, Committee members, field trip leaders, outreach volunteers, newsletter and website contributors, event coordinators, and others who gave of their time in the past year.



Photo by Jeff Reiter

We appreciate everyone who has worked so hard over the years to keep our club relevant and interesting, providing education and relaxation to so many.



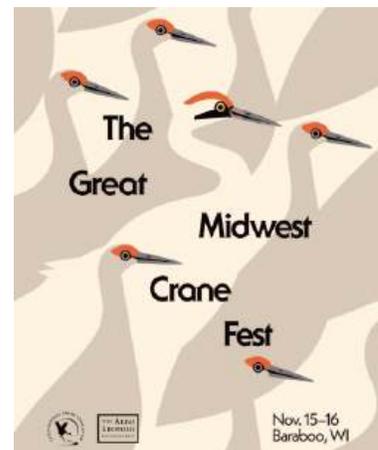
Photo by Jeff Reiter

Special thanks to Donnalyn Quint, Jim Mateski, and Thelma Hulka for leading the organization of this event. Plan to join the fun next year—get involved and help your club stay strong!

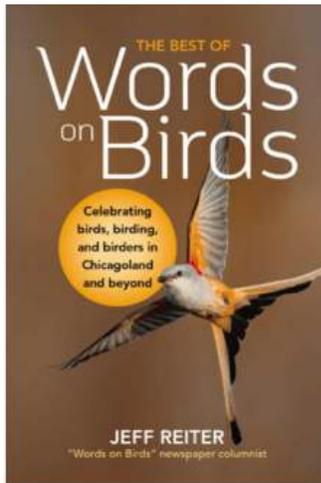
Great Midwest Crane Fest November 15-16

If you're looking for a great way to spend a lovely fall weekend, head to Baraboo, Wisconsin, and the fourth annual Great Midwest Crane Fest to be held November 15-16.

Here's your chance to witness the largest fall crane congregation and participate in guided crane-viewing tours, presentations, workshops, and more! You can also explore the beautiful landscapes and rich histories connecting the festival hosts, the [International Crane Foundation](https://internationalcranefoundation.org/) and the [Aldo Leopold Foundation](https://aldoleopoldfoundation.org/). To register: <https://greatmidwestcranefest.org/registration/>



DBC Book Club to Read *The Best of Words on Birds*



It's probably no surprise that the DBC Book Club has chosen *The Best of Words on Birds* as its next read. Authored by our very own Jeff Reiter, the book selects favorite columns from his 30 years of publishing *Words on Birds* monthly in The Daily Herald. Columns focus on individual species, birding tips and know-how for beginners, interesting people or books in the field, and Jeff's own personal experiences as a birder.

Jeff will join DBC Book Club members for the book discussion on December 11. This promises to be a lively and personal exchange. All members are welcome. For details on the meeting, contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com. To order your copy of the book, visit [The Best of Words on Birds | Eckhartz Press](#).

DuPage Birding Club's Summer/Fall '25 Photo Contest Is Now Open!

The DBC's Photo Contest has changed from four times per year to two contests each year and is now looking for pictures of birds taken between **June 1, 2025, and November 30, 2025**. All photos are welcome: amateur, funny, imperfect, high-quality. The "story behind the shot" is taken into account when judging. The judges want this to be a fun contest so no categories have been predefined — every entry has a chance to win!

Note: the judges ask that you limit the number of photos you enter to five or fewer. They usually do not give out more than one award to the same photographer when they submit multiple images.

If you would like to look at past DBC Photo Contest winners [CLICK HERE](#).



Photo by Jeff Swarens. A winner in the Spring '25 Photo Contest.

The contest is open to DBC members only. Photos may be taken anywhere (not just DuPage/Illinois). If a picture includes people, the submitter must have permission from those people to publish their image on the DBC website. Photographs will be judged by a small team of DBC members.

There are two ways to enter your bird photographs:

1. If you have a Google Account (you have one if you use Gmail), click the link below:

[DBC Photo Contest Entry Form](#)

2. If you do not have a Google Account, email your image as an email attachment to dupagebirdingclub@gmail.com. In the body of your email include:
- a) Your name.
 - b) The species of the bird(s).
 - c) Where the picture was taken.
 - d) A Catchy Caption—Enter a caption or title you would like displayed with your pictures (optional).
 - e) Narrative—Tell us about your picture: what’s the story behind the shot? Include any information the judges might need to fully appreciate your shot.

Good luck! Winners will be announced in the January 2026 *Drummings*.

