



War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary Local Sanctuary Committee Annual Report Fiscal Year 2020

Reporting Time Period: April 1, 2020 2019 – March 31, 2020

Report Submitted by: John B. Wallace

Management Activities

On June 30, 2018, a storm came through War Bluff Valley Sanctuary (WBVS), toppling many mature trees. So many trees came down that nearly every trail on the sanctuary was blocked. Since the storm, the LSC has focused operations and support efforts on slowly clearing the large, downed trees from trails and/or rerouting trails around the downed trees. Approximately five miles of trails out of 6.5 -7 miles of trails have been opened. Mowing of the trails and the lawn area around buildings was extensive this year due to copious amounts of rain.

Soft spots, muddy driveway and parking areas motivated the LSC to arrange for delivery of driveway gravel. In preparation for several events and meetings, 10 tandem axle truckloads of gravel were delivered (late in FY 2019) and tail-gated on the driveway and parking areas. While only one truckload was dumped into a pile, the "tail gated" gravel was very rough and had to smoothed out by both tractor grading and hauling, and by hand raking.

Facilities repair and maintenance work included finding various leaks and freeing clogs in kitchen drain pipe for the house, digging up the broken pipe and repairing. The water systems (pumps, pipes and intake valves) for the yard hydrants and the kitchen sink in Kestrel Hall need to be activated every spring and winterized every fall. The flue for the wood burner in kestrel hall is cleaned annually and pipe repaired, as needed. Siding from the house that blew off in a storm was reattached. Outhouses and Kestrel Hall are cleaned regularly, and Kestrel Hall tables & chairs are reorganized for events.

Equipment maintenance and repair included repairing tires on UTV and on tractor and replacing a tire on the riding mower. Oil was changed in the tractor and riding mower, and a mower belt was installed on the mower.

We currently monitor and maintain 12 bluebird boxes, 10 hummingbird feeders and 3 seed bird feeders.

In the spring, LSC did pull garlic mustard in four relatively small patches in separate locations. Relatively small autumn olive trees were removed in the prairie planting area near the welcome sign. The caretaker also burned the prairie planting area and another open area near that adjoins the lawn next to the outbuildings. Together, they are about an acre in size.

The highlight of our educational events at War Bluff Valley continue to be the annual Hummingbird Day and Insect Awareness and Appreciation Day (IAAD) on July 27 and August 24, respectively.

Hummingbird Day featured several presentations on natural history, gardening for hummingbirds and how best attracting the birds. Families participated in the educational, Migration Headaches game and observation stations were set up for hummingbird viewing at the gardens and the many feeders at the sanctuary. Hummingbird feeders and various accessories were offered for sale. 95 people attended.

IAAD has been an ongoing event at War Bluff for 25 years. It was inspired by the late Drs. Richard & Jean Graber (INHS ornithologists and WBVS donors). Upon retirement Dick and Jean began to research the food forest birds relied on, insects. It features workshops on gardening for butterflies, discussions and observations on sanctuary pollinators and insect collecting, observation (and release) in several aquatic habitats. An insect zoo, face painting and insect crafts are provided for the young at heart. The daytime workshops are followed by the LSC serving up a tasty meal to participants, providing insect poetry, insect jokes and putting on the Really Cool Raffle. As entertainment, the musical trio, RogannboB performed their uniquely southern Illinois folk music including numerous insect related tunes. Approximately 140 people attended.

The War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary Open House took place on November 9, and included a chapter meeting, sanctuary hike, a chili cook-off, lunch plus some story telling around the fire. It was sparsely attended (maybe 12 people).

Participating Volunteers

Kevin Nagele
Henry Mulder
Karen Frailey
Andrea Douglas
Debbie Hogg
Kaitlyn Lamaster
Nick Seaton
Corina Lang
Kathryn Carter
Ruth Hoak
Anne & Bill Parmley
Sedonia Sipes
Jo Fesset
Kelsey Bowe
Katie Heidon
Jared Bilak
John Wallace

Total Volunteer Hours

715

Donations

\$250 Shawnee Chapter, Illinois Audubon Society

Contract Work and/or Grant Items

IAS Applied for a grant for the following fiscal year to the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation for Public Amenities and BioBlitz Event at War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary of up to \$5,500 (ID: 8084). The grant has been awarded to IAS. No expenditures have been made nor work completed this fiscal year.

Approximate Number of Visitors (Annually)

350

Promotions

See attached documents

Additional Information

An additional 40 acres adjacent to the sanctuary was purchased by IAS this fiscal year. The new acreage consists of two, 20-acre rectangular parcels added to the southwest corner of War Bluff Valley. Prior to purchase, the sanctuary corner touched a rectangular corner of Shawnee National Forest (SNF) land, but otherwise did not adjoin. The two parcels now allow our boundary to partially wrap around the SNF corner as they adjoin the national forest on the south and on the west.

Both parcels are forested. One parcel was heavily damaged during the 2018 Wind storm, with the majority of mature trees downed or damaged. The other segment lost some trees but escaped the major impact from the storm. It includes a picturesque valley carpeted with Christmas, broad beech and maidenhair ferns. Several unusual plants have been located on the new additions including American spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*), Showy orchid (*Galearis spectabilis*) and American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*). Showy orchid picture attached.

Attachments

Promotions

Hummingbird Day Flier, July 2019

IAAD Flier, August 2019

Shawnee Chapter Illinois Audubon Society
Stewards of War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary



**Hummingbirds
Everything You Need to Know!**

Saturday July 27 9 AM – Noon
War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, 228 Bushwack Rd, Golconda, IL 62938
Come see these fascinating little birds up close & learn more about their amazing lives!

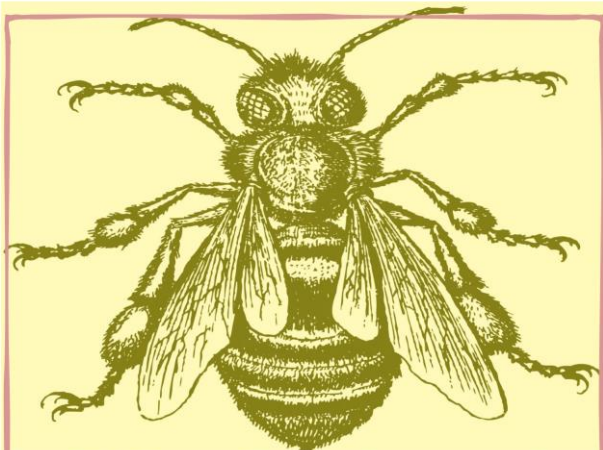
Info & Programs on Feeding, Gardening for & Attracting Hummingbirds.	Hummingbird Merchandise T-shirts, Garden Signs, Feeders & Accessories	Bring: hat, drinking water, sunscreen, Friends, Family & Children!
Children's Activities & Crafts		Leave behind: Pets

Directions from Golconda: Take Route 146 north 3.5 miles to Bushwack Road and turn left. Follow Bushwack Road about 2.2 miles to the sanctuary entrance on the right. Call 618-534-7870, email featherfoil1@gmail.com



**Free and Open to the Public—
Everyone is Welcome!**

Shawnee Chapter is the local chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society, and serves as stewards of War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Pope County. Illinois Audubon Society has been helping preserve Illinois flora and fauna since 1897.



**24TH ANNUAL INSECT AWARENESS &
APPRECIATION DAY**
SAT AUG 24TH 3PM - ?
War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
228 Bushwack Rd, Golconda IL 62938

Directions: take Rt 146 N of Golconda, go 3.5 miles, turn left onto Bushwack Rd, go 2.2 miles- Sanctuary entrance on the right. Watch for signs! (If using GPS, download map - there is no signal along the road!)

FIELD TRIPS, PROGRAMS, INSECT CRAFTS & FACE PAINTING 3-5:30 pm
POTLUCK DINNER 6 pm
(Please bring a dish to share - main dish provided)
Followed by...
REALLY COOL RAFFLE of kid & adult nature-related & local items
INSECT OPEN MIC
ROGANBOB rowdy folk music with a Southern Illinois twist

Free & Open to the Public! Everyone Welcome!

Shawnee Chapter Illinois Audubon Society
Stewards of War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

Bring your favorite beverage,
lawn chair & friend!
Please leave your pets at home
Call or text 618.534.7870 or email
featherfoil1@gmail.com for info

PSA - IAAD 2019

Sat Aug 24th - 24th Annual Insect Awareness & Appreciation Day!

A celebration of all things Insect! Held at War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Golconda, IL and sponsored by Shawnee Chapter Illinois Audubon Society. 3 PM Workshops & Field trips, Insect Zoo, Face-painting, Insect Crafts. 6PM Potluck Dinner (main dish provided - please bring a dish to share) Followed by **Really Cool Raffle** of nature-related & local items, Insect Open Mic, \and local musical trio **RobAnboB**, playing the gospel of goof & rowdy folk music with a Southern Illinois twist. Bring your favorite beverage, lawn chair & friend. Please leave your pets at home.

