



7.13.10

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

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

30239 South State Route 53

Wilmington, IL 60481

Phone: 815-423-6370

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

Midewin Meadowlark Messenger July 2010

Here's what the bird is bringin'

Click title or scroll through

- ☆ [Calendar of Volunteer Workdays and Events for July-August](#)
- ☆ [Heritage Workday: Arsenal History](#)
- ☆ [Alliance Picnic for Members and Volunteer Staff](#)
- ☆ [Help Wanted: Volunteer Shade House Assistant](#)
- ☆ [Reminiscing with the Volunteer Staff](#)
- ☆ [Tour Descriptions](#)
- ☆ [Unsubscribe](#)

☆ Calendar of Volunteer Workdays/ Events for July-August

[Back to Top](#)

Date and Day	Time	Meeting Location	Activities
10 July 2010 Saturday	10:00am - Noon	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Bike Tour
15 July 2010 Thursday	8:00am – 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Restoration Workday: Invasive Plant Control. <i>Free T-shirts provided by The Wetlands Initiative.</i>
15 July 2010 Thursday	8:30am – 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Restoration Vegetation Monitoring (Route 66 Prairie): Some experience in plant identification required and a desire to learn. Please call for details
16 July 2010 Thursday	8:30am – 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Restoration Vegetation Monitoring (Route 66 Prairie): Some experience in plant identification required and a desire to learn. Please call for details
17 July 2010 Saturday	9:00 am – 3:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Heritage Workday: Arsenal History Documenting bunkerglyphs (bunker graffiti).
17 July 2010 Saturday	10:00am - Noon	River Road Seedbeds	War Plants to Prairie Plants Tour
17 July 2010 Saturday	6:30 pm	Iron Bridge Trailhead	Midewin Alliance Picnic: Members and volunteer staff welcome
28 July 2010 Wednesday	10:00am – Noon	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Midewin for Kids: Reptiles and Amphibians 
7 August 2010 Saturday	8:30am - 10:30am	Call for specific directions	History on Horseback Tour
7 August 2010 Saturday	9:00am – 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg.)	Restoration Workday: Installing prairie plant plugs in a habitat restoration project. <i>Free T-shirts provided by TWI.</i>

7 August 2010 Saturday	10:00am - Noon	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	What's With the Cows? Program
12 August 2010 Thursday	8:00am – 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Restoration Workday: Wild Seed marking & collecting <i>Free T-shirts provided by The Wetlands Initiative.</i>
14 August 2010 Saturday	8:00am - 10:00am	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Birds East Tour 
18 August 2010 Wednesday	10:00am - Noon	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Midewin for Kids: Critter Hike
21 August 2010 Saturday	9:00 am – 2:30pm	River Road Seed Beds	Restoration Workday: Installing prairie plant plugs at River Road. <i>Free T-shirts provided by The Wetlands Initiative.</i>
26 August 2010 Thursday	8:00 am - Noon	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Restoration Workday: Invasive Plant Control <i>Free T-shirts provided by The Wetlands Initiative.</i>
28 August 2010 Saturday	10:00am - 2:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Ghosts of the Ammunition Plant Tour

[Back to Top](#)

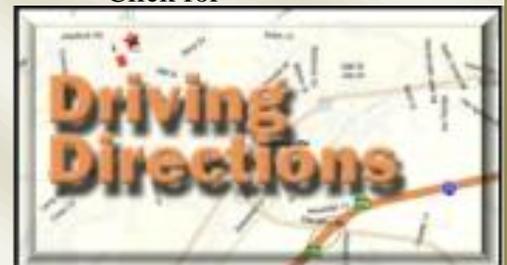
For more information about the workdays and events listed or to RSVP contact Allison Hedden, Volunteer Coordinator at 815-423-2149 or ahedden@fs.fed.us.

