

dec/jan
2014-15

friends



of the cache river watershed

Field Notes

*Three questions for Lynn Wolff
Chair, Board of Directors, 2010-14
Friends of the Cache River Watershed*

*As Lynn prepares to step down as chair
after four years of service, the Friends
thank her for her outstanding leadership
and dedication.*

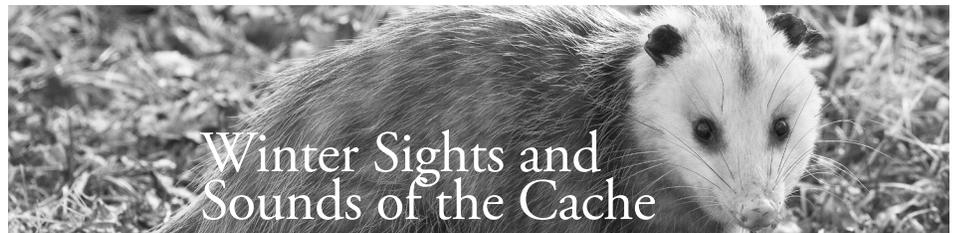
How did you first get involved with the Friends?

The Cache was my son Michael's life – he loved the wetlands, and conducted much of his wood duck research there. Shortly before he passed away at age 30 from a rare form of cancer, Michael requested that he be remembered with a wetland, a place “where the ducks would come.” Staff at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources helped me apply for a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant; and, thanks to additional support from Friends of the Cache and many others, we raised the funds to reclaim a section of wetlands in Michael's name. Meanwhile, the Friends were in the process of reorganizing, and I agreed to chair, “just for a year.” Four years later, I'm pleased to be handing the torch to new leadership. *continued on back*

For more information,
see www.friendsofcache.org,
e-mail info@friendsofcache.org or like
“Friends of the Cache River Watershed”
on FACEBOOK.

Time to celebrate two Friends' holiday traditions, coming up in December. Join staff and volunteers for plenty of good food and good cheer on **Thursday, December 4**, at the annual Holiday Open House at Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge, cosponsored by Friends of the Cache. Festivities will be in full swing from 11am to 3pm at Cypress Creek Refuge Office, Shawnee College Rustic Campus Building D, 0137 Rustic Campus Drive, Ullin, IL. Food and beverages will be provided; but, feel free to bring your favorite holiday dish to share if you wish.

On **Sunday, December 7**, 2-5pm, support community organizations with your holiday shopping at the Southern Illinois Alternative Gift Fair, Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Avenue. Friends of the Cache will be joined by the Sierra Club, Green Earth and many other worthy organizations offering a variety of unique gifts. The event includes live music and a silent auction featuring local art and regionally made goods. Wishing you happy holidays and “Geese on Earth”!



Winter Sights and Sounds of the Cache

photo by Susan Post

Notes from My
3x5 Notebook,
by Susan Post

Listen carefully, and you might hear the familiar quacks of mallards, the high, hoarse call of the shoveler, the squawks of innumerable snow geese – maybe even the dry rattle of sand hill cranes as they fly over in an elongated V. Huge, roving flocks of grackles and starlings sound like thunder as they rise from the wet woods surrounding Heron Pond. Look closely, as ducks spooked from hidden wetlands rise and swirl like ashes, and large, star

fungi emerge from the gravel along the Tunnel Hill Trail. At the edge of Heron Pond Boardwalk, look for ice skirted trees or a kaleidoscope of color as the setting sun hits thin ice. At Section 8 Woods, tupelo seeds litter the boardwalk, and you might see or hear an elusive winter wren. Witness dark hieroglyphics in the sky as large, squiggly lines of snow geese fly out to feed in the morning or in to roost at night. During the gray days of winter, the green glint of a male mallard is like Emerald City from the Wizard of Oz.

Lynn Wolff, cont.

What makes you most proud?

I am most proud of the establishment of the Michael L. Wolff Memorial Wetland. Also, it has been a great joy working with members of AmeriCorps, outstanding young people who have played a major role in the Friends' recent success. Their passion and positivity remind me of my son, whose loss, as devastating as it was, led me to become involved at a level I had never imagined, and to meet so many great people along the way.

What does the future hold for the Friends?

The Wetlands Center and Cypress Creek Refuge will continue to need our help with staffing and facilities upgrades. I would like to see an expanded board of directors, and more volunteers to help with environmental education and outreach. There is so much talent available in our extended community, and so many different ways that people can contribute to this wonderful and unique resource, the Cache River wetlands!

Just in time for the holidays, check out the new butterfly field guide by southern Illinois native and Friends of Cache board member Michael Jeffords and his co-authors, Susan Post and James Wiker. Available at the Illinois Natural History Survey website: <https://shop.inrs.illinois.edu/inhs-man.html>



Become a Friend

- \$10 Individual
- \$20 Family
- New Member
- \$35 Contributing
- \$50 Supporting
- Current Member
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$1,000 Lifetime

Name	Date	
Address		
City	State	ZIP

All contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to **Friends of the Cache River Watershed**. Mail membership dues to: 8885 State Rt. 37 South, Cypress, IL 62923.

What's Next

Holiday Open House at Cypress Creek

*Thursday, December 4, 11am-3pm
Cypress Creek Refuge Office*

Come one, come all, to celebrate the holiday season! Refuge staff and Friends of the Cache welcome you for great food and friendship. Questions, call 618-634-2231.

Southern Illinois Alternative Gift Fair

*Sunday, December 7, 2-5pm
Carbondale Civic Center,
200 S. Illinois Avenue*

Find unique holiday gifts while supporting Friends of the Cache and other community organizations. Questions, call Jess at 618-549-4807 or e-mail Mary at maryinbantry@yahoo.com

Christmas Bird Count

*Monday, December 15, 6am-sunset
Meet at Cypress Creek Refuge Office*

This annual all-day census of early winter bird populations has been conducted throughout the U.S. for more than 100 years, resulting in the longest-running database in ornithology. All skill levels welcome to participate. Questions, call 618-634-2231

**MOVIE NIGHT:
"Meet the Coywolf"**

*Thursday, January 8, 6-8pm
Cache River Wetlands Center*

Bring your family and friends for a free film and learn more about the coywolf, a coyote/wolf hybrid. Light refreshments served. Questions, call 618-634-2231.

Flying Wild: Birding Basics

*Saturday, January 24, 1-3pm
Cache River Wetlands Center*

If you're a beginning or early intermediate birder, this program is for you. Led by Master Naturalist Anne Parmley. Questions, call 618-657-2064.

Coming Soon!
**2015 Calendar
of Programs and Activities**