

Nature Photography Retreat May 1-2, 2020

at beautiful DuBois Center

Come take in nature's beauty in spring! This retreat is during spring wild-flower season and spring bird migration, and it features both a professional nature photographer and a biologist/birder to guide your photos.

DuBois Center is a 308 acre camp with two lakes, unique plant biodiversity and beautiful wildlife. It is located approximately 1 hour east of St. Louis, Missouri and 1 hr north of Carbondale, Illinois. Seasonally, we've found buffalo clover, cream wild indigo, prairie aster and many other plants on the grounds that are rare, or rare for our area. More than 150 species of birds either live at or migrate through camp, too.

Retreat Schedule

May 1st

3pm Registration opens; come early, settle in, and explore the grounds

6pm Dinner

7pm Marty Kemper shares the flora and fauna you might find this time of year

7:30pm Brady Kesner shares photo composition skills and gives tips on wildlife, landscape, macro, horse, bird and water photography

May 2nd

7am Breakfast, then photography time on your own or with a friend

9:30am Mid-morning break, followed by more photography time

Noon Lunch

1-3pm Pick three images for friendly critique on how to enhance your photos

3pm Depart for home

Participants can take a map to find the perfect subject- the trails, horse barn, main lake or Deer Run lake, or anywhere that strikes your fancy. This retreat is for beginner and amateur photographers with DSLR cameras. Bring a tripod, along with wide angle/telephoto lenses if you have them.

Lodging will be in Hickory Lodge and Roadside Cottage. Hickory Lodge has private rooms with a mix of double and twin beds, and shared restrooms. Roadside Cottage has two living spaces with four bunk beds and a dedicated restroom on each side. Only the lower bunks will be used for this retreat, and you will be sharing the room with other participants. If you want to room with a friend, please indicate when registering.

Retreat Rates:

Early bird, before April 1 \$112 person

General registaration \$122 person

Registration closes April 17
Go to www.DuBoisCenter.org to register



DuBois Center is the camp and retreat center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ.

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Because we affirm the value of all God's people, the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, national origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or gender identity. To the extent possible, we endeavor to accommodate those with a variety of physical, mental, emotional, medical, or dietary needs.

Your Expert Guides



Martin Kemper worked 35 years as a Wildlife, Natural Heritage, and Private Lands Biologist with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). He currently is retired, but keeps busy with volunteer work for Prairie Rivers Network, Master Naturalists, IDNR, Clifftop, DuBois Center and others...(at least when he's not gardening, "grand-parenting" for two grand-daughters, or indulging in a little nature photography!) Martin graduated with a MA degree in Zoology with a specialty in Ecology from SIU Carbondale. Martin started listing birds when he was 11 and has been the Washington Co. compiler for the Illinois Spring Bird Count for over 35 years. Learning the unique plants and natural communities of south-central Illinois has been a lifelong endeavor... as has been sharing the wonder of Creation. He and his wife Linda reside in Nashville, IL.









Brady Kesner has been photographing the beauty of Nature for more than 15 years. He travels the country seeking out beautiful landscapes and waterscapes as subjects. A devoted lover of Nature, he knows the importance of caring for our planet and lives a life accordingly. His intention is to create soothing, creative imagery that evokes the same emotion in his viewers as it did for him at the time of capture. His photographs are sold to the public at a number of local art fairs and are placed in hospitals, medical facilities and corporate entities by interior designers. This is some of Brady's work. To see more of his portfolio, visit bradykesner.com.

This retreat is organized by Green DuBois, supporting environmental education and ecological projects at DuBois Center.