



Fall
2021

Friends of Trempealeau Refuge

Friends Focus...

We are getting ready for some new beginnings at the refuge. The season is changing into autumn which means birds are arriving, warm cozy colors are beginning to blanket the prairie, and wildlife are preparing for winter. Another exciting change at the refuge is the addition of our new Visitor Services Specialist, Dana Schelling!



Dana M. Schelling grew up in Humacao, Puerto Rico. Being born on an island, lots of her time was spent outdoors going to the beach. She also enjoyed spending time with her family on her grandfather's small farm. While in Puerto Rico she worked as an educator in a wildlife museum. Dana's first experience working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was in the summer 2014 as a Directorate Resource Assistant Fellow at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri. She moved 'up north' the summer of 2015 to Southern Illinois where she started working for the Service as a Park Ranger at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (CONWR). While working in CONWR Dana met her now husband, they just welcomed to their small family a little boy named Malachi Ignacio.

*continued

Fun Facts About our Local Wildlife

By Scott Lee

Nocturnal animals have specially designed eyes that give them better night vision. All animals' eyes, including ours, have both rods and cones in them. More rods give better night vision, while more cones assist in seeing color (cones=color). Animals such as deer, who are more active at night, have more rods than we do. They have the ability, therefore, to see in the dark much better than we can. They don't have as many cones, however, so their color vision isn't as good. They're not color blind, but are limited as to which colors they can see. Deer can see blues and greens, for example, but not reds, yellows, and, most important to hunters, orange—especially blaze orange that is required for hunters during hunting season.

If I do bother to carry a flashlight on my night hikes, I make sure it has a red light by putting red cellophane over it. It is, therefore, not visible to nocturnal animals. Also, avoid looking into a bright light as it only takes seconds to lose your night vision and 10-15 minutes to get it back again. Those two tips, combined with hiking quietly, can lead to a very successful hike in the dark (and for those who have a fear of "things that go bump in the night", it is helpful to know that there are no dangerous nocturnal animals around here).

Dana just started working at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge (TNWR) and is extremely excited for the opportunity to be part of the refuge staff. She is looking forward to working with TNWR staff, Friends members, volunteers, school groups, and visitors. As a ranger, she enjoys working with people, offering interpretative and educational programs, and working with volunteers. She appreciates when she is out in the Refuge with people as she can connect and share with others the wonders of the outdoors, wildlife, and history. Let's all welcome Dana to the refuge!

-Stephanie Edeler, Wildlife Refuge Specialist

A Note from the Friends President

Hi Friends,

I'm happy to say that the Friends of Trempealeau Refuge were able to host 2 guided hikes recently. We led a Bird and Wildflower hike in August with 15 people in attendance, and Scott Lee had 8 participants on his Fall Nature Hike on October 2nd. Scott said he had lots of questions and comments about plants and wildlife, and if I know Scott, he has a wealth of plant and animal knowledge that he's happy to share with folks. We hope to host more outdoor events soon and possibly an event at the Outdoor Wonders Learning Center by spring when we can safely gather indoors with large groups.

I want to shout out a big thank you to Friends member Bruce Bartel. In August, he generously donated a pair of binoculars to the Friends group. We plan to keep them at the OWL Center for groups to use on hikes.

Last, but not least, on behalf of the Friends of Trempealeau Refuge, I want to welcome Dana Schelling, the new Visitor Services Specialist. She attended our September Board meeting, and we look forward to working together on special projects or events in the future.

Happy Fall Everyone!!!

Val Critzman, Friends President



Opossums are nocturnal foragers. Opossums have **excellent night vision** but relatively poor distance vision and overall visual acuity.



Friends of Trempealeau Refuge
W28488 Refuge Road
Trempealeau, WI 54661
<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Trempealeau-Refuge-100276838553902>
<http://www.friendsoftrempealeaurefuge.org>



Would you like to contact the refuge? Here's how!

Call 608-539-2311

For more information visit our website:

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

Or the refuge Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/TrempealeauNWR)

TrempealeauNWR

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