



2022

ANNUAL

REPORT

*Connecting People with Nature
Through the Years!*

Friends of Beaver Creek Reserve

75th Anniversary & Annual Meeting



SCHEDULE

4:00-6:00 PM

Wise Nature Center-

Check-In & Program Open House

- **5:00 PM** - Meet Luna (*our resident Barred Owl*) - Auditorium
- Tag Monarch Butterflies - Butterfly House
- Citizen Science Center Open House - Woodland Room
- Beaver Creek "Through the Years" Slideshow - Savannah Room
- Meet our Animal Ambassadors - Discovery Room

6:00-7:30 PM

Outdoor Classroom-

Dinner & Drinks, Annual Meeting, Awards & Historical Presentation

7:30-8:00 PM

Outdoor Classroom-

Social Hour & Nighttime Programs

*Members from the Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society will open Hobbs Observatory for public viewing following the event - *if skies are clear*.

Live music will be performed by the local trio band, Songa.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT



We have had a very successful 75th anniversary year despite the uncertainty we found ourselves in at the beginning of the year. I personally am thrilled with the number of people who have been out for our summer camps, fieldtrips and butterfly house visits. I am even more excited about all of the comments from those visitors and guests who noticed the hard work and resources that we poured into Beaver Creek the last two years. This pandemic has moved the needle so that more people realize being in nature is a resource that many of us have taken for granted. Even if we did realize its importance, I'm not sure we realized how nature and recreation would become part of our everyday lives and how many people would appreciate its importance. I think that this trend will continue as we sort out our lives and priorities. When we were talking about the 75th anniversary five years ago, none of us would have predicted the events that we all went through. But because of this, I learned that as an organization we are stronger and more adaptable to change. What we know for sure is that change will be a constant and that will help us stay successful in the next 75 years!

Some of the examples of change that stood out were our field trips this spring. We now set a maximum of sixty students who come to Beaver Creek for each field trip. This is so we can meet a ratio of fifteen students to one Naturalist to be more hands-on

with the students. Also, teachers no longer assist with the programs now that we have four educators, two of which are AmeriCorps Naturalists which help bring expertise to students. This allows parents and teachers the chance to enjoy the programs with the youth. We had a successful pilot field trip last fall with the Eau Claire Area School District. This spring we had teachers within a 90-mile radius eager to try our new way of programming. We had so many schools interested that we were forced to turn a handful away due to unavailable dates. As a result, we made the decision to hire another two more AmeriCorps Naturalists to help expand our field trip opportunities. Having a trained educator for each field trip rotation is a goal we seem to be reaching much faster than anticipated. The pandemic also allowed us time to prepare for the experiences we now offer. We were able to work on our lesson plans and communicate with teachers to better fit the needs of their students. Our goal is to have even more field trips, as well as have the capacity to offer more educational programs throughout the year.

Additionally, we have invested time in cleaning up the nooks and crannies of the buildings and storage areas. Educational storage spaces, storm shelters, and closets have been cleaned, painted, decluttered and reorganized. We recently remodeled both the caretaker's house and the old director's cabin on the North Campus. The caretaker's house is now used as onsite housing for our seasonal staff. The director's cabin (built by Rick Koziel from downed trees of the 1980 storm) is now a space for camp staff, like cooks, to stay in during their summer camps.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT *(continued)*

A recent camper group said, "Beaver Creek has gone from the 'poor house' to the 'penthouse' with all of the improvements." In the last ten years that I have been the Director here, I feel like we are turning the corner from the county not having the funds to maintain all the properties, to having the ability to use county funding, private donations, and grants to make the facilities better equipped and more sustainable.

Over the course of the pandemic, we had over 50% of the professional staff turn over, as well as a major fall off in the number of volunteers. As I am sure you are aware, staff and volunteers are the "magicians" that make Beaver Creek so special. The good news is that there was a different reason for each person moving on or not feeling comfortable coming back. In our strategic plan, we will focus on staff, volunteers, and our board to develop tools for recruitment, training, and retention over the next three years. This also means that the existing staff, and those that were new just prior to the pandemic worked tirelessly and are our true modern day super heroes. The weight of the organization was on their shoulders and they did such a fantastic job during some long days. I know that this same dedication is the reason that Beaver Creek has succeeded for the last 75 years, and that same dedication will bring us success in the next 75 years.



-Erik Keisler
Executive Director

NOTES FROM OUR NATURALISTS



What a great year for the education team! We've had a very busy year filled with field trips, summer camps, outreach events, and public programs. We were also joined by some new faces; this past year, we hired three WisCorps Naturalists (Mia, Jackie, and Abby) and one full time Naturalist (John Muetz) to assist with the increasing programmatic needs from the department. It has been such a joy being able to work with such an enthusiastic and amazing team! With the expansion of our team, we've been able to dedicate more time to creating a curriculum for all incoming field trips, updating the curriculum for the Eau Claire Area School District 2nd graders, and spending more time training our live raptors. This past year, we even got to do some professional development by attending Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education's (WAEE) conference and become trained in Project Growing Up Wild (program through Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction). We hope to learn so much more as we continue into a new year. We will be hiring three new WisCorps Naturalists and Mia will be joining us again for another term.

-Megan Giefer
Naturalist



Left: Outdoor
Water Adventures
Camp, July 2022

Far Left: Butterfly Camp, July 2022

Center: Nature Nuts Summer Camp, June 2022

CITIZEN SCIENCE CENTER REPORT

The Citizen Science Center (CSC) was built in 2003, but Beaver Creek Reserve had been conducting citizen science long before then. Since the beginning, birds and invasive species have been a main focus.

Lia Landowski our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator, has now been with us for a year. Lia is really resurrecting the AIS department and making it shine! During the past year, Lia has done a tremendous job forming partnerships, encouraging public interest, developing outreach, and stretching our boundaries to bring new ideas to the Citizen Science Center. One of the many new ideas brought new critters never seen before to Beaver Creek Reserve.

