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NATURE CENTER HOURS

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

CONTACT

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

WISCONSIN WEATHER TALES

rab your down jackets, snow pants, and Jboots and get ready for a long visit from Jack Frost. If you have recently looked at your local Farmers Almanac for Winter 2020, we are in for a "Polar Coaster!" What does this mean? Is Wisconsin going to go through another

crazy winter? Maybe there is other ways we can look at the weather forecast besides glancing at the Almanac for our wintertime weather predictions.

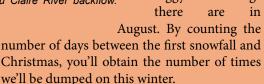
I noticed that there are numerous ways to tell us what Jack Frost will bring. You can expect a "bad' winter if beaver

Then of course I can't forget a popular weather forecasting insect, the woolly bear

caterpillar. They can tell bad weather is coming by how many of them are crawling around. Since autumn started, I've been driving around trying to avoid them on the road making sure this winter isn't a harsh one. You may find them crawling around before the first frost. If

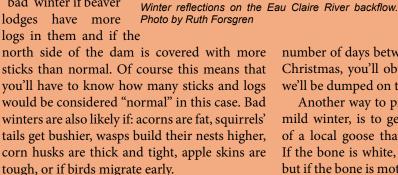
> the orange band is narrow, then the snow will be heavy, but if the stripe is fat and fuzzy, then expect bitter cold weather.

> You can figure out how many times it will snow this season simply counting the number foggy mornings



Another way to predict if the year will be a mild winter, is to get yourself the breastbone of a local goose that has recently passed on. If the bone is white, then winter will be mild, but if the bone is mottled then batten down the

Continued on page 3





Citizen Science Update Pg. 2 Fall for owls at BCR!

CONNECTING **PEOPLE** WITH NATURE



Winter Programs Pg. 4 Winter Recreation Time!



Season of Giving Pg. 7 So many ways to support BCR



Volunteer Update Pg. 6

Citizen Science Center Update

This Fall Was All About Owls

LOOKING AT OWLS IN A NEW LIGHT

In recent years, Ultraviolet (UV) Fluorescence has been found in an expanding number of living organisms. UV fluorescence is the display of light when placed under a black light. Everything from flying squirrels to flowers have been found to exhibit UV fluorescence in recent years. Many birders may be surprised to hear that UV fluorescence has been found in birds as well.

The Northern Saw-Whet owl is unique among Northern American owl species. Of our 19 species of North American owls, the Saw-whet is one of the few to migrate. This small owl is



Photo by Maryann Valois

best known for enjoying the conifer forest as its habitat. But overall, there is still a lot we don't know about this secretive owl, especially its migration path and why it migrates.

Here at Beaver Creek Reserve, we work to decrease the knowledge gap that we have about this bird. Since 2004, the Citizen Science Center has participated in a nationwide project trying to learn more about Saw-whet owls through banding. On average, we band over 80 owls a year. As a result, we can collect a wealth of information on these birds.

Since the 1980s, we have known that many owls feathers contain porphyrin, one of several chemicals that fluoresce. Porphyrins within owls will degrade in feathers over time. This degradation allows researchers to tell the difference between older feathers and new feathers on an owl.

While banding Saw-whet owls we use these porphyrins to our advantage to tell older birds from younger ones.



A bird with bright red-pinkish flight feathers under a black light means it's an immature hatch-year bird. The owl will keep some of these feathers the following year while the rest will molt. These older feathers will degrade, allowing us to tell if it is an older bird.

This groundbreaking information allows us a better understanding of which age groups of owls are migrating and when — giving us just a bit of a bigger view into the life of this fascinating bird.

Tully Frain, Bird Intern





The Beaver Creek Banders caught a somewhat unexpected catch during a Northern Saw whet owl banding session this fall. It seems someone forgot to tell this Barred owl, that they were not the target species that evening! Luckily the team was still able to band this owl and clearly enjoyed the chance encounter!

hatches for a severe season. The amount of mottling does appear to carry some weight, so the more spots you see the worse this winter is going to get.

If your home is lucky enough to have a cat in residence be sure to watch it, because if your cat sits with its back towards a heat source, then the forecast will be a chilly one. When your cat starts frisking around the house a storm is brewing (or perhaps you have a kitten, but who am I to question the authority of all these years of weather predicting?).

