

Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge

Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE 09 July 2019

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Call for Presentations

The Friends of the Crab Orchard Refuge seek a small number of 25-minute presentations on topics related to wildlife, nature, environmental science, and the natural and cultural resources of the Refuge. We hope that these presentations can be offered by appointment at local schools and Refuge campground programs.

Interested presenters should send a brief summary of their presentation, including topics, materials, and planned activities to the Friends Education Committee at wesleyccalvert@gmail.com

KAYAKS



Friends recently purchased 2 additional kayaks for use in Refuge Becoming an Outdoor Family Programs. They're 2 seater sit-on tops that were immediately put to good use in a moonlight program led by Refuge Ranger Dana Malave.



Woodland Gift Shop Sees Changes

The Woodland Gift Shop in the Visitor Center is in the process of adding new and different merchandise including new books, new mugs, new plush animals, new t-shirts (both short sleeve and long sleeve), items for the kids such as butterfly nets and bug collection kits, and more. As we turnover some of our clothing designs, we will be putting items on sale. Check out some of the new items and sale items by liking the Friends of Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Facebook page. If anyone is interested in volunteering in the Gift Shop please contact the Visitor Center and speak with any of the rangers—a representative of the store will contact you.

Friends Board Members

Through the efforts of many volunteers, the Friends support a large variety of projects and programs on the Refuge. Thank you all! Today, I'd like to recognize a few individuals who have also chosen to donate the many hours required to plan and manage these programs: our Board members. They come to us with many different talents and interests but share one goal: to support the Refuge.

Board meetings are usually held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 6 PM, and all Friends members are welcome to attend. Our next meeting will be July 11th at the Blue Heron Marina Lodge (rescheduled from the holiday on the 4th). Friends members currently serving on the board are:

Officers:



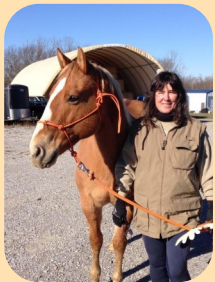
Judy Groskind,

President- Judy is a retired Registered Nurse whose primary interests are birds, pollinators, and native plants. She serves as a volunteer in the pollinator habitat project, waterfowl counts, butterfly monitoring and community outreach; and manages our grant program.



Rick Whitecotton,

1st Vice President, and Chair of the Finance and Planning Committee- Rick is a retired Union official. He volunteers in the gift shop, the pollinator habitat project, and several interpretive programs. He is also active in many other native plant and stewardship projects in the larger Southern Illinois Community.



Lorie Allen,

Treasurer- Lorie is a retired academic advisor and instructor from SIU's off campus degree program. She recently assumed the Friend's treasurer position. As a nationally certified Interpretive guide, Lorie assists with many interpretive and educational programs at the Refuge, Giant City State Park, and the Shawnee Forest. Her primary interests include native plants, promoting wildlife habitat, and outdoor education for youth.



Ruie Whitecotton,

Secretary- Ruie retired from office work in the medical field and as a music teacher. She is a member of several committees and volunteers in the gift shop, the pollinator habitat project, and several other Southern Illinois community programs.

Board Members:



Coleen Bogard-

Colleen has been a Friends member since the group was formed. Past generations of her family once owned and farmed land that is now part of the Refuge. She has volunteered in the gift shop and many other programs, especially those with a focus on youth outdoor education. Her interests also include recreational boating.

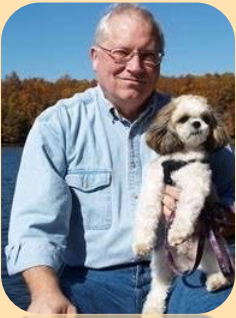


Wesley Calvert,

Chair of the Education Committee- Wesley Calvert many of whose ancestors are buried in the Refuge, has provided professional development in science and mathematics for K-12 teachers in Illinois, Kentucky, and overseas. He is an associate professor and program director in mathematics at SIU. Calvert is also a volunteer leader for Scout groups, and has particular interest in outdoor programs for youth. He lives in Carterville.