This spring, the AIS department co-hosted an exotic pet surrender event as part of an outreach initiative for organisms in trade. During this event, our partner J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue, took in 43 animals including a two-legged turtle, a box full of pythons, two large plecos, and two savannah monitor lizards. This was a fantastic, no-judgment opportunity for people to have a safe place to surrender exotic plants or animals they no longer wanted or could care for. As intercontinental modes of shipping continue, the live organism trade has become even more accessible for eager buyers, making intentional or accidental introductions more common. Did you hear about the 12" alligator found in Sheboygan

County this summer? We want to do what we can to avoid these types of introductions. The message to 'surrender, don't release' is part of an ongoing campaign to prevent invasive plants and animals from being introduced outside of their native ranges. Aquatic invasive species cost the U.S. over 6.6 billion dollars per year (Oele et al. 2015) making exotic surrender events, like J&R's, critical for providing a safe way to prevent non-native species introductions year after year. We are thrilled at this new partnership with J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue and will continue to work with them in the future.

The Avian Monitoring Program



Above: Lia with one of the surrendered animals, March 2022



Right: Motus Tower. Picture taken at training in Pennsylvania, March 2022

Below: JR with one of the surrendered animals, March 2022



is embarking on new partnerships as well as a new project. The CSC has been monitoring birds through banding, surveys, and nest monitoring for over 20 years. The CSC is constantly improving our program to stay relevant, provide to our local community, aid in the conservation, and contribute to the scientific community. We are now looking at the future of bird research and have begun collaborating with avian researchers on a global level through a new program called Motus. Motus is a wildlife tracking technology out of Canada that uses radio signal towers to track migrating birds.

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CITIZEN SCIENCE CENTER REPORT

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Transmitter tags are placed on migrating birds and when the bird flies within 15 km of a tracking tower, the tower detects and records the signal from the tag. Data is submitted to an international database that keeps track of all tagged birds' information. This information will allow scientists to make better-informed decisions on bird conservation. There will also be extensive educational opportunities, allowing us to better conserve and create a real-world understanding of how migration works. The Chippewa Valley is an essential area for migration, given our proximity to both the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. We also serve as a critical migration conduit to the sub-boreal forest located north of us. The CSC's goal is to raise the funds to erect three Motus towers. We want to create a line from Beaver Creek to the Mississippi River to "catch" as many birds as possible on migration. Due to a generous donation, we have begun the process for our first tower, which will be located at our Henke Acres Research Site.

Thank you for all the support this past year through volunteering as citizen scientists, participating in our virtual programming, and providing monetary support. It is exciting that even after almost 20 years, the Citizen Science Center can continue to find ways to grow and engage our community.

-Jeanette Kelly

Citizen Science & Education Director

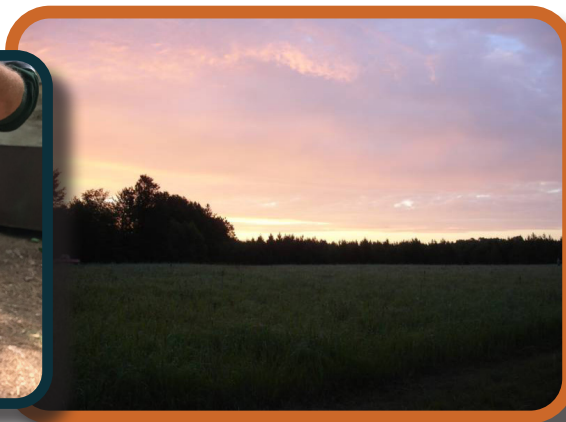
20 YEARS OF MAPS

Our favorite banding project turned 20 this year! Why would anyone willingly wake up at 4:00 AM, skip breakfast, trip and stumble through wet vegetation, coat themselves in bug spray, and constantly check for ticks creeping up their legs? For the birds of course! For 20 years, Beaver Creek Reserve's citizen scientists have been monitoring birds at our Henke Acres property.

In 2003, a group of committed bird-loving citizen scientists collaborated with the Institute of Bird Populations and started an intensive monitoring and banding program called MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship). The purpose of MAPS is to annually assess the nesting success and population of breeding birds. The data we collect is combined with regional and national MAPS stations and contributes to larger studies.

Due to its diversity, remoteness, and protection, Beaver Creek Reserve's Henke Acres was chosen as the location for this project. Henke Acres is permanently protected through a conservation easement with Landmark Conservancy. The conservation easement was a key factor for our MAPS project as the habitat needs to remain mostly unchanged and data doesn't begin being significantly relevant until there is twenty years of it.

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Far Left: Adult female Cooper's Hawk, Summer 2020

Left: First net check at MAPS, Summer 2013



20 YEARS OF MAPS *(continued)*

In the years chasing birds at Henke Acres we have yet to encounter every bird there. There is excitement in knowing that each year is different and something new may appear. We track every species we observe, along with every bird trapped and banded. We have recorded 123 species, trapped over 2,200, and banded 66 different species.

The best part of a summer bird program is that along with birds being dressed for success in their showy breeding plumage, many of the birds are returning from migration and only seen here during the breeding season. We see flashes of the rainbow as Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Orioles, American Goldfinches and Indigo Buntings flit through the trees. We work together to decipher the mysterious calls of the Golden-winged Warbler (a species of special concern), Chestnut-sided, and Yellow Warblers.



Above: Male Common Yellowthroat (9 years old!), Summer 2018

Right Top: Belted Kingfisher, Summer 2018

Right Bottom: MAPS Station during the COVID pandemic, Summer 2020

Banding birds is a thrill as we have the birds up close; seeing detail, and feeling their heartbeat. Regular visitors include Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Common Yellow-throats, Gray Catbirds and Red-eyed Vireos. Before, every year, every day, even every hour can hold a surprise. A Yellow-throated Vireo, a Hooded Warbler or a Yellow-billed Cuckoo will bring all the banders running. Real surprises at our trapping nets have included Wild Turkey, Broad-winged Hawk and a Great Blue Heron... Not the birds we were seeking, but exciting nonetheless.

The birds and the research are instrumental in providing information to make management decisions for the property. Our efforts have also helped secure funding for the conservation of the property. Henke Acres is a fantastic piece of land full of mosquitoes, ticks, wet grass, uneven ground and many surprises. But what I find most amazing about my time at Henke Acres is the commitment by the citizen scientists. When I asked them why, year after year, they wake up early to endure such hardships, these are the responses I received:

- Learning something new every single time.
- The camaraderie of working side by side with a fantastic, fun, dedicated group of people.
- One of the most intimate ways that a human can "connect with nature."
- Improving my skills.
- Learning from each other.

