

WOOD prints

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NEW!
 Hours Extended Tuesdays
 March 12 - October 29

NATURE CENTER HOURS

Monday, Wednesday - Saturday
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Tuesdays (Starting Mar. 12)
 9 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Sunday
 Noon - 4 p.m.

CONTACT

Phone & Fax
 715-877-2212
 Email
bcr@beavercreekreserve.org
 Website
www.beavercreekreserve.org

BEAVER CREEK EARTH WEEK CHALLENGE

Each year we are asked to participate in many events that take place either on Earth Day or over the course of "Earth Week." Unfortunately, with our small staff, we cannot be everywhere we are requested. This year our staff decided to take a different approach. We asked ourselves, how could Beaver Creek Reserve make a bigger impact?

For inspiration we looked to the founder of Earth Day, Governor Gaylord Nelson. While the original intent behind the founding of Earth Day was to pass sweeping environmental legislation and reform, over the years the focus of Earth Day has evolved. Even Governor Nelson recognized these changes during an address on April 22, 1995, the 25th Anniversary of Earth Day. "Reaching a general understanding that sustainability is the ultimate issue, will finally bring us face-to-face with the political challenge of forging a sustainable society during the next few decades...Now that we know there are finite limits to the bounty of the land, we also must know we have a moral obligation to pass that bounty on to future generations. That is what sustainability is all about."

With the goal of sustainability in mind, we have come up with a fun, hands-on, week-long

challenge that encourages our local community members to try out practices that protect and conserve our valuable resources and allows us to leverage the impact of Earth Day in our community with our own limited staff and resources.

So what is the Earth Week Challenge?

The Beaver Creek Earth Week challenge is a list of more than 60 tasks in seven different categories. Categories include; Getting From Here to There, Reduce the Amount You Leave Behind, Don't be an Energy Vampire, Stay Local, Re-Use It or Re-Purpose It, Turn It Off and Opt Outside, and Be Part of the Solution.

In each category there are a variety of challenge activities, each weighted by points. Tasks are given 1, 3, or 5 points, depending on the difficulty. Examples of tasks include: Use public transportation (1 pt.), turn off the lights when you leave the room (1 pt.), create something from a used material i.e. a shopping bag from a t-shirt or bird feeder from a milk carton (3 pts.), take a picture in front of an Eau Claire Chamber Green Business (5 pts.).

Locals will be encouraged to create a team and give their team a creative name. Teams can



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Bird School 2019 Pg. 2
 Calling All Beginning Birders



2019 Photo Contest Pg. 2
 Opens March 1



Spring Programs Pg. 4
 CV Watercolorists 25th Anniversary



Naturalist Notes Pg. 6
 Hmmmmmmm!



Citizen Science Center: Bird School 2019

BIRD SCHOOL: A STEPPING STONE TO BEGINNING BIRDERS

Are you interested in learning about birds, but don't know where to begin? Join the Citizen Science Center for Bird School this summer. The Citizen Science Center will be hosting the 5th annual Bird School, a 2-½ day educational event that will provide an in-depth introduction to the fascinating world of birds. The class will be held at Beaver Creek Reserve on Thursday May 30th through Saturday June 1st. The course will consist of classroom

presentations, outdoor field trips, hands-on demonstrations, and group activities to create a fun learning experience.

Students will be introduced to the basics of bird biology, identification, behavior, migration, and conservation. Bird School will be taught by experienced birders and wildlife biologist from around the Chippewa Valley and Wisconsin.

Bird School is intended for beginners who want to learn about birds and better understand their life cycles. Anyone with a curiosity about nature is encouraged to enroll in the class including students, backyard birdwatchers, gardeners, hunters, teachers, farmers, hikers, natural resource professionals, and artists.

This is a unique opportunity and one you don't want to miss. For more information and registration cost visit our website (or turn to page 5). Registration is now open!



