

# Wildlife Habitat Bus Tour

Want to see how Private, Federal, and Conservation Organization lands within the floodplains of the Mississippi River are managed to provide high quality and diverse wildlife habitats in Randolph County?

*Learn about assistance programs for land owners.*

Join us for lunch at the American Legion Hall in Chester and an afternoon bus tour of the Mississippi River bottoms.

**Wednesday, June 23, 2010 - 11:30 am - 5:15 pm**

**Chester American Legion Hall  
500 Opdyke Street  
Chester, IL 62233-1466**



Registration information inside

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED - FREE! - FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS**

**Attention Landowners, DU and NWTF Members, & Wildlife Lovers: Don't Miss Out!**

***Come and learn how creating high quality wildlife habitat on your property can benefit your bottom line!***

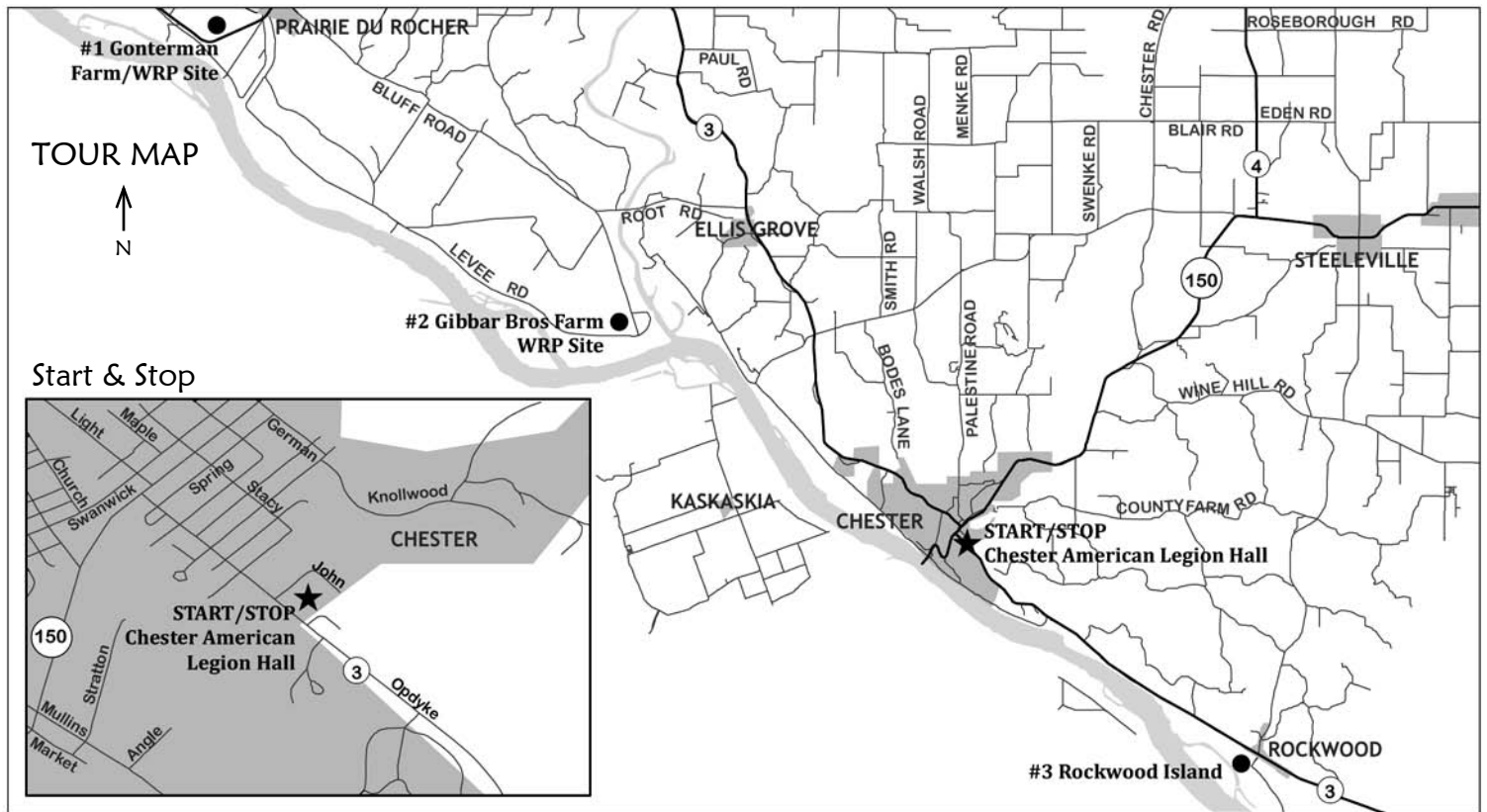
## Bus Tour Schedule:

- 11:30 Registration & Lunch
- 12:45 Start loading buses
- 1:00 Leave Chester American Legion Hall
- 1:45 Arrive Stop #1 Gonterman Farm/WRP Site (Private) for 30 minute stop
- 2:15 Leave Stop #1
- 2:45 Arrive Stop #2 Gibbar Brothers Farm/WRP Site (Private) for 45 minute stop
- 3:30 Leave Stop #2
- 4:15 Arrive Stop #3 Rockwood Island (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service & Ducks Unlimited)  
45 minute stop
- 5:00 Leave Stop #3
- 5:15 Arrive back at Chester American Legion Hall

Wildlife habitat is abundant in the river floodplains of southern Illinois. Abundant grain fields, low wet soils, and intermittent and permanent wetlands make for a diversity of habitats. Come see and hear first hand why and how Federal agencies, private landowners and conservation organizations manage valuable wildlife habitats and how you can do the same - including learning about various government landowner assistance programs.

We will start off with a free lunch provided by Ducks Unlimited at the American Legion Hall in Chester, Illinois. Following lunch, we will travel out into the floodplains of Randolph County, both north and south of Chester to look and see how wildlife habitat is being managed. We will look at some Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) lands that are managed by private landowners and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and hear how these programs came about, how they are managed, and how you can participate in these programs. We will also stop near the US Fish & Wildlife Service Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge and some adjacent lands owned and managed by Ducks Unlimited (DU) and see and hear how they are both restoring and managing their lands. We will be hiking off-road to see real refuges and their benefits to the public - some walking will be required. We will stop at public restrooms on the way as needed. Several private landowners, federal and state agency staff, and regional biologists from Ducks Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation will be on hand during the trip to make presentations, answer questions, provide information on landowner assistance programs, and fill your wildlife knowledge gaps.

# Map & Directions



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## REGISTRATION

*Wildlife Habitat Bus Tour of Private, Federal, and Conservation Organization lands in Randolph County*

To register, cut on dotted line & mail this form by **June 16th** to:

**Preston Lacy, Southwestern Illinois RC&D, 406 East Main, Mascoutah, IL 62258**

OR email/call:

**[preston.lacy@swircd.org](mailto:preston.lacy@swircd.org) - 618.566.4451 x21**

Space is limited to **90 people**, so register today!

Registration will be taken by mail, phone or email on a first come basis.

This tour is **FREE!** Please provide the following when registering:

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Name

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Address

City/State/Zip

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Daytime Phone

Email Address

The bus tour will be held rain or shine. Speakers will be on the bus to address what you are seeing.

**In addition to our partners, special thanks go to our speakers, and the organizations and individuals who volunteered their time and resources to help make this field day possible.**