Welcome, New Members

Nimalya and Soma Chattopadhyay	Bolingbrook
Susan Elwell	Naperville
Claire and Alex Loretz	Wheaton
Regina and Greg Orasco	Shorewood
Carolyn Ubriaco	Elmhurst
Loral and Mark Valley	Naperville

November 2025 Field Trips

There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy. As always, nonmembers are welcome to register after the first of the month. There are no fees for birding trips.

Please remember that the weather can be variable, so dress accordingly. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner by being careful and prudent. Field trip information is also found at: www.dupagebirding.org.

NOTE: When possible last-minute changes are posted on www.dupagebirding.org/field-trips.

Participants are welcome to contact the leader if they have any questions. Our field trip leaders can help you find the trip’s starting location if you need additional directions.

NOTE: For trips with a participant limit, registration with the trip leader is required. In those cases, you are NOT registered until you receive a confirmation from the trip leader.

Trips will observe a few guidelines to ensure that birding is safe and comfortable for all:

- Anyone not feeling well should stay home.
- Attendees of DBC field trips and other events under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- All field trip attendees should be aware of and follow the <https://dupagebirding.org/aba-code-of-ethics/>

Sunday, November 9, 8:00 am – 10:30 am, Danada Forest Preserve – WEST, Wheaton
Registration with the leader is required. Limit 12 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on November 1.

On this trip we will be exploring the western part of Danada Forest Preserve searching for passerine migrants such as hopefully some uncommon sparrows that can be found in DuPage County this time of year. We will also check several different ponds to look for migrating waterfowl. Please meet on the west side of the Forest Preserve HQ parking lot at 8 am.

https://maps.app.goo.gl/6T4JW5wdoxtCrbF78?g_st=ic

Leader: Henry Meade, meadehenry21@gmail.com, (224) 319-4377

Thursday, November 13, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Danada East/Rice Lake Forest Preserve, Wheaton
Registration with the leader is required. There is no limit on participants.

Join us as we take a casual walk and look for winter birds and possibly some waterfowl on the lake. This is an approximately a 1.5 – 2 mile walk mostly on limestone paths with some dirt paths. Danada is located at 3S507 Naperville Road, south of Butterfield Road and north of I-88 on the east side of Naperville Road. Meet in the parking lot by the horse corrals.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/QQhgxr4zypZNMTwS6>

Leader: Karen and Mike Warner, mwarner2543@gmail.com, (630) 640-2450

Saturday, November 15, 7:30 am – 10:30 am, Bemis Woods North Grove, Westchester
Registration with the leader is required. Limit 8 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on November 1.

Bemis Woods is a beautiful place to look for winter residents. We will be looking for Brown Creepers, woodpeckers, perhaps see an occasional Pileated Woodpecker, and maybe a Belted Kingfisher or two. We'll start off walking along Salt Creek then loop back to the parking lot and then do an out & back on the nature preserve trail. Meet by the bridge, at the parking lot off Wolf Road between 31st and Ogden.

See map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/JD3ir3Kaz177X4xf9>

Leader: Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

Sunday, November 16, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve, Hampshire
Registration with the leader is required. Limit 20 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on November 1.

Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve is fast becoming one of the most promising birding sites in Kane County. Formerly farmland, Muirhead has undergone quite a transformation in the past few years, hosting a wide range of grassland birds. Winter sparrows, waterfowl, as well as pipits, longspurs, and Snow Buntings will be the main targets of this trip. If you haven't been to Muirhead yet, this is a great opportunity to do so. New birders are always welcome to join. The parking lot entrance is on Bahr Road, off Plank Road. Please note that we may trek through tall grass, so dress appropriately. Text or call with

any questions regarding directions on the day of: 630-724-7534.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/kvMp3HLCdidzvT566>

Leader: Robert Perez, robertperez787@gmail.com, (630) 724-7534

Tuesday, November 18, 8:00 am – 10:30 am, Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, Oak Brook
Registration with the leader is required. Limit 10 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on November 1.

This field trip will include late migrants and winter birding in wooded areas as well as some open water along Salt Creek. Join us to look for a good variety while walking about 2 miles on uneven trails. Meet in the main parking lot on Spring Road. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/3pm1oV7VXkBf8hbf8>

Leader: Nancy Allured, nallured@gmail.com, (630) 240-6004

Saturday, November 22, 7:30 am – 10:30 am, McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Registration with the leader is not required.

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us, approximately 3.25 miles, to check out resident species and fall migrants. Most of our walk will be on preserve limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Rd., located between Winfield Rd. and Rt. 59 in Warrenville.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/LyxyTCuQgXHvMCmL9>

Leader: Kyle Wiktor, (708) 506-5186

Sunday, November 23, 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 15 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on November 1.

