

# WOOD prints

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## NATURE CENTER HOURS

Monday–Saturday  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday  
Noon – 4 p.m.

## CONTACT

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## CELEBRATE THE CHIPPEWA RIVER

In 2014 a group of citizens decided that the Chippewa River was a pretty excellent river, and that more people needed to know that if they didn't already. So those citizens did something about it, and the first ever Celebrate the Chippewa River Conference came about just like that. At least that's my interpretation of how it happened. I wasn't there. It seems kind of obvious though, doesn't it? The Chippewa River is an excellent river. But some things aren't always so obvious until you say them out loud. Maybe what doesn't feel obvious is that even an excellent river still needs excellent people to care for it.

Even the Chippewa can change. This jewel sneaks by so many communities, brings life to plants, animals, and people, and it isn't invincible. That's why those citizens looked around and said "Hey! I like this river the way it is." Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) threaten to impact the river from every direction. AIS are plants and animals that grow aggressively and don't have natural checks on their populations. They can take over a waterbody and cause severe changes; reducing recreational, economic, and ecological resources in the process.

That's about where Beaver Creek comes in to this story. In 2014 we received a WI DNR grant to develop a plan for limiting the introduction and spread of AIS into the Lower Chippewa River. We partnered with eight government and nonprofit agencies to write the LCR AIS Strategic Plan, which makes a case for protecting the Chippewa and details measurable actions to do so. Now we're

making those actions happen. This summer we offered trainings about AIS, had interns out at boat landings educating boaters, guided 60 people down the Chippewa for Family Day in Downtown Eau Claire, had staff and volunteers survey almost 40 miles of the river for AIS, and

pulled the invasive Purple Loosestrife with the Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership.

As we approach the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Celebrate the Chippewa River Conference it's a good time to look back, and then look forward. The partnerships and contributions we've seen are a testament to how many people here agree that the Chippewa is indeed a pretty excellent river, and that we should keep it that way. We'd like to invite you to be a part of that community action.

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*Paddlers on the Chippewa by Jake Ring*



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Welcome Mary!!

CONNECTING  
PEOPLE  
WITH NATURE



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## FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## NEWSLETTER

Editor..... Brianne Markin

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

# Celebrate the Chippewa River

*continued from page 1*

Come to this year's Celebrate the Chippewa Conference and see the amazing work taking place in your backyard. Hear local stories about what makes this waterway unique and important. Learn about the things you can do to help.

If you can't make it to the conference, contact AJ with the Citizen Science Center to learn about how you can be involved. 715-877-2212  
[AJ@beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:AJ@beavercreekreserve.org)

## AIS 2017 at a Glance

Over **40** miles of the Chippewa River were surveyed



**7** Volunteers helped survey and remove AIS



**5** Watercraft Inspector Interns worked **800** hours at **4** boat landings in Chippewa County

More than **2500** boaters were educated on AIS



New BCR Volunteer Coordinator Maryl Fennie. Photo by Ruth Forsgren

# Welcome Our Newest Staff Member

We're happy to introduce our new Volunteer Coordinator and Americorps member Maryl Fennie. She is a 2016 graduate of UW- Eau Claire with a degree in International Business and Spanish. She is excited to meet and start working with Beaver Creek Volunteers! Maryl grew up in La Crosse, Wisconsin and loves spending time in the great outdoors as well as going new places. Maryl has seen two wonders of the world: the Taj Mahal and the Roman Colosseum and is excited to add more to her list. Maryl is ready to engage volunteers and hopes to get more families with kids volunteering together at Beaver Creek.

Let her know if you are interested in volunteering or have any feedback on how to improve volunteering at Beaver Creek at [volunteer@beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:volunteer@beavercreekreserve.org)  
Stay tuned this year for more volunteer highlights and events.



