

WOOD *p r i n t s*

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published quarterly by the Friends of Beaver Creek Reserve

volume 33 | number 1 | WINTER 2016

INTRODUCING THE NEW LOOK OF BEAVER CREEK RESERVE

Through the years there have been several variations of the Beaver Creek tree logo. While this logo has served us well for many years, it has also presented many challenges. The format of the logo was such that it made keeping up with the increasing demands of a digital world difficult. As planning for the Discovery Center remodel began, it became clear that the current logo could no longer meet our needs. It was officially time for a new design to represent Beaver Creek. Planning for the new design started this spring. Staff and board members were asked to comment on which aspects of the original logo were important to keep, what colors were preferred, what elements should be included, and what image would best portray the Reserve.



The results were then compiled, and the talented team at JB Systems in Eau Claire came up with several new interpretations. Staff were presented with multiple designs, and based on their input, there were clear front runners. After the course of several revisions and color options, the logo was selected. We are proud of the image it portrays and feel that it is a strong visual representation of our mission of *connecting people with nature*. The logo was approved at the October Friends Board Meeting and unveiled at the Annual Membership Meeting on October 24th. Visit the Beaver Creek Reserve Facebook and Twitter pages to see the full color version of the logo and look for our new logo on some wonderful new merchandise that will be for sale in our gift shop soon!

NATURE CENTER HOURS

Spring–Fall Hours, April–Nov.

Monday–Saturday
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday
Noon – 4 p.m.

Winter Hours, Dec.–March

Closed Mondays

Tuesday–Saturday
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday
Noon – 4 p.m.

CONTACT

Phone & Fax
715-877-2212

Email
bcr@beavercreekreserve.org

Website
www.beavercreekreserve.org

Join the Citizen Science Center Board

The Citizen Science Center is seeking candidates for their advisory board, which meets on a quarterly basis. The Citizen Science Center (CSC), the only one of its kind, began ten years ago. In that time, the program has grown significantly in projects, volunteers, staff and budget. The primary role of the CSC Advisory Board is to oversee, guide and protect the stability and the longevity of both the CSC and its staff. A strategic plan was developed for the CSC in 2014 and the main focus of the Advisory Board for 2016 will be to begin the implementation of this plan. For more information or to apply, please contact Jeanette Kelly, Citizen Science Center Director, at 715-877-2212 or csc@beavercreekreserve.org.

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Woodprints is published quarterly by the Friends of Beaver Creek Reserve.



WINTER IS FOR THE BIRDS

In general, winter at the Citizen Science Center means entering data, writing reports, and applying for grants. But there is one project that does continue throughout the winter months: weekly monitoring of feeder birds. Beaver Creek Reserve remains one of a very limited number of banding stations in Wisconsin where are banded throughout the year.

Monitoring birds through trapping and placing identifying bands on them has proven to be a beneficial technique to the scientific community. Through bird banding we can learn about long-term population dynamics, track migration, learn where birds go, determine longevity, and monitor direct and indirect causes of casualties.

In 1997 the banding crew began meeting weekly at the Wise Nature Center to band birds and monitor regular weight fluctuations of birds attracted to the Nature Center's feeders. In 2000, bird banding began at the feeders of several local properties in an attempt to determine if birds feeding at the Nature Center were also visiting these nearby feeders.

In the 18 years of bird banding at the Wise Nature Center there have been a total of 15,095 birds of 86 species banded. Of those birds, 4,304 were recaptures, mean-



Black-capped Chickadee being safely released. Photo by staff.

ing they had previously been banded and then trapped an additional time. Of the 86 species banded, the most common birds are American Goldfinch, Slate-colored Junco, Black-capped Chickadee, Pine Siskin, and Purple Finch. Some species are rarer to capture. Thirteen species have only been caught one time at the Nature Center, including Evening Grosbeak, Red-headed Woodpecker, Blackpoll Warbler, Northern Waterthrush and Harris's Sparrow. Each week bird banding is unpredictable. We never know when we will have a huge flock of Pine Siskins, catch a Sharp-shinned Hawk, or trap a rare species. Come join us to see what this week holds in store.

