

Special Duck Hunt

Save The Date

Wildlife Matching

Friends of Trempealeau Refuge

Friends Focus...

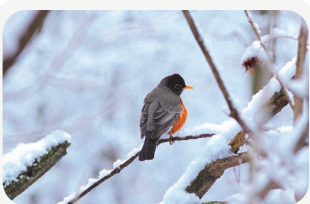
This year held another successful duck hunt for disabled hunters. We had a higher number of hunters this year, due to more outreach efforts. 14 hunting parties got the opportunity to be outside enjoying the refuge. They used hunting blinds and kayaks as they waited in the crisp fall air for sounds of nearby waterfowl. Hunters enjoyed getting together for a breakfast before the hunt and a lunch afterwards. They shared fun and exciting stories from present and past hunts. The weather was good this year and the water was high, which helped with kayak mobility. Our dedicated volunteers assisted hunters and provided a wonderful hunt of a lifetime experience. New and old hunters alike had a wonderful time at the refuge. Thank you Friends for paying for the wonderful Sunday luncheon!

Save The Dates!

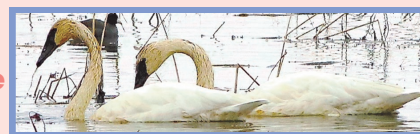
January 19th—Friends Membership Annual Meeting

You are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Friends of Trempealeau Refuge on Thursday, January 19th. This event will be held at the Outdoor Wonders Learning Center (across from the office) at the Refuge. Join us for a social hour from 6:00 - 7:00 pm and enjoy complimentary appetizers, desserts, coffee, and beverages. You will not want to miss our program which starts at 7:00 pm. Join us for a magical photo presentation - **Seasons of the Refuge**, presented by Larry and Karen Palmer.

Larry and Karen have been residents of Wisconsin over their 51 years of married life. They have lived most of our their lives in Southeastern Wisconsin and spent many weekends traveling to the Lacrosse area to enjoy camping on Goose Island and canoeing the Mississippi River. When it was time to retire from the landscaping business, Larry's love for canoeing drew them to the Trempealeau area where they have resided for the past 15 years. It was this refuge that actually made them decide to buy a home nearby. Hardly a day goes by when they are not driving, walking, biking or canoeing in the refuge with cameras in hand to capture its daily beauty.



Fun Facts About Our Local Wildlife By Scott Lee



How about a little quiz to test your knowledge on some of the critters you might find at the refuge? Can you match up the following critter with what you would call a group of those critters? (The answers can be found on the back of the newsletter).

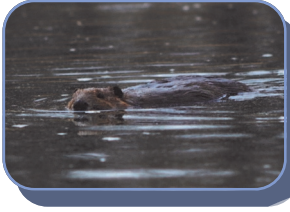
Badger	Charm
Bat	Gaggle
Beaver	Swarm
Butterfly	Cloud
Coyote	Pod
Crane	Scurry
Crow	Rafter
Deer	Surfeit
Dragonfly	Kettle
Duck	Pack
Eagle	Cloud
Fox	Sedge
Frog	Herd
Goldfinch	Chattering
Goose	Prickle
Grasshopper	Lamentation
Grouse	Flock
Hawk (migrating)	Cete
Mosquito	Murder
Owl	Leash
Pelican	Covey
Porcupine	Flutter
Skunk	Army
Squirrel	Convocation
Starling	Family
Swan	Cluster
Turkey	Parliament

LOOKING FOR GIFT IDEAS? CHECKOUT OUR BOOKSTORE!

The bookstore has a wide selection of items for the nature lover on your list. Stylish and comfortable apparel with the refuge's name, and fun and informative books are waiting for you. Visit the bookstore to find something special for someone on your list! Hours: M—F, 8:00 to 4:00



A Note from the Friends President



Greetings to all;

It has been a busy Fall at the Refuge. Finishing touches with landscaping are done around the OWL Center and now we wait to see the new plantings sprouting in Spring. Use of the building has been significant. From May through November there have been 1,720+ persons in school and scouting groups, 800+ in visitor programs and 150+ in workgroup meetings which included 12 persons with disabilities and their helpers for the waterfowl hunt. It is a busy place!

