

# FRIENDS OF CRAB ORCHARD REFUGE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



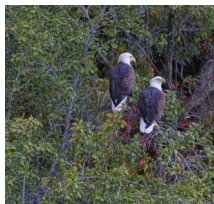
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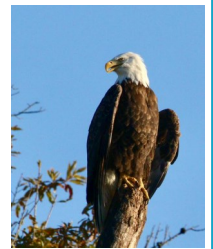
Volume 22 Issue 1

January 2024

## Annual Eagle Tours Coming Soon!

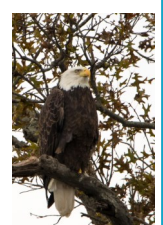
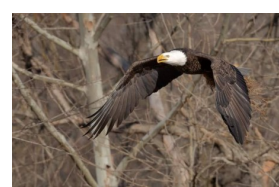
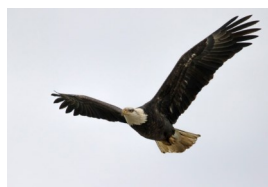
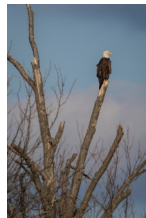


The Friends OF Crab Orchard Refuge Annual Eagle Tours will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024, and Sunday, February 4, 2024. Times of the tours for each day will be 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., or 2:00 p.m. Tours



will begin at the Visitor's Center with a short talk on Bald Eagles. Vans will be provided. Seats are limited.

**Call 618-997-3344 Ext. 1 to register.**



Photographs by Peggy Rhea Oneal Jarvis, Don Mullison, Jim Osborn, and Kathy Carstens

## You Are Invited To Attend Sunday Nature Dialogues!

Friends Of Crab Orchard Refuge are proud to once again present our Sunday afternoon nature programs! We have 6 Nature Dialogues scheduled throughout the year. The new meeting room can seat 80 people, so call 618-997-3344 Ext. 1 to reserve a seat!

“Partnering With The Public In Wildlife Science” will be presented by Dr. Brent Pease of SIU on Sunday, January 14 at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Pease runs the Pease Lab as part of the Forestry Program. Light refreshments will be served after the program. You will find a schedule of programs on the next page.

*“The wild heart of Southern Illinois”*

**FRIENDS OF CRAB ORCHARD REFUGE**  
**NATURE DIALOGUES CALENDAR**

Visitor's Center  
6987 Headquarters Road  
Marion, IL  
Call 618-997-3344 Extension 1 to register

Sunday, January 14, 2024 1:00 p.m.  
"Partnering With the Public In Wildlife Science"  
Dr. Brent Peas

Sunday, March 10, 2024 1:00 p.m.  
"Photographing The Eclipse"  
Jim Osborn

Sunday, May 19, 2024 1:00 p.m.  
"Attracting Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds  
To Your Backyard Pollinator Garden"  
Kim Rohling

Sunday, July 14, 2024 1:00 p.m.  
"Attracting Native Bees To Your Backyard Pollinator Garden"  
Kim Rohling

Sunday, September 8, 2024 1:00 p.m.  
"Sharing, Adapting, and Living With Wildlife"  
Monty Tyner

Sunday, November 10, 2024  
"Christmas Bird Count Workshop"  
Kim Rohling

*Light refreshments served at end of each program*

## A View from My Perch January, 2024 By President Rick Whitecotton



Winter, hardly kind to old bodies, needful for nature's regeneration. I feel I have been droning on for a few years now on the positive change that will happen once our Visitor's Center opened. It opened in 2023 and I will recount some of the positive outcomes we are seeing so far, and project some near term opportunities.

One outcome I was looking for was a place to call our home, the home for the Friends a location to meet, discuss, work thorough plans and so on. Done! We have already held many meetings in the small conference room and several monthly Board meetings in the multi-purpose room. There have been several community nature focused sessions from youth duck hunters to nature related groups that have used the facility.

Some immediate results the Friends have seen are that we have reformed our Strategy and Planning Committee into an Executive Board. The five officers meet monthly to plan and adjust our course...this is making a difference. We have been frustrated for the past 3 years due to the inability to meet for committee work for a variety of reasons. Resolved! This provides a space for our committees to meet on the property, which is far more focused. Thus, it helps our committees to function better.

