

Stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

# Shawnee Chapter

## Illinois Audubon Society



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# CREEP INTO THE CACHE RIVER WITH US FOR HALLOWEEN!

October 2009

## Saturday October 31st

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Come slither thru the river, paddling between the dark tangles of buttonbush, looking for goblins in the knobby knees of the primeval cypress trees. *Whooo knows*, we may even hear the spooky call of a barred owl or the cackling of an ancient swampwitch, on her way to an All Hallows Eve gathering.

Join Shawnee Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society for a morning trip on the evocative Cache River. We'll meet at 9 am, Saturday October 31st, at the Lower Cache River Access. Be sure to dress for the weather, and bring a lunch along - we plan on gathering afterwards at the pavilion for hot cider, lunch and camaraderie.



**Space is limited and reservations are required.** Phone John Wallace today at 618/457-6367 or email him at forestally@yahoo.com to reserve a spot. Canoes provided by Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Carpooling is encouraged!

The Cache River is always a magical place, and canoeing the river on Halloween even more so. One of the highlights of the canoe trip will be the opportunity to canoe right up to the 1,000 year old state champion bald cypress tree. We'll paddle on down to Eagle Pond, an evocative cypress- encircled pool, and see an 850 year old cypress tree with 209 knees, the tallest of which is over 11 feet and aged at 190 years old. Invite your friends, and remember, make make your reservations early .... Call today !

### Directions to the Lower Cache River Access:

Turn west off of IL Route 37, on to Perks Road, located just south of the Cache River Wetlands Center. Travel west 1 ¾ miles on Perks Road and turn left at the the first road on your left. Travel 1 mile south to the canoe access.

### SHAWNEE CHAPTER ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

#### OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS

##### PRESIDENT

Ann Douglas  
 anderatd@yahoo.com  
 618/564-2079

##### VICE-PRESIDENT

Georgia Norman  
 glmn77@gmail.com

##### SECRETARY

Henry Mulder  
 618/893-4993

##### TREASURER

Debbie Hogg  
 618/672-4338

##### CONSERVATION

John Wallace  
 forestally@yahoo.com

##### BIRDING

Anne Parmley  
 anne.parmley@gmail.com  
 618/524-9022

##### PROGRAM/EDUCATION

Ruth Hoak  
 foak49@yahoo.com  
 Kathryn Carter  
 kathryngrade3@yahoo.com

##### SANCTUARY

Kevin Nagele

##### IAS BOARD REP

Terri Treacy  
 territreacy@ll.net

#### Newsletter Editor:

Karen Frailey  
 618/457-6367  
 featherfoill@yahoo.com



# Upcoming Events

## October

**31 Shawnee Chapter Meeting: Canoe the Cache River. 9 am - ?** Call John at 618/457-6367 to make reservations.

## November

**7 Stewardship Day** War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring work gloves and a sack lunch. We start about 9:30 am. See last page for details and directions. Call Terri at 618/683-2222 for more information.

## December

**12 Stewardship Day** War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring work gloves and a sack lunch. We start about 9:30 am. See last page for details and directions. Call Terri at 618/683-2222 for more information.

# 2010

## January

**2 Annual War Bluff Christmas Bird Count. Dawn to Dusk.** Held in Pope County. Birdwatchers of all levels welcome - this is a great way to hone your skills! Please contact Anne Parmley at 618-524-9022 or email [anne.parmley@gmail.com](mailto:anne.parmley@gmail.com) if you'd like to participate.

**9 Stewardship Day** War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring work gloves and a sack lunch. We start about 9:30 am. See last page for details and directions. Call Terri at 618/683-2222 for more information.

## February

**9 Shawnee Chapter Meeting: Chill the Drills: Oil Development & Climate Change in America's Arctic.** Kit McGurn, National Arctic Organizer for the Sierra Club. Come and learn about the impacts of fossil fuel development and climate change on the pristine American arctic landscape, and what you can do to help. Location to be announced.

