

Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge

Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE 10 October 2019

From the Friends

What does it mean to Support the Refuge as a Friend?

Becoming a Friend of Crab Orchard Refuge, or renewing a membership, is a good way to support Refuge. Programs and goals. (Yes it's that time of year again. Memberships will expire 12-31-2019. All dues paid after 10-1-2019 are good from the date of payment until 12-31-2020.)

Paying dues and adding your voice as an advocate are important contributions. But for those with the time and energy to do more, there are many opportunities as a volunteer! Please consider filling out the interest form attached to this newsletter.

And come to the members meeting October 10! We will have a short "State of the Friends" talk and introduce all of your current and nominated Board members. Friends have supported so many Refuge project this year, and have plans for more-- come hear about them!

Judy Groskind, President

A big thank you to the Crab Orchard Waterfowl Association, which raised and donated funding for a new water control structure on the Frog Pond impoundment in the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge! The Friends of Crab Orchard also contributed, by funding the concrete needed for installation.

Over the past two weeks Refuge employees, with surveying help from Josh Malone of the Waterfowl Association, installed the water control system for the five and one-half acre impoundment. The structure will allow regulation of water levels for management of moist soil vegetation, natural foods for waterfowl and other wildlife. Pictured are Patrick Malone of The Waterfowl Association and Keith Gregory of the USFWS Refuge Biology department.

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FRIENDS HISTORICAL ARTICLE (From our files)

Crab Orchard Refuge was established through legislation on August 5, 1947. The 43,890-acre Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge is located in south central Illinois. The Refuge has four purposes: "....for the conservation of wildlife and for the development of agriculture, recreation, industrial and related purposes. The refuge landscape also includes hardwood and pine forests, croplands, grass-lands, wetlands, rolling hills and rugged terrain. The 4,050-acre Crab Orchard Wilderness, the first wilderness area designated, in the state of Illinois, is within the refuge.

USFWS STAFF MEETING-September 20-22, 2000 Mentoring Report.

Among refuge staff members, the concept of friends groups was greeted with some skepticism. Dr. Richard Schaede-a thoughtful man with strong convictions, is regarded as a very strong "friend" of the Refuge. He admits to being very dedicated to the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge, and to long-term policies that help protect it.

FRIENDS OF THE REFUGE GENERAL MEETING: Some 27 individuals attended a two-hour evening session. When asked about forming an umbrella organization to facilitate the work of friends of the Refuge, general comments included: (1) Go with it!! (2) You can do more with one big organization (3) Make sure you invite the general public to ensure all the groups are represented.

FRIENDS OF CRAB ORCHARD REFUGE ESTABLISHED

Over the past few months, a small dedicated group has been meeting to work out the nuts and bolts. We have filed Articles of Incorporation, adopted by-laws, elected officers, developed mission statements, and gained 501 c (3) status.

Now it's time for you to get in on the ground floor of this new venture. HELP with start-up capital by becoming a charter member. VOLUNTEER to help with a project or serve on a committee.

We have some exciting plans for the coming year. With your help we can make it happen.

Richard Bogard, President

Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Public Hunting

With fall just around the corner a lot of you are gearing up for the 2019-2020 hunting season. The Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge has a long history of providing the general public with hunting opportunities. The refuge lands are divided into an Open Area and a Restricted Use Area. The Restricted Use Area contains 21,000 acres and is open to public hunting only by special permit, while the Open Area covers 23,000 acres open to public hunting in accordance with Illinois Department of Natural Resources regulations.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Crab Orchard NWR, please take the time to become familiar with refuge hunting regulations as well as state regulations and seasons. Hunting maps and regulations are available at the Crab Orchard visitor center on Route 148 at https://www.fws.gov/refuge/crab_orchard/.

We would like to encourage hunters to use lead free ammunition. Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge is one of several refuges in the Great Lakes Region encouraging hunters to make the switch.