Directions to War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, located at 228 Bushwack Rd, Golconda, IL 62938: Follow Rt. 146 north from the 4-way stop in Golconda. Go 3.5 miles, turn left at Bushwack Road (the first road past the Eddyville Blacktop), marked by a brown binocular Wildlife Viewing sign. Follow Bushwack Road (blacktop, then gravel) 2.2 miles. Turn right at the Illinois Audubon Sanctuary sign. Don't give up! Watch for signs! (It's recommended that you download the map, as there is no signal along the road) For more information, please call or text 618.534.7870 or email featherfoil1@gmail.com

Press Release – IAAD 2019

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Shawnee Chapter is the local chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society. Established in 1897, The Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) is an independent non-profit organization. The mission of the Illinois Audubon Society is to promote the perpetuation and appreciation of native plants and animals and the habitats that support them. For more information, please call or text 618.534.7870 or email featherfoil1@gmail.com

Photographs

IAAD – PollinatorWorkshop, August 24, 2019



IAAD – Aquatic Insects, August 24, 2019



IAAD – Aquatic Insects, August 24, 2019



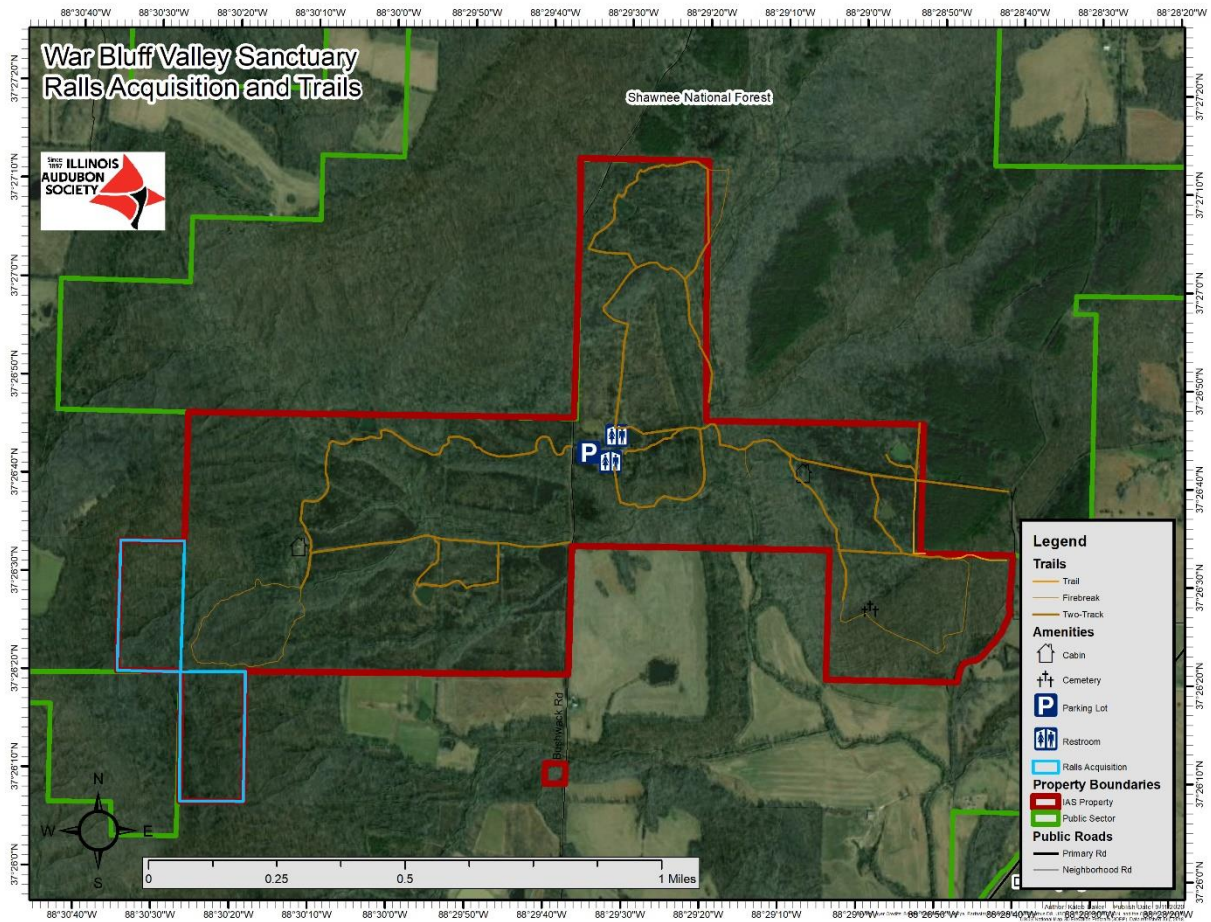
IAAD – Evening, August 24, 2019



Showy Orchid at War Bluff Valley, April 27, 2020



Map



End.