



## President's Message

### A Great Fall Migration—Spoiled!

This fall migration has been one of the best I can recall in a long time. For over 6 weeks, every time Karen and I went out we were able to spot at least a few migrants—usually many were seen. We were able to observe all of the expected warblers—Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Palm, Blue-winged, Black and White, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Redstarts, Blackpoll, and Waterthrushes were found pretty easily. As I write this during the second week of October, the sheer number of Yellow-rumped Warblers and Kinglets is amazing. Going out this morning to the Morton Arboretum we were literally surrounded by perhaps 15 of those birds feeding at all levels. I saw 11 Yellow-rumps on the trunk of just one tree right off the road. One hundred yards down the path and we came upon a flock of up to 50 Pine Siskins feeding in the pine trees. The skies have been blue and the birds have been plentiful. Then it was all spoiled by people who didn't care about birds.

As we all know by now, on Thursday, October 5, 960 birds were killed when they crashed into the McCormick Place Lakeside Center. This was the highest number of deaths from one building in over 40 years. It made the national news.

The news coverage also included that a quarter of a million birds were seen flying over Chicagoland that night (according to Birdcast.info, over 10 million birds crossed over Cook County that night). I wonder how many people who read the news thought, "Sure, 1,000 died but there's lots more of them." I bet many people thought that (if they gave it any thought at all).

It shows the lack of education and/or empathy the general population has about birds. We all care deeply about every bird and are traumatized when we find one bird killed or injured because it flew into our picture window or sliding glass door. We all know how to limit bird strikes at our home, but is that enough? Are our neighbors doing the same? We all know how harmful outdoor cats are, but do our neighborhood cat owners know?

Bird watching has been around since the beginning of civilization, but the idea of conserving and protecting birds is barely 100 years old. When we go out next spring and see all the wonderful migrants, be sure to tell your friends about what you saw. Show them pictures of the

### Next Meeting

November 9, 2023  
Doors open 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting begins 7:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church  
41 N. Park Blvd.  
Glen Ellyn  
See page 2 for details.

Pre-meeting Dinner  
5:30 p.m.  
Ellyn's Tap & Grill  
940 Roosevelt Rd.

birds. Then let them know how they can help you see them every spring and fall. Only when non-birders start to care about a “small” number of bird deaths will we have a chance to save them.

On a related note, I applaud the American Bird Conservancy for taking out a full-page ad in the *Chicago Tribune* condemning the McCormick Place Lakeside Center for leaving its lights on during migration and not taking any steps to prevent bird strikes. It also encouraged the Chicago City Council to enforce its existing ordinances designed to protect migrating birds. Let’s hope they do.

**Note:** Please see the Slate of Officers for the November 9 meeting below. The membership will be voting on filling all eight positions on the Executive Board.

Mike Warner  
President

## **In Case You Missed It: October 12 Meeting—Secrets of the Barn Owl**

**Grace LeCuyer, Raptor Survey Coordinator, Indiana Department of Natural Resources**

Barn Owls are some of the most majestic, yet secretive raptors out there. For our October meeting, Grace LeCuyer, Raptor Survey Coordinator for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, spoke to us about these elusive birds. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has developed a nest box program aimed at assisting these beautiful owls. Last winter, Grace completed a 300+ nest box check over the entire state of Indiana. Her presentation shared her fascinating findings and information on where to find these birds in Illinois. To view the presentation, click <https://youtu.be/-mG6Yxz2buk>.

## **November 9th Meeting is IN-PERSON ONLY: Forest Preserve President and DBC Board Elections**

The DuPage County Forest Preserve manages some of the best birding sites in our area. Join us as the President of the Forest Preserve District, Dan Hebreard, will speak to us about the bird-related projects implemented by the Forest Preserve in 2023. President Hebreard will also share some projects planned for next year and take questions from club members.

Also on the agenda at this meeting will be the election of new executive officers for 2024. This meeting will be in-person only—no Zoom video will be broadcast or recorded. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church (41 Park Boulevard, Glen Ellyn).

As usual, all are invited to the pre-meeting dinner at 5:30 pm at Ellyn’s Tap and Grill (940 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn). Our speaker, President Hebreard, will be in attendance, so come meet him! For any questions, please email Robert Perez at [robertperez787@gmail.com](mailto:robertperez787@gmail.com).

## Slate for 2024 DBC Board Announced!

The slate of proposed officers for DBC's 2024 Board has almost been finalized and will be presented to members for voting at the November 9 meeting. Here's a preview for your consideration:

**President—Robert Perez** has had an interest in birding nearly his entire life. His grandmother started a life list for him when he was 2, and he learned the basic backyard birds off a placemat she had. Since graduating college, Robert has gone on several trips throughout the country and Europe specifically looking for birds. He is a life-long resident of DuPage County and is now working for the Lombard Park District. A member of the DuPage Birding Club for several years, he has tried to go on at least one field trip every month, and enjoys helping others see as many birds as possible. He is excited to continue the great work DBC does and is looking forward to serving as its President.

**Vice President**—As of this time, although we have asked many to consider it, we do not have a candidate for Vice President. If no one steps up to accept this important role, it will be necessary to leave it vacant—as far as we know this has never happened to the DBC before. The Vice President arranges guest speakers at our meetings and then becomes President the following year. We ask that you please consider becoming the Vice President—you'll get lots of praise and support from everybody. If you have any questions about the role, please contact Mike Warner or Robert Perez at [dupagebirdingclub@gmail.com](mailto:duplicatebirdingclub@gmail.com).

**Treasurer—John Hebert** served as Club Treasurer in 2020 and 2021. John has served as Outreach head, has led field trips, and serves as a judge for the Club's photo contests. John is a retired CPA tax accountant. Along with his wife Kathy, John loves traveling and birding throughout the U.S.

**Recording Secretary—Mark Freeburg** has always enjoyed being outdoors. While working as a mail-carrier for 34 years, he became interested in all the birds that appeared while walking his route. A little over seven years ago, he joined a DuPage County Forest Preserve Bird Walk during spring migration. After that eye-opening experience, he was on a solid path toward being a fledgling birder. He joined the DBC shortly after and now leads bird walks.

**Corresponding Secretary—Natalie McFaul** is a retired elementary school teacher who has been birding for over 20 years. She served a year as a Director back in 2012. In 2019 she stepped into a vacant Director position and in 2021 took on the role of Vice President and then President. As VP, Natalie lined up speakers for club meetings, participated in the Outreach program, and helped restore the Birding and Breakfast and Volunteer Luncheon events after the pandemic pause. As President, Natalie ably led the Club through a period of explosive membership growth and continued her tradition of innovation, introducing new field trip ideas, specifically Bird Sits and Bird the Park. Natalie feels strongly that it is important to give back to a Club that offers so many field trip opportunities and congenial people to share the adventures of birding.

**Director—Pamela Martyn-Nemeth** has been a member of the DBC since 2020. Pam has had a life-long interest in birds, beginning at age 8, but the DBC helped her increase her knowledge of different types of birds, to learn to identify many more birds, and to seek out more and different types of birds in different regions. She is impressed with the talent and expertise of fellow members of the DBC and the time they devote to this wonderful group. For this reason, she felt it was important to volunteer and give back to thank those who have helped her become a better birder.

**Director—Rob Thomas** is a lifelong birder ever since age 8 or so when his dad would boost him up a tree with a nest in it so Rob could report what was in the nest. He had a burst of birding when his parents moved from Berwyn to Westchester between his Freshman and Sophomore years. Because of the move, he didn't have any friends so he spent his spare time in nearby Brezina Woods with a beginner Golden Bird Book. He joined DBC around 1992 at Hal Cohen's invitation (Hal was teaching birding ID classes at COD). Karen and Bob Fisher were very helpful at honing his birding skills. Karen sneakily recruited him to take over scheduling field trips. Mike Marlow and Rob are proud of being the first to schedule week-day trips and trips to Magee Marsh as well as to Michigan to see the Kirkland's Warbler. Rob is also a winter member of five birding clubs in Southern California so he can go on their field trips. Rob says that they are all quite good, but DBC is the best! Rob is proud to serve on the Board once again and give something back.

