



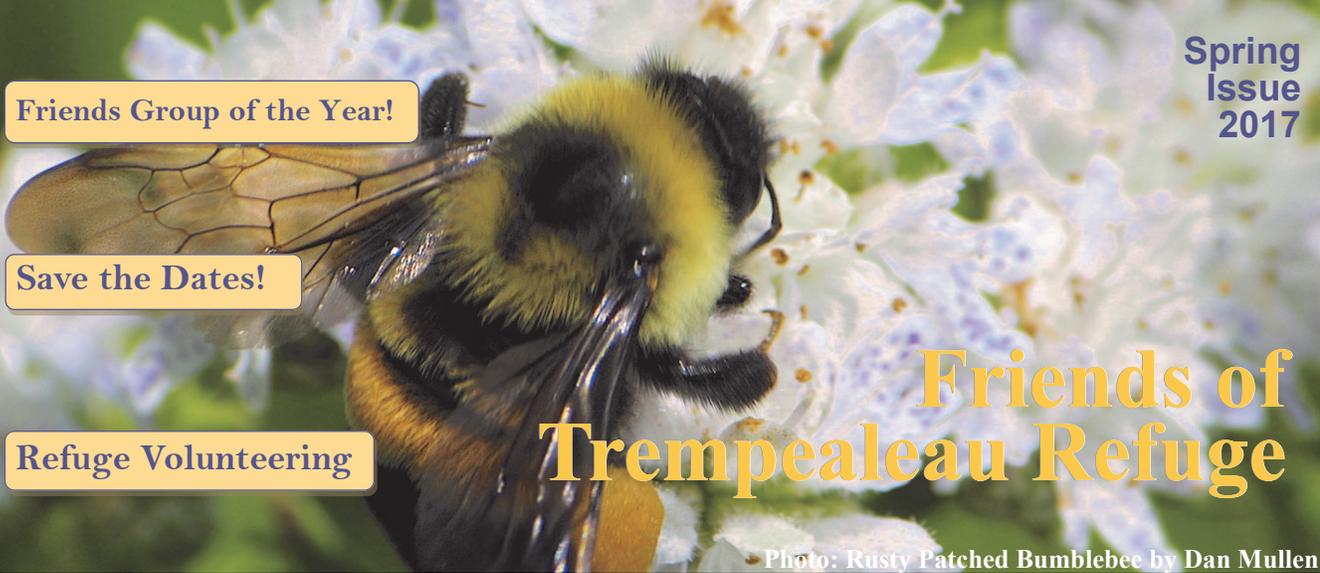
Friends Group of the Year!



Save the Dates!



Refuge Volunteering



Friends of Trempealeau Refuge

Photo: Rusty Patched Bumblebee by Dan Mullen

National Friends Group of the Year Award



We are excited to share the news that we received the 2017 Molly Krival Friends Group of the Year Award! This award is from the National Wildlife Refuge Association and recognizes outstanding contributions

by the Friends organization who provide essential services to the Refuge System. National Wildlife Refuge Association President Geoffrey L. Haskett commended us in stating, "this Friends group embodies a strong positive influence within the refuge and the surrounding community. They support the refuge in every way that they can and have clearly worked tirelessly to help their refuge grow and prosper." Our most impressive accomplishment is the new Outdoor Wonders Learning Center which represents the future of the refuge and provides a place for environmental learning for people, both young and old. We are excited to say it was recently used for a teacher workshop, which left teachers in awe of the possibility of using the refuge to teach their students. It was a great success! Thank you to everybody who helped us achieve so many wonderful accomplishments to advance the mission of the Refuge System. We are proud to accept this esteemed award!

Save The Dates!



May 12th and May 13th—International Migratory Bird Festival

Time to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day! Each year the refuge celebrates IMBD to encourage support for migratory bird conservation. This year's theme is about stopover sites and helping birds along the way. Join the Friends at Elmaro Vineyard, Friday, May 12th to

kick off the bird festival with special guest speaker, Dan Jackson. He will be presenting "Spring Birds of Trempealeau NWR." It will be a fun and informative introduction to the birds found at the refuge in spring, including a few uncommon birds. He will discuss bird behavior, biology, and ecology in an informative and entertaining presentation. Then join us the next day at the refuge to continue the celebration. We invite you to mark your calendars and come join us for this wonderful event! For more information click on this link [TNWR EVENTS WEBPAGE](#)

Saturday, July 15th—Pollinator Festival

Flutters, Flowers, and Fun! Pollinator Festival celebrates the bees, birds, butterflies, beetles, and bats that help to pollinate our ecosystems. We will be celebrating with a wildflower and butterfly hike, local experts, followed by a special guest speaker. Don't miss the opportunity to learn about conserving these vital creatures!



Fun Facts About Our Local Wildlife

By Scott Lee

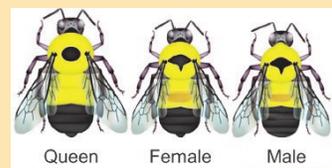
Another quiz to test your knowledge - this time matching some of the critters you might find at the refuge with what their young are called. Can you match up the following critter with what

you would call their babies (such as a cow's baby is a calf)? Some might have the same name or more than one correct name. (The answers can be found later in the newsletter)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Badger | A. nymph |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bat | B. tadpole |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beaver | C. spiderling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cormorant | D. kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote | E. joey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crane | F. duckling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deer | G. kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dragonfly | H. whelp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eagle | I. fawn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fox | J. neonate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frog | K. wriggler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goose | L. toadlet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hawk | M. pup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mallard | N. kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mosquito | O. hatchling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opossum | P. eaglet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Otter | Q. pup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Owl | R. squab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pigeon | S. eyes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbit | T. shaglet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skunk | U. poult |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snake | V. owlet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spider | W. gosling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toad | X. cub |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey | Y. colt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turtle | Z. bunny |

