

Major birding event scheduled for May 23

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GREENWICH □ Friends of the Washington County Grasslands Important Bird Area will host a guided bird walk beginning at 7:30 a.m. May 23 at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center.

Laurie LaFond, Friends of the IBA president, and Bo Harris will be co-leaders of the walk, which celebrates International Migratory Bird Day.

Friends of the IBA's knowledgeable guides will take visitors on an exploration along a couple miles of trails that meander through the open fields and wooded hills of this 600-acre private retreat located in southern Washington County. The mix of habitats supports a wide variety of bird species, including thrushes, mockingbirds, herons, kingfishers, warblers, vireos and more. Trip leaders have recorded 65 to 70 species on past trips.

The event is free to members. The cost for nonmembers is \$10, or \$20 for an entire family.

Please call 677-3350 to sign up or to get more information.

Grant from Stewart's

Friends of the Washington County Grasslands IBA also received a \$1,000 grant from Stewart's Shops last month as part of the business's annual Holiday Match giving program to local nonprofits.

The grant will help Friends of the IBA expand and enhance programs to educate area youth about endangered and threatened birds of the Washington County Grasslands IBA.

Stewart's Shops Holiday Match program accepts donations made by customers from Thanksgiving day through Christmas day, then matches that amount.

The program raised more than \$1.5 million in 2014 and has donated \$20 million to local nonprofits since the program was founded 28 years ago.