Amateur Nature Photo Contest

Contest Categories

- Art in Nature
- Beaver Creek Reserve
- People Connecting with Nature
- Plants, Landscapes & Natural Objects
- Birds
- Wildlife

Contest Divisions

- Adult
- Youth (15 & Under)
- Phone & Tablet

**Entry Fees: \$3 per photo for Adults
\$1 per photo for Youth**

Photos accepted from March 1 - June 15, 2018

Contest rules and entry forms available at the Wise Nature Center, Sharp Photo and Portrait on Mall Drive, Eau Claire or online at www.beavercreekreserve.org



2018 Best in Show, *Little Red* by Erik Huebler

Contest Sponsored by:



YURI'S NIGHT AT HOBBS OBSERVATORY

Friday, April 12, 5:00 - 9:30 p.m.

- 30 min. Inflatable Planetarium Shows
 - Tons of Hands on Experiments and Projects
 - Free Popcorn
 - Public Observing if skies are clear
- See page 4 for more information*



FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NEWSLETTER

Editor Brianne Markin

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Earth Week Challenge Cont.

Continued from page 1

either be a family (parent(s) + kids) or a group of up to five people (of any age) per team. Teams will register online, starting April 17, through a link available on our website. Teams earn points by completing various tasks and must take a picture of ALL team members engaged in the activity, and then email the pictures to earthweek@beavercreekreserve.org. There will be prize drawings based on levels of points earned. Once a team has earned 5 points, they will received one entry into a drawing for a BCR membership, event passes and some other surprises. At 35 points, teams will be entered into a drawing for other great prizes like EC Chamber Bucks, gift certificates and more. Top teams, earning over 100 out of a possible 131 points, will be entered into an additional drawing for another larger prize package.

Prizes are still being added and packages will be finalized by April 17. We will be sharing additional information

via Facebook and email. Visit www.beavercreekreserve.org/events and choose Earth Week Challenge for the latest information.

We hope you will consider joining the Earth Week Challenge! Please contact us with questions!

Chippewa Valley Watercolor Artists 25th Anniversary Show and Sale Show and Sale March 6 - April 2 (during BCR hours) Artist's Reception March 9, 9 am - 2 pm



UPCOMING

programs



MARCH

Gentle Yoga

Mondays, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

Friends \$80, Nonmembers \$100.
At the door \$10 Members
\$12 Nonmembers



Weekly Bird Banding

Wed. & Thur., Sept. - May, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Beaver Creek Reserve Bird Banders have been banding birds for over 20 years. Come and visit with the Bird Banders during their weekly banding sessions.

Free

Bee Keeping 101

Saturday, March 2, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This informative class taught by members of the Chippewa Valley Beekeepers, will teach you the basics to get started: beekeeping basics, costs, time involved and equipment needed.

Friends \$40, Nonmembers \$45

Register Today

Online:

www.beavercreekreserve.org

In Person: at the Wise Nature Center. See cover for hours.

By Mail: Please call to reserve a spot, and checks must be received by the registration deadline.

We accept cash, check, and credit or debit cards.

Cancellations require 48-hour notice prior to the program date, and are refundable, less a 10% admin fee. Tickets for special events are non-refundable.

French Toast Breakfast and Banding Demo

Saturday, March 9, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

What is better than our famous French Toast? Enjoying it with maple syrup made right here at Beaver Creek Reserve! Join us for our longest running fundraiser and spend the day at Beaver Creek Reserve for a campus-wide open house.

Pre-sale: Adults \$7, Kids (age 2-5) \$4
At the door: Adults \$8, Kids (age 2-5) \$5
(no charge for kids under age 2)

Owl Prowl

Tuesday, March 12, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Join a staff naturalist for a hootin' good time. The evening will begin with a short walk outside to listen and hoot for owls, after which you will return inside to discover some of the unique traits of the owl family.

This program is appropriate for upper elementary school-age children to adults. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

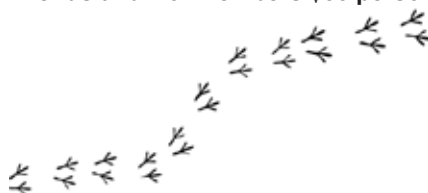
Friends: Adult \$5 Child \$3
Nonmembers: Adult \$7 Child \$5

Bird Banding 101

Wed., March 13, 8:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. &
Thur., March 14, 7:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Interested in joining Beaver Creek Reserve's Bird Banding Crew? This workshop is perfect for those with little or no bird banding experience. Participants will learn how to safely capture and release birds. They will learn techniques to hold, band, and take measurements on birds and much more!

