



Notes

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge

Summer 2011

Visitor Center Now Open!

by Katie Goodwin, Visitor Services Manager

Threat of rain could not keep us away! On Saturday, April 30, 2011, Necedah National Wildlife Refuge opened our brand new visitor center with over 700 visitors through the doors. This new visitor center serves as a gateway for education and exploration of the refuge.

Grand opening morning kicked off with Outdoors Forever hosting a Youth in the Outdoors Field Day. One hundred kids participated in archery, birdhouse building, retriever demonstrations, waterfowl ID, and tree planting. Thank you to everyone who volunteered from Outdoors Forever and other FWS stations to help excite the next generation about our great outdoors!

The ribbon cutting ceremony was full of energy and excitement as the honored guests awaited cutting the ribbon and allowing all of the visitors into the center. Honored representatives and speakers included Doug Staller, Necedah NWR Manager; Mary Jane Bean, Friends of Necedah NWR President; Scott Bolstad on behalf of Senator Ron Johnson; Colleen Thomas on behalf of Senator Herb Kohl; Tom Melius, USFWS Regional Director; Greg Siekaniec, Chief of Refuges and Acting USFWS Director; and Congressman Ron Kind. Just before the ribbon cutting, Necedah's color guard raised the flag. Thank you to the VFW, AMVET, and American Legion. Cheers rang out as the ribbon fell to the ground and visitors explored the building and exhibits, and participated in programs, planted

See Opening, page 8

Whooping Crane Hatchings at NNWR

On a stormy and blustery Monday a call came into Necedah National Wildlife Refuge headquarters. Justin Trutwin, biological technician, confirmed the first whooping crane of the season had hatched. "As I peered over the brush with my binoculars I saw a little brown fuzz ball begging for food from one of the parents. I was excited to get a rare, clear view of the chick on its nest." said Trutwin. This newly hatched chick on the refuge marks a sign of success in the effort to sustain a wild migratory whooping crane population in Eastern North America. The whooping crane chick hatched between the evening of May 8 and mid-day May 9, but that was just the start of it, as more chicks hatched from other whooping crane pairs in the next few days.

By early June there were six other active whooping crane nests in and around Necedah National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). "Among the twenty-one whooping crane nests that have been built and are reported to potentially contain egg(s), six remain. Five nests are on the refuge, one in Wood County and one in Adams County. It takes approximately 30 to 31 days for the embryo to develop or go 'full term' to hatch." said Intern, Jennifer Brennaman. This year's first successful nest was brought to term by wild whooping crane W1-06, the first wild offspring from the reintroduction project. W1-06 was hatched and raised in 2006 on Necedah NWR. *(Refuge staff contributed to this article)*

Wild Notes is published four times a year by the Friends of Necedah National Wildlife Refuge with the cooperation and assistance of Refuge staff. Edited by Doreen Pfof with creative design and production by Dick Roellig. Mailed from NNWR, N11385 Headquarters Road, Necedah WI 54646.

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Jambo Raffiki!

By Doug Staller, Refuge Manager

“Jambo Raffiki” is “Hello Friends” in Swahili. I learned this as part of my three-week assignment to Tanzania this spring. The Department of Interior selected me to be one of ten representatives on an International technical assistance team to work with Wildlife Management Areas in Tanzania. Wildlife Management Areas are a relatively new type of conservation unit that provides important habitat buffers adjacent to National Parks in Tanzania. You can imagine that migrating elephants and zebras present different challenges than we are used to seeing.

I worked at Burunge WMA about two hours’ drive from Mount Kilimanjaro. Burunge lies between Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Parks. The area is characterized by two large lakes, savannah on which acacias are the dominant tree, wooded hills, and ten villages. Representatives from the ten villages work together to manage the WMA. My partner was Ray Paterra from Blackwater NWR in Maryland. There were four other teams at WMAs across the country.

Our job was to teach a group of villagers how to design and place signs. We worked mostly on a sign at their Visitor Center that is being constructed near the only paved road connecting the capital, Dar Es Salaam, in the south and Arusha, a major city in the north.

Our group was very industrious and able to overcome the challenges of no electricity; they worked with the tools we brought with great enthusiasm. A plumb bob and level were probably our most advanced pieces of equipment. In the end, we had an entrance sign for the new building that the group was proud of, as well as a few bilingual signs ready to install after the site is completed.

