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NATURE CENTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday Noon – 4 p.m.

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BCR BIRD BANDING CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Thanks in large part to Augie Wirkus, one I of the founding members and the original banding permit holder, bird banding is in its twentieth year at Beaver Creek Reserve! The official anniversary was January 5.

The bird banding program at Beaver Creek Reserve is completely volunteer-driven and funded. A rotating

group of more than 20 volunteers help with a variety bird banding projects such as Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS), American Kestrel nest box monitoring, feeder bird winter banding, and Northern Saw-whet Owl banding.

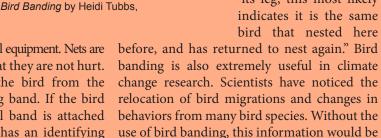
Banding is very but concept simple

requires trained skills and special equipment. Nets are designed to catch the birds so that they are not hurt. Volunteers gently extract the bird from the net and look for an existing band. If the bird is not banded, a thin metal band is attached to the bird's leg. The band has an identifying serial number that scientists can use to track and study various bird species. A bird ranging from a petite goldfinch to a mighty eagle can

be banded. Some birds caught in the banding process can be new or old friends visiting Beaver Creek Reserve season after season. How do we know this? A bird's band number is entered into the U.S. Geological Survey's website along with the bird's estimated age, sex, and other information. From this data scientists

> discover can the bird's minimum age, migration pattern, growth, and reproduction.

> Augie Wirkus, a bird bander of 50 years, explained. "When [someone] looks out into their lilac bush and sees a robin at its nest with a band on its leg, this most likely



Continued on Page 2



Update on WI Bats Pg. 2 Possible Vaccine for WNS

CONNECTING **PEOPLE** WITH NATURE



2017 Photo ContestPg 3 What a Face by Linda Nicastro



difficult to obtain.

Brand New Kids Page Pg 6 Meet Bart the Beaver



Naturalist Notes Pg 10 "The Rodent That Shaped America"



Encouraging News for Bats Stems from Wisconsin Research

Thanks to research being the here in Wisconsin, a vaccine for (WINIS) is be-Thanks to research being done right White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) is being tested. According to the WI Bat Program, since WNS was first detected in 2014, there has been a significant decline in the bat population, with specific sites seeing more than a 90% decrease in populations.

The vaccine is currently being tested on a group of bats who were vaccninated, and then allowed to hibernate in a cave known to be contaminated with the fungus that causes WNS. If the bats survive the winter hibernation, the vaccine will go in to full production.

Hurdles will still remain administration widespread vaccine. As it is not feasible to catch

each individual animal, methods for an oral delivery of the vaccine are being designed.

For more information, you can read the full article by Tonie Rocke, USGS National Wildlife Health Center, Madison at http://www.wiatri.net/Inventory/Bats/News/2017JanEcholocator.pdf

Bird Banding

Continued from cover

While collecting data is important, the health and safety of the birds is the utmost priority. Bird banders emphasize the humane procedure bird banding uses. Out of tens of thousands of birds banded, less than 0.0008% of the birds are injured or suffer from extreme distress, indicating how safe bird banding is.

Furthermore, bird banding is key for establishing hunting regulations. When game birds are banded and recorded, scientists can uncover population dynamics of a given species such as survival rate, migration, and breeding. Experts can also evaluate the harvest and recovery rates of birds after the hunting season, which is a factor in setting hunting regulations. According to the USGS, informaton returned from banded birds, is the

> primary source for estimating rates of birds, and monitoring and managing endangered species. Public informa

tion about bird banding can be found at USGS.gov.

Here at Beaver Creek Reserve, olunteers band feeder birds, including woodpeckers, goldfinches, nuthatches, chickadees, and many more. However, some birds require additional permits to

band such as eagles and hummingbirds, which are not banded at BCR. According to Jeanette Kelly Citizen Science Director, "To date, the oldest Red-breasted Nuthatch in the U.S. was originally band-

serve." That particular

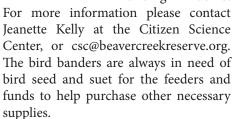
nuthatch was originally banded in 2006 and then again in 2012. At six and half years old, it was recognized by the Bird Banding Laboratory as the oldest redbreasted nuthatch. Kelly further added, "A Downy Woodpecker was caught at the Nature Center 48 times over a period of five years." Outcomes of bird banding are not only informative, but can reveal interesting facts about the birds that call Beaver Creek Reserve home, year after

Thanks to Augie Wirkus and all the bird banders for the last 20 years. Here's to another 20 years of banding!

Interested in getting involved in the bird banding Program? There are

> several upcoming opportunities. First, the bird banders will be giving a demonstration at French Toast Breakfast on March 11th. Saturday, May 6, is the Spring

and Hike Banding demo.



Written by Intern Emily Kinzel and Jeanette Kelly, CSC Director



Thursday morning volunteer bird banders repair nets. From ed at Beaver Creek Re- left to right: Judy Schwarzmeier, Gary Wauters and Lynn Janik. Bird

The most commonly banded bird at BCR is the American goldfinch. As of March 2016 more than 16,000 were banded.



NEW Extended Deadline!

Entry dates: March 1 - June 30

Returning Category: Birds

We are dividing birds in to their own category again in 2017



Spring Beauty by Ryan Zimmerman

FREE Entries for first time contest participants

In order to get more kids and amatuer photographers involved, we are offering a total of two free entries for new photograhers for the adult, youth and phone/tablet categories.

Rules and entry forms can be picked up from Beaver Creek Reserve and Sharp Photo and Portait, or downloaded from our website: www.beavercreekreserve.org/events

Chippewa Valley Roller Girl Bout Benefits BCR Bird Banding



BCR Marketing & Development Coordinator, Brianne Markin was on-hand to receive the \$250 donation from the CV Roller Girls.

On January 14, the Chippewa Valley Roller Girls took on the St. Paul Debu-Taunts at the Indoor Sports Center in Eau Claire with proceeds benefiting BCR! The CV Roller Girls, a nonprofit organization themselves, donate proceeds from their bouts to other local nonprofits. Two hundred and fifty dollars was donated to Beaver Creek Reserve. The CV Roller girls were given several choices of where the funds could be directed, and they selected the BCR Bird Banding Program!

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Dustin Hurtgen	

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Beaver CreekConnection

Looking for more stories and information on what is happening at Beaver Creek Reserve, or in the field of conservation and natural reservouces?

Visit our blog, and subscribe! http://beavercreekconnection. blogspot.com/

UPCCOMING programs

Bee Keeping 101 – Learn the Art of Beekeeping for Hobbyists

Saturday, March 4th, 8:00 a.m. -3:30 p.m. Wise Nature Center

If you have heard about the pollinator shortage and want to make a difference, then become a backyard beekeeper. This informative class teaches you the basics to get started: introductory knowledge about beekeeping and bees, costs associated with beekeeping, time involved and equipment needed. Learn beekeeping from members of the Chippewa-Eau Claire Beekeepers club. Please bring a sack lunch and notebook. If desired, lunch can be catered from Chicken Chasers in Fall Creek for \$8.00; please indicate if you wish to order lunch and bring cash the day of the

program.

Registration and full payment required by Mar 1

Friends \$40 Nonmembers \$45

Adopt-A- Maple-Tree

Saturday, March 4, Two Sessions: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Wise Nature Center

The maple syrup season is short but sweet. We will start with a short program to learn the basics of making maple syrup and how to identify a maple tree. Each family or group* will decorate a tree marker with their own unique design to leave on their tree after tapping. The markers are designed to help families find their tree again as we strongly encourage participants to come back during

the sap run and see how their tree is doing. Participants will also get a chance to visit the sugar shack where the syrup is made. After the season is complete, families and groups will be able to stop back at the Reserve and pick-up their own 8 oz. bottle of syrup made with sap from their tree and their photo of their tapping adventure. The morning session open to youth organizations and families and the afternoon session is open to families only.