**13 Stewardship Day** War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring work gloves and a sack lunch. We start about 9:30 am. See last page for details and directions. Call Terri at 618/683-2222 for more information.

## March

**8 Shawnee Chapter Meeting: Dragonflies of Southern Illinois. Carbondale Township Hall. 7 pm.** John Schwegman will discuss the diversity of species in our region as well as information on the natural history, biology and folklore of this charming little monster of the skies.

**13 Stewardship Day** War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring work gloves and a sack lunch.

## April

**10 Stewardship Day** War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring work gloves and a sack lunch. **May**

**12 Shawnee Chapter Meeting: The World According to John Muir. 7 pm.** John Wallace will give his living history performance as the legendary naturalist and conservationist. Location to be announced.

## May

**10 Shawnee Chapter Annual Meeting: Reintroduction of California Condors to the Grand Canyon National Park. 7 pm.** Pat Brown, Park Ranger, Grand Canyon National Park.

Shawnee Chapter, Illinois Audubon Society has a two-fold purpose. The first is to actively promote the conservation and protection of Southern Illinois' native plants and animals, and their habitats. The second is to act as stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary.



## Birding with Anne September Trips

Anne Parmley

The weather couldn't have been better for our September 20th nature hike at Heron Pond. It was cool and sunny with a slight breeze in the air. Ten of us walked the trail to the boardwalk over the cypress swamp. A few continued the walk on to the state champion cherrybark oak. Black-throated green warblers were abundant, along with the usual white-breasted nuthatches and tufted titmice.

The Heron Pond hike was quite a contrast to our first trip of the season at the Marshall Ridge Access of the Cache River State Natural Area. The Marshall Ridge Access is located just past the Headquarters building on Sunflower Lane in Belknap. Across from the parking area is a series of ponds surrounded by wetland meadows. Midway along the Marshall Ridge Trail, we came upon thrushes gorging themselves on the fall pokeberries. They were impossible to identify in the dim light of the dark, drizzly day. (Were they gray-cheeked? Swainson's?) We walked on. Despite the weather, 39 species (including both the Summer and Scarlet Tanagers) were seen that September morning. Our most memorable moment was watching a sharp shinned hawk defend the area around the first pond from all intruders, including a pileated woodpecker that was as big as it was.



Ann Douglas, and Anne Parmley birdwatching in September at the Michael Wolff Memorial Wetland.

## 2009 Shawnee Audubon Annual Meeting Election Results

Terri Treacy

A wonderful time was had by all that attended this year's Shawnee Audubon Society Annual Meeting. We met on July 18th at the campground at Little Grassy Lake.

A brief business meeting led by outgoing President John Wallace presented a recap of Shawnee Audubon happenings throughout the previous year. Elections were then held and the new officers are: Ann Douglas-President, Georgia Norman-Vice President, Hank Mulder-Secretary and Deb Hogg-Treasurer. Board members elected are: Anne Parmley-Birding Chair, Karen Frailey-Newsletter, Kevin Nagele-Sanctuary Chair, Kathryn Carter and Ruth Hoak-Education, and Terri Treacy-Chapter Representative to IAS.



Members enjoying the afternoon at the campsite  
Photo by Josh Salter

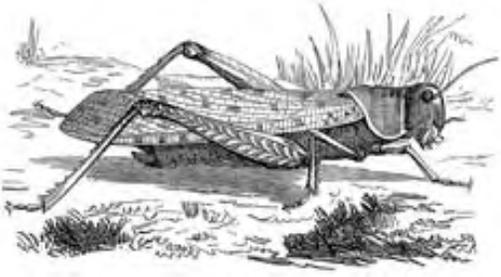
## Shawnee Audubon Society Name Change

### It's Official! We're now Shawnee Chapter, Illinois Audubon Society!!

The other main item of business at the meeting was to officially change our name to Shawnee Chapter of Illinois Audubon Society. Several other Chapters have gone this route and we think it's a good move to follow suit – helping to unify the Society as a whole and clarify our role in it.

