



12.27.2011
 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.usda.gov/midewin>

Midewin Meadowlark Messenger January 2012

Here's what the bird is bringin'

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☆ A New Year's Resolution for 'Almost Volunteers'

Each year I receive emails from Meadowlark readers stating that they have been meaning to volunteer at Midewin for awhile, but just haven't made it out. Some hopefuls even pick out some dates and then get pulled back into a whirl of other commitments. Our workdays have a very high success rate of clearing the mind and this type of therapy is free! So my suggestion to anyone working or retired, age 7 or 70, nature-phobic or nature-phobic is to first commit to one workday per season. Joining us 4 times a year is a great way to see some processes come full circle and keep up with lots of changes. A workday per season will certainly get you invited to our annual Volunteer Banquet too. Bring your family and friends and make workdays at Midewin a tradition. If you are ready to resolve, go ahead and pick out your first winter workday for 2012 below in green!

☆ Calendar of Workdays/ Events for Jan-Feb

Tours/presentations

Volunteer workdays

Training workshops

Special Events



Children are always welcome, but these activities are more appropriate

Date and Day	Time	Meeting Location	Activity
5 January 2012 Thursday	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	General Restoration (description below)
11 January 2012 Wednesday	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	General Restoration (description below)
14 January 2012 Saturday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Seed Cleaning
19 January 2012 Thursday	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	General Restoration (description below)
19 January 2012 Thursday	7:00 pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Free Lecture Series: The topic is Bison and will be presented by Bill Kleiman, Nachusa Grasslands Project Director. Advance registration is preferred, see below.

26 January 2012 Thursday	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	General Restoration (description below)
2 February 2012 Thursday	9:00 am – 3:00pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	General Restoration (description below)
2 February 2012 Thursday	7:00 pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Free Lecture Series: Jack MacRae, naturalist with the FPD of DuPage Co, Hear stories about his 240 mile “Trek Across the Chicago Wilderness” to explore 50 natural areas. Advance registration is preferred, see below.
4 February 2012 Saturday	9:00 am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Seed cleaning and/or planting
9 February 2012 Thursday	9:00 am – 3:00pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	General Restoration (description below)
15 February 2012 Wednesday	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	General Restoration (description below)
16 February 2012 Thursday	7:00 pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Free Lecture Series: The topic will be about the use of fire as a restoration tool and fire prevention at Midewin and nationally, presented by Jeff Martina, Midewin’s Fire Management Officer. Registration is preferred, see below.
23 February 2012 Thursday	9:00 am – 3:00pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	General Restoration (description below)

To RSVP for Lecture Series: Advance registration is preferred either by calling our main number 815/423-6370 or at [Midewin RSVP@fs.fed.us](mailto:Midewin_RSVP@fs.fed.us).

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and lectures begin at 7:00 p.m. Complimentary drinks will be provided courtesy of The Midewin Alliance.

To RSVP for workdays: Please contact Gemma Guenther, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, by phone at 815-423-2148 or email gguenther@fs.fed.us

Half days are optional for certain workdays, please call and ask.

Knowing how many volunteers or visitors will attend an event allows Midewin staff to better organize the event, and we can inform you of any Changes or Cancellations. Midewin will provide tools, safety gear, and water. Please bring your own lunch. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied and supervised by a parent, guardian. Youth groups must come with chaperones. Please do not bring pets to workdays.

General Restoration Workdays

The activities for these days won't be planned until a couple days beforehand and will be based on need and weather conditions, so check [Volgistics](#) or call ahead. Activities will contribute to the overall restoration of Midewin and 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 workday.

[Link to Directions: Supervisors Office \(SO\) and River Road Seedbeds](#)



☆ Mighty Acorns Youth Program Schedule

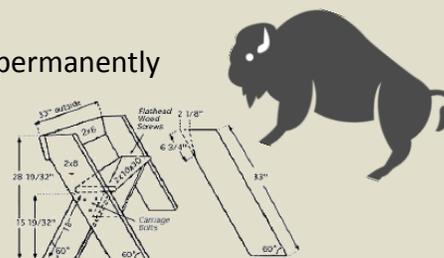
If you think you may be a good fit as a nature activity instructor, we invite you to observe several Mighty Acorn youth program sessions. There are also spring and fall sessions for these 5 local elementary schools. For more information or to RSVP, contact Gemma.

DATE	TIME	SCHOOL	# OF STUDENTS	Meeting Location
January 19, Th	9:30-12:30	Hufford	65 kids	All session meet at the Welcome Center
January 23, Mo	11:45- 2:45	Stevens	58 kids	
January 24, Tu	9:00- Noon	St. Rose	12 kids	
January 27, Fr	9:30- 12:15	Hadley	100 kids	
January 30, Mo	9:30- 12:15	Hadley	100 kids	
January 31, Tu	11:45- 2:45	Stevens	58 kids	
February 1, We	9:30- 12:15	Hadley	100 kids	
February 3, Fr	9:30- 12:15	Hadley	100 kids	
February 14, Tu	9:30- 12:30	Cunningham	50 kids	
February 16, Th	9:30- 12:30	Cunningham	50 kids	

☆ Help Wanted: Volunteer Woodworkers and Welders

We have had several projects come up that may be of interest to our local handy volunteers. Please view these opportunities. If you think you are the one for the job, please contact me, Allison Cisneros, at (815) 423.2149. We can discuss scheduling and tools in more detail.

- 1 **Bunker Doors:** Welding pins on the bunker doors to keep certain ones permanently open or shut.
- 2 **Tree Signs:** Cutting wood signs to label certain trees along trails. The names will have to be added to the signs using a router.
- 3 **Bison Cutouts:** Life size, wooden, bison cutouts. We have the design.
- 4 **Aldo Leopold chairs**



☆ Will County Master Naturalist Program: Register by Jan 12

If you are interested in becoming a Master Naturalist through this program, **Registration is open until January 12, 2012.** There is a fee of \$250. The Will County Master Naturalist Program Training will be from January 30 through April 2, 2012. Classes will be held on consecutive Mondays for 10 weeks from 9:30am until 2:30pm. There will also be two additional field trips. There is a volunteer service hour component that you can fulfill by volunteering at Midewin or any natural area in your community. If this schedule does not work for you, keep in mind that on odd number years (starting 2013) classes will be held March-June later in the evening (possibly 4pm-8:30pm). Please visit this link for more information or to register.

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/gkw/willmn/>

Thanks for making 2011 so special. We hope to see you soon



Happy New Year!