* Pricing is per group, we define a group as 6 or less people. If your group has more than 6 people, you will need to register for two spots.

Registration and full payment required by March 1.

Friends \$25 Nonmembers \$35

Register Today

Online:

www.beavercreekreserve.org

By Phone: 715-877-2212

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, Visa, Mastercard and Discover

Cancellations less than 48 hours in advance will incur a 10% administrative fee.

Cancelled programs are eligible for a full refund.

MARCH

Bee Keeping 101 – Learn the Art of Beekeeping for Hobbyists

Saturday, March 4th, 8:00 am-3:30 pm

Adopt-A- Maple-Tree

Saturday, March 4, Two Sessions: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

French Toast Breakfast

Saturday, March 11, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

BCR Book Club

Mondays, March 20 - April 10, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Storybook Hiking Trail

Friday, March 17, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Owl Prowl

Tuesday, March 21, 7:00-9:30 p.m.



Basket Weaving: Copper Pot

Thursday, March 23, 3:00-7:00 p.m. and 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Nature Break for Kids

Spring Bird Count for Kids (Age 4-12)

Friday, March 24, 9:00-1:30 a.m.

Nature Break for Kids (Ages 8-12) Maple Magic

Friday, March 24, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Nature Break for Kids

Spring Fling (4–7)

Friday, March 24, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

APRIL

Book Discussion with Author Nickolas Butler

Monday April 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Phenology Hike for Elder Explorers

Thursday, April 20, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

French Toast Breakfast

Saturday, March 11, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Main Lodge

French Toast Breakfast is Beaver Creek Reserve's longest running event! Enjoy delicious French Toast and fun activities for all ages across our entire campus. We'll have kid's crafts and activities, while members of the Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society will have an open house at Hobbs Observatory. The annual Chippewa Valley Water Color Exhibit will be held in the Nature Center and a special bird banding bythe Beaver Creek Bird Banders will be held at the CSC.

*Please note the ticket price increase since the last Woodprints. Due to the increasing costs of supplies, we have increased ticket prices by \$1.

Advanced Tickets: Adults \$7, Kids (2-12) \$4 At the door: Adults \$8, Kids (2-15) \$5

Book Club

Mondays, March 20- April 10, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Citizen Science Center

Join Beaver Creek Reserve's Book Club! Over the course of 4 weeks we will be reading <u>The</u> <u>Hearts of Men</u> by local author Nikolas Butler. Then on April 17, Beaver Creek will be hosting Nickolas Butler for a book discussion! The Hearts of Men is "an epic novel of intertwining friendships and families set in the north woods of Wisconsin at Camp Chippewa, a beloved Boy Scout summer camp." This book will become available for purchase March 7, but you can pre order copies on Amazon. The first meeting will be at the Citizen Science Center with subsequent meeting locations determined by book club members. Read the first 5 chapters prior to the first meeting.

Registration required by March 16.

Free and open to Beaver Creek members only

Storybook Hiking Trail

Friday, March 17, 10:00 -11:00 a.m. Wise Nature Center

Join us for a fun spring activity followed by a guided tour on the Storybook Hiking Trail. This program is for kids ages 3-8 and their families. Explore spring-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 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 March 16.

Friends Adult Free, Child \$3 Nonmembers Adult Free, Child \$5

Owl Prowl

Tuesday, March 21, 7:00-9:30 p.m. Wise Nature Center

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 we will return inside to discover some of the unique traits of the owl family. A guest appearance by BCR's non-releasable owl is expected toward the end of the program. This program is appropriate for upper elementary school-age children to adults. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

Registration and full payment required by March 20.

Friends Adult \$5, Child \$3 Nonmembers Adult \$8, Child\$5

Continued on page 8

Frog Fest

Wednesday, April 26, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Acoustic Bat Monitoring
Wednesday April 26, 7:30-9:15 p.m.

MAY

Spring Evening Bird Hike Tuesday, May 2, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Spring Wildflower Walk Thursday, May 4, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Bee Keeping 102 – You Are a Beekeeper, Now What? Saturday, May 6, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Spring Bird Hike and Banding Demo Saturday, May 6, 6:30-11:00 a.m.

Make a Thunder Gourd Saturday, May 6, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Use Your Smartphone to Map and Report Invasive Species

Thursday, May 11, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Native Plant Sale Saturday, May 13, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Spring Evening Bird Hike Tuesday, May 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Phenology Hike for Elder Explorers Thursday, May 17, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Tiffany Train Ride Saturday, May 20, 7:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Keeping Kids Entertained on the Trail Saturday, May 20, Two Sessions: 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Mussel Mania! Tuesday, May 23, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Herbal First Aid Walk for Families Wednesday, May 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATES

Breeding Bird Atlas Blitz Tuesday, June 6, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Move Your Hips! Hula Hooping for Exercise and Empowerment Wednesday, June 7, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Phenology Hike for Elder Explorers Thursday, June 8, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Beekeeping 103 – Preparing the Hive for Winter

August 5, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.







Spring is an exciting time at Beaver Creek Reserve. Look for the **bold** spring words in the word search puzzle.

- <u>Skunk</u> cabbage is our first <u>flower</u> of spring.
- Hike the trails when <u>spring</u> beauty is blooming.
- <u>Barred</u> and <u>horned</u> owls can be heard hooting in early spring evenings.
- American <u>woodcock</u>, a small shorebird, does its mating dance in our savannah area.
- When wood <u>frogs</u> sing, it sounds like someone saying "lick-it-up" very fast.
- <u>Maple</u> trees are tapped below the nature center.
- <u>Ruby</u>-throated hummingbirds will be visiting the feeders in early May.
- Join one of the bird hikes to find returning warblers.
- Spring <u>peepers</u> are a tiny frog with an X on their back.



W	A	R	В	L	E	R	S	R	A
Y	S	S	R	E	P	E	E	P	R
G	Н		K	E	M	A	P	L	E
0	N	K	C	0	C	D	0	0	W
F	M		Н	0	R	N	E	D	0
R	A	P	R	U	В	Y	A	F	L
0	Y	F	V	P	G	Q	S	R	F
G	S	L	W	0	S	K	U	N	K
S	J	В	A	R	R	E	D	D	S



What do you call an owl with a sore throat?

A bird that doesn't give a hoot!

Fast Fact:

There are 19 species (kinds) of owls in North America. 12 species have been found in Wisconsin.

Basket Weaving – Copper Pot

Thursday, March 23, Two Sessions: 3:00-7:00 p.m. and 5:00-9:00 p.m. Wise Nature Center

Shirley Mount of the Basket Patch will be teaching a special basket weaving class perfect for beginners to intermediate weavers. The Copper Pot will begin with a copper painted wood base and weave a continuous weave to the center where you will place real copper overlay onto a 1/2" flat reed weaver with copper overlay on the rim as well. The handle is copper finish with a wood grip. This basket is very fun to weave! Some weaving experience helpful. Supplies to bring to class: Bucket, towel, clip clothes pins, pencil, tape measure, scissors, flat screw driver.

Registration and full payment required by Monday, March 13.

Friends \$5 + \$28 for basket Nonmembers \$8 + \$28 for Basket

Nature Break for Kids Spring Bird Count for Kids (Ages 4-12)

Friday, March 24, 9:00-11:30 a.m. Wise Nature Center

Gather your fledglings to celebrate birds and introduce your young ones to taking an active role in citizen science. We will start the morning out by learning about birds and binoculars. Then older kids 8 – 12 will head outside to go birding with bird mentors. They will record bird species and tabulate results. Kids ages 4-7 (must be accompanied by an adult) will participate in bird activities, a craft and conduct their own survey at the bird feeders. Please bring your own binoculars if you have them.

