



# MIDEWIN BY HIKING

## *Summer 2020*

**All programs are FREE**, but registration is requested.

**Register early!** Please let us know if you plan to participate so we can contact you if the program is cancelled. Email [SM.FS.Midewin\\_RSVP@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.Midewin_RSVP@usda.gov) or call **815-423-6370** to provide your name, contact information, and the number of people in your group.

**Come early!** Come 15-20 minutes early to experience the prairie for a bit on your own before the program begins.

### **DIRECTIONS**

**Welcome Center:** 30239 IL-53, Wilmington, IL 60481

The Midewin Welcome Center is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Wilmington on Hwy. 53. The building is on the east side of the highway.

**GPS Coordinate:** **41°20'36.5"N 88°07'54.5"W**

**Iron Bridge Trailhead:** The Iron Bridge Trailhead is located 2.7 miles from the Midewin Welcome Center (30239 IL State Route 53, Wilmington, IL 60481). Going north from the Welcome Center on Hwy. 53, turn right at the gravel road just after the Iron Bridge. The entrance to the trailhead is on the east side of the highway. Drive in about a quarter mile until you reach a large parking lot.

**GPS Coordinate:** **41°22'43.9"N 88°07'23.0"W**



## HIKE DESCRIPTIONS

### Welcome Center Grounds Hikes

**Saturdays, May 9, 23, 30  
11 a.m. & 1 p.m.**

Stroll along the limestone paths through the seasonal prairie blooms of the Welcome Center grounds. Learn about Midewin while seeing first-hand the seedbeds, oak trees, hoop houses, and more. Find out what is happening at this very special place and why. Meet at the Midewin Welcome Center for this interpretive hike (about 1 hour).

### Nature Stroll

**Saturday, June 6  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

A “Midewin Sampler!” Celebrate National Prairie Day and enjoy a guided stroll along the Henslow Trail. Learn more about Midewin’s fascinating history and ambitious mission and let nature engage your senses along the way. Meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead Ranger Trailer.

### Birds of Midewin Hike

**Saturday, June 13  
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.**

You might see blue grosbeaks, loggerhead shrikes, bobolinks, grasshopper sparrows, black-billed cuckoos, mockingbirds, and brown thrashers. Bring your binoculars! This 2-hour east side walking tour will

begin at the Welcome Center. Participants will follow tour guides to the Iron Bridge Trailhead to start the hike.

### Prairie Farmstead Hike

**Saturday, June 27  
9:30 to 11 a.m.**

*Preferable by far to the timberlands.* —HENRY J. ABLE, 1838. Although we often focus on the transformation of the old arsenal to restored tallgrass prairie, it was actually during the agricultural era of Midewin, from 1830 to 1940, when most of the prairie disappeared under the sizzle of the self-scouring steel plow. During this 90-minute walk, learn about the National Register-eligible Rodgers/Schumacher Farmstead that was continuously farmed from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to 1940, and then, once the buildings were removed, was preserved in time. Meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead Ranger Trailer.

### Birds of Midewin Hike

**Saturday, June 27  
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.**

You might see blue grosbeaks, loggerhead shrikes, bobolinks, grasshopper sparrows, black-billed cuckoos, mockingbirds, and brown thrashers. Bring your binoculars! This 2-hour east side walking tour will

begin at the Welcome Center. Participants will follow tour guides to the Iron Bridge Trailhead to start the hike.

### Nature Stroll

**Monday, July 6  
6:30 to 8 p.m.**

A “Midewin Sampler!” Celebrate Eliza Steele Day and enjoy a guided stroll along the Henslow Trail. Learn more about Midewin’s fascinating history and ambitious mission and let nature engage your senses along the way. On the night of July 6, 1840, Eliza Steele, a young woman from the East Coast, boarded a stagecoach in Chicago. She was headed for Peoria. As the sun rose the next day, she awoke to something she had never seen before. “I was in the midst of a prairie!” she wrote. Her diary noted that she was just south of Joliet. What did she see here? Meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead Ranger Trailer.

### Nature Stroll

**Tuesday, August 11  
6:30 to 8 p.m.**

A “Midewin Sampler!” On Gifford Pinchot’s birthday, celebrate the life of the man who started the USDA Forest Service on this guided walk along the Henslow Trail. Hear about some of the plants and animals that inspired Pinchot! Learn more about

Midewin's fascinating history and ambitious mission and let nature engage your senses along the way. Meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead Ranger Trailer.

### **Welcome Center Grounds Hikes**

***Saturdays, August 15, 29  
11 a.m. & 1 p.m.***

Stroll along the limestone paths through the seasonal prairie blooms of the Welcome Center grounds. Learn about Midewin while seeing first-hand the seedbeds, oak trees, hoop houses, and more. Find out what is happening at this very special place and why. Meet at the Midewin Welcome Center for this interpretive hike (about 1 hour).

### **Prairie Farmstead Hike**

***Saturday, September 12  
9:30 to 11 a.m.***

*Preferable by far to the timberlands.*—HENRY J. ABLE, 1838. Although we often focus on the transformation of the old arsenal to restored

tallgrass prairie, it was actually during the agricultural era of Midewin, from 1830 to 1940, when most of the prairie disappeared under the sizzle of the self-scouring steel plow. During this 90-minute walk, learn about the National Register-eligible Rodgers/Schumacher Farmstead that was continuously farmed from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to 1940, and then, once the buildings were removed, was preserved in time. Meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead Ranger Trailer.

### **Nature Stroll**

***Tuesday, September 29  
6:30 to 8 p.m.***

A "Midewin Sampler!" Celebrate National Health & Fitness Day at Midewin! Enjoy a guided stroll along Henslow and learn more about Midewin's fascinating history and ambitious mission and let nature engage your senses along the way. Meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead Ranger Trailer.

### **Welcome Center Grounds Hikes**

***Saturdays, October 3, 10, 24,  
31***

***11 a.m. & 1 p.m.***

Stroll along the limestone paths through the seasonal prairie blooms of the Welcome Center grounds. Learn about Midewin while seeing first-hand the seedbeds, oak trees, hoop houses, and more. Find out what is happening at this very special place and why. Meet at the Midewin Welcome Center for this interpretive hike (about 1 hour).

### **Nature Stroll**

***Saturday, October 17  
1 to 2:30 p.m.***

A "Midewin Sampler!" Celebrate National Earth Science Week at Midewin! Enjoy a guided stroll along Henslow Trail. Learn more about Midewin's fascinating history and ambitious mission and let nature engage your senses along the way. Meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead Ranger Trailer.