# Director's Report

## PARKING LOT UPDATE AND ANNUAL MEETING

The Nature Center parking lot project will be wrapping up as you are reading this article. Many people have shared with me comments that this project and expansion were long overdue. Some people have also shared with me that the progress looks great or that it looks like a wasteland. Depending on the day, I would agree with both of those comments! We are very grateful to the members, visitors, club members, and renters who have been patient and understanding throughout this project.

Our staff has also been extremely supportive. The maintenance staff put in some really long hours clearing the area along with the County Highway Department who helped remove all the stumps. Once the parking lot is finished, we have wild flower seeds from the DNR that will be planted in the disturbed areas. Lowes Creek Tree Farm has also supplied us with some native trees and shrubs that our Naturalist Jim Schwiebert recommended. We are looking forward to the chance to add some "new to us" varieties and the corresponding educational opportunities.

With the remodel of the parking lot also comes new lighting for the tunnel and light posts. I am thrilled that the new LED lights in the parking lot and the tunnel will continue to meet our goals of energy conservation. The parking lot lights will be 3000 Lumens or less to reduce light pollution, and the tunnel lights will be red LED's to meet the needs

of the Observatory programs. We are also going to start the Don and Leatrice Mathison Walkway that will take guests from the door of the Nature Center directly to the tunnel to the north side of campus. This will keep our visitors, especially children safer as they will no longer have to walk through the parking



*Parking lot progress as of 10/23/17. Photo by staff.*

lot to access the tunnel or Nature Center. The walkway will also honor memorial and honorarium events with engraved bricks. Look for more information on this in future newsletters.

Beaver Creek is continuing to look thoughtfully as we make updates to our recurring events. With that in mind, Beaver Creek has been experimenting with different versions of the annual meeting over the last few years. I hope that as you read this, you have already registered for this year's meeting. However, based on questions from our members, I wanted to share some of the reasons for this year's change of location. We are always proud

to host events at Beaver Creek and there is a certain warmth to having all of us gather on familiar territory to celebrate our annual meeting. This year we had an opportunity to pair the Chippewa River Conference with our annual meeting to expose more people from the outside to what Beaver Creek offers in the way of Citizen Science, as well as share all the amazing things that the Chippewa Valley has to offer our members. I was able to attend last year's conference at the Hyde Center in Chippewa Falls and I thought, "Wow, we need to get our members to attend this conference and see all of these amazing speakers!" When we brought the idea to the board they thought everyone would learn and enjoy themselves, so we are collaborating with UWEC and hosting the 4th annual Celebrate the

Chippewa River Conference and Friends of Beaver Creek Reserve Annual meeting in the Davies Center. We are also getting a couple of amazing speakers, and I think that once we all get together and start eating and sharing all the information that we heard from the conference, the warmth of our "friends" meeting will be just the same as it always is. Lastly, we are having our silent auction online this year to try and raise even more money and invite more people to the bidding process.

Thanks for trying something new this year and for all of your support of Beaver Creek Reserve!



# UPCOMING

## programs



### Gentle Yoga

**Mondays, 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 fall/winter 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. No class December 25 or January 1.

*Purchase a 10 punch card – Friends \$80, Nonmembers \$100. Punch cards will be given out at first class attended. 1 punch per class, receive 10 punches to earn a prize from BCR! At the door \$10 Members, \$12 Nonmembers.*

## Register Today

#### Online:

[www.beavercreekreserve.org](http://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, 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.

### Celebrate the Chippewa River Conference and Annual Meeting

**Friday November 3, 1:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

**University of Wisconsin Eau Claire  
Dakota Ballroom**

This year, Beaver Creek Reserve's Annual Meeting will happen during the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate the Chippewa River Conference. Come hear presentations from local historians, naturalists, researchers and educators on a wide range of environmental topics, many of which will focus on the aquatic gem that meanders through our city – the Chippewa River! This year's keynote speaker is Max Finkelstein. Max is an author, photographer, and passionate advocate for

river conservation. He has traveled more than 20,000 kilometers throughout North America, Africa and Australia. Max is the author of *Canoeing a Continent: On the Trail of Alexander Mackenzie*, a book about his experiences retracing Mackenzie's historic crossing of North America. Dinner will be catered by Blugold Dining, and we will wind down from the week with good conversation, beverages from the bar, and live musical entertainment. FREE Shuttles to and from the Haas Fine Arts and Water Street Lots to Davies will be provided.

