



Fall  
2024

## Friends of Trempealeau Refuge

### *Friends Focus...*

We celebrated and honored the amazing Refuge volunteers during the Annual Volunteer Banquet and Appreciation. Over 30 volunteers participated in the event. This year's banquet theme was All About Birds. During the event, Refuge volunteers were able to play a bird trivia game, spend time together, and enjoy a meal.

Steve Gillespie and Jim Welander were honored with the Outstanding Volunteer Award of the Year. Steve is one of the maintenance volunteers. He helps with keeping the refuge trails and green areas in good shape by mowing. Jim is one of the visitor services volunteers. He volunteers at the observation deck greeting visitors and assists with school programs. Jim's computer knowledge has been of great help when presenters needed technical help at the OWL Center.

This past year, volunteers donated over 800 hours. Many of these hours were dedicated to support maintenance work at the Refuge. The biology program helped out with biological surveys, invasive species removal, and monitoring the bluebird boxes. The visitor services program assisted with greeting visitors at the observation deck, helping with school programs, interpretive programs, and helping on special events. These are just a few examples of how our volunteers have been able to support the Refuge this year. The Refuge staff is grateful for the continued dedication of the our volunteers.

-Dana M. Schelling, Refuge Ranger

### Fun Facts about Local Wildlife

#### “Leaves Changing Color? But why?” By Scott Lee

You may have noticed that there are changes a happenin' with our trees. The question is, “Why?” Actually, there are a number of factors that come together to make this happen:

- Chlorophyll** is the biggie. It is produced in the leaves during the spring and summer, giving them their green color. As the days get shorter and cooler, chlorophyll production slows up and eventually stops, fading the green color. As this happens, pigments such as **anthocyanin and carotenoid** are then revealed - anthocyanins producing reds and carotenoids producing the yellows and browns.
- Weather conditions** also factor in, as the most vibrant colors happen when it is dry, sunny, and cool (but not freezing) while cloudy, damp, or warm weather create less vibrant colors.
- The location of the tree** also factors in. Those in direct sunlight tend to turn more red, while those on shaded trees more yellow.
- The type of tree**, of course, also matters. For example, sugar maples can have brilliant oranges or reds, while the beeches can be more of a

## Notes from the Friends President

Welcome Fall!

I have some exciting news to share!

The Friends recently received a check for \$422 from Friends of the Galesville Public Library. This money was raised through the efforts of their readers, both youth and adults, who participated in the summer library reading program and earned 25 cents for each hour of reading. Every year their library chooses a local organization or group as a recipient of its summer reading earnings.

Their theme was Adventure Begins At Your Library. The money will be used to purchase materials and equipment to teach youth about micro invertebrates at the Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge. What a great adventure for kids to experience!



On behalf of Friends of Trempealeau Refuge, I want to thank the Friends of the Galesville Public Library for their generous donation. It is greatly appreciated.

Also, congratulations to the summer library program participants for all their hours of reading!

Have a great Fall exploring the Refuge.

Val Critzman

**Reminder: 2024 Best of the Refuge Photo Contest deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Brochures/ Entry Forms available at the Refuge kiosks and online at

[www.friendsoftrempealearefuge.org](http://www.friendsoftrempealearefuge.org)

golden bronze.

**-Frost**, especially a few hard ones, can cause leaves to wither and fall off before they even have a chance to change color.

The fact still remains that the fall in and all around the refuge are always incredible (albeit some better than others), so get outside and enjoy it .... and don't forget your cameras!



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<http://www.friendsoftrempealearefuge.org>



Would you like to contact the refuge? Here's how!

Call 608-539-2311

For more information visit our website:

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/trempealeau/>

Or the refuge Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/TrempealeauNWR>

### 2024 BOARD MEMBERS

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The [Friends of Trempealeau Refuge](http://www.friendsoftrempealearefuge.org) is committed to providing an independent citizen voice for the protection, conservation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife and their habitats at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge.