

# Programs and Activities 2016

A publication of  
the Friends of the  
Cache River Watershed



Featuring ancient cypress-tupelo swamps, bottomland hardwood forests, sandstone bluffs and limestone caves, the Cache River Wetlands is a rich and diverse area that provides habitat for many unique and fascinating plants and animals. In the words of poet Gary Snyder, “Nature is not a place to visit. It is home.”

This year, we invite you and your family to come home to the Cache and take advantage of all the free, hands-on programs offered. Learn to spot eagles and hawks, enjoy a close-up look at an alligator snapping turtle and listen for owls under starry skies. Get tips on landscaping with native plants and preparing your yard for hummingbirds. Become involved as a citizen scientist by conducting frog and toad surveys, tagging monarch butterflies or participating in the Christmas Bird Count. Mother Nature is calling you home – and the experience is one you’ll never forget!



Photo: Michael Jeffords

# Programs and Activities 2016

## Movie Night

*Thursday, January 14, 6-8pm*

*Location: Cache River Wetlands Center*

Free nature movies will provide viewers of all ages with a chance to learn about some often-misunderstood critters. Light refreshments will be served, and brief discussion led by AmeriCorps members from Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge after the movie. This month's showing is *Owl Power*. For more information, call Cypress Creek Refuge at 618-634-2231.

## Great Backyard Bird Count

*Saturday, January 30, 1-2pm*

*Location: Cache River Wetlands Center*

Master Naturalist Anne Parmley will help you identify the birds you might see in your backyard this winter, and provide details about participating in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual "Great Backyard Bird Count," to be held February 12-15. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## Movie Night

*Thursday, February 4, 6-8pm*

*Location: Cache River Wetlands Center*

Free nature movies will provide viewers of all ages with a chance to learn about some often-misunderstood critters. Light refreshments will be served, and brief discussion led by AmeriCorps members from Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge after the movie. This month's showing: *Is That Skunk?* For more information, call Cypress Creek Refuge at 618-634-2231.

## Frog & Toad Survey Orientation

*Saturday, February 6, 1-3pm*

*Location: Cache River Wetlands Center*

A call for volunteers to help survey the frogs and toads of the Cache River Watershed during their different breeding seasons. No special skills needed; families welcome to participate in this fun and educational activity. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## In Search of Raptors

*Saturday, February 6, 9-11am*

*Location: Meet at Cache River Wetlands Center*

Come along on a walk in search of hawks and eagles. Your guide, Master Naturalist Dale Foll, will provide tips for spotting raptors and identifying different species. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## The River and Man

*Saturday, February 20, 1-2pm*

*Location: Cache River Wetlands Center*

Watch the *Riverwork in Southern Illinois* documentary that narrates and illustrates the changing nature of human interaction with the Cache and other regional rivers, from the time of Native

Americans through the devastating 1993 flood. Producer Kay Rippelmeyer-Tippy will be available to answer questions. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## Movie Night

*Thursday, March 3, 6-8pm*

*Location: Cache River Wetlands Center*

Free nature movies will provide viewers of all ages with a chance to learn about some often-misunderstood critters. Light refreshments will be served, and brief discussion led by AmeriCorps members from Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge after the movie. This month's showing is *The Secret World of Bats*. For more information, call Cypress Creek Refuge at 618-634-2231.

## In Search of Waterfowl

*Saturday, March 5, 9-11am*

*Location: Meet at Cache River Wetlands Center*

Come along on a walk in search of ducks. Your guide, Master Naturalist Dale Foll, will provide tips on spotting waterfowl and help identify which species are seen. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## Butterfly Conservation

*Saturday, March 5, 1-2pm*

*Location: Cache River Wetlands Center*

Butterfly enthusiasts William and Anne Parmley will present a program on the natural history and life cycle of butterflies, and how you can help the monarch and other butterflies to thrive. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## CCC in the Cache River Watershed

