



Midewin Meadowlark Messenger March 2010

3.7.10

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Winter Welcome Center Hours 8 am-4:30 pm (Mon-Fri)

30239 South State Route 53

Wilmington, IL 60481

Phone: 815-423-6370

<http://www.fs.fed.us/mntp>

Here's what the bird is bringin'

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☆ Calendar of Volunteer Workdays/ Events for March-April

Date and Day	Time	Meeting Location	Activities
18 March 2010 Thursday	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Lecture Series #5: Aldo Leopold <i>presented by Bohdan Dziadky, Augustina College</i> Description Below
25 March 2010 Thursday	8:00am – 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Brush clearing; in extreme weather conditions, this workday will be canceled. PLEASE CALL AHEAD.
31 March 2010	Last Call		Plant Sale Orders Due! See List and Order Form
1 April 2010 Thursday	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Lecture Series #6: Plant Conservation in the Tibetan Borderlands <i>presented by Bob Mosley, The Nature Conservancy</i> Description Below
8 April 2010 Thursday	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Heritage Program Orientation: Learn about ongoing and upcoming Heritage projects and how you can be involved.
10 April 2010 Saturday	9:00am - 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Moving dormant prairie plants back to the shade houses. Need 20-30 volunteers!
12 April 2010 Monday	9:30am - Noon	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Mighty Acorn Training Workshop, click for details
15 April 2010 Thursday	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Lecture Series #7: Preservation of Historic Cemeteries <i>presented by Dawn Cobb, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency & Hal Hassen, Illinois DNR</i>
24 April 2010 Saturday	9:00am - 2:30pm	TBA	Earth Day: Garlic Mustard Removal Large groups welcome!

29 April 2010 Thursday	8:00am - 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Invasive Control
29 April 2010 Thursday	7:00pm - 8:00pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Lecture Series #8: Climate Change <i>presented by Renee Thakali, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie</i>

For more information about the workshops or events listed or to RSVP contact Allison Hedden, Volunteer Coordinator at 815-423-2149 or ahedden@fs.fed.us.

Knowing how many volunteers will attend a workday allows Midewin staff to better organize the workday, and we can inform you of any changes. Workdays may be cancelled if extreme weather occurs (again, please call ahead). If you plan on staying for the entire workday, please bring your lunch. As always, Midewin will provide tools, safety gear, and water for volunteers. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied and supervised by a parent, guardian or chaperones (for educational groups). Volunteer groups are welcome to join our workdays; many hands make for light work. Please do not bring dogs or other pets to workdays.



Click this icon for Driving Directions

☆ 10-Minute Volunteer Survey

Please consider taking a few minutes to complete this survey. These results may help the Midewin Volunteer Program. Sam McAleese, a senior at Northwestern University is currently doing research on conservation groups' outreach efforts in the Chicago area.

His research group wants to help volunteer organizations get a better understanding of how to recruit and retain volunteers.

Link to survey:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/a/u.northwestern.edu/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dGZBYUs1OHNCZGFsSzdWQ3h1aTJxcUE6MA>

☆ Mighty Acorns Training for Spring Session

Children have a natural curiosity for so many things in their surrounding environment and the Mighty Acorns Youth Stewardship program provides them with knowledge and activities that will encourage them to connect with nature. The Mighty Acorns program invites students from local schools on a field trip to Midewin to participate in some activities based on education, restoration, and exploration. This is a fantastic way to get generations together to share stories and learn from each other. Spring activities include wetland wildlife, birds and binoculars, learn how invasives take over, and pulling Garlic Mustard.

Midewin has room on the volunteer education staff for anyone looking to share and gain experience.

The spring training workshop is on **Monday, April 12. Meet at the Midewin Welcome Center at 9:30am.**

For more information about the program call Wendy Tresouthick at 815.423.2147 or wltresouthick@fs.fed.us or RSVP to Allison Hedden at 815.423.2149 or ahedden@fs.fed.us.

☆ Lecture Series Descriptions

The U.S. Forest Service will offer FREE public lectures January through May featuring the natural and cultural history of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and northeastern Illinois.

Presenters include Midewin staff, faculty from area universities, and individual experts.

Thursday, March 18, 7:00p-8:00p

Preserving the Cogs and Wheels of the Land Organism (Aldo Leopold)

Presenter: Bohdan Dziadky, Professor of Biology & director of Field Stations; Augustina College

Scholar, sportsman, writer and revolutionary, Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) stands at the headwaters of the contemporary *environmental ethics* movement. Author of hundreds of articles on conservation produced steadily from his teens to the end of his life, he is best known for his popular 1949 book, *A Sand County Almanac*. As a plea for a new type of "land ethic," this work makes a powerful case for the preservation of the full range of living things, the very "cogs and wheels" of the biota, from the tiny mustard to the mighty wolf, from the Iowa marshlands of his youth to the Wisconsin sand county where still stands his beloved 'shack'. Yet Leopold cautions the modern land custodian that not all species can or should be nurtured. The exotic and alien species he observed more than 60 years ago have been joined by others from all over the world representing a severe and growing threat to our native communities. In Bo Dziadyk's presentation, *Preserving the Cogs and Wheels of the Land Organism*, Dziadyk will stress the biotic and cultural importance of native species and ecosystems, focusing on Illinois, and the threats that aliens represent to their integrity and survival.

Thursday, April 1, 7:00p-8:00p

Plant Conservation in the Tibetan Borderlands

Presenter: Bob Mosley, Illinois Director of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy

Learn about Bob's work in the most diverse temperate ecosystem on Earth. In addition to its renown as a center of floristic diversity, it was also the center of horticultural plant hunting in the early 20th century. You'll get to see the native origins of many plants that now also grow in your yard.

☆ Reminiscing This Winter with the Volunteer Staff

Pat Warren and Tim Magner hand clean seed harvested last year





Mike Rzepka skillfully cleans seeds with the machines



Trail Stewards chose their trail segments to start managing and monitoring

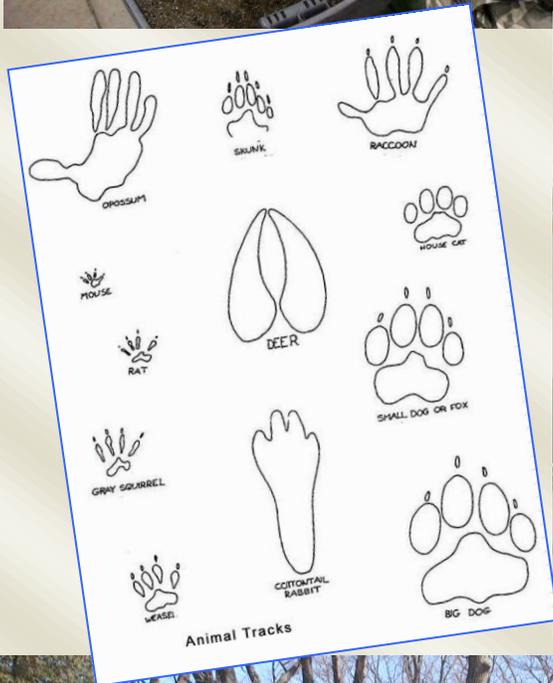


Trinity Services, Wilmington Center, plants Porcupine Grass





Volunteer Instructor, Don Grisham trains the Mighty Acorns how to fill plug trays for other Acorn students to plant



New Environmental Education Specialist, Wendy Tresouthick, teaches Acorn students about evidence of winter wildlife



Cub Scout Pack 258 helps remove many invasive Honeysuckle shrubs from the historic Moses-Morgan farmstead near the Iron Bridge Trailhead

☆ Help Wanted

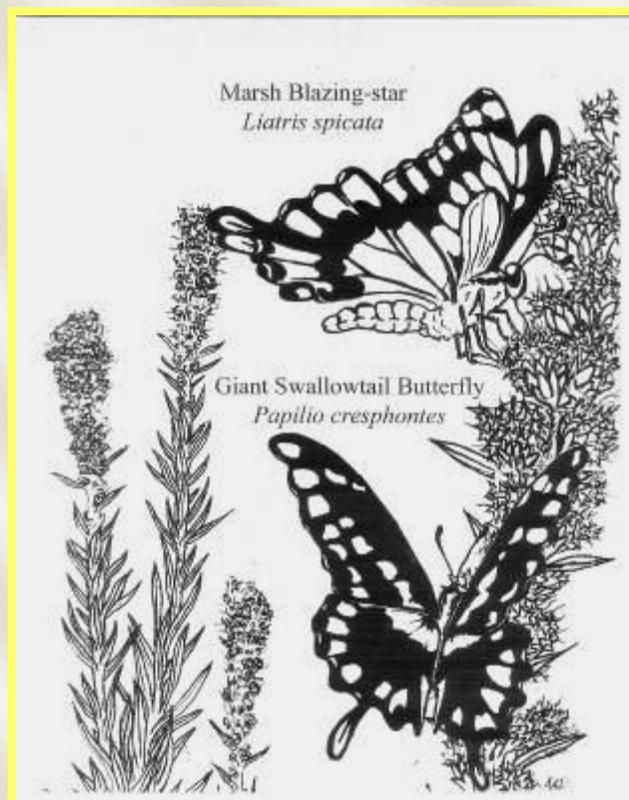
Position: Wildflower Coloring Book Artist

Purpose: Promote knowledge and appreciation for native prairie wildflowers and their pollinators.

Responsibilities: Draw (either by hand or on a computer) scientifically accurate wildflowers and pollinators in a coloring book-style that is consistent with what has been produced so far. Example drawn by Amy Dombrowski.

Qualifications: Artistic ability to realistically depict flowers and insects. *Samples of art work are desired prior to project.*

Time Commitment: The time it takes to finish drawing one page, although doing multiple pages would be appreciated



Midewin has a variety of volunteer opportunities year round, come and find one that fits your style or feel free to offer your own hobby:

Environmental Education
Mighty Acorn Instructor
Welcome Center Host
Interpreter/Ambassador

Trail maintenance
Construction
Woodworking
Prairie planting
Seed cleaning
Seed harvest

Ecological Monitoring
Cemetery maintenance
Invasive control
Research
Landscaping
Office Assistant
Art/Design
Photography
Editing documents
Oral History Recorder
And more...

To unsubscribe to this newsletter please contact Allison Hedden at 815.423.2149 or use this link. I will also welcome any articles you would like to submit.

<mailto:ahedden@fs.fed.us?subject=unsubscribe me please>