

Midewin Programs and Volunteer Days April - June 2015

Please read the RSVP instructions at the bottom.

FREE Tours and Programs. Click for 2015 Event, Program and Tour Brochure	Volunteer Days for Prairie Restoration	Volunteer Training	SPECIAL EVENTS	 Children are always welcome, but these activities are more appropriate
	Volunteer Days for Educators			

Date	Time	Meeting Location	Activity
26 March Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
28 March Saturday	10:00am – 1:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Ghosts of the Ammunition Plant Tour: In 1940, the U.S. Government acquired over 36,000 acres of land to build an ammunition plant. Why here? How was it built and how did it operate?
2 April Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
2 April Thursday	6:30pm Doors Open 7:00pm Presentation	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Lecture Series: “Oh Where, Oh Where Have the Little Oaks Gone?”. Presented by Dave Griffith - IDNR Forestry. Oaks are declining across the state. Find out what is driving oak out of the woods, and what steps can be taken to promote oak regeneration and perpetuate these important trees.
4 April Saturday	10:00am – 12:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Cemetery Tour: Join Midewin tour guides in an exploration of two historic cemeteries. Learn about the lives of some of the farmers, merchants, soldiers, pioneers, their wives and children buried there.
9 April Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
10 April Friday	10:00am – 1:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Mighty Acorns Training/Refresher and Planning Meeting for Spring Into the Prairie Event. New volunteers that are interested in leading youth environmental education activities should contact the volunteer coordinator for more details.
11 April Saturday	9:30am – 12:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Geology of Midewin Tour: Join us for a guided trip to view the rocks, hills and plains in the Midewin area that bear evidence for prehistoric environments.
14 April Tuesday	9:00am – 12:00pm	Turtle Pond via Hoff Rd. Trailhead	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students learn to collect and identify wetland critters and plant native wildflowers. New volunteers are welcome. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator in advance.
15 April Wednesday	9:00am – 1:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Water Quality Monitor Season Kick-off. New volunteers are welcome. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator in advance.
15 April Wednesday	9:30am – 12:30pm	Turtle Pond via Hoff Rd. Trailhead	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students learn to collect and identify wetland critters and plant native wildflowers. New volunteers are welcome. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator in advance.
16 April Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	** General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
16 April Thursday	9:30am – 12:30pm	Turtle Pond via Hoff Rd. Trailhead	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students learn to collect and identify wetland critters and plant native wildflowers. New volunteers are welcome. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator in advance.
17 April Friday	9:30am – 12:30pm	Turtle Pond via Hoff Rd. Trailhead	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students learn to collect and identify wetland critters and plant native wildflowers. New volunteers are welcome. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator in advance.
18 April Saturday	9am – 11am	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Spring into Hiking: Shake off the winter blues with a hike into a wooded area of Midewin. Discover spring flowers nestled into these hidden prairie woodlands. See these ephemeral flowers up close and learn about them.
20 April Monday	11:45am – 2:45pm	Turtle Pond via Hoff Rd. Trailhead	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students learn to collect and identify wetland critters and plant native wildflowers. New volunteers are welcome. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator in advance.
21 April Tuesday	11:45am – 2:45pm	Turtle Pond via Hoff Rd. Trailhead	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students learn to collect and identify wetland critters and plant native wildflowers. New volunteers are welcome. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator in advance.