I managed to take around a thousand digital images while there, which I look forward to sharing. I felt like we left behind not only a good sign but the knowledge and skills to do more work when it is needed. It was also a challenge to work in the heat, without modern convenience, and with a different culture and language. I came back with a better appreciation of conservation in developing countries and gratitude for all our advantages.

Asante sana (many thanks)

From FEMA to Flora: Elroy Participates in Prairie Planting

By Mark Pfof, Private Lands Biologist

Sometimes serendipity results in a restoration project. When Doreen and I first arrived in the Necedah area, we stayed at the Little Pond Lodge for a month, while waiting to close on our house in Elroy. At the same time, Justin Sornsin and his wife moved from Alaska and purchased Little Pond. They were in effect our “landlords.” Doreen and I began attending Elroy city council meetings after we were settled, as a way to learn more about our new home. In the process we met Councilwoman Pat Kennedy—a Friends of Necedah member. During this time Justin was hired as Elroy’s new city administrator.

Late last winter the city’s Common Council was discussing its options regarding a small parcel of land the city acquired from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Flooding in 2008 had severely damaged some properties along the West Fork of the Baraboo River in town. FEMA purchased the properties, removed the houses, and deeded the land to the city. The city owned the land, but could not develop it.

I was sitting in the audience when Justin and Pat both turned to me and asked “Can we plant a prairie?” Within a couple of months we had an agreement. Elroy employees removed the few remaining trees, brush piles, and trash from the one-acre site. We pooled resources and planted fifty-four native prairie species—seven were grasses, the rest forbs (wildflowers). Royall High School teacher Beth Kolodzinski involved her “Outdoors Careers” students. First, students completed classroom projects in which they considered factors involved in restoring a site, then on a cold and windy day in late April the students sowed the native seeds across the area.

Although this was only a one-acre project it provides several benefits to the community. While it may take a couple of years for plants to establish themselves, the site should eventually provide a changing vista for residents and visitors to enjoy as individual species with varying form and color find their time to grow, bloom, and fade away until the next year. As it becomes established, even a prairie as small as this one can provide habitat for some grassland birds, amphibians, and beneficial insects. Since a prairie requires less maintenance than an empty lot, the city will spend less time on maintenance. Finally, students had a chance

See Serendipity, page 7

Volunteer Vine

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge would like to welcome the following volunteers to our family:

Kevin Braden
Vicky Eiben
Matthew Talley

Refuge Discovery Packs

Visitors interested in learning more about the plants and animals of Necedah National Wildlife Refuge can check out a Refuge Discovery Pack in the Visitor Center between 7:30am and 3:30pm daily. These backpacks are free to check out and contain binoculars, bug jar, eye scope, nature watching book, journal, ID books, and more. Geared for ages 5 to 14 years old, these packs can be used by adults too.

Warm Season's Serenade

By Daniel Peterson, Visitor Services Specialist

As I awoke to the song of a White-throated Sparrow one morning it reminded me how much I appreciate this time of year. With its wispy "oh says peabody peabody peabody" chant, the sparrow and other newly arrived birds contributed to the chorus line of dawn's early light. Later that morning as I walked down the boardwalk behind the new Visitor Center I was welcomed by some other newly arrived spring residents. One in particular was a Mourning Cloak Butterfly. Generally the first to appear in the landscape before the sight of monarchs, sulfurs, or other butterflies, adult Mourning Cloaks spend their winter in a "hibernated" state. The Mourning Cloak's chocolate-brown wings with yellow edges seemed a little wrinkled as it fluttered past. Another encounter was the remodeling effort of two Black-capped Chickadees. I assumed they were a male and female, as they were in the process of enlarging an abandoned woodpecker cavity in a birch snag. Both birds took turns entering the cavity and flying out of it to a nearby perch with a beak-full of wood debris. It was obvious that the ground that I walked upon was the dumping-ground of the chickadee's remodeling effort!

The arrival and birth of birds and butterflies means, to some, a time of year to pack up the winter gear,

comb lawns, or polish pontoons. It also means a season to get outdoors, get active, and have some fun at a nearby National Wildlife Refuge. Necedah National Wildlife Refuge's annual spring events including "Brunch With The Birds" and "Youth Fishing Day", are geared for families to get outside and they also serve as a learning opportunity for those not familiar with how to identify birds or how to fish. Visitors who attended the Saturday, May 14th *Brunch With The Birds* event found over 60 species of our feathered friends dancing before them along an early morning guided walk. The arrival of our neo-tropical migrants is a beautiful event everyone should witness in spring, and what better place to see them than at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. This year the event was hosted in our New Visitor Center, and a flock of Friend Volunteers flew in to set up a beautiful array of breakfast items for all of our hungry birdwatchers.