- Pride.
- My tiny direct contribution to saving the planet.
- The diversity, there is always something new.
- Hope.
- Studying birds who have traveled from tropical origins.
- The anticipation.
- The exhaustion of a great morning done
- Contributing to the larger world of science.
- Knowing that someday, other, younger folks will walk these same paths, completing this same, important work.
- Let's do another 20!

Make sure to stop by the Woodland Room at the Wise Nature Center to see the tribute board to 20 years of MAPS.



-Jeanette Kelly
Citizen Science & Education Director



MEET THE TEAM

Our team is currently made up of eight full-time staff, four part-time staff, five WisCorps members, and one intern. We recently made the decision to add two more WisCorps Naturalists to our education department, so they will be joining our team this fall. We were also lucky to be able to keep two WisCorps members on for another service term.

On the following pages, you will get to know our staff and their roles here at Beaver Creek Reserve. Learn about some of their hobbies, interests, and since we're celebrating our 75th anniversary, they will also share their favorite Beaver Creek Reserve memory!



Left: Boofest,
October 2021



Right: Staff Holiday Party,
December 2021



Left: Oak Savannah
Prescribed Burn Crew,
May 2022



Above: Chainsaw Safety Training,
July 2022



Right: Nature Nuts
Leaders, June 2022



Julie Felske

Database Coordinator



I am approaching 7 years as database coordinator at Beaver Creek and prior to that I was a front desk volunteer for many years. Beaver Creek Reserve has been a part of my family's lives since we moved here 15 years ago. My kids have grown up going to summer camps, attending family programs, hiking the trails, and now as volunteers. Working on the 75th anniversary celebration of Beaver Creek has been a fun look back at the impact BCR has had on the Chippewa Valley but also on my family. When we aren't at Beaver Creek, you can find us hiking, biking, kayaking, camping, and exploring. We are excited to be a part of the next 75 years of Beaver Creek Reserve.

Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: Wow, I'm not sure I can choose my favorite memory of Beaver Creek; I've had so

many fun times here. This is the place my kids first learned to cross country ski, where they hid in the roots of the prairie plants in the old discovery room (which they still talk about), a place we regularly hike to find quiet and be in nature, and a place to learn and try new things. BCR was also the first place I went to as a stay at home mom trying to find something to do outside my role as "mom." I was a front desk volunteer one week-end a month when my kids were still too young to be in school. When my youngest started kindergarten, I lucked my way into a paid position. As a volunteer I had many great memories of interesting interactions with visitors. As an employee I've had so many great experiences that I would never have had otherwise. I've been able to tag monarch butterflies before they migrate to Mexico, watch Saw-whet owls be banded and learn about how to age them with UV light, take a beekeeping class and become a beekeeper, watch my coworkers rally around a snake stuck in a sticky trap and save it from a slow death, kayak with coworkers and learn so much about them; the list is endless!

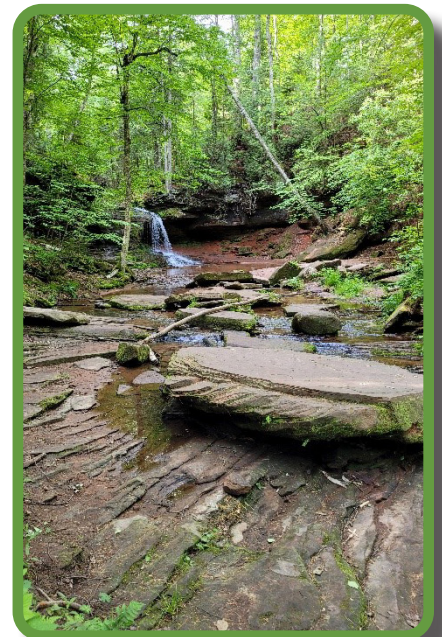


Kris Bohlinger

Operations Manager

Hi, I'm Kris, BCR's Operations Manager. What a year it has been for BCR coming out of the pandemic. There have been so many changes and exciting projects, it has truly been a year of transformation. The best part of my job is the diversity and the challenges of transforming BCR into a "destination nature center". Everyday proves to be more exciting and rewarding than the last. The staff and volunteers here are really remarkable, it is a pleasure working with such great people. My leisure time is spent searching for more beautiful places, like BCR, to hike, bike and relax!

Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: Watching the transformation of the monarch life cycle. Nature has always amazed me.





Mia Clementi

WisCorps Naturalist



Hello! My name is Mia; I am one of the year-round Naturalist Interns here at Beaver Creek through WisCorps. This is my second service term here at Beaver Creek. The beauty of the people and this place sucked me in and I am not quite ready to leave! In December I got engaged to my boyfriend of 5 years, and after a bit of bouncing around out west, we made the decision to plant our roots here in Eau Claire near family. Over the past year I have had the pleasure working alongside our passionate education staff providing top notch outdoor education experiences to the public. I was also given the exciting responsibility to take over our maple syrup operation and bring my background of maple syrup production to Beaver Creek. In my free time I spend most of my time exploring my fiancé's family farm, hiking with my Black Lab, Axel, or fishing at the family cabin. Moving home from working in the back country of Pikes Peak, Colorado, and finding the same peace the mountains provided was challenging until I found this place. Thank you all for the support in keeping this place the gem that it is. It is magical here and I hope to meet more and more of you as I dive into this next service term.

Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: My favorite memory from Beaver Creek was getting to teach new sugar makers the ins and outs of the operation during our Maple Syrup Saturday event and seeing the awe in the beauty of this historic natural process.



