

Spring
2024

Friends of Trempealeau Refuge

Friends Focus...

Happy Spring!

The field season is quickly approaching, and we are excited about it. Spring and summer are the seasons that we look forward to getting out in the field. If you are looking to contribute to the Refuge in a different way, volunteering may be a great option for you! The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service welcomes volunteers of all backgrounds and abilities. Volunteers may lead tours, restore habitat, conduct plant and animal surveys, help staff our refuge Visitor Contact Station, and so much more. Upcoming Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge volunteer opportunities include outreach events such as World Migratory Bird Day, Youth Outdoor Fest, and Catfish Days. Field work includes tern surveys, bat emergence counts, and monitoring bald eagle nests. Interpretation and environmental education opportunities include River Education Days, helping with school groups, and serving as deck volunteers. If maintenance is more your scene, your help assisting with grounds keeping and other projects would be much appreciated. Volunteers are an essential part of the Refuge. They help us accomplish our mission and we would not be able to do it without them.

We will be hosting a volunteer orientation on Saturday April 20, 2024, from 9:30 – 11:30am open to anyone interested in volunteering. If you can't make the orientation, no problem! For more information about volunteering opportunities at the refuge, please contact Dana M. Schelling, Visitor Services Specialist, at dana_schelling@fws.gov or 608-539-2311 x1.

Dana M. Schelling,
Refuge Ranger

Note from the Friends

Refuge Volunteering Opportunities

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer at the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge? If so, a variety of options are available, one being a weekend greeter on the observation deck. Deck greeters usually spend an average of three hours on selected Saturdays or Sundays from May through October interacting with visitors. Training is provided along with a handbook loaded with useful information.

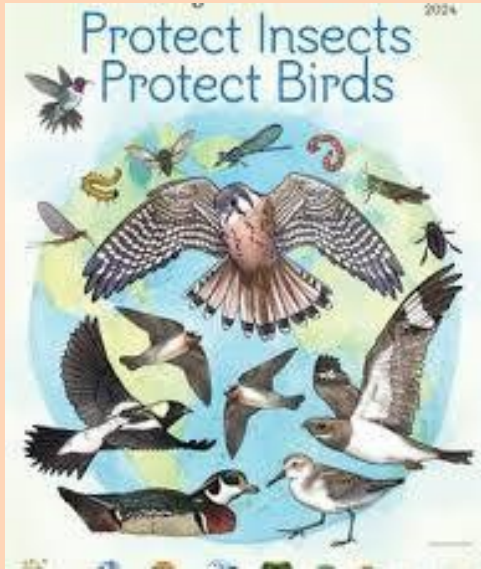
The observation deck is a busy place! In 2023, twenty dedicated volunteers greeted over 1200 visitors from twenty-two states and three foreign countries—Norway, Italy and England. Deck visitors might be photographers, hikers, bikers, birders, sightseers or area campers. The deck is especially busy during bird migration.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering at the Refuge, join staff and current volunteers this spring at the Outdoor Wonders Learning Center at the Refuge—date to be determined.

Feel free to contact Dana Schelling at 608-539-2311 ext #1 or email dana_schelling@fws.gov for more information.



Save The Date!



Friday, May 10th – WMBD Kickoff at Elmaro Vineyard.
Social hour: 5:30-6:30p.m. Program: 6:30p.m.

Stan Tekiela, renowned wildlife photographer, author, and naturalist will present his program entitled: **Bird Nests - Amazingly Ingenious and Intricate.** (Sponsored by Friends of Trempealeau Refuge.) Elmaro will be releasing their 2024 Bird Day Red wine in conjunction with the 2024 Migratory Bird Day.

Saturday, May 11th – World Migratory Bird Day Festival at the Refuge 7:00a.m. – 12:30p.m.

Guided bird hikes, live raptors, fun activities for all ages.

Saturday, June 1st - Artists Along the Refuge Trail 7:00am - 1:00p.m.

Notes from the Friends President

Welcome Spring!

I'm happy to share with you that our 2023 Best of the Refuge Photo Contest was a great success! There were 12 winning photos in the adult category and 4 in the two youth categories. We hosted an open house in March at the OWL Center for the winning photographers. Their photos will continue to be



displayed through 2024. Brochures with contest rules for the 2024 photo contest are now available at the Refuge kiosks and online at www.fws.gov/refuge/Trempealeau/

Check out the Save the Date box for details on our World Migratory Bird Day kickoff and events. The Artists Along the Refuge Trail will be on June 1st. Please feel free to join us that morning, visit with the artists as they work, and enjoy a light lunch in the OWL Center at 11:30 a.m. This plein air art event is sponsored by the Friends of Trempealeau Refuge with funds from the Michael Owecke Memorial. Watch for more details on the Friends face book page and the Refuge website. Come on out and enjoy your Refuge this Spring!

-Val Critzman, Friends President

Wood duck photo by Don Severson



Friends of Trempealeau Refuge
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<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/TrempealeauNWR>

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The [Friends of Trempealeau Refuge](http://www.friendsoftrempealeaurefuge.org) 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.