Rosemarie Howerton- Rose retired from the US Department of Justice where she served as an auditor and trainer. She is a long-time volunteer and Board member, who served as our Treasurer from 2007 through 2018. She has volunteered in many Refuge programs



Dave Estep,
Chair of the Marketing and Media Committee- Rev Dr. David Estep is a semi-retired United Methodist Church pastor who manages the Friends website, produces the newsletter, and works with our Facebook page



Lewis Fosse,
Lewis is a third generation Refuge farmer. Lewis retired from Southern FS. He continues to graze cattle and row crop fulltime. His interests include waterfowl hunting and support of wildlife habitat.



Terry Foster-
Terry retired as a speech/language pathologist. She is a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist who enjoys participating in the Friends of Crab Orchard Board, Crab Orchard Pollinator project and the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network



Aimee Hemphill,
Chair of the Pollinator Habitat Committee- Aimee is a retired veterinarian. Her volunteer work in the pollinator habitat project included design of our gardens and selection of the native species chosen for prairie seeding and wildflower plantings (which required a lot of research!) Aimee also leads the Refuge bluebird box project.

Rose Howerton, recently retired as Friends Treasurer, a position she had served in for 14 years-



Vicki Lang-
Vicki has served in Therapeutic Recreation in Southern Illinois for over 35 years. She works at Touch of Nature in residential and respite camps and programs. Vicki serves on several Friends Boards and has been serving the Friends of Crab Orchard since 2001. She is an avid birder contributing to local forest avian surveys and state and national bird counts. Besides birding, she enjoys hiking, camping, traveling and farm life in Union County with her husband.



Don Mullison,
Chair of the Photography and Wetland Committees- Don is a retired psychologist who supervised clinical services and graduate students at SIU. His primary interests on the Refuge are birding and photography. Don volunteers in Refuge waterfowl and seasonal bird counts, and has led interpretive birding programs. He and his wife, Miriam, organize and promote the Friends yearly photography contest, and monitor a route on Crab Orchard for the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network.



Jim Osborn,
Chairman of the Merchandising Committee and Manager of the Woodland Gift Shop at the Visitor Center, is the retired Executive Director for Rehabilitation Services at Southern Illinois Healthcare. With a passion for photography, Jim also leads the Crab Orchard Photography Group, gives public programs on photography, has served as a judge for the annual Friends' Photo Contest, and contributes images for the Refuge's social media posts.



Jo Anne Swafford,
Chair of the Membership Committee - Jo Anne is one of our newest board members, but a longtime Refuge volunteer. She assists with many Refuge interpretive programs (and has painted beautiful displays for them). She and her husband, Ron, staff a weekly volunteer Refuge patrol. JoAnne also monitors a route for the Illinois Butterfly monitoring Network.

Upcoming Quarterly Events

July

Kayaking The Refuge Becoming an Outdoors-Family Program

July 13

Come and paddle Crab Orchard NWR Devils Kitchen Lake under a blue summer sky! Join a Refuge Ranger through the backwaters of the Refuge and explore nature in a unique way. Seeing nature from the water could expose you to a different perspective of the landscape. Learn interesting facts about the Refuge history, view wildlife as you pass by, and enjoy the summer breeze. Kayaks are limited, make sure to reserve your space!

Ages 15 and up only.

First program begins at 8:30 am

Second program begins at 11:30 am

Reservations are required.

Crab Orchard Photography Group

July 17

Meets every third Wednesday of the month.

Meeting begins at 8:00 am at the Refuge Visitor Center.

Refuge Rendezvous Program at CONWR Campground

July 20

The Refuge Rendezvous Program occurs once a month during a Saturday through camping season.

Program begins at 5:30 pm

Meets at the Crab Orchard Lake

Campground.

Free to the public and camping is not required to attend.

August

Outdoor Spanish Immersion Class Becoming an Outdoors Family Program

August 10

¿Hablas español? Outdoor enthusiasts and Spanish learners can make new connections by joining our bilingual Ranger and volunteer on a beautiful hike. Engaging yourself in a second language can open a gateway of new experiences. Come and combine your appreciation of the outdoor and linguistics through our Spanish Immersion Program. The program includes a brief introduction at the visitors center followed by a short hike.

Meets at the Refuge Visitor Center

Program begins at 10 am

Reservations are recommended

Refuge Rendezvous Program at CONWR Campground

August 17

Moths could amaze you with their unique characteristics! Often small and diverse in the shape of their body, these mostly-nocturnal fliers come

out to visit us after dusk. Moths benefit the ecosystem by pollinating plants and being a source of food for other animals. Come and join a Refuge Ranger and a CONWR volunteer while they share with you the fascinating characteristics of these tiny creatures.