The annual meeting in January will be special. We have moved it to the OWL Center and Larry and Karen Palmer, local, superb photographers will share images they have taken at the refuge in "Seasons of the Refuge" See specific information about the meeting elsewhere in this newsletter. Don't worry, there will be catered snacks. I hope to see you there.

My best guess is that Winter has arrived. We have had a measureable snow, the winter birds are here and the sky is filled with late migrating geese and crane. We look differently at things in winter; dormant plants, animal tracks and snow and ice patterns. Ninety year old singer and artist Tony Bennett stated, "You realize when you're outside how beautiful the four seasons are and that the real artist is nature itself". So as Vickie says, "It's your refuge. Come on out and enjoy it." I'll see you there! On behalf of the Board, I send wishes for a wonderful holiday and hope that 2017 will be good for you.

Judith C. Bautch, President

A Note from the Refuge Manager



I've spent 28 years as an employee of the National Wildlife Refuge System. As a refuge manager, I ultimately work for the President of the United States. So far, I've worked for 6 of them. Each administration brings new perspectives with both challenges and opportunities. In an all employee memo, Dan Ashe, the outgoing Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, encouraged staff to "remember our mission." The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System: **"To administer a**

national network of lands and water for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration for the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans." is admirable and not easily dismissed. Come January our mission will remain unchanged. National wildlife refuges will continue to provide havens for wildlife and places where millions of Americans go to enjoy the outdoors. Public lands are a sacred part of who we are as a nation. They provide places for families to connect, children to learn, and the tired and overworked to find peace and solace. Refuges boost local economies and contribute to thriving communities. We are fortunate that a vast network of Friends, volunteers, universities, sportsmen and women, birders, and countless special interest groups has our back. Our conservation work is valued by the American public, and it will continue to flourish... because it is too important not to. So take heart, enjoy the gift our ancestors have bestowed upon us, and face the new challenges with hope and enthusiasm. Regardless of our day to day struggles, "the ducks will still come."

Vickie Hirschboeck, Refuge Manager



Would you like to contact the refuge?

Here's how! Call 608-539-2311

or visit the website @

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/trempealeau/>

Visit the refuge Facebook page for

current refuge information

and "Like" them!

<https://www.facebook.com/TrempealeauNWR>

Friends of Trempealeau Refuge
W28488 Refuge Road
Trempealeau, WI 54661
608.539.2311

<http://www.friendsoftrempealeaurefuge.org/index.html>

2016 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Judith Bautch

Vice-President: Scott Lee

Treasurer: Al Wernecke

Secretary: Jane Wernecke (non-voting)

At Large Board Members

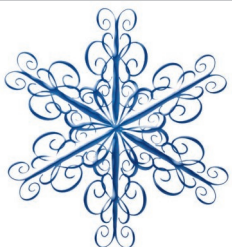
John Wetzel

Ken Critzman

Val Critzman

Gary Boyd

Don Lanik



Answers to matching quiz:

Badger/cete, Bat/cloud, Beaver/family, Butterfly/flutter, Coyote/pack, Crane/sedge, Crow/murder, Deer/herd, Dragonfly/cluster, Duck/flock, Eagle/convocation, Fox/leash, Frog/army, Goldfinch/charm, Goose/gaggle, Grasshopper/cloud, Grouse/covey, Hawk (migrating)/kettle, Mosquito/swarm, Owl/parliament, Pelican/pod, Porcupine/prickle, Skunk/surfeit, Squirrel/curry, Starling/chattering, Swan/lamentation, Turkey/rafter

The Friends of Trempealeau Refuge is committed to providing an independent citizen voice for the protection, conservation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife and their habitats at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge.