CELEBRATE THE CHIPPEWA RIVER AT FAMILY DAY

The second annual Celebrate the Chippewa River at Family Day event will be taking place June 30 in Phoenix Park.

Last year's event was a hit and brought together people of all ages in interactive outdoor activities. The entire point at the confluence in Phoenix Park was covered in exhibits and activities aimed at environmental education. Kids played games, made art projects, and learned from informational booths. Others learned to fish from the bank and took guided kayak, canoe, and bike tours that left from the point throughout the day. A major highlight was fish “shocking” performed by DNR staff, allowing viewers to get up close with the river’s fish, including at least three rare species.

"People should know just how special it is to have a high quality, clean river flowing through the cities of Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire," says Ken Schreiber, a planning committee member and retired DNR water quality specialist. The Chippewa River is such a prominent part of our community, flowing past our homes, places of work, and recreational areas, but it can be easy to take it for granted. Celebrate the Chippewa River at Family Day is an extension of our Celebrate the Chippewa River Conference held every fall in Davies Center at UWEC, and we hope this event will allow people to understand more fully the value of our beloved Chippewa.

The same activities and more will form this year’s Celebrate the Chippewa River at Family Day event. New this year, though, will be tours of the prairie plantings in Phoenix Park, letting attendees learn more about the landscape surrounding the river. "It is imperative that we remember to not just focus on the river but to focus on all the parts that help to make up that river. The

Continued on Page 2
Celebrate the Chippewa River at Family Day in Downtown, June 30, 2018

“The NRF was one of the most important things to come out of relicensing,” says Matt Miller, an Xcel Energy employee who works to ensure compliance with the federal licenses. He explained the value this money has provided in ensuring important environmental requirements are met.

Ultimately, this Family Day event is hoping to do what its name implies—celebrate this wonderful river flowing through our backyards in unique and exciting ways while also discovering how to preserve this irreplaceable feature in our community.

Planning committee member and DNR Water Resource Specialist Jodi Lepsch urges us to “remain vigilant in our protection of the river because there are always threats lurking like aquatic invasive species and non-point source pollution.” We need to be proactive in our treatment of the river so it continues to be an asset.

“Today, due to focused efforts to clean up the river and shoreline, the river is an incredible resource for recreation, viewing, and river events,” says Dan Zerr, planning committee member and UW-Extension Natural Resource Educator. “Everyone needs to realize that we are ALL responsible for doing whatever we can to take care of these precious resources.”

Come join us in Phoenix Park on June 30th for a fun day learning more about the Chippewa River and how you can be involved in its life!

Written by Christy Thomas,
Beaver Creek Reserve Writing Intern

Did You Know?

The Lower Chippewa River Area (LCRA) consists of the final 40 miles of Wisconsin’s 2nd largest river before it meets the Mississippi. The LCRA is considered a gem for many reasons, here are just a few!

The Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area features the largest concentration of remaining prairies and savannas in the state at 25% (WI DNR)

75% of Wisconsin’s fish species can be found ion the Lower Chippewa River, and more than 125 species of birds live in the LCRA. 125 species identified as rare also inhabit this area. (WI DNR)

The LCRA is a major flyway for migrating birds. It is estimated that more than 100,000 migratory landbirds pass though this area in a single day. (Audobon)
Join us for a full, FREE day of fun at Beaver Creek Reserve as we introduce our newest Nature Nook - the Family Nook! We’ll have some light refreshments and other activities throughout the day. More information and details to follow. To learn a little more about the new nook see the Director’s Report on page 7.

The updates to the Nature Nooks and the funding to support this event are made possible by a grant from:

**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

2017 Best in Show, *Seriously* by Erik Huebler

Contest Sponsored by:

**FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- Kathy Clark ..............................................President
- Becca Bestul .....................................Vice President
- Warren Gallagher .............................Secretary
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**MEMBERS**
- Heather Deluka, Mark Wise, Joe, Troy Anderson, Jonathan Leuthe, Robert Prock, Bob Schmidt, Blake Tolleson, Bev Stelljes and John Kleven

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- Director .................................................Erik Keisler
- Marketing Coordinator ...................Brianne Markin
- Citizen Science Director .................Jeanette Kelly
- AIS Coordinator ..............................AJ Leiden
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- Caretaker .............................................Jerad Polden
- Maintenance .................................Jerry Polden

**NEWSLETTER**
- Editor .............................................Brianne Markin

Woodprints is published bimonthly by the Friends of Beaver Creek Reserve.
Phenology Hike for Experienced Explorers
Two Sessions! Friday, May 4, or Thursday, May 31, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Wise Nature Center
This program is targeted for our older nature lovers. This hike of an hour or so is led by a Beaver Creek Reserve naturalist and takes place on the Reserve trails. Explorers will document the changes taking place in the Reserve's woods. The walk will be capped off with coffee and a treat and further discussion about the changes and things seen on the trails. The program is geared for adults 55 and older. Hikers should expect about a mile long hike with uneven terrain and stairs to negotiate.
Registration and full payment required by May 2 or May 29 for each respective session.
Friends $3  Nonmembers $5

Spring Evening Bird Hike
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 May 14.
Friends $3  Nonmembers $5

Bee Keeping 102 - You’re a Beekeeper, Now What?
Saturday, May 5, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 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 due May 1.
Friends $40  Nonmembers $45

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.
**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. He 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.**

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**Silk Scarf 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**

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**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!