**Director— Steve Mineck's** interest in all things outdoors started at an early age with family camping trips. He was an avid collector of the Bachman Birds of the World models (does anyone remember those?), but his primary interest at that time was more towards six-legged creatures. His real interest in birding began in 1979 in Miami when he and Kathy were awakened in the wee hours every night by a bird singing at the moon, which after much deliberation and the purchase of binos and bird books, it was determined to be the ubiquitous mockingbird. Their interest in birding evolved with a move to Chicago and since that time he has volunteered with the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors downtown, has served on city park cleanup teams along Lake Michigan, and is quite active on a national level with the NRDC. His birding expertise is a work in progress but given his recent retirement, the outlook is positive for continuous improvement on that front. :)

Although not a Board position, **Bonnie Graham** will be serving up DBC-style **Hospitality** for all meetings and group events. We thank Bonnie for stepping into this important role.

## **Goodbye, Friends!**

Several of our valued volunteers are leaving their positions at the end of 2023. Please thank them for their service to DBC over the past years!

**Mike Warner** rotates off the Board after a successful term as Vice President and President of the DBC. Never fear, he will continue working behind the scenes to help coordinate programs for our club meetings and as liaison to the Outreach Committee. Under Mike's able leadership, the Club introduced the popular quarterly photo contest, which has produced a library of stunning images from Club photographers. He also weathered pandemic pressures with hybrid meeting formats, supported fun events that had been on hold during the pandemic, and initiated a member survey to ensure the Club is serving its members' needs and interests.

**Donna Kubik**, the Outreach Coordinator, worked with her committee to offer more Outreach programs to our community than ever before. From setting up bird field trips to local schools and presentations to libraries and garden clubs, she and the Outreach Committee reached hundreds of DuPage County residents.

**Jane Barnett** served as our Treasurer and did a great job of keeping the Board informed about our financial position. She also stepped in wherever an extra hand was needed be it for hospitality or being at a booth in a fair.

**Sirimon Reutrakul** has been one of our three Directors and provided excellent suggestions for each of our projects and gave several presentations on behalf of the Outreach Committee.

**Angela Levernier** was the Board's Recording Secretary and helped the Board use Google Drive more effectively to communicate.

**Dennis Streicher** was one of our three Directors and provided valuable input for each of the initiatives the DBC Board worked on over the past two years.

**Andie Duffy** has been in charge of Hospitality for all DBC events. She welcomed everyone who attended the club meetings at Faith Lutheran and arranged for food for events like the Volunteer Breakfast and the Birders' Breakfast.

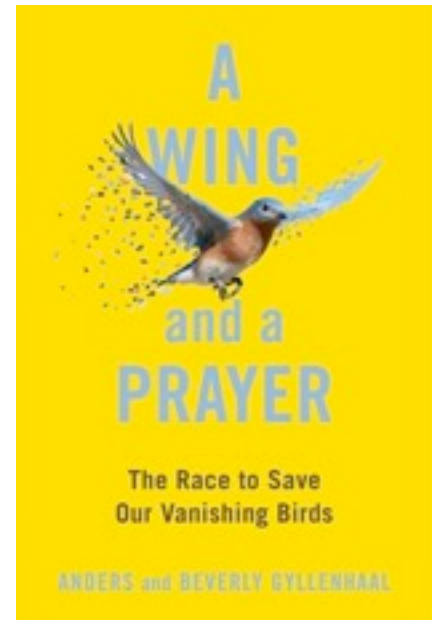
Thanks to all of our current and future Board members and volunteers for their willingness to give of their time and talents to the Club. You are what makes the DBC the successful organization it is.

## **DBC to Host Book Discussion November 14**

As announced in the last *Drummings*, the Club will host a book discussion November 14. President Mike Warner was inspired by [A Wing and a Prayer, The Race to Save Our Vanishing Birds](#) by Anders and Beverly Gyllenhaal and couldn't wait to share it with you! The authors spent a year traveling the U.S. in their Airstream Trailer visiting sites where dedicated scientists, researchers, and volunteers are working to save some of their local species from extinction. He was touched by the enthusiasm and determination these people have to preserve our birds and thought the writing was excellent—a great read!

Our discussion night will be Tuesday, November 14 at 7pm. Depending on how many want to participate, we will either have it at Mike's house or on Zoom.

If you are interested in participating, please email Mike at [dupagebirdingclub@gmail.com](mailto:dupagebirdingclub@gmail.com). We really hope many DBC members will join the discussion on a topic we all care about.