Friends and Nonmembers \$55/person



APRIL

Herb Infused Oils & Salves

Wednesday, April 3, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Learn how to create healing salves with herbal oils for pain, wounds and other skin ailments using some of the plants featured in the Beaver Creek Plant Sale!. Join us as we learn how to concoct herbal remedies for minor skin issues and for reducing pain. Herbal oils & salves are a must-have DIY remedy to add to your home apothecary.

Friends \$25, Nonmembers \$30

Yuri's Night

Friday, April 12, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

We are excited to partner again with the Children's Museum of Eau Claire for a fun night of all things space-related! There will be two planetariums, lots of hands-on activities, and conditions permitting, public observing at Hobbs Observatory. This program is appropriate for all ages, and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Scout, 4H and school groups may reserve a planetarium show in advance by calling 715-877-2212

All other planetarium shows will be on a first-come, first-serve basis and time slots can be reserved at check in.

Friends: Adults \$5, Kids \$3,
Nonmembers: Adults \$8, Kids \$5
FREE for those who are members of BOTH Beaver Creek Reserve and the Children's Museum.

More program details available on our website!

Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Training

Tuesday, April 16, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Purple loosestrife is a wetland invasive species threatening river and lakeshores across the state. This session is dedicated to the statewide control program that uses beetles that feed on Purple loosestrife to reduce the populations of the plant to manageable numbers. The training will outline the equipment needed, time commitment, and process to complete a purple loosestrife biocontrol program.

Free to public

Frog Fest

Tuesday, April 23, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Join, as a Reserve Naturalist helps you to identify by sight and sound our local species of frogs. Weather and trail conditions permitting, the evening will end with a hike down to Beaver Creek's own frog chorus marsh. **Program is appropriate for school age children through adults.**

Friends: Adult \$5, Child \$3

Nonmembers: Adult \$8, Child \$5

Herbs and Herbal Extracts

Wednesday, April 24, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Learn about herbal extracts - how to use and make them at home! This class will touch on some of the plants available at our Native Plant Sale! Join us as we learn how to concoct herbal remedies for springtime well-being with a focus on reducing pain. Herbal extracts are another must-have DIY remedy to add to your home apothecary.

Friends \$25, Nonmembers \$30

Acoustic Bat Monitoring

Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 - 9:15 p.m.

Wisconsin has seven species of bat, four of which are threatened and three are listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Come learn about Wisconsin's bat species and how to conduct acoustic monitoring and bat roost monitoring surveys, using the Citizen Science Center's portable acoustic bat monitoring device.

Friends \$5, Nonmembers \$8

Spring Bird Count for Kids

Saturday, April 27, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Gather your fledglings to celebrate birds, and encourage your young ones to take an active role in citizen science. We will learn about birds and binoculars. Children age 4-7 must be accompanied by an adult. Children 8-12 should be prepared to spend time outside.

Friends \$6, Nonmembers \$8

MAY

Project RED Training

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Citizen Science Center

The sooner an invasive species is discovered the easier and the less expensive it is to manage! Project Riverine Early Detectors (RED) is a statewide volunteer program where volunteers paddle on their favorite river searching for new populations of invasive species. This training session will have an indoor portion, consisting of volunteer protocol and invasive ID, followed by a quick paddle to get hands on.

Free to public

Spring Evening Bird Hikes

Tuesday, May 7, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. and

Tuesday, May 21, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

May is an exciting time for birds at Beaver Creek, as migrants are moving north and stop here to rest and re-fuel. Join a Reserve Naturalist for an after-dinner walk to see who we can find on the trails. Attend one or both hikes. All levels of bird enthusiasts are welcome. **These hikes are designed for upper elementary-aged children through adults.**

Friends \$3 (per hike), Nonmembers \$5

(per hike)

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 11, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Come shop the best selection of native plants, all while supporting Beaver Creek Reserve! Lines form early, we suggest arriving early to get the best selection of flowers, grasses and herbs!

Bird Bander's Bake Sale

Saturday, May 11, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

How sweet it is! Shop our delicious bake sale, all supplied by volunteers and support the Beaver Creek Bird Banding program. This is our longest running citizen science project, contributing vital data to a national database.