As it goes to show, humans have been around for a very long time and predicting good and bad weather in different ways. I would say today's meteorologists have gotten a bit better, but maybe 100 years from now people will shake their heads at the way we tried to predict the weather. Whatever the case, whether it's cold or whether it's hot; we shall have weather, whether or not!

Megan Giefer, BCR Naturalist

Lumberjack's Ball Nov. 2

Thank you for those that attended our Annual Meeting! For those that missed it, a copy of the 2019 Annual Report can be picked up either at Beaver Creek Reserve or downloaded from our website. Choose the About tab. then Newsletters.







FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Kleven	President
Blake Tollefson	Vice President
Warren Gallagher	Secretary
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Heather Deluka, Troy Anderson, Jonathan Leuthe, Donald Mowry, Jamie Kane, Christopher Gierhart, and Kathy Clark

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AIS Coordinator	AJ Leiden
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Maintenance	Jerry Polden
NEWSI ETTER	

ditor	E	Srianne	Marl	kin

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



Summer Camp 2020 Registration Changes!

Due to new requirements from the Eau Claire Area School District, Summer Camp Registration will open on February 24, 2020. A special summer camp mailer will be sent to all members in Early



UPCCOMING programs

Make Your Own Snowshoes

Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8, or January 4 and 5,

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Wise Nature Center

Snowshoeing is a popular winter activity. Make your own pair of traditional, wooden snowshoes in this two-day workshop. Choose from one of three styles of snowshoes: Green Mountain bear paw (10" x 36"), Alaskan trail shoe (10" x 56") or the 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. Price includes snowshoe kit, bindings, and two days of instruction.

Registration has closed for the December program. Registration and full payment for January session is due by December 20.

Friends \$200 Nonmembers \$220



Register Today

Online:

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

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

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

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

Gentle Yoga

Mondays, January 6 - February 24, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Wise Nature Center

Gentle Yoga provides all the benefits of the yoga experience at a slower and steadier pace. It helps to reduce stress, feel strong yet flexible in your body and increase positive energy. This special 8 class winter session will be taught by Karen Possley. Class dates subject to cancellation due to inclement weather.

Registration and payment due by January 6, 2020.

Friends \$75, Nonmembers \$90 At the door \$10 Members \$12 Nonmembers

New Years Kid's Bird Count

Tuesday, December 31,

9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Wise Nature Center

Kids, here is your chance to learn all about birds and take part in collecting data for Beaver Creek Reserve. 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 will participate in bird activities, a craft and conduct their own survey at the bird feeders. Kids must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration and payment due by December 24.

Members \$5, Nonmembers \$7



Candlelight Snowshoe Hike

Friday, January 10, Two shifts:

Early: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Late: 7:30 - 9:00 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 or you may use your own snowshoes. Our snowshoes do sell out every year, please make sure to request snowshoes for all parties that need them during registration. 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 due by January 8, 2020

Snowshoe rental: \$3 per set Admission fee: Friends \$5

Nonmembers \$7

Introduction to Snowshoeing

Saturday, January 11, 9:30 – 11:30 a.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. The snowshoe rental fee is included in the program cost. Be sure to indicate how many children (recommended age at least 8 years or older), and adults are in your party.

Registration and full payment required by January 8, 2020.

Friends \$7 Nonmembers \$10

More program details available online.

Snowshoe Hike for Senior Explorers (55 and older)

Two Sessions: sign up for one, or both!

Tuesday, January 14, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Febuary 11, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Wise Nature Center

Winter is not a time for staring out the window and wishing it were spring. Come join a Beaver Creek Naturalist for a snowshoe hike this winter! Participants should expect a moderately strenuous outing, over uneven terrain, with a 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 \$3 per pair.

Registration and full payment required by Jan. 13 and Feb. 10, 2020.

Friends \$5/session
Nonmembers \$7/session

Frosty Frolic

Saturday, January 18, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Citizen Science Center – Check In

Back for the fourth year, the Frosty Frolic encompasses everything we love about winter! Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, dogsledding and more! Again this year we will offer 1K and 2K snowshoe hikes. Receive a prize for finishing your loop. Dogsledding rides have sold out every year. We recommend reserving your spot in advance when you register. We will have snowshoes and skis to use and that cost is included in the registration price, as well as the other activities (except the dogsledding).

