



Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Fall Calendar of Events

September, October, November

2014



http://www.fw.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley



The Old Cedar Avenue Bridge has a long and varied history, and the issues surrounding the bridge in the 1880's are much like the issues the bridge faces today. As land south of the Minnesota River was settled and cleared for agriculture, more reliable river crossings were needed. Up until 1889 the main river crossing was the Bloomington ferry, which consisted of a flatboat that held a team of horses and a wagon. It was pulled across the river by a hand winch. After much contention in the Minneapolis business community and legislature, the bridge site was decided upon. It would be built $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from Cedar Avenue's then terminus. A swing bridge crossed the Minnesota River, and a steel and wood bridge was erected over Long Meadow Lake.

The Long Meadow Bridge lasted for only 30 years. After World War I, the civic and commercial association and their constituents were eager to bring south of the river motorists to the Twin Cities, and improved bridges were needed. Among other crossings, the original bridge over Long Meadow was demolished and replaced by the current camelback through truss superstructure.

Article continued on page 10.

Above: The original span crossing Long Meadow Lake, photo 1898.

Right: The swing bridge crossing the MN River, circa 1970. Motorists crossed the river via the swing bridge, and then crossed Long Meadow Lake and into Bloomington on the Long Meadow Bridge.



September



5 Flowers and the World around

Them

Rapids Lake Education & Visitor Center
5:00 pm-7:00 pm

6 Bird Watching Trek

Old Cedar Avenue
8:00 am-10:30 am

6 Beginner Archery

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
12:30 pm-2:30 pm

7 Bird Language

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
9:00 am-1:00 pm

7 Call of the Wild Film Fest

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

8 Bird Watching Trek

Bloomington Ferry
8:00 am-10:30 am

14 Tracks and Plants and Birds and

Things

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
1:00 pm-2:30 pm

14 Call of the Wild Film Fest

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

15 Bird Watching Trek

Old Cedar Avenue
8:00 am-10:30 am

15 Making Tracks: Healthy Hikes

Louisville Swamp
9:00 am-12:00 pm

20 Fall Colors Photo Hike

Chaska Unit
8:30 am-10:30 am

20 Wild Writers: Developing a Land

Ethic

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
9:30 am-11:30 am

21 Call of the Wild Film Fest

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

*Connect with the Refuge
Online*

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley

<http://www.facebook.com/MNValleyNWR>

<http://twitter.com/usfwsmnvalley#>

September *continued*



22 Bird Watching Trek

Rapids Lake Education & Visitor Center
8:00 am-10:30 am

27 Defined by Nature

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
10:00 am-11:00 am

27 Volunteering for Conservation

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
1:30 pm-2:30 pm

27 Making Tracks: Healthy Hikes

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
5:00 pm-6:30 pm

28 Call of the Wild Film Fest

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

Trailhead Addresses

Bloomington Education and Visitor Center

3815 American Blvd E, Bloomington
952-854-5900

Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center

15865 Rapids Lake Road, Carver
952-361-4500

Old Cedar Avenue:

9500 Old Cedar Ave S, Bloomington

Chaska Unit, Carver Riverside Park:

725 West 1st Street, Chaska

Bass Ponds:

2501 East 86th St, Bloomington

Louisville Swamp:

3801 145th St. W, Shakopee

Wilkie Unit:

7701 County Road 101 E, Shakopee

Bloomington Ferry Unit:

11255 Bloomington Ferry Road, Bloomington

October



4 Bird Watching Trek

Old Cedar Avenue
8:00 am-10:30 am

5 Bird Language

Bloomington Education & Visitor
Center
9:00 am-1:00 pm

5 Call of the Wild Film Fest

Bloomington Education & Visitor
Center
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

12 Whose Track is it Anyway?

Bloomington Education & Visitor
Center
1:00 pm-2:30 pm

12 Call of the Wild Film Fest

Bloomington Education & Visitor
Center
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

13 Bird Watching Trek

Rapids Lake Education & Visitor Center
8:00 am-10:30 am

16 Beginner Archery

Bloomington Education & Visitor
Center
10:00 am-12:00 pm

17 Making Tracks: Healthy Hikes

Louisville Swamp
9:00 am-12:00 pm

18 Bird Watching Trek

Old Cedar Avenue
8:00 am-10:30 am

18 Wild Writers: Art in Nature

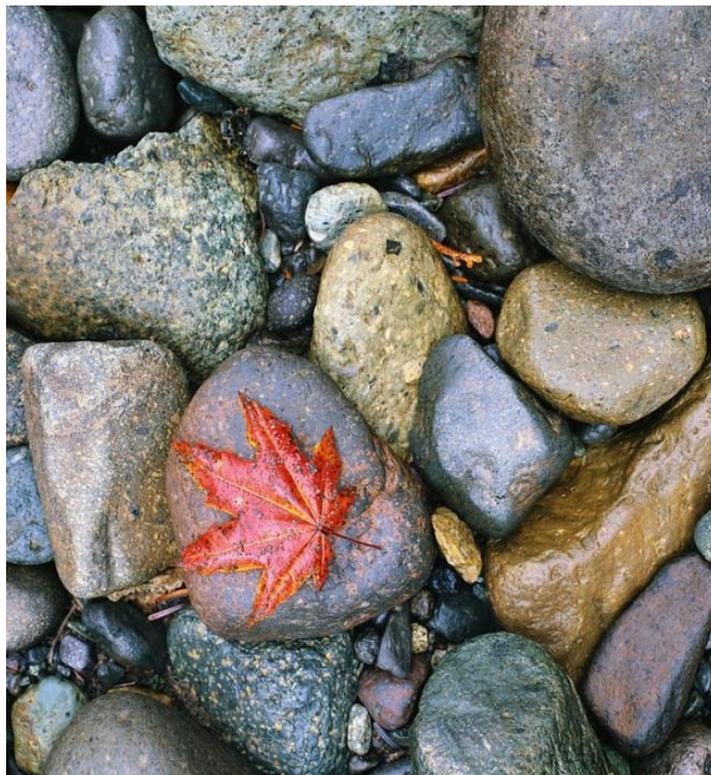
Bloomington Education & Visitor
Center
9:30 am-11:30 am

19 Call of the Wild Film Fest

Bloomington Education & Visitor
Center
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

26 Call of the Wild Film Fest

Bloomington Education & Visitor
Center
3:00 pm-4:00 pm





November

Program

Descriptions

1 Sunset Photo Hike

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
5:00 pm-7:00 pm

1 Wild Writers: Natural History

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
9:30 am-11:30 am

2 Bird Language

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
9:00 am-1:00 pm

2 Call of the Wild Film Fest

Bloomington Education & Visitor Center
3:00 pm-4:00 pm

8 Bird Watching Trek

Old Cedar Avenue
8:00 am-10:30 am

10 Bird Watching Trek

Wilkie
8:00 am-10:30 am

22 Bird Watching Trek

Wilkie
8:00 am-10:30 am

Beginner Archery

Have you ever wanted to try archery, but just don't have the equipment? Or maybe you would like to learn the skills of a good archer? This archery program begins with the basics of form and stance and encourages having fun while learning a new skill. This program is for everyone 8 years and up. No reservations required. Meet at the information desk inside the visitor center. We will have to cancel the program if it rains! Call 952-858-0715 for weather updates.
Chelsi Hornbaker, Park Ranger

Bird Language

Join us as we gather on the slopes of the Minnesota River Valley to explore what the birds are telling us about our surroundings. We will split the time between the classroom and outdoors. Bring a notebook, pencils, and something to sit on outdoors. To register visit: <http://www.mntracking.org/>
Donnie Phyllaier, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist



Bird Watching Trek

Join us for a bird walk on one of the many refuge units and learn about the birds that use the refuge for feeding and resting during migration. With the variety of habitats at the different units, you will want to explore them all. We will observe a mix of waterfowl, raptors, songbirds, and resident birds. Birders of all skill levels are welcome on these walks. Bring along your binoculars and field guide, and dress for the weather. Craig Mandel, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

Call of the Wild Film Fest

Join us on Sunday afternoons for films featuring our favorite wildlife and their unique behaviors, habitat needs, and special adaptations. You will also discover how a variety of community partners work together to protect natural resources and manage habitat for wildlife. Recommended for all ages.