## DBC Volunteers Gather for Breakfast Fun

The DBC hosted a bird walk followed by breakfast on October 7 at Hidden Lake Forest Preserve to thank the 40+ volunteers who make our Club the active and congenial group it is. Volunteers included board members, committee members, field trip leaders, outreach volunteers, newsletter and website contributors, hospitality hosts, and others who have helped out over the last year.

Thanks to our hospitality team for organizing this fun morning: Natalie McFaul, Jane Barnett, and Andie Duffy.

DBC actively seeks volunteers for a range of activities and has key needs right now to support 2024 initiatives, including a new Vice President and an Outreach Coordinator. If you have a few hours a month to give back, please step forward.



## DBC Shows Its Kid-Friendly Side at the Danada Fall Fest

October 7-8 were busy days for DBC volunteers who got creative to teach kids about birds. They helped children make an owl craft, sent them to the Native Garden to hunt for birds (plush toy birds!), matched bird songs with pictures of birds, and more!

The parents weren't left out either as we spoke to the 7 Simple Actions (from Audubon) people can take to help birds. The DBC was also joined by the Bird Conservation Network, who spoke to ways to prevent bird window collisions.

Thanks to organizer Donna Kubik and volunteers Lisa Gaylord, Natalie McFaul, Andie Duffy, Jackie Tilles, Donnalyn Quint, Laurel Ahlenius, Jane Barnett, Anne Houle, Diann Bilderback, and Mike Warner. It takes a village!



## **Fall '23 Photo Contest Now Open**

The DBC is looking for pictures of birds taken between September 1 and November 31, 2023 for the Fall '23 Photo Contest. All photos are welcome: amateur, funny, imperfect, high-quality. The “story behind the shot” is also taken into account when judging. The judges want this to be a fun contest; no categories have been predefined for award-winners so every entry has a chance to win! NOTE: The judges usually do not give out more than one award to the same author if they submit multiple images.

If you would like to look at past DBC Photo Contest winners [CLICK HERE](#).

The contest is open to DBC members only. Photos may be taken anywhere (not just DuPage/Illinois). If a picture includes people, the submitter must have permission from those people to publish their image on the DBC website.

Photographs will be judged by a small team of DBC members. If you are interested in being a judge (no experience necessary) please contact Mike Warner at [mwarner2543@gmail.com](mailto:mwarner2543@gmail.com).

There are two ways to enter your bird photographs:

If you have a Google Account (you have one if you use Gmail) click the link below:

### **[DBC Photo Contest Entry Form](#)**

If you do not have a Google Account, email your image as an email attachment to [dupagebirdingclub@gmail.com](mailto:dupagebirdingclub@gmail.com). In the body of your email include:

- a) Your name.
- b) The species of the bird(s).
- c) Where the picture was taken.
- d) A Catchy Caption - Enter a caption or title you would like displayed with your pictures (optional).
- e) Narrative - Tell us about your picture—what's the story behind the shot? Include any information the judges might need to fully appreciate your shot.

Good luck! Winners will be announced in the January *Drummings*.

## **Welcome, New Members!**

Ranjan & Tina Abraham	Naperville
Jo Nixon	St. Charles
Lily Rusnak	Villa Park
Kathryn Ladd & Joe Lelko	Wheaton
Kim Brady	Geneva
Jeffrey Lambert	Winfield



## Annual Membership Renewal Time

A note from Treasurer Jane Barnett—your dues are due now! There's Jane now in the photo to the left, hard at work at the Volunteer Breakfast collecting from our volunteers!

Your annual membership dues for 2024 are due by December 31, 2023. Dues remain \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families and \$10 for students. Please note that any new member joining on or after September 1 is automatically registered for the following year.

Your dues fund our annual operations and support a broad range of activities, including field trips, interesting speakers, research grants, and proactive community outreach.

Your 2024 dues may now be paid in any of the following ways:

1. On-line through our website using PayPal or credit card, at this link: <https://dupagebirding.org/renew/>
2. By mailing a check to: DuPage Birding Club P.O. Box 3381 Glen Ellyn, IL 60138
3. Giving cash or a check in person to a board member

Thank you for your support and membership!