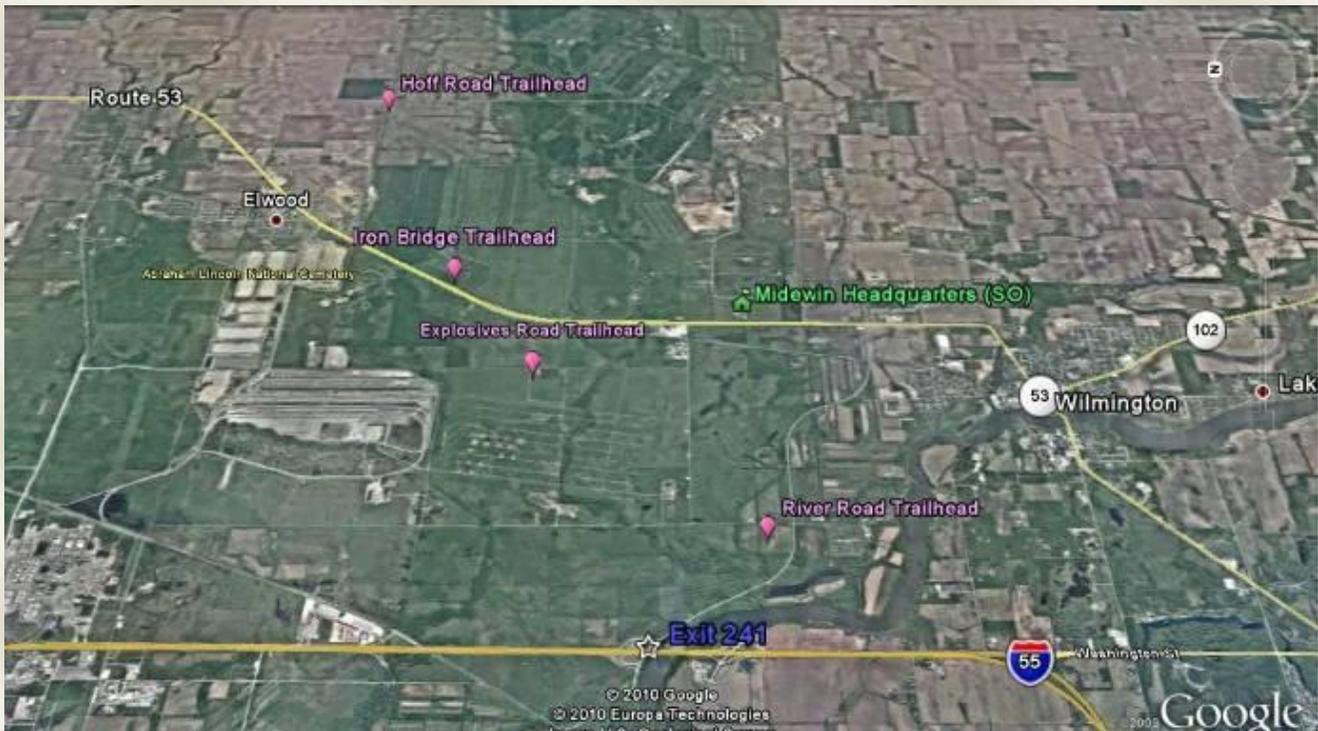
Knowing how many volunteers will attend a workday allows Midewin staff to better organize the workday, and we can inform you of any changes. *Workdays may be cancelled if extreme weather occurs (again, please call ahead).*

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 for





☆ Heritage Workday: Arsenal History

[Back to Top](#)

Saturday, July 17, 9am-3pm. Meet at the Welcome Center

People have always been leaving their "mark" through pictures and graffiti. Workers of the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant were no different. These pictographs provide insight into the daily lives and personalities of arsenal workers. Volunteers at the upcoming heritage workday will record pictographs in our "Bunkerglyph" project before they are lost during the demolition of the bunkers for Prairie restoration. Come preserve this part of Arsenal history!

Please RSVP by Thursday.

This workday will be cancelled without an adequate group size so please check the Midwin calendar on the website at <http://prem.calendars.net/mntp>. We will post any cancellations by Friday.

☆ Alliance Picnic for Members and Volunteer Staff

[Back to Top](#)

Reminder to Midwin Volunteers and Associates

It's not too late to make plans to attend, the Midwin Alliance Picnic.