Clean Boats Clean Waters Training

Saturday, May 18, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Clean Boats Clean Waters is a statewide volunteer program for citizens who care about their lakes to help educate boaters about the impact of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and the importance of cleaning off equipment. This training session will go through everything a volunteer needs to know to act as a watercraft inspector in the CBCW program. The training will include AIS identification, how to approach and interact with boaters, and outreach messaging of why this matters.

Free to public

Bird School

Thur. May 30 - Sat. June 1

This fun and engaging course has been designed specifically for beginners who want to learn more about birds and take the next step in birding. See page two for more information or visit our website.

Registration and full payment required by May 1

\$56 (Includes dinner on Friday night)

SAVE THE DATES

Breeding Bird Atlas Blitz

Wednesday, June 12, 7:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Intro to Radio Astronomy

Saturday, June 22, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Breeding Bird Atlas Blitz

Tuesday, June 25, 7:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Butterfly House Opens

Friday, July 5, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Breeding Bird Atlas Blitz

Thursday, July 11, 7:00 - 11:00 a.m.

All programs require pre-registration.

Register today!

Naturalist Notes

Hmmmmmmm!

Hummingbirds are fascinating creatures, and I find that most people love these tiny, avian visitors, but I also have heard a lot of “old wives” tales about them.

First of all, the hum of a hummingbird does not come from vocal chords, like a person’s, but is made by the beating of their wings. Ruby-throated hummingbird wings flap at **approximately 53 beats per second!**

Another tall tale is that during migration, hummingbirds will catch a ride on the backs of larger birds, like geese.



Wisconsin’s only nesting hummingbird, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, migrates up to 2,000 miles to Central and South America. Many of them use a route that takes them over the Gulf of Mexico, a 500-mile hop that they make without stopping.

Hummingbirds have extraordinarily long beaks and tongues to get nectar from flowers. Their tongue, however, is not a straw used to suck up the nectar. Their tongue is forked and separates when it comes in contact with the nectar and tiny, hair-like filaments are filled with the liquid. Hummingbird tongues “lick” nectar at a rate almost as fast as their wingbeat.

Many people know that the male birds have beautifully colored heads and throats (gorgets). Actually, those feathers are not colored, but rather, have light reflecting qualities that give them an iridescent shimmer. In low-light conditions those same feathers will appear black.

I also hear people say that red flowers are a must to attract hummingbirds. Again, this is not entirely true; hummingbirds will feed at a variety of colored flowers. Adding red coloring to feeders is **completely unnecessary**. While there are no tests to prove that red dye can harm hummingbirds there are also no tests to prove the safety of



red dye either. Many rehabilitators have documented that the hummingbirds they work with seem to have a lower survival rate when they see red stains from dyes. For an easy hummingbird food recipe, simply mix four parts water to one part sugar. Heat the water separately, then add the sugar. A hummingbird’s diet is not simply nectar; they also eat insects and spiders.

Some interesting facts that are true:

- There are about 340 species of hummingbirds.
- Eight species are regular nesters in the U.S., and only the Ruby-throat is typically east of the Mississippi River.
- Hummingbirds are only found in the Americas. This is why there are no hummingbirds in traditional fairytales.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbirds weigh a mere 3 grams – a nickel weighs 5 grams!

Ruth Forsgren, Naturalist

VOLUNTEER
(High 5!)



Dedication to Service

We are so grateful for our hard-working volunteers! This time, the hard-working volunteer we want to recognize is our current Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps Member and Volunteer Coordinator, Katie Lindquist!

During the polar vortex in late January, Marshfield Clinic sent a request to their Serve Wisconsin AmeriCorps members urging them to volunteer in their communities and offer care for those who may need extra help during the harsh conditions. Katie jumped at

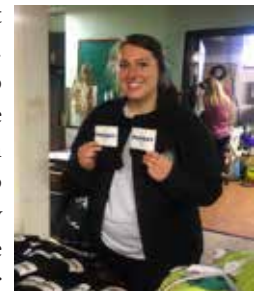
the chance to volunteer at Positive Avenues, a daytime resource center open to people experiencing mental health concerns or homelessness in Eau Claire, located beneath Community Table.

To help combat the dangerous temperatures, many organizations adjusted their hours of operation to limit the amount of time those without shelter would be exposed to the frigid temperatures.

