

The logo is a stylized black leaf or drop shape with a white vertical stem and two diagonal veins. It is positioned to the left of the text.

Watershed
Nature Center
E-Newsletter

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- Eagle (\$1000 and up)
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- Sandpiper (\$250 to \$499)
- Bluebird (\$100 to \$249)
- Wood Duck (\$50 to \$99)
- Goldfinch (\$25 to \$49)
- Dove (\$10 to \$24)

The Watershed News is an official publication of the **Nature Preserve Foundation, Inc.**, P.O. Box 843, Edwardsville, IL 62025. The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation chartered by the City of Edwardsville and dedicated to the restoration and management of the Watershed Nature Center. This newsletter is distributed to all members as a benefit of membership. All contents are copyrighted. NPF Board members are Julie Conley -President, Scott Evers -Vice President, Ed McCarthy -Treasurer, Sarah Cundiff - Secretary, , Rick Schuh, Mike Starr, Tim Dain ,Jen Rehg, Cara Noyes and John Kendall -Emeritus Member , Kathy Chen - U of I Extension Natural Resource Educator. Chair Shaffer - WNC Office Staff

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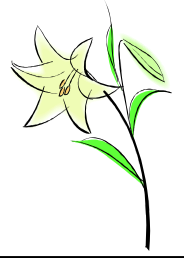
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Watershed Nature Center
Nature Preserve Foundation
P.O. Box 843
Edwardsville, IL 62025



Watershed News

Spring 2010



Spring Wildflowers

One of the fascinations of spring is the procession of wildflowers that carpet acres and acres of the woodlands. In the prairies and in cultivated fields and lawns, the ground freezes to a depth of two or more feet. But in the woodlands the forest floor is snugly blanketed by undrifted fallen leaves and snow, and freezes only a few inches deep.

The rich loose porous leaf mold holds moisture and supplies abundant food for a luxuriant growth of plants. It is saturated by the melting snows and early spring rains.

As soon as this forest soil is warmed by the sunshine and rising temperatures, the early wildflowers push their leaves through the surface. They grow rapidly because of the large amounts of ready plant food stores in their fleshy bulbs, roots or rootstalks. Many produce leaves, bloom and seed, days and even weeks before the other larger leafy plants and the trees come into full foliage and shade the ground.

They seem to know that they must crowd almost a whole year's work into a few short weeks.

The earliest and densest carpet of blossoms is furnished by the spring beauty which, in March, sends up narrow leaves a little wider than a blade of coarse grass. It has clusters of dainty flowers, each with five white or pink petals lined with veins of darker pink. These flowers open and face the rising sun in morning, gradually turn, and face the setting sun at evening. Then they fold up for the night. During the day, if the sun is obscured in clouds, they close until it reappears.

The hepatica, with blue, lavender or pink flowers on fuzzy stems, blooms about the same time. Then the bloodroot, the dog-tooth violet or adder's tongue, the purple trillium, the Dutchman's breeches and the Jack-in-the-pulpit -- in about that order. Then the violets, the Jacob's ladder and, in some localities, the white trillium. Then the late spring wildflowers of the woodlands: the blue phlox, the mandrake or May Apple, and the wild geranium.

Come out, get acquainted with the wild flowers and enjoy them, but remember: "LOVE 'EM AND LEAVE 'EM"

*Taken From: Nature Bulletin No. 152 April 24, 1948
Forest Preserve District of Cook County*

WNC Wildflower Walk - Saturday, April 3rd from 9-10:30am

U of I Natural Resources Educator

We are pleased to announce our newest staff member, University of Illinois Visiting Natural Resource Educator, Kathy Chen. As a long time resident, Kathy has enjoyed the Watershed for many years and joins us with much enthusiasm and love for our unique site.

Upcoming Watershed Events:

Get Outdoors Series pg. 2
Monthly work days pg. 2
WNC Summer Camps pg 5

In order to stay on top of current events please join our email list.