If you would like to observe bird banding at the Wise Nature Center, please join the bird banders on Thursdays in September through May, from 8 to 11 am.

French Toast Breakfast and Adopt-A-Maple Tree

Save the Date! Saturday, March 19th

French Toast Breakfast is moving! Join us Saturday, March 19th for:

Children's Crafts & Nature Games ♦ Raffles ♦ Chippewa Valley Water Color Art Exhibit & Sale ♦
Sugar Bush Tours ♦ Adopt-A-Maple Tree Program (separate registration required)

Look for more details in the Spring Woodprints.

Volunteers are vital to the success of our events. Please contact AJ at 715-877-2212 or AJ@beavercreekreserve.org for more information on this and our other volunteer needs.



FIRST-EVER FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL AND PLEIN AIR PAINTING CONTEST

On Saturday, October 3rd, Beaver Creek Reserve hosted a brand new event. Long time members will remember our previous Fall Festival and Booya. This year we were asked to partner with the Eau Claire Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) to host a Plein Air Painting Contest. The term “plein air” is derived from French and translates to “in the open air.”

Artists arrived early in the morning and hit the trails to scout out the perfect location. Visitors at the fall festival were invited to walk the trails and visit the artists and watch as they drew inspiration from the landscape around them to create their paintings.

First prize went to Barbara Shafer, and the Grand Prize of \$250 went to Bob Barfknecht for his watercolor painting. A print is being made of his beautiful winning piece, which will be displayed in the Wise Nature Center.

On the “camp side” of the campus, visitors could experience kids’ games, face painting, archery, an open house at the Citizen Science Center, Hobbs Observatory open house, naturalist hikes, music and food. Our trusty mascot Paddy the Beaver was on hand to welcome guests to the grounds and bring smiles to the faces of the children in attendance.

Our campus partners at the Wildlands School were in charge of food at the Fall Festival. Students received donations of grass-fed beef, organic free-range chickens, organic apples and Culver’s famous custard. All the proceeds from the food sales went to the Wildland’s General Project Fund.

A huge thank you to our sponsors Scheel’s of Eau Claire, Mayo Clinic Health System and Wipfli. We would also like to thank our wonderful volunteers for their time and dedication to the fall festival and our organization. Lastly, a thank you to the Eau Claire Regional Arts Council for bringing the ArtMobile and coordinating all the details of the Plein Air Painting Contest.



Grand prize winner Bob Barfknecht with his winning watercolor was presented his prize by Sarah Bergstrom, office manager for Beaver Creek Reserve.



Paddy the Beaver entertained the Festival's youngest guests.

Family Fall Festival Sponsors

SCHEELS

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UPCOMING

programs

DECEMBER

Storybook Hiking Trail Winter Program
Friday, December 11, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

JANUARY

Snowshoe Hike for Elder Explorers
Thursday, January 7, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Make Your Own Snowshoes
January 9 and 10, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Introduction to Snowshoeing
Saturday, January 16, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
or 12:30–2:30 p.m.

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike
Friday, January 22: Two shifts
First shift, 6–7:30 p.m.
Second shift, 7:30–9 p.m.

Bird Banding Demonstration
Saturday, January 23, 8–10:30 a.m.

Timber Wolf Winter Ecology Workshop
Saturday, January 30, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 31, 8:30 a.m. –noon

FEBRUARY

Snowshoe Hike for Elder Explorers
Thursday, February 11, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

“Who’s Been Here?” Winter Tracking for Kids
Two Time Options:
Saturday, February 6, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
or 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Dog Sledding and Snowshoeing at the Henke Farm
Saturday, February 13, 1–4 p.m.

Tree and Shrub ID in Winter
Two Date Options:
Wednesday, February 17, 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Saturday, February 20, 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike
Friday, February 19
Two shifts: First shift 6–7:30 p.m.
Second Shift 7:30–9 p.m.

SPRING SAVE THE DATES

Snowshoe Hike for Elder Explorers
Thursday, March 10, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Maple Syrup Sunday
March 13, 12–4 p.m.