Program begins at 7pm

Meets at the Crab Orchard Lake

Campground.

Free to the public and camping is not required to attend.

Crab Orchard Photography Group

August 21

Meets every third Wednesday of the month.

Meeting begins at 8:00 am at the Refuge Visitor Center.

Ages 15 and up only.

Program begins at 6 pm

Reservations are required.

Refuge Rendezvous Program at CONWR Campground

September

Fall Nature Photography Course Becoming an Outdoors Family Program

September 7

After the summer season, fall season arrives accompanied by medley of colors such as yellow, brown and orange that will delight your eyes. This could be an inspiring time to capture nature's beauty.

Upcoming Quarterly Events—Continued

Come and join a CONWR volunteer and learn the basics of fall photography with the whole family and then practice your new skills on a group hike!

Program begins at 10 am

Program meets at the Refuge

Visitor Center.

Reservations are recommended.

Butterfly Round-up

Becoming an Outdoors Family Program

September 14

Each year hundreds of monarch butterflies travel through our area when making their perilous journey to spend the cold months of winter in Mexico. Visitors are invited to help catch and tag these butterflies as they feed and rest at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge.

Program runs from 10am - 12pm

Meets at the Refuge Visitor Center

Reservations are required.

Crab Orchard Photography Group

September 18

Meets every third Wednesday of the month.

Meeting begins at 8:00 am at the Refuge Visitor Center.

Refuge Clean Up / National Public Lands Day

September 21

The Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge will be hosting the annual Public Use Lands Day at the Prairie Creek Recreation Area. Projects could include planting trees, painting, trash pick up, etc. Spend the day outdoors and help keep Crab Orchard beautiful.

Event runs from 8am - 1pm

Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Refuge Rendezvous

Program at CONWR Campground

September 21

The Refuge Rendezvous Program occurs once a month during a Saturday through camping season.

Program begins at 5:30 pm

Meets at the Crab Orchard Lake Campground.

Free to the public and camping is not required to attend.

Hunting & Fishing Days

September 28 & 29

Come join us at John A. Logan College for the 29th annual Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days. Attend a casting workshop, watch the dock dogs compete, listen to the waterfowl callers and try archery, check out all the latest gear and much more.

September 28 8am-5pm & September 29 9am-4pm

Fee Free Day

Sunday, September 28 & 29

Refuge Ponds Close

September 30



VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER – Colleen Bogard

Love and admiration of COWR began many years ago for Colleen. Before *Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge* was organized, Colleen was a volunteer at the Refuge when and where needed. When *Friends* was incorporated on December 29, 2000, Colleen was a charter member--always faithful to COWR. As a working *Friends*, many hours have been donated—Fishing Derby, Clean-up, Hunting and Fishing Days, Eagle tours and Eagle counting. Colleen has always enjoyed what COWR personally meant to her—boating, skiing, picnics, swimming, family activities—endless activities to enhance personal life and family. A true lover of what NATURE does to enhance her personal life.

She is presently a volunteer worker in the Woodland Gift Shop and the Refuge's front desk. COWR remains dear to Colleen's heart.

Butterfly Species List

In spite of a cool wet Spring, pollinator habitat on Crab Orchard Refuge is putting on a nectar feast for bees and butterflies. Refuge volunteers, working with the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network, monitor 8 Refuge routes. Their impressive reports of butterfly diversity and number are an indicator of a quality habitat of benefit to many other species, such as native bees. Monitors have reported the following species totals so far this year:

128 Zebra Swallowtail
63 Eastern Tailed Blue
62 Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
62 Pearl Crescent
59 Red Admiral
47 Cloudless Sulphur
34 Falcate Orangetip
31 Hackberry
23 Pipevine Swallowtail
22 Common/Orange Sulphur
22 Spicebush Swallowtail
20 Monarch
19 Great Spangled Fritillary
18 Sleepy Orange
17 Silvery Checkerspot
16 Question Mark
12 Silver Spotted Skipper
11 Black Swallowtail
10 Red-Spotted Purple
9 Little Wood Satyr
8 Spring/Summer Azure
5 American Painted Lady
5 Buckeye
5 Northern Pearly-Eye
4 Eastern Comma
4 Gemmed Satyr
4 Snout Butterfly
3 Zebulon Skipper
2 Least Skipper
2 Painted Lady
2 Peck's Skipper
1 Byssus Skipper
1 Appalachian Brown
1 Coral Hairstreak
1 Goatweed Butterfly
1 Mourning Cloak
1 Variegated Fritillary
1 Tawny Emperor
1 Dun Skipper