For the past seven years Norm Neman and the Eagle's Nest Tenant Association and Necedah National Wildlife Refuge have hosted the Youth Fishing Day event at Eagle's Nest Flowage. With the opening of the New Visitor Center and all the great facilities and the help from Norm Neman, the Interstate Bass Fishing Club, the Friends of Necedah National Wildlife Refuge and many of our Refuge Volunteers, we brought the event back to the Refuge grounds on Saturday, June 4, where kids took part in a variety of activities such as casting lessons, fish identification, knot tying, and fishing derbies. The months following June are packed with family based activities and programs. To learn more about these upcoming programs, check out the Refuge or Friends of Necedah websites and look under "Calendar of Events" to find dates and times. Necedah Refuge: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/necedah> or Friends website: <http://www.friendsofnwr.org> . Also look for us on Facebook!

A Yellow-rumped Warbler lit on an aspen branch before me while I stood listening to the "peep peep peep" cries of a Spring Peeper. A frog no longer than a half inch in length blending in a matrix of ground litter in a riparian habitat, it was among many instrumentalists in the morning's chorus line experience. Where else can you go to encounter a sparrow's prelude of a dawn's early light, a serenade from a peeper, or a rendition of Handel's Messiah from early morning musicians? Experiencing the outdoors can only reveal how cherished our wilds are and how we, as northerners, value our warm season.



Fire Control Season Begins

By Dan Laber, Fire Control Manager

From 4/12/2011 to 5/17/2011 the Necedah Fire Management Program has accomplished 10 prescribed fire treatments for 1924 acres. Eight of the treatments were performed on the Necedah NWR, 5 of which were considered Priority 1 treatments, totaling 1209 acres. In addition to Refuge priorities, the Fire Management Staff completed 1 priority treatment for 30 acres at the Trempealeau NWR and assisted the Wisconsin DNR with a 300 acre priority treatment on the Meadow Valley State Wildlife Management Area.



Marsh Master igniting sedge grass along northern boundary of SE Pool on Meadow Valley Flowage

Despite the late snow and rainy spring we have managed to complete the

majority of our priority burns for the season. This could not have been accomplished without the support of the Refuge Staff, adjacent Refuges, State cooperators and private contractors. Without support from the Necedah NWR, Leopold WMD, Trempealeau NWR, Upper Mississippi River Refuge, Wisconsin DNR, Region 3 FWS and AD hires we could not have accomplished the amount we have in this short amount of time. When you're out on the refuge in the next few weeks and see smoke rising from the air, you can be sure Fire Personnel from Necedah NWR and the surrounding area have things under control.



Aerial view from Pool 2 of PR27/OSR27 burn with silo area in foreground

Junior Duck Stamp: An Art Contest and Much More

By Doreen Pfost

For a few days this spring, Necedah National Wildlife Refuge was home not only to a variety of wildlife, but also to 833 original works of wildlife art. The Refuge is

the Wisconsin headquarters for the Junior Duck Stamp contest, which this year attracted participation from 49 Wisconsin schools.

Junior Duck Stamp is a nationwide educational program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It combines science and art instruction, helping students from Kindergarten through 12th grade to sharpen their observation skills, learn about the natural world, and interpret what they see through visual arts. In particular the focus is on waterfowl and wetland conservation, as young artists create stamp designs in a format similar to that of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation



Stamp purchased annually by waterfowl hunters.

State-level judging took place on March 25 at the NNWR Visitor Center. Fifteen-year-old Drake Schlosser of Rubicon received this year's Best of Show

award for his acrylic and colored crayon portrayal of two red-breasted mergansers. In all, judges awarded three first-place, three second-place, and three third-place awards, plus sixteen honorable mentions in each of four age groups: K-3rd grade, 4th through 6th grade, 7th through 9th grade, and 10th through 12th grade. The paintings of ducks, geese, or swans were judged based on artistic design and composition, anatomical accuracy, and suitability for reproduction on a 1" by 1 1/2' stamp.

