

## October

### Barred Owl F.U.N. Program

October 10<sup>th</sup>

Have you seen a large striped owl in the early morning? It was probably a barred owl. Come learn more about these nocturnal animals.  
*10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live barred owl.*  
*11am-12pm, Fun owl themed activities at the Crab Orchard NWR 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 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

Discovery Tours: October 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 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

### Red-shouldered Hawk F.U.N. Program

November 14<sup>th</sup>

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

## December

### Short Eared Owl F.U.N. Program

December 12<sup>th</sup>

Come learn about one of the world's most widely distributed owl species.  
*10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live owl.*  
*11am-12pm, Fun owl themed activities at the Crab Orchard NWR 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>



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

## 2015 Calendar of Events



Photo Courtesy of Myers Walker – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Wildlife  
Friends of Crab Orchard Photo Contest 2013

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 10<sup>th</sup>

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 NWR Visitor Center

### Bald Eagle Tours

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> & February 1<sup>st</sup>

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 Crab Orchard NWR Visitor Center; reservations beginning December 20<sup>th</sup>

## February

### Duck F.U.N. Program

February 14<sup>th</sup>

Come learn about those quacky critters and discover their habitat needs to survive. Kids will also get to participate in a National art contest: the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program and Art Contest.

10:30am-11am, *Make Way for Ducklings* will be read, along with meeting one of these feathered friends.

11am-12pm, Kids get to try their hand at drawing ducks at the Crab Orchard NWR Visitor Center.

## March

### Opossum F.U.N. Program

March 14<sup>th</sup>

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 NWR Visitor Center

## April

### Kestrel F.U.N. Program

April 11<sup>th</sup>

Learn about the amazing hunting techniques of North America's smallest falcon.

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

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

### Wildflower Walks

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

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

## May

### Cache River Nature Fest

May 9<sup>th</sup>

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

## June

### Kids Fishing Derby

June 13<sup>th</sup>

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 11<sup>th</sup>

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 NWR Visitor Center

## August

### Raccoon F.U.N. Program

August 8<sup>th</sup>

Learn about the adaptable and intelligent woodland bandit known as the raccoon.

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

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

## September

### Butterfly Round-up

September 12<sup>th</sup>

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 19<sup>th</sup>

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 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>; come join us out at John A. Logan College for the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 8am-5pm & September 27<sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm

