



Summer 2021 Newsletter



Please visit friendsofthecache.org for past newsletters and more information about the Cache River Watershed.

Free Fishing Clinics: Thursdays: July 1, 15, and 29

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources will offer a series of FREE youth catch-and-release clinics at Cache River State Natural Area, Barkhausen-Cache River Wetlands Center, 8885 St. Rt. 37 South, Cypress, Illinois, on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until noon, July 1, 15, and 29, 2021. Instructors will present information on fish and other aquatic life; fishing rules and regulations; and basic instructions on baiting a hook, tying a knot, and casting, tactics for catching fish, and how to handle and return fish to the water. Participants may bring their own equipment, or will be provided with rods, reels, bait, and tackle for 90 minutes of catch-and-release fishing. The clinics are targeted towards children 16 and younger, but anyone interested in learning basic fishing techniques can attend. Parents and other adults are not required to have a fishing license to assist during this program. Please register in advance by calling the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

The waters of Cache River State Natural Area are open for fishing all year long in areas where hunting, and gathering is allowed. Dedicated Nature Preserves are closed to hunting, gathering, and fishing.

Pollinator Gardens: The pollinator gardens at the Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center are cleaned up and starting to bloom. Each of the twelve gardens has a different theme and is designed to show how various plants benefit pollinators. Come walk the 1/2-mile loop and get ideas for your home gardens. Each garden is maintained by a local group or organization.

Photo by Patti Powell.



Save the Dates:

Thursday, August 19, 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Friends of the Cache River Watershed Annual Meeting, Carbondale Civic Center. Speaker: Shawn Gossman (*Hiking With Shawn*).

Sept. 10-12 Cache River Days at the ball park in Ullin.

Now at the Wetlands Center

Every year since 1989, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has sponsored the National Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest, and the results for Illinois are in. 2021 Best of Show for Illinois is a black-bellied whistling duck in acrylic paint by Naransolongo Batgerel of Naperville, Illinois. The display of winning art of each age category, K-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, in a variety of mediums may be seen at Cache River State Natural Area, Barkhausen-Cache River Wetlands Center, 8885 State Route 37 South, Cypress, Illinois until June 30, 2021.

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic art- and science-based curriculum that teaches wetland and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program encourages students to explore their natural world, invites them to investigate biology and wildlife management principles and challenges them to express and share what they have learned with others.

The program encourages partnerships among federal and state government agencies, nongovernment organizations, businesses, and volunteers to help recognize and honor thousands of teachers and students throughout the United States for their participation in conservation-related activities.

The Junior Duck Stamp is a pictorial stamp produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to recognize the conservation efforts of young people and support environmental and conservation education programs in the United States. The art competition is the culmination of students' study of waterfowl and wetlands conservation in the classroom, homeschool, or non-formal education setting, often using the Junior Duck Stamp Program educational curriculum.

ENTICE Workshop - Illinois Turtles

On Tuesday, June 15, educators of public, private, and home school, youth groups and volunteers attended a workshop on Illinois turtles at Cache River State Natural Area, Barkhausen-Cache River Wetlands Center. Site Interpreter Molie Oliver and biologists Mark Guetersloh and Scott Ballard of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources were presenters.

Photos © Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



From my 3x5 notebook by Susan Post—April 15, 2021:

Bird migration has begun in full force and as we eat a picnic breakfast we eavesdrop on the conversations of Prothonotary and Northern Parula warblers, White-eyed Vireos, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Following their conversations would be tempting, but as the day warms our thoughts turn to butterflies, especially spring ephemerals (those butterflies that are only present during a few weeks in spring) and overwintered butterflies (hardy butterflies that spent the winter as adults). Like birders, we have our favorite haunts in the Cache where we might find these gems.



It's 2 pm and we are in the parking lot of Wildcat Bluff.

During prior spring trips we have found Goatweed Butterflies here, but we are not too optimistic as today is mowing day at Wildcat Bluff. In addition to the mower noise, the machine is spewing dust and gravel. How will we see butterflies? Oh well, we will walk a while and then move on. Within the first 100 yards we see a male Falcate Orangetip butterfly (a spring ephemeral) and soon we witness the male courting a female. A few steps down the trail we were rewarded with an unexpected spring

ephemeral, Henry's elfin, resembling nothing more than a piece of leaf detritus. Henry's elfin's host plant is redbuds and when the redbuds finish blooming, Henry's elfin disappears.

The trail would become a true butterfly walk as we spotted 11 species, including all the swallowtails except Giant. Unfortunately, the Goatweed eluded us today.

Photos by Michael Jeffords.



Who Are We?