The newly renamed Interpretation and Outreach Committee (formerly Education Committee) chaired by Kathy Belletire has a schedule of "Nature Dialogues". This is the next evolution in the old nature training sessions we held 4 years ago. We are currently planning a diverse set of nature focused training events on 6 Sundays through the year. This is an opportunity to meet fellow Friends and other neighbors in our communities that share our love of nature. Our first one is Sunday, January 14. Please see the accompanying article and drop by to participate (you must sign up in advance to be assured of a seat). They are to be held in the Multi-purpose room.

It will be 2 full years to see a completed display in the display room. There is roughly 2,700 square feet of floor space to fill! In the interim, our Photography group and the Interpretation and Outreach Committee are using the space for photography exhibits and art exhibits. Please come by frequently to see new displays as they appear.

We finally have the space to hold a formal photography contest again. You will find that information in this edition also.

Perhaps I should have started by talking of the new Woodland Gift Shop. We have been in operation for several months in our new spaces, and our sales show what stability and display space can bring. We get shoppers from across the U.S. that take a moment to stop by, shop, and just palaver with us. We help them to have a great visit to our Refuge.

We do not and cannot foresee all the possibilities offered by these new spaces. Come by and visit, check it all out!

See you on the Refuge!

Rick Whitecotton

## **FRIENDS OF CRAB ORCHARD REFUGE 2024 WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES PHOTO CONTEST**



### **Entry Categories**

- Landscape/Scenic
- Birds
- Other Wildlife
- Flowers/Plants/Trees/Fungi
- Pollinators, Insects, and Spiders
- Photos taken on Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge
- Photos taken by Youth (17 and under)
- New this year is an Annual Theme Category which will be “Reflections”

**All photos must be taken South of I-64 on Federal or State Parks, Refuge, or Forestry Lands.**

**How to enter:** Photos must be submitted at the Friends Of Crab Orchard Refuge Woodland Gift Shop by **April 7, 2024**. visit the Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge website and our Friends Facebook Page for contest rules and entry form, [friendsofcraborchardrefuge.com](http://friendsofcraborchardrefuge.com) For questions, email [photography@friendsofcraborchardrefuge.com](mailto:photography@friendsofcraborchardrefuge.com).

## 2024 Photo Contest Rules

1. Submissions are due by April 7, 2024 at the Crab Orchard national Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center Friends Woodland Gift Shop located at 6987 Headquarters Road, Marion, IL.
2. Photos can be entered in the following categories (maximum of 2 photos/category): 1) Landscape/scenic; 2) Birds; 3) Other wildlife; 4) pollinators 5) flowers/plants/trees/fungi; or 6) on Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge; or 7) photos taken by youth. In addition, we are introducing a new annual theme category and this year's theme will be Reflections. **All pictures must be taken south of I-64 in Illinois and must be taken on Federal or State Refuge, Park, or forestry Lands.** Each category will be judged for first place, second place, or third place. Photos submitted by anyone 17 or younger will be judged separately.
3. Submissions must be the original photograph, minimal editing such as cropping is allowed. Photographs should be the work of the person submitting the image. All photographs must be amateurs.
4. Ethical photography is expected and the photo's subject and environment should not be disturbed or manipulated for the sake of creating the image.
5. Photos should be **submitted in person**. Photos must be printed on photo quality paper in 8 X 10 size. Photos should be matted with mat board with a finished size no larger than 11 X 14. **No glass, plastic, frames, or hangers, please.** A completed entry form should be taped to the back. Entry forms are available at [friendsofcraborchardrefuge.com](http://friendsofcraborchardrefuge.com) and at the Visitor's Center.
6. The cost of submission is \$8/photo for adults and \$2/photo for youth. Friends of Crab orchard Refuge Members can submit at the reduced cost of \$5/photo adults or \$1/photo for youth whose family is a member. Friends membership is open to the public and can be purchased at the Visitor's Center Woodland Gift Shop.
7. Winners of the Photo Contest will be announced at the Photo Contest Reception at 2:00 on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at the Crab Orchard Refuge Visitor's Center for the next month.
8. Non-winning photos may be picked up after the reception. Photos not picked up by May 20th will become property of the Friends Of Crab orchard Refuge.