Best of Show winners from each of the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and U.S. territories, are entered in the Federal Junior Duck Stamp competition; the winning entry of that contest becomes the design for the next year's Junior Duck Stamp. In addition, the artist receives a \$5,000 prize. In 2005, Kerissa Nelson of Grantsburg, Wisconsin won the federal contest with her painting of a pair of ring-necked ducks.

Junior Duck Stamps, like Migratory Bird Stamps, may be purchased at U.S. Post Offices. The \$5.00 fee supports environmental education programs and scholarships for participating schools and teachers, as well as awards for the student artists.

Daniel Peterson, state coordinator for Wisconsin's Junior Duck Stamp, says that the program offers many benefits. In addition to sharpening students' artistic skills, it helps them become more aware of their surroundings when they're outdoors...and it simply

Brunch With The Birds

By Donna Amedro

Yes, Virginia there is a Spring Migration... some hearty souls braved the cool Wisconsin winds on Saturday, May 14th to prove this fact and were rewarded with the sounds and sightings of many species.

As many returned to the brand new Visitor Center to enjoy the Brunch put on by the Friends of Necedah NWR, notes were being compared, and whispers of where someone saw the Whoopers, the Trumpeter Swans or even a Great Horned Owl were among the conversations you would have overheard. In addition to the brunch, the Friends hosted a bucket raffle that had several unique prizes.

The brunch consisted of fresh farm eggs, some hard-boiled, some deviled, hot ham sandwiches, fresh fruit, hot cheesy potatoes, marinated mushrooms, tortellini salad, Watergate salad, fresh blueberry muffins, éclairs, cream puffs, and coffee, juice, hot chocolate and milk. Well worth the \$6.00 fare.

As an added treat for this event, author, artist and Friend, Jim Backus, was in the Fireplace Room to sign his books and talking to those who stopped by about his experience in wildlife photography. His latest books can be obtained at the new Friends Bookstore at the Visitor Center.

All proceeds from the brunch and raffle will be used in the Friends mission to support the Refuge in its educational programs. We would like to thank the following for the donation of their time, food or prizes:

- Necedah National Wildlife Refuge
- Friends of Necedah National Wildlife Refuge
- Friends of St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge
- Wisconsin River Meats of Mauston, WI.
- Kwik Trip of Necedah, WI.
- Festival Foods of Mauston, WI.
- Starbucks of Wisconsin Dells, WI.
- Jim and Bernie Arena
- Mary Jane Bean
- Nancy Harrington
- Mike Richardson
- Ann Maturno
- Marv and Lori Clark
- June Lewandowski
- Dianne and Larry Schmidt
- Doug, Marge and Dalton Staller
- Doreen Pfost
- Dan Peterson
- Donna Amedro

And thank you to all of those who came out to support the Friends in their efforts to raise funds so that the Refuge can continue to bring special events like this to our community and visitors.

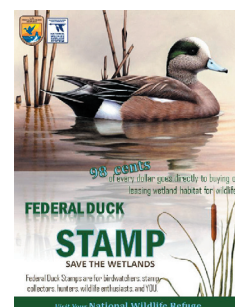
Karner Korner Needs Volunteers

By Audrey Traver

What is a Karner Korner, you ask? It's our new bookstore name...thanks to Doug Staller, Refuge Manager, who won the contest to name the Friends bookstore. Thank you to everyone who entered - there were some great ideas -- and thanks to the Friends Board, who voted on the top entry! Also, thank you to Eric for the nice window cling displaying the new name.

So, Grand Opening was a great success and if you missed it, here are the bookstore highlights for April: Of course, our **new name** - KARNER KORNER; some **new merchandise** - mousepads, guide books, and special musical CD's; **new events** - book signing by local authors and free gifts with a \$25 purchase or brick purchase. Visitors have increased and sales are going up. Did you know that our bookstore sales support many of the activities at the refuge? Our current top sellers are field guides and a great assortment of clothing.

And because of the new "busyness" of the bookstore, we're still looking for volunteers. If you enjoy meeting people and doing sales, or if you enjoy reading books and writing reviews, or if you have an artistic flair waiting to break free, call the bookstore volunteers today. (608-565-4467) Time commitment can be anywhere from a couple of hours a month to eight hours a week. We have lots to accomplish in our new store, and things are moving fast! Spread the word -- it's worth stopping in!