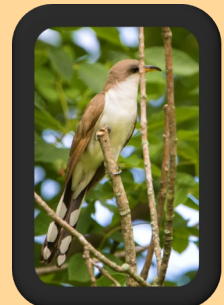
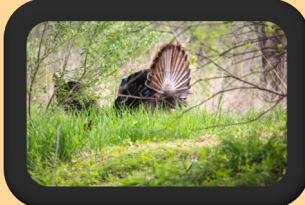
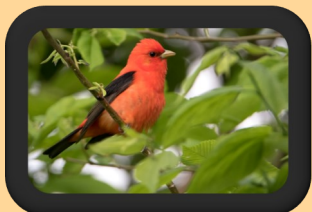
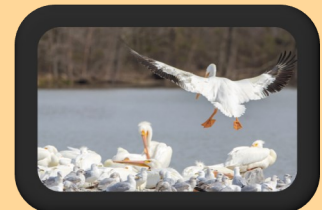


APPALACHIAN EYED BROWN

Photography Group Continues to Get Great Images

The Crab Orchard Photography Group has met on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 8am since it was first organized in April of 2018. Free to anyone who enjoys taking pictures of nature, the “outings” flow with the change in seasons. In the past 3 months, migrating warblers and other colorful birds came through the region. Rare (for this part of the country) Black-Bellied Whistling Ducks were photographed on Visitor Pond. Recently, Baltimore Orioles, Orchard Orioles, Summer Tanagers and more have visited the Mulberry Trees near Bogard Point. Currently, many animals are appearing with their new little ones. A female Wood Duck and five ducklings have been spotted on the Beaver Lodge pond off of Pidgeon Creek Road. Fawns are appearing, young Northern Bobwhites have been photographed, the Bald Eagle chicks fledged and were photographed flying over the lake, and this photographer photographed an adult feeding 3 chicks in the Baltimore Oriole’s nest. In coming months, the Group will stalk butterflies, wildflowers, migrating birds and more. Come join us!!—no advance registration is required. The most often asked question is “Is everyone a really good photographer?” The answer is no. There are a lot of beginners. The only thing that the participants have in common is their interest in learning to take better nature pictures.

By Jim Osborn



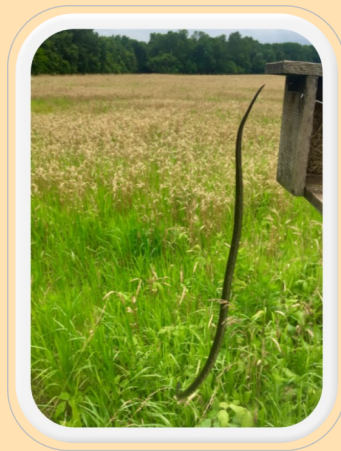
2019 Bluebird Nesting Season in Full Swing

Having reared their first brood of nestlings in April and May, our bluebird pairs are beginning to raise a second brood this month (June) as they compete for nest boxes with the tree swallows which began nesting the last week in May. Tree swallows usually raise only one family per season, while the bluebirds will raise two to three per season. Bluebirds typically lay 4-6 light blue eggs in a neatly cupped nest made of grass, while tree swallows lay 5-6 small, pointed pinkish-white eggs in a flatter nest lined, helter-skelter, with fairly large feathers from turkeys and gulls. Once the eggs are laid, incubation lasts for about 2 weeks and once hatched, the nestlings develop rapidly for 2-3 weeks before fledging.

Many hazards confront the birds as they endeavor to raise their families. Hypothermia from cold, wet weather in early spring takes its toll some years, competition from wrens and other cavity nesting birds can be fierce, and predation by other hungry birds and animals is a constant threat.

One of the worst problems I am confronted with are King Snakes. Too many times this year I have opened a box expecting to see a nest full of healthy chicks and am dismayed to find a large snake camping out in a conspicuously empty nest. I “invite” them to leave, of course, knowing that this is nature’s way, but still.....