## Save the Date: The Fermi Christmas Bird Count is Saturday, December 16, 2023

Join us again for the annual Fermi Christmas Bird Count on December 16<sup>th</sup>. This is your chance to contribute to an important community science opportunity. Data collected provides invaluable insights into winter bird populations plus it's a great opportunity to connect with fellow birders.

If you participated last year, you're already on the list and will be contacted in early December regarding your counting areas. If it's been a few years, or you are new to the count and would like to participate, please contact the compiler, Jeff Chapman at [jeffchapman948@gmail.com](mailto:jeffchapman948@gmail.com). Remember you'll be grouped with a team so no need to be an expert; there will be plenty of them on your team! This year's countdown dinner is TBD at this point.

## November 2023 Field Trips

This is the month where migration wraps up and early winter birds are seen. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate. Non-members are welcome.

Please remember that the weather can be variable, so dress accordingly. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner by being careful and prudent.

Participants are welcome to contact the leader if they have any questions. Our field trip leaders can help you find the trip's starting location if you need additional directions. Situations can sometimes change, so please check our DBC website <https://dupagebirding.org/> for the latest status information.

**NOTE: For trips with a participant limit, registration with the trip leader is required. In those cases, you are NOT registered until you receive a confirmation from the trip leader.**

**Field Trips will observe a few guidelines to ensure that birding is safe and comfortable for all:**

- It is expected that all field trip participants will follow the CDC's recommendations regarding masks and social distancing.
- Anyone not feeling well should stay home.
- Attendees of DBC field trips and other events under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- All field trip attendees should be aware of and follow the <https://dupagebirding.org/aba-code-of-ethics/>

**NOTE: All last-minute changes are posted on [www.dupagebirding.org/field-trips](http://www.dupagebirding.org/field-trips).**

**Saturday, November 4th, 8:00 a.m. – 10:30a.m.**

**Danada West, Wheaton**

Pre-registration with the leader is **required**, limit 12 participants.

On this trip we will be exploring the diverse habitats at one of my personal favorite locations in the county. Target species include many species of migratory ducks, migrant raptors such as Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Lapland Longspurs. Expect grass trails and dress for the weather. Meet in the forest preserve headquarters parking lot.

**Leader: Henry Meade, [kathleenreeves22@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenreeves22@yahoo.com)**

**Thursday November 9, 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

**Greene Valley, Woodridge**

Pre-registration with the leader is **required**, limit 15 participants.

This morning trip, oriented toward fall migration and winter birds, is especially designed for new birders and will be at a leisurely pace to provide as much time as desired to look at each bird and to answer questions on equipment or bird identification. Meet at the Thunderbird Youth Camp Parking Lot. Go west on 79th about 1/2 mile, the entrance is on south side of 79th Street, west of Greene Road in Naperville/Woodridge.

**Leader: Bonnie Graham. 630-204-8750, [coye72112@gmail.com](mailto:coye72112@gmail.com)**

**Sunday, November 12, 7:30 am**

**McKee Marsh, Warrenville**

Registration not required.

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Join our morning walk around the marsh to check out late fall migrants and wintering birds. Northern Shrike and many other species of birds regularly winter at this site. There should be some late fall migrants present as well. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Rd., located between Winfield Rd. and Rt. 59 in Warrenville. Most of our walk will be on Preserve limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

**Leader: Kyle Wiktor, cell: 708-506-5186**

**Tuesday, November 14, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

**St James Farm Forest Preserve – Warrenville**

Pre-registration with the leader is **required**, limit 10 participants.

This field trip will cover the main trails in the forest preserve concentrating on the woodland birds. We will pass through some open areas to look for a hawk or some really late migrants. Plan on walking trails including about a 2 mile loop. Meet at the main parking lot on Winfield Road in Warrenville, between Butterfield Road and Roosevelt Road.

**Leader: Nancy Allured, [nallured@comcast.net](mailto:nallured@comcast.net)**

**Sunday, November 19, 8:00 a.m. – noon**

**Southeast DuPage and Southwest Cook Waterfowl Search**

Pre-registration with the leader is **required**, limit 15 participants.

We'll look for waterfowl, gulls, and others at the Centennial Trail Borrow Pit and ponds, Lemont Quarries, and Saganashkee Slough. Depending on conditions and sightings, other stops may include Sag Quarries, Long John Slough, and Maple Lake. Meet at the Lemont Rd. parking lot of Waterfall Glen (at the portable toilet). We will then caravan to the Borrow Pit. The trip will be canceled if waterfowl are scarce or the weather is poor. Directions to Waterfall Glen: drive south on Lemont Rd., past I-55 to 101st St., and turn left at the stoplight into the parking lot.