Following the meeting, most people climbed aboard one of two pontoon boats and sailed off to a favorite swimming spot on the beautiful lake. By the time we arrived back at the campground a campfire had been built and dinner preparations were well underway. We enjoyed a fabulous meal of homegrown beef hamburgers on the grill and a wide assortment of delicious potluck side dishes. The rest of the evening was spent relaxing and telling stories around the campfire. Quite a few people camped overnight and enjoyed hot coffee, breakfast and dip in the lake before breaking camp and heading home.

\* Editors note: A huge thanks go out to John & Bonnie Cotter and Curt & Kathryn Carter for bring their pontoon boats, and also to Land For Learning Institute for making the campout possible.



# Bug Day Buzz

Ann Douglas

It was an unusually cool day for August, but the 22nd was a perfect day for our 15th Annual Insect Awareness and Appreciation Day with the return of Jackie Turner, the Shawnee Audubon member who inspired this event. Familiar faces turned up and many new people too. It was gratifying to see the new kids and their enthusiasm.

Many thanks go out to our presenters:

Gene Burnett - brought in his collection of moths and butterflies and took everyone for a butterfly walk

Sue Dees - gave us great information on raising butterflies and moths

Josh Salter - shared her knowledge of plants, pollination and the adaptations of insects to accomplish this necessary activity

Richard Thomas & Nancy Garwood - set up their microscopes so everyone could see the world of mites that live beneath our feet - so small but with such a major job in the decomposition of organic matter

Ed DeWalt - guided a group of adventurers to the stream and discovered all sorts of fascinating critters

SIUC Zoology graduate students from the Matt Whiles lab: Checo Colon-Gaud, Dan Whiting, Kaleb Heinrich and a variety of unnamed students who never fail to engage the kids young and old into exploring the living world of the ponds

Jackie Turner - presented an engrossing (or gross - depending on your point of view) tale of insects as food and gave a cooking demonstration with mealworms.

As always, our potluck was enjoyed by everybody. No one should have gone hungry with all the different foods available. Our raffle would not have been the success it was without the donations from businesses and individuals. Please thank them all:

Amy Naas, Luna Silks, Carbondale

The Chocolate Factory, Dixon Springs

Great Outdoors, Carbondale

Town Square Market, Carbondale

Neighborhood Co-op, Carbondale

Dave Dardis, Rainmaker Art Studio, Makanda

Alto Vineyards, Alto Pass

Russell Hill Winery, Cobden

Karen Fiorino, Clay Lick Pottery, Makanda

SIUC Craft Shop, Carbondale

Hess Alternative Healthcare, Carbondale

Makanda Java, Makanda

Makanda Inn, Makanda

Hogg Hollow Winery, Glendale

Star View Vineyards, Carbondale

Alto Vineyards, Alto Pass

Owl Creek Vineyard, Cobden

Pomona Winery, Pomona

Brian from the Makanda Boardwalk

Randy Osborn

Laurel Tourrain

Jackie Turner

Georgia Norman

Sue Dees

Jean Graber

and many, many others



Kids young and old were excited with the many bug related raffle items from games to puppets to books.

Insect jewelry, nature related stationary, fine art sculpture and pottery, not to mention the overnight stay at Makanda Inn Bed & Breakfast and the many local wines donated, appealed to the older crowd.

To top the evening off, we were entertained by **RognboB**, our dynamic duo troubadours, with their humorous songs about ticks, 'dem' deer and calling in well. This has been their third appearance at our Insect Day and they are always welcome back.

Please support our contributors and mark your calendar now for next year's Insect Awareness and Appreciation Day, (August 28, 2010).