*Registration and full payment due by October 31.*

**Friends \$30 Nonmembers \$35  
Students \$10**



### NOVEMBER

#### Gentle Yoga

Mondays, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

#### Celebrate the Chippewa River Conference and Annual Meeting

Friday, November 3, 1:00 - 9:30 p.m.

#### Black Bears of Wisconsin

Saturday, November 4, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

#### Holiday Crafting for Kids

Saturday, November 18, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### DECEMBER

#### Make Your Own Snowshoes

Saturday and Sunday, December 2-3, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. each day

#### Storybook Hiking Trail

Friday, December 15, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

### SAVE THE DATES

#### Candlelight Snowshoe Hike

Friday, January 5, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

#### Make Your Own Snowshoes

Saturday and Sunday, January 6-7, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. each day

#### Snowshoe Hike for Elder Explorers

Thursday, January 11, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

#### Introduction to Snowshoeing

Saturday, January 13, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

#### Frosty Frolic

Saturday, January 20, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### Timber Wolf Winter Ecology Workshop

Saturday, January 27, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 28, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## Black Bears of Wisconsin

**Saturday, Nov. 4, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Wise Nature Center**

Dave Schmitt of Haycreek Outfitters, BCR Volunteer, and nature-lover will present a short program on black bears of Wisconsin. This fun and informative presentation is suitable for elementary age to adult learners and will feature a special visit from "Geraldine of Rock Dam Lake." Geraldine is a (plush) ambassador for Black Bears and recently started her own Facebook page detailing her adventures.

*Registration and full payment required by November 1.*

**Friends FREE, Nonmembers \$3**

## Holiday Crafting for Kids

**Saturday, November 18, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Wise Nature Center**

Bring the children to the Reserve for a morning of creative fun. Using a variety of materials including natural and/or recycled items, children will make simple ornaments and decorations for the upcoming holidays. Activities are suitable for school-age children. Pre-schoolers need an accompanying adult. (No charge for the assisting adult.) Snack included.

*Registration and full payment required by November 13.*

**Friends Child \$6**

**Nonmember Child \$8**



## Make Your Own Snowshoes

**Saturday and Sunday, December 2 - 3, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. each day**

**Wise Nature Center**

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

*Registration and full payment required by November 15.*

**Friends \$190 Nonmembers \$210**

## Storybook Hiking Trail

**Friday, December 15, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Wise Nature Center**

Join BCR for a fun fall activity followed by a guided tour on the Storybook Hiking Trail. This program is for kids ages 3-8 and their families. Explore the winter through interactive stories and activities 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 December 11.*

**Friends \$3 per child**

**Nonmembers \$5 per child  
(no charge for assisting adults)**



## Candlelight Snowshoe Hikes

**January 5 & February 2**

**6:00-7:30 p.m. and 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

**Friends \$3, Nonmembers \$5**

**\$3 to rent snowshoes**



# Naturalist Notes

## To Migrate or Not to Migrate: That is the Question

When I ask kids what birds do in the winter, the common answer is migrate or fly south. Honestly, I think a lot of adults would answer the same way. But, there are a lot of non-migratory birds that tough out the winter months. That raises an interesting question: why wouldn't a bird head to milder climates for the winter months? Well, migration is hard. Flying hundreds or even thousands of miles requires a lot of fuel. You have to find a safe hotel in a good



*Black-capped Chickadee by Jason Mickelson*

neighborhood, compete with the crowds for everything, and have top notch navigation equipment. There are flight delays due to weather, plus many other trials for the avian traveler.

