



Middlefork Audubon Society

a chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society

The Audubonite

August 2019

Annual Bluebird Gathering and Potluck at Kennekuk County Park

Thursday, August 22 @ 6:30 PM at the Education Center

We look forward to seeing all of our nest box volunteers and members as we come together to celebrate another bluebird nesting season! Bring a covered dish to share and come join us as we wrap up another year of monitoring. Drinks and tableware will be provided but feel free to bring your recyclable dinnerware.



Photo: Bob Schifo

REMEMBER THE NEW LOCATION!

We are meeting again at the beautiful Outdoor Education Center, located within Kennekuk County Park, as we enjoy a festive potluck meal and swap stories about the 2019 bluebird monitoring season. As always, it is enjoyable and informative to hear about your experiences during the past nesting season. Bring your questions and share your surprising encounters with the group.

North American Bluebird Society Recognition to be

Presented to Jim Smith at the Potluck

Please join us as Jim Smith is presented with a special commendation from NABS for his 50+ years of dedication and passion to the Eastern Bluebird. NABS, the North American Bluebird Society, Inc, is a non-profit education, conservation, and research organization that promotes the recovery of bluebirds and other cavity-nesting bird species in North America. www.nabluebirdsociety.org . Kelly Allen, president of the East Central Illinois Bluebird Society, an affiliate of NABS, will be presenting the award and sharing some information about the NABS organization.



Photo: Lorraine Downing

We would love to have you bring a brief story or fond memory of Jim from the bluebird trail to share with him as we celebrate his lifetime of conservation for the beautiful bluebirds.

Replacement Nest Boxes Will Be Available for Pickup at the August Meeting

As you make your final treks around your trails, take an inventory of your trail materials. This is the best time to collect replacements while it is fresh in your mind!

Various styles of boxes, poles and guards will be available.

Special Note: Once again we say thank you to the mowing crews who maintained trails and access to nest boxes for our volunteers this past season. You make our job much more enjoyable!

Upcoming event from the Vermilion County Conservation District!

Outdoor School for Adults with naturalists from the VCCD! September 9-12

This program will follow the popular Outdoor School program that has been provided to school students for 46 years. It has been a pleasure to partner with the VCCD on this wonderful program for kids over the years because it brings kids in contact with nature and with people who love nature in the beautiful natural environments of Vermilion County. We encourage you to join in the fun playing and learning hands-on about the wonderful beauty in our area with the VCCD staff. Registration is limited, fee for all four days is \$100.00. For more information contact Lara Darling @ 217-442-1691.

Nature Preserve Hikes to Resume this Fall BIRDS BLOOMS AND BUTTERFLIES The Doris Westfall Prairie Illinois Nature Preserve Hike at Forest Glen Saturday, September 14 10:00 AM - Noon

With fall around the corner we are ready to turn in our sandals for our hiking boots once again to go visit more nature preserves in Vermilion County! Mary Ann Hoeffliger, prairie enthusiast, will be guiding us through the Doris Westfall Prairie, sharing stories about its history and taking us on a walk of discovery through the prairie. At this time of year we will be able to enjoy some of the later prairie flowers, look and listen for the grassland birds who enjoy this native habitat, and enjoy the butterflies as they float by. Come join us in this lovely place. Wear long pants, socks and closed-toed shoes for this easy hike.



Thursday, Sept 26 Back at the Danville Public Library

Remember we return to the library for a fall program at the library. We are still waiting confirmation on a speaker for this month but mark your calendars to join us once again in Danville.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, October...?
Middlefork Audubon's Annual Bird Seed Sale Pickup

(No, that wasn't a typo, date is still TBA.) This is our only fundraiser of the year with funds raised going toward programs and projects. We partner with Berry's Garden Center in Danville to provide various bird seed varieties for your winter bird-feeding needs. As soon as we have prices from their distributor, we will send out order forms to be turned in during September.

Marilyn Campbell Beech Grove Trail Memorial Update

With all the rains in late winter and spring, ground-breaking construction for the trail renovations have been delayed, but the VCCD is working closely with the contractor, Ribbe Construction, on a start date for renovations of the handicap-access Beech Grove Trail at Forest Glen in memory of Marilyn Campbell, founder and long-time member of Middlefork Audubon.

Wow!! Thanks to many of you, funding has greatly exceeded our expectations! Phase I financial needs to resurface the trail, place a trailhead marker in Marilyn's memory, benches and misc up-keep of fences have been met, and Phase II projects will be added including an additional handicap-access toilet and a concrete sidewalk to a handicap-friendly picnic table/area. We thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for their generous donations to this project in Marilyn's memory!

Middlefork Audubon Society Board

President: Sue Smith • (217)-621-7528 • suzanne56smith@gmail.com

Secretary: Sue Tinkle • (217)-427-6109 • tinkandtom@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Bob Schifo • (217)-260-2349 • bschifo@yahoo.com

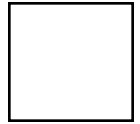
Bluebird Project: Jim Smith • (217)-621-8879 • smithsje@gmail.com

Lee Solter • lsolter@illinois.edu

Webmaster: Susan Stearns • (217)-595-5052 • susan@sbstearns.us

Newsletter Editor: Sam Schifo • (217)-260-9581 • samschifo@gmail.com

Middlefork Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1291
Danville, IL 61834



	<i>Calendar</i>	
Date & Time	Location	Event
Thursday, August 22 @ 6:30 PM	Education Center @ Kennekuk County Park	Annual Bluebird Gathering
Thursday, September 26 @ 7:00 PM	Danville Public Library	Program TBA
October, TBA	Berry's Garden Center Danville, IL	Bird Seed Sale Pickup
Thursday, October 24 @ 7:00 PM	Danville Public Library	Program TBA



Thanks to Berry's Garden Center in Danville, IL for
hosting our annual Bird Seed Sale.
www.berrysgarden.com • (217)-446-3076