



Entrance Road Open!



Hink Pinks



Save the Date!



Friends of Trempealeau Refuge

Friends Focus...

Fun Facts About our Local Wildlife

By Scott Lee

Celebrating 75 Years!

The Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) is celebrating 75 years of partnerships and projects on the River! The UMRCC was created in Dubuque, Iowa on December 15, 1943, with 22 "River Rats" (biologists) from Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. The committee was a temporary organization with the mission of a three-year commercial fishing investigation. However, biologists recognized the necessity of a permanent organization. There was an abundance of other conservation issues that could be more effectively tackled if the five states spoke with a unified voice. Learn more and celebrate with us at the World Migratory Bird Day Event on Saturday, May 11th.

How about some more "Hink Pinks"? In case you forgot what a "hink pink" is, they're two rhyming words that fit for the definition given. For example, a large hog (1) would be a "Big Pig" or my bathroom (2) would be "Scotty's Potty" or my happiness (1) would be "Lee's Glee". (The number after the clue tells you how many syllables in each word). OK, try these, all of which refer to critters you might find in the refuge:

Mammals:

- 1) two large omnivores (1)
- 2) home of a small rodent (1)
- 3) a large weasel that works with clay (2)
- 4) a young, female tree-dwelling rodent (2)
- 5) the mild addiction of a larger rodent (2)
- 6) the odor of a medium sized weasel (1)
- 7) Our wildlife refuge specialist as the official of a basketball game (1)
- 8) fuel used to heat an underground rodent's home (1)

Reptiles/Amphibians:

- 9) a snake that always tells on his friends (2)
- 10) a snake that gives his life for a cause (2)
- 11) a snakes investment certificates (1)
- 12) an amphibian's favorite Christmas drink (1)
- 13) a highway for a warty critter (1)
- 14) a freshly-showered, larger frog (1)

Insects/Bugs:

- 15) an 8-legged, blood-suckers favorite ink pen (1)
- 16) one who leads arachnids in unfamiliar territory (2)
- 17) the urine of a dog-lovers insect (1)
- 18) a dishonest blood-sucking insect (2)
- 19) The droppings of a tiny, annoying insect (1)

Birds:

- 20) the "butcher bird's" complaint (1)
- 21) waterfowl good fortune (1)
- 22) a non-native blackbird's girl friend (2)
- 23) an accipiter's trance (2)
- 24) baby bird's choice (1)
- 25) thin white-throated or chipping (2)



Snake Hike with Matt Heeter

Join us Saturday, June 1st at 9 am to 12 pm at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge for a free reptile and amphibian hike with Matt Heeter. Meet at the Observation Deck. See what's slithering and hopping around the refuge!

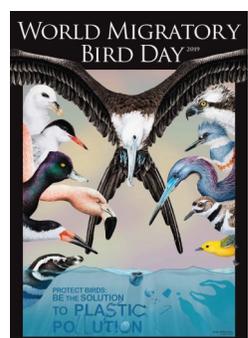
Save The Date!

Friday, May 10th—Annual Bird Festival Kickoff at Elmaro Vineyard

The Friends of Trempealeau Refuge would like to invite you to kickoff World Migratory Bird Day at Elmaro Vineyard! Unwind for a night at Elmaro Vineyard with an incredible presentation by Craig Thompson and wine tasting. He will be presenting, "Taking Tweety's Temperature: The State of Birds." This presentation will provide an overview of the health of North America's birds, factors influencing bird populations and conservation measures underway across the western hemisphere. The presentation promises to be both informative and fun.

Saturday, May 11th —World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) Festival

Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge! Its theme is "Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution." Join us at this FREE event and enjoy special hikes, LIVE raptors, bird banding demonstrations, birding apps program, family fun, and much more! Early bird hikes start at 7 am with Dan Jackson and Markus Mika. Phil S. Addis will present the 3 most important camera settings at 10 AM and Jim Welander will be teaching about easy birding apps. For more information click on this link [TNWR EVENTS WEBPAGE](#)





The Entrance Road is Now Open!

Fly on into the refuge and check out our trails and observation deck. Take caution as some trails may still be flooded. Thank you for your patience as we were working on fixing the road and trails. For updates on conditions check out our Facebook page and website.
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/trempealeau/>

A Note from the Friends President



Welcome Spring!! As I write this article, it's hard to picture green grass with all the snow banks and ice in our yard. But, the weather is changing, and we'll soon be outdoors looking for signs of spring. A great place to do that is the Refuge. Some things you can look and listen for while hiking the trails are pasque flowers, migrating birds, frogs, brown bats, snakes, and turtles at the Turtle Pond basking on the raft.

There are some events coming up at the Refuge this spring. Coming up on Saturday, May 11th is the World Migratory Bird Day at the Refuge. On Friday evening at 5:30, May 10, the Friends will be sponsoring the Kickoff event for the WMBD at the Elmaro Winery. Craig Thompson, from the Wisconsin DNR, will be sharing an enlightening program on the state of birds in Wisconsin.

As the weather turns warm and the grass turns green, it's a great time for educators to bring their students out to the Refuge. We encourage you to sign up for the Outdoor Wonders Learning Center as your classroom. Call or stop in at the office, and they'll be happy to help you.

Enjoy the season and all it's changes. Be sure to check the Refuge's website and Facebook page for details on the spring and summer events. Enjoy 'your' Refuge.

Val Critzman, Friends President

A Note from the Refuge Manager



Spring is here and frogs are calling, birds are singing, and roads are flooding. We are all excited to see the Refuge come alive again with cranes dancing, ducks quacking, and warblers starting to arrive. Winter has dealt the Refuge and staff a challenging hand with intense snowfall amounts and bitter temperatures. Now we are ready to trade in the shovels for flappers and drip torches.

This week staff from Trempealeau, Necedah, and Upper Miss Refuges conducted a prescribed burn on about 140 acres adjacent to the Auto Tour route. Using fire the Refuge is able to more quickly and effectively manage woody plant encroachment, along with stimulating the warm season grasses and forbs, and curtailing the invasive cool season grasses like Kentucky blue grass and smooth brome. Revitalized habitats after recovery from burning provide excellent late nectar production for pollinators.

The Refuge has had a challenging winter followed by continuous spring flooding. We are hopeful that in the next few weeks we can restore access to this birding hot spot. Thank you for your patience as we work to restore access and provide visitor services. Enjoy spring, and I hope to see you at the Refuge soon.

Tim Miller, La Crosse District Manager, UMRNWR



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<http://www.friendsoftrempealeaurefuge.org>

Would you like to contact the refuge?
 Here's how! Call 608-539-2311

For more information visit our website:
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/trempealeau/>
 Or the refuge Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/TrempealeauNWR>
 And "Like" us!

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Answers to "Hink Pinks":

- 1) bear pair (and, yes, there was a bear spotted in the refuge about a year ago)
- 2) mouse house
- 3) otter potter
- 4) girl squirrel
- 5) rabbit's habit
- 6) mink's stink
- 7) ref Steph
- 8) mole coal
- 9) rattler tattler
- 10) garter martyr
- 11) fox stocks
- 12) frog nog
- 13) toad road
- 14) clean green
- 15) tick's Bic
- 16) spider guider
- 17) flea's pee
- 18) cheater skeeter
- 19) gnat scat
- 20) snipe's gripe
- 21) duck luck
- 22) starling's darling
- 23) Cooper's stupor
- 24) chick's pick
- 25) narrow sparrow

The [Friends of Trempealeau Refuge](http://www.friendsoftrempealeaurefuge.org) 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.