

july/aug2017

friends

of the cache river watershed



Photo: Michael Jeffords

The wildflower quilts are done!

Over the past year, 20 talented needlewomen from Shawnee Quilters Guild have created two 12-block quilt hangings, based on Illinois wildflower photos by John and Martha Schwegman. Shawnee Quilters will conduct a raffle on July 21, with the winner choosing one of the two quilts. The remaining quilt hanging will be displayed at the Cache River Wetlands Center during the month of August, and sold in a silent auction at Cache River Days on Saturday, September 9. All proceeds from both quilts will be donated to Friends of the Cache for use in educational programs.

To participate in the July 21 raffle, send a check (payable to Friends of the Cache) to Marie Samuel, 706 N. Division Street, Carterville, IL 62918. Tickets are \$5 each, or three for \$10. Specify whether your choice is Quilt #1 or #2. Silent auction bids may be placed at the Wetlands Center from July 29 through September 9.

We thank the Shawnee Quilters for adding us to the long list of area non-profits that have benefited from their generosity over the years.



QUILT #1, quilted by Robin Haller. Row 1 (left to right): Crossvine (Vickie Parry), Prickly Pear Cactus (Connie Pavlovich), Bleeding Heart (Mary Hackett); Row 2: Carolina Rose (Brenda Davis), Purple Coneflower (Hazel Grant), Yellow Trout Lily (Carol White); Row 3: Columbine (Vickie Parry), Copper Iris (Martha Schwegman), American Lotus (Kathleen Wright); Row 4: Nodding Pogonia (Linda Inabnit), Obedient Plant (Linda Martin), Trumpet Creeper (Linda Woodard).



QUILT #2, quilted by Donna Howard. Row 1 (left to right): Yellow Bellwort (Barbara Eastwood), Purple Fringeless Orchid (Judy Stewart), Lady's Slipper Orchid (Martha Schwegman); Row 2: Passion Flower (Ann Collins), Goat's Rue (Ann Collins), Closed Gentian (Marie Samuel); Row 3: Cardinal Flower (Gail Brautigian), Celandine Poppy (Brenda Davis), Fire Pink (Mary Kay Reed); Row 4: Purple Turtlehead (Linda Inabnit), Yellow Lady Slipper (Linda Martin), Rose Pink (Linda Woodard). Beth Lipscomb and Lynn Gross also assisted with assembly of both quilts.

Watch the Eclipse in the Cache!

See page two for details.



For more information, see

www.friendsofthecache.org

e-mail friendsofthecacheriver@gmail.com

or like "Friends of the Cache River Watershed" on FACEBOOK.



What's Next

Bats of Illinois

Saturday, August 5, 6:30-8:30pm
Cache River Wetlands Center

Learn all about the 12 species of bats living in Illinois, then head outside to experience bats' evening emergence. Questions: 618-657-2064.

Adler Planetarium Eclipse Program

Thursday, August 17, 11am-2pm
Cache River Wetlands Center

See how a telescope works, touch a moon rock, and find out more about the upcoming solar eclipse and how

to safely view it from educators and astronomers at Adler Planetarium. Questions: 618-657-2064.

Cache River Restoration

Thursday, August 17, 6:30-8:30pm
Cache River Wetlands Center

Program by IDNR heritage biologist Mark Guetersloh, sponsored by Illinois Native Plant Society.

Eclipse Viewing in the Cache

Monday, August 21, 9am-4pm
Cache River Wetlands Center

The parking lot and an adjoining grassy area at the Wetlands Center will be available all day for eclipse viewing, free of charge, on a first-come, first-served basis. **Volunteers are still needed** to help with parking and greeting visitors. If interested, call Molie Oliver at 618-657-2064.

Reptiles in the Neighborhood

Saturday, August 26, 1-4pm
Wetlands Center/Heron Pond Trail

Join Tony Gerard for an up-close look at reptiles and amphibians native to southernmost Illinois. Indoor program concludes with optional hike at Heron Pond. Questions: 618-657-2064.

Save the Date

Cache Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 9, 6:30-8:30pm
Location: Carbondale Civic Center

More details coming soon!

Please note that the Wetland Warrior Challenge scheduled for September 30 has been postponed. A future date has not yet been set.

From My 3x5 Notebook

By Susan Post

Just as the Cache has four seasons, each one uniquely fascinating, every 24 hours here includes two radically



Photo: Michael Jeffords

different aspects—day and night. While the creatures stay the same, their behaviors are different. Some are diurnal—bees, butterflies, flies and wasps. Many are nocturnal—spiders, katydids, beetles, moths and a host of other species. Taking a stroll along a trail that is familiar during the day can turn into an entirely different experience after dark. Those multiple, shining eyes reflecting from your flashlight may belong to a wolf or funnel web spider. Nothing beats a perfect orb weaver spider web with an often grotesque, spiny or hairy occupant waiting for prey.

