

September

Butterfly Round-up September 13th

Monarch Butterflies travel through our area each year on their way to spend the cold months of winter in Mexico. Visitors are invited to help catch and tag these butterflies as they feed and rest at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. *Reservations are recommended.*
10am-12pm

Refuge Clean-up September 20th

The Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge will be hosting the annual Crab Orchard Clean Up at the Prairie Creek Recreation Area. Spend the day outdoors and help keep Crab Orchard beautiful.
8am-1pm

Hunting & Fishing Days

September 27th & 28th; come join us out at John A. Logan College for the 27th annual Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days. Attend a casting workshop, watch the dock dogs compete, listen to the waterfowl callers, try archery, check out all the latest gear and much more.
September 27th 8am-5pm & September 28th 9am-4pm

October

Red-tailed Hawk F.U.N. Program October 11th

Get to know the red tailed hawk, one of Southern Illinois largest raptors.
10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live Red tailed hawk.
11am-12pm, Fun hawk themed activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

Photo Contest

The Friends of Crab Orchard will be accepting entries to their annual photo contest throughout the month of September. Categories include: Scenic, Wildlife, Plants, Youth & Taken on Refuge
Awards Ceremony TBA

See the Friends' website for more information: <http://www.friendsofconwr.com/>

National Wildlife Refuge Week October 12th-18th

Discovery Tours: October 19th & 26th from 1pm-4pm

We will open up the restricted portion of the refuge for a self-guided tour. Tours begin at the Wolf Creek Causeway from 1-4pm

November

Vulture F.U.N. Program November 8th

Come learn about this remarkable scavenger and why they are often referred to as nature's garbage men.
10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live Vulture
11am-12pm, Fun vulture themed activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

December

Great Horned Owl F.U.N. Program December 13th

Have you seen a large owl, with big yellow eyes, in the early morning? Come learn more about these excellent predators!
10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live owl.
11am-12pm, Fun owl themed activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

2014 Calendar of Events



All events are free unless otherwise noted.
Call the Refuge Visitor Center for more information 618-997-3344 ext.1



January

Kids Christmas Bird Count

January 11th

The Christmas Bird Count is one of the oldest wildlife surveys in North America. This program is specially designed to introduce kids and their parents to the count. Following a binocular boot camp, we'll break into teams and head out on a shortened mini-survey.

We'll meet back together when we're done to enjoy some hot cocoa and total our count.

9 AM – 12:00 PM at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

Bald Eagle Tours

January 18th, 19th, 25th & 26th

Guided tours visit eagle nests and areas of the Refuge where eagles may be spotted.

The cost is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for youth under the age of 12, and reservations are required.

8am, 11am and 2pm, meet at the Visitor Center; reservations beginning December 20th

February

Eastern Screech-Owl F.U.N. Program

February 8th

One of Illinois smallest owls, these birds of prey typically live undetected in parks and suburbs. Have you seen one?

10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live screech-owl

11am-12pm, Fun screech-owl themed activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

March

Opossum F.U.N. Program

March 8th

Learn about one of North America's most fascinating marsupials.

10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live opossum

11am-12pm, Fun opossum themed activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

Wildflower Walks

March 22nd & 29th

Join a knowledgeable guide at the Rocky Bluff trailhead for a hike and an in depth program about spring wildflowers.

Reservations are recommended.

10am Rocky Bluff Hiking Trail Tacoma Lake Road

April

Bobcat F.U.N. Program

April 12th

Bobcats are abundant and frequently seen on the Refuge. Come learn about the secret lives of these small wild cats.

10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live bobcat

11am-12pm, Fun bobcat themed activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

May

Cache River Nature Fest

May 10th

The Refuge will be a part of, Cache River Nature Fest, an event that highlights the rich diversity of habitats and wildlife in the Cache River Watershed! Guided canoe tours, bike trips, hikes, and special presentations will be scheduled throughout the day and will feature live animal demonstrations, and a variety of exhibitors. For more information call Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge at (618)634-2231.

9:00am-4:00pm at the Cache River Wetlands Center

Reptile F.U.N. Program

May 10th

Learn about cold-blooded scaly creatures found in your backyard and all over the world.

10:30am-11:30am, Scott Ballard, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Herpetologist, will be presenting live reptiles.

11:30am-12pm, Fun reptile themed activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

June

Kids Fishing Derby

June 7th

The Kids Fishing Derby is a free event hosted by the Refuge and our many local sponsors and is a wonderful opportunity for families to spend a day together on the Refuge fishing. The Derby is for kids 12 and younger.

Registration begins at 8 am. Free lunch will be provided for participants and their families.

8am-12 pm, Prairie Creek Recreation Area

July

White Tailed Deer F.U.N. Program

July 12th

Stop by the Visitor Center to get up close and personal with Illinois largest herbivore.

10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live Deer

11am-12pm, Fun white tailed deer themed activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

August

Red-shouldered Hawk F.U.N. Program

August 9th

Come learn about this strikingly colored hawk that is becoming more and more common in Illinois.

10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live hawk.

11am-12pm, Fun red-shouldered hawk themed activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center



Have you seen the blue goose? Report your sighting on our facebook page and like us for updates about the Refuge at: <https://www.facebook.com/CrabOrchardNWR>