

| Saturdays in April | |
|--------------------|--|
| April 16 | 10:00 – 12:00 pm: Cemetery Tour |
| April 23 | 8:00 – 10:00 pm: Birds East |
| April 30 | 10:00 – 1:00 pm: Midewin for Kids- Naturalist Badge for Webelos |

| Saturdays in May | |
|------------------|---|
| May 7 | 8:30 – 10:30 am: Midewin by Horseback 10:00 – 12:00 am: Cow Watching |
| May 14 | 8:00 – 10:00 am: Birds West 10:00 – 12:00 am: Rise-&-Bike 10:15 – 11:45 am: Woods & Wetland Walk 2:00 – 4:00 pm: Heritage Tour |
| May 21 | 8:00 – 10:00 am: Birds East 10:00 – 12:00pm Prairie Health Walk |
| May 28 | 8:00 am to 4:00 pm: Illinois Audubon Society Field Trip 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Lincoln Boys in Blue – Memorial Day Tour |

| Saturdays in June | |
|-------------------|--|
| June 4 | National Trails Day 8:00 – 10:00 am: Birds East 10:00 am – 1:30 pm: Ghosts of the Ammunition Plant |
| June 11 | National Get Outdoors Day 12:30 – 3:30 pm: Civil War 150 th Anniversary 1:00 pm Birds, Bridges & Bunkers Hike |
| June 18 | 8:00 – 10:00 am: Birds West 8:30 – 10:30 am: Midewin by Horseback (south gate) 9:45 am – 12: 00 pm: Restoration Progress -The Wetlands Initiative Impact |
| June 25 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm: Midewin for Kids – Tracking Prairie Animals 3:00 – 5:00 pm Cemetery Tour (Maple Hill & Klingler) 6:00 – 8:00 pm: Bike by Twilight |

Midewin for Kids

Naturalist Badge for Webelos – Learn about (and view!) poisonous plants and venomous animals of Illinois, discover food chains, and investigate Midewin wildlife in order to fulfill the requirements necessary to earn your Naturalist Badge. (Registration preference given to Webelos Scouts)

Tracking Prairie Animals – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.,
Become an expert tracker by exploring the prairie and seeking wild animals and their signs. Children will learn to recognize the scat, footprints and nests of prairie wildlife.

Auto Caravan Tours

Birds East and West - Bring binoculars and camera to see the birds that make Midewin their home. Watch the dew burn off the grass during this early morning hike. Meet at the *Welcome Center*.

Ghosts of the Ammunition Plant - In 1940 the U.S. Government acquired over 36,000 acres of land near the confluence of the Kankakee and Des Plaines rivers to build an ammunition plant. Why here? What was the impact of the local economy? How was it built and how did it operate? These are all questions addressed on this tour of the former Elwood Ordnance Plant. Many of the remaining structures will be viewed, and you will step into the past as you enter a 1940's ammunition storage igloo. This tour takes approximately three hours and is offered by bus or auto caravan. Routes vary slightly.

Cemeteries - Whether amateur historian or genealogist, many are interested in cemeteries. Join Midewin tour guides in an exploration of area historic cemeteries. Learn about how the cemeteries came to be and about the lives of some of the farmers and merchants, settlers and soldiers, associated with those cemeteries. Maple Hill and Klingler cemeteries will be visited on the “North” tour, and Chicago Road and Starr's Grove cemeteries on the “South” tour.

Cow Watching – Cattle serve a very useful purpose at Midewin and will continue to be part of the future of the property. Meet some of the cattle, learn about the differences between the breeds and discover how these domestic animals benefit certain types of rare Midewin wildlife.

Heritage - People have lived on the Midewin landscape for thousands of years. Learn about their use and impact on the land. Stops at the remains of a lock associated with the Kankakee Navigation Co, as well as several historic farmsteads, a school, and an arsenal TNT storage igloo. Learn about the changes in transportation that influenced the growth of the area, the role of archaeology in the Forest Service's heritage resource management program, and the opportunities for public participation.

Lincoln's Boys in Blue - Join us on a special Memorial Day Weekend tour as part of Midewin's recognition of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the American Civil War. Visiting two of Midewin's historic pioneer cemeteries, we will discuss the beginnings of Memorial Day, the lives of Civil War veterans associated with those cemeteries, and the exploits of the regiments in which they served.

Restoration Progress – The Wetlands Initiative Impact - Ever want to learn about how Midewin is healing? Join the Wetlands Initiative (TWI) for a fascinating exploration of the process of prairie and wetland restoration at Midewin. TWI's senior ecologist, Dr. Gary Sullivan, will lead this driving and walking tour. Visit areas of Midewin that are in the before, during, and after stages of restoration, including some sites not yet accessible to the public. Come and learn first-hand how the Forest Service and the Wetlands Initiative work together to transform degraded land into diverse and beautiful natural areas. Please bring hiking shoes/boots and meet at the Midewin *Visitor Center*. In case of rain, the tour will be rescheduled for Saturday, June 25.

Walks & Rides

Bike Tour – Learn about the ins and outs of Midewin

over the crackle of your tires on the gravel path. You must provide and transport your own bicycle. Heavier tread tires are recommended, as the route includes paved and rough gravel surfaces. Meet at the *Welcome Center*.

