

2009 Exhibits & Events

The DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge features the following events, in addition to the weekend wildlife films.

January 1 - 31

Judith Crouch Feather Art Exhibit

Each art piece contains wild turkey feathers forming a seamless canvas for her subjects of wolves, eagles, buffalo and bears

February 13 – 15

Great Backyard Bird Count

Discover a variety of birds through the windows of the visitor center. How many species can you find? For more information: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

April 1 – May 30

Derrald Farnsworth-Livingston Exhibit

Using nature and scenic landscapes as his photography pieces, Derrald enlists his technological background through the use of digital imaging, to create his masterpieces.

May 9

International Migratory Bird Day

Discover and learn about birds and migration through a variety of activities. For more information: <http://www.birdday.org>

May 22 – September 4, Fridays

Wilson Island Campground Programs

Join us Friday evening at 8pm for a 45-minute ranger program at the Wilson Island picnic shelter.

June 6 – August 1

Jeff Murray Photography Exhibit

Area artist showcases local wildlife and fauna, attempting to preserve nature's beauty through his photographic lens.

June 6

DeSoto RefugeFest

Join us for an outdoor family-fun day with a carp fishing contest, boat tours, canoe and kayak rides, fishing and archery clinics, and food concessions. The event is hosted at the South Gate Recreation Area of the Refuge.

June 20

All-Night Fishing

Cast your line and fish from sunset to sunrise on DeSoto Lake during the night of June 20th and into the morning of June 21st

June 27th

Bike to Boyer

Bike through scenic Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge and raise community awareness about recreational opportunities there! Event is sponsored by the Friends of Boyer Chute & DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. For more information: <http://www.friendsofboyerdesoto.org>

August 16 – September 27

Pam Cates Art Exhibit

Painting outdoors in the 'plein air' tradition; Pam's artwork encompasses varied subjects as Iowa's Loess Hills, nature, travel, antiques and gardening

September 26

National Public Lands Day

Join us to collect prairie seeds and participate in the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance public lands. For more information: <http://www.npld.com/>

October 10 – November 20

Russ Deurksen Art Exhibit

A display of his finest works from a lifelong dream of being a full time wildlife artist.

October 11 - 17

National Wildlife Refuge Week

Join us to connect with nature through a variety of activities, i.e. "The Big Sit" (bird watching), Nature Photography Workshop, refuge tours, etc.

November 21 - 22

Art of the Wild Show & Sale

This annual event features artwork, photography, carvings, and more from on-site local artists. Come out and enjoy the day at DeSoto Refuge.

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge was created to provide sanctuary for migratory birds. It also houses the treasured steamboat *Bertrand* collection.

Visitor Center Hours:

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily, except federal holidays.

Refuge Hours:

½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

For more information:

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
1434 316th Lane
Missouri Valley, IA 51555
(712) 642-4121
www.fws.gov/midwest/desoto
Email: desoto@fws.gov

In the Month of MARCH

March & April

Films shown at 12:00, 1:30 & 2:45 p.m.

- Bald eagles begin nesting the first week.

The National Wildlife Refuge System's 106th birthday March 14; President Theodore Roosevelt designated Florida's Pelican Island as the 1st wildlife refuge in 1903, the System has grown to 150+ million acres, 550 national wildlife refuges & 37 wetland management districts



- Begin setting up bluebird nest boxes the first week of March. Nesting starts

the second.

- Male Red-winged Black birds arrive and set up territories the second week of March. Females arrive the fourth week.

- Canada geese begin nesting the third week

In the Month of APRIL



- American toads and chorus frogs calling the third week

- Morel mushrooms start popping up

Weekend Wildlife Films

- Pelicans arrive the second week of April

- Orioles arrive the fourth week; listen for their flutelike whistles



March 7 & 8 – **The Key to Duck I.D.** - Learn common ducks and how to tell dabblers from divers. 16 minutes

March 14 & 15 – **Bluebirds...Bring Them Back** Shows bluebird conservation and discusses what citizens can do to bring them back – 20 minutes

March 21 & 22 – **Audubon's Crane Adventures** Excellent crane photography and narration for the entire family. – 30 minutes

March 28 & 29 – **Missouri 1804** – Explore the Missouri River not only as it is, but as it was 200 years ago. Retrace the journey of Lewis & Clark and compare the Missouri to the one we know today, using a variety of perspectives. – 27 minutes

April 4 & 5 – **Col. Robert Campbell: Mt. Man to Millionaire** – Describes the life of Col. Robert Campbell of St. Louis, a major shipper of the *Bertrand's* cargo. – 30 minutes

April 11 – **Pelicans, Pelicans, Pelicans** – Shows the two pelican species of North America; the coastal browns and the whites of the interior. – 20 minutes

April 18 & 19 – **Landscaping for Wildlife** – Learn how to create and enjoy wildlife habitat in your own backyard. – 15 minutes

April 25 & 26 – **Voices of Frogs & Toads** – learn the voices of frogs & toads, then take a self-led walk on the Missouri Meander nature Trail and test your skills – 15 minutes

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Exhibit & Event Schedule 2009