Owl Prowl
Tuesday, March 15, 7–9 pm

French Toast Breakfast
Saturday, March 19, 8 a.m. –12 p.m.

Adopt-A- Maple-Tree
Saturday, March 19

Program Registration Procedures

As you sign up for upcoming programs and classes, please follow the procedures listed below. Program registration forms can be downloaded from the Calendar of Events page on the Reserve’s home page, visit www.beavercreekreserve.org.

- Every event (free or paid) requires pre-registration.
- **Full payment is due at registration.**
- We accept VISA, MasterCard, personal check or money order.
- Programs, dates and fees are subject to change.
- Cancellations require a 48-hour notice prior to the class date to receive a refund, minus a 10% administrative fee.

To register, visit www.beavercreekreserve.org or call 715-877-2212. We look forward to seeing you at the Reserve!

WINTER PROGRAMS

DECEMBER

Storybook Hiking Trail Winter Program

Friday, December 11, 10 – 11 a.m.

Wise Nature Center

Fall Creek Public Library teams up with Beaver Creek Reserve for a fun winter activity followed by a guided tour on the Storybook Hiking Trail. This program is for kids ages 2-6 and their families. Explore winter-themed songs, interactive stories, and movement activities that encourage your children to think about the ever-changing world around them and their role in it. All abilities are welcome to participate and we will do our best to accommodate your child's needs. Dress for the weather as the majority of the program will be held outdoors. In case of extreme weather, the program will be held indoors.

Registration and full payment required by Dec. 7.

**Friends \$3 per child, Adults free,
Nonmembers \$5 per child, Adults free**

JANUARY

Snowshoe Hike for Elder Explorers

Three Sessions –

Sign up for one or all three:

Thursday, January 7, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 11, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 10, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wise Nature Center

Winter is not a time for staring out the window and wishing it was spring. Come join a Beaver Creek naturalist for a snowshoe hike this winter! It's a great chance to explore the winter woods and get some exercise too! This program is targeted for our older, but active, nature lovers 55 and above. Participants should expect a moderately strenuous outing, over uneven terrain, with a 3/4 to one-mile hike. If walking is difficult for you or you have balance issues, you may want to pass on this offering. Wear your winter clothes and boots; snowshoes and instruction will be provided. If needed, snowshoe rental rates are an additional \$3 per pair.

Registration and full payment required by Jan. 5, Feb. 9 and March 8.

**Friends \$3/session
Nonmembers \$5/session**

Make Your Own Snowshoes

January 9 and 10, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Wise Nature Center

Snowshoeing has become a popular winter activity. Make your own traditional, wooden snowshoes in this two-day workshop. Choose from three styles of snowshoes: Green Mountain bear paw (10" x 36"), Alaskan trail shoe (10" x 56") or the great, all-purpose Ojibwa style (11" x 54"). All shoes are laced with tubular nylon, which is comfortable to work with and has great strength when varnished. Bring to class: PATIENCE, bag lunch, tape measure, pencil, scissors and matches or lighter.

Registration and full payment required by Dec. 15.

Friends \$160 Nonmembers \$180

Introduction to Snowshoeing

Two Time Options:

Saturday, January 16, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

or 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Wise Nature Center

Have you ever wanted to try snowshoeing but weren't sure where to begin? Come to Beaver Creek and learn about the snowshoe's history, the different styles of snowshoes, and how and where to use them. After a brief classroom time inside, we'll take to the trails for a snowshoe hike. If you've never tried snowshoeing before and would like to give it a try, this class is for you. Make a new adventure for the entire family! The snowshoe rental fee is included in the program cost. Be sure to indicate how many children and adults are in your party—a snowshoe sizing guide is available for online registration.

Registration and full payment required by Jan. 12.

Friends \$6 Nonmembers \$9

Bird Banding Demonstration

Saturday, January 23, 8 – 10:30 a.m.

Wise Nature Center

Join the Beaver Creek bird banding crew anytime during the morning to learn about bird banding. This is also a great chance to see some of the birds that visit feeders on a cold winter day up close and personal. Learn about bird identification, bird behavior, what to feed birds, and why we band them. You will even be able to "adopt" one of the birds you see banded.