Who knows? You might just get lucky and find a spectacular cypress sphinx patiently munching away on bald cypress needles (pictured at left). Take note, though, if you see a flashing light in the distance, it might not be fireflies, but just another curious entomologist exploring the Night of the Living Cache!



Photo: Tony Gerard

Do you know who I am?

Answer on pg 4



Communities of the Cache: Tamm

Tamm was known in recent years for its “supermax” correctional center, which officially closed in 2013. However, the little community located along Illinois Route 127 in east central Alexander County also has a rich history as a railroad town.

The settlement was called Idlewild when a post office was first established here in 1883. Theodore Tamm, a wealthy businessman from St. Louis,

purchased much of the land on which the town stood in 1888 and became owner of the Chester and Keller Manufacturing Company. In 1899, Theodore’s son, Oscar, inherited the land and donated a portion of it to the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad to come through town. He also deeded land to the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad. In 1900, the town was renamed Tamm in Oscar’s honor. It was said that the final “s” was added

to Tamm in order to “avoid the semblance of profanity.”

Oscar Tamm was a flamboyant figure who made frequent trips to Europe and was said to have been the first man to take an automobile inside the Arctic Circle. When he died in 1913, Tamm left most of his fortune in trust for the improvement of roads in Alexander County.

The Tamm Depot, built in 1899, housed dispatchers for both the C & EI and the GM & O railways. The curved building was specially constructed so that one dispatch office could overlook both sets of tracks. The depot became a hub of activity, serving both passenger and freight trains until it closed in 1955. The building was restored in the 1980s, and continues to serve as the village hall. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

“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.



Congratulations to the Grand Prize Winner of the Spring 2017 Student Photo Contest, **Izabella Dillingham** of Egyptian School in Tamm. Izabella received a \$50 gift card, an 8x10 print of her photo and a t-shirt from Friends of the Cache. Her teacher, Adrienne Trainor, will receive a free field trip for her students to the Cache River Wetlands in Fall 2017. The contest is sponsored by Cypress Creek NWR and Friends of the Cache.

The Pollinator Gardens at Egret Slough

behind the Cache River Wetlands Center are thriving this summer! New, permanent interpretive signs have been installed, and we thank Rod McIntosh of ArtFX in Ullin for donating his services as graphic designer. Garden volunteer Katie Maderer observed during a recent workday that it will likely be two to three years before the garden plots fully mature and become relatively maintenance free. Meanwhile, volunteers are visiting regularly to weed and water, and birds, bees and other pollinators are showing up to sip, nest and nibble!



We invite you to check out the garden plots – and, while you’re there, take note of the surrounding prairie plantings starting to come into their full glory. Site interpreter Molie Oliver has coordinated the prairie project for the past six years, with help from school groups participating in IDNR’s Earth Day in the Park program. Molie recommends late summer as the optimum time to see the prairie in bloom.

Cypress Creek Update



The 2017 Youth Conservation Corps began summer service on June 5, helping Refuge staff with groundskeeping, trail building and bathymetry. Crew members are **Greg Nejmanowski** (Biotech/Crew Leader), **Summer Albright** (Youth Crew Leader), **Connor O'Malley**, **Breanna Stout**

and **Dustin Hutman**. With assistance from AmeriCorps and Shawnee Community College interns, Refuge staff continues to work on forest inventory plots. The goal is to cover approximately 400 acres, collecting data on tree species, ages and forest structure so that we can better manage these areas for wildlife. Warm temperatures have brought bats back to the Refuge, and interns and volunteers are conducting monthly emergence surveys to monitor bat colony use of artificial roosts. Refuge staff has also collected mobile and passive acoustic data to monitor bat populations and habitat use.

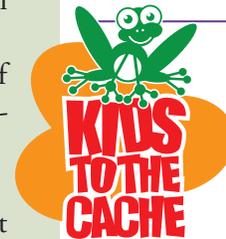


Adam Corcoran and Jake Chronister have been hired by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to work on the

Forest Invasive Adaptive Management project, documenting nuisance plant species found on Cypress Creek and Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. Adam earned his master's in natural science at Southeast Missouri University, and Jake is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor's in natural resources. They will be at Cypress Creek through mid-August and then on to Mingo.



Erin Medvecz of Algonquin, Illinois, who just received her master's in plant biology from SIU, will assist Molie Oliver at the Cache River Wetlands Center for the next six months as a conservation education representative. The position is funded by IDNR. Be sure to stop by and say hello to Erin!



Teachers: Fall deadline to apply for field trip grants has been extended to Sept 30. Questions: franceswachter@gmail.com

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- \$50 Contributing
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- Current Member
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To remain budget and environment-friendly, most 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?

Philobdella gracilis:

so little is known about me that I don't even have a common name. You've got to admit, with my green upper side and orange belly, I'm kind of pretty – for a leech! In the Cache, I'm most often found under rotten logs when the water goes down in floodplain forests.