

WOOD prints

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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
 Email
bcr@beavercreekreserve.org
 Website
www.beavercreekreserve.org

THE NEW BUTTERFLY PAVILION FAMILY NOOK IS HERE!

Thanks to a lot of time, donations and hard work, the newest addition to the Nature Nooks at Beaver Creek Reserve is almost complete! Starting in early September of this year, Jerad and Jerry Polden worked to clear the site and dismantle the existing amphitheater located across from the Butterfly House. The amphitheater was not only under-utilized; it was also in need of repairs. Since the debut of the Nature Nooks in the fall of 2015 and the new Scheels Discovery Room in the summer of 2016, visitation has been increased. We are now seeing many more families with toddlers and preschoolers visiting and becoming members, so there was a need for outdoor activities that were suitable for our youngest guests. Jeanette Kelly, CSC Director, wrote a grant to Nordson Corp. to provide funds to replace the amphitheater with a structure that would offer seating, play areas, learning and sensory experiences and could still meet the needs of small groups to assemble outdoors.



The NEW Butterfly Pavilion. Photo by Erik Keisler

After the grant was approved, Jeanette approached Joe Maurer who designed the Community Garden structure located at Phoenix Park on Forrest Street in Eau Claire. For Beaver Creek’s project, Joe came up with

an incredible design concept he initially called “Movement of the Butterflies.” The design was approved by the Friends Board this spring and formal plans were developed.

Between Xcel Energy and Eau Claire Energy Co-op, used utility poles were used as the base of the structure. Eau Claire Energy Co-op provided workers on Day of Caring (see page 2). Volunteers recently built a retaining wall to support the hill between the Fantasy Forest and the Butterfly Pavilion. A teeter-totter, toddler swing and a sandpit will also be added to the area.

The design also includes oversized butterflies that will hang from the roof of the structure. Sponsorships will be offered for approximately eight butterflies with wingspans ranging between 3 and 6 feet! Sponsorship letters will be sent in January and will be included in the next issue of *Woodprints*. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Brianne Markin or Erik Keisler. Our thanks to Xcel Energy, Eau Claire Energy Co-op, Advanced Disposal, Lyman Lumber, Market & Johnson, Stelter Concrete, Joe Maurer, Lien & Peterson Architects, Nordson Corporation, and the BCR Endowment for their support and contributions!

Brianne Markin,
 Marketing & Development Coordinator



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 NEW AIS Outreach Program



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 Volunteers Give Time to BCR



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Citizen Science Center: A Surprise Catch

MAPS volunteers get a fun, feathered surprise during a recent banding session

The Great Crested Flycatcher caught MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) bird banders by surprise this season! The MAPS program closed its nets in July, but before the banding program ended for the summer season, it banded its first ever Great Crested Flycatcher.

Beaver Creek's MAPS program is one of the many stations that monitors bird demographics throughout the United States and Canada. This banding program allows for an increased understanding of factors that may be contributing to changes or the decline in the bird population. MAPS

also allows bird banders to collect data indicating a bird's age, sex, molt patterns, and reproductive activity. Scientists and citizens work together in over 1,200 MAPS stations around the states, making strides in bird conservation that extend over much of North America.

For the first time in the approximately 15 years that Beaver Creek's MAPS program has been banding birds in the Chippewa Valley, a Great Crested Flycatcher was captured and banded. The birds prefer breeding along forest edges and in open woodlands. They are cavity nesters that are often found near dead snags or dying trees; while they prefer the large cavities, they will use nesting boxes and abandoned woodpecker holes to nest in as well.

As their name suggests, the birds eat insects and other invertebrates. They also eat berries, but rather than pick at the small fruit, they swallow

the berries whole and regurgitate the pits.

The Great Crested Flycatcher often lives high in the forest canopy so it is not often seen. Their call, however, is quite distinct and is easily heard. Both the male and female's whistle with a rising inflection rings through the trees "whee-eeep!" The call is shared between mating pairs, parents and offspring and also serves as an indication of danger.

