



No program in April

Attend the Cache River Nature Fest, April 24th

SIAS is encouraging members to attend the Nature Fest and is organizing carpooling for the a.m. and p.m. events. David Kvernes will be coordinating morning carpooling. Meet David at 8 a.m. under the True Value sign at Murdale Shopping Ctr., W. Main St., Carbondale. Carolyn Ferdinand will be coordinating noon carpooling. Meet Carolyn at Unity Point School, south Old Rt. 51, at noon. Call Carolyn at 618.457.7616 to confirm your interest in afternoon carpooling.

On Site Exhibits, Demonstrations, and Programs:

Kids Corner / 8a.m. - 5p.m.

Cold-blooded Creatures of the Cache / 9a.m. - 4p.m.

American Kestrel, Birds of Prey Show / 1p.m. & 3p.m.

Hummingbird Banding (Cathie Hutcheson) / 8a.m. - 11a.m.

Ecological Fitness Trail / 9a.m. - 4p.m.

Bald Eagle Exhibit, Kidz Birding, Hydrology of the Cache, & Native Fish Exhibit & Fish I.D. Game Wheel

Field Trips, Hikes, and Tours

Heron Pond Nature Hike / at 9a.m. and 1p.m.

This easy to moderate hike will depart from the Cache River Wetlands Center to Heron Pond trailhead where the hike will begin.

Wildflower Hike at Limekiln Springs Preserve / at 9a.m. and 1p.m.

Join botanists John and Martha Schwegman for a guided wildflower hike along the Cache River through a bottomland forest to discover the beauty of spring wildflowers. Long pants and hiking boots are suggested, and remember your camera!

Cache River Wetlands Canoe Tour / offered throughout the day

Join us for a guided tour through Buttonland Swamp - a National Natural Landmark. **Pre-register by calling 618.634.2231.**

Happy Herping Hike / at 11a.m.

See several reptile species up close and personal!

Wildcat Bluff East Overlook / at 9a.m. and 1p.m.

This easy to moderate hike will provide a great opportunity to learn about the variety of habitat and wildlife found within Wildcat Bluff and Little Black Slough Nature Preserve.

Birding for All - Grassy Slough Preserve / at 9a.m. and 1p.m.

Join resource staff for a visit to Grassy Slough Preserve. The tour will include a visit to 500 acres of restored wetlands, which attract a myriad of birds including waterfowl, bald eagles, herons, and egrets.

Tupelo Trail Hike / at 9a.m. and 1p.m. - Details to be Announced.

Sat. Evening Social and Live Music:

Popular bluegrass band 'Old Santa Fe' will perform at the Friends of the Cache River Evening Social event; an evening of music, dancing, and fun at the Gambit located in Vienna Illinois. This event begins at 5p.m. and is one that you won't want to miss. There is no cover fee.

Sunday Morning Birding Blitz Awards Ceremony:

An awards brunch for the Birding Blitz teams will be held from 9 a.m. until noon at the Cache River Wetlands Center on April 25th. The awards brunch is open to the public as a way for future competitors and non-birders alike to learn more about the Birding Blitz, experience the comradely that exists between competing teams, meet other birders, learn about the birding hotspots, and possibly pick up new tips on birding.

May 23rd SIAS Picnic at Trail of Tears St. Forest

The SIAS Annual Picnic will be Sunday, May 23rd, from 12 noon-4 p.m. at the Trail of Tears State Forest. We have reserved Shelter #2, south off State Forest Road (the same shelter we used several years ago.) Dining starts at 1 p.m. SIAS will provide the main course cooked on the grill. Members are asked to bring a dish to share, their own beverage, plates, and utensils. Grillmasters needed: if you enjoy cooking, please arrive at noon and will put you in charge of grilling!

Access Trail of Tears State Forest by either turning east of IL Rt. 3 or by turning west of IL Rt. 127. Follow State Forest Road to the main complex and watch for and turn at the SIAS Banner.

Future SIAS Programs:

June & July - No meeting or newsletter.

August 27th - Dr. John Burde, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Forestry, SIUC

Macro photography: what is it?

For the March SIAS program, nature photographer David Brewer presented a program focusing on the world of macro photography. As a summary of the program, David provided these great details:

By definition macro means imaging at a 1:1 ratio, life-size or larger. One must exercise discipline in macro imaging, as the small size of the subjects (e.g., insects) places unique requirements on exposure and composition. Among these are-

-Close-focusing capability; one must get close in order for small subjects to fill the frame.

-Control of lighting; one needs adequate light in order to make the exposure, but close-focusing frequently means being close enough to the subject that one blocks the available natural light, requiring the use of artificial (strobe) lighting.

-Careful composition to isolate small subjects in the context of their larger natural world, eliminating distracting elements which do not contribute to the composition.

-Edge-to-edge sharpness and flat-focusing capability to render small three-dimensional subjects in a crisp two-dimensional image.

-Control of depth-of-field; the closer one must move in towards a subject for close-focusing, the less depth-of-field one has available for the imaging process, often just fractions of an inch.

-Control of working distance; with mobile subjects (e.g., butterflies, bees, dragonflies) one must increase focal length in order to increase the working distance and allow for mobility, close-focusing, and preserving the subjects' "safe zones."

One may use a variety of equipment to accomplish macro imaging, from specialized lenses and strobes on single lens reflex cameras to small, point-and-shoot digital cameras. Equipment manufacturers use "macro" in advertising to mean capabilities that are not necessarily true macro 1:1, but simply close-focusing. The small digital cameras are a relatively inexpensive way to "do macro," as their small sensor size approximates the small size of subjects (e.g., insects) rendering an ability to image relatively close to 1:1.

Good macro images reveal details about small subjects that are invisible to the naked eye. I provided images that showed:

The scales on a butterfly's wing. The segments that make up insects' antenna. The bristles on spiders' legs that enable it to traverse sticky spider webs without entanglement. The spines on a dragonfly's legs that form a net to enable it to entrap prey while in flight. Hair on the body of bumblebee, often containing individual grains of pollen. -David Brewer

April 28 > Cave Valley Spring Migrants

Meet at 8 a.m. at Murdale True Value Shopping Center's sign for directions and carpooling to Pomona. If you know the location of Cave Valley trail, meet group there at 8:30 a.m. Call outing leader Laraine Wright at 618.457.8769 for more info. Rain cancels.

May 1 > Migratory Bird Day Celebration at the Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus Nature Center

May 1 & 8 > Photographing Birds (a 2-Part Program)

Participants will learn about the imaging process, techniques, equipment, printing, and getting to know your subject. Bring cameras and manuals to the first session for tips on how to proper use. For more info, phone the Cache River Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064.

May 29- June 5 > Tropical Adventure To Trinidad & Tobago

For complete details, contact Nelda Hinckley, Professor of Biology, John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Rd., Carterville, IL 62988 or phone Nelda at 618.549.5588 or 618.457.7676 ext. 8323.

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SIAS Website: <http://www.siaudubon.org>

Always leave 'em laughing... :-)

Tom Swifty to Sam Weller: "I love spring migration," Tom warbled.
"You always hog the scope when we look at shorebirds," Tom sniped.
"I wish the tide would rise and push that bird out of the marsh," Tom railed.
"I got the most species on the bird count," Tom crowed.
"Look out, here comes a low-flying mallard," Tom said, ducking.
"Not a single bird can soar by here without me seeing it," Tom said, hawkishly.
"I can't believe a bird lives in these thick woods," Tom grouched.
"Funny that a warbler likes this shrubby stuff," Tom chatted.
"Just great, birds don't have horns," Tom hooted.

**Southern Illinois Audubon Society
P.O. Box 222
Carbondale, IL 62903-0222**

*Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society
And the Illinois Environmental Council*



Don't forget to save your stamps for the IAS Land Acquisition Fund. 
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2010 Annual Renewal

Annual membership renewal month is January, that coincides with board elections held at the annual meeting in January.

Member address labels reflect current dues status.

To join or renew your membership, fill in the following form and return it along with your dues to:

Southern Illinois Audubon Society
Attn.: Membership
P.O. Box 222
Carbondale, IL 62903-0222

Individual voting member \$15
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And Membership Form

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I/we would be interested in being on the Board. (circle one): YES/NO
I/we would like to receive my newsletter via email. (circle one): YES/NO