September 7: Duckumentary

September 14: Echoes of Cry of the Marsh

September 21: Conserving America: The Wetlands

September 28: River Revival

October 5: Green Fire

October 12: In Celebration of America's Wildlife

October 19: Galapagos: My Fragile World

October 26: Strange Creatures of the Night

November 2: Beavers

Defined by Nature

The Twin Cities is home to millions of people and thousands of species of wildlife. We will explore the natural history that shaped this unique network of wildlife habitat and learn about the long history of natural resource conservation in this major metropolitan area. Judy Geck, Park Ranger



Fall Colors Photo Hike

Fall colors should be peaking in late September and this part of the refuge should be displaying them in all their glory. We will also encounter fall wild flowers as we work our way along the trail. We will start off with some tips on photographing fall colors and will then head out on the trail.

Don Tredinnick and Peter Berman, Volunteer Refuge Naturalists

Flowers and the world around them

In the fall the prairie is bursting with color and life great and small. We will explore the prairie on and off the trail with a ranger to discover some common prairie plants and the thriving world around them. We will use nets and bug jars to catch living creatures found in the prairie.

This program is for all ages. In case of rain the program will be cancelled. Call 952-361-4500 for weather updates.

Chelsi Hornbaker, Park Ranger

Making Tracks: Healthy Hikes

Sense the pulse of migrating and year-round residents while raising your own pulse rate on a brisk hike. We'll take a long hike through the river valley and wind around the wetlands, exploring some of the valley's best habitat. Come prepared for brisk walking with frequent stops.

Judy Geck, Park Ranger

Sunset Photo Hike

This program is an annual favorite as we capture the setting sun over the refuge. The location is perfect as we capture the sun as it sets over the grasses which will be showing their full fall color. We will head down the trail and get into position. Sunset is at 6:10 pm so we will have plenty of time to prepare and get set-up. Don will discuss some tips on capturing the sunset once we are in position. Bring your camera, and a tripod is a must! All skill levels welcome.

Don Tredinnick and Peter Berman,
Volunteer Refuge Naturalists



Sunburst, photo by Don Tredinnick

Tracks and Plants and Birds and Things

Join us for a leisurely walk below the bluffs to look for tracks, plants, birds, and things. We'll then see if we can find a connection between them.

Donnie Phyllaier, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

Volunteering for Conservation

Since 1996 Warren Stortroen has made Earthwatch a second career, having participated in 79 research expeditions! While at home, he volunteers with the refuge and several other conservation organizations. Warren will share some of his world-wide conservation experiences during his 18 years as a volunteer.

Warren Stortroen, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

Whose Track is it anyway?

Have you ever picked up a field guide for animal tracks just to find out that the tracks in the book just didn't match what was on the ground? Come join us as we learn how to use tracking field guides to figure out who made the track, and then go outside and apply this to a few of the tracks on the ground.

Donnie Phyllaier, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

Wild Writers!

Join librarian Judy Geck for a monthly review of thematically selected books that provide skill development, activities, program support, pleasure and inspiration. Learn how to use our Resource Center and discover how to make a difference-and a future-for human and wildlife habitat through literature. Two CEU's are available.



Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge



Your Outdoor Classroom! Refuge Partner Teacher Program For the Bloomington Education Visitor Center

- ▶ Integrative partnership between individual teachers and the Refuge
- ▶ Personalized field trip plans
- ▶ Up to 3 field trips per school year
- ▶ Training provided

Busing Scholarships

Standard Based Curriculum

All Seasons

Outdoor Experiences

Field Equipment

Multi-disciplinary



Requirements:

Attend at least one orientation session to participate in the **Program**. Next, attend a seasonal workshop to bring your class to the Refuge during that season. Offered 3 times each year, these workshops highlight curriculum, teaching materials and equipment for the season. After that, attend only one additional refuge training every 3 years to continue in the **Program**.

9/16/14 4-5 pm Refuge Orientation

9/17/14 4-7 pm Fall Curriculum

1/13/15 4-5 pm Refuge Orientation

1/14/15 4-7 pm Winter Curriculum

4/6/15 4-5 pm Refuge Orientation

4/7/15 4-7 pm Spring Curriculum

Registration must be received 5 days prior to each workshop



To register please contact Mara Koenig at Mara.Koenig@fws.gov or 952-858-0710.