Tully Frain

WisCorps Avian Field Technician

Hi, my name is Tully Frain and I am Beaver Creek Reserve's Avian Field Technician. It has been amazing to be here another year working with Beaver Creek's Avian Monitoring Program. So many amazing things have happened over this past year at Beaver Creek. The MAPS crew, Jeanette, and myself are celebrating our 20th year of MAPS, and greatly increasing the scientific value of our data. We installed 3 new American Kestrel nest boxes and opened the first year of our American Kestrel Host Program. I have also been working to bring Motus, a new bird tracking technology, here to Beaver Creek so we are keeping up with the latest developments in avian research. This last year has been an amazing one for me personally. I added my 600th bird on to my life list and have continued to travel looking for new birds and opportunities. I look forward to this coming year at Beaver Creek and can't wait to see the brilliant things we will accomplish together.



Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: My favorite memory would be banding the pileated woodpecker my first year here. It was massive and so cool to handle a bird so powerful and beautiful.



Megan Giefer

Naturalist



I have just completed my third year at Beaver Creek in April, and wow... what a successful year it has been! The education team has been very busy with public programs, school groups, and summer camps back to back. With such a busy year, I have been lucky enough to add two WisCorps Naturalists and one full time Naturalist to our team! With the expansion of our team, we have been able to provide twice as many camps, a uniform curriculum taught by our Naturalists for field trips, and have increased the number of live raptor programs!

In addition, we had a very successful Nature Nuts summer camp! We added another session in the afternoon, and I was lucky enough to work with our Saplings (formally Earth Detectives) group. We had a great week learning what it means to become a scientist and ended the camp on a great note by hiking out to Big Falls County Park!

When I'm not teaching and catching butterflies you can find me outside exploring! I currently serve as a board member for the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education, and I also serve as committee chair for the Advocacy Committee. Outside of the environmental education world, I love to cross-country ski and snowshoe, camp along the North Shore, backpack in the Porcupine Mountains, and just recently took my first birding trip with Tully Frain to Sax Zim Bog in Northern Minnesota to see the mighty Great Gray Owl, it was amazing!

Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: This is always the hardest question in my eyes; I have so many great memories! However, the memory that stands out the most has to be joining the Saw-Whet Owl banding crew last fall. It was both a fantastic and late night, removing multiple owls from the nets and processing their data. In addition, it was great being able to spend time with the staff outside of our normal duties.



Trista Anderson

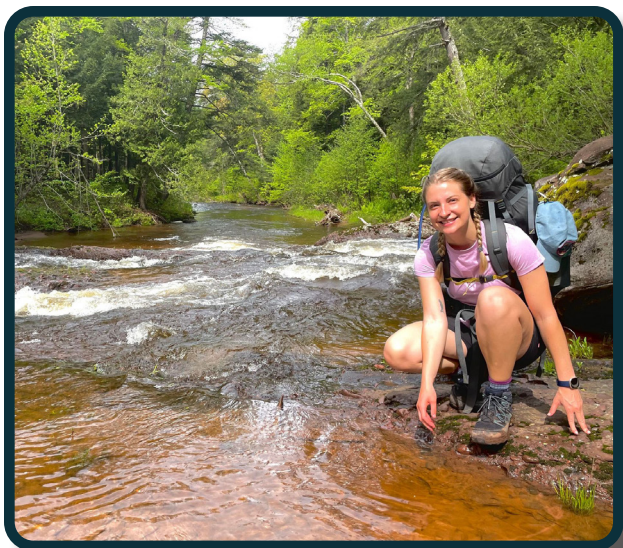
Office Manager

Hello! My name is Trista and I'm the new Office Manager at Beaver Creek Reserve! My husband Matt and I moved to the Fall Creek area a while back and I'm thrilled to get to work at such a cool place so close to home! It's been a whirlwind but I'm enjoying learning all about Beaver Creek and working with the awesome staff and volunteers here.

I'm into all kinds of music (if you have recommendations, send them my way!), gardening, and just spending time outside whenever I can!



Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: My favorite memory so far is witnessing the bird banding operation at Henke Acres! I had never seen a bird up-close like that before. Going out there with my fellow BCR staff was such a neat experience and I'm truly grateful for it.



Kristen Giefer



Outreach & Development Coordinator

What a fun year 2022 has been already! I'm coming up on three years here at Beaver Creek; two in my current position. We were off to a busy start with winter events like our Candlelight Snowshoe Hikes and Frosty Frolic (where I rode a dog sled for the first time!). Then we quickly transitioned to spring events with Maple Syrup Saturday, Earth Week, and our Native Plant Sale. I feel like spring went by so quickly and before I knew it, it was summer!

What I enjoy most about working at Beaver Creek Reserve is that there is never a dull day! Sometimes I get asked to help work on the trails, catch butterflies for the Butterfly House, or even join the Citizen Science team with MAPS or owl banding. I love the opportunities Beaver Creek offers! Along with planning all our special events, and working with our volunteers, I also co-instruct our Wisconsin Master Naturalist Volunteer Training. Our most recent training took place the first week of August and 18 new Master Naturalists graduated from the program! Outside of my time at Beaver Creek, I recently returned from a trip to the Oregon coast and am planning other trips later this fall. I'm excited to see what the rest of the year brings and to take on 2023!

Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: I was lucky enough to help our education team with Nature Nuts summer camp this past June. I was with the Nuts which are K-1st grade... and I absolutely LOVED IT! Kids say whatever is on their mind, which was always entertaining. I've even had campers come back since Nature Nuts just to say hello. What a fun break away from my normal duties and seeing what other departments do each day.



Lia Landowski

Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Hi, Lia here. I'm your go-to-gal for anything and everything Aquatic Invasive Species! This last year has been both challenging and rewarding as I balanced wrapping up my M.S. degree with a dive into the AIS world. Now I am happy to be integrated into AIS work for the six-county region and excited to be working with projects for the Citizen Science Center. One of my favorite parts about this position is being in the field and meeting with the passionate people working to keep our lakes and rivers clean! When I'm not working for Wisconsin waters, you can find me fishing, reading, wading through streams, and going on walks with my chocolate girl, Gibby.

Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: My favorite memory was having to tell staff that we may have some Madagascar Hissing Cockroach escapees in the Nature Center after learning that the cockroaches I borrowed for Boofest were returned a couple of friends short.