Registration and full payment required by Jan. 19.

Friends Free Nonmembers \$3

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike

Friday, January 22

Two shifts: first shift 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.;

second shift 7:30 – 9 p.m.

Wise Nature Center

Candles and moonlight will illuminate the way as you explore the trails on snowshoes. A warm campfire awaits you as you finish the trail. Snowshoes will be available to rent for one of the two shifts, either 6 until 7:30 p.m. or 7:30 until 9 p.m. If you have your own snowshoes, you may register for either session. Please be sure to indicate how many children and adults are in your party, and the number of snowshoe rentals, adult and youth that are needed – a snowshoe sizing guide is available for online registrations. Please note that rental equipment is limited and may sell out. Prices for snowshoes and program are per person. If the weather does not provide enough snow to allow for safe snowshoeing, then you will be able to hike the trails. This decision will be made by the Reserve staff.

Registration and full payment required by Jan. 21.

Snowshoe rental: \$3 per set

Friends \$3 Nonmembers \$5

Timber Wolf Winter Ecology Workshop

Saturday, January 30, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

and Sunday, January 31, 8:30 a.m. – noon

Citizen Science Center

The Timber Wolf Information Network (TWIN) will hold a two-day winter wolf ecology workshop at the Reserve. TWIN members discuss wolf ecology, population biology, management issues and field study techniques including a winter tracking field trip into wolf territory. Fee includes instruction and materials. Bring your own Saturday lunch and beverage and clothing and footwear for winter weather.

Registration and full payment required by Jan. 22.

Rustic lodging is \$13 per night, per person. Call the Reserve for additional lodging information.

Friends \$65 Nonmembers \$70

WINTER PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY

"Who's Been Here?" Winter Tracking for Kids

Two Time Options:

**Saturday, February 6, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
or 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

Wise Nature Center

Did you ever go out in the morning and notice all the tracks under the birdfeeder or next to the shrub and wonder who had been there? Kids can come to this program and learn some of the detective work it takes to figure out the answers. If conditions allow, children will take a short walk outdoors, guided by a naturalist, to look for tracks and identify who may have passed that way. Class includes making a plaster cast of a wild animal track to take home. Please bring boots, gloves and warm clothing for outdoor exploration! Recommended for kids 8 and up.

Registration and full payment required by Jan. 27.

Friends \$5 (one chaperone is free)

Nonmembers \$8 (one chaperone is free)

Dog Sledding and Snowshoeing at the Henke Farm

**Saturday, February 13, 1–4 p.m.
Henke Farm**

There is something magical about watching a team of dogs as they push forward through the snow, tails wagging in excitement, moving as one. This is what sled-dogs were born to do and they love nothing more than the

opportunity to share their love of mushing with you. Come out to our satellite property, the Henke Farm, and join a group of fellow dog mushing enthusiasts. You can stay warm by the fire sipping on soup or a steaming cup of hot chocolate or, if you're not ready to sit down then strap on a pair of snowshoes and do some more winter exploration as you wait for a turn with the dog team and guide, Howard Thompson. The sled can accommodate two adult riders, or one adult and two small children, with a choice to sit or stand. Each sled trip goes on a 1¼ mile loop trail. Bring your kids or grandkids to share a special winter moment with, or surprise your special someone with a Valentine's Day adventure they will never forget. We'll caravan from the Nature Center to the Henke Farm. Don't forget to dress warm! Registration and full payment required by Wednesday, February 3.

Friends \$75 per sled trip

Nonmembers \$85 per time slot

Tree and Shrub ID in Winter

Two Date Options:

Wednesday, February 17, 9:30 a.m.– 12 p.m.

Saturday, February 20, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Wise Nature Center

Leaves are one of the biggest clues for tree and shrub identification. So what do you do when there are no leaves? Winter offers a special time to appreciate trees and shrubs in a totally different way. This program will point out unique bud and bark characteristics of many of our native trees and shrubs, making identification possible even in winter! A power-point and a hands-on session inside will be followed by an outdoor hike around

the Reserve to apply what we learned inside. Some easy tips and a simple winter tree and bark key will be provided for participants to take home. Bring warm clothes and boots along for the outdoor portion of the program.