*Sunday, March 13, 1-2pm*

*Location: Cache River Wetlands Center*

Author and regional historian Kay Rippelmeyer-Tippy will provide an illustrated history of the Civilian Conservation Corps in southern Illinois from 1933 to 1941, especially the camps that were established by the CCC in Johnson, Pope, Gallatin, Saline, Massac and Union counties, and the projects done by those enrollees. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## Hummingbirds: Jewels in the Sky

*Saturday, March 19, 11am-noon*

*Location: Cache River Wetlands Center*

Get your yard and garden ready for the spring migration of hummingbirds. The right habitat will supply these jewels of the sky with the food resources and nesting opportunities they need to make their homes in your neighborhood. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## Wildlife of Mermet Lake

Sunday, March 20, 1-2pm

Location: Cache River Wetlands Center

John Schwegman, the first manager of Mermet Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area from 1965-1968, will present a program on the variety of wildlife he has photographed at Mermet over the past 50 years, including many rarely-seen species. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## Those That Are Passing Through

Saturday, April 2, 9-11am

Location: Meet at Cache River Wetlands Center

This time of year, many species of birds pass through southern Illinois as they head north to their breeding grounds. Come along on a walk in search of migrating birds. Your guide, Master Naturalist Dale Foll, will provide tips for spotting birds and help identify which species are seen. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## Movie Night

Thursday, April 7, 6-8pm

Location: Cache River Wetlands Center

Free nature movies will provide viewers of all ages with a chance to learn about some often-misunderstood critters. Light refreshments will be served, and brief discussion led by AmeriCorps members from Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge after the movie. This month's showing is *Venom: Nature's Killer*. For more information, call Cypress Creek Refuge at 618-634-2231.

## Birding Walk at Heron Pond

Saturday, April 9, 9-11am

Location: Meet at Heron Pond Trail Access Parking Lot

Join Master Naturalist and Shawnee Audubon member Anne Parmley for a guided birding walk along Heron Pond Trail at Cache River State Natural Area, to look for warblers and other early migrating birds. Binoculars are recommended. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## Guided Van Tour in Cache River Watershed

Thursday, April 21, four trips scheduled throughout the day

Location: Meet at Tunnel Hill State Trail office in Vienna, Illinois

Learn more about the wildlife, spring flowers, history and hydrology of the Cache River Watershed on this guided van tour for senior citizens and persons with physical limitations. The tour will explore a section of the Tunnel Hill State Trail between Vienna and Tunnel Hill. **Advance reservation required.** For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## 15th Annual Cache River Nature Fest

Saturday, May 7, 10am-4pm

Location: Cache River Wetlands Center

Showcasing the area's rich diversity of wildlife and wetland habitat, Nature Fest will feature guided hikes, canoe tours, live animal demonstrations, exhibits, special presentations and activities for the whole family. For more information, call Cypress Creek Refuge at 618-634-2231 or visit [www.cacherivernaturefest.com](http://www.cacherivernaturefest.com)

## Landscaping with Native Plants

Sunday, June 5, 2-3pm

Location: Cache River Wetlands Center

Get back to nature and attract pollinating insects, butterflies, birds and other wildlife by including native plants in your landscape. Master Naturalist Ruth Kelley will provide guidance on how to select native plants for a flower garden or prairie restoration. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## Cretaceous Hills of Southern Illinois

Saturday, June 25, 1-2pm

Location: Cache River Wetlands Center

Learn more about the plants, animals and natural communities of the Cretaceous Hills in southern Illinois' Cache River basin. Naturalist John Schwegman will show fascinating photographs taken in seep springs and other habitats, sharing his knowledge of this unique area and its conservation needs. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## Alligator Snapping Turtle Reintroduction in Southern Illinois

Saturday, July 2, 10-11am

Location: Cache River Wetlands Center

Scott Ballard, Illinois Department of Natural Resources natural heritage biologist, is leading a long-term conservation effort to return the alligator snapper, the world's largest freshwater turtle, to its documented historical range. Hear more about this project and get a close-up view of one of these magnificent creatures. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## Cold-Blooded Creatures of the Cache

Saturday, August 27, 1-4pm

Location: Cache River Wetlands Center/Heron Pond Trail

How familiar are you with the common reptiles of southern Illinois? Can you tell a venomous snake from the harmless ones? Do you know which skink has a blue-tipped tail, or how to recognize whether a box turtle is male or female? Join Tony Gerard for an up close and personal interaction with reptiles and amphibians native to southernmost Illinois. The program concludes with a hike to look for cold-blooded creatures at Heron Pond. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cache River Days

September 10-11, all day

Location: Ball Park in Ullin, Illinois

The weekend event includes food, music, exhibits and a variety of family activities. Also, experience the Cache River Wetlands through guided canoe tours provided by Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, September 10 -- be sure to reserve a spot in advance by calling 618-634-2231 after August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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## Monarch Phenomenon

Saturday, September 17, 10am-3pm  
Location: Cache River Wetlands Center

The magnificent monarch butterfly migrates up to 2,500 miles from North America to central Mexico for the winter. Monarch Watch Association has been tagging and monitoring migrating monarchs since 1992. Join us for a program from 10-11am to learn all about monarchs, and then spend the rest of the day capturing, tagging and releasing butterflies. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## Guided Van Tour in Cache River Watershed

Thursday, October 27, four trips scheduled throughout the day  
Location: Meet at Tunnel Hill State Trail office in Vienna, Illinois

Learn more about the wildlife, fall flowers and foliage, history and hydrology of the Cache River Watershed on this guided van tour for senior citizens and persons with physical limitations. The tour will explore a section of the Tunnel Hill State Trail between Vienna and Tunnel Hill. **Advance reservation required.** For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

## Calling All Owls

Friday, October 14, 7-10pm  
Location: Cache River Wetlands Center/Heron Pond Trail

Who gives a hoot? You definitely should, because Illinois owls serve a very important purpose. Swoop on in to learn all about owls, and then head out into the cool dark night to listen for their eerie calls. After the indoor program at Cache River Wetlands Center from 7-8pm, there will be a guided owl prowl at Heron Pond. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064

## Annual Christmas Bird Count

December TBA, 6am-sunset  
Location: Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge

A holiday tradition, this annual all-day census of early winter bird populations has been conducted throughout the U.S. for more than 100 years, resulting in the longest-running database in ornithology. All ages and skill levels are welcome to participate. Usually occurs in mid-December. For more information and exact date, call Cypress Creek Refuge at 618-634-2231.



Photo: Michael Jeffords

# Become a Friend of the Cache

**F**riends of the Cache River Watershed is a non-profit group of citizens dedicated to protecting, enhancing and sharing this unique natural area. We work together with local landowners and public schools, plus numerous agencies and organizations that share a common goal of habitat restoration, environmental education and community involvement in the Cache River Wetlands. The Friends sponsor an annual signature event, Nature Fest; provide field trip transportation grants to local schools through the "Kids to the Cache" program; and support a wide range of restoration, education and outreach projects.

### As a Friend of the Cache, you'll receive:

- Six issues per year of our digital newsletter
- Calendar of events
- Invitations to members-only programs, such as the popular annual Moonlight Paddle
- 10 percent discount on all Friends' Store items available for purchase at the Cache River Wetlands Center
- Volunteer opportunities at Nature Fest, the Wetlands Center and more

To join the Friends, please visit [www.friendsofthecache.org](http://www.friendsofthecache.org) or contact us at [friendsofthecacheriver@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthecacheriver@gmail.com). All contributions are tax deductible.

For weekly news and updates, like us on Facebook.

*Thanks so much for your support of the Cache!*



### Friends of the Cache River Watershed

8885 State Route 37 South  
Cypress, IL 62923  
618-657-2203 or 634-2231 (leave message)  
[friendsofthecacheriver@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthecacheriver@gmail.com)  
[www.friendsofthecache.org](http://www.friendsofthecache.org)

### Henry N. Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center at Cache River State Natural Area

8885 State Route 37 South  
Cypress, IL 62923  
618-657-2064  
[www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/Pages/CacheRiver.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/Pages/CacheRiver.aspx)

### Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge

0137 Rustic Campus Drive, Ullin, IL 62992  
618-634-2231  
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