Friends of the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge

• To support and enhance the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge and the surrounding areas • To educate the public about the Fish and Wildlife Service's role in wildlife habitat protection • To foster public use and enjoyment of the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge

President's Comments -

President's Report June
2011 Newsletter

Since I wrote last fall, we have truly been busy. The new facility was completed in the late fall and staff and Friends began moving in late January/February. Many years' collections of files, data and "stuff" made its way either to the new offices or to the scanner or shredder. It was interesting to read many of the programs and innovations started by Friends leaders before us.

In January we hosted our 2nd Annual Snowshoe hike and 89 hardy souls came out to try their "feet" at snowshoeing or hiking. We were extremely happy to see so many new faces.

In February we hosted family activities, movies and popcorn on Saturday afternoons--the group grew from 9 to 61 over 4 weeks, ending with a Frank Boll presentation of "Wolves in Wisconsin" the last Saturday evening in February.

We also gradually moved into the new bookstore area, with Audrey Traver as our lead volunteer manager, and many others helping to stock, price, and set up the store. Currently Marie Pierce, Joan Rabold, Edie Norling, Dianne Schmidt, Audrey Traver, Donna Amedro and I volunteer in the bookstore. Several others are coming on board soon--you can work as little as 2-4 hours a day, or one or two 8-hour shifts a week, depending on your availability. With the Visitor Center open 7 days a week from May 1st to November 15th we need many more volunteers to cover weekends and vacations over the summer. Give the Refuge or the Friends office a call to let us know if you can help in any way. We also have behind the scenes helpers who re-stock and price inventory, but don't want to sell.

In March, the new displays came for the finishing touches on the VC, and we had to close, re-stock and reopen the bookstore with its final furnishings. What a wonderful space we now have, with our own office, storage and sales space. The office/bookstore direct phone # is 608-565-4467.

March also saw many volunteers' help with the Jr. Duck Stamp set up and judging day. The details of this program are found in another article.

Grand Opening obviously took up the majority of our time and energy over the late winter and early spring, culminating in a Friends' meet and greet on Friday evening, April 29th attended by many of the local Necedah town and village officials, area business and Chamber representatives, and Region 3 and Refuge staff and Friends Board and volunteers who had worked extensively on the project. On Saturday, April 30th over 700 people came through the doors for the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening programs, trail tours and outdoor events over the course of the day. The Camp Douglas Lions Club provided food for the day and the Outdoors Forever Club hosted 99 youth at their event which we partnered to host here that day. Over 50 volunteers from the Friends, FWS, Region 3 and other nearby Refuges came to assist the Necedah staff with this wonderful event. Many former Friends board members and Refuge staff, as well as Congressman Ron Kind and his family, State Representative Ed Brooks and representatives from Senator Kohl's and Senator Johnson's staff were in attendance. Our thanks go to everyone who attended and helped in any way. We were very proud to showcase this awesome new facility.

Our last event was May 14th, our 5th Annual "Brunch with the Birds". Unfortunately the day was not very conducive to being outside in the 40 degree windy weather, but our most tenacious group, lead by Doreen Pfost, spotted 63 different birds.

Three different groups, led by Dan Peterson, Doug Staller and Larry Schmidt and Doreen Pfost explored the Refuge looking for as many species as they could find. A wonderful brunch followed the birding hike, and about 44 people attended the event. Our thanks to all who helped with the day--Coordinator Donna Amedro and her great group--Bernie and Jim Arena, Marv and Lori Clark, Ann Materno, Nancy Harrington and Mike Richardson, Marge, and Dalton Staller, Dianne Schmidt, and June Lewandoski. Youth Fishing Day, June 4th, is fast approaching as we prepare the Newsletter. Many new volunteers have already asked to help with this event where kids learn how to fish

(See Message, page 8)

Hatchings, from page 1

At least eleven whooping crane pairs have failed or abandoned their nests this spring. Nest abandonments are common among birds and may be caused by a variety of factors such as biting insects, lack of food, predators, or human disturbance. For the past two years, Refuge Biologist Rich King has been investigating the cause of nest abandonment by analyzing data collected throughout the nesting period, focused on both crane behavior and black fly abundance and distribution. Using video surveillance cameras at active nests, King and refuge staff have been able to monitor behavior of nesting whooping cranes. Collection tools such as carbon dioxide traps and glueboards collect samples of biting insects found at nest sites. Biting insect numbers at the failed nests range from a few to several hundred per location. The species of biting insects are generally black flies, which are abundant on the refuge. Mallard, Canada goose, trumpeter swan, and sandhill crane nests are also being monitored for black fly disturbance.