23 April Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
25 April Saturday 	9:00am – 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Earth Day Celebration! Celebrate and save our woodland wildflowers by pulling invasive garlic mustard. Complimentary hotdog/veggie dog lunch, provided by the Midewin Alliance, will be served at 12:30 pm.
25 April Saturday	9:00am – 1:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Water Quality Monitor Season Kick-off. New volunteers are welcome. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator in advance.
30 April Thursday			RESCHEDULED: **General Restoration Volunteer Day rescheduled to Friday, May 1.
1 May Friday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
2 May Saturday	10:00am – 12:00pm	South Arsenal and Chicago Rds.	Equestrian Tour: Join equestrian volunteers for an interpretive ride through portions of Midewin not yet open to the public. Learn about the history of the land and how it is being managed today. PLEASE NOTE: horse and rider will have to cross bridges, and share the trail system with cattle. Participants must bring their own horses.
2 May Saturday	7:30pm – 9:00pm	Iron Bridge Trailhead	Echoes of Liberty – 150th Anniversary Observance of the Lincoln Funeral Train: On the night of May 2nd/3rd, 1865, the train bearing Lincoln's body on its' journey to Springfield passed through what is now Midewin. Join us as we commemorate the 150th anniversary of this historic event. Listen to music of the era and meet local citizens who lined up along the tracks to pay their final respects.
7 May Thursday			CANCELED: **General Restoration Volunteer Day canceled due to the Spring into the Prairie (private event). Please consider volunteering as event support instead!
7 May Thursday	8:00am – 3:00pm	Iron Bridge Trailhead	Spring into the Prairie: Private environmental education event. Please contact us if you are interested in assisting with this special event.
9 May Saturday	10:30pm – 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Exploring Midewin by Auto Tour: Learn about Midewin's past, present and future as we explore, on foot and car caravan, restored wetlands and prairie and observe rare grassland birds.
13 May Wednesday	6:30pm – 9:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Bird Monitoring Season Kick-off: If you are a bird lover, we are looking for your help! Monitor our feathered friends 3-5 times during the summer. New volunteers welcome.
14 May Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
16 May Saturday	9:30am – 12:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Geology of Midewin Tour: Join us for a guided trip to view the rocks, hills and plains in the Midewin area that bear evidence for prehistoric environments.
16 May Saturday 	9:30am – 11:30pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Midewin for Kids program – Bullies in our Environment . Do you wonder why some plants and animals are bullies? Come learn the answers to your questions. This is an indoor/outdoor event, so wear long sleeves and pants, closed footwear and bring gloves if you have them. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
21 May Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
23 May Saturday	1:00pm – 3:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Memorial Day Tour. Celebrate Memorial Day Weekend on this tour as we honor our veterans and delve into the origins of Memorial Day. Visit local cemeteries on or near Midewin and learn about the role the former Joliet Arsenal played in supporting wartime efforts. Please be flexible on end time.
28 May Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
4 June Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	The Wetlands Initiative (TWI) Corporate Donor Day. Open to all volunteers that want to help plant wetland habitat. Complimentary lunch provided by TWI. RSVP right away before spots fill up.
6 June Saturday	8:00am – 10:00am	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Birds of Midewin Tour: West Side. From prairie, to wetland, to woodland, these habitats at Midewin offer opportunities to see varying species of birds. We will look for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, along with Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers and numerous other birds.
6 June Saturday	9:00am – 11:00am	South Arsenal and Chicago Rds.	Equestrian Tour: Join equestrian volunteers for an interpretive ride through portions of Midewin not yet open to the public. Learn about the history of the land and how it is being managed today. PLEASE NOTE: horse and rider will have to cross bridges, and share the trail system with cattle. Participants must bring their own horses.
6 June Saturday	10:30am – 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Exploring Midewin by Auto Tour. Learn about Midewin's past, present and future as we explore, on foot and car caravan, restored wetlands and prairie and observe rare grassland birds.

11 June Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
13 June Saturday	8:00am – 10:00am	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Birds of Midewin Tour: East Side. From prairie, to wetland, to woodland, these habitats at Midewin offer opportunities to see varying species of birds. We will look for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, along with Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers and numerous other birds.
13 June Saturday	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Twilight Bike Tour: Expect to see an abundance of wildlife which may include deer, turkey, grassland birds and maybe a coyote or two. Since at least part of the route will be on gravel surfaces, "fat" tires are recommended.
17 June Wednesday 	9:30am – 11:30pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Midewin for Kids program – Buzzing About the Prairie. It's National Pollinator Week, so please join us to discover why birds, bats, bees, butterflies, and other insects are so important to all gardens, not just the prairie!
18 June Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
20 June Saturday	8:00am – 10:00am	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Birds of Midewin Tour: West Side. From prairie, to wetland, to woodland, these habitats at Midewin offer opportunities to see varying species of birds. We will look for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, along with Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers and numerous other birds.
24 June Wednesday 	10:00am – 12:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Midewin for Kids program – Prairie Detectives. Come use your detecting skills. Go deep into the heart of the prairie. Use scientific techniques to discover secrets of this tallgrass prairie. Unearth what hides in the rarest ecosystem on earth, if you dare.
25 June Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
27 June Saturday	8:00am – 10:00am	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Birds of Midewin Tour: East Side. From prairie, to wetland, to woodland, these habitats at Midewin offer opportunities to see varying species of birds. We will look for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, along with Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers and numerous other birds.
27 June Saturday	11am – 1:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Welcome Home, Boys in Blue! – 150th Anniversary: Midewin's Civil War Sesquicentennial events conclude this year on a celebratory note. The war to save the Union has come to an end and the local citizen soldiers are coming home. Join with friends and family as they gather on the prairie to welcome home their Boys in Blue and remember those who shall not be returning.

To RSVP for Tours and Programs: Advance registration is required to guarantee your spot by calling our main number (815) 423-6370 or email Midewin_RSVP@fs.fed.us.

To RSVP for Volunteer Days and Trainings: Please contact Kathryn Gorman, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, by phone at (815) 423-2148, email kathryngorman@fs.fed.us or use your [Volgistics account](#).

****General Restoration Volunteer Days** - The activities for these days will be based on need and weather conditions. Activities may include seed cleaning, brush cutting, herbicide treatment, invasive plant pulling, seed broadcasting, and greenhouse planting. Please be prepared for outdoor or indoor work, as we may do more than one activity on a Volunteer Day.

For Volunteer Days: Midewin will provide tools, safety gear, and water. Please bring your own lunch. Dress in layers with sturdy field boots. Volunteer Days and Events do fill up. Knowing how many volunteers or visitors will attend, allows our staff to better organize the event and we can inform you of Changes or Cancellations.