Afternoon activities available for both age groups. Choose one program or both. If staying all day, please pack a *nut-free* lunch. Children age 4-7 must be accompanied by an adult. Children 8-12 an adult chaperone is optional.

Registration and full payment required by March 20.

Nature Break for Kids Maple Magic (Ages 8-12)

Friday, March 24, 12:30-2:00 p.m. Wise Nature Center

Kids ages 8-12 are invited to join us after lunch as we explore the basics of maple syruping. We will: learn a smidgen of sugaring history, discover a little bit about how the tree works and how we get sap, figure out how to identify a maple tree, and then take our newfound knowledge on a quest to find and tap a maple tree along Beaver Creek's trails. If the season has begun we can also see the sap to syrup process.

Registration and full payment required by March 20.

Nature Break for Kids Spring Fling (Age 4-7)

Friday, March 24, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

For those who'd like to stay at BCR after the morning birding program we will have a fun afternoon of crafts, stories and free play at BCR!

Registration and full payment required by March 20.

Nature Break For Kids Pricing:

Spring Bird Count (4-7) \$6 Members, \$8 Nonmembers

Spring Bird Count (8-12) \$6 Members, \$8 Nonmembers

Maple Magic Only (Ages 8-12) \$6 Members, \$ 8 Nonmembers

All Day Nature Break for ages 8-12 Spring Bird Count + Maple Magic 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. \$10 Members \$ 14 Nonmembers

Spring Fling Members: FREE, Nonmembers \$3



Stained-Glass Garden Chimes

Thursday, March 30, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Wise Nature Center

Participants will have their choice of creating a wind chime from either a depression era plate or a piece of driftwood as a base. Then pieces of stained glass and glass beads are added to create a unique piece of art. This project is one that you will want to keep for yourself or give as a special gift.

Registration and full payment required by March 24.

\$20 Members \$25 Nonmembers

Book Discussion with Author Nickolas Butler

Monday, April 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wise Nature Center

Nickolas Butler is the author of the novel Shotgun Lovesongs and a collection of short stories entitled, Beneath the Bonfire. Beaver Creek Reserve's book club picked Butler's newest novel, The Hearts of Men for their March book club read. Butler will be reading from his newest novel, answering questions from the audience, and sharing where he gets some of his ideas. There will be a book signing following the program.

Registration and full payment required by April 13.

Friends Free Nonmembers \$5

Phenology Hike for Elder Explorers

Three Date Options:

Thursday, April 20, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Thursday, May 18, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Thursday, June 8, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Wise Nature Center

This naturalist-led, 60-minute hike on reserve trails will document the changes taking place in the woods at Beaver Creek. The hike will be capped off with coffee and a treat and further discussion about the changes and things we've seen on the hike. Hikers should expect about a mile-long hike with uneven terrain and stairs to negotiate. This program is targeted for adult nature lovers 55 and older. Participate monthly or register for one week at a time — the choice is yours. Pricing is per hike, register for one or all!

Registration and full payment required by April 18, May 16, and June 6 respectively.

Friends \$3 Nonmembers \$5

Frog Fest

Wednesday, April 26, 7:00 -10:00 p.m. Wise Nature Center

Frog Fest 2017 is an annual event not only at Beaver Creek, but throughout Wisconsin each spring as the ponds begin to thaw. The Wisconsin Frog Fest circuit hosts 11 frog performers and 1 toad. Join Reserve naturalist Ruth Forsgren as she helps you to identify by sight and sound our local performers. Weather and trail conditions permitting, the evening will end with a hike down to Beaver Creek's own frog chorus marsh. Dress appropriately for cool evening weather and possible muddy terrain. A flashlight may also prove helpful. Program is appropriate for school age children through adults.

Registration and full payment required by April 24.

Friends Adult \$5, Child \$3 Nonmembers Adult \$8, Child \$5

Acoustic Bat Monitoring

Wednesday April 26, 7:30-9:15 p.m. Citizen Science Center

Wisconsin has seven species of bat, four of which are threatened and three are listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need. With White-nose Syndrome threatening bats across much of the United States, there is no better time to assist in this citizen science opportunity. Join us to learn about Wisconsin's bat species and how to conduct acoustic monitoring and bat roost monitoring surveys in the Chippewa Valley. To end the program we will step into the night and learn how to use the Citizen Science Center's portable acoustic bat monitoring device to assist state bat biologists with collecting data about these misunderstood night flyers.

Registration and full payment required by April 25.

Friends \$5 Nonmembers \$8

Spring Evening Bird Hikes

Two hikes:

Tuesday, May 2, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wise Nature Center

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 early evening walk to see who we can find on the trails. All levels of bird enthusiasts are welcome. These hikes are designed

for adults to upper elementary-aged children. Please note that these are two separate hikes; you may attend either one or both, but if attending both, you must register for both.

Registration and full payment required by May 1 and May 15 respectively.

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

Spring Wildflower Walk

Thursday, May 4, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Putnam Park at UWEC

Join UWEC Professor Joe Rohrer and BCR Volunteer Naturalist Pam Rasmussen for a guided wildflower walk through Putnam Park on the UWEC Campus. The spring ephemerals are spectacular. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Meet at the Putnam Parking lot on the Universities Lower Campus. Link to campus map:

https://wwwlocal.uwec.edu/about/mapsdirections/upload/campus-parking-map.pdf

Registration and full payment required by May 1.

Friends: FREE Nonmembers \$5



Bee Keeping 102 – You Are a Beekeeper, Now What?

Saturday, May 6, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Wise Nature Center

You got your bees in their hive. Now what? Learn how to properly manage your bee hive while they are foraging and packing away pollen and honey. Topics will include how to perform a hive inspection, managing your hive's growth, hive swarming, and when to add honey supers. Members of the Chippewa & Eau Claire Beekeeping Club will be providing the training. Please bring a bee veil or bee suit as we open an onsite bee hive for examination. Also bring a sack lunch and notebook. If desired, lunch will be catered from Chicken Chasers in Fall Creek for \$8.00; please indicate if you wish to order lunch and bring cash the day of the program.

Registration and full payment required by May 3.

Friends \$40 Nonmembers \$45

Spring Bird Hike and Banding Demo

Saturday, May 6, 6:30-11:00 a.m. Wise Nature Center

Spend the morning with Beaver Creek Bird Banders. Begin the morning with a bird hike at the Reserve to look for spring migrants. Then wander back to the Nature Center for a banding demonstration. This is a great opportunity to see birds both through the binoculars and in hand. Learn about bird identification, bird behavior, and why we band them. This program is open to bird enthusiasts of all abilities. The program begins at 6:30 a.m. and hikers should meet at the Nature Center and wear comfortable clothing. If there is thunder, lightning or moderate to heavy rain in the area, the program will NOT be held. Don't forget your binoculars and field guides.

Registration and full payment required by May 3.

Friends \$3 Nonmembers \$5

Make a Thunder Gourd

Saturday, May 6, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Wise Nature Center

Looking for a unique gift? Come to Beaver Creek Reserve and make a thunder gourd! In this two hour class you will decorate a gourd and attach a membrane and spring. When finished the beautiful gourd makes a wonderful thunderous sound. Program is suitable for ages 8 to 100 but all children must be accompanied by an adult. Younger children could assist with painting and decorating. Price is per gourd. No more than 3 people per gourd. Additional kits will also be for sale during program.

Registration and full payment required by April 28.

