

The Friends of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. joins the refuge in sponsoring creative and educational activities during 2009. **All activities are free and open to the public with many geared toward children and families.** Meet inside the refuge visitor facility unless otherwise indicated.

To learn more about any of the activities, please call or email: **Janet Butler: (304) 375-2923, ext. 117, janet_butler@fws.gov.**

Saturday, May 2 Two sessions 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Welcome Spring: We'll take a short nature walk for inspiration followed by the creation of a unique, wearable, Mother's Day gift! Reservations not required, but helpful. Pick one of the two sessions listed above.
Ages 5 & up.

Saturday, May 9, Migratory Bird Day: Bird Survey: 7:00 a.m. – Noon Must be able to walk hilly terrain on refuge headquarters property; meet at refuge visitor parking lot. No experience needed. Older kids and adults.
Birding Basics for Kids: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Learn the basics of bird-watching on a short trail walk and create a special "Nature-tine" to remember the day!
Ages 5 & up.



Saturday, May 30 – 9:00 a.m. Nature Walk: Guided 1-mile hike with volunteer Allan Elberfeld on the refuge's Uplands Trail. Meet at visitor facility parking lot. Moderate terrain.

Saturday, June 13, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Fishing Tips for Kids – Learn some helpful fishing skills and create a "fish art" project for Father's Day. Meet at St. Marys, WV, Bass Festival- Public Marina.

Saturday, June 20, Williamstown boat ramp, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 Ohio River Sweep- Join refuge staff for island clean-up. Space on our boats is very limited –call to reserve a spot.

Saturday, July 11, 10:00 a.m. Celebrate Butterflies - Look for and learn about butterflies with butterfly expert Heather Ness, create a butterfly mask, and decorate a butterfly cookie!

Saturday, July 25 Life in the River – 2:00 p.m. An up-close opportunity to see some of the river's critters (fish, mussels, turtles, etc.) and learn about their world.



Saturday, Aug. 8, 10:00 a.m. Virtual Geocaching Using GPS Use GPS (global positioning system) receivers to locate natural features along a refuge trail. Bring your GPS unit or join a refuge volunteer to learn how "high-tech" meets nature for fun outdoors. Meet in visitor facility parking lot. Ages 10 +

Thursday, August 20, 8:00 a.m. Birdwatching with the Mountwood Bird Club – Join some of the area's most dedicated birdwatchers on trails adjacent to the refuge visitor facility. Beginners welcome. Meet in visitor parking lot.

Saturday, August 22 (call for time) Waterfowl Workshop – A local expert waterfowl hunter will assist refuge staff in teaching waterfowl identification, tips for hunting, and more. Open to adults and kids.

Saturday, August 29, 10:00 – noon Insect Safari and Jewel Bug Activity Discover the exciting world of insects on a short trail walk, followed by create your own Jewel Bug activity. Ages 4 & up.

Saturday, September 26, 10:00 a.m. National Public Lands Day Help the refuge manage its lands with a project on its headquarters property. Meet in visitor facility parking lot.

Sept. –date to be announced
Archery Basics for Kids

Learn the basics of archery through a certified archery teacher. Contact the refuge for more information.



Saturday, Oct. 3,
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
River Refuge Festival

Join the Friends in celebrating the refuge! Activities for all ages, including a free ride on

the Valley Gem sternwheeler, leaving the refuge shore at 11:00 a.m. for an hour's cruise around Buckley Island. Dress for indoor and outdoor activities.

Oct. 11- 17
National Wildlife Refuge Week

Visit one of the 550 national wildlife refuges located across the country.

Sunday, Oct. 11, 7:00 a.m. – afternoon
The Big Sit! Come to the refuge and make yourself comfortable while watching birds from within a 17' diameter circle. Follow signs in visitor facility parking lot to the birding circle.

Directions to Refuge Headquarters and Visitor Facility

From I-77 take exit #185; follow WV 14 (Highland Ave.) 1.3 miles; turn right onto Waverly Rd. (E. 4th St./CR 1); continue 1.9 miles to site on left.

From Marietta, OH, cross Williamstown bridge; take first left after Da Vincis Restaurant onto Waverly Rd. (E. 4th St./CR 1); continue 1.9 miles to site on left.

From Vienna, WV, take WV 14N to Williamstown; turn right on Highland Ave.; take first left onto Waverly Rd. (E. 4th St/CR 1.); continue 1.9 miles to site on left.

Refuge Visitor Facility hours are Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(Closed Saturdays: Dec. – March)

Want to be a Refuge Friend?

If you like the type of programming listed here, why not consider becoming a Friend of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge? Tax-deductible memberships start at only \$10.00 for students. You can also become involved with our work and fun! Membership brochures are available at the refuge visitor facility.



Friends of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Inc.

Events Calendar

2009