A Bumble Bee Buzzkill

The rusty patched bumble bee recently became an endangered species on January 11th, 2016. Historically this large pollinator was found in Trempealeau County, WI and was widespread in the United States 20 years ago. Since then it has had a dramatic decline with abundance and distribution plummeting by approximately 88 percent. Today we can only find it in a few places within 13 states and 1 Canadian province. Threats to the bumble bee include: loss of habitat; disease and parasites; use of insecticides; climate change, which affects the availability of the flowers they depend on; and small population size-related effects. How can we help the rusty patched bumble bee? Creating habitat, avoiding or reducing insecticide use, managing compatible habitat, and gathering data. Citizen science projects like [bumblebeewatch.org](#) are a great way to help gather information on the rusty patched bumble bee.



Illustrations by Elaine Evans

Refuge Volunteering Opportunities!



Would you or a friend like to become a refuge volunteer? Spring is the refuge volunteer recruiting time and they would love to have you! Refuge volunteers may be involved in a variety of activities that support the refuge. Volunteer jobs may involve helping with maintenance of refuge grounds, assisting with school groups, removing invasive species and greeting the public on the observation deck, to name a few.

In 2016, over 1,200 weekend visitors from twenty-one states and three foreign countries were welcomed to the deck by dedicated refuge volunteers who answered an amazing array of questions. The deck volunteer season runs from May through October and affords volunteers the opportunity to interact with interesting individuals from across the nation and foreign countries. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering at the refuge, join refuge staff and current volunteers for a volunteer orientation on Tuesday, April 25th from 4:30-6:30 pm in the new education building. A picnic dinner will be provided. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend, please call 608-539-2311 ext. #6 or email Jennifer_lilla@fws.gov

A Note from the Friends President



Happy Spring! What an exciting time of year it is. Laura Erickson, Ornithologist and Author, in her book, *For the Birds* has called March a boxing match between Old Man Winter and hesitant new Spring. As time progresses, Winter scores fewer wins and eventually Spring will be the winner. We are ready. Trees are bursting forth with buds, plants that have been dormant for months are emerging with green and ready to grow and blossom. Birds, especially waterfowl are arriving in large flocks. What a thrill to see all of this happening. Each year, Spring bursts forth with surprises that we've not seen before – or so it seems.

In addition to Spring, a lot is happening on our Refuge; the diorama which will be placed above the “kitchen” area in the OWL Center is in final design stages and will be completed this Summer. We await the sprouting of the perennials that have been planted around the Center. It is hard to be patient as the new plants go through their growth stages: year one they sleep, year two they creep and year three they leap! Can we wait? There have been a few Osprey sightings at the rebuilt Osprey platform on Keip's Island.

Sometimes when I am at the Refuge, I feel as if I am the only human that uses the 6,000 plus acres of natural environment. But how wrong that is! There is so much happening and so many others are participating in a variety of activities. Let me share some numbers with you. In 2016, there were 55,500 visitors, 3,700 students attended environmental education programs, 2,500 persons attended special events, there were 7,500 bicyclists, and volunteers donated 2,400 hours of work. For more information, read about volunteer opportunities in this issue. New this year is the Teacher Education Grant. There is so much happening in the Refuge – As Vickie says, “It's your Refuge”. I will add, Let people know about it!

Judith C. Bautch, President

A Note from the Refuge Manager



On behalf of the staff of Trempealeau NWR, I would like to congratulate the Friends for their well deserved designation as “Friends Group of the Year”! The past year has been quite a journey for all of us as we magically watched the Outdoor Wonders Learning (OWL) Center become a reality. So real in fact, that on March 30th, we had 25 teachers attend the first Outdoor Wonders Teacher Workshop for training and orientation to “using the refuge as a teaching tool”. These first groups of teachers left feeling inspired excited and are already scheduling times to bring their students to

the OWL. So, the legacy of environmental learning that has been quietly growing for decades now has a permanent home at the refuge and will continue for generations.

Outstanding “Friends Group of the Year”!

Vickie Hirschboeck, Refuge Manager

Mobile Friendly Friends Website

The Friends of Trempealeau Refuge website is now mobile-friendly! You can easily access the website on your smartphone. More internet users today browse websites on their phone. Having a mobile-friendly website means there is no need to zoom in on the website to read material. The website is now readable and immediately usable. Mobile-friendly tabs also help users to navigate more easily from article to article. This eliminates frustrations and users abandoning our website without getting the information they need.

Answers to matching quiz: Badger/kit (or cub), Bat/pup, Beaver/kit (or pup), Cormorant/shaglet, Coyote/pup (or cub or whelp), Crane/colt, Deer/fawn, Dragonfly/nymph, Eagle/eaglet, Fox/kit (or cub or pup), Frog/tadpole, Goose/gosling, Hawk/eyas, Mallard/duckling, Mosquito/wiggler (or nymph), Opossum/joey, Otter/whelp (or pup), Owl/owllet, Pigeon/squab, Rabbit/bunny, Skunk/kit, Snake/neonate, Spider/spiderling, Toad/toadlet (or tadpole), Turkey/poult, Turtle/hatchling

The [Friends of Trempealeau Refuge](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/trempealeau/) 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.



Would you like to contact the refuge?

Here's how! Call 608-539-2311

or visit the website @

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/trempealeau/>

Visit the refuge Facebook page for current refuge information and “Like” them!

Friends of Trempealeau Refuge
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Trempealeau, WI 54661
608.539.2311

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