Members \$30, Nonmembers \$35



Naturalist Notes

The Rodent That Shaped America

It is funny to me that for almost two hundred years, the leading economic activity west of the settled areas of North America was driven by the fur trade. The most sought after fur during that time was that of our largest rodent, the beaver.

Not only was the fur trade where the money was, it was the reason behind most of the exploration of the West: searching for new fur-bearing populations and the easiest routes to transport them.

The North American beaver (Castor canadensis) is one of two members of the genus Castor; the other is the Eurasian beaver. Our beaver has a range that encompasses most of North America, with the exception of the deserts in the southwestern United States, Mexico, and the far northern reaches of Canada. Prior to European settlement, the North American

beaver population was estimated to be between sixty to four hundred million animals. Current populations are estimated at between six and twelve million. The unregulated fur trade during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, along with habitat loss, are the presumed reasons for the significant decline.

Beavers are fascinating critters. They are designed specialists for their role in the environment. The average adult beaver will be three to four feet in length, including their most recognizable feature: their tail. They typically weigh between forty-five to sixty pounds, with the world record currently held by one Wisconsin beaver that weighed 110 pounds!

Not exceedingly graceful on land, the beaver is well-suited for its semi-aquatic lifestyle. Beavers can swim five miles per hour and stay underwater for up to fifteen minutes. They have built-in nose and ear valves that close when they dive, along with nictitating membranes (mostly clear eyelids) that protect the eyes while

allowing the beaver to see underwater). They have specialized lips that close behind those famous, ever-growing, orange teeth. This allows the beaver to carry food and building materials without drowning.



United States, Mexico, and the far The beaver's orange teeth are an identifying chanorthern reaches of Canada. Prior to rateristic. Photo credit: Back Off by Erik Huebler

Their tail not only makes them easily identifiable, but it also serves several purposes. If you happen upon a beaver, it will quickly disappear into the water. Before it leaves however, it will often smack its tail on the surface, creating a fantastic spray and loud slap. The loud noise is meant as a warning for any members of the family that might be out-and-

bers of the family that might be out-and-about. Beaver parents, kits (babies of the current year) and the two-year-old kits, are often found living and working together. The beaver's tail also serves as a rudder or steering wheel as they maneuver through the underwater jungle gym that they call home. In addition the tail works like a prop, keeping these little beach balls upright and steady as they chew down trees for food and building material. Like any animal that hopes to survive the winter, beavers need to store extra fat; being quite robust critters already, extra fat is stored in the tail.



Beavers known for their large, mound-shaped lodges and river stopping dams. The largest dam in the world, over 2800 feet long, was found with the Google Earth satellite and is located in Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada, Our beavers here at the Reserve try to build dams, but the sandy soil causes them to be washed out too quickly. Without a dam to create a pond, the beaver cannot build its lodge, so beavers at Beaver Creek live in hollowed out areas along the banks of the creek. Because beavers move when they deplete their food sources such as aspen, birch, and maple trees, there is not one consistent place at the Reserve to find them. Beavers are also nocturnal, which can make spotting these busy critters tough. While walking the trails below the nature center keep, an eye out for signs of beaver activity including dams, chewed down trees, tracks, and branches sticking out of the water in strange places. If you happen to spot a beaver, freeze, and watch it for as long as it allows.

Ruth Forsgren



Evidence of beavers like this chewed tree, indicate there are likely beavers living nearby. Photo credit: Beaver's Work by Ann Gordon

Use Your Smartphone to Map and Report Invasive Species

Thursday, May 11, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Citizen Science Center

Join Anne Pearce from UW Extension and the Wisconsin First Detector Network (WIFDN) to learn about invasive species, their impacts in Wisconsin, tools to identify, and how you can help researchers by mapping your findings. WIFDN is a citizen science network that empowers people to take action against invasive species through invasive species monitoring, management, and outreach. In this session, WIFDN will give you the tools to identify invasive species and introduce you to the Great Lakes Early Detection Network invasive species reporting app. Information submitted to the app becomes part of a national database providing information for land managers and researchers. Please bring a brown bag dinner and be prepared to spend time outside.

Registration and full payment required by May 8.

Friends \$5 Nonmembers \$8

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 13, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Wise Nature Center

Enhance your garden or yard with native plants from Beaver Creek Reserve's greenhouse! Expertly grown by Master Gardeners, a wide variety of native grasses, herbs and wildflowers will be for sale. Gardening experts will be on hand to answer all your questions. Great plants - great prices! Proceeds will help support activities at Beaver Creek Reserve

Tiffany Train Ride

Saturday, May 20, 7:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Tiffany Bottoms State Natural Area

Ride the rails through the Tiffany Wetland Bottoms with the Citizen Science staff from Beaver Creek Reserve. Spend the day on an open-air, antique train while exploring the wetlands. The round-trip ride, approximately 14 miles, will let you see what makes these wetlands so unique and important to our plant and wildlife habitat. Be sure to pack a cooler with snacks and refreshments for the day while we tour and hike the trails, 0.25 -0.5 miles each. Participants should dress for the

weather and possibly wet terrain. Bring binoculars and any desired field guides. Rain or shine, don't miss this exciting event! Maps and directions available on our online event listing or contact BCR.

Registration and full payment required by May 18.

Friends \$25 Nonmembers \$35

Keeping Kids Entertained on the Trail

Saturday, May 20, Two Sessions: 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Wise Nature Center

A day hike offers a great opportunity for families to bond and to instill children with an understanding and appreciation of nature. This session will provide and allow families to experience activities to get kids excited about a day hike; trail games that will help kids better understand and appreciate nature; and post-hike activities to keep kids excited about the sport. The games and activities are culled from the experiences of bestselling hiking guidebook author Rob Bignell, who with his nine-year-old son Kieran have been featured in National Geographic: Kids magazine and the Minneapolis Star-Tribune. This program is appropriate for families with children ages 6 months to 13 years. Please dress for the weather and bring comfortable shoes for walking and a water bottle.

Rob Bignell will be signing and selling books from his popular guidebook series after the hike

Registration and full payment required by May 17. Pricing is per family of 2-5 people. Larger families please register for two spots.

Friends \$6 Nonmembers \$10

Mussel Mania!

Tuesday, May 23, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Citizen Science Center

Jesse Weinzinger, Conservation Biologist with the WDNR, will be joining us for an evening of mussels --not the large bicep kind but the aquatic mollusk kind! This presentation will focus on the biology of freshwater mussels, their importance, and how volunteers can contribute to their preservation. Get to know some of the species found in our local streams!

Registration and full payment required by May 19.

Friends \$3 Nonmembers \$5

Herbal First Aid Walk for Families

Wednesday, May 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wise Nature Center

Looking for natural ways to heal stomach aches, scratches, and general aches and pains? Join Eau Claire herbalist Kerri Kiernan, of River Prairie Apothecary, on Beaver Creek's trails to learn about plants that are found locally, and have medicinal powers to heal you and your family. Participants should dress for the weather and bring a notepad and pencil if you want to take notes.

Registration and full payment required by May 22.

Friends \$5 Nonmembers \$8

Tadpole Toddler Camp Featuring Lily Pad Lab

Monday, June 19 to Friday, June 23, 9:45-11:45 a.m.

Wise Nature Center

Now you and your smallest explorers (ages 2-4) will have a chance to join in all the fun at Beaver Creek Reserve! Get ready for a morning of music, movement, meaningful messes, munching and lots of exploration of our natural world! Join the teachers from Lily Pad Lab and BCR staff and volunteers for this first-ever week-llong camp, specifically designed for little learners. See the Summer Camp pages for more information and pricing.



Spring and Summer Volunteer Opportunities

BUTTERFLY HOUSE LAB

Training: Tuesday, June 8, 7 p.m.

