

sep/oct2016

friends

of the cache river watershed



Field Notes

*Four Questions for
Karen Mangan
Biologist, Cypress Creek NWR*

What research is the Refuge conducting on bats?

We are currently studying maternity colony populations and habitat use of the federally endangered Indiana bat. This species roosts under the bark of standing dead trees during the summer, and the females form colonies where they give birth and raise their pups. Our main objective is to locate these maternity colonies, so we can monitor how the population is doing over time and gain a better understanding of the habitat they are selecting for roosting and foraging.

What are your key findings so far?

We have located three maternity colonies on Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge; therefore, we have been able to monitor the health of these colonies and gather more information on the type of habitat that the bats are selecting. We were also

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For more information, see
www.friendsofthecache.org
e-mail friendsofthecacheriver@gmail.com
or like "Friends of the Cache River Watershed" on FACEBOOK.

More than 75 friends and supporters of the Cache River Wetlands gathered at the Carbondale Civic Center on August 31 for the Cache Annual Meeting. Friends board chair, Dr. Michael Jeffords, provided an update on the year's accomplishments, followed by the fascinating presentation, "Amber: Window on an Ancient World." And, of course, there was plenty of snacking, shopping for Cache merchandise, door prizes galore and connecting with old and new friends.

photos: Tony Gerard



The evening's featured speaker, insect paleontologist Dr. Sam Heads, talks about efforts to preserve and study amber at the Illinois Natural History Survey, which has one of the largest non-commercial collections of amber in the world.



Friends board members Chelsea DeVivo and Lori Armstrong (r to l) model the new Cache River hoodie, while volunteers Mark Hancock and Jodie Delaney work the merchandise table.



photo: Cypress Creek NWR

Field Notes *cont' from page one*

able to confirm that two of the colonies began utilizing artificial roosts constructed in 2012, which indicates that habitat is limited within the Cache River Watershed. Forest inventory work we have been conducting at the same time supports this hypothesis. We are continually working to restore and improve our forested areas on the Refuge to support bats and other wildlife.

How can volunteers help?

Volunteers have played a crucial role in helping with emergence counts. In order to get a good idea of the Indiana bat population, it is necessary to survey all known roosts at the same time. Therefore, we often need four to five volunteers for one night's surveys. We'll continue to need volunteers through early October, and then again in the spring.

What is the latest word on White Nose Syndrome?

White Nose Syndrome has now been confirmed in 29 states and five Canadian provinces. There are 11 different bat species in the eastern U.S. that have been affected. The fungus was first documented in Illinois in 2013, and has now been confirmed in 14 Illinois counties, including all the counties within the Watershed. There is no cure yet, but some promising research has shown that soil bacteria can inhibit the growth of the fungus. A great deal of additional research is in progress to find a way to eradicate the disease.

If you would like to help with bat emergence surveys, please contact Karen Mangan at the Refuge office, 618-634-2231.



photo: Michael Jeffords

Notes from My 3x5 Notebook
by Susan Post

During September and October, as we say *bon voyage* to the monarch butterfly, we still seek out Carolina and gemmed satyrs. These small brown butterflies appear from April to October, with late fall a prime time to see them. Their wingspan is 1.25-1.8 inches, and the wings are brown with a few dark spots. The larvae of both species feed on grasses and sedges. Both have a characteristic slow, skipping flight that makes them look easy to observe; but, beware, as they have the moves of a prize fighter and are able to duck and dodge even the most experienced butterfly spotter. The gemmed satyr has a line of four dark, reflective spots on the underside

of its posterior hindwing, while the Carolina satyr has a series of small, black, yellow-bordered eyespots along its underside wing margins. During the last two decades, the gemmed satyr has been sighted yearly; prior to that, only sporadically. The Carolina satyr was recorded in Illinois in 1994 in the Shawnee National Forest, the first documented sighting during the twentieth century. We have seen the gemmed satyr each year along the Heron Pond trail, and are still searching to find the Carolina satyr in the Cache. Who knows? Maybe, this October, we will finally get lucky!



photo: Tony Gerard

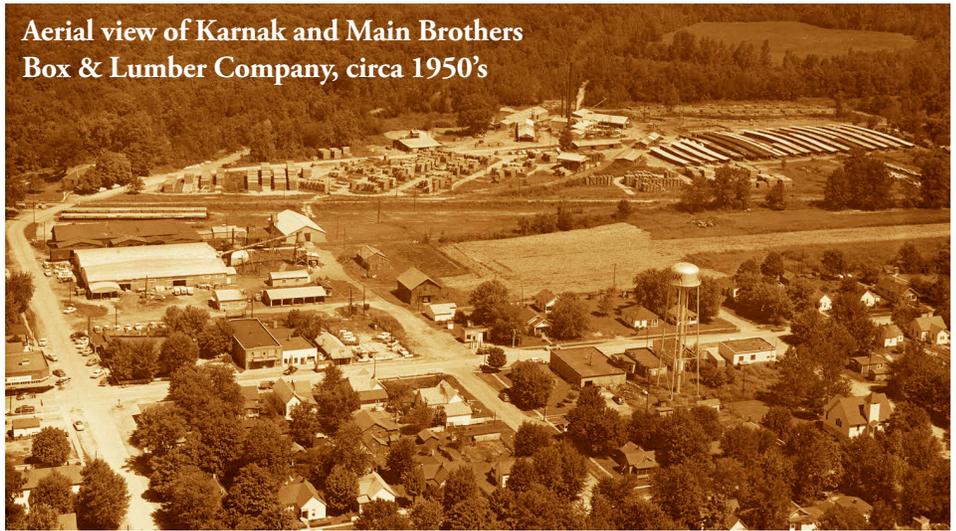
Do you know who I am?

