

Field Notes

May 2023

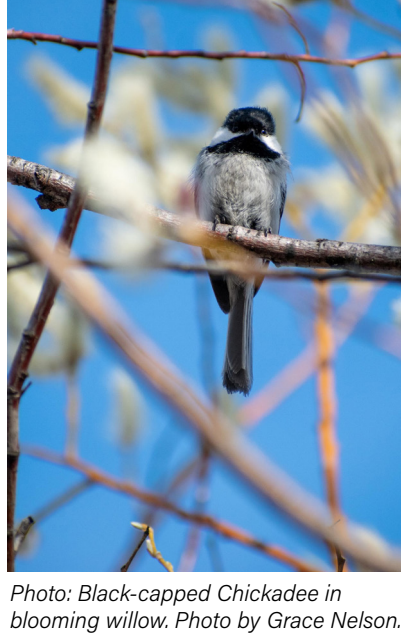


Photo: Black-capped Chickadee in blooming willow. Photo by Grace Nelson.

Greeting Friends!

The Refuge is buzzing with life. The birds are singing and starting to prepare their nests for the summer. The bumblebees can be found humming around the blooming Willows that have started to green-up around Creamer's Field. Many visitors also stop by during their Alaskan adventures to enjoy the beauty of the Tanana Valley.

The 2023 Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk is fast approaching! This year's event will be on Sunday, June 11th from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm. You can stop by and enjoy the trails while visiting with 30 local artists. We will also have music and a food truck!

There are also still a few artist spots open for this year's event. If you or someone you know would like to participate in this year's event, please apply as soon as possible! Application information can be found below.

Camp Habitat is also just around the corner. There are still a few spots available, so be sure to sign up soon! We are currently hiring instructors for this camp season. You can find the employment details below.

Wishing you a very happy spring!

Grace & Melanie
Friends of Creamer's Field Staff

2023 Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk

Join us for the 16th annual Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk. The event will be taking place on June 11 from 11:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Walk the Creamer's Field trails amongst the birds and flowers beneath the warmth of the summer sun and immerse yourselves in artwork from over 30 local artists!

They will be showcasing and selling art of all kinds. You can find that perfect artwork to take home or find gifts for friends and family. Choose from unique paintings, prints, pottery, photography, and more.

Watch local artists race against the clock to complete a masterpiece in only one hour at the Quick Draw Event, starting at 1:00 p.m.

Admission is \$5.00 per person for 18+, 17 and under are FREE. Upon admission, each family receives a collector's edition Wild Arts Walk mug courtesy of Design Alaska!

All proceeds go to support the Friends of Creamer's Field year-round educational programs and our wonderful local artists!

For more information call the Friends of Creamer's Field at (907) 978-8457.

Friends of Creamer's Field invites you to the

2023 Design Alaska

Wild Arts Walk

A Fundraiser for Friends of Creamer's Field

June 11, 2023 | 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge

Fairbanks, Alaska

Walk the Creamer's Field trails amongst the birds and flowers, and enjoy artwork from over 30 local artists!



\$5.00 Admission

Children 17 and under are free *MDR*

visit www.friendsofcreamersfield.org for more info.



Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk

Artist Applications are Available!

Share your talents with the Fairbanks community at Creamer's Field!

Deadline Extended!
~~Applications Due May 11th~~

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

We still have some artist spots available at the 2023 Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk.

If you are an artist interested in participating this year, complete and send in an application ASAP!

CAMP HABITAT 2023

Nature Sprouts (ages 4-5) - \$175

June 12-16, 2023	8:30a.m.-12:00p.m.
June 12-16, 2023	1:00p.m.-4:30p.m.

Nature Detectives (ages 6-7) - \$275

June 26-30, 2023	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
July 10-14, 2023	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
July 17-21, 2023	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

Water Striders (ages 8-9) - \$275

June 26-30, 2023	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
Full July 10-14, 2023	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
July 17-21, 2023	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

Refuge Adventurers (ages 10-11) - \$275

Full June 26-30, 2023	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
Full July 10-14, 2023	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
July 17-21, 2023	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

***You may register your camper for one week out of the listed sessions.**

Registration opens March 20th

We are Hiring!

2023 Camp Habitat Instructor

Location: Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, Fairbanks, AK

Status: Seasonal position, Full-time June and July

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Work Dates:

Training - Nature Sprouts	June 5-8, 2023
Nature Sprouts	June 12-16, 2023
Training - Camp Habitat	June 20-23, 2023
Camp Habitat - session #1	June 26-30, 2023
BREAK	July 3-7, 2023
Camp Habitat - session #2	July 10-14, 2023
Camp Habitat - session #3	July 17-21, 2023
Clean-up	July 25-27, 2023

Job Description: Instructors are responsible for the complete curriculum planning, leadership, and supervision for one group of 10-12 children per week. Groups range in age from 4 - 5 (pre-school) and 6 - 11 years old (day camp). Instructors develop, organize and implement developmentally appropriate, fun, and educational activities to facilitate children's exploration and discovery of nature.