Trying to find us?

In Edwardsville, from St. Louis Street turn onto Elm Street, left on Grand, right on Terry which turns into Tower Ave.

Reach us at **618-692-7578**
or email:

watershed@cityofedwardsville.com



Get Outdoors!

A series to build the Watershed community through education, recreation, and volunteerism

Stargazing with Steve Sands

Friday, March 19th 6-8pm

Free and open to the public; registration required, Deadline March 16th.

Winter is a great time to see the night sky. The Watershed will feature a nighttime event to view the starry wonders. Astronomer Steve Sands will bring a telescope for viewing the stars and planets. Join us and bring the family for a fun and informative evening.

Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 3rd 9-10:30am

\$3/person or free for Watershed members; registration required, Deadline March 31st.

Join a naturalist led hike around the Watershed identifying some of spring's most lovely wildflowers. Learn about spring ephemerals, why they are the first to emerge and the importance of spring flowers in forests of our region.

Frog Walk with Paul Shetley

Friday, April 9th and 16th 7-9pm

\$5/person ages 8+ and families; registration required, Deadline April 6th and 13th.

Paul Shetley will introduce us to the calls and habits of frogs and toads of the region and lead us into the wetlands to see them up close. We will start in the classroom and if weather permits we will venture out to the wetlands. Please dress appropriately and bring a flashlight or headlight as we will be exploring the wetlands.

Bird Walk

Friday, April 30th 8-10am

\$3/person; recommended ages 10 and up; registration required, Deadline April 27th.

Join local bird experts, John and Virginia McCall for a morning of birding at Watershed. Come out and see what birds call Watershed home and what birds are migrating through while enjoying views through the McCall's high powered spotting scope. Bring your binoculars too.

Solar Viewing with Steve Sands

Saturday, May 1st 10:30am-1pm

\$3/person ages 8+ and families; registration required, Deadline April 28th.

See the sun like you never have before with astronomer Steve Sands at the Watershed Nature Center. Steve will give a short presentation on how to get started as an amateur astronomer and then we'll head outside and use solar telescopes to view the activity of our giant star the sun. Join us!

Events are held at the Watershed Nature Center, 1591 Tower Ave. in Edwardsville. Registration is required by contacting the WNC at 618-692-7578 or watershed@cityofedwardsville.com. Sign up for our email list to receive event updates. If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in any program, or want additional information, please contact us.

Monthly Volunteer Work Days

second Saturday monthly from 8am-12pm

2010 dates include: March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug 8, Sept 12, Oct. 9, and Nov. 12

Our monthly efforts will focus on grounds improvements through invasive species control and removal, replanting, and general site maintenance like mulching, staining, repairs, etc. Bring gloves, water bottle, and tools (pruners, clippers, wheel barrows) if you have them. Dress appropriately for outdoor work. Please register by contacting Watershed Nature Center at 618-692-7578 or email watershed@cityofedwardsville.com, especially if you have a service group that plans to participate.

Friends of the Watershed Nature Center

Welcome to our new Friends and thank you to our contributing Friends. The members listed below have joined, renewed their membership, or donated since our last newsletter

Katherine & Paul Rose
 Jill Pifer & Darin Gray
 Joan Lebkuecher
 Bernice Brown
 Kathy McHugh
 Betsy Parks
 William & Miriam Burns
 Libby Levin
 Betty Richards
 Joan Evers
 Sue & Mark Zimitsch
 Eleanor Schweizer
 Kathy Jones
 Richards Brick
 Marilyn & Bob Schieber
 Paul & Merrill Ottwein
 JoAnn Nabe
 Doris Gvillo
 Vera McCoy-Sulentic
 Allen Lieb
 Henry & Shirley Malench
 Green Earth Grocery
 Karen Trone
 Mary Anne Posnanski

Midland Suzuki Education Program Rose Hoshiko
 Kathryn Manar
 Dr. Joe and Sharon Helms
 Edna T. Grench
 Jim and Betty Burns
 Ed and Janet McCarthy
 Ed and Kris Votoupal
 Chris and Irene Doll
 Ed and Candy Wentz
 Gisela Sommer
 Martin and Paula Moeckli
 Bill and Susan Lucco
 Phil and Louise Corlew
 Jean Glover
 Lois Wood and James Hunsley
 Hweishieh and David Liu
 Elaine Klaus
 Christine Favilla & Family
 Matt & Sarah Cundiff
 Van Nash
 Marion Sperling
 Mike and Jill Allaria
 Susan and Bill Wittenborn
 Kathy Krishnan

Thank you for the Gift from
 Junior Service Club of Edwardsville/
 Glen Carbon designated for the purchase of new tools.



Thank you to the Quercus Grove
 Rural Club for the generous donation.



Thank you
 William & Nancy Foster
 for their donation in memory of
 Kay Kendall



Thank you to The Wal-Mart Foundation
 for the generous grant to combat
 invasive vegetation at the WNC.

Partners of the Watershed Nature Center

In addition to our annual membership, The Watershed Nature Center Partnership program enables us to continue to provide excellent educational and recreational opportunities as well as provide funding for ongoing improvement of the site. The Watershed Nature Center would like to extend a special thank you to the following Partners who made a donation during our recent Partnership drive.

Florists' Mutual Insurance Company	John Farley	James & Beverly Gorman	Lee Russo
Florists' Mutual Insurance Employee Contribution Fund	Laurie Puchner & Joel Hardman	Wei Yi Li & Patrick Tso	Norman & Ellen Nordhauser
Bernice Brown	Kathy Gugger	Keiko Furness	Gary & Benna Denuc
John Kendall	Richard & Sue Brugam	Patricia Sim	Richard & Patricia Dremuk
Tom & Donna Bardon	The Bank of Edwardsville	Steven Morrison Jr.	Barbara & Tom Kinsella
Jeff & Carole Wohlford	Steve & Susan Parsons	John & Julie Reiner	Robert Richards
Richard & Sherrill Worthen	Julie & Doug Conley	Stephen & Yoshiko Kendall	Don & Bev Turner
Susan Hume	Ameren IP	Antony & Wendy Wilbraham	Wilma Evelyn Dodds
Robert Woodard & Charity Davis-Woodard	Roland & Vicki Brumitt	P.N. & Vijaya Swamy	Raymond & Lucia Weber
J.E. Bollman	William & Marcia Delicate	Joe & Linda Stevens	Jen Rehg
	Wen & Fong Chen	Margaret Solon	Sarah & Matthew Cundiff
	Pete Fornof	Edmund Jacobitti	Vaughn & Sue Vandegrift
	Linda & Charles Shaffer	Richard & Jody Keating	
		Helen Damon	

Nature Preserve Foundation Board News

We would like to welcome our newest 2010 board members -

- Cara Noyes

Cara is an Edwardsville High School Environmental science educator. She previously held the position of educator at the Watershed Nature Center for one year preceding two years as a member on the NPF Board with service as Secretary. "I highly value environmental education and enjoy the outdoors on many levels. I have always had a strong 'scientific' mind and love to learn about nature and share with others not just knowledge but a connection with nature."

- James Bridwell

Jim is a financial advisor with Bridwell Financial Group, Inc. in Edwardsville. He is retired from 22 years of service in the US Army. Jim is an original member of the Nature Preserve Foundation having served with founders John and Kay Kendall.

We are excited to have both Cara and Jim on board and looking forward to 2010.

We would like to thank the following board members for their years of service -

- Helen Damon

Helen has served for 13 years as a board member with the Nature Preserve Foundation, serving as NPF President as well as NPF Secretary. Helen will continue to participate and serve on the WNC Grounds, Education, and Finance committees. "If you teach kids about the environment and the beauty of nature, they will grow up to love it, value it, and protect it."

