

sept/oct2017

friends

of the cache river watershed



NATURE FEST AT CACHE RIVER DAYS ULLIN ILLINOIS

Nature Fest and Cache River Days have joined forces this year, which means twice as much fun for everyone!

- **Canoe tours of Buttonland Swamp**
- **Guided hikes to Glass Hill and Cave Creek Glade**
- **Live wildlife exhibits – snakes, turtles, birds of prey and more!**
- **Nature activities and crafts**
- **Asian carp fry**
- **The always-popular Cache Challenge**
- **Silent auction for native wildflower quilt**

Festivities begin on Friday, September 8 with “Night of the Living Cache,” a program and night hike led by Michael Jeffords and Susan Post -- see page two for complete details.

On Saturday, September 9, Ullin Ball Park is the headquarters for a full day of activities celebrating the Cache River Wetlands – and it’s all FREE!

Additional events hosted by the Village of Ullin during Cache River Days (Sept 8-10) include live music, flea markets, food vendors, a beauty pageant, a softball tournament, helicopter and tram rides, and more.

Advance registration is required for the night hike and canoe tours: call Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge at 618-634-2231.

The Cache River Wetlands attracted tourists from around the world who were seeking the perfect spot to view the total solar eclipse on August 21. Many thanks to the dedicated staff at the Wetlands Center and Cypress Creek NWR, who greeted hundreds of visitors, directed traffic, passed out free eclipse glasses, fielded questions and helped make the awesome experience of totality even more memorable! Cache River Wetlands eclipse t-shirts featuring Octavius the Otter were a popular item – just a few are still left for sale at the Wetlands Center.



For more information, see www.friendsofthecache.org
e-mail friendsofthecacheriver@gmail.com
or like “Friends of the Cache River Watershed” on FACEBOOK.



What's Next

“Night of the Living Cache” Spotlight Hike

Friday, Sept 8, 7-9pm

*Location: 7pm program at Ullin
Firehouse (125 Railroad St, Ullin)
8pm hike at Limekiln Springs*

Learn about night creatures of the Cache, and then explore the deep, dark woods of Limekiln Springs using only a penlight. Please register in advance by calling 618-634-2231.

Nature Fest at Cache River Days

Saturday, Sept 9, 9am-4pm

*Location: Ullin Ball Park, Ullin, IL
(on Old Hwy 51 in northwest Pulaski
County)*

A full day of fun and free activities for nature lovers of all ages! For a complete schedule of activities, call 618-634-2231.

Hiking Tour of Glass Hill

Saturday, Sept 9, 10am-12pm

*Location: Glass Hill, Cache River State
Natural Area (on Dongola Road, just
southwest of Cypress)*

Explore the natural and human history of this unique round bluff, learn about primitive/ancestral skills and try your hand at firemaking methods similar to those used by Native Americans. Questions, call 618-634-2231.

Cave Creek Glade Walk

Saturday, Sept 9, 1:30-3pm

*Location: Cave Creek Glade
(on Hwy 45, 3.5 mi south of Vienna)*

Enjoy a steep but scenic hike up this limestone hillside prairie, which provides spectacular views of the Cache River basin. Questions, call 618-657-2064.

Kids in the Woods: Fur and Feathers

Saturday, Sept 16, 1-3pm

Location: Wetlands Center

Program series by Southern Illinois Master Naturalists for families with children ages 5-10. Please register in advance by calling 618-657-2064.

Monarch Phenomenon

Saturday, Sept 23, program at 10am,

tag monarchs 11am-3pm

Location: Wetlands Center

Learn more about monarchs and their annual migration to Mexico; then help capture, identify and tag butterflies. Questions, call 618-657-2064.

Cache River Swamp Walk

Sunday, October 1, 2-4pm

Location: Lower Cache Access

This easy trail along Buttonland Swamp, Cypress Creek and the Cache River is great for viewing plants and animals of the wetlands. Questions: 618-657-2064.

Heron Pond/Little Black Slough Hike

Saturday, October 14, 9am-12pm

Location: Meet at Heron Pond parking lot

Enjoy a colorful fall hike along Heron Pond and Little Black Slough Trails. Questions, call 618-657-2064.

Guided Van Tour

Friday, October 27, various times

Location: Meet at Wetlands Center

Senior citizens and those with limited mobility can explore a section of the Tunnel Hill State Trail. Limited seats; please register in advance by calling 618-657-2064.



The Cache River Autotour map and brochure, created by Friends of the Cache, has been reprinted with sixteen NEW sites added! These locations all illustrate the area's rich human history, including the Trail of Tears, historic railroad depots, a pioneer cabin built in the 1850s, a Revolutionary War campsite, graves of participants in the infamous Hell's Neck Feud and more. Pick up your free copy at the Cache River Wetlands Center or Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge Office.

Cache Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 9, 6:30-8:30pm

Carbondale Civic Center

Refreshments, door prizes, Cache merchandise and updates on Friends activities. Featured speaker: Dr. Greg Spyreas, plant ecologist and biologist, Illinois Natural History Survey, who will share the most current research on the impact of milkweeds on the survival of monarch butterflies.