I have read and understand the above rules and agree that my entries are in compliance with these rules. I also give permission for the use of my images on the Friends Of Crab orchard website and/or Facebook, in contest displays and promotional materials).

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Age \_\_\_\_\_ Parental Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## FRIENDS MANAGEMENT OF MEMORIAL FUNDS JANUARY 2024 BY RICK WHITECOTTON

FRIENDS, THIS IS A TOPIC YOU MAY RARELY CONSIDER. ONE OF THE ASPECTS OF THE FRIENDS OF CRAB ORCHARD REFUGE IS TO PROCESS MEMORIAL FUNDS. THE PROCESS STARTS OFTEN WITH THE YOUTH OF A PERSON WHO LOVES AN ASPECT OF NATURE, AND HAS EXPERIENCED NATURE IN A POSITIVE WAY AT OUR REFUGE. THEY HAVE SPENT SO MUCH TIME ON THE PROPERTY, THAT WHEN THAT SAD DAY OCCURS THAT THEY LEAVE THE MORTAL COIL...THOSE LOVED ONES WHO REMAIN WISH TO HONOR WHAT THEIR LOVED ONE TREASURED SO MUCH IN THEIR LIFE... THE REFUGE. THIS IS WHERE WE GET INVOLVED. WE CAN BE THE RECIPIENT OF SUCH FUNDS SET UP IN HONOR OF THE DEPARTED LOVED ONES. WE MUST WORK IN CONCERT WITH OUR PARTNERS IN THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO SET UP A RESTRICTED FUND THAT PROVIDES SUPPORT TO THE REFUGE. OUR CURRENT AGREED APPROACH IS THIS:

1. FIRST PURCHASE OUTDOOR FURNITURE.
2. SECOND PLANT A NATIVE TREE OR TREES.
3. DONATE TO A FUND UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR THE GOOD OF THE REFUGE.

ALL THESE ITEMS ARE TO SUPPORT NATURE, NATURE VIEWING, AND INTERACTION AND CAN RESULT IN NATURE INTERPRETATION PROGRAMS OR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS EVEN.

THE BEREAVED OR A FUNERAL HOME CONTACT EITHER THE FRIENDS OF CRAB ORCHARD REFUGE OR THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO IDENTIFY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUND.

THE FRIENDS RECEIVE ALL FUNDS, RECOGNIZE THE RECEIPT OF DONATIONS TO THE DONOR AND RETAIN THE MONIES IN A RESTRICTED FUND. THAT FUND IS EARMARKED FOR ONE OF THE THREE CHOICES ABOVE AS AGREED UPON BY DISCUSSION WITH THE BEREAVED.

HERE IS A STATUS OF MEMORIAL FUNDS WE HAVE PROCESSED OR ARE NEARLY COMPLETE CURRENTLY:

- BARNSTABLE MEMORIAL, RON HAMBERG MEMORIAL, AND CRAIG WISINSKI MEMORIAL COLLECTED A TOTAL OF \$2,611.51. THIS MONEY WAS TRANSFERRED TO A RESTRICTED ACCOUNT FOR THE PURCHASE OF OUTDOOR FURNITURE. A WEEK AGO, WE ORDERED A HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLE FROM BARCO WHICH DEALS IN DURABLE OUTDOOR FURNITURE. THIS WILL FULFILL THE WHOLE FUND WHEN IT IS DELIVERED.
- AIMEE HEMPHILL MEMORIAL WAS FUNDED TO OVER \$1,600, WE HAVE THUS FAR PURCHASED AND PLANTED TWO WHITE OAK TREES WHICH ARE PLANTED IN THE MARTHA'S THEATRE AREA. THERE IS A REMNANT OF \$423.23 WHICH WILL GO TOWARD LABELING OF THESE TREES.
- THE KELLY MEMORIAL WAS SET UP UNDER DIFFERENT GUIDELINES, IT FUNDED 64 INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL PASSES WHICH WERE DISTRIBUTED TO FAMILIES.