Katie spent three days volunteering there. On one occasion she helped orchestrate the distribution of tie blankets that had been made and donated by a UW-Eau Claire student, as well as free Bombas socks.

Katie proudly explained, “It’s easy to curl up

under a blanket in your house, without thinking about those who don’t have such a luxury. I’m glad I got to do my part to help those less fortunate than me to get the help and resources they needed to endure this so-called polar vortex.”



Please join us in thanking Katie for her commitment to Beaver Creek Reserve, and the Chippewa Valley!

MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS

Quilting Club

2nd & 4th Mondays, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Quilting Club meets the second and fourth Monday of each month to work on individual projects and to share ideas on quilting. Beginners to seasoned quilters are always welcome.

Beaver Creek Bird Club

The Bird Club meets monthly, March through November at various locations throughout the Chippewa Valley. Check the Beaver Creek website calendar for monthly details.

Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.

Warbler Review, Ruth and Ray Forsgren
Beaver Creek Bird Club Member- Free
Nonmember \$5.00



Chippewa Valley Watercolor Artists

First Wednesday, 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

All watercolorists welcome

The Chippewa Valley Watercolor Artists meet the first Wednesday of each month to paint, critique, and share information related to watercolor painting. All watercolor artists, beginning to advanced, are invited to participate. For information, contact Jan at 715-874-5870 or at kippenj@wwt.net

Beaver Creek Photo Club

Third Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Everyone welcome! The Beaver Creek Photo Club meets the third Thursday of the month from January through May and September through November. No December Meeting. Questions can be directed to: bcrpc@outlook.com

Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society

First Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Everyone welcome

The Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society (CVAS) meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Most meetings are at Hobbs Observatory, but are occasionally held off-site. The CVAS is open to anyone with an interest in astronomy. For more information, please contact the Reserve or check out the Club's web site at www.cvastro.org.

HOBBS OBSERVATORY

Come learn about the night sky from members of the Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society (CVAS) as they host public programs on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 8 pm in the Hobbs Observatory. There will be a 45-60 minute presentation on astronomical related topics by CVAS members.

Go to www.cvastro.org for a list of upcoming topics. If skies are clear and temperatures permit, the domes will be open for public observing following the program.

Public viewing on Saturday nights will resume in May!

For more information on these programs, please contact BCR at (715) 877-2212 or visit www.cvastro.org or www.beavercreekreserve.org

Store Sales

Save 15% off these great items

MARCH

- Stuffed Animals
- Clothing
- All Books

APRIL

- Anything Tree Related (Arbor Day April 26)
- Socks
- Field Guides.

SPRING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MAPLE TREE TAPPING AND SAP COOKING

In early spring we will start tapping trees and boiling sap to make our maple syrup. We need volunteers to help with both activities. Training included.



FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST

Sat. March 9, 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Help us with our longest running fundraiser - a 30+ year tradition. We need help cooking, serving, cleaning and more! Volunteers receive FREE breakfast.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Now - May 11

Help our volunteers with watering, seeding, weeding, transplanting and more!

SUMMER CAMPS

June 17-22, 2019

Love kids and nature? Then this is the perfect opportunity for you! Help educate the next generation of naturalists and environmental stewards! *Particular need is for WI DPI licensed educators.

Interested in any of these opportunities?

**Contact Katie at
volunteer@beavercreekreserve.org
to learn more!**



SI County Road K | Fall Creek, WI 54742
beavercreekreserve.org
CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org
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Eau Claire, WI 54701



French Toast Breakfast

Saturday, March 9th
8:00 am - 1:00 pm

A 30+ Year
Tradition!!

PRESALE TICKETS:

Adults \$7 - Children \$4 (ages 2-12)

AT THE DOOR:

Adults \$8 - Children \$5 (ages 2-12)

No charge for children under 2 years of age



Additional Activities

- Hobbs Observatory Open House
- Chippewa Valley Water Colorists 25th Anniversary Exhibit & Sale
 - Kids Activities & Crafts
 - Maple Syrup Programming
- Bird Banding Demonstrations and Citizen Science Center Open House
- Free Admission to the Nature Center, Trails, and Nature Nooks

www.beavercreekreserve.org