Historically, lead has reached us in a number of ways—through gasoline, paint, a variety of manufacturing processes, and in ammunition. As our awareness of the dangers of lead grows, we seek out better alternatives. Unfortunately, the toxic legacy of lead continues to harm wildlife.

Bald eagles are present at Crab Orchard NWR during the deer hunting season and eat carcasses and gut piles. Each year across the Midwest, thousands of gut piles from field dressed deer are left in the field. When those remains contain lead bullet fragments, eagles may eat lead and can die.

We encourage you to switch to lead free ammunition and be our partner in this conservation effort. Together it is our goal to protect wildlife health on our national wildlife refuges. This is a voluntary program. Our wildlife conservation efforts will only be successful with your support.

Remember to sight in your gun and practice with the new ammunition before you use it in the field.

Please contact me Neil Vincent, 618-998-5954 or neil_vincent@fws.gov if you have questions or need more information. Thank you for your dedication to conservation and participation in the refuge hunting programs.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge are interested in activating your talents. How do you enjoy making a difference? Please check any of the following areas that interest you or that you would like to learn more about:

Fundraising

Grant Writing

Event Planning

Attending events

Becoming a Woodland Store Salesperson

Assisting with environmental education events like the Eagle Tours or Becoming an Outdoors Family

Participating in citizen science efforts

Restoring habitat or invasive species management

Trail clean-up and/or maintenance

Helping with the Pollinator Garden Project

Serving as a board member or on a committee

Other _____

What is the best way for us to reach you?

Name: _____

Phone: _____ time of day: ____ a.m. ____ p.m.

Email: _____@_____

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER – Don Mullison



Our volunteer of the quarter is Don Mullison. Don is an active volunteer who shares his talents as an expert birder, wildlife enthusiast and amateur photographer in many Refuge programs: leading the weekly waterfowl counts, monitoring owl boxes, assisting with birding outings, and monitoring a butterfly count route.

Don, and his wife Miriam coordinate the yearly Refuge photo contest. Don also serves on the Friends Board and is Chair of the Wetland Committee. Thank you Don!

Upcoming Quarterly Events

October

Talking Tombstones Becoming an Outdoors Family Program

October 12

From time to time cemeteries are seen as melancholy or eerie places. People could visit a cemetery to pay respect to a love one or pursue silence. Cemeteries can help you to know the past of the land that surrounds you, understand history, or get to know your ancestors. While traveling in time, join a Refuge Ranger and take a closer look at some of the Crab Orchard NWR cemeteries, explore parts of the refuge usually unseen, and learn interesting facts about the Refuge history.

Program begins at 10 am

Program meets at the Refuge Visitor Center.

Reservations are required.

Fee Free Day

Sunday, October 13th

Crab Orchard Photography Group

October 16

Meets every third Wednesday of the month.

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

Discovery Tours

October 20 & 27

We will open up the restricted portion of the refuge for a self-guided tour.

Tours begin at the Wolf Creek Causeway, volunteers will be stationed throughout the tour to answer questions.

Gates open from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Outdoor Cooking Becoming an Outdoors Family Program

October 26

Join CONWR volunteers fun and delicious course! Learn from an expert how to whip up delicious meals over a hot fire and in a Dutch-oven. Bring the whole family down, learn a few recipes, and end with a well earned lunch!

Program begins at 10:00 am

This program will be at Martha's Theater

Reservations are required.

Crab Orchard and Devils Kitchen Campground Close

October 30

Our campgrounds close for the season.

November

Bird Tour Becoming an Outdoors-Family Program

November 2

Grab your binoculars, look and listen! Birds are amazing animals with unique characteristics. Knowing how to "bird-watch" is a gift that keeps on giving. It opens your eyes to nature even if you aren't in the most natural setting. Join a Refuge Ranger and a CONWR volunteer in birding adventure during the fall migration. Learn the basics of bird watching and bird identification. It is a great way to get the family together, enjoy nature, and enjoy the variety of birds we are lucky to have pass through Illinois.