Kirsten Holmes

Office Assistant



Hello, my name is Kirsten Holmes. I have been with Beaver Creek Reserve for almost seven years. I am so happy and amazed by the way we have changed in just these few years: A new computer system that keeps us all on track, new bathrooms to make our guests happy, a brand new butterfly house, renting out equipment so everyone can take it where ever they choose, and going 100% solar. My family has matured in the last seven years as well. My now 15-year-old son was lucky enough to work his first real job this summer for Beaver Creek's maintenance department. My 13-year-old also enjoys coming out and volunteering whenever he can, and was able to participate in his last Beaver Creek camp this summer, Outdoor Water Adventures. It really just feels like I was dropping them off at Nature Nuts last summer.

I am so excited to see what next year brings Beaver Creek and my family. Thank you all for the support and friendship you have given me and my family over the years.

Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: My favorite memory was talking to the gentleman on the phone about the possible "platypus" in his front yard. Do you want more of the story?

I answered a phone call, and when the gentleman on the phone started with "I have an odd question," I ALWAYS know it will be a good call. He said, "I was in my backyard and I think I found something odd. I think it is a platypus." I explained to him that it most definitely was not a platypus; they are not native to Wisconsin. I then asked him if he was able to take a picture of it and send it to me. He did, and it was a mole. We both had a giggle and now this is a favorite memory.



John Muetz

Naturalist

My name is John Muetz and I am proud to have recently joined the team as the new full-time Naturalist. I have been involved with the organization in many capacities over the years, starting out as a summer Naturalist Intern, working as an Office Assistant, and most recently working on preserving and recording Beaver Creek's long history of environmental education as the BCR Historian. My background is in social studies education, but I have always had a passion for studying environmental history and how human beings shape, and are shaped by, the natural world. I recently graduated from UWEC with an M.A. in Public history (museum studies) and am eager to join the team in creating and updating our interpretive materials. That is why I am so excited to be in a role where my interests are so well aligned with the organization's mission!



Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: The first time I ever came to Beaver Creek was with my Environmental Biology class at UWEC. I spent the day snowshoeing with the wonderful woman who I now proudly call my wife! We were tasked by our professor to silently sit in the snow covered woods, and observe signs of life. It was in that moment, sitting quietly with my future wife next to the ice and snow of Beaver Creek, that BCR won a special place in my heart.



Jeanette Kelly

Citizen Science & Education Director



In January 2022, I celebrated my 11th year here at Beaver Creek Reserve. So much has changed in those eleven years both at the Reserve and in my life. BCR's Director has changed, I have a new office, new coworkers, and I have two kids! I am sure you have heard me say it before, but I will keep saying it; I love my job! I have worked all over the country, with all sorts of people and Beaver Creek is where I find myself happy and content.

The focus of my position has changed to some extent over the years and it has been for the better. Now as the Citizen Science and Education Director, I find I am lucky to combine both my backgrounds in Ecology and Education. I believe that education is the first step in conservation. Jane Goodall said it best, "Only if we understand, will we care. Only if we care, will we help. Only if we help shall all be saved." This quote has hung on my desk since day one at Beaver Creek. I use it as my motto for the work we do here.

Recently one of my favorite parts of my job has been that I can share it with my children. My daughter Wylie (10) and son Leopold (7) are now old enough to help me at work. I love that I have a job that my kids want to come to with me. They were busy this past summer not only attending Beaver Creek camps but also helping me keep the Little Free Library full, helping with outreach, and feeding caterpillars in the Butterfly Lab. Who knows, maybe someday they will take over my job!

Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: Canoeing the Chippewa River with Anna Mares (AIS Coordinator) and Judy Shwarzmeier (Citizen Scientist Extraordinaire). We had to conduct an emergency freshwater mussel rescue, saving hundreds of mussels who were at risk of desiccation... Some of the most beautiful creatures I have ever seen.



Tori Lindert

Writing & Marketing Intern

Hey! My name is Tori! This is my first year at Beaver Creek Reserve. I started as a writing intern through UW Eau Claire during the Spring and was lucky enough to be hired on full-time. I am the Writing and Marketing intern, so I help Kristen with events, ads, and I do a lot of proof reading. So far, I absolutely love working here! The staff is super awesome and the environment is beautiful, it makes me excited to go to work every day! I recently graduated from UW Eau Claire with a bachelor's degree in English. After graduation I got married to my high school sweetheart, Ryan (we've been together for 5 years now) and then went to Mexico for 10 days! It was super cool as it was mine and Ryan's first time being there.

Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: Although I haven't been here long, and have many memories to be made, one of my favorites so far is going with Kristen to water our pumpkins. Watching them grow has been so exciting and always puts a smile on my face. I can't wait to harvest them for Boofest. I am excited to see what other memories Beaver Creek has in store for me!





Jim Schwiebert Naturalist



Land Management continues to be one of my main areas of focus at Beaver Creek. This year a couple of exciting things happened. First, we were able to conduct a burn on our oak savanna area below the Nature Center. We burn it roughly on a four year burn rotation. This year was the most successful of the four burns that I've been on at Beaver Creek.

I was also, with the help of a state expert, able to successfully treat some areas that were being overtaken with knapweed at the Henke property. It looks like we accomplished our goal of initial and major control. It will take a few years until we can re-establish some of the native vegetation, but controlling the knapweed was the first and most important step.

I also had some fun this past year leading nature hikes, working with several school groups, and teaching tree ID and foraging classes at the Reserve. Join a class if you get a chance; I'd love to see you.

Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: I used to always carry a small pocket watch to keep track of the time when I was leading school groups. During Nature Nuts week there was one little girl in particular who always seemed to be by my side. When I needed to check the time, I would casually pull the watch from my pants pocket glancing at the watch where it was tucked up in the palm of my hand. Of course, I would do this several times throughout the day. The little girl finally asked how I knew what time it was just by looking at my hand! She must have thought it was some kind of cool Naturalist trick.



Jerry Polden Maintenance

Jerry has been with Beaver Creek for seven years. He is a crew member in our maintenance department and gets to work on various projects around the Reserve. Recently, he worked on both installments of our memorial walkway in front of the Wise Nature Center. Jerry continues to help maintain our trails and grounds, and works on updates to our buildings as well as other skilled projects that come his way!

Favorite Beaver Creek Memory: Jerry has many memories of working here at Beaver Creek! One of his favorites was working with the WisCorps crew members back in 2020 on the new set of stairs behind the Nature Center and bridge to the blue and orange trails on the South campus.





