

THE K.W. CUE



Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Team Newsletter

The KWCT Human Dimensions subcommittee is excited to host an outreach event in Roscommon, MI this spring discussing KW Conservation, for influential local leaders.

Questions or comments can be forwarded to HD Subcommittee chair, Bill Rapai, at brapai@aol.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Team Biannual Meeting:

July 26-28, 2022

Location:

Jay's Sporting Goods, 1151 S. Otsego Ave., Gaylord, MI 49735

Agenda and Registration Information to Follow!

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER Coffee Talk

Sponsored by the Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Team

Friday, April 22nd at 10am

Coffee & Baked Goods Served



MARGUERITE GAHAGAN NATURE PRESERVE
209 W. Maplehurst Dr.
Roscommon, MI 48653

Agenda

"WHAT DOES THE KIRTLAND'S WARBLER MEAN TO OUR FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES?"

History of the Kirtland's Warbler and its Delisting from the Endangered Species List

Tourism Perspective/Economic Impacts: How the Kirtland's Warbler Generates Money for the Local Economy

Secondary Benefits of Kirtland's Warbler Habitat

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER THROWBACK PHOTOS

Information and Photos Compiled by Mike Petrucha, KW Festival Chair



Taken by Wes Hall on July 4, 1965 in Oscoda Co., MI, this photo shows the ceremony celebrating the 1903 discovery of the 1st Kirtland's Warbler nest. A bronze marker was placed at almost the exact site of the 1st nest. Present are Harold Mayfield (foreground), Fenn Holden, and members of the Pontiac Audubon Club, who paid for the marker.



Another Kirtland's Warbler archive oldie taken June 17, 1903 by E. H. Frothingham. In the photo is T. G. Gale near where Gale collected the 1st summer KW two days earlier. Frothingham brought the specimen to Norman Wood, who then went to the area 3 weeks later and found the 1st KW nest on July 8th. The KW breeding grounds were finally found 52 years after the species was discovered, ending one of North America's largest ornithological mysteries.

KW Festival can be followed on Twitter (@KWFestival1) or Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/kirtlandwarblerfestival/>).

Get to Know a KW Conservation Team Member: Joyanne (Joy) Mittig

Joy is a forester for the American Bird Conservancy, covering 27 counties in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan. She works with private landowners, land conservancies, foresters, and government agencies to bring about holistic forestry practices that benefit the land and wildlife, with a focus on bird habitat. She facilitates discussions with landowners who could be interested in using acreage for KW management, and also serves on the KWCT Human Dimensions Subcommittee. Prior to working for ABC, Joy was with the Michigan DNR where she spent nearly three years as a forest technician and wildland firefighter.

She frequently presents to groups throughout Northern Michigan on "Forestry for Michigan Birds," and will be serving as the keynote speaker for the Friday Night Home Opener of the 2022 Kirtland's Warbler Festival in Roscommon.



Although her background is in forestry, Joy is a serious bird lover, and plans her weekend trips and vacations around birding. In her free time she can usually be found outside, birding, mountain biking, trail running, skiing, and tending to her chickens.

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PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Kirtland's Warbler Festival

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For Immediate Release



KIRTLAND'S WARBLER WEEKEND IS BACK

Dateline: Roscommon, MI, January 27, 2022 — Save the dates. The Kirtland's Warbler Weekend is back June 3-4, 2022, in beautiful downtown Roscommon, Michigan!

The weekend starts with the Kirtland's Warbler Festival Home Opener on Friday June 3rd from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve, 209 W. Maplehurst Dr., Roscommon, MI 48653. Enjoy a social evening, including a nature hike, social time with beer and wine tasting, and appetizers as Kirtland's Warbler Weekend kicks off. Our keynote speaker will be Joyanne Mittig from the American Bird Conservancy, presenting Forestry for Michigan Birds.

On Saturday June 4th from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM is the Kirtland's Warbler Festival at the CRAF Center, 606 Lake Street, Roscommon, Michigan. The Kirtland's Warbler Festival is an educational celebration of the Kirtland's Warbler, its habitat, and the communities located in the jack pine ecosystem. Experience Northern Michigan through a variety of activities, including kids' tent, jack pine tours, nature presentations, featured artist Kim Diment, featured author Bill Rapai, live animals, and much more! Presentations include Kirtland's Warbler videos with an introduction by Bill Rapai, Dispatches from Paradise: Observing Avian Migration at Whitefish Point by Alison Világ, and Michigan Frogs by Sight and Sound by Jim McGrath.

For more information and updates about these events, visit our Kirtland's Warbler Festival Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/kirtlandwarblerfestival>, or email at kirtlandsfestival@gmail.com.

In conjunction with the Kirtland's Warbler Festival on Saturday, the Higgins Lake-Roscommon Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a cornhole tournament at the CRAF Center, and a classic car show on M-18 in front of the CRAF Center. For more information contact Tracy Purdue-Smith, info@hlrcc.com

IN THE NEWS:

Project Organizers Hope Once Endangered Birds Will Flock to New Nesting Ground:

<https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/project-organizers-hope-once-endangered-birds-will-flock-to-new-nesting-ground-8-photos-4984663>

The Kirtland's Warbler is Here to Stay:

<https://www.wisconsin.org/kirtland-warbler-is-here-to-stay/>

Join Audubon Great Lakes, MI Birds, Kirtland's Warbler Alliance, Bahamas National Trust, and American Bird Conservancy at 12pm ET/11am CT on Wednesday, April 6 for a FREE webinar to learn more about KW conservation. You can register for the free webinar here: <https://bit.ly/KWAudubonWebinar>

Environmental Assessment for Kirtland's Warbler Habitat Management

Submitted by Eric O'Neil, USFS (eric.oneil@usda.gov)

The Huron-Manistee National Forests (HMNF) is proposing a project that will develop Kirtland's warbler (KW) breeding habitat development over 15 years. This environmental review would provide clearance for many projects intended to meet the HMNF goal of 1,211 acres per year of breeding habitat development. The need arises from the recent delisting of the KW and the call from multiple agencies to develop a plan to provide adequate KW habitat.

This habitat will provide the HMNF an opportunity to maintain enough habitat to sustain at least 630 pairs of warblers. There are currently several multi-agency documents addressing desired landscape conditions for optimal KW Management: Memorandum of Understanding with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (MOU), KW Conservation Plan (KWCP), and the US Forest Service Forest Leadership Teams Decision (FLT Decision). These documents help determine the desired habitat condition needed to support KW breeding opportunities but do not layout a 15-year plan that has undergone proper NEPA analysis.



The goal is to develop a focused EA that provides clearance for the 1,211 acres on average per year over 15 years. This will provide a stable plan going forward to manage Kirtland's Warbler on National Forest System lands. This EA will allow for Adaptive Management by including non-traditional habitat management actions and incorporating flexibility to adjust management after wildfire or other unplanned events.