



## **War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary Local Sanctuary Committee Annual Report Fiscal Year 2021**

**Reporting Time Period:** April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

**Report Submitted by:** John B. Wallace

### **Management Activities**

- Not surprisingly, FY 2021 was shaped by the COVID 19 pandemic. The year started with the newly initiated state lock down in full force. All events were canceled including Hummingbird Day in July, Insect Awareness and Appreciation Day in August and the Open House in November. The BioBlitz was postponed until next year, as well. Several monthly stewardship days were canceled, and no outreach took place for additional volunteers, this year.
- Stewardship activities proceeded cautiously (following COVID 19 protocols) with only established volunteers. Stewardship focused primarily on the project of opening the remaining trails closed by a storm in 2018. Ongoing maintenance of opened trails continued, as well. Some new trail markers were installed.
- A project to organize tools, equipment and supplies was initiated and completed in the equipment barn. New shelving was installed, and a work bench was built. New hangers were installed to hang many tools and additional lighting was installed. Accumulated debris in the barn and trash was hauled away.
- Minimal maintenance and repairs to facilities and to equipment was undertaken.
- A new generator was purchased, assembled and tested.
- Administrative hours were devoted to shopping for maintenance equipment and supplies; to management plan development, to assisting visitors and for outreach with U of I Extension Program Coordinator for future Master Naturalist volunteers.
- Very little time was devoted to invasive species with minimal pulling of garlic mustard.

### **Participating Volunteers**

John Wallace, Nick Seaton, Kevin Naegely and Henry Mulder (primarily); with input from Karen Frailey, Debbie Hogg and Andrea Douglas.

### **Total Volunteer Hours**

390

### **Donations**

\$250 donation from the Shawnee Chapter of Illinois Audubon Society

### **Contract Work and/or Grant Items**

- The planned Illinois Clean Energy Foundation Grant for Public Amenities and BioBlitz Event at War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary of up to \$5,500 (ID: 8084) was paused. No expenditures were made this fiscal year.
- Invasive species control for the Ralls 40 acres was initiated and contract signed for \$7,690 with Ozark Koala Ecosystem Services to fulfill the stewardship component the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation Grant. No contract work was completed nor contract expenditures yet made.

### **Approximate Number of Visitors (Annually)**

BLANK

### **Promotions**

A flyer for U of I Extension Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners was developed for future workdays. Please see attached flyer below. The flyer has been adapted for ongoing workdays and the partnership with U of I extension will be ongoing.

**Online Registration  
Required**  
<https://go.illinois.edu/WarBluff>

**War  
Bluff  
Valley  
Wildlife  
Sanctuary  
Stewardship**  
April  
10

Wear  
a mask.  
Bring your  
own work  
gloves.

**9:00AM  
to  
12:00PM**

**228 Bushwack  
Rd Golconda,  
IL 62938**

**Illinois Extension**



Shawnee Chapter  
Illinois Audubon Society

Team up  
with the  
Shawnee Chapter  
of the  
Illinois Audubon  
Society

**Garlic  
Mustard  
Pull**

**2nd  
Saturday  
Stewardship  
Days**

Questions? Contact Kim Rohling  
at [kimrohli@illinois.edu](mailto:kimrohli@illinois.edu) or  
Nick Seaton at 618-683-2222.

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### **Additional Information**

Amboy Marsh donated a pull behind mower for the UTV. It was used several times for trail maintenance and minimal yard mowing, however some design limitations were discovered. The tongue on the mower needs to be shortened and a new hitch coupling (ball receiver) installed.

Fortunately, with the freezing rain, the nearly 12" snowfall and the record cold temperatures that accompanied the February polar vortex, the electric supply was not interrupted and the newly acquired generator was not needed, this year.

Volunteer hours invested at War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

MONTH	TOTAL	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Education &amp; Outreach</b>													
Administration	55					6	0.5		6	10	4	5.5	23
Citizen Science	0												
Events	0												
Newsletter	0												
Social Media	0												
<b>Operations &amp; Support</b>													
Administration	0												
Bird Feeder Maintenance	2	2											
Bluebird Box Maintenance	8					8							
Trail & Boundary Maintenance	223	17	12	38	16	20	20.5	30	13.5	20		12	24
Vehicle Maintenance	22.5	4	3				7.5	2			2	4	
Bldg. Maintenance	77	4		4	2		18.5	32	3.5		13		
<b>Stewardship Activities</b>													
Invasive Removal	3	3											
<b>TOTALS</b>	390.5	30	15	42	18	34	47	64	23	30	19	21.5	47

End.