Questions? Contact: Jesi Lobato, Camp Habitat Director at (907) 888-7304 or camphabitat@friendsofcreamersfield.org

Field Sketch

Presented by ADFG Biologist, Mark D. Ross

Sounds of the Season: Raucous calls of Wood Frogs

Wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*) length: 2" to 4"

Both sex have the black mask and distinct white upper lip characteristic of the species.

Males are smaller than females and have inflatable vocal sacs.

The male wood frog's call: "errr-ruk-ruk, errr-ruk-ruk" is often mistaken for the "quack" of ducks feeding nearby.

To my ears the calls sound like "chuckling laughs"

Close to shore, along the tangle of old grass and leaves, females are attracted to the raucous call of the males: "errr-ruk-ruk, errr-ruk-ruk"

the Wood Frog's "Love Hug" (Amplexus is the science title)

Males clasp and squeeze the females. Females respond by depositing thousands of eggs. Fertilization is external; males release gametes into the water.

wood frog egg mass

Find Wood Frogs

The wetlands behind the barns is a great place to hear the Sounds of Spring: Frogs, birds and folks. Call 459-7301 for more info. *MDR*

Conservation Corner

Amphibian populations are declining in many places around the world. Boreal toad populations in southcentral Alaska are in decline. Here in Alaska's interior, Wood Frog numbers appear stable but populations are little studied.

Field Sketches:

Mark D. Ross, Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge

Enjoy Wood frogs at Creamer's Field but Please do not collect them or their egg masses. Look and listen near your home too. Wood frogs will gather in all sorts of wetlands: ponds and even roadside vernal pools.

Other Happenings in Fairbanks

Birding by Ear Field Trip

Sunday, May 21 from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Arctic Audubon

What do you hear? Join the Arctic Audubon Society and learn to identify birds by their sound at Creamer's Field on Sunday, May 21 from 8:00 - 11:00 am. Returning songbirds stake out nesting territory by singing and this is a hopping time of year! Meet your walk leaders JJ Frost and Beth Grassi in the farmhouse parking lot.

Photo: Singing Junco. Photo by Melanie Graeff.

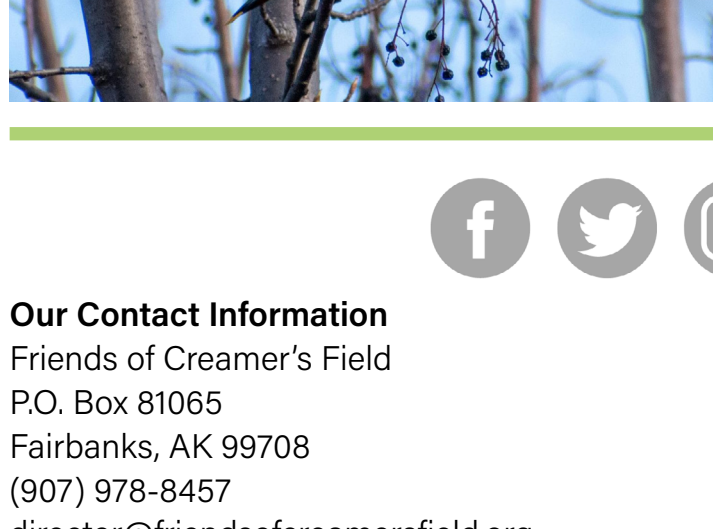
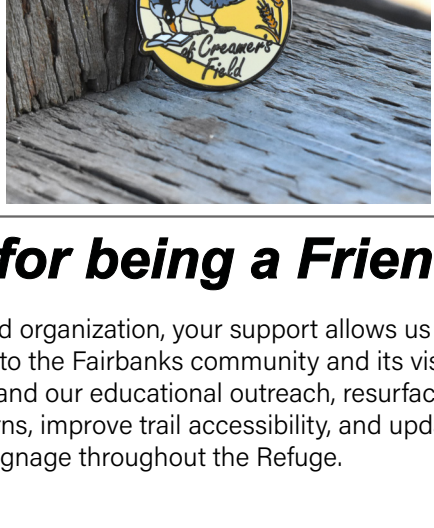
Fairbanks Birding Challenge

May 1-31

The Fairbanks Birding Challenge is an all-ages, all-abilities, outdoor scavenger hunt happening May 1 - 31, during spring migration in the Fairbanks North Star Borough! The Challenge is open to everyone including beginning birdwatchers, seasoned pros, and everyone in between. You can participate as an individual, in a team, or as a family. The registration fee is \$25 for a team/family (including up to 2 adults) or \$15 for an individual. The goal is to find all the birds on your list within the Fairbanks North Star Borough during the month of May. All proceeds support the Alaska Songbird Institute's Creamer's Field Migration Station

Shop Friends of Creamer's Field

Purchase Creamer's Field merchandise from the comfort of your own home.



Thank you for being a Friend!

As a 100% community funded organization, your support allows us to offer free educational programs to the Fairbanks community and its visitors. This year we intend to expand our educational outreach, resurface the parking lot closest to the barns, improve trail accessibility, and update our interpretive signage throughout the Refuge.

Photo by Grace Nelson