Midwin volunteers, staff, friends, and family are invited to join members of the Midwin Alliance on July 17th for a Saturday evening potluck picnic. The picnic will be held under the Alliance "Big Top" at the **Iron Bridge Trailhead** at Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie.

We plan to eat at approximately 6:45 p.m. Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share. The Midwin Alliance will provide bratwurst, hamburgers, hot dogs, corn-on-the-cob, beverages, plates and utensils. A limited number of picnic tables will be available (you might want to bring a folding chair). The picnic will be held rain or shine. Consider coming early for a late afternoon hike on the new Midwin West Side Trail. An RSVP would be appreciated, but is not mandatory. To RSVP or to receive additional information, contact Jerry Heinrich at 815-476-6171 or g.heinrich@sbcglobal.net

☆ Help Wanted: Volunteer Shade House Assistant

[Back to Top](#)

Purpose: Contribute to maintenance of native plants in our restoration program through the very important task of regularly watering and monitoring shade houses.

Duties and Responsibilities: Prior to outplanting, we are required to maintain the health and vitality of native plants we grow and purchase. In addition to the plants grown here, deliveries of purchased plants are temporarily kept outside of the shade houses on the gravel pad behind the horticulture building until planting, as space is limited in the houses. Volunteers would be instructed in watering and monitoring techniques and supervised by restoration staff. Additional responsibilities include identifying potential threats (such as pests, disease and weeds) and monitoring germination of seeds in the propagation program. Simple organization of misplaced plants may be appreciated on occasion.

Qualifications: This task requires attention to detail for monitoring and organization. Light lifting and stamina in standing for an hour or two at one time (variable) in heat and humidity (although houses provide some shade). Volunteers should be able to move hoses as necessary to accomplish task.

Time Commitment: During the growing season, all plants are regularly watered using a watering wand three times per week. If multiple volunteers are interested, the shift could be as little as once a week. We currently have three shade houses that house plants, with the expected addition of another shade house constructed midsummer, 2010. Each shade house takes approximately 1 to 1 ½ hours for a thorough watering (in extremely hot weather, it may take a longer, as plants may need a double dose of water). Midwin does ask that once the volunteer declares their commitment they adhere to that commitment, and let their supervisor know when a change in commitment is needed.

Volunteer Benefits: This task provides a unique opportunity to interact with many species of prairie plants up close and to hone plant identification skills of prairie forbs and grasses (and weeds that occasionally crop up!). Schedule is somewhat flexible as long as it is consistent. Midwin's volunteer staff receives bimonthly newsletters and an invitation to the volunteer recognition banquet.

☆ Reminiscing with the Volunteer Staff

[Back to Top](#)

Interpretive Skills Training Workshop



RiverWatch macroinvertebrate identification in Midwin's lab. I guess the easy part is catching them.



Before: Yuck, and yes we had to wear gloves and masks.



After: This looks much nicer to show Midewin tour participants!



Volunteer Lee Witkowski led a bird tour for the Illinois Young Birders



Volunteer Restoration Staff continues to help restore Midewin's wetland areas, like the Middle Grant Creek area.



There were some special guest appearances like this 6 spotted fishing spider, Pied-billed Grebes, Blue-winged Teals, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Great Blue Herons, Bullfrogs, Green frogs and Dragonflies

[Back to Top](#)



Workday sponsored by The Wetlands Initiative: Thanks to Tellabs, Waste Management, Alliance Pipeline and CenterPoint for donating employee time to help plant 4000 plants at Grant Creek Annex wetland restoration area. Also the kickoff for Free Midewin T-shirts!



☆ Tour Descriptions

[Back to Top](#)

The U.S. Forest Service will offer FREE public tours May through October featuring the natural and cultural history of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

Advanced registration is required. Leave a message at (815) 423-2170 or email L.Bazan@fs.fed.us. Please leave contact info in case we need to contact you about cancellations or changes to the tour schedule.

Tour Descriptions and Schedule

<http://www.fs.fed.us/mntp/visiting/tours.htm>



Tour Guide, Lorin Schab, leading the Ghosts of the Ammo Plant tour.

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
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>