Volunteers are needed from early June through mid-September. This exciting volunteer opportunity involves the daily care and feeding of caterpillars, monitoring chrysalis development, and releasing butterflies into the Butterfly House. Lab workers are needed daily Monday through Saturday, for one to two hours, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Sunday, 12-2 p.m., to help raise caterpillars in our lab. To sign up for this training call 715-877-2212. If you cannot attend this training session, please contact the Reserve to set up a personal training time.

BUTTERFLY HOUSE GUIDE

Training: Monday, June 29, 7 p.m.

Enjoy learning about our native butterflies and helping visitors to identify them while volunteering in our beautiful Butterfly House as a Volunteer Guide! Guides answer questions and share their love and enthusiasm for butterflies. Don't think you know enough about butterflies? Don't worry -- this is a great way to learn on the job! Come and see what it's all about! Volunteers are needed daily Monday- Saturday, 11 a.m.-3:00 p.m., and Sundays 12:00-3:00 p.m., from July 5 through early September. To sign up for this training call 715-877- 2212. If you cannot attend this training session, please contact the Reserve to set up a personal training time.

Save the Date

Volunteer Appreciation Potluck

Thursday, April 20 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Bring a dish to pass. BCR will provide the main course and dessert. More details to follow.

Please RSVP to AJ Leiden at 715-877-2212 or aj@beavercreekreserv.org



congratulations, On 25 years!

Join us in congratulating Ruth Forsgren on 25 years as a Naturalist Educator at BCR! We heartilly thank her for her time, energy and passion for her job!



In 2016 Beaver Creek Reserve had more than 280 vounteers contribute approximately 4,300 hours! Weare excited to celebrate your accomplishments and valuable contribution!

MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS

NATURE STORE SALES

Save 15% of these great items in the Nature Store

MARCH

- Stuffed animals
- Cookie cutters
- ALL books

APRIL

- Tree-related items
- Socks
- Field guides

MAY

- Pouches & bags
- Hummingbird feeders
- Plant books



Thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered for the candlelight snowshoe hike and the Frosty Frolic!
Photos by Ruth Fiosgren



Quilting Club

Second & Fourth 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

Second Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Bird Club meets at BCR on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m from September to May. The club is open to all bird lovers.

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 kippenip@uwec.edu.

Beaver Creek Photo Club

Third Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Everyone welcome! The Beaver Creek Photo Club meets the third Thursday of the month January through May and September through November. No December Meeting.

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 HAPPENINGS

Come 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 pm in the Hobbs Observatory. There will be a 45-60 minute presentation on astronomical related topics by CVAS members.



Star Gazers by Ryan Zimmerman

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 is also available on CLEAR Saturdays from May through October starting about an hour after sunset (as CVAS volunteer staffing permits).

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



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2017 Camp Offerings At-a-Glance

B is for Birding

Tuesday, June 13, 8:00-11:00 a.m. Ages 7-9

Nature Nuts

Monday, June 19 to Friday, June 23 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Nuts: Ages 5-6 Sprouts: Ages 7-8

Earth Detectives: Ages 9-11

Tadpole Toddler Camp

Monday, June 19 to Friday, June 23 9:45-11:45 a.m. Ages 2-4

R is for Reptiles

Tuesday, June 27, Two sessions: 9:30-11:30 am and 1:30-3:30 p.m. Ages 5-6

The Nature of Photography

Monday, July 10, 1:00-3:30 p.m. Ages 10-12

Girls Outdoors Series: Air and Fire

Thursday, July 13, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Girls Ages 10-12

Shooting Sports Camp

Friday, July 14, 9:30-12:00 p.m. Ages 9 -12

Girls Outdoors Series: Fishing

Tuesday, July 18, 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Girls Ages 10-12

Girls Outdoors Series: Geocaching

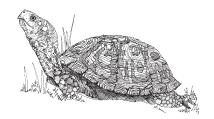
Tuesday, July 25, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Girls Ages 10-12

Wonders of Butterflies Camp

Monday, July 31 to Wednesday, August 2, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Ages 8-11

Budding Butterflies

Tuesday, August 8 Two sessions offered: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-3:30 pm Ages 5 -7



Camp Registration Guidelines

Registration: Complete online at www.beavercreekreserve.org/summercamps. Registration deadlines are Wednesday, June 1.

Payment: Full payment (with pre-registration) must be received by **Wednesday, June 1**. We accept VISA, MasterCard, Discover, personal check or money order. To pay with cash, check or money order, please register in person at Beaver Creek Reserve during our normal business hours. We will not be taking registrations through the mail.

Refund Policy: Cancellations require a seven-day notice prior to camp in order to receive a full refund minus a \$20 processing fee. Cancellations after that will receive no refund. No exceptions.

FREE Camps for area School District students: As of March 1st, the Eau Claire area school district is the only district to confirm their offerings. For up to date offerings, visit our website at www.beavercreekreserve.org. The free camp offerings are labeled as follows:

Eau Claire = EC

Camp scholarships: Scholarships are available for certain camps; check our website for details.

**Please note due to the active nature of the program, camps are unable to accommodate persons with severe emotional problems, serious physical, mental, or medical limitations, or those who have a severe cognitive disability.

2017 Summer Camp Opportunities

B is for Birding

Tuesday June 13, 8:00-1:00 a.m. Ages 7-9

Birds are extremely cool creatures! They come in all colors and shapes. And most of them can FLY! Designed to help young nature lovers (age 7 to 9) discover the marvels of the bird world, this camp will introduce beginning ornithologists to bird identification, proper use of binoculars and simple field guides. After some inside classroom time, we will take our new-found skills on the trail to search for birds. Warning: your child may develop a lifelong love for the birds .

Friends \$20 Non-members \$30

Nature Nuts/Sprouts/Earth Detectives

Monday, June 19 through Friday, June 23, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



Nature Nuts, Ages 5-6 (must be 5 by first day of camp)

Nature Nuts is designed to encourage the inherent curiosities of young nature lovers. Daily activities are geared to discovery of the natural world. Adventures may include things like adopting a tree, meeting a Rock Wizard, searching for the elusive pieces of the rainbow, and creative art projects.

Sprouts, Ages 7-8

Sprouts are given opportunities to expand their knowledge of our natural world. Programs rotate every two years, Sprouts uncover details about animal groups one year and the other year Sprouts explore new worlds through habitat study. Whether knee deep in a stream, or hiking through our forest communities, Sprouts develop a basis for a lifetime of nature appreciation.

Earth Detectives, Ages 9-11

Whether they are panning for gold or hunting for frogs, Earth Detectives enjoy getting their feet muddy as they investigate the forest, prairie, stream, and pond habitats of the Reserve. The hands-on investigations give Earth Detectives an exciting up-close look at the natural world during their weeklong exploration.

Friends: \$50 Nonmembers: \$60

Tadpole Toddler Camp Featuring Lily Pad Lab

Monday, June 19 - Friday, June 23 9:45 -11:45 a.m.

Ages 2-4

Now you and your smallest explorers will have a chance to join in all the fun at Beaver Creek Reserve! Get ready for a morning of music, movement, meaningful messes, munching and lots of exploration of our natural world! Join the teachers from Lily Pad Lab and BCR staff and volunteers for this first-ever week long camp, specifically designed for little learners. Parents and children will work together as they join in group activities and stations designed to encourage exploration, experimentation and FUN! Register for single days or for the whole week and save!

Daily Topics

Monday – Meaningful Messes and Trees (Taught by Lily Pad Lab) Tuesday – Fabulous Fish (Taught by BCR) Wednesday – Meaningful Messes and the Weather (Taught by Lily Pad Lab) Thursday - Beautiful Bugs (Taught by BCR) Friday – Meaningful Messes and Monarchs (Taught by Lily Pad Lab)

Pricing is per child per day. Each child must attend with an adult.