*Thanks to all the volunteers that labored to put this event together!*



# Trail of Tears Hummingbird Festival 2009



*Ann Douglas*

Since 2004 Illinois Audubon has been holding Hummingbird Festivals in various parts of Illinois, usually in the from the end of July and throughout August. In southern Illinois, the traditional date for the Trail of Tears Hummingbird festival has become the first full weekend in August. Vernon Kleen, one of two federally licensed hummingbird banders in the state, brings his equipment and the Shawnee Chapter provides volunteers to assist him After capture, the sex and age of each bird is determined, wing lenth is measured, the bird is weighed and a tiny numbered band fastened to its leg. The data is then recorded and the bird is set free.

This is the exciting part. Observers that have “adopted” a hummingbird are the ones that get to release their bird. The five dollar adoption fee goes towards Illinois Audubon’s land acquisition program. The face of a child releasing a bird in hand is priceless and the lasting impression it leaves on that child can only bring awareness of the natural world around him.

The thrill of a hummer’s heartbeat affects adults as well. The smiles are contagious. These little jewels leave their mark on everyone.



Vern Kleen holding immature male hummingbird, note the tongue! Photo by Josh Salter



Hummingbird trap  
Photo by Josh Salter



Visitors to Festival  
Photo by Josh Salter

Kleen will notify an adopter in the event of a recapture and tell them where and when their bird was found. This information is helpful in understanding migration and also facts about the bird, i.e. survival rates or loyalty to a certain site.

Data for this year at the Trail of Tears include 54 birds banded on Saturday; 51 adult females, 1 immature male and 2 immature females with three of them recaptures. On Sunday, 33 birds were banded; 28 adult females, 2 immature males and 3 immature females with four of those as recaptures and one additional was a foreign recapture (not one of Kleen’s bands) from 2003. An interesting fact is that no adult males were captured, yet two miles away males are very common.

Not only is there the live demonstration, handy fact sheets are available and Shawnee Chapter volunteers sold hummingbird feeders and clothing items for our fundraising. Each year we try to add more activities for the people to enjoy.

Thanks to Sue and Neil, the site technicians who keep feeders clean and full all summer, our captures have been increasing every year, which brings more people and more funding for land acquisition.

*Next year the first weekend will fall on August 7 and 8. Hope to see you there!*



Trail of Tears Hummingbird Festival crew  
Photo by Josh Salter

## Join us at War Bluff

War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary is a beautiful place and if you've never been there or if you only get out there once in a while, you ought to see what you're missing. **Stewardship Day is second Saturday of every month.** Bring work gloves and a sack lunch. We start about 9:30 a.m. Call Terri at 618/683-2222 for details.

## Directions to War Bluff Sanctuary

From Golconda, follow Rt. 146 about 3 miles.

Take the first left (west) after the Eddyville Blacktop, called Bushwhack Road, which will be marked with a brown binocular Wildlife Viewing sign on the right.

Follow the road for 2.5 miles. The Sanctuary entrance lies just beyond the creek ford.

Sanctuary phone: 618/683-2222

## Shawnee Audubon Society Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues (includes IAS dues)

Individual (\$31)     Family (\$38)     Student (\$18)

As a member of Shawnee Chapter, Illinois Audubon Society (SC) you will receive 6 SAS newsletters per year and membership in the Illinois Audubon Society (IAS).

As a member of IAS you will be part of Illinois' oldest conservation organization and you will receive *Illinois Audubon*, the IAS quarterly magazine and the *Cardinal News*, the IAS newsletter.

Send memberships and renewals to: IAS, P.O. Box 2547, Springfield, IL 62708, and mention that you are joining the Shawnee Chapter.

visit us at our web site, <http://shawneeaudubon.org>

Save Stamps for Wildlife!

WE'LL BE CHANGING ON THE CACHE RIVER!  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 31 ST  
JOIN US ON HALLOWEEN!



SHAWNEE CHAPTER, ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 73  
CARBONDALE, IL 62903