



Wings Over Weston

By Margaret Slayton

The seventh annual bird conservation festival “Wings Over Weston” drew around 600 attendees this May.

Wings Over Weston is now the largest one-day birding festival of its kind in the entire Midwest and is geared to children and families. The event was held at Weston Bend State Park which is located in the heart of the Iatan/Weston River Corridor Important Bird Area (IBA). The area is identified as being globally important for the conservation of bird populations with more than 300 species of birds that fly through Northwest Missouri every spring and fall.



photo by Bill Grampham

This picture is American Golden Eagle.

More than 25 stations were set up to provide visitors an opportunity to learn about bird migration in the region.

Volunteers from the Loess Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists set up a booth to provide hummingbird feeders to visitors at their station. The feeders were made of

plastic bottles collected by master naturalist members and material from a feeder kit.

Other chapter members of the Missouri Master Naturalists staffed a booth about monarch butterfly habitat including live butterflies and caterpillars on display. While supplies lasted, they passed out free milkweed seedlings, the plant that hosts monarch eggs and cat-

Continued p. 2

Wing Over Weston	1
Graduation Class	2
Site in Polo	3



Photo by Bill Grampham

The children are watching a bird in the air.

erpillars.

In addition, children at the festival could make bird houses or do a craft project to get a free bird feeder.

Families went on guided birding hikes or visited educational booths about birds and wildlife habitat, including habitat for butterflies. There was also a station by the

Midland Empire Audubon Society based in St. Joseph that had a bird banding station near a forested area.

Lindsey Landowski, manager at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge in Holt County, promoted the importance of the refuge for bird migration.



Photo by Bill Grampham

This pictures Darrel McGee with a little girls making a bluebird birdhouse.

for Burroughs Audubon, works to ensure both experienced birders and those new remain engaged in the activities.

Operation Wildlife and Rapture Rehab, that works to rescue and release wild birds, had live raptors and owls on display.

Wings Over Weston is organized by the Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City in partnership with Missouri State Parks.

Christine Kline, festival co-chair

MDC is also a partner for the free event along with various conservation organizations, agencies and businesses in the area. The goal is to foster an appreciation for birds and the habitat that supports them.

Extra funds from food sold during the festival was given to a local charity.

The New Class



MaryJo Ostenber

Front row left to right: Jada Tressler, Bruce Winsor, Jessica Erdrich, Linda Wilkerson, Jason Wilkerson. Second row: Alex Henbukhart, Sharon Smith, Amanda Morrow, Chris Fulker, Dennis Rush. Third row: Barbara Cates, Diana Prine, Cynthia Pederson, Ron Pederson, Rick Fulker, Branson Osborn. Not pictured: Chris Blake, Lance Foster, Allen Kelly.

New Site In Polo

By MaryJo Ostenberg



On May 13th new member Hailey Howard helped Mary Jo Ostberger along with a group of 4-H members and their parents install a new pollinator garden in Polo,

Mo. Plants were purchased with grants received from Missouri Department of Conservation (\$50.00) and Missouri Prairie Foundations (\$500.00). The site is located on

the grounds of the historic old jail on Polo's main street.

August 4

Friday, 3:30 - 7:00
Conservation Center

August 25

6:00 P.M.
McGee Conservation
Bring your own chair

September 6

Native plant sale for home or garden.
7:00 P.M. Platte Resource Center, 11724 NW Plaza Circle, KCMO, 63124. Free; suggested donation \$10 per household. Presented by David Dods and Mary Nememeck, Chris Cardwell, Carla Dods. RSVP at plattelandtrust@gmail.com

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