We're not originally from around here, but lately we've been spending a lot more time in the Cache River Watershed. Here's our family picture from our recent visit to Mermet Lake. Do you know us? (Answer on page 6.)

Photo by John E. Schwegman.



Earth Day in the Park Activities



Constraints from the COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult for teachers and local school children to participate in the 2021 annual Earth Day in the Parks program. To encourage natural resource stewardship, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists were invited by Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Natural Resource Coordinator, Molie Oliver, to assist with stewardship activities like planting native wildflowers and removing invasive species.

April 15, Mr. Jordan Hammersley and students from Southeastern Illinois College planted 100 prairie plants for an hour and a half. They also cut brush

along the Cypress Knee wetland north of the Wetlands Center for two hours.

April 16, two Master Gardener volunteers, Patty Powell and Beckie Wisdom, tended the prairie demonstration plot for two hours at Tunnel Hill State Trail headquarters in Vienna. They planted 23 plants and split false blue indigo so it could be transplanted at the Cache River State Natural Area Wetlands Center.



April 22, Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists

tackled invasive garlic mustard along the Tunnel Hill State Trail in the town of Tunnel Hill. After two hours of pulling, Master Gardeners (Jim Todd, Patty Powell, and Beckie Wisdom) and Master Naturalist (Bill Clifton and Linda Helstern) removed 200 pounds of garlic mustard from the trail.

Photos of volunteers by Molie Oliver, IDNR Natural Resource Coordinator.



Plantings at Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge



University of Illinois Extension Volunteers and Land of Lincoln Southern 7 AmeriCorps increased pollinator habitat by 800 square feet at Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve within Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge on May 25, 2021. Marie Emery (Master Gardener), Hannah McCoy (AmeriCorps), Kelsey Woodcock (Master Naturalist), and Kimberly Rohling (Extension Program Coordinator) planted 200 pollinator bare root plants to provide native perennial nectar resources for insects and birds. Species included in the planting were beebalm (*Monarda fistulosa*), boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), gray-headed coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), pasture thistle (*Cirsium discolor*), foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*), and



New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*). Later that morning 35 tree saplings were planted in pots for additional care during the summer.

On June 4, 2021, Marie Emery, Hannah McCoy, Callie Mowery (AmeriCorps Volunteer), and Kelsey Woodcock planted over 400 trees with Refuge staff at Wood Duck Slough near Perks, Illinois to increase diversity of tree species present in the bottomland planting.

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, Master Naturalists Kelsey

Woodcock and Jonathan Voelz assisted USFWS staff and Americorps plant 500 trees within a 5-acre area.

Photos by Kimberly Rohling, University of Illinois Extension.





Illinois Extension

SUMMER TRASH BLASTS

FRIDAYS, 9-11AM

ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

<https://go.illinois.edu/IDNRTrashBlast>

LIMITED PARTICIPATION.
WEAR A MASK.
BRING YOUR OWN
WORK GLOVES.



BE PART OF
THE SOLUTION, NOT
THE POLLUTION.



7 / 9
Ferne Clyffe
State Park



8 / 6
Cache River
State Natural Area;
Urbana Road



8 / 20
Horseshoe Lake
Fish & Wildlife Area





Questions? Contact Kim Rohling at kimrohli@illinois.edu

University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact your local Extension Coordinator 618-658-5321. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

Answer to Who Are We?

(From page 3.) We're Black-Bellied Whistling Ducks. We've lived in some of the southern United States for a while now; but lately, we've been expanding our range northward. We've been regulars in the Cache River Watershed for the last several years. Like Wood Ducks, we nest in hollow tree cavities.

Photo by John E. Schwegman.



About the Friends: The Friends of the Cache River Watershed is a not-for-profit group of citizens dedicated to protecting, enhancing and sharing a unique natural and recreational resource, the Cache River Wetlands. We work together with area landowners and public schools, plus numerous agencies and organizations that share a common goal of habitat restoration, environmental education and community involvement in the Cache River Watershed. Please explore our website, friendsofthecache.org, to find out more about this hidden gem, which has been designated a RAMSAR Wetland of International Importance.

Because of COVID-19, we have not had outreach events. Therefore, please consider renewing your membership at this time if you have not done so in the past few months. We always welcome new members as well.

Become a Friend of the Cache River Watershed

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Lifetime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Current Member | |

Name _____ Date _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

To remain budget and environmentally friendly, most communications are by e-mail.

Check here if you need to receive information by U. S. Mail.

All contributions are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to Friends of the Cache River Watershed and mail to 8885 State Route 37 South, Cypress, IL 62923.

OR go to our website: friendsofthecache.org and click "join" to become a friend online.