Answer on pg 4

Communities of the Cache: Karnak

Located along the Tunnel Hill State Trail in the heart of the Cache River Wetlands, Karnak

was once the site of Main Brothers Box & Lumber Company, one of the first and largest timber-cutting companies in Illinois. The Main brothers came from Ohio in 1898 and built a large sawmill and box factory along the banks of the Cache River, where they found the wood of the tupelo tree to be particularly suitable for making their most lucrative product, wooden boxes for glass jars. In 1905, the brothers moved their thriving operations to the site of an 1870s mill in the tiny settlement of Oaktown. They bought the property, platted a new community,



and named it after the ancient Egyptian city of Karnak. Eventually, Main Brothers owned nearly 25,000 acres in the Cache River bottoms. Up to the 1950s, the company was the largest employer in southern Illinois, with a roster of between 200 and 300 workers.

This summer, the Village of Karnak was proud to open a new tourist facility, the Main Brothers Campground. Located near the site of the old sawmill and factory, the campground is perfectly

situated for exploring all the attractions of the Cache River State Natural Area and Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge. For more information, call 618-634-9311.

“Communities of the Cache” will highlight a different town in each issue. If you’d like to share historical photos and tidbits about your community, please contact newsletter editor Paula Havlik at phavlik@illinois.edu.

In Memoriam

By Molie Oliver
Site Interpreter,
Cache River Wetlands Center

Our community has lost two women who had in common friendliness, intelligence and caring for the ecological diversity of the Cache River Watershed, as well as all of southern Illinois.

Cathie Maginel, 88, passed away on June 11. She and her husband, Cal, have been members of the Citizens Committee to Save the Cache, Friends of the Cache River Watershed and the Southern Illinois Audubon Society since retiring to rural Jonesboro in the 1980s. Cathie and Cal volunteered at



Kay Werner (l) and Cathie Maginel (r) volunteering together at Nature Fest in 2009.

the Cache River State Natural Area and Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge for many years. Cathie was always positive and kind to everyone she knew. Our sincere condolences go to Cal and their four sons, Jim, John, David and Dan, and other family members.

Karen (Kay) Werner, 75, passed away on July 7. She and her husband, Tim, of the Lick Creek area, have long been

members of Friends of the Cache, Illinois Audubon and Sierra Club since retiring and moving from the Springfield area. Kay was a strong supporter of the Cache River SNA and Cypress Creek NWR and the restoration of the wetland habitats in the Cache River basin. We extend our great sympathy to Tim, daughter Krista Velarde, son Eric and their families.



Photo: CCWR

Youth Conservation Corps

Our 2016 Youth Conservation Corps worked with Cypress Creek staff for eight weeks, finishing the summer strong. Clay Sherwood, Summer Albright, Larry Barnet and Aly Agbayani were involved with habitat restoration for pollinators, maintaining visitor

accesses, bathymetry surveys, forest inventory, trail construction, removing beaver dams and debris, and boundary posting. Many of these jobs were labor intensive and required coping with poison ivy, insects, and hot temperatures. Despite the challenges, these outstanding students arrived early each day with enthusiasm and a positive attitude to get the job done. The group was encouraged and empowered by an excellent crew leader and Refuge volunteer, Greg Nejmanowski.

AmeriCorps Members 2016-17



Photo: CCWR

We are pleased to have AmeriCorps well represented with Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of the Cache River Watershed. This year's members are (l to r) Greg Nejmanowski, Kim Rohling and Becky Hileman. Greg is a graduate of Southern Illinois University in zoology and environmental science; Kim has a degree in oceanography from Eckert College and is currently finishing her

master of science thesis at SIU. Becky is also a graduate of SIU in zoology. All three share a passion for the environment and connecting people with nature, and are excited about working with area schools, as well as assisting Cypress Creek NWR staff and Friends members with conservation and restoration work in the Cache River Wetlands.

Remember to share the road.



Become a Friend

- \$15 Individual
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- New Member
- \$50 Contributing
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- Current Member
- \$250 Sustaining
- \$1,000 Lifetime

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To remain budget and environment-friendly, all communications are sent via e-mail.

Please let us know if you need to receive information via U.S. mail.

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



Answer *from page two*

Do you know who I am?

Isabella tiger moth (*Pyrrharctia isabella*), the adult form of a caterpillar that you probably knew very well as a kid – the **woolly bear**. Contrary to popular belief, the thickness of the woolly bear's black bands does not foretell the severity of the upcoming winter!