Program begins at 8:15 am

Program meets at the Refuge Visitor Center.

Reservations are required.

Fee Free Day

Monday, November 11

Crab Orchard Photography Group November 20

Meets every third Wednesday of the month.

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

December

Youth Waterfowl Workshop and Hunt

December 20 & 21

Successfully drawn hunters of the Crab Orchard Youth Turkey Spring Permit should attend to a Youth Turkey Workshop. Sign up early for a day of fun and learning at the Youth Waterfowl Workshop. Learn all you need to know about waterfowl hunting, safety and stay for the pizza and prizes! The following day will be the hunt; hunters age 15 or younger may hunt ducks, geese, coots, and mergansers as long as they are accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age. The accompanying adult cannot hunt during the weekend.

Keep an eye on our website, Facebook Page or call to the Visitor Center for more information about this event.

Crab Orchard Photography Group December 18

Meets every third Wednesday of the month.

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

Annual Meeting October 10, 2019...Come on Down!

We (your Friends Board) hope you can spare some time on the evening of October 10. You are welcome at any of our meetings, but this specific meeting is designed for you, the member. We will gather at the Visitor Center to start our meeting at 6:00. President Judy Groskind will open the meeting, the board will introduce themselves to you all, and Judy will give us a brief "State of the Friends" address to update everyone on our mission.

Nature Training Presented by Kathleen Gaare-Wiese (pictured in her natural environment)



We then have an honored guest who will present a nature related short training piece. Our guest this year is Kathleen Gaare-Wiese. Kathleen is a long-time Friends member and you may know her in a variety of roles. This is a short biography of her and her impact on our community. Kathleen received a B.A. in Elementary Education and Teaching from Luther College and a M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction from SIU. Her most recent prestigious award is: Environmental Educator of the Year, 2019 given by the Environmental Education Association of Illinois (EEAI). She has taught in various schools and at different levels, she is retired from the Marion Community School District. She has been active in the Boy Scouts for decades and is a Scout Leader and a District Commissioner. She was the President of the Southern Illinois Master Naturalists for 7 years, and has facilitated all sessions of Master Naturalist training. Another area you may have contacted her is her love of snakes. She has several snakes she keeps and offers public training in multiple venues often bringing her snakes along. In fact she will be giving us a slide show and explain common reptiles of Southern Illinois. If we gave her more time, she would have desired to bring some snakes along to support her presentation! Kathleen is a generous volunteer who seeks to engage everyone with Nature.

Next, Director Don Mullison will present the slate of potential Directors for your review. New Board members will be introduced to all assembled. Don will also explain the voting process. You may cast your ballots at this time.

Finally, we will have some door prizes. Second Vice-President Jim Osborn is rounding up a good number of prizes for lucky winners. The Grand Prize will be a lifetime membership (\$250 value). You must be present to win any of the prizes. Winners will be selected by ticket drawing. All members will receive a ticket when the meeting starts.

Director JoAnne Swafford is organizing our food, expect good eats! We will have some finger food available throughout the meeting.

We do hope many of you will show up, we will be very glad to see you!

Rick Whitecotton, First Vice-President

Meet Eagle Scout Candidate Sam Mathias

This summer the Friends Bluebird Nestbox Program and Refuge staff sponsored Eagle Scout candidate Samuel Mathias, son of James and Amanda Mathias of Carbondale. With help from his father and his Scout troop, Sam built four bluebird nest boxes plus snake guard baffles and presented them to the Refuge. Using a letter of advocacy from the Friends and the Refuge, Sam was able to get most of the materials donated for the project. He then organized his troop to cooperate in building the four boxes and snake baffles after he and his father prepared the materials. Sam's family came out to watch as he set several of the nest boxes on the Refuge to replace old, worn-out boxes.

He successfully completed his project before starting school this year as a freshman at Carbondale Community High School. All of us commend him for his initiative and perseverance in completing his project and plan to recognize his accomplishment at the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet this spring.