THESE FUNDS COME IN THEIR OWN TIME, AND ARE NEVER EASY TO DISCUSS. IT IS, HOWEVER, ONE OF THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE TO THE COMMUNITY AND OUR PARTNERS IN THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

## Meet Our Newest Board Member Kathy Carstens

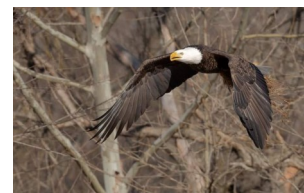
Kathy moved frequently in the Midwest and West while growing up, and during her career as an insurance underwriter. She moved to Southern Illinois in December 2019 (just before the Covid shutdown), to live near her brother and extended family.

During Covid, she became interested in wildlife photography, especially bird photography, and spent a great deal of time at Crab Orchard and around Southern Illinois learning to find, identify, and photograph birds.

She frequently posts her photos at the Friends of Crab Orchard and Photography and the Southern Illinois Birding Group Facebook pages. Now that Covid is over, she's enjoying meeting people in the community and volunteering at the Woodland Gift Shop in the New Crab Orchard Visitor's Center. Welcome Kathy!



Below are just a few examples of her lovely photographs:



### Woodland Gift Shop Vendor Spotlight SunsOut Puzzles

The Woodland Gift Shop stocks a variety of puzzles from the SunsOut Puzzle Company. The puzzles have been very popular with customers because the gift shop selects puzzles with nature themes and non-rectangular shapes. Yes! These puzzles have no corners!

SunsOut Puzzle Company is a woman-owned business that produces eco-friendly puzzles using high quality recycled board and soy-based inks. The puzzles are made in the U.S.A. Visit the Woodland Gift Shop and check out our rotating stock of puzzle designs.



Article by  
Mary Jo Osborn

*"The wild heart of Southern Illinois"*

*CRAB ORCHARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
75TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO CONTEST  
OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 2023*

**Other Animals**



October  
Bob Steele  
"Big Buck"

November  
Shelly Volkert  
"Groundhog"

**Plants**

**Pollinators**



October  
Michael Sarver  
"Fungi"

October  
Suzanne Asaturian  
"Red Spotted Purple"

Photographs judged by Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge  
Photography Committee Members  
Don Mullison, Miriam Link-Mullison, and Jim Osborn

*"The wild heart of Southern Illinois"*



*OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 2023 PHOTO CONTEST*

*Landscapes*



October  
Dwayne Sheumaker  
"Pelicans and Fall Colors"



© peggy jarvis

November  
Peggy Rhea Oneal Jarvis  
"Fall Colors Down The Road"

*Birds*



© peggy jarvis

October  
Peggy Rhea Oneal Jarvis  
"Egret In Reflection"



November  
Dwayne Sheumaker  
"Rembrandt Turkeys"

*"The wild heart of Southern Illinois"*

*OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 2023 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS*

**Most Unique**



October  
Michael Sarver  
"One Leaf"



November  
Deb Henman  
"Hornets Nest With Leaves"

**Lifetime Members**

Lifetime Members

General Dynamics  
Southern IL Hunting and Fishing Days  
Jill Adams  
Steve Belletire  
John Brewster  
Kathleen Gaare-Wiese  
Hill Printing  
Kimberly J. Holman  
Anita Hutton  
Melanie A. Kasson  
Jim Osborn  
Marlene Schaede  
Cheryl Stein  
Bill Thomas  
Ruie Whitecotton

Southern IL Bass Busters  
Take Pride in America  
Kathy Belletire  
Colleen Bogard  
Lewis Fosse  
Judy Groskind  
Dwight Hoffard  
Gene Honn  
Cathy D. Jennings  
Nancy Nowak  
Paul Restivo  
Meg Simmonds  
Kathryn Stevens  
Rick Whitecotton