Registration and full payment required by Feb. 15 and Feb. 18.

Friends \$5 Nonmembers \$8

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike

Friday, February 19

**Two shifts: first shift 6– 7:30 p.m.;
second shift 7:30 – 9 p.m.**

Wise Nature Center

Candles and moonlight will illuminate the way as you explore the trails on snowshoes. A warm campfire awaits you as you finish the trail. Snowshoes will be available to rent for one of the two shifts, either 6 until 7:30 p.m. or 7:30 until 9 p.m. If you have your own snowshoes, you may register for either session. Please be sure to indicate how many children and adults are in your party, and the number of snowshoe rentals, adult and youth that are needed – a snowshoe sizing guide is available for online registrations. Please note that rental equipment is limited and may sell out. Prices for snowshoes and program are per person. If the weather does not provide enough snow to allow for safe snowshoeing, then you will be able to hike the trails. This decision will be made by the Reserve staff.

Registration and full payment required by Feb. 18.

Snowshoe rental: \$3 per set

Friends \$3 Nonmembers \$5



December Store Sales

15% off:

Bird books

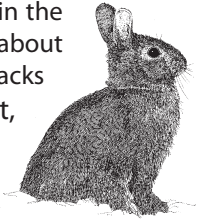
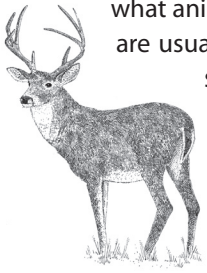
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(anything \$5.00 or less)**

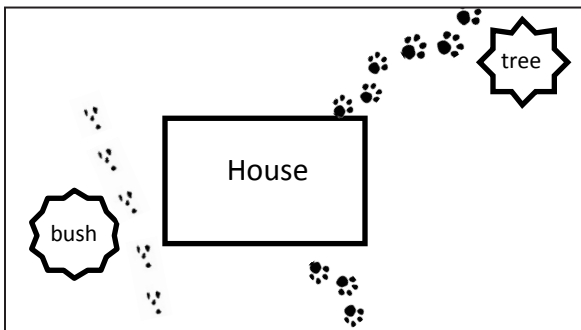


BE AN ANIMAL DETECTIVE IN THE SNOW

When there is snow on the ground, search for animal tracks near the woods or bushes. When an animal walks in the snow or mud, they leave footprints or tracks behind. Look at the pattern of the tracks to help you learn about what animal might have been there. If the animal has long, skinny legs like a deer or a fox, then their tracks are usually one behind the other in a straight line. If the animal moves by hopping like a rabbit, squirrel, or mouse, then their tracks will have all four feet close together, a space, and then all four feet close together again.



Look for other marks in the snow. Animals with long tails like mice or otters might drag their tails in the snow.



Go exploring at Beaver Creek Reserve, a neighborhood park, or your own backyard. Draw a map of where you found animal tracks. You can draw what the tracks looked like on your map if you like. Try to visit that area again later in the winter to see if the animal tracks are in the same areas.



MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS

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. CVAS is open to anyone with an interest in astronomy. For more information, contact the Reserve or check out the club's web site at www.cvastro.org.

Chippewa Valley Watercolor Artists

First Wednesday, 9 a.m. – Noon
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 through advanced, are invited to participate.

Quilting Club

Second & Fourth Mondays, 1–4 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

Second Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Bird Club meets at the Reserve on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The club is open to all bird lovers.

Beaver Creek Photo Club

Third Thursday, 7 p.m.

Everyone welcome! The Beaver Creek Photo Club meets the third Thursday of the month January through May and September through November.

HOBBS OBSERVATORY HAPPENINGS

Learn fascinating facts about the night sky from members of the Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society (CVAS) as they host public programs on the third Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Hobbs Observatory. Programs are open to the public and are free. Donations are welcome.

Public viewing through the telescopes is available on Saturdays if skies are clear (one hour after sunset). For more information, contact CVAS at 715-877-2212, at Facebook.com/cvastro.org or at www.cvastro.org.



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