

Minsi Lake Corridor In Full Bloom

By Michael Ortoski / Co- Chair of Friends of Minsi Lake
UPPER MT. BETHEL - " We've got what's likely the first pair of Barred Owls ever confirmed using a PGC designed Barred Owl Nestbox, according to the PGC Biologist who helped design it" said Jim Wilson, Friends of Minsi Lake Sec.

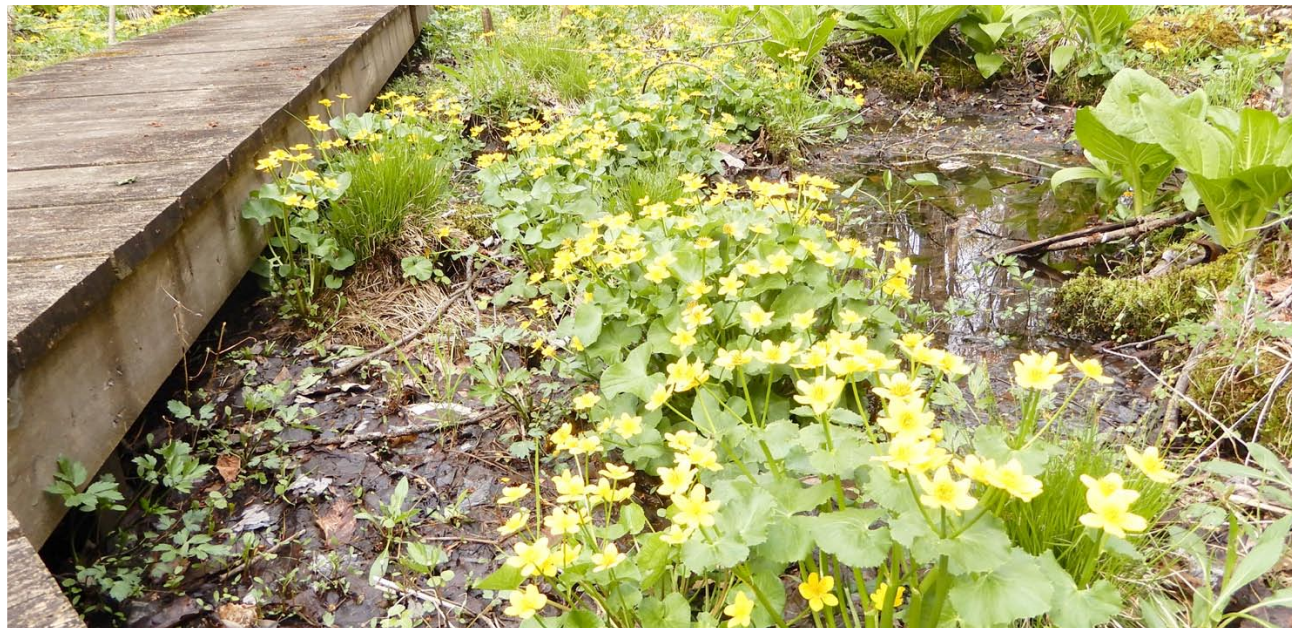
"I saw Mama Barred Owl fly out of the nestbox yesterday afternoon, which visually confirms what we've suspected. She's either on eggs or brooding chicks. She's like twice the size of Papa Barred Owl, who I've seen in the past standing guard in the background. Mama posed nicely for me yesterday & then started calling for her mate."

Wilson says he will strap a trailcam onto a nearby tree at nestbox height to capture some great Barred Owl family pics in the coming weeks. he will install it with the help of LV Audubon Society, which has a lightweight telescoping ladder we can use to hang the trailcam.

LV Audubon Society has been working with a French ornithologist at Hawk Mountain trying to get Barred Owls to use nestboxes there; so far without luck. This PhD is excited about our success & wants to come band the owlets when the time comes. That'll make for some great photos! This should be a fun year watching this owl family grow at Bear Swamp.

A sighting illustrates something we've feared since last year of our Osprey family who returned this year. The potential for our Totts Gap Osprey to get entangled in the human debris they build their nest with. Once again this year, they incorporated orange boat rope from somewhere. And lo & behold, one of them was photographed at the Lake last Friday soaring overhead with a mass of that orange rope hanging off one leg.

"Fortunately, it appears the rope has fallen off the bird. Steve Kloiber confirmed that on Friday & both birds were spotted on the platform yesterday, without any entanglement. So disaster averted. Let's hope they stay out trouble; I've heard they've been taking big coy out of a private backyard pond up the road" said Wilson.



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