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**Shop for the Birds! Bird Bander’s Thrift Sale**
**Saturday, May 12, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
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. 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.

*Registration and full payment required by May 11th*

**Friends Free Nonmembers $3**

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**Breeding Bird Atlas Blitz**
**Tuesday, June 5, 7:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
**Thursday, June 14, 7:00– 11:00 a.m.**
**Friday, June 22, 7:00 – 11:00 a.m.**
**Tuesday, July 10, 7:00 – 11:00 a.m.**
**Friday, July 20, 7:00 – 11:00 a.m.**
**Citizen Science Center**
Bird nesting season is here! Come join us for a Breeding Bird Atlas Blitz as we spend the morning searching Beaver Creek to record as many breeding birds as possible. The Breeding Bird Atlas is a five-year citizen science project that aims to map the distribution and abundance of all bird species breeding in WI. Along with contributing to a massive statewide citizen science project, you will have the exciting opportunity to learn how to recognize bird courtship, nesting behavior, and to watch the birds as they prepare for the arrival of their young. You will gain knowledge about bird behavior that will be sure to make each of your nature walks from that day forward even more fun and interesting!

*Open to ages 18+*

*Registration and full payment for June 5 session required by June 3*

*Registration and full payment for July 14 session required by June11*

*Registration and full payment for June 22 session required by June19*

*Registration and full payment for July 10 session required by July 8*

*Registration and full payment for July 20 session required by July 17*

**Friends Free Nonmembers Free**

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**Storybook Hiking Trail**
**Friday, June 15, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Breeding Bird Atlas Blitz**
**Friday, June 22, 7:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Celebrate the Chippewa River at Family Day in Downtown**
**Saturday, June 30th, 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

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**SAVE THE DATE**
**2018 Beaver Creek Butterfly Count**
**Tuesday, July 10, 9:30 a.m.**

**Breeding Bird Atlas Blitz**
**Tuesday, July 10, 7:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Breeding Bird Atlas Blitz**
**Friday, July 20, 7:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Beaver Creek Play Day**
**Saturday, July 21st, 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

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**Summer Wild Edibles**
**Friday, July 27, 12:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Aquatic Invasive Species**
**Snapshot Day**
**Saturday, August 4, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Butterfly Fest**
**Sunday, August 5, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

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**All About AIS!**
**Tuesday, May 15, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**
**Citizen Science Center**
Many non-native species such as zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil have found their way into Wisconsin’s lakes and rivers, causing severe damage to local ecosystems, industry and tourism. Learn to identify common aquatic invasive species and how you can get involved in preventing, containing, and controlling them in our local waters. Statewide campaigns including Clean Boats, Clean Waters, Citizen Lake Monitoring, and Project Riverine Early Detectors will be discussed.

*Registration and full payment required by May 11th*

**Friends Free Nonmembers $3**

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www.beavercreekreserve.org
Fly Fishing Clinic  
June 9 at 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, and 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).  
Trout unlimited is generously picking up the tab for this clinic, and even providing lunch for participants. A fee of $10 will be required to hold your spot, refundable upon attending.  
Registration required by May 31  

Gentle Yoga  
Mondays, June 4, 11, 18 and 25 and July 2, 9, 16 and 23, 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. This eight-week session is led by Reserve members and certified Yoga Instructors Ingrid Schaller and Karen Possley 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.  
Please register by May 31. *A minimum of 12 registered participants are needed to run this summer series. *  
$80 Members, $100 Nonmembers  
At the door $10 Members  
$12 Nonmembers  

Storybook Hiking Trail  
Friday, June 15, 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 summer 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 majority of the program will be held outdoors. In instance of extreme weather, program will be held indoors.  
Registration and full payment required by June 11.  
Friends $3 per child, Adults free,  
Nonmembers $5 per child, Adults free  

Celebrate the Chippewa River at Family Day in Downtown  
Saturday, June 30, 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
The Point, Phoenix Park, Eau Claire  
Attention all river rats! This is the event you do not want to miss. The 5th annual Celebrate the Chippewa River event is teaming up with Family Day in Downtown this year on June 30th. Centered in Phoenix Park, the festival will highlight family life in Downtown, the City of Eau Claire and the Chippewa River. River activities will be taking place at The Point, where the Eau Claire and Chippewa River converge. Activities will include: canoe and kayak paddles, bank fishing, a guided bike ride, and the WDNR will be shocking fish and bringing them to shore for observation. All activities are free and begin at 2pm. You must bring your own bike and helmet. Canoes and kayaks will be provided. Paddles will run every hour until 6:30 p.m. Come early to sign up for a spot! A shuttle will be available at Hobbs Ice Arena to bring people back to Phoenix Park. This event is sponsored by the WDNR. Contact AJ at the Citizen Science Center for more information at 715-877-2212, ext. 118 or at aj@beavercreekreserve.org.
As I write this I am watching the latest snow storm remnants melt. Spring means gardening and a lot of the prep work to make the property ready for our busy summer season, which we all hope to get to soon. With that in mind, I wanted to share some updates with our members regarding some immediate and future plans for the grounds at Beaver Creek Reserve.