Single Day Pricing

Friends: \$10, Nonmembers: \$15

Full Week Pricing

Friends: \$45, Nonmembers: \$60

R is for Reptiles Morning

Tuesday, June 27, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Ages 5-6

This camp is perfect for the child that is fascinated with animals and learning more about them. We will learn about some WI reptiles, meet some of the reptiles that live here at the nature center and will take to the trails to see if we can find any of the reptiles that call the Reserve home.

Friends \$20 Nonmembers \$30

R is for Reptiles Afternoon

Tuesday June 27, 1:30-3:30pm Ages 5-6



This camp is perfect for the child that is fascinated with animals and learning more about them. We will learn about some WI reptiles, meet some of the reptiles that live here at the nature center and will take to the trails to see if we can find any of the reptiles that call the Reserve home.

Friends \$20 Nonmembers \$30

For ALL Summer
Camps: Registration
and payment are
due by JUNE 1

The Nature of Photography

Monday July 10, 1:00-3:30 p.m. Ages 10-12



A picture can be worth 1000 words or may not speak to you at all. This class is designed to help young, beginning photographers find the story they want their photograph to tell. The students will spend some time learning basics of what makes a "good" photo, they will then take this newfound knowledge out on the trail to take some images. The session will end back inside as we look at everyone's images and figure out what we like or dislike about the images and start defining our own style.

Beaver Creek will have basic cameras for use and students will be able to take their images with them if they provide a memory stick.

Members \$25 Nonmembers \$35

2017 Summer Camp Opportunities

Girls Outdoors Series: Air and Fire

Thursday, July 13, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Girls Ages 10-12

The Girls Outdoors Series (GOS.) is designed to give girls a chance to try their hand at different outdoor activities. In this installment of GOS, participants will learn to safely handle and shoot air rifles from a long time hunter safety instructor. We will also explore the art of safely starting and maintaining a campfire.

Members \$20 Nonmembers \$30

Shooting Sports Camp

Friday, July 14, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Ages 9-12

Try your hand at pellet rifles, sling shots, and compound bows. Then test your skills at Tomahawk throwing! This camp is all about having some fun and learning how to safely and effectively explore the world of shooting sports! Appropriate for ages 9-12.

Friends \$25 Nonmembers \$30

Girls Outdoors Series: Fishing

Tuesday July 18, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Girls Ages 10-12

The Girls Outdoors Series (GOS.) is designed to give girls a chance to try their hand at different outdoor activities. In this installment of GOS, participants will first practice casting and then will take their new found talents and try to catch fish at a nearby pond. Fishing poles, bait and transportation included.

Members \$45 Nonmembers \$55

Girls Outdoors Series: Geocaching

Tuesday July 25, 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Girls Ages 10-12

The Girls Outdoors Series (GOS.) is designed to give girls a chance to try their hand at different outdoor activities. In this installment of GOS, participants will learn how to use a GPS (global positioning system) unit to find their way to hidden caches around the Reserve.

Members \$20 Nonmembers \$30

Wonders of Butterflies Camp

Monday, July 31 to Wednesday, August 2, 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Ages 8-11

Come and explore the wonderful world of butterflies this summer at the Reserve. Campers will learn about Wisconsin butterflies, their importance to the environment, and basic butterfly biology. Each participant will help raise a caterpillar for the Reserve's Butterfly House, and provide daily care for it, learning first-hand the life cycle of butterflies. Along with our learning we'll also spend time crafting butterfly art projects and catching butterflies for the Butterfly House here at Beaver Creek! It's an exciting butterfly-filled time for boys and girls ages 8-11.

Friends \$40 Nonmembers \$50



Budding Butterflies Morning

Tuesday August 8, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Ages 5-7

Butterflies are almost magical creatures that capture the heart and imagination of almost everyone that sees them flitting about the garden. This camp is designed for the young lepidopterist (butterfly studier), ages 5 to 7 years old, (must already be 5 on first day of camp). Join us as we will learn about the magic of the butterfly life cycle, go butterfly catching, try to be kissed by a butterfly and learn a few of our local species of butterflies.

Friends \$20 Nonmembers \$30

Budding Butterflies Afternoon

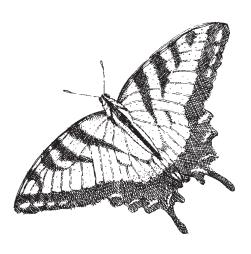
Tuesday August 8, 1:00-3:30 pm Ages 5-7



Butterflies are almost magical creatures that capture the heart and imagination of almost everyone that sees them flitting about the garden. This camp is designed for the young lepidopterist (butterfly studier), ages 5 to 7 years old, (must already be 5 on first day of camp). Join us as we will learn about the magic of the butterfly life cycle, go butterfly catching, try to be kissed by a butterfly and learn a few of our local species of butterflies.

Friends \$20 Nonmembers \$30





2017 BEAVER CREEK SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Getting ready to register for a summer full of great activities?

Register online at www.beavercreekreserve.org, by phone at 715-877-2212 or in person at the Nature Center. (we are no longer taking registrations by mail)

Please be prepared to provide the following information when registering:

- Child's age at the start of camp
- Child's T-shirt size
- Child's School District
- Credit Card Number, expiration and CCV code
- Child's Doctors name, address and phone number
- Child's emergency contact (other than Parents) name, phone number and relationship to the child.
- Child's allergies, medication, or dietary needs
- If there is a need for a buddy (we will try to accommodate requests if possible)



Become a member today! A family membership is only \$40 per year!

Members receive great benefits like:

Free daily admission • Free Annual Beaver Creek Nature Photo Calendar Discounts on programs and summer camps • 10% discount in the nature store Invitation to members only events and much more!

Want to help? It take a lot to run our camps!

We are looking for volunteers to help us with Nature Nuts, Sprouts, Earth Detectives and Butterfly camps. Whether it is assisting with activities or prepping snacks, we can use your help! Volunteers must be available Monday-Friday. Please contact AJ Leiden at 715-877-2212 or aj@beavercreekreserve.org for more information





For ALL Summer

Camps: Registration

and payment are due by JUNE 1

S1 COUNTY RD K, FALL CREEK WI
715-877-2212 | bcr@beavercreekreserve.org
www.beavercreekreserve.org





CONTACT

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

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FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

lere at Beaver Creek Reserve we use a business model that primarily runs on programming, events, memberships, grants, and rentals. Donations to the annual operations of Beaver Creek compose only 3% of the annual budget. I don't mention this to undervalue that amount, because these donations still account for over \$20,000 donated to Beaver Creek without a formal campaign and are crucial forms of support. I mention this to demonstrate to our donors that their donations are strong investments in a successful non-profit. Receiving income from a diversity of sources allows Beaver Creek Reserve to remain stable both in times of economic prosperity and adversity. On a national scale we are far and ahead of our peers, some of whom rely on 25-50% of their operation budgets to come from annual giving. Along with monetary donations, the over 10,000 hours of volunteerism we receive annually allows our mission to reach thousands more people each year, compared to if we only had paid staff help. Volunteers keep Beaver Creek alive with their new thoughts, ideas, and passion that fuel the programs and staff with renewed energy. The following list is a formal acknowledgement of all of those people and their accomplishments. On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors, I want to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed to Beaver Creek's success this year.