For the first time, a first nesting attempt of the year has gone full term and produced a chick. While some might want to attribute this initial success of early nests to a single factor -- whether that was an experiment to control black flies, cranes being another year older and having more experience, a colder-than-normal spring, or that we have a wild hatched chick nesting -- there simply isn't enough information to draw any strong conclusion.

This year marks an important transition for whooping crane recovery efforts at Necedah NWR. The spotlight has shifted from introduction of captive-reared birds to wild whooping cranes producing eggs, hatching chicks, and fledging young. There are additional first nests that will provide results, as well as second nesting attempts which have been historically more successful in their population. In 2010, seven wild chicks hatched, two fledged, and those two successfully migrated south with other birds. Wood County's fledgling did make it back to Wood County this spring. The fledgling from the refuge also returned and has been seen on Necedah NWR. Refuge biologists will continue to work on factors that influence nesting success, fledgling success, and reaching our goal of a self-sustaining eastern flock of migratory whooping cranes.

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Facebook



Opening, from page 1

bushes along the center, and viewed birds and critters along the new boardwalks. Everyone raved about the new bookstore and building finishes. For anyone who missed it we are now open 7 days a week, 7:30 - 4 pm. The new trails and refuge are always open from sunrise to sunset. There are also extended-hours bathrooms on the end of the visitor center available at that time for visitors.

Serendipity, from page 2

to get involved. This may foster a growing interest in wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Serendipity can happen at any time. In this case it evolved from a few chance meetings, and a flood that happened three years ago. When will it next appear? I don't know, but if we remain ready to talk to folks about wildlife, habitat, or restoration, the odds improve for another serendipitous event.

Junior Duck, from page 2

gets them outdoors. "But most of all," he says, "it gets kids thinking about the outside world, and nature...and ducks."

This year's volunteer judges were David Trudeau, Deputy Refuge Manager at NNWR; Ashly Steinke of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association; wildlife artists Jay Jocham and Arthur Anderson; and retired art teacher Nancy Steinback. Volunteers from FNNWR helped with contest administration. In addition, says Peterson, the enthusiastic support of art teachers contributes to the program's success.

Traveling displays featuring the first-, second-, and third-place winners are scheduled at 17 Wisconsin locations through March 2012. The display is at NNWR until July 2, and will be at the Necedah Branch of the Bank of Mauston, August 12-September 9, and at Nekoosa High School, September 26-October 28.

Visit us at www.friendsofnwr

Message, from page 6

and then can actually go out on the Refuge and fish for free. There will be programs, activities and games for the kids. Food will be provided by the Friends of Necedah for a nominal donation.

Summer will be upon us before long, and the activities will increase here every day, as the biology and naturalist summer interns come on board and tours, youth activities and summer programming begin.

My challenge to all of you is to step up any way you can. Hours and hours of volunteer time are needed to fill all the programming and outdoor projects over the summer—budgets have been cut and fewer interns will be able to be hired we will have lots of new programs you can help with—a few hours in the bookstore, help special Artist in Residence scheduling in the display area, local Master Gardner groups are getting involved in wildflower garden maintenance and invasive plant control. You can partner with the local libraries for cross programming or help with new teacher education programs for teaching children in the outdoors. We are also encouraging “walking at the Refuge for healthy living for everybody and for elderly and disabled groups. We need many hands and different talents to make all these programs happen.

NECEDAH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
N11385 Headquarters Road
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We still need lots of work and many volunteers to step up and help us with this exciting venture.

Please check out the Friends (www.friendsofnwr.org) and Refuge’s (www.fws.gov/midwest/necedah) websites and Facebook pages to discover all the exciting programming coming up in the next few months.

Come on out to Necedah NWR---explore the Refuge, hike the newly improved trail system, enjoy spring bird watching -- wild crane chicks are hatching almost every day-- read and play with all the new displays in the Visitor Center, donate some volunteer hours, and most of all, **join our Friends group. WE KNOW you want to belong to this great group of Friends and be a part of this exciting new venture.**

The Friends of Necedah National Wildlife Refuge thank Concept Printing Company of Necedah, WI for their generous donation of the 4-color printing of these newsletters.

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