BIRD SCHOOL OFFERS A STEPPING STONE TO BEGINNING BIRDERS

Are you interested in learning about birds, but don’t know where to begin? Join the Citizen Science Center and Gaylord Nelson Audubon Society for Bird School this summer. The Citizen Science Center and the Gaylord Nelson Audubon Society will be hosting the 4th annual Bird School, a 2-½ day educational event that will provide an in-depth introduction to the fascinating world of birds. The class will be held at Beaver Creek Reserve on Thursday, June 7 through Saturday, June 9. The course will consist of classroom presentations, outdoor field trips, hands-on demonstrations, and group activities to create a fun learning experience.

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

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

This is a unique opportunity and one you don’t want to miss. To learn more about bird school, the specific agenda, speakers, field trips and more, visit the Beaver Creek Reserve website.

Bird School has filled quickly the last two years and is expected to again this year. We recommend registering early.

by Jeanette Kelly Citizen Science Director

Check out page 2 for some Wisconsin Bird facts!
The Wisconsin Summit for Natural Resources Volunteers is coming to Eau Claire.

You might be saying to yourself… “Great! I don’t know what that is!”

Well, this Summit is a three day conference extravaganza to recognize and share all sorts of citizen-based monitoring projects. Presenters and organizations from all over the state are coming to the Chippewa Valley for this special gathering.

“What is citizen-based monitoring?” you say? Glad you asked.

Citizen-based monitoring partners interested citizens with public individuals involved with scientific research, education, and stewardship projects. You don’t need a master’s degree to help out with research on native pollinators. There’s an abundance of organizations and projects that utilize community members to accomplish work that would be too much for a few professionals to complete on their own.

Like fish? Come learn about trout habitat restoration in Central WI or fish monitoring efforts in Ozaukee County. How about birds? There’s a bird banding session, plus posters and presentations about cranes, hawks, and more. Plants? There’s a training session for rare plant monitoring and, again, multiple plant-related presenters. Teaching? Water quality? Maybe fungi are your thing? The Summit has presentations and training sessions on each of those subjects. You can learn about interesting projects taking place around Wisconsin and about how you can get involved. There’s even a volunteer fair on the third day of the conference.

The conference will take place March 22-24 at the Lismore Hotel in Downtown Eau Claire, with each day starting at 8:00 am and going into the evening. Registration is $20 for Thursday and Saturday and $50 for Friday (Scholarships are available to aid with registration fees).

Snacks are included with registration, as well as a lunch and dinner on Friday. Scholarships are available to aid with registration fees. Snacks are included with registration, as well as lunch and dinner on Friday. More information and registration can be found at https://www.wimasternaturalist.org/news/summit2018

Space is limited for many of the sessions, so sign up soon!

by AJ Leiden
YURI’S NIGHT AT
HOBBS OBSERVATORY
Thursday, April 12
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- 30 min. Inflatable Planetarium Shows
- Tons of Hands on Experiment add Projects
- Free Popcorn
- Public Observing if skies are clear

See page 6 for more information

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Kathy Clark................................. President
Becca Bestul.............................. Vice President
Warren Gallagher............................ Secretary
Mark Wise................................. Treasurer

MEMBERS
Heather Deluka, Mark Wise, Joe, Troy Anderson,
Jonathan Leuthe, Robert Prock, Bob Schmidt,
Blake Tollefson, Bev Stelljes and John Kleven

RESERVE STAFF
Director ...................................... Erik Keisler
Marketing Coordinator ................. Brianne Markin
Citizen Science Director ................. Jeanette Kelly
AIS Coordinator ............................. AJ Leiden
Naturalists .................................. Ruth Forsgren,
..................................................... Jim Schwiebert
Bookkeeper .................................. Connie Viken
Office Manager ............................ Rebecca Thacker
Office Associate .......................... Kirsten Holmes
Volunteer Coordinator ................... Maryl Fennie
Wisconsin AmeriCorps Member
Staff Astronomer ........................... Bert Moritz
Database Coordinator .................... Julie Felske
Caretaker .................................... Jerad Polden
Maintenance .............................. Jerry Polden

NEWSLETTER
Editor ....................................... Brianne Markin

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

Amateur Nature Photo Contest

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

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

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

Photos accepted from March 1 - June 20, 2018

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

Contest Sponsored by:
Maple Syrup Saturday
Three Time Options, Saturday, March 3, 9:30, 10:15, or 11:00 a.m.
Wise Nature Center

Bring the family to explore the maple sugaring tradition. Join one of three, one-hour sessions. Learn about which trees to tap, how to tap, and how the sap is boiled down to make that wonderful syrup. Following a short inside program, you will tour the sugar bush where you will assist with tapping a tree, and then visit the sugar shack where the sap is boiled down into syrup. Finish with a taste of fresh maple syrup over ice cream. Kids will have a chance to make their own sumac or elderberry spile to take home!