Friends of Beaver Creek Reserve

Board of Directors

John Kleven <i>President</i>	Christopher Gierhart <i>Vice-President</i>	Mark Wise <i>Treasurer</i>
Jamie Kane <i>Secretary</i>	Warren Gallagher	Kathleen Clark
	Heather DeLuka	Troy Anderson
	Tami Schraufnagel	Preston Henke

Endowment Committee

Jim Murray <i>Chair</i>	Martin Voss <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Denny Shea <i>Treasurer</i>
Nickolas Butler <i>Secretary</i>	Rick Koziel	
Dan Mittag	Emily Berge	



VOLUNTEER REPORT

Hours submitted by volunteers from
January 1 - December 31, 2021.

Total Hours: 3,236
Total Volunteers: 446

Department	# Volunteers	Department Total Hours	Sub-Department Total Hours	% Hours
Beaver Creek Reserve				
Beekeeping	3	427	94	22%
Maple Syrup	5		120	28%
General Programming	4		28	7%
Nature Center Host	11		185	43%

Butterfly				
House	10	320	193	60%
Lab	25		127	40%

Citizen Science Center				
Bird Banding	11	954	243	25%
Bird Banding: MAPS	4		180	19%
Bird Banding : Owls	9		356	37%
Nest Box Monitoring: Kestrel	3		55	6%
Snapshot Day	3		12	1.3%
Christmas Bird Count	18		108	11%

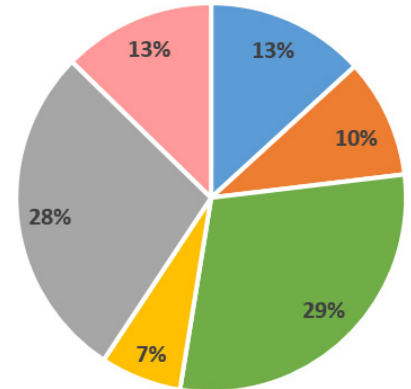
Hobbs Observatory				
Radio Astronomy	2	218	28	13%
Astronomy Outreach	2		13	6%
Starfest	4		34	16%
Astronomy Programs	11		143	66%

Maintenance				
General Maintenance	110	907	366	40%
Trail Maintenance	156		541	60%

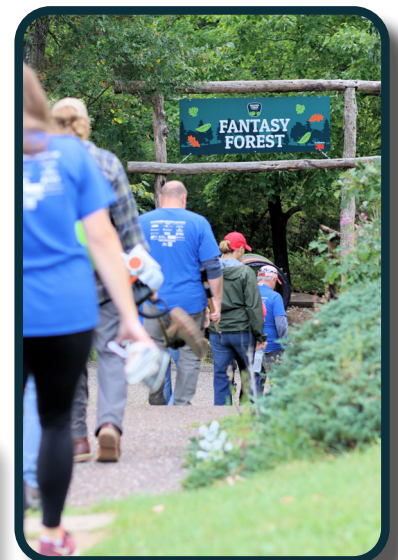
Events				
Holiday Crafting for Kids	20	410	60	15%
Candlelight Snowshoe Hike	3		12	3%
Greenhouse/Native Plant Sale	22		300	73%
Butterfly Fest	7		29	7%
Boofest	3		9	2%

Total # Volunteer Groups: 32 Groups
Total Number Hours from Volunteer Groups: 931 Hours
**Ranging from 2-20 volunteers per group*

Thank you to all our volunteers for submitting hours and for donating your time to Beaver Creek Reserve! We couldn't do what we do without you!



- Beaver Creek Reserve
- Butterfly Program
- Citizen Science Center
- Hobbs Observatory
- Maintenance
- Special Events



Above: Day of Caring,
September 2021

Friends of Beaver Creek Reserve 2023 Operating Budget

	2022	2022		2023
Income	Budget	Jan-July Actual		Budget
Donations	74,445	20,017		78,167
Memberships	66,150	27,312		69,458
Grants	273,691	86,738		287,375
Fees	157,623	74,755		165,505
Special Events	28,350	26,122		29,768
Gift Shop	21,056	9,187		22,108
County Contract	189,000	135,000		198,450
Miscellaneous	6,076	9,814		6,380
Total	816,391	388,945	-	857,211



Above: Butterfly Discovery Walk at Henke Acres with Landmark Conservancy, July 2022

Expenses				
Wages/Benefits	575,471	264,817		604,245
Maintenance/Utilities	75,067	48,321		78,820
General Operations	151,711	100,667		159,297
Gift Shop Expense	13,125	2,037		13,781
Total	815,374	415,842	-	856,143



Above: Tapping trees with Wildlands students, March 2021

Capital Budget/Covid				
Donations	451,518	(113,394)		474,094
Expenses	43,331	47,302		45,498
Balance	409,203	(187,593)	-	429,664

GRANTS RECEIVED 2021

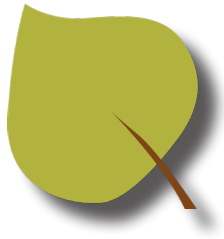
Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan.....	\$100,526
Eau Claire County Parks & Forest.....	\$45,000
Department of Natural Resources - AIS, LCR.....	\$22,203.50
Department of Natural Resources - AIS, LCR.....	\$1,851
Department of Natural Resources - AIS, LCR.....	\$5,678.50
Department of Natural Resources - AIS, LCR.....	\$3,025
Department of Natural Resources - AIS, LCR.....	\$51,527.45
Scheels Eau Claire.....	\$500
AnnMarie Foundation.....	\$500
Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education.....	\$27.06
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.....	\$500
3M Foundation.....	\$2,500
Xcel - Bird Banding.....	\$5,000
Nordson Corporation.....	\$15,000
Chippewa Rod & Gun Club - CBCW.....	\$4,633
Eau Claire Community Foundation.....	\$3,118.79
Lower Long Lake - CBCW.....	\$3,750

Total: \$265,340.30

*LCR - Lower Chippewa River,
CBCW - Clean Boats Clean Waters



Above: Planting for the Native Plant Sale, February 2022



FRIENDS OF BEAVER CREEK RESERVE, INC.
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020