- Larry Brown

Larry has served for 6 years on the board of the Nature Preserve Foundation. Larry is a very dedicated member of Watershed Nature Center. He does not hesitate to jump in when there is work to be done. When we need a chainsaw, a truck or a crew leader on Volunteer Work Days Larry is always there to help. As an avid nature lover and environmental steward, Larry will remain involved with the WNC Grounds committee as well as events like the WNC 5K Run/1Mile Trail Walk in the fall.

It has been a pleasure and honor working with you as board members. We value your insight and knowledge of the Watershed Nature Center as well as your willingness to help out wherever needed.

Thank you for all you have done. We look forward to working with you both in the future.

Sign up for Watershed E-News

You can do your part and help us save resources by signing up to receive the Watershed Nature Center's newsletter, "Watershed News," electronically. You'll receive a PDF attachment in you email inbox, so no paper to recycle.

Send an email to watershed@cityofedwardsville.com with "add to WNC E-News" in the subject line.

Sign up for Watershed E-Events

Would like to receive notice of upcoming events via email? Sign up for Watershed Nature Center's E-Events by sending an email to watershed@cityofedwardsville.com with the subject "add to WNC E-Events" in the subject line.

Enjoy Migrating Birds This Spring

John McCall

Most of us look forward to springtime. Besides the warmer weather, we enjoy seeing nature come alive with new tree leaves, flowers and migrating birds. Visitors to Watershed can see many migrating birds, depending on the time spent and weather conditions. Several active bird watchers combine their bird counts at Watershed and a summary is posted each month at the Visitor's Center. Spring migrations peak during April and May, when 80 to 90 species may be counted.

Most of the birds we can see at Watershed are seasonal migrants. Some of these stay close to raise a family but most visit just a while, then fly north. Waterfowl are the first to migrate north in springtime. They come mostly in March. It's fun to see these Pintails, Ring necks, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, and others join the resident Mallards and Canada Geese in the Watershed ponds. They hang around a week or so then move on. Next come shorebirds and a few waders. Most songbirds come late April and May, along with more wading birds.

We have bird count records at Watershed for the past 10 or 12 years. In all, we've seen close to 200 species. Usually the count reaches 140 to 150 each year. That suggests the mix of woodlands, open marsh and grasslands, with two major ponds, is moderately good habitat for bird life. There are yearly changes in the counts of certain species. For example, when water levels are high the shorebirds find too few mudflats or wet beaches to probe for food. The national decline in neo-tropical songbirds (wood warblers, cuckoos, orioles, etc.) and grassland sparrows seems reflected in the changing counts we have seen after 12 years of birding at Watershed.

*Join the next Bird Walk with the McCalls
Friday April 30th, 8:00am at the Watershed Nature Center*

SUMMER CAMPS at the WATERSHED NATURE CENTER

Get your feet wet as you learn about life in local aquatic habitats through fun science and art activities

"Wade Into Wetlands"

For students entering 4th or 5th grades
July 12 - 16. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. M-F
Cost: \$180.00 per student

Students will study various aspects of wetland life including mammals, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic macro-invertebrates. Students will use dip nets to capture specimens for study, create science journals to record observations, theories and questions, and develop nature journals to record poetry, stories and sketches.

"Pond Investigations"

For students entering 6th or 7th grade
July 19 - July 23 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. M-F
Cost: \$180.00 per student

Students will take part in a multidisciplinary exploration of the wetlands ecosystem at the Watershed Nature Center. Science activities will center on direct observation, scientific inquiry methods and data collection. Art-related topics will reflect the diverse life in the wetlands and include gyotaku and clay sculpture.

Contact the **Watershed Nature Center** at **618-698-7578** or **watershed@cityofedwardsville.com** to register!

Registration Deadline for both camps is July 5, 2010.