

# September

## **Bird Watching Trek**

Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center

Saturday, September 8

7 am-10 am

Join us for a bird walk on one of the many refuge units and learn about the birds that visit the Refuge during their fall migration. With a variety of habitats at the different units, you will want to explore them all. During fall migration observe a mix of waterfowl, raptors, warblers, and sparrows resting and feeding before they continue their southerly migration. Birders of all skill levels are welcome on these walks. Bring along your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather.

Craig Mandel, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

## **Bird Watching for Beginners**

Old Cedar Avenue Trailhead

Sunday, September 9

9 am-10:30 am

Bird Watching is a hobby enjoyed by millions of Americans, and you can learn how to enjoy it as well from a professional birder. You will learn how to find birds in their different habitats and will learn how to use a field guide and look for identifying features of birds such as eye rings, wing bars, and other distinctive markings. While the fall plumages of birds offer lots of challenges, it is also a great season to begin watching birds! Dress for the weather and bring along your binoculars. There will be extra binoculars to loan if you don't have any.

Craig Mandel, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

## **Making Tracks! Over the River and through the Floodplain Forest**

Bloomington Education and Visitor Center

Monday, September 10

4:30 pm-7 pm

Sense the pulse of migrating and year-round residents of Long Meadow Lake while improving your powers of observation and your health. We'll take a long hike through the river valley and wind around the wetlands, exploring some of Minnesota Valley's best habitat. Come prepared for brisk walking with frequent stops.

Judy Geck, Park Ranger

## **Bird Watching Trek**

Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center

Monday, September 10

7 am-10 am

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Craig Mandel, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

### **Wild Writers! Connecting to Nature through Literature: Extra-Sensory Conservationists**

Bloomington Education and Visitor Center

Saturday, September 15

9:30 am-11:30 am

Here at Minnesota Valley we nurture nature, including human nature. 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 to expand your literary horizons and discover how to make a difference--and a future--for human and wildlife habitat through literature. For book and nature lovers, families, and educators who want to make meaningful connections with the natural world.

Two CEU's available.

Judy Geck, Park Ranger

### **Going Wild: Rail to Refuge**

Nicollet Mall Light Rail Station

Monday, September 17

1 pm-4 pm

Ride with a Ranger on the Hiawatha Light Rail and find out how easy it is to access one of our wildest natural areas via mass transit. Explore the Twin Cities' unique urban network of communities and public lands and discover how you can appreciate and enjoy diverse and easily accessible natural areas. Visit the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and learn about the long history of natural resource conservation in this major metropolitan area.

Meet at the Nicollet Mall Light Rail Station in downtown Minneapolis and come prepared for a scenic tour, Ranger program, and guided hike on the refuge.

Adult fares are \$1.75-\$2.25.

Judy Geck, Park Ranger

### **Bird Watching Trek**

Old Cedar Avenue Trailhead

Monday, September 17

8 am-10:30 am

Join us for a bird walk on one of the many refuge units and learn about the birds that visit the Refuge during their fall migration. With a variety of habitats at the different units, you will want to explore them all. During fall migration

observe a mix of waterfowl, raptors, warblers, and sparrows resting and feeding before they continue their southerly migration. Birders of all skill levels are welcome on these walks. Bring along your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather.

Craig Mandel, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

### **River Ride by Bike**

Wilkie Trailhead

Friday, September 21

6 pm-7:30 pm

Observe wildlife on the last summer evening while biking on along the Minnesota River on the Refuge's only paved trail. Bring your own bike and gear. The round trip ride will be approximately 3 miles.

Mara Koenig, Park Ranger

### **Fall Photo Hike**

Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center

Saturday, September 22

8:30 am-10:30 am

The Rapids Lake Unit is a great place to photograph any time of the year, but the fall is especially nice. We will be experiencing the fall colors, wild flowers, and the first signs of winter starting to approach. We will start off with a discussion on how best to capture the color of fall, and then head down the trail to see what we can find. During the hike, we will point out some areas of interest and give some pointers. The Rapids Lake Unit also contains the ruins of an old barn, and a mansion. These make excellent subjects for the fall season.

Photographers of all abilities are welcome. Please bring your camera, water, insect repellent, and a tripod if you have one.

Don Tredinnick, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

### **Paddle with Ranger Judy Color Cruise**

Put in at Thompson Ferry, Jordan

Take out at Riverside Park, Carver

Saturday, September 22

12 pm-4 pm

Join Ranger Judy for a paddle-with-a-view on the Minnesota River. On this guided excursion we'll explore the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge from the water and discover some of the best wildlife habitat and scenery around! Provide your own canoe or kayak, equipment, and PFD. Basic paddling skills are required.

To register contact Judy Geck at [Judy\\_Geck@fws.gov](mailto:Judy_Geck@fws.gov) or 952-858-0731.

### **Close Encounters of the Animal Kind**

Bloomington Education and Visitor Center

Saturday, September 22

1 pm-2:30 pm

Are the birds telling the local residents you're in the woods? Are you moving out of sync with the rest of the environment? Then come learn techniques use by our ancient ancestors to see wildlife before they see you. We'll spend about 45 minutes learning a few of these techniques then go outside to practice them. Donnie Phyllaier, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist

**Paddle with Ranger Judy Color Cruise**

Put in at Sorenson Landing, Bloomington

Take out at Picnic Island, Fort Snelling State Park

Sunday, September 23

11:30 am-4:30 pm

Join Ranger Judy for a paddle-with-a-view on the Minnesota River. On this guided excursion we'll explore the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge from the water and discover some of the best wildlife habitat and scenery around! Provide your own canoe or kayak, equipment, and PFD. Basic paddling skills are required.

To register contact Judy Geck at [Judy\\_Geck@fws.gov](mailto:Judy_Geck@fws.gov) or 952-858-0731.