	2021			2020		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE						
Donations	\$ 221,379	\$ 18,061	\$ 239,440	\$ 83,650	\$ 107,798	\$ 191,448
Annual Campaign Donations	117,698	-	117,698	103,204	-	103,204
In-Kind Donation	8,888	-	8,888	8,239	-	8,239
Membership Contributions	58,264	-	58,264	56,795	-	56,795
Activity and Entrance Fees	68,745	-	68,745	30,291	-	30,291
Program Fees	14,051	-	14,051	9,553	-	9,553
Grants	233,736	15,000	248,736	194,013	3,572	197,585
Eau Claire County Contract	180,000	-	180,000	180,000	-	180,000
Wildland School Fees	57,125	-	57,125	55,350	-	55,350
Calendar Sales	1,411	-	1,411	5,545	-	5,545
Income from Gift Shop Sales (Net of Cost of Goods Sold of \$14,706 and \$8,004)	7,582	-	7,582	4,922	-	4,922
Investment Income	65,549	129,749	195,298	51,946	109,221	161,167
Change in Value of Funds Held at Eau Claire Community Foundation	16,257	-	16,257	12,056	-	12,056
Other Income	4,907	-	4,907	3,231	-	3,231
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	94,580	(94,580)	-	10,779	(10,779)	-
Total Support and Revenue	1,150,172	68,230	1,218,402	809,574	209,812	1,019,386
EXPENSES						
Salary and Wages	505,556	-	505,556	493,634	-	493,634
Equipment and Supplies	69,795	-	69,795	44,278	-	44,278
Utilities	34,522	-	34,522	32,234	-	32,234
Printing and Postage	12,296	-	12,296	14,351	-	14,351
Program Expenses	10,657	-	10,657	49,815	-	49,815
Repairs and Maintenance	287,978	-	287,978	69,149	-	69,149
Travel and Conferences	6,217	-	6,217	4,769	-	4,769
Insurance	23,660	-	23,660	25,290	-	25,290
Office Expense	5,997	-	5,997	8,139	-	8,139
Professional Fees	9,503	-	9,503	8,321	-	8,321
Scholarships	9,464	-	9,464	-	-	-
Depreciation	5,958	-	5,958	5,958	-	5,958
Other Expenses	26,481	-	26,481	29,759	-	29,759
Total Expenses	1,008,084	-	1,008,084	785,697	-	785,697
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	142,088	68,230	210,318	23,877	209,812	233,689
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	1,856,280	1,286,656	3,142,936	1,832,403	1,076,844	2,909,247
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 1,998,368</u>	<u>\$ 1,354,886</u>	<u>\$ 3,353,254</u>	<u>\$ 1,856,280</u>	<u>\$ 1,286,656</u>	<u>\$ 3,142,936</u>

DONATIONS 2021



General Donations

Amazon Smile
Bill & Pat Henke
Carol Mikita through Charities Aid
Foundation of America
Network For Good
Wisconsin Association for
Environmental Education
The estate of Amandus (Count)
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For the Bird Banding Program

Hubert Steve & Vicki Cole
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Employee Matching Program

Nordson, Inc for Robert & Carmen
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For the Butterfly House

Eau Claire Garden Club
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Dave & Linda Kragness

For Acoustic Bat Monitoring Equipment

Kristi Lund

2021 Create Culture Grant

Ann Heywood
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Jennifer Eddy
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For Monarch Butterfly Tags

Eau Claire Chamber Educational
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Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Co

For the Outdoor Classroom and Virtual Connections

Nordson Corporation Foundation

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Donations through Benevity Community Impact Fund

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Amber Larson
Joseph Rupslauskas

Donated through Thrivent Choice

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For the Citizen Science Center

AnnMarie Foundation
State of Wisconsin DNR

In-Kind Service

Chippewa Valley Astronomical
Society

In-Kind Item

Ellyn Bartelt
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Jack Bushnell & Jenny Shaddock
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Judy & Jim Schwarzmeier

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Alec Lindsay & Kate Teeter
Kathryn Lindsay
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Culver's

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Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce
Eau Claire Energy Cooperative
Earthbound Environmental
Solutions
Festival Foods
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UW-Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin Eau Claire
Student Office of Sustainability
Xcel Energy Inc

2021 Events & Programs

Mayo Clinic Health Systems

Entrance and Rental fees For a Day

Scheels of Eau Claire

Memorials

In memory of Barb Medford

Gary & Beverly Nyseth
Kristi & Jeff Schumacher

In memory of Bernie Morris Hanson for the Henke Acres Fund

Mark Preston Henke & Wendy Sheasby

In memory of Bert Chatterson

Aaron Chatterson

In memory of Bob and Ann Elliott

Anonymous

In memory of Bruce Willett

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In memory of Dana Inbody

CV Gem & Mineral Society

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**In memory of David Bodeau**

Kim & Don Bodeau

**In memory of David Hanson for
the Jim Schwiebert Butterfly
House Fund**

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In memory of Nate Pischke

Kimberly Daniels

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Peg & Doug Harter

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In memory of Roberta Ott

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**In memory of Rose Bertram for
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House Fund**