Friends Adult \$8, Kids \$4 Nonmembers Adult \$10, Kids \$6 Dogsledding \$25/loop

Tree and Shrub ID in Winter

Saturday, January 25, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 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? 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 January 22, 2020.

Friends \$7 Nonmembers \$10

Animal Signs Hike: Snowshoe Edition

Saturday, January 25, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Wise Nature Center

Want to discover what is hidden around Beaver Creek Reserve in the winter time? Join a naturalist for this chilling adventure as we snowshoe our way throughout the reserve to find different types of animals signs in and around the snow. Snowshoes are provided, but if you have your own you're welcome to bring them! We will start at the Wise Nature Center and then begin our trek around the reserve. Please dress for the weather, and the hike will go on with or without snow. This program is appropriate for ages ten to adult.

Registration deadline: January 23, 2020.

Friends: \$5 Nonmembers: \$7

Timber Wolf Winter Ecology Workshop

Saturday, Jan. 25, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Citizen Science Center

The Timber Wolf Information Network (TWIN) will hold a two-day Winter Wolf Ecology Workshop at Beaver Creek. TWIN members discuss wolf ecology, population biology, management issues and field study techniques including winter tracking field trip into wolf territory. Fee includes instruction and materials.

Registration and payment due by January 22 2020

Friends \$65, Nonmembers \$70 (\$13 per night for lodging)

All programs require pre-registration.

Register today!

Learn to Cross Country Ski

Saturday, February 1, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Wise Nature Center

Winter can cause us to be stuck indoors, so don't miss out on this ski-tastic opportunity to come to Beaver Creek Reserve and learn the history of cross country skiing, BUT also discover how to ski in this intro level class. Please dress for the weather. Program subject to cancellation in the event of adverse conditions. Program is geared to ages ten to adult.

Registration Deadline: January 25

Friends: \$5 Nonmembers: \$7

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike

Friday, February 7, Two shifts: Early: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Late: 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Wise Nature Center

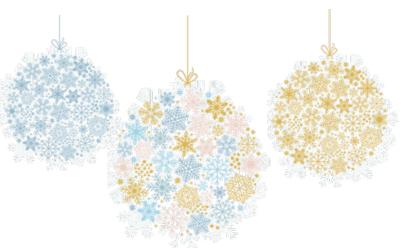
Candles and moonlight will illuminate the way as you explore the trails on snowshoes. A warm campfire awaits you as you finish the trail. Snowshoes will be available to rent for one of the two shifts, either 6 until 7:30 p.m. or 7:30 until 9 p.m. If you have your own snowshoes, you may register for either 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 due by February 6, 2020

Snowshoe rental: \$3 per set Friends \$5, Nonmembers \$7







Gifts that keep giving!

This is the season for giving and I invite you to look at the buffet of options to support Beaver Creek Reserve this season.

First, we appreciate the fact that you think so kindly of us to be a member. Your continuing membership is the best way you can stay connected to Beaver Creek and all the programs and activities we do throughout the year.

Secondly, we are in the middle of our annual Endowment Campaign. This is not some stuffy endowment that just grows at the expense of our operations. Our Endowment has been investing in Beaver Creek every year while growing steadily for future opportunities! Please consider a gift to Beaver Creek Reserve's future.

We are also asking anyone over 70.5 to look into an IRA rollover. This is a newer gift option and your financial planner will be able to help you with it. See more details below. If you've been a member for many years and haven't given to the Endowment Fund regularly, you should consider leaving a legacy gift to our Giving Tree. Our Endowment has grown the fastest in the last 5 years due to previously established legacy gifts.

If you would like to donate to a specific program area, we also have a wish list created by our staff which you will find on the next page. Whether you're an animal lover, hiking enthusiast, or enjoy seeing children connecting with nature, there are many options and items of need. Please take a minute to review this list and know that any of these donated items would make a staff member's day!

Lastly, another way to help Beaver Creek in this season of giving is to purchase items from our Nature Store or even to give a membership to a friend, family member, neighbor or teacher. Remember that BCR members are able to purchase a new membership as a gift at half price! If you need a few ideas to kickoff your holiday shopping, see our recommendations on the next page.

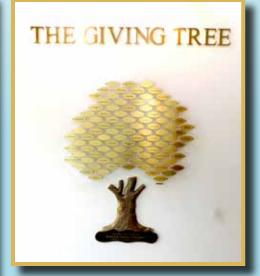
Thanks to our dedicated staff, donors, and volunteers we are doing a great job of connecting people with nature. However, your additional gifts will not only help make our jobs easier, they make a big impact at Beaver Creek.

