



*Celebrating a
Century
of Conservation!*

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



News Release

**Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge
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SQUAW CREEK REFUGE

EAGLE DAYS SCHEDULED

Mound City, Missouri -- Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge announces the annual Eagle Days celebration scheduled for Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. each day. This will be the 30th consecutive year for this popular event. Eagle Days events are a cooperative venture with the Missouri Department of Conservation combined with other partners such as, Friends of Squaw Creek, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, Missouri Department of Transportation and Midland Empire Audubon Society.

The World Bird Sanctuary from St. Louis will bring again captive eagles for hourly programs. The birds will be part of live shows held in the refuge maintenance building at the beginning of each hour starting at 9:00 A.M. There will be a number of exhibits in the refuge Visitor Contact Station combined with quest exhibitors. Volunteers with telescopes will staff eagle viewing stations along the auto tour route helping visitors see bald eagles on the refuge.

Refuge staff members will give guided bus tours starting from the visitor contact station out along the 10-mile auto tour route and in the auditorium a special eagle video will be shown. **All presentations and exhibits are free to the public.** There will be a number of items for sale as Christmas gifts and mementos for eagle days in the Friends item sales store.

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The Midland Empire Audubon Society will be selling bird seed and feeders. Refreshments will also be sold in the buildings compound by the Friends of Squaw Creek.

Squaw Creek Refuge current water conditions are excellent in flooded marsh management units. Numbers of geese on the refuge are increasing daily at this time. Bald Eagle numbers are minimal and numbers will increase as Eagle Days approaches. Eagle numbers usually are peaking the first week in December with average numbers reaching more than 250 birds.

Eagle Days alternate parking for passenger cars and groups will be provided nearby at Squaw Creek Eagle Nest on the corner of Highway 159 adjacent to the northbound I-29 Exit 79 ramp. A shuttle bus is available from the alternate parking site to the event on Saturday at no charge. Please call (660) 442-3187 for the automated info line on bird numbers and questions regarding programs at Squaw Creek Refuge. Please visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/squawcreek/> or Friends of Squaw Creek at <http://squawcreek.org>. The refuge is located 5 miles south of Mound City and 30 miles northwest of St. Joseph, Missouri. Visitors can take I-29 to exit 79, then two and ½ miles west on Highway 159 to reach the refuge.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 63 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores a wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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