Now Showing in the Art Gallery

"Nature ~ Up Close and Personal" by Don Specht opens September 2 and runs through October 31.



Yellow Warbler Family

Don worked as Media Director and taught photography, video production, and television classes at John F Kennedy High School in Bloomington for 36 years. Since retiring, he spends several hours a day photographing wildlife. Most days he can be found in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge near his Bloomington home, but he also enjoys the Everglades National Park in Southern Florida.

Don has received many awards for his photography and his work has been featured in numerous publications, including the 2014 Minnesota Weatherguide

Environmental Calendar published by the Freshwater Society and KARE 11.

Don will display about 50 of his photo images on canvas, most of which were taken within 10 miles of the Bloomington Education & Visitor Center.

An artist reception will be held on Sunday, September 14th from 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM.



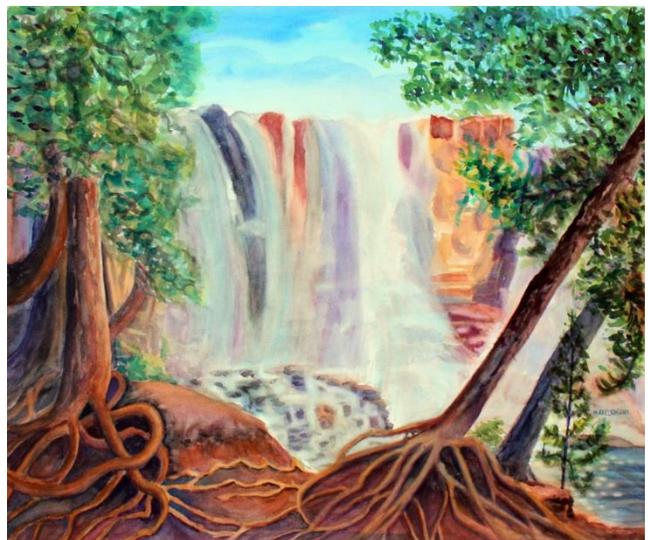
Bluebird dilemma by Don Specht

"Breath of the North Shore" by Mary Axelson opens November 10 and runs through December 31.

The power, beauty and enduring quality of the North Shore is very inspiring to Mary. Through many visits over the years and using different media, she has created artwork that describes different moods and elements of this diverse area. The media Mary chose to use for this exhibit include watercolor, photography and mixed media.

In Mary's paintings light is captured and glows across the color spectrum as natural forms emerge from the paper fibers. Organic pigments reform to evoke pulsing emotions from cold fibers. She hungers to distill human emotions and experience and transport it across time and space onto paper through line, color and light. Mary's destination is not always known until it has been reached in the completed painting.

Mary hopes you enjoy this visit to the beautiful and rugged North Shore through her artwork.



Gooseberry Mist by Mary Axelson

Bridge continued from page 1

Exponential population growth south of the river in the 1950's, 60's, and 70's forced the Apple Valley, Eagan, Burnsville, and Bloomington village councils to notify the MN legislature of the need for a new bridge. At the same time, the Federal Highway Administration deemed it one of the nation's 50 most hazardous bridges, and approved its replacement in 1969. The new six lane Cedar Avenue Bridge was opened in October of 1980.

After the new bridge was finished, the original 1890 swing bridge was removed from the river and the Long Meadow Bridge was transferred to Bloomington ownership. The bridge was inspected in 2002 and was subsequently closed due to extreme rust of the steel members, beams, and joists.

Due to civic organizations, clubs, and legislators, and state and federal agencies the old bridge will finally be undergoing extensive renovations. The historic camelback span will be preserved while the decking, steel, and foundations will be replaced. The bridge is slated to open to pedestrian and biking in 2016, linking trails south of the river to those north, just like its original purpose over 100 years ago.

*Minnesota Valley
National Wildlife Refuge
3815 American Blvd E
Bloomington, MN 55425*



*The old bridge awaiting renovations;
due to start in 2015*