Thank you for taking the time to look over our wants and wishlists. On that thread, we wish you the warmest of Holiday Wishes in this season of giving.

Erik

Love BCR? Are you at least 70 ½? Do you have an IRA?

If so, you have a unique opportunity to distribute up to \$100,000 per year to Beaver Creek Reserve as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). As a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, many individuals are no longer able to deduct their charitable contributions. However, QCDs allow individuals over 70 ½ to donate directly from their IRA to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with no federal income tax consequences. QCDs are not included in your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), so using this strategy can lower your income and may possibly decrease the tax you pay on your Social Security income. Although you cannot take a charitable deduction for a QCD, reducing your AGI may provide a better tax benefit. Please note that your financial institution will need to make the check payable directly from your IRA to Beaver Creek Reserve to have this strategy work for you. QCDs require no special reporting by your IRA custodian; you will receive an IRS Form 1099-R for the distribution. Please provide this form to your tax advisor during tax preparation time. Please consult with your tax advisor and financial professional to determine what is best for your situation. For more information, please contact Erik Keisler, Executive Director.



The Giving Tree allows you to leave a legacy gift to guarantee future generations can connect with nature.

Beaver Creek's Wish List

Marketing

- · Digital camera \$350
- · Video camera \$250
- Outreach booth enhancements including interactive displays and activities \$1500
- •20 Hour per week intern \$10,400

Naturalists Jim

- 3 new doors for the Butterfly House approx. \$750
- A set of 7 stand-by solar vents for the greenhouse Bayliss MK-7 Triple spring vent opener approx \$490 + shipping
- New split rail fencing for areas near observation deck along Beaver Creek and along bank/overlook on far side of Beaver Creek, \$1000
- Rebuild stairs going down to trails behind the Butterfly House \$3,000

Ruth

- Custom interactive interpretive signs on trails \$3500
- Additional interactive activities in Discovery Room i.e. bird matching activity with buttons to push etc. \$5000
- An educational porcupine (and cage) \$2000
- Wash tub sink for washing out larger containers, snake rugs, etc \$500
- Outdoor water fountain (for drinking) outside nature center and observatory / ballfield area \$3000
- Folding cafeteria tables for Main Lodge for use during summer camps \$1500
- Outdoor access for indoor raptor cage
- Mouse proof storage for educational boots
- Teaching platform near Dienhammer Creek
- · Whiteboard and Screen for Cedar Lodge
- Contributions towards animal care \$500 for food per quarter

Megan

- Rubber boot rack/shack for stream study (behind Main Lodge) \$2500
- New nature kaleidoscopes \$400
- New toys/ update Nature Nooks playground \$800

Maintenance

- Welder and cutting torch \$5,000
- Stump grinder for Bobcat \$5,690
- Auger for Bobcat \$1,869
- New shed for archery equipment \$1500
- Chop saw for Beaver Creek \$600
- Saw Stop table saw for beaver creek \$3500
- New floor and expanded kitchen for Cedar Lodge \$15,000
- · Back blade for tractor \$1,600
- Ag tires for New Holland Tractor \$1,000
- Approach for Caretakers Shop/Garage \$6,000

General Office and Building Needs



- NEW POS System Equipment up to \$1000, + software monthly fee up to \$100.
- · Shelving in office for rental items
- Kayak and canoe extras \$150 for locks, labels, car mounting kits, etc.
- 16-17ft aluminum canoes
- Additional chairs for the Main Lodge \$84 each at Sam's Club
- (4) 8ft folding tables for the Beaver Den Conference Center approx.\$80 each.
- Updated store displays approx. \$250
- Coffee bar/hutch for Nature Center. Also coffee maker and related supplies.
- New signage in Nature Center \$250
- Non-work study Front Desk Assistant funding. Usually about \$2500 for a school year/ student. \$5000 total
- Toaster for the Nature Center kitchen
- Stock pots for Cedar Lodge