**Leader: Vicky Sroczynski, [VSroczynski@comcast.net](mailto:VSroczynski@comcast.net)**

**Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 7:00 a.m. - 11 a.m.**

**Birding Hotspots of Northeastern DuPage County.**

Pre-registration with leader required (text or call only). Limit 9 participants.

On this trip, we will be out all morning to take a tour of some of the birding hotspots in Northeastern DuPage County. At this time of the year, we should hopefully find a number of waterfowl and some other late fall migrants. Be prepared to drive from location to location. Walkie-talkies and spotting scopes would be good to bring along if you have them. We will meet at the parking lot for the Wood Dale Reservoir located on the western dead end of School St. (0.4 mi west of the intersection of Foster Ave. & Wood Dale Rd. in Wood Dale).

**Leader: Kyle Wiktor, cell: 708-506-5186**

**Wednesday, November 22, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**Centennial Trail, Lemont**

Pre-registration with the leader is required.

On this field trip our main target will be looking for waterfowl and fall residents. We will meet in the gravel parking lot at the end of Canal Bank Road. Coming off of Lemont Road this turnoff is called Old Lemont Road, and is unmarked, so turn at this pin: 41,683840, -88.003541. [Google Map link](#). Please call if you have any problems with directions.

**Leader: Mark Freeburg, [freebs59@sbcglobal.net](mailto:freebs59@sbcglobal.net) or call or text 630-661-1521**

**Cantigny Park** in Wheaton posts bird walks and related events several months in advance on the calendar pages of [Events | Cantigny](#). For that reason, the events are often at capacity by the time DBC publishes its monthly calendar. To ensure your spot on a Cantigny walk, check the park's website and follow the sign-up instructions. In addition to regular walks, held monthly, Cantigny now offers Accessible Birding opportunities for those with limited mobility.

For additional birding opportunities, check out the DuPage and Cook County forest preserves: <https://www.dupageforest.org/calendar-of-events>, [www.fpdcc.com/events](http://www.fpdcc.com/events).

Non-members are always welcome. We do not charge fees for birding trips. Field trip information is also found at: <http://www.dupagebirding.org/>.

Email us if you have questions or would like to lead a trip. Leaders do not have to be birding experts, just familiar with the location.

**Field Trip Coordinators:**

Wally Levernier, [wglevernier@gmail.com](mailto:wglevernier@gmail.com)

Karen Warner, [k\\_warner@comcast.net](mailto:k_warner@comcast.net)



## 2023 Meeting Schedule

January 12	July 13
March 9	September 14
April 13	October 12
May 11	November 9

## 2023 DBC Executive Committee Members

President: Mike Warner

Vice President: Robert Perez

Treasurer: Jane Barnett

Recording Secretary: Angela Levernier

Corresponding Secretary: Natalie McFaul

Director: Dennis Streicher

Director: Sirimon Reutrakul

Director: Pamela Martyn-Nemeth

## 2023 DBC Committee Chairs

Audio-Visual Coordinator: OPEN

Bird Conservation Network: Glenn Gabanski,  
Diann Bilderback, Glenn Perricone, Donna Kubik

Christmas Count Coordinator: Jeff Chapman

Communications: Diann Bilderback, Steve  
Constantelos

DBC Apparel: Steve Constantelos

Drummings Newsletter: Jeff Smith, Diann  
Bilderback

Email Distribution: Bob Fisher

Facebook: John Cebula, Glenn Perricone

Field Trips: Karen Warner, Wally Levernier

Flickr: Urs Geiser

Forest Preserve Liaison: Dennis Streicher

Grants and Donations: Vera Miller

Hospitality: Andie Duffy

Instagram: Keri Myslinski, Madison Olivieri

Lending Library: Jeff Smith

Membership Directory: Susan Kaley

Outreach/Youth Education: Donna Kubik

Spring Count Coordinator: Joe Suchecki

Twitter: Vera Miller

Webmasters: Barb Dougan, Nancy Allured

YouTube: Denis Kania, Steve Constantelos