Midewin by Horse – See and learn about Midewin, its history and management, from the back of your horse. Join equestrian volunteers for a ride through portions of Midewin not yet open for public use as you learn more about how the area is being managed today. Participants must bring their own horse. Call for specific directions to the starting point for this activity.

Birds, Bridges and Bunkers Hike - On this 3-hour (6 mile round-trip) interpretive hike, participants will have the opportunity to experience Midewin's new West Side Trail. Beginning at the Iron Bridge Trailhead, the West Side Trail will lead us over the old Iron Bridge to a glacial moraine vantage point overlooking pastoral grassland and a vast bunker field. This half-day hike will take us through open grassland and savannah to our Prairie Creek Bridge destination. Expect to see a variety of grassland, savannah, and woodland birds. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars and cameras.

Civil War 150th Anniversary Event - Join us on June 11 for National Get Outdoors Day. People in period costumes will tell the story of the Civil War and the Underground Railroad through demonstrations, stories, poetry and song.

Woods & Wetland Walk - On this 1 ½-hour (1 ½ mile) guided tour of Midewin's rustic Prairie Creek Woods Trail, you will visit secluded Buttonbush Pond, an old-growth oak tree grove, and a restored wetland. Expect to see a variety of woodland flowers and species of woodland, wetland, and grassland birds. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars and cameras.

Prairie Health Walks - (Join the Windy City Walkers.) What better way to restore, rejuvenate and refresh than to exercise amongst the prairie landscape. A 5K walk will start at the Iron Bridge Trailhead and an 11K walk will start at the Hoff Road Trailhead.

General Tour Information

Cost: All programs in 2011 are free unless otherwise noted. Some special group tours involve a fee.

Program Duration: Unless otherwise noted each program will last approximately 2 hours.

Reservations: Advanced registration is required. Leave a message at (815) 423-2170 or email erbender@fs.fed.us. Please leave contact info in case we need to contact you about cancellations or changes to the tour schedule.

Cancellations: We will make every effort to offer all activities as scheduled. All tours but primarily bike rides and campfire programs may be cancelled or rescheduled due to weather. Changing site conditions and staff availability may require changes to the schedule. Call (815) 423-2170 for a recorded message regarding current program information. You may also leave a message at this number.

Where to Meet: Unless otherwise noted all programs begin and end at the *Midewin Welcome Center* located at 30239 South State Route 53, Wilmington, Illinois -- the building with the 3 flagpoles in front.

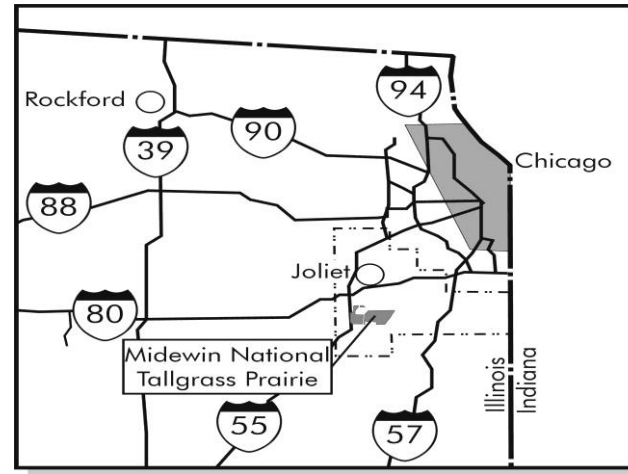
When to Arrive: All programs begin promptly at the published time. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to allow time for registration.

What to Bring: Come dressed for the weather, wearing shoes suitable for walking over easy to moderately uneven ground. Bring water, sun protection, and insect repellent. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged.

Auto Caravan Tours: Participants in these activities will drive their own vehicles as part of a staff led caravan. A number of stops are made along the way with short walks to points of interest. Running commentary can be heard over your vehicle radio as the caravan moves from point to point. Participants need not leave their vehicles if they do not wish to do so.

Bike and Horse Rides: Participants in these activities must provide their own bike or horse.

Safety: Public safety concerns prevent access to the interior of remnant arsenal buildings on tours.



From I55: Look for exit 241, Wilmington. At the top of the ramp (both northbound and southbound), turn left. Travel 3.5 miles on New River Road to the intersection with State Route 53 and turn left. Follow Route 53 for 1.0 mile to the Midewin Supervisor's Office, on the right side of the highway.

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
30239 S. State Route 53
Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 423-6370
www.fs.fed.us/mntp/

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is a public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternate means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Tour Schedule

April / May / June

2011



Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
a gift to future generations

General Information

For the visitor to Midewin, there are currently 7,200 acres open to unescorted public access. There are about 22 miles of interim trails available for public use. Several rustic day use recreation sites are also available. These sites offer picnic table and portable toilets.

The *Midewin Welcome Center*, located at 30239 South State Route 53, two miles north of Wilmington, IL is the place to start your Midewin visit. Here you will see exhibits designed to lay the groundwork for your own exploration of Midewin, whether on your own or participating in one of our escorted programs. Staff at the *Welcome Center* can assist you with planning your visit. A small bookstore operated by the Midewin Interpretive Association, a private not-for-profit partner of the Forest Service, is also located in the *Welcome Center*.

