



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Calendar of Events

March - December 2012

Special Events

Come enjoy FREE fun for the whole family at our special events!

May 12-13: International Migratory Bird Day Celebration

September 30: 5th Annual "Cars for Critters" Benefit Car Show

October 14: Big Sit! Bird Count

December 2: Winter Open House, 12 - 4 p.m.

Naturally Speaking

FREE speaker series held on the 2nd Sunday of each month (except for holidays) at 2:00 p.m. See website or call for topics.

April 15: "Shipwrecks and Maritime Tales of Lake Erie,"

May 13: "Native Freshwater Mussels, What was once thought lost, has now been found" - Todd Crail, Doctoral candidate at University of Toledo. Researchers are finding a diversity of native mussels in their surveys of places providing refuge to native mussels.

June 10 Amazing Lives of Bats, Debbie Nofzinger; July 8; August 12; September 9; October 14; November 11; December 9. (If topics are not listed, see website for updates).

Auto Tours

Drive through 7 miles of the refuge that are normally closed to the public! Gates open at 8:00 a.m. and entrance gate closes at 4:00 p.m. Starting with the April, tours will depart from the Visitor Center parking lot. Tours may be cancelled due to weather, etc.

March 17, April 21, April 22, May 5, May 6, May 12, May 13, May 19, May 20, May 28, June 16, June 17, July 21, July 22, August 18, August 19, September 3, September 15, September 16, September 22, September 23, September 28, September 29, September 30, October TBA, November TBA, December 2, December 15, December 16

Hike the Dikes

"Hike the Dikes" is a cooperative program with Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and Black Swamp Bird Observatory. All hikes meet at Magee Marsh Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center at 9:00 a.m. Attend 3 hikes and earn a hiking stick.

April 14: Early Migrants
May 5: Springtime at Magee
June 16: Summer Residents
July 14: Marsh Plants
August 11: Sensational Shorebirds
September 15: Butterflies
October 13: Waterfowl



Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is located 15 miles east of Toledo and 15 miles west of Port Clinton on State Route 2.

For more information and updates visit <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ottawa> or call (419) 898-0014.

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(continued from previous page)

Public Programs and Workshops

Owl Prowls: Come & learn about Ohio's owls. Weather permitting we will drive out on the refuge and see if we can find a Great Horned or Screech Owl. Programs start at 7:30 pm. This program is FREE and open to the public. Call (419) 898-0014 to register.

March 23, April 6

FAMILY STAR PARTIES: Come learn about the evening sky at different seasons. Weather permitting, we will have telescopes set up for viewing. Dress for the outdoors. This program is FREE and open to the public. Call (419) 898-0014 to register.

March 24 - 7:30 p.m.

July 28 - 8:30 p.m.

October 13 - 6:30 p.m.

Bald Eagle Tours: Guided tours to see bald eagles and learn about their life history. Tours will be from 10 a.m. - noon. This program is FREE and open to the public. Call (419) 898-0014 to register.

July 7, July 12

BUTTERFLY I.D. WORKSHOP - June 23, 1 p.m.

NABA BUTTERFLY COUNT - July 14 - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MONTHLY BIRD SURVEYS - 1st Sunday of each month at 8:00 a.m.; meet at trail head parking lot. Everyone is welcome. Bring binoculars and dress to be outdoors. It's a great way to see the refuge!

Nature Tots

Children ages 3-5 are invited to bring their favorite adult from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month for nature crafts, stories and walks outdoors. Space is limited; call (419) 898-0014 to register.

April 7: Beaks & Feet

May 5: Wild Moms!

June 2: Bee Nice!

July 7: Who's in that shell?

August 4: Hop like a Grasshopper!

September 1: Seed Need

October 6: Going Batty!

November 3: Squirrely Squirrels

December 1: What's Wild?

Wild Wednesdays for Kids!

Children are invited to participate in programs and activities each Wednesday, June 13 - August 8.

Children who have completed K - 2nd grade will meet from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Children who have completed 3rd-5th grade will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. Space is limited; call (419) 898-0014 to register.

Let's Go Outside! Family Nature Activities

Stop by the front desk and borrow a "Let's Go Outside" backpack. Each backpack contains binoculars, bug jar, eye scope, Nature Watching (book), Nature Journal and activity cards. Field and aquatic nets are also available for use outdoors.

Watch the Ottawa NWR website for more upcoming family events this summer!

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ottawa>