Registration and full payment required by February 27.
Friends Adults $5, Kids $3
Nonmembers Adults $8, Kids $4

Gentle Yoga
Mondays, March 5 - May 21, 6:00 - 7:15 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. Spring session is led by Reserve member Karen Wise and will include instruction on how to do poses, breathing techniques and relaxation practice. Please dress in loose-fitting clothing, bring a yoga mat or blanket to lie on the floor and a water bottle. Purchase a 10 session “punch card”
Friends $80, Nonmembers $100
Punch cards will be given out at first class attended. 1 punch per class.
At the door: $10 Members $12 Nonmembers

French Toast Breakfast
Saturday, March 10, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Main Lodge

More than just our famous French Toast and delicious Augusta Meats sausage, come out to Beaver Creek Reserve for the Chippewa Valley Watercolorists Open House and Show, crafts for all ages, maple syrup making, bird banding demos and much more!

Advanced Tickets:
(through Thursday, March 8th)
Adults $7, Kids (ages 2-15) $4
At the door:
Adults $8, Kids ages (2-15) $5
No charge for children under age 2

Register Today

Online: www.beavercreekreserve.org
In Person at the Wise Nature Center. See cover for hours.
By Mail: Please call to reserve a spot, and checks must be received by the registration deadline.
We accept cash, check, and credit or debit cards.
Cancellations require 48-hour notice prior to the program date, and are refundable, less a 10% admin fee. Tickets for special events are non-refundable.
Winter Banding Demo – French Toast Breakfast
Saturday, March 10, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Citizen Science Center
Join the Beaver Creek bird banders for a bird banding demonstration. This is a great opportunity to see some of the birds that visit feeders on a cold winter day up close and personal. Learn about bird identification, bird behavior, what to feed birds, and why we band them. Join us.

Included in the cost of French Toast Breakfast
Friends Adult $5, Kids $3
Nonmembers Adult $8, Kids $5

Spring Bird Count for Kids
Monday, March 19, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Wise Nature Center

Gather your fledglings to celebrate birds and encourage your young ones to take 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 will participate in bird activities, a craft and conduct their own survey at the bird feeders. Bring your own binoculars if you have them or we will lend you a pair. Children age 4-7 must be accompanied by an adult. No charge for assisting adults. Children 8-12 should be prepared to spend the morning outside to go birding with bird mentors. They will record bird species and tabulate results.

Registration and full payment required by March 13.

Friends $6, Nonmembers $8

Owl Prowl
Tuesday, March 20, 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 19.

Friends Adult $5, Kids $3
Nonmembers Adult $8, Kids $5

Wisconsin Summit for Natural Resource Volunteers
Thursday - Saturday, March 22-24
Lismore Hotel, Downtown Eau Claire

If you are an avid volunteer or looking to become involved in natural resources don’t miss this fantastic opportunity right here in Eau Claire. Wisconsin Master Naturalist along with the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network is hosting its first Wisconsin Summit for Natural Resource Volunteers. It’s open to everyone! This is a can’t-miss event for anyone involved in or looking to become involved in natural resource volunteering including project leaders, educators, volunteers, and researchers. The conference will include field trips, workshops and trainings, panel discussions, research and project talks, poster sessions, and networking opportunities. For more information or to register please go to http://wiatri.net/cbm/conference/2018/See Page 2 for more information.

Kids’ Night Hike
Friday, April 6, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Wise Nature Center

Kids, don’t want to go to bed? Then come out after dark and explore Beaver Creek Reserve with us. We will go on a hike and explore nocturnal sights, sounds, and adaptations through hands-on activities. Parents bring a book or explore the Discovery Room while your kids are out adventuring. We will have coffee and hot cocoa for you to enjoy. No flashlights or cell phones please. Age 10-12 years of age

Registration and full payment required by March 30.

Friends $5, Nonmembers $8

Bird Banding 101
Wednesday, April 11, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and Thursday, April 12, 7:30 -11:30 a.m.
Wise Nature Center

Are you interested in joining Beaver Creek Reserve's Bird Banding Crew? Join us for an introduction to bird banding. This two, half-day workshop is for those with little or no bird banding experience. Participants will learn how to safely capture and release birds. They will also learn techniques to hold, band, and take measurements on birds in the hand. Discussions will include Beaver Creek’s Avian Monitoring Program, benefits of bird banding, bird identification, and banding safety. Participants are asked to attend both sessions. Please plan to bring lunch on Wednesday.

Registration and full payment required by April 5.

