

Summer on the Prairie House Deck

Photos by F. Marbella



Mother and son examine a monarch caterpillar.



Waiting for the release of a monarch butterfly.



Mike Rush prepares a Westchester Library group for an insect safari.
Prairie House neighbor Mike Bruno releases monarch.



THE AMAZING HUMMINGBIRDS

- ☼ Hummers flap their wings in a manner unlike other birds. In fact, they move their wings in a fashion very similar to flying insects.
- ☼ When they move their wings in a figure eight pattern, they hover in place.
- ☼ Our ruby-throated hummingbirds sing a simple high pitched song.
- ☼ Their nests are lined with lichen and held together with spider silk giving them an elastic quality that stretches as the two hummingbird chicks grow
- ☼ Almost all our ruby-throated hummingbirds migrate to Central America with some flying non-stop over the Gulf of Mexico.
- ☼ During migration, their heart beats up to 1,260 times a minute while their wings flap 80 times a second.
- ☼ To maintain this energy output, a hummingbird must increase its body weight 25 – 45% before heading south. So at this time of year, the hummers are engaged in a feeding frenzy.
- ☼ The aggressive males migrate first, resulting in more opportunities to feed for the females and immatures.
- ☼ Hummers cannot survive on nectar alone; insects are a must for fat and protein.
- ☼ Immatures are the last to fly south, dependent on an innate urge to fly a fixed direction for a certain period of time.

OCTOBER EVENT

BATS: MASTERS OF THE NIGHT SKY

Trailside Museum Forest Preserve Naturalist Sara Rose

will share the latest research on bats, discuss their role in the environment,
and answer your questions.

Wed., Oct. 28 - 7 pm ~ LaGrange Park Library ~ 555 N LaGrange Rd.

For more information, call 708-354-5512 or email info@theprairiesociety.org

DO YOU LIKE PHOTOGRAPHY?

Visitors who take tours of the Prairie have often been heard saying, “I wish I had brought my camera.” There are always photographic opportunities on the Prairie if you walk at a slow space and have the patience to be observant. Every visit presents a new opportunity. You might catch the beauty of a flower, a colorful beetle, a resting butterfly, a perching bird, an unusual composition of entangled plant life, or a setting sun that just has to be shared. Each season in its own way transforms the scenery creating new possibilities for a beautiful photo.

If you do come, please stay on the paths to ensure the integrity and future of an endangered landscape. If you would like to share your photos with STPS, you can email us at: info@theprairiesociety.org

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Volunteer Opportunities: We will be conducting Saturday workdays 1 to 4 pm starting September 26. Meet at the Prairie House. STPS will provide the tools and refreshments. For further information, call 708-562-3280

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