Beaver Creek's MAPS banders are anxious to see if the bird adorning rusty orange flashes in its primaries and tail feathers will show its broad shoulders and large head again next year! And if it does, is it here to stay? Has something changed that's driven the bird's habitat toward MAPS mist nets? Or was this a cameo appearance by the Great Crested Flycatcher? Only time will tell.

*by Melissa Glynn,
Avian Monitoring Intern*



Great Crested Flycatcher by Ryan Schain



NIGHT SCIENCE



Left - Volunteer Bird Bander Gary Wauters works with the saw-whet owl and collects data. Above - Many of the participants who attended were members of local girl scout troops. (Staff photo)

On Thursday, October 11, BCR hosted an event as part of the Wisconsin Science Festival. Our partner CESA 10, brought their inflatable Starlab planetarium. The BCR Bird Banders provided a saw-whet owl banding demo, and volunteer from the CVAS led hands-on astronomy-themed activities. More than 100 people participated!



photos by
Jessica Schinke

United Way Day of Caring

Beaver Creek Reserve was grateful to host 27 volunteers for the annual United Way Day of Caring held on September 14. Volunteers from US Bank, Huebsch and Eau Claire Energy Co-op engaged in a variety of outside projects including lopping trails; trimming the grass and weeds around the parking lot, Nature Center and Nature Nooks; chopping wood; and even helping move sand that was blocking trails near the Eau Claire River.

Despite it being HOT out, the volunteers kept their cool under these conditions, donating 135 hours of time. The trails are trimmed back in fall in order to keep the trails manageable during the winter months. The firewood that was cut will be used by local groups at the fire pits and will also be used for cooking our maple syrup in the spring! The fall flooding created several large deposits of sand which blocked a part of the trail. Volunteers helped move the sand to make the trail accessible again.

Market & Johnson Assists in Building Butterfly Pavilion

The building of the Butterfly Pavilion is complete! After Eau Claire Energy set up the utility poles that are the pillars of the structure, Market & Johnson volunteered staff to build the top of the

Eau Claire Energy Co-op was also at Beaver Creek on the Day of Caring, placing utility poles that were repurposed as the supports for the NEW Butterfly Pavilion Family Nook.



Volunteers chopped and stacked firewood.
Photo by Jessica Schinke



Market & Johnson staff attaching the cross beams. Photo by Staff

shade structure alongside BCR Staff Erik Keisler, Jared Polden and Jerry Polden and BCR Endowment Board member (and super volunteer) Mark Wise. The structure was designed by Joe Maurer, who also generously donated his time to design the structure and plan the construction process.

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Kleven..... President
Blake Tollefson Vice President
Warren Gallagher..... Secretary
Mark Wise..... Treasurer

MEMBERS

Heather Deluka, Troy Anderson, Jonathan Leuthe, Donald Mowry, and Kathy Clark

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Marketing Coordinator Brianne Markin
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AIS Coordinator AJ Leiden
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..... Jim Schwiebert
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Office Associate Kirsten Holmes
Volunteer Coordinator Katie Lindquist
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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.



Eau Claire Energy Co-op workers brought a large auger to bore the large holes for the utility poles. Photo by Staff



Back view of the rotunda of the Butterfly Pavilion, benches were installed inside for seating. Photo by Adam Fuller of Lien & Peterson Architects

UPCOMING

programs



Gentle Yoga

Mondays, November 5 - December 17, 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 you reduce stress, feel strong yet flexible in your body and increase positive energy. Participants purchase 10 classes at a time, which they can use during the fall, winter and spring yoga class sessions. Class dates Winter Session will start Monday, January 8.

Purchase of the 10-class pack can be done at any time during the session.

Friends \$80, Nonmembers \$100. At the door \$10 Members, \$12 Nonmembers

Holiday Crafting for Kids

Saturday, November 17, 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 12.

Friends Child \$6 Nonmember Child \$8



Make Your Own Snowshoes

Saturday, December 1 & Sunday, December 2, or Saturday, January 5 & Sunday, January 6, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. each day - Wise Nature Center

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"). Please indicate snowshoe frame style when registering. Price includes snowshoe kit, bindings, and two days of instruction.

Registration and full payment required by November 15.