Additionally, you will see that we have another list of contributions from this year's Endowment Fund donations. Beaver Creek has long been able

to raise donations for its future success, and for special projects outside its day-to-day operations. In 2016, our campaign brought in more than \$57,000

for future growth and projects. Not only do we have increasing funds for future opportunities, but the Endowment has been picking key projects to help Beaver Creek achieve its mission. Last year, they made a major donation to the Discovery Room project; this year, they chose to invest in our new website, an AmeriCorps position, and scholarships that allow school children to participate in field trips. I can tell you that these investments are paying great dividends for our mission. Prior to these investments, we had seen a dip in attendance. In 2015, our daily walk-in visitation was 5,524 visitors; after the new website and Discovery Room were finished in 2016, we saw 10,064 visitors, an 82% increase. While many of these visitors were new, our long term members have also been enjoying these changes. Thanks to your donations, we are seeing more people than ever!

Whether you donated bird seed to the feeders, your valuable time to the Butterfly House, or dollars to help with scholarships, Beaver Creek wins. We are so grateful to you all and cannot thank you enough.

Erik Keisler, Executive Director

DONATIONS 2016

General Donations (monetary)

Amazon Smile

Benevity Community Impact Fund

Clifton Larson Allen

Michael Colgan & Joanna Quast

Judy Dekan & Rick Koziel

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Eau Claire Marathon

Goodshop

William & Patricia Henke

Jacqueline Hoeft & Fred Proett

Huebsch Services

Indianhead Insurance Agency

Jeff & Karen Jones

Larry Kent

Joseph Kurz

Clint & Brianne Markin

McDonough Manufacturing Co

Nestle

Diane Paul

Karen & Ted Peters

Mary & Gary Rambo

Daniel & Ann Shuda

Silver Spring Foods

Susan Singerhouse

Sons Of Norway - Loven #29

Unity Bank

US Bank Foundation

Wisconsin Environmental Education

Foundation

Xcel Energy Foundation (matching gift

from membership)

Donations to Specific Programs/Areas (monetary)

For the Discovery Room Renovation

Baker Tilly/Virchow Krause

Citizens Community Federal

Clearwater Dental

Clifton Larson Allen

Eau Claire Morning Rotary Club

Kristo Orthodontics

Lions Club - Eau Claire/Seymour

McDonough Manufacturing Co

Oak Park Dental

People's Bank

Per Mar Security Services

RCL

Tamarack Materials

Trout Unlimited WI Clear Waters

Wylie and Leopold Andre

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John & Terri Buhrow

Shasta Chamberlain

Jack & Carolyn Daniel

Albert & Beverly Harper

William & Patricia Henke

Dr. & Mrs. William Heth & Jeanie Lubinsky

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Susan & Roger Tietz

Aidan Van Helden

Maureen & Paul Vanyo

Steve & Judy Voitek

Martin & Karen Voss

Mark & Karen Wise

Olga Wise

Becky and Dave Wood

For the Adopt-a-Bird Program

Sandra Barsamian

Megan Blackwell

Christine Finn

Sean Kirkpatrick

Ron Nemec

Lynette Severson

Emily Sutherland

Jane & Robin Walsh

For the Bird Banding Program

Camaraderie Club

Easter Seals Wisconsin, Inc.

For the Butterfly House

Georgene Britton

Eau Claire Garden Club Richard & Kathleen Pawlowski

For the Citizen Science Center

Sarah & Greg Newman

For the Celebrate the Chippewa River Conference

Citizens United for Shoreland Protection Sierra Club - CV Chapter

Memorials

In Memory of Adele Carlson

Terry & Judy Valen

In Memory of Alphonse Bauer for the

Educational Scholarship Fund

Roberta Bauer

Paul Benish

David & Nancy Burdick

Roy & Deloris Cropp

Sara Eggebrecht

Nicolle Ellious

Mary & Chris Groh

Steven & Peggy Husby

Indianhead Food Service

William & Rhonda Iversen

Gerald & Mary Jacobson

Karen & Randy Nelson

Northwestern Bank

John & Chris Poppe

Carol & Richard Settar

Woita & Associates

In memory of Bette Wahl

Chippewa Valley Watercolor Artists

In memory of Birdell Snudden

Steve Baumgardner

John Dixon

Charles & Nancy Helfenstein

Bonnie Hennig-Piper & Lon Piper

Thomas & Pamela Janssen

CW & Mary Ann King

James & Patricia Klabough

Paula Kleintjes Neff & Terry Neff

Barbara Magnuson

Jean & Randall Mundt

Wilburn & Alice Myers

Patricia & David Reinardy Joyce Simpson & Janet Dow

Catherine & Dale Southard

In memory of Bruce Kelly

Karen & Daniel Mittag

James & Marilyn Murphy for the Bird Banding Program



The Little Free Library at Beaver Creek was built by a local Eagle Scout Aaron Gregor as part of his final project. Cyndee Kaiser generously donated her time once again to paint the Little Free Library, after having painted the mural in the 3M Fledgling Forest in the Wise Nature Center. The idea to put a Library here was brought in by Jeanette Kelly, who wished to honor her late father, Bruce Kelly, a lover of books, nature, and kids. Donations were made in his name to help build the Little Free Library at Beaver Creek. This is just one example of how donations to Beaver Creek Reserve are used to benefit visitors. The Little Free Library is now open and always in need of book donations!

DONATIONS 2016

Christine Schaaf for the Citizens' Science Judy & Jim Schwarzmeier for the Little

Free Library

In memory of Carol Smith for the Table Saw **Fund**

Larry & Barbara Bennett

In memory of Caroline Wirkus

Diane Benson Rob & Susan Harrison Karin Jarvise Jim Jarvise

In memory of Connie Simonson

Kathleen Evans

In memory of David Bodeau and Chewie **Bodeau**

Corey Tower

In memory of Frank Schemberger

Michael & Ann Arneson Mary Bement Rev. Sarah Bergstrom **Donald Cardinal** Dave & Barb Cizek Jim & Peggy Clare Dick & Lisa Erickson **Bruce Franck**

Carol Gorton John & Jann Kohlhepp

L.E. Phillips Family Foundation on behalf of Eileen and Maryjo Cohen

Linda & Scott Nicastro Martha & Michael O'Halloran Paul & Alison Peterson Margaret Schemberger Jeanette Scheuermann

B. S. & C. E. Smith John R Thurston Kristine Tofte Bruns

Dennis & Susan Wepler

In memory of Helen Emery for the Butterfly House

Darlene Cornell

In memory of James Olson

Mitchell & Katherine Ayer Diane Dreher

Jerry & Mary Foote Beth Ayer Garvin Wayne & Nona Hanson Patty & Jeff Henry **Dorothy Jensen** Marvin & Alice Johnson

Gav Lindquist

L.E. Phillips Family Foundation on behalf of Campus School Students Amy Alpine and Maryjo Cohen

Kathleen Lundquist Bill & Karen McDonnell **Emily & Gregg Moore** Margaret Olson

Karen & Ted Peters

Donna & Peter Raleigh

Judy & Jim Schwarzmeier Anders & Barbara Shafer

Allison Shuda

Daniel & Ann Shuda

Judith Snudden

Patricia Spaulding

Kathryn Teeters

Ronald & Susan Wheeler Gloe

Jessica Wiens **Eleanor Wolf**

In memory of June Aude

Gary & Beverly Nyseth Alpha Delta Kappa Theta Chapter

In memory of LaVern Wieland

Charlotte Wieland

In memory of LeRoy Schauer Gary & Beverly Nyseth

In memory of Lois Keisler Ken & Barb Stolp

In memory of Lorraine Fleming

Pat Tomkins

In memory of Mary Ann Jain

Ken Jain James & Karen McCrady Clayona Walter

In memory of Sharon (Sam) Winrich

Fall Creek School District for the Butterfly

Dan Winrich for the Discovery Room

Renovation **Dolores Zimmerman**

In memory of Steve Wise and in honor of Olga Wise for the Discovery Room Renovation