## Current Friends Memberships For 2024

Tom Anderson	Vicki Anderson	Colette Arnold
Barbara Becker	Gayla Borgognoni	William F. Borgognoni
Donna Bowlby	Charles Burnett	Tana Burnett
Hannah Bushur	Kathy Carstens	
Kimberly Clark	Michelle Clark	Mike Clark
Ruben Cordova	Sylas Cruse	Nicholle Curby
Mary Davis	Mike Davis	Mary Beth DeFauw
Tim Draper	Dawn Dueker	Patricia Dunbar
Phyllis Elders	Logan Evans	Diane Falk
Mervin Falk	David Gray	Darlene Hancock
James Hancock	Steve Hartsock	Sharen Harvey
Angela J Higgins	Randy Higgins	Dennis Holtzclaw
Nancy Houk	Richard Houk	Bethany Ingram
Karen C. Johnson	Leann Johnson	Patricia Kelly
Bess Kershnik	Kris Killman	Donna Kretsch
Joseph Kretsch	Christine Ladwig	Hila Leenerts
Joe Leenerts	Danell LeMasters	Vern LeMasters
Scott Lewis	James Loepker	Brittney Mallen
Patrick Malone	Susan Mays	Bob McCan
Sue McCan	Sara McCrocklin	Barbara McKasson
William McKinney	Courtney McKowen	Nellie Moore
Don Mullison	Miriam Link-Mullison	Sara Neighbors
Mary Jo Osborn	Tim Parli	Jennifer Pearce
Scott Pearce	Janie Pettigrew	Rex Piper
Benieta Powell	Rich Powell	Sarah Richards
Mike Ryan	Sandy Schlager	Ernest Scott
Brent Sellcu	Justin Sexton	Dan Shannon
Darlene Shannon	Sharon Smaga	Sam F. Spiller
Nikki Staley	Judy Stewart	Tom Stewart
Debbie Tedfork	Dick Terry	Kim Terry
Lisa Thomas	Marcia Thompson	Brenda Tripp
Monica Tyner	Monty Tyner	Kenneth Veil
Jenny Volkert	Janny Walker	Jan Wohlwend
John Wohlwend	Laraine Wright	Sandy Youngstrom

If your name is not listed, please join or renew by April 1, 2024. You may renew/join by mail, just send in your information and check to: Friends Of Crab Orchard Refuge, 6987 Headquarters Road, Marion, IL 62959. You may join/renew on our website: [friendsofcraborchardrefuge.com](http://friendsofcraborchardrefuge.com) and select donate. You may now renew/join at our Woodland Gift Shop by cash, check, or credit/debit card and fill out a Membership bookmark with your information.

\*You will find a Membership form on the next page for your convenience.

Friends Of Crab Orchard Refuge  
6987 Headquarters Road  
Marion, IL 62959

Website:  
friendsofcraborchardrefuge.com

Facebook:  
Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge

Friends of CONWR and  
Photography on Facebook

Editor in chief -  
Secretary Ruie Whitecotton

Coming Saturday, April 13, 2024  
From 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Photography Symposium with  
Keynote Speaker Richard Day!

Richard Day is a full-time professional nature photographer. He specializes in birds, butterflies, dragonflies, mammals, and other outdoor imagery. His images have appeared in major national publications including Audubon, Birder's World, Sierra Club, National Geographic, National Wildlife, and others. He is an Affiliate research Scientist with the Illinois Natural History Survey and Illinois State Museum.

More information on this exciting event will be sent out in future correspondence.

A Friends Of Crab Orchard Refuge Membership provides you with a Quarterly Newsletter, monthly Board Minutes, right to vote at our Annual Membership Meeting in October, and a 10% discount at our Woodland Gift Shop. Mark the Membership you desire and send this form and a check made payable to: **Friends Of Crab Orchard Refuge, 6987 Headquarters Road, Marion, IL 62959.** You may also join online, just go to: [friendsofcraborchardrefuge.com](http://friendsofcraborchardrefuge.com) and select donate.

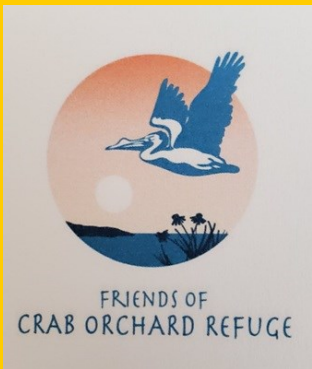
**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

- Annual Single Student (age 16 and above)      \$ 5.00
- Annual Individual      \$ 10.00
- Annual Family      \$ 20.00
- Annual Business      \$100.00
- Lifetime      \$250.00



*“The wild heart of Southern Illinois”*