Friends and Nonmembers $60 per person

Frog Fest
Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Storybook Hiking Trail
Friday, April 20, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Five Herbs to Master at Home
Wednesday, April 25, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

MAY

Spring Evening Bird Hike
Tuesday, May 1, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Bee Keeping 102
Saturday, May 5, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Spring Wildflower Walk
Saturday, May 5, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Silk Scarf Dyeing
Two Time Options, Tuesday, May 8, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. or 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Native Plant Sale & Bird Bander’s Thrift Sale
Saturday, May 12, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Spring Evening Bird Hike
Tuesday, May 15, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

JUNE

Fly Fishing Clinic
Tentatively: June 9, 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bird School
Thursday, June 7 - Saturday, June 9

See Page 2 for more information.
Yuri’s Night at Hobbs
Thursday, April 12, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Hobbs Observatory

Beaver Creek Reserve is excited to partner with the Children’s Museum of Eau Claire for a fun night of all things space-related! Yuri’s Night is an international celebration named for Russian Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin who was the first human to venture into space. The Children’s Museum will be bringing out their inflatable planetarium for 30-minute showings. There will be tons of hands-on activities and conditions permitting, open viewing at the Observatory sponsored by the Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society. This program is appropriate for all ages. Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult, especially for the planetarium shows.

In order to help us plan and have the right number of volunteers and supplies, please register in advance by Tuesday, April 10.

Friends $3, Nonmembers $5
FREE for those who are members of BOTH Beaver Creek Reserve and the Children’s Museum.

Stained Glass Dangler
Tuesday, April 17, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. or 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Wise Nature Center

Create a beautiful piece of garden art using stained glass and glass beads. No garden—no problem! This piece is very pretty hanging in a window. Participants will choose a variety of stained glass pieces and beads which will be adhered to a special wire. All supplies are furnished for the class which will include a cutting demonstration by instructor Linda Bergen.

Registration and full payment required by April 13.

Friends $20, Nonmembers $25

Frog Fest
Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Wise Nature Center

Frog Fest 2018 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 as a BCR Naturalist 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 16.

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

Storybook Hiking Trail
Friday, April 20, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Wise Nature Center

Join us for an engaging, guided tour of the Storybook Hiking Trail followed by a fun spring activity. This program is for kids ages 3-8 and their families. Explore seasonal-themed songs, interactive stories, movement activities, and crafts that encourage your children to think about the ever-changing world around them and their role in it. Dress for the weather as the majority of the program will be held outdoors. In instance of extreme weather, program will be held indoors.

Registration and full payment required by April 16.

Friends $3 per child
Nonmembers $5 per child
No charge for assisting adults.

5 Herbs to Master at Home
Wednesday, April 25, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Wise Nature Center

Join Master Herbalist, Kerri Kiernan and become familiar with using and growing medicinal herbs such as chamomile, calendula, holy basil, sage and yarrow! This workshop will focus on growing, harvesting and utilizing five medicinal herbs ideal for the home garden which are relatively easy to grow and useful for a variety of herbal remedies including teas, tinctures and salves. Different types of medicinal preparations with be discussed and handouts will include more detailed information on how to make each remedy at home.

Registration and full payment required by April 20.

Friends $5, Nonmembers $8

Spring Evening Bird Hikes

Two hikes: you may attend one or both, but must register separately.
Tuesday, May 1, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 15 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 after-dinner 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 April 30 and May 14 respectively.

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

Silk Scarf Dyeing Class
Tuesday, May 8, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. or 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Wise Nature Center

Create a gorgeous silk scarf using a variety of color hue dyes. Learn how to achieve different pattern and color effects and also have the opportunity to learn and apply a variety of techniques to achieve different textures. All students will complete and take home their creation after class.

Registration and full payment required by April 30.

Friends $25, Nonmembers $30

Native Plant Sale
Saturday, May 12, 8:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
Wise Nature Center

Our volunteers are working hard raising 3,000 plus native plants, grasses and herbs from seed. There will also be a limited selection of second year plants. Prices range from $2.50 - $10.00 with most plants priced at $3.50. Plant list will be available the week of the sale. Plan to arrive early for the best selection!
Shop for the Birds! Bird Bander’s Thrift Sale
Saturday, May 12, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Wise Nature Center

Support the Beaver Creek Reserve Bird Banders while shopping this nature-themed thrift sale. Beaver Creek Reserve has been banding birds for over 20 years. Beaver Creek is one of the only year-round bird banding stations in Wisconsin with the longest consecutive running productivity and survivorship program in the state. Help us reach another 20 years. All proceeds help continue Beaver avian research projects which in turn help support bird conservation, scientific research, and offer opportunities to learn about and see birds up close for the people of the Chippewa Valley.