Make no mistake—staying here in the north isn't a picnic in the park either. The birds that stay have special coping mechanisms for our variable winter

weather. Whenever temperatures take a severe nosedive, I hear people say how badly they feel for the wildlife. Yes, -20°F is tough, but 10°F to 20°F all day and night isn't easy either.

Small birds like chickadees have several ways to help them survive winter. As winter approaches, they store seeds in cracks of fences, tree bark, or wherever they can stuff a seed. Studies have shown that they can remember a lot of these hiding spots because they actually increase the number of neurons in their brains, expanding their brain volume by up to 30% and allowing for more memory storage (Cal State University study). Once the snow and cold temperatures arrive, these small birds are eating machines. They eat for most of their waking hours, filling up on the heaviest, fattest foods they can find.

You may notice that birds seem to come to the feeders in flocks during the winter months. There are a couple of advantages to this behavior. When there are a lot of eyes watching, it is harder for predators to sneak up, and if they do, you simply have to be faster than the guy next to you. Huddling together with friends is also a great way to conserve heat during the dark nights.

Many small birds practice regulated hypothermia. A chickadee may be able to drop their core temperature by 15°F,



which can save them about 25% of energy needed to maintain body temperature per hour. They fluff their feathers to trap air near the body and provide insulation against heat loss. Small birds are also experts in shivering. Unlike the entire body jiggle that cold humans experience, birds activate opposing muscle groups, and these muscle contractions generate heat.

Can we help make winter a little easier for our feathered friends? You bet! You can offer black-oil sunflower seeds or suet at your feeders, since both provide the heavy fats birds need. If you leave nest boxes closed, birds can use them as roosting spots out of the wind and precipitation. You can also place brush piles or old Christmas trees near feeders so birds can get out of the wind. Finally, you can offer water in a clean, heated birdbath because water is needed and hard to find during long cold stretches.

If you are looking for easy DIY winter feeders, check out the blog edition of this article at [beavercreekconnection.blogspot.com](http://beavercreekconnection.blogspot.com) for great ideas!

*by Ruth Forsgren*

## Migration Fun Facts from Audubon

At least **4,000** species of birds migrate which is about **40%** of the total # of species in the world. In North America **350** species are migrators.

The arctic tern has the longest migration of any bird in the world - they can fly more than **49,700** miles in a year!

The bar-tailed godwit (arctic, Australia and New Zealand) can fly for up to **7,000** miles without stopping, making it the bird with the longest non-stop flight!

**Bar-headed geese are the highest-flying migratory birds, regularly reaching altitudes of up to 5.5 miles above sea level**



# 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.

November 14 - TBD  
December 12 - Potluck Meal  
January 9 - Carol and Jerry Knabe  
"Birds of Brazil"

## Store Sales

Save 15% off these  
great items

### November

- All Astronomy Items
- Blue Q Bags & Pouches
- Board Books

### December

- Stocking Stuffers: Anything \$5 or less
- 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](mailto: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.

## 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](http://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.

Go to [www.cvastro.org](http://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](http://www.cvastro.org) or [www.beavercreekreserve.org](http://www.beavercreekreserve.org)



## NEW Apparel is Here!

We have partnered with CloseUp Apparel in Eau Claire on some great new clothing items.

We have new t-shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, men's and women's sweatshirts, kids t-shirts and more!

Order online now through the end of November for the best selection of sizes: <https://beavercreekreserve.myshopify.com/>



Unisex T-Shirt \$15.00



Men's Flannel Shirt \$38.00



Women's Denim  
Shirt \$40.00



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CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

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*2018 Cover, White Perfection by Terry Borman*

2018 Nature Calendars are HERE! Renew your membership to ensure you are mailed a copy. Calendars are being sold in the Nature Store and select area locations including Festival Foods, Sharp Photo, and Unity Bank Locations.

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