

Sat, Apr 28

8:00 AM Set up displays.

8:30 AM Registration & exhibits open.

8:30 AM Guided birding walk.

9:00 AM Guided golf cart birding trip.

10:00 AM Guided golf cart birding trip.

11:00 AM Kristen Hintz, naturalist, talk & walk

12:00 noon -Art exhibit closes

12:30 PM Lunch on your own.

12:30-4 PM Art pick up.

1:00 PM -John Baumgartner talk, Pileated Woodpeckers in Michigan

2:00 PM Guided golf cart birding trip.

2:00 PM Guided birding walk

3:00 PM Guided golf cart birding trip.

4:00 PM Closing ceremonies.

4:30 PM Clean up.

The Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail is being built and maintained by a partnership of various governments and the volunteer Thornapple Trail Association, an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit.



Directions

Festival headquarters is at the Village Hall in Middleville, Michigan, 100 E Main St, a quarter mile east of the M-37 traffic light.. Middleville is 11.3 miles south of the

Hastings exit 15 of the M-6 freeway, on M-37. Also 11.6 miles NW of Hastings on M-37. Also 12.4 miles east, across country, from exit 64, the Wayland exit, of US-131.

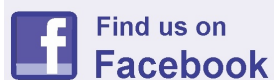
Information

For further information and details, see the Festival web site and Facebook page or contact Jean at 616 293-8666 or Cal at 269 720-6983.



Kayak birding next to the Trail.

Link to web page ⇒



Printed February 16, 2012 by the TTA

Thornapple Woodpecker Festival

Fri -Sat April 27-28, 2012

woodpeckerfest.webs.com



The paved Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail follows the Thornapple River and has been called the most beautiful railtrail in Michigan. The area has an established population of the rare red-headed woodpecker as well as all the other six eastern US woodpeckers.

To celebrate this, the second Thornapple Woodpecker Festival will be held April 27-28, 2012, with headquarters at the Village Hall in Middleville, Michigan. It will feature guided birding walks, handicapped golf cart tours, and kayak tours of the the woodpecker nesting area along the river and the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail. Also a nature photo exhibit and art contest, naturalist talks, and the Woodpecker Ball dinner dance.

See the web site and facebook page for up-to-the-minute details.

The Birding

The old railroad followed the river and was built in the 1800's. More recent adjustments in the dam at Middleville has killed many trees. Since red-headed woodpeckers prefer at least 35% open sky areas, this has produced good woodpecker habitat. In this view of one of the bayous, the Trail and river are hidden behind brush in the background.



Of course, many ducks, geese, swans, herons, cranes, and other waterbirds are usually seen on the bayous. In addition, the trees along the first portion of the trail are rather short, so the warblers etc. are "right in your face", an experience some have compared to Point Pelee. Last year Festival birders saw 52 species.

General Information

Registration - \$10 for all tours and speakers. Online available at the web site: **woodpeckerfest.webs.com**

Students age 12-17 - \$5

Children under 12 free when accompanied by registered guest.

Festival button to be worn by all registered guests.

Fee covers admission to exhibits, lectures, talks, and guided tours.

Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Thornapple-Woodpecker-Festival/189561891069751>

Schedule updates on the web page.

Talks/lectures in Village Hall, 100 E Main. Show button for admission.

Nature Art exhibit Masonic hall, 123 E Main. No button required for admission. See the web page for contest rules.

Art setup Thursday 5-8 pm at Masonic Hall

Golf cart tours For those who have difficulty walking. Pre-registration strongly recommended, limited availability.

Woodpecker Ball (and silent auction):

Dinner Dance at Middle Villa, 4611 M-37.

\$10 single, \$15 couple. Dinner & drinks extra.. Steak, chicken & fish buffet: \$17. Microbrewery on site. Black, white, and red dress suggested.

Exhibits In Village Hall. \$25 fee to exhibit, or \$10 for non-profit organizations. Exhibitors must provide their own tables etc. Chairs will be available.

Kayaks - Free launching, river and weather conditions permitting.

There are four eating establishments within one block of the Festival.

Festival Schedule

Thu, Apr 26

5:00 PM Nature art contest set up across street at Masonic hall.

8:00 PM Art entry closes.

Fri, Apr 27

8:00 AM Set up displays & late artists

8:30 AM Registration & exhibits open

8:30 AM Guided birding walk

9:00 AM Guided golf cart birding trip

10:00 AM Guided golf cart birding trip

11:00 AM Speaker - Jonathan Lutz, Executive Dir, Michigan Audubon Society

12:00 AM Lunch on your own.

1:00 PM Speaker - TBA

2:00 PM Guided walk

2:00 PM Guided golf cart birding trip.

3:00 PM Guided golf cart birding trip.

5:00 PM Exhibits close

6-10:30 PM Woodpecker Ball at Middle Villa, with silent auction. Dance music by the Forrest Evans Quartet. Dinner buffet at 6, music at 6:30.