Advance reservations requested: email Paula Havlik at phavlik@illinois.edu or call 217-649-4326.



Communities
of the Cache:

Dongola

“Folks around here like to say, if you don’t live on a hill, you don’t live in Dongola!” says Allison Holderfield, retired librarian and author of *The Life and Times of Dongola, Illinois*. The little town, located on Old State Highway 51 in Union County, is nestled in a green valley, with homes dotting the surrounding hillsides.

Dongola was founded in 1857 by Ebony Leavenworth, a former attorney who came to Union County as

a surveyor for the Illinois Central Railroad. Liking what he saw, Leavenworth purchased a square mile of land that was already inhabited by about 600 railroad workers, living in huts and tents. Many came from Rowan County, North Carolina, and were of German descent. Legend has it that Leavenworth named the new village after the ancient city of Dongola, Sudan, the base of operations for his father, a Presbyterian minister and missionary.

Intersected by the Illinois Central Railroad, Dongola became a bustling community with a population of about 800. Many living on surrounding farms visited the town when “goin’ tradin’” on Saturday, bringing eggs, butter and other items to exchange for staples such as sugar, flour and coffee. In 1888, a devastating fire burned the mostly-wooden buildings of the downtown. In 1914, another fire swept through, leaving only one of the original two-story buildings intact. Today, the town still has a K-12 school, a library and several businesses, although nothing like its heyday. However, unlike many small rural communities, the population has remained stable, still around 800. Nearby Dongola Lake, manmade in the 1960s as a municipal water source, is now a recreation site.

“Communities of the Cache” will highlight a different town in each issue. If you’d like to share historical photos and tidbits about your community, please contact newsletter editor Paula Havlik at phavlik@illinois.edu.



By Susan Post

From My 3x5 Notebook

September and October are a good time to seek out spiders in the Cache. Instead of cursing the head-high webs that smack you in the face as you walk about, take a closer look at these eight-legged arthropods. To aid in your spider discovery, google and download the Ohio DNR publication “Common Spiders of Ohio.”

In the prairie areas around the Cache River Wetlands Center, look for *Argiope*, garden spiders – large, black and yellow. Early in the morning, their dew-covered webs sparkle. Camouflaged in the blooms of plants, look for crab spiders, either yellow or white,

waiting for their next meal of unsuspecting pollinators. Along the Section 8 Woods boardwalk, you may find fishing spiders. By early fall, their leg span could be four inches; but fishing spiders are harmless, preferring to eat aquatic insects. Along any forested trail, brown furry wolf spiders are looking for a place to spend the winter, usually under downed logs or rocks. Several different species of orb weavers, which use trees and branches as anchors, can be found in the Cache. Their bodies are various shades of autumn, including browns, yellows and oranges.

Pictured left to right: Marie Samuel, project coordinator for Shawnee Quilters of Southern Illinois; Paula Havlik, board member, Friends of the Cache River Wetlands; and Molie Oliver, site interpreter, Cache River Wetlands Center.



There's still time

to place your bid on the stunning quilted wall hanging that is currently on display at the Cache River Wetlands Center. The quilt, featuring native wildflowers and based on the photos of naturalists John and Martha Schwegman, was created for Friends of the Cache by the Shawnee Quilters of Southern Illinois. **Bidding will end at 4pm September 9,**

with all proceeds used for educational programs in the Cache. Earlier this summer, Shawnee Quilters presented the Friends with a \$550 donation from the sale of a second wildflower quilt, and we thank this wonderful organization for sharing their time and talent in support of the Cache River Wetlands!



Please welcome Katy Banning and Kelsey Woodcock

(pictured left to right), new AmeriCorps members serving Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of the Cache River Watershed. Katy is a recent graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, with a bachelor's in zoology and a concentration in wildlife biology. Kelsey is a graduate of Anna-Jonesboro High School, has worked as a certified nursing assistant and hopes to pursue a degree in environmental education. We look forward to Katy and Kelsey assisting with school programs, special public events, habitat restoration and Refuge management projects.

Become a Friend

- \$15 Individual
- \$25 Family
- New Member
- \$50 Contributing
- \$100 Supporting
- Current Member
- \$250 Sustaining
- \$1,000 Lifetime

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

To remain budget and environment-friendly, most communications are sent via e-mail.

Please let us know if you need to receive information via U.S. mail.

All contributions are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to Friends of the Cache River Watershed and mail to: 8885 State Rt. 37 South, Cypress, IL 62923.

Fall deadline to apply for field trip grants has been extended to Sept 30.



Kids to the Cache, sponsored by Friends of the Cache River Watershed, provides \$250 grants in the spring and fall to help local schools cover transportation costs for field trips to the Cache River State Natural Area and Cypress Creek Wildlife Refuge. The deadline to apply for Fall 2017 grants is September 30. For information and application materials, please contact Fran Wachter at franceswachter@gmail.com.