Brian Bertram

Hewlett Packard Enterprise

In memory of Sally Van Engelen

Bill & Pat Henke

In memory of Sarah Burgess

Judy Dekan & Rick Koziel

Honorariums

**In honor of 100 Women Who
Care in Eau Claire**

Pamela Pertz

Colleen Weber

**In honor of Bill and Pat Henke
for the Henke Acres Fund**

Mark Preston Henke & Wendy

Sheasby

**In honor of Bill and Pat Henke's
61st Anniversary for the
Henke Acres Fund**

Hon. & Mrs. Thomas & Jill Barland

In honor of Bill Henke

Mark Sudbrink

**In honor of CW King the Doug
and Kate Lindsay Adventure
Fund**

Alec Lindsay & Kate Teeter

DONATIONS 2021 *(continued)*

In honor of James Murray
Dave & Carol Lendle

In honor of Laurie Beaulieu
Co-op Credit Union

**In honor of Lindsay Olson &
Cory Mahder**
Lisa De Felice

In honor of Mark Wise
Karla & Bernie Hoefgen

**In honor of Tully Frain and Lia
Landowski**
Kathryn Lindsay

**In honor of Wendy Sheasby &
Preston Henke for the
Henke Acres Fund**
Dr. & Mr. Jill & Ned Lenhart



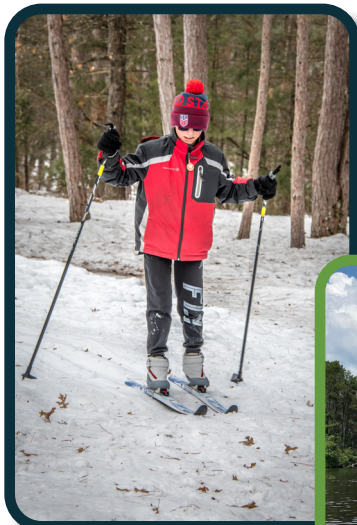
Donor Spotlight **SCHEELS®**

Beaver Creek Reserve would like to recognize Scheels of Eau Claire for their generosity and support through the years! Our friends at Scheels continue to be champions of Beaver Creek for supporting our educational ambassadors, recreational opportunities, youth programming, events, citizen science research, as well as various other projects.

Thanks to Scheels, our resident turtles, fish, frogs, and toads have been well fed every day since 2016! Scheels also recently donated fishing poles for campers to use at our fishing and kayaking camp we had this past summer. In 2021, Scheels donated rain boots for students to use during field trips and six five-pound bags of bird seed for our feeders. They also donated new cross-country skis, boots, and poles in 2018 for visitors to use and for us to rent out, and continue to wax the skis before each winter season.

Scheels also donates to us for their December Giving Campaign, and in 2021, they gave \$5,000! Besides all this, they also partner with Beaver Creek throughout the year on membership giveaways, events like Earth Week, and free entrance days. They were also our top sponsor towards our Discovery Room remodel back in 2015... hence the name, Scheels Discovery Room!

We are so grateful to Scheels for all they've done for Beaver Creek Reserve and all that they continue to do to keep our doors open and visitors engaged in outdoor learning. Thank you, Scheels!



Left: Frosty Frolic, February 2020



Right: Outdoor Water Adventures Camp, July 2022



Above: Donation of 30 lbs of bird seed, January 2021



Above: Scheels Giving Campaign, December 2021



DONATION & USAGE REPORT

Donations by the Numbers (Jan 1-Dec 31, 2021)

Total # of In Kind Donations: **34**

Total # of Event Sponsors: **13**

Total # of Donors: **698**

Average Donation: **\$476**

Total for 2021 Covid Campaign (through Dec 31, 2021) : **\$163,385.60**

Beaver Creek by the Numbers (Jan 1-Dec 31, 2021)

Total members for 2021: **1,185**

New members in 2021: **286**

Camper days (overnights): **3,148**

Field trips: **9 Virtual, 28 In-Person**

Total kids from field trips: **839**

Entrance rates: **7,983** total people visited BCR (walk-ins to nature center)

Month with most visitors: **August** with **2,363** (then July, then October)

Total rentals in 2021: **116**

Kayaks: **23**

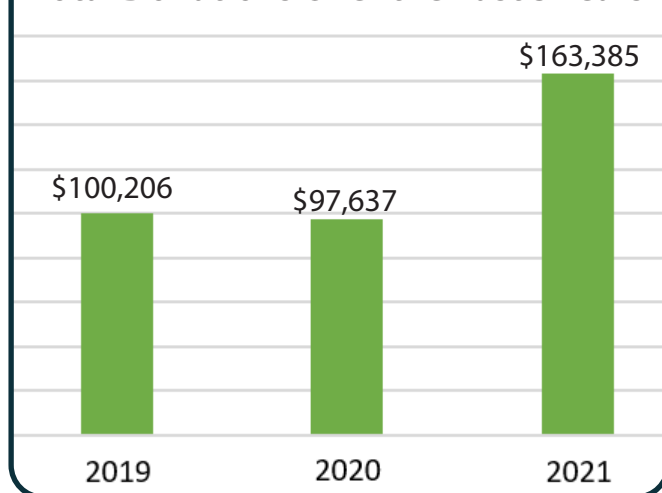
Cross-Country Skis (does not include events): **52**

Snowshoes (does not include events): **41**

Donate to our
75th Anniversary
Annual Fund! Help
us reach our goal
of \$75,000 by the
end of 2022.

**Due to rolling memberships, total active members can be difficult to calculate on an annual basis*

Total Donations Over the Past 3 Years



Above: Wise Nature Center, July 2020



Above: Annual Meeting, September 2021



Left: Boofest, October 2021



Left: Holiday Crafting for Kids, November 2021

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!

Thank you for helping us celebrate 75 years of *connecting people with nature*! This anniversary celebration recognizes all the people, programs, and partnerships that helped make Beaver Creek Reserve the Chippewa Valley's hub for environmental education.

To commemorate this milestone, our 75th Anniversary Fund is dedicated to supporting all aspects of Beaver Creek Reserve! Our goal is to raise \$75,000 by the end of 2022, to acknowledge all the pieces that have made Beaver Creek Reserve into what it is today, and to help keep the Reserve growing as we move forward.

Separate from the Endowment Fund, this annual fund will help cover the costs of sudden or unexpected much needed updates to our daily operations outside of the annual budget. Some examples include:

- Programmatic support
- Motus Bird Monitoring Project
- Student scholarships
- Animal care
- Trail maintenance
- Wages for seasonal employees
- Building, grounds and equipment repairs

See the donation page on our website to learn more and make a donation!



**Purchase our
75th Anniversary
Historical Booklet
at our
Nature Store!**



Left: Original Wise Nature Center, date unknown



Left: Schmidt Forest Wildflower Walk with Dr. Faye, 1998



Left: Starfest participants at Hobbs Observatory, Summer 1995



What does your donation look like?

Because of your support, we can continue to follow our mission of *connecting people with nature* by encouraging one another to spend time outside and appreciate the beauty of our environment.



Adventure Programs



Butterfly House



Citizen Science Center



Field Trips & Summer Camps



Henke Acres



Trails & Gardens