Obviously the parking lot expansion, created the opportunity to readdress the flowers and landscaping around the nature center. We did receive a grant from the Eau Claire Community Foundation, as well as funding from the Eau Claire garden Club and the Master Gardeners to replant the areas round the parking lot, greenhouse and butterfly house. In the fall volunteers helped plant native grass and trees were partially donated by Lowes Creek Tree Farm. I have been working with many of the volunteers who are Master Gardeners and help with our plant sale to plan gardens in the spaces along the walkways and in front of the greenhouse. If you would be interested in helping with the planting and landscaping please contact Maryl Fennie at 715-877-2212 or volunteer@beavercreekreserve.org

We received a large grant from Nordson last year which will fund several enhancements to the popular nature nooks. We are working on a plan to remove the existing, under-utilized amphitheater across from the butterfly house and replace it with a more visitor friendly covered picnic pavilion and some additional early childhood play areas. As part of the grant we will be holding a special free day for Families to experience the new upgrades as well as the rest of Beaver Creek Reserve on Saturday, July 21st. There will also be a lot of work to clear the existing area and install the new nooks.

While these are two more immediate projects to improve the look and visitor appeal of Beaver Creek Reserve, we do also have a finalized long-range plan for the North Campus. This past November we invited staff, board members, members and other stakeholders to a discussion meeting led by Ayres Associates to create a long-range plan for the North Campus. In 2010 a master and forestry plan was approved in order to help plan for future expansion projects, which included the Nature Center parking lot addition.

With the desire for Wildland's to potentially expand, and the need for improvements to the main lodge, it became apparent that creating a plan for the North Campus was necessary, Ayres and Associates donated their time and expertise in the amount of $14K to help create the plan. Future opportunities included the need to update the drain field, and to ensure safe movement of visitors through the campus. After several meetings that included the stakeholders mentioned above as well as staff and board input a Final North Campus Plan was approved at the February 2018 Board Meeting. While the plan is approved it is not set in stone and we could be flexible as the need arises.

The current price tag to complete all of these projects comes to over $2 million! So we are not breaking any ground right now! The campus plan, instead will allow us to choose projects as funding becomes available, all while working toward an end goal. It also allows us to see a fuller picture of how the space can be used best.

Notable changes include additional parking, which would service the increased number of students and teachers as well as allow the current field return to a multi-use lawn and not be used for overflow parking. In addition by use of a mountable curb, we would discourage the use of vehicles in areas that would also be used by pedestrians. Another notable change would be to remove the existing shed that is currently adjacent to Hobbs Observatory and create a new shed and maintenance yard behind the caretaker cabin. This would create a more unified area for all maintenance equipment out of the direct view of the public.

We are thankful to all who gave their time and insights to create this plan. I feel it provides a positive direction for future improvements. No timeline or funding has been set for any of these projects. But should the opportunity arise, similar to the donation that allowed us to complete the solar project, Beaver Creek Reserve has a plan that could be implemented.

Erik Keisler, Executive Director
The North Campus plan was approved by the Friends of Beaver Creek Reserve Board earlier this year. No current plans for projects or funding have been secured, and the plan allows for flexibility over time as our needs and the needs of those we serve change.

**Butterfly House Lab**

**Training:** Tuesday, June 5, 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.

With Apologies

Our sincerest apologies to the donors who were inadvertently omitted from the 2018 Donations Report. We are grateful to the following for their donations to Beaver Creek Reserve.

Craig and Gail Carlson in memory of Olga Wise

Kris Gausman for her in-kind donation of graphic design for our 2017 Nature Calendar.
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.

Store Sales
Save 15% off these great items

MAY
• Pouches & Bags
• Hummingbird Feeders
• Plant Books

JUNE
• Binoculars
• Mugs
• Bird Books

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.

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Store Sales
Save 15% off these great items

MAY
• Pouches & Bags
• Hummingbird Feeders
• Plant Books

JUNE
• Binoculars
• Mugs
• Bird Books

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

BUTTERFLY HOUSE GUIDE
Training: Thursday, June 28, 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.

www.beavercreekreserve.org
Native Plant SALE
Saturday, May 12
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
Wide variety of native flowers, herbs and grasses
Experts on hand to answer questions
All proceeds benefit Beaver Creek Reserve

Also shop the Bird Bander’s Thrift Sale
Find great deals on nature-themed art, decor, gardening supplies and much more. Same hours as the Native Plant Sale and all proceeds benefit the BCR Bird Banding Program

At Family Day in Downtown
Sat. June 30, 2 - 8 pm, Phoenix Park
* Kayaking & Canoeing
* Bank Fishing
* DNR Fish Shocking
* Kid’s Activities
* Wildflower Walks and more!

Support provided by:

Xcel Energy