The Youth Conservation Corps group led by Peter Fox helped weed eat a path to and around a number of the nest boxes this week in an effort to discourage the snakes by removing some of their cover. They were happy to do something to help out the bluebirds, enjoyed learning about these beautiful little birds and had a first hand experience at monitoring a nest box trail.



Our efforts last year were recognized by the East Central Illinois Bluebird Society. We recently received a Certificate of Achievement for fledging 520 bluebirds in 2018. Thanks to the dedicated monitors and also to the Refuge staff, Richard Speer and John Hartleb, for being outstandingly supportive of the program.

By Aimee Hemphill



2018 Best of Show by Jon Montgomery



Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

2019 Wildlife & Wild Places

Photo Contest



- Photos taken on Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge
- Flowers/Plants/Trees/Fungi
- Pollinators/Insects/Spiders
- Landscape /Scenic
- Wildlife
- Youth (17 and under)

How to enter: Photos must be submitted at the Crab Orchard NWR Visitor Center by Sunday, **September 29, 2019**. Visit the Friends of Crab Orchard website for complete entry information and contest rules, www.friendsofconwr.com. For questions, call 618-998-5933.

2019 Photo Contest Rules

Friends of Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

Submissions are due at the Visitor's Center by Sunday, September 29, 2019. All photos must be taken in Southern Illinois anywhere south of I-64.

Photos can be entered in the following categories (maximum of 2 photos/category): Taken on Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge; Landscape/scenic; wildlife; flowers/plants/ trees/fungi; pollinators/ insects/spiders; youth (17 and under)

Submissions must be the original photograph, minimal editing such as cropping is allowed. Photographs should be the work of the person submitting the image.

Ethical photography is expected and the photo's subject and environment should not be disturbed or manipulated for the sake of creating the image.

All photographers must be amateurs.

Each photographer may submit up to 5 entries. There is a \$5 charge for each photo submitted by adults. Youth (17 or younger on 9-30-19) will be charged \$1 for each photo for up to 5 photo submissions.

Photos are to be no smaller than 5x7 and no larger than 8x10. Photos must be printed on photo quality paper.

Photos should be matted with matte board with a finished size no larger than 11x14. **No glass, plastic, frames, or hangers, please.** A completed entry form should be taped to the back. Entry forms are available at www.friendsofconwr.com or the visitor's center.

Winners of the Photo Contest will be announced at the Photo Contest Reception at 2:00 on Sunday, November 3, 2019. Prizes will be awarded at that time. Winning photos will be on display at the Visitors Center for the remainder of November.

Non-winning photos may be picked up after the reception. Photos not picked up by December 15 will become property of the Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge.

Winning images may appear on the Crab Orchard Wildlife and/or Friends of Crab Orchard websites and/or Facebook and may be used in promotional materials for the year following the award (November 2019 through October 2020).

I have read and understand the above rules and agree that my entries are in compliance with these rules. I also give permission for the use of my images on the CONWR and/or Friends of Crab Orchard website and/or Facebook, in contest displays and promotional materials November 2019 through October 2020).

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Youth age ____ Parental signature _____ Date _____

(completed by staff) PHOTO NUMBER:_____

Date:_____Entry Category:_____

Last Name:_____First Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____State:_____Zip:_____

Phone Number:_____Email:_____

Title of Photo:_____

Location photo taken:_____

(completed by staff) PHOTO NUMBER:_____

Date:_____Entry Category:_____

Last Name:_____First Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____State:_____Zip:_____

Phone Number:_____Email:_____

Title of Photo:_____

Location photo taken:_____

(completed by staff) PHOTO NUMBER:_____

Date:_____Entry Category:_____

Last Name:_____First Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____State:_____Zip:_____

Phone Number:_____Email:_____

Title of Photo:_____

Location photo taken:_____

MEMBERSHIP

Each year, members should renew their membership dues. **Membership dues expire on December 31st.**

Please fill out the form below and mail it to : Friends of CONWR, 8588 Route 148, Marion, IL 62959. Please send this form along with your payment of \$10.00 per person or \$20.00 per family.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

AMOUNT PAID: _____

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SERVE ON A COMMITTEE: YES _____ NO _____

COMMITTEE NAME: _____

FRIENDS of CONWR

8588 Route 148
Marion, IL 62959

618.998.5933

Website: www.friendsofconwr.com

Email: admin@friendsofconwr.com

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