Spring Wildflower Walk
Saturday, May 5, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Schmidt Maple Woods

Join UW-Eau Claire professor Joe Rohrer on a guided wildflower tour of the Schmidt Maple Forest. They will provide an up-close and personal understanding of the life histories of the spectacular wildflower bloom at this Nature Conservancy site. We will meet at the Citizen Science Center parking lot and carpool to the site. It’s one of the most popular trips so register early. Bring your field guides, binoculars, camera and notebook.

Registration and full payment due May 2
Friends $5 Nonmembers $8.

Fly Fishing Clinic
Tentatively, Saturday, June 9, 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Wise Nature Center

Join Trout Unlimited volunteers and Beaver Creek staff for a fun day learning the ins and outs of fly fishing. The morning will involve learning how to tie flies and fishing knots and how to cast a fly rod. Then after lunch, you will travel to a local pond to try your hand at catching some fish with your very own flies! This camp is open to adults and youth ages 12 and up (accompanied by a parent or legal guardian).

Fly Fishing Clinic is generously picking up the tab for this clinic, and even providing lunch for participants. A fee will be required to hold your spot, refundable upon attending. Watch for more information and a confirmed date to follow.

Bird School
Thursday, June 7 - Saturday, June 9
Wise Nature Center

This fun and engaging course has been designed specifically for beginners who want to learn more about birds and take the next step in birding. This 2 ½ day course will combine classroom lectures, field trips, group lessons and hands-on activities to give you a full learning experience. Knowledgeable birders will help you learn the basics of bird behavior, migration, identification, and reproduction. We’ll explain how to identify birds using size, shape, plumage, and other field marks. We’ll teach you how to find birds in different habitats. We’ll teach you to listen to birds and how to identify their songs. We’ll discuss how you can help birds and protect the places they depend on. For more details visit our website.

Registration and full payment required by May 1.
Friends and Nonmembers $56

Save the Date
Thursday, May 3rd
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

For 2018 we are combining our volunteer and donor recognition events into one night!

Those who volunteered in 2017, donated to the 2017-18 Endowment Campaign, or who donated monetarily to Beaver Creek Reserve beyond their membership fees, will be invited. Invitations will be sent in mid to late March.

We are excited to have Chris Cold with the WI DNR as our special guest speaker.
Thank you to everyone who volunteered or attended our 2nd Frosty Frolic!

All photos by Ruth Forsgren

Thank you to our sponsors!

Spring/Summer Volunteer Opportunities

NATIVE PLANT SALE
Starting in February our excellent crew of volunteers will begin to set the seeds for our annual Native Plant Sale. When there’s still snow on the ground we have opportunities for you to get your hands on some dirt, and as the snow melts and the plants grow there’s plenty to be done that will keep a restless soul busy.

FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST
Saturday, March 10th from 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Dozens of volunteers are needed! We need cookers, servers, cleaners, parkers, crafters, ticket sellers and much more! Prep shifts start on Thursday, March 8.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these opportunities, email Maryl at volunteer@beavercreekrserve.org
MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS

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 kippenjp@wwt.net

Beaver Creek Photo Club
Third Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Everyone welcome! The Beaver Creek Photo Club meets the third Thursday of the month from January through May and September through November. No December Meeting. The March Meeting will be held at Deb’s Cafe in Lake Hallie. Questions can be directed to: bcrpc@outlook.com

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

Store Sales
Save 15% off these great items
MARCH
• Stuffed animals
• Cookie cutters
• ALL Books

APRIL
• Tree-related items
• Socks
• Field Guides

SUMMER CAMPS
Nuts, Sprouts, Earth Detectives, Tadpole Toddler Camp and more! The week of June 18-22 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. we need lots of volunteers to help with camp. Help us lead a hike, craft or program. Not for you? We also need help preparing snacks each day as well. Camp week is a lot of fun, come see for yourself!

BUTTERFLY HOUSE AND LAB
Spring is in the air, which means summer won’t be far behind. We will be looking for volunteers to help in the caterpillar lab and Butterfly House. Look for more information on training sessions in future issues of Woodprints or email Meryl to learn more: volunteer@beavercreekreserve.org
French Toast Breakfast
Saturday, March 10
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

PRESALE TICKETS:
- Adults - $7
- Children $4 (12 & Under)

AT THE DOOR:
- Adults - $8
- Children $5 (12 & Under)

Presale tickets can be purchased online or at the Wise Nature Center

- Maple Syrup Programming
- Chippewa Valley Water Colorists Sale and Reception
- Kids Activities & Crafts
- Bird Banding Demonstration
- Hobbs Observatory Open House
- Much More!