Getting Our Youth Involved

This spring we partnered with the Members of the SIU Forestry Club who spent a couple of workdays assisting our Pollinator Project crew in preparing the areas that had been covered in invasive honeysuckle and autumn olive for future planting of native shrubs this fall and next spring. It is hoped that the thickly planted native shrubs will outcompete (with a little help from us) the invasive species that crop up along the edge of the forested areas at the Pigeon Creek site.

In addition, we have enlisted the help of the summer Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew led by Peter Fox at the Refuge. These young high school and college workers assisted us in preparing new flower beds in the Prairie area. They also assisted with the never ending tasks of weeding and mulching the beds. Thanks to all for your youthful enthusiasm and willing attitudes!





WING IT!

NATURE ARTIST Kathy Belletire will lead an easy and fun acrylic PAINTING CLASS on butterflies for teens and adults.

Date: Sunday, October 13th

Time: 2:00 - 3:00

Place: Visitor Center, Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

Free; materials provided with help from the Friends of C.O. N. W. R.

Teens - adults welcome; no experience necessary.

Limit 15.

Reservations required. Call the visitor center: 618-997-3344

CREATURE FEATURE

This month's creature feature spotlights a beautiful butterfly that is more common in the southeastern states of the USA. Possibly because of climate change and warmer temperatures in our area, our butterfly monitors have seen a number of this unusual species for our area this late summer and early fall. Pictured is an adult male, a poisonous, bad-tasting Gulf Fritillary caterpillar, and the host plant of the Gulf Fritillary, the native Passion Vine.



Photos courtesy of butterfliesathome.com.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY EXTENDED to SUNDAY OCTOBER 6

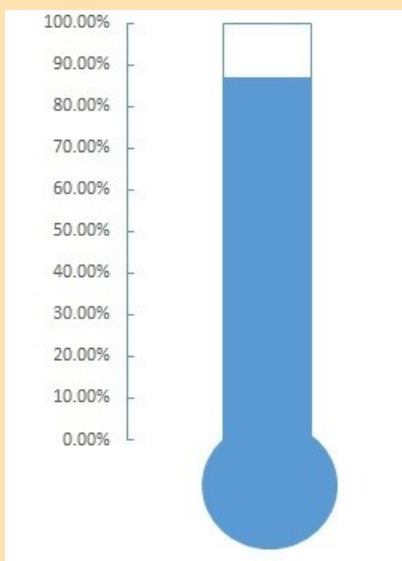
Attention Southern Illinois photographers- its time to enter the Crab Orchard Refuge's Wildlife and Wild Places Photo Contest! Cash prizes will be awarded for first and second place in each category, Best of Show and Refuge Choice. Amateur photographers can submit up to 5 matted entries (adults: maximum of 2 per category, \$5 per entry; youth: 5 entries, \$1 per entry). Photos must be submitted at the Refuge Visitor's... Center by Sunday, September 29. Visit the Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge Website for complete entry information (<http://friendsofconwr.com/poster-2.html>), contest rules <http://friendsofconwr.com/rules-2.html>), and entry forms (<http://friendsofconwr.com/entryform-1.html>). For questions call the Refuge Visitor's Center at 618-998-5933.

Categories are:

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

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



To date, we have raised 87% of our goal or \$6,100.00 of our Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant matching funds. That equates to grant match, donations, and funds for volunteer hours of \$30,400.00.

There still remains a total of \$2,700.00 available to us in the grant match, but we must raise an additional \$900 by 10-31-19 in order to receive the full remaining available grant match of \$2,700.

If we do so, we will have fully utilized the grant award, and will have accrued \$34,000 for pollinator habitat improvements. (Trees, bushes, wildflowers, prairie restoration and invasive control!!!)

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 **EXTENDED to OCTOBER 6!** 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

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Marion, IL 62959

618.998.5933

Website: www.friendsofconwr.com

Email: admin@friendsofconwr.com

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