We will be looking for late migrants and remaining residents, including some owling after dark. Lyman's trails can be muddy. While it has been quite dry overall this season, if substantial rain occurs ahead of the trip, be prepared with appropriate footwear. A red flashlight or headlamp is recommended for the owling portion. Meet at the parking lot on 31st Street. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/bcJuErw1iwpqKVBx9>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Friday, December 5, 7:30 am – 9:30 am, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 10 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on November 1.

We will be looking for winter residents and late migrants. Please note that the trails at Lyman are typically muddy. Wear appropriate footwear. We will meet in the parking lot on 31st Street at 7:30 am. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/bcJuErw1iwpqKVBx9>

Leader: Kathy and Steve Mineck, (630) 254-4077

Saturday, December 6, 11:45 am – 6:30 pm, Jasper-Pulaski Sandhill Crane Observation Area, Medaryville, IN

JASPER-PULASKI SANDHILL CRANES MIGRATION

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 12 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on November 1.

The [Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area](#) is known for its large Sandhill Crane population during fall

migration, with peak counts reaching between 15,000-30,000.

We'll meet at 11:45 am, in the [Villa Park free public parking lot](#) on Villa Ave just south of Wildwood Ave to carpool. Please let me know if you're available to drive and/or ride in another's car.

First stop will be a short out and back trail on Nature Conservancy land. Sightings here can be surprising, so we will see what shows up. We will not be walking around Jasper-Pulaski itself, as it is open for hunting season. There is also a nearby shooting range, so expect to hear gunfire. After that, we'll drive around looking for cranes in nearby farm fields. We'll head to the observation tower one hour before sunset to watch flocks of Sandhill Cranes kite into the refuge from all directions. They gab and socialize before returning to roosting marshes at dusk. International Crane Foundation (ICF) staff will be at the tower to answer your crane questions. Dress for the weather and bring a scope if you have one.

Carpool Meeting Place: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/R7v4veCehsWtmviK8>

Leader: Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

Additional birding opportunities:

Accessible Bird Walks at Cantigny are open to birders of all levels and abilities. If you enjoy a leisurely walk on beautiful grounds, there is plenty of capacity! Check the Cantigny calendar every month for dates at <https://cantigny.org/events/>. A parking fee of \$6.00 will apply; no fee for the walk itself. The next walk is **Wednesday, November 12, 9:00 a.m.**

Area Forest Preserves may have birding opportunities. Check out DuPage at <https://www.dupageforest.org/calendar-of-events>, Cook County at www.fpdcc.com/events, and Will County Forest Preserves District at <https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/>. Area bird clubs also offer additional opportunities, for example, check out Kane County Audubon at <https://kanecountyaudubon.com/>.

Questions/Comments: Email us if you have questions, would like to lead a trip, or have an idea for a trip. Leaders do not have to be birding experts, just familiar with the location.

Field Trip Coordinators:

Sherry Courtney, sherrycourtney10@gmail.com

Stephanie Cullerton, stephcullert@yahoo.com



2025 DBC Executive Committee Members

President: Thelma Hulka
Vice President: Matt Crisler
Treasurer: Rich Gaul
Recording Secretary: Mark Freeburg
Corresponding Secretary: Donnalyn Quint
Director: Rob Thomas
Director: Lindsay Vacek
Director: Jim Mateski

2025 Committee Chairs

Audio-Visual Coordinator: Robert Perez
Bird Conservation Network: Glenn Gabanski, Jim Green, Diann Bilderback, Glenn Perricone
Christmas Count Coordinator: Jeff Chapman
Communications: Diann Bilderback
DBC Apparel: Steve Constantelos
DBC Book Club: Mike Warner
Drummings Newsletter: Diann Bilderback
Email Distribution: Bob Fisher
Facebook: John Cebula
Field Trips: Sherry Courtney, Stephanie Cullerton

2025 Meeting Schedule

January 9	July 10
March 13	September 11
April 10	October 9 (Auction)
May 15	November 6 (note date change)

Flickr: Urs Geiser
Forest Preserve Liaison: Dennis Streicher
Grants and Donations: Vera Miller
Hospitality: Bonnie Graham
Instagram: Henry Meade
Lending Library: Jeff Smith
Membership Directory: Susan Kaley
Outreach/Youth Education: Mike Warner
Photo Contest: Mike Warner
Spring Bird Count: Joe Suchecki
Twitter: Vera Miller
Webmasters: Barb Dougan, Nancy Allured
YouTube Ed Channel: Denis Kania, Steve Constantelos