Citizen Science Center and Beaver Den Conference Center

- Floor lamp
- · Card table and chairs
- Dust Buster
- Above range microwave
- Van (2nd van) \$16,000
- Adult binoculars \$1000
- Camp chairs for MAPS \$200
- Bird Seed
 White millet
 High quality mixed seed
 Suet
- Metal garbage cans
- Small freezer
- · Large shoeboxes
- Golf cart
- Pickup truck
- Any cash donation to go towards new nets

Volunteer Needs

- · Leather work gloves (all sizes)
- Paint brushes and rollers
- · Drop cloths for painting



Great Gifts Ideas for the Nature Lover



What if you could find a gift for everyone on your list in one place? Well, look no further than the Beaver Creek Nature Store! Toys, games, clothing, bird feeders and houses, jewelry, housewares and much, much more! And the BEST part? Every dollar you spend stays at Beaver Creek to help us further our mission!







SPOTLIGHT WYWW

We had yet another successful Day of Caring at Beaver Creek Reserve! This year, we had four groups participate in United Way's Day of Caring, including many Beaver Creek staff who led groups for different service projects around the reserve. On September 20, Group Health Cooperative, US Bank, United Health-care, and Chippewa Valley Home Builders Association came to Beaver Creek, totaling 55 volunteers plus many staff who helped run the event. We were lucky to have a beautiful sunny day to work on

a variety of service projects. Groups did anything from painting, staining picnic tables, and cleaning up our Main Lodge, to weeding flower gardens, maintaining our trails, and adding a new roof to the pavilion. After a fun, hard-working day, with the help of our volunteers, we logged over 380 volunteer hours! Beaver Creek is so appreciative of all the help we received on Day of Caring, so we can continue to provide a beautiful outdoor experience for all our guests and members to enjoy.

Kristen Giefer, Volunteer Coordinator



Photo by Jessica Schinke





To our own Megan and Kristen Giefer for completing the WI Master Naturalist Training Program in October at Treehaven!

Save the date, August 10-15 for the 2020 WI Master Naturalist Training at Beaver Creek!

WINTER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SKI AND SNOWSHOE ROOM ATTENDANTS

Once it snows!

We are looking for volunteers to help find and fit proper ski and snowshoe equipment for visitors before they go on the trails. Volunteers will also keep the ski and snowshoe room organized and put equipment back to their respective places.

FROSTY FROLIC

Saturday, January 18, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

We are in need of volunteers to direct visitor parking, work the check-in tables, help with ski and snowshoe check-out, assist with crafts and handout snacks, maintain campfires, as well as run the front desk at the Nature Center.

CANDLELIGHT SNOWSHOE HIKES

Friday, January 10 & Febuary 7, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. & 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

We are looking for volunteers to place and light candles on the trails, work the check-in table as well as the front desk in the Nature Center, help with snowshoe fitting, maintain campfires, and check the candles throughout the night.

FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 14, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities include event set up, direct visitor parking, work the ticket table, cook and serve food, bus tables and refill condiments, wash dishes, help with crafts, and work the front desk at the Nature Center.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Kristen at 715-877-2212 or volunteer@beavercreekreserve.org

CURRENT HAPPENINGS

At Beaver Creek

MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS

MONDAYS

TUESDAYS

WEDNESDAYS

THURSDAYS

SATURDAYS



Quilt Club

2nd & 4th Mondays of the Month 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.



Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society

1st Tues. of the Month @7:30 p.m.



Chippewa Valley Water Color Artists

1st Wednesday of the Month 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



BCR Photo Club

3rd Thursday of the Month 7:00 p.m. Jan - May and Sept. - Nov.



Hobbs Observatory Public Viewing

Clear Saturday Nights May - October 1 hour after sunset



Hobbs Observatory Astronomical Series

3rd Saturday of the Month 8:00 p.m.

INTRODUCING:



Starting now you can rent a Nature Education Tote. What is a Nature Education Tote you may ask? It's a box filled with great nature learning materials for your classroom, daycare, or even homeschool. Each box is a different season (fall, winter, spring, and summer) and it contains books, puppets, and activities on certain subjects. If you are interested in renting one for your classroom email us at bcr@beavercreekreserve.org or call us at (715) 877-2212.





Store Sales

December

"Stocking Stuffers" = anything \$10 and under!

January

All "Winter" Items









S1 County Road K | Fall Creek, WI 54742 beavercreekreserve.org CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org US Postage PAID Permit No. 1557 Eau Claire, WI 54701





All winter long! Learn more at: www.beavercreekreserve.org