

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

LEARN TO IDENTIFY TREES IN WINTER

Winter is a great time to get out and explore the outdoors. No ticks, mosquitoes, stinging nettle, or other nasties to hamper your enjoyment. It's also a great time to get to know your woods, especially the trees and shrubs that grow there. It's fun to find out what you have growing on your property, and knowing what's growing there may help you decide how you'd like to manage your woods in the future.

Most of us probably assume that you need leaves to properly identify a tree. While leaves certainly are a great tool for tree identification, there are many other features to consider. Like anything else, tree identification takes practice. But with this practice, you will quickly learn that trees in winter are just as easy, if not easier, to