Friends \$200, Nonmembers \$220



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.

NOVEMBER

Gentle Yoga

Mondays, November 5 - December 17, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

Holiday Crafting for Kids

Saturday, November 17, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

Make Your Own Snowshoes

Saturday, December 1, and Sunday, December 2, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. each day



JANUARY

Make Your Own Snowshoes

Saturday, January 5 and Sunday, January 6, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. each day

Snowshoe Hike for Experienced Explorers 55 and Older

Thursday, January 10, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike

Friday, January 11

Two shifts:

Early - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Late - 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Introduction to Snowshoeing

Saturday, January 12, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Snowshoe Hike for Experienced Explorers 55 and older

Two Sessions: Thursday, January 10, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m and Thursday, February 14, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Come join a Beaver Creek Naturalist for a snowshoe hike this winter! It's a great chance to explore the winter woods and get some exercise too! This program is targeted for our older, but active, nature lovers 55 and older.

If needed, snowshoe rental rates are \$3 per pair.

Registration and full payment required by Jan. 8 and Feb. 12

Friends \$3/session, Nonmembers \$5/session



Candlelight Snowshoe Hike

Friday, January 11, Two shifts: Early - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Late - 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Candles and moonlight will illuminate the way as you explore the trails on snowshoes. A warm campfire awaits you as you finish the trail. 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 January 9, 2019

Snowshoe rental: \$3 per set

Friends \$3 Nonmembers \$5



Introduction to Snowshoeing

Saturday, January 12, 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. After a brief classroom time inside, we'll take to the trails for a snowshoe hike.

Registration and full payment required by Jan. 9.

Friends \$6, Nonmembers \$9

Frosty Frolic

Saturday, January 19, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Back for a third year, the Frosty Frolic encompasses everything we love about winter -- snow, country skiing, dogsledding and more! Again this year we will offer 1K and 2K snowshoe hikes. Receive a prize for finishing your loop. Bring your own lunch or purchase lunch during the event. We will have chili, soup, rolls/bread and desserts available to purchase. Dogsledding rides have sold out every year. We recommend reserving a spot in advance. Each Dogsled ride can accommodate two adults or one adult and two children. We do reserve spots for walk-ins and will try to accommodate as many rides as we can during the day, but we cannot guarantee that everyone will receive a ride. We will have snowshoes and skis to use and rental is included in the registration price, as well as the other activities (except the dogsledding).

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

Frosty Frolic

Saturday, January 19, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

Snowshoe Hike for Experienced Explorers 55 and older

Thursday, February 14, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike

Friday, February 15

Two shifts:

Early - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Late - 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

French Toast Breakfast

Saturday, March 9, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike

Friday, February 15, Two shifts:

Early - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Late - 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Candles and moonlight will illuminate the way as you explore the trails on snowshoes. A warm campfire awaits you as you finish the trail. 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 13, 2019

Snowshoe rental: \$3 per set

Friends \$3, Nonmembers \$5



Naturalist Notes

Hiding Under the Snow

It's likely that during the winters in northern Wisconsin, most people would consider much of the natural world to be dormant or in a resting state. But hiding under the snow and in our forests with acidic soils is a low growing shrub that is still green and still photosynthesizing.

Wintergreen is a woodland perennial that grows close to the ground, and in winter, is covered by a blanket of



Wintergreen found at Beaver Creek.
Photo by Ruth Forsgren

insulating snow. Snow cover allows the wintergreen to avoid the normal stress of being exposed to sub-zero temperatures and the drying winter winds. Each plant has 3 to 5 thick, waxy, oval shaped leaves that help to reduce water loss.

Wintergreen spreads by an underground stem (rhizome) that sends up new shoots. The plant blooms in late July to August and then produces tiny, red fruits.

Originally, natural wintergreen oil was used in flavoring and medicinal creams; however, now wintergreen is synthetically produced. It takes approximately one ton of leaves to produce one pound of pure oil. The leaves produce methyl salicylate which our bodies metabolize into salicylic acid, an NSAID pain reliever.