William & Patricia Henke Castle Rock Organic Farms

Honorariums

In honor of Phyllis Kurtz

Janet Kurtz & Robert Morgan

In honor of Pat Henke's 80th birthday for the

Discovery Room Renovation Hertha Preston

Thelma & Gerald Schilling Terry & Judy Valen

In honor of Karen Wise's birthday Olga Wise

In honor of Albert and Beverly Harper Alan Harper

In honor of Alex Long's 5th birthday Richard & Geraldine Long

In Kind Items

DS Vendina Gollon Brothers Bait Pet Food Plus Stelter Redi-Mix **Duane & Carol Cance** Wavne Grosskopf Kristin Helgeson Chuck & Jan Lorentz David Lundberg Linda & Scott Nicastro Mike Prasher Steve & Lois Raether

Steven Raith Christine Schaaf Christine Schaaf Vernon & Vivian Swanson Larry Weber Ellen Youngell

For the Discovery Room Renovation

Eau Claire Woodworks **David Saffert** Sparky Photos

For the Butterfly House

Chippewa Valley Growers

In Kind Services

James & Marilyn Murphy

For the Annual Meeting

DigiCopy Lisa Hardy Nina Logan Larry Bennett Terry Valen

For the Discovery Room Renovation

Chippewa Valley Family **Eau Claire County Hudson Electric** Cyndee Kaiser Market & Johnson **Rhom Construction LLC** Stewart Crenshaw Photography

2017 Calendar Design & Layout Kris Gausman



2016 ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Sharon Bussard Paula & Andy Bussman Nickolas & Regina Butler **Rory Cameron** David & Susan Carlson Al & Monica Caron Dennis & Antoinette Ciesielski Linda & Dan Clark Wilma & Tom Clark Kathy Clark Matthew & Nancy Coffey Sue Covill Eileen Cvancara Jack & Carolyn Daniel **Bob & Merrelyn Dawson** Judy Dekan & Rick Koziel R Dale Dick Jeanine Dickinsen Exchange Club - EC Sunrise John & Alice Droske Jim & Carolyn Dunning Richard & Katherine Duplessie Jane Edson Tom & Kathy Edwards **Sharp Photo and Portrait** Don Ellickson Bill & Vicki Emery Dick & Lisa Erickson Janet Etnier Kathie & Greg Fahrman Mary & Ray Fandel Phillip & Barbara Fey Family Fund Allen & Mary Jo Fleming Jerry & Mary Foote Marge Fortun David & Evalyn Frasch Dr. & Mrs. Lou & Jan Frase Shelly Fredson & Maury Pasternack Dan & Deb Freund Vicki Funne Reed & Mark Reed Warren Gallagher & Stella Pagonis Fritz & Nancy Geske **Dorothy Gilbertson** Susan & John Glenz

Brian & Tara Graff Pat & Gary Gray Jeff & Cheryl Guettinger John & Lynn Gunderson Garry & Sonia Hageness Joan Hamblin & David Schifeling Sarah Harder Kenneth & Eva Heintz William & Patricia Henke Mark Henke & Wendy Sheasby Patty & Jeff Henry Lisa Herrmann & Jane Schley Dr. & Mrs. William Heth & Jeanie Lubinsky Dr. & Mrs. Ed & Beth Hicks Joseph & Melva Hisrich Ron Hoepner Richard & Pat Horecki David Ihle Rick & Judy Israel Marilyn Jaskot J Kevin & Janet Johnson Jeff & Karen Jones Jack & Sally Kaiser

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Richard Magyar & Lyria Palas Sharon & Jim Manz Clint & Brianne Markin Keith & Alison Martin Donald & Leatrice Mathison Bill & Cathy McCann James & Karen McCrady Thomas & Lucie McGee

Pat McKearn & Richard Smith in memory

of James Olson Nancy McNutt

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Ed & Sue Mishefske

Karen & Daniel Mittag

Bob Mevers

Thomas Misfeldt & Hon. Lisa Stark

Matthew & Elizabeth Monarski **Emily & Gregg Moore** Bert & Susan Moritz Joe & Joy Motto Marlin & Lois Mueller Jim & Peggy Murray

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Martha & Michael O'Halloran in memory of

Frank Schemberger Bill Olson Shirley Olson Imogene Olson Marlo & Beverly Orth Sandra & David Packard Ann & John Paddock Joyce & Joe Palzkill Sue & Doug Pearson Dan & Cari Pekol

Dr. Suzette Peltier & Jon Thorpe Dianne & Ron Powers

Kathy Prentice Pat Prissel

Gene & Carol Pulvermacher Steve & Lois Raether Pam & Scott Rasmussen Michael & Jacqueline Rentzepis



Jeff & Tess Goodwin

Sue & David Gordon

Ann & David Gordon

John & Vicki Graaskamp

Endowment in action

The Endowment Fund suplied the necessary funds of \$7,000 in order to establish an AmeriCorps position at BCR. AJ Leiden, Volunteer Coordinator through Marshfield Clinic. Volunteer WI AmeriCorps, has been a tremendous resource to the reserve in evaluating the duties of the Volunteer Coordinator position. He was able to transition tracking volunteer hours to our new database, establish new volunteer positions, write training documents for new volunteers and much more. In 2016 Beaver Creek was able to utilize more than 280 volunteers for a total of over 4,300 volunteer hours!

2016 ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Helen Rizzi Timothy & Dianne Robertson Kyle & Debra Rogers Drs. Stephen & Carla Rogers Joseph & Evelyn Rohrer Mary Rosolack David & Susan Rowe JoAnn Rucker Kelvin & Shirley Ruesch Ken & Vickie Schafer Jeanette Scheuermann Anna Lee Schifeling Jean Schlieve **Bob and Carmen Schmidt & David Peters** Tony & Nancy Schuster Judy & Jim Schwarzmeier J. Roger Selin John & Katie Selz Beverly & John Shelley

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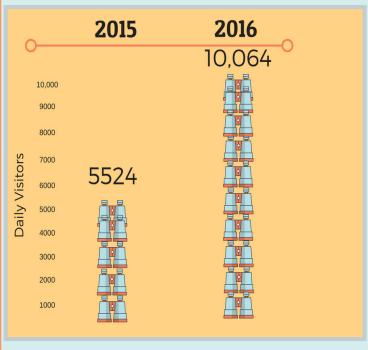
Jeff & Janet Voss Johanna Warloski Augie Wirkus Olga Wise Eleanor Wolf Becky and Dave Wood Keith & Deb Zehms Richard Ziemann Larry Zorn

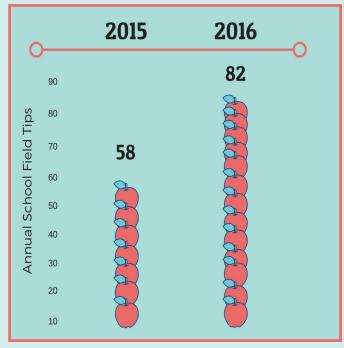
Matching gifts from Mayo Clinic Health System Nordson Corp



Impact of Endowment Contributions on BCR Daily Operations

The Scheels Discovery Room rennovation project, to which the BCR Endowment fund was the second largest contributor, was a huge catalyst for growth in 2016 as evidenced by the increase in daily visitors and school field trips.





What does your donation look like?

Thanks to your generosity Beaver Creek Reserve is able to connect people with nature in so many ways.



We were so impressed with the Wise Nature Center! We stopped for a visit with our granddaughters during MEA Break. The Scheels Discovery Room is a gem and the storybook trail was delightful. Thanks for a fun fall outing!

Char Voigt





Jim and Ruth were very friendly. Great experience for all the Elk Mound 2nd graders!!!! They had a blast.

Loretta Young