While you are out enjoying the snow-



covered winter wonderland this season, be aware that under your feet there may be a plant that is awake and surviving.

Ruth Forsgren, BCR Naturalist



Director's Report

Fall is a busy time at Beaver Creek Reserve. The bulk of our field trips occur in the fall, as well as the Celebrate the Chippewa River Conference and our Annual Meeting. It seems that, in many ways, we act like the leaves during this season of heightened activity; we flash very brightly in a short amount of time! With all these activities now behind us, we can prepare and focus on the season of THANKS and GIVING.

It is with that feeling of gratitude, that I reflect on another successful year at Beaver Creek Reserve:

- Construction of the new Butterfly Pavilion (see cover)
- Increased summer camp participation due to an ECASD and DPI contract expansion
- Planning for new obstacle course elements that we will add in 2019 thanks to a Mayo Clinic Health System Hometown Health Grant
- Upgrades to the Main Lodge including heating, air-conditioning, refinished floors, removal and the drop ceiling and new lighting thanks to Mark Wise.

These and other successes can be attributed to the hard work of dedicated staff and volunteers, as well as the additional donations, grants and contracts not previously included in the budget. For this and more I give a heartfelt THANK YOU!

Because of all the hard work and money invested in Beaver Creek Reserve we are able to provide additional ways to achieve our mission of *connecting people with nature*. In this season of giving, we ask that you consider making a donation to Beaver Creek Reserve to keep our increased momentum going. Our Endowment campaign is currently in full swing and will conclude at the end of December.

Thank you!

MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS

Quilting Club

2nd & 4th 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

The Bird Club meets monthly, March through November at various locations throughout the Chippewa Valley. Check the Beaver Creek website calendar for monthly details.

Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 p.m.
Steve Betchkal presents "Out There" detailing the birds of St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs.

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 kippenj@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. 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.

HOBBS OBSERVATORY

Come learn about the night sky from members of the Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society (CVAS) as they host public programs on the 3rd 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 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 on Saturday nights will resume in May!

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

Store Sales

Save 15% off these great items

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

- Stocking Stuffers
(anything under \$5)
- Bird Books

WINTER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HOLIDAY CRAFTING FOR KIDS

Sat., November 17, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

We are looking for people to help during the weeks leading up to the event to prep craft supplies and projects.

FROSTY FROLIC

Saturday, January 19, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Looking for awesome, friendly, hardworking volunteers to help out at our 3rd Annual Frosty Frolic! Last year was a big success, so naturally, we're trying to top it! Volunteers

are needed to serve food and beverages, fit snowshoes and skis, help with crafts, lead hikes, stoke fires and more!

SKI/SNOWSHOE GUIDES

Ongoing/When Trails are Open

Help visitors choose and fit skis/snowshoes and teach them how to use those goofy things you just strapped to their feet. Then you can send them out with good advice and directions to your favorite trail. Want to learn about skiing/snowshoeing yourself? This is the perfect chance, as training will be provided for all of our volunteer guides.

CANDLELIGHT SNOWSHOE HIKES

Friday, January 11 and February 15, 2019, 5:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Be a part of making a magical evening happen! You can help hikers choose and fit snowshoes, walk the trails to keep the candles glowing, and hand out hot chocolate to chilled bodies. If this is something you haven't done before, don't miss out!

Contact Katie at volunteer@beavercreekreserve.org to learn more about any of these opportunities.



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CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

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HOW DO YOU WINTER?



Holiday Crafting for Kids

Saturday, Nov. 17th 10 am-12 pm
Friends \$6/child, Nonmember \$8/child
(age 2-15)



FROSTY FROLIC

Saturday, January 19, 10 am-4:30 pm
Friends \$8/Adult, \$4/Child (age 2-15)
Nonmembers \$10/adult, \$6/Child (age 2-15)
Dogsledding \$25/loop

Candlelight Snowshoe Hikes

Friday, Jan. 11 & Friday, Feb. 15
Two Shifts/night: 6-7:30 pm & 7:30-9 pm
Friends \$3, Nonmembers \$5
Snowshoe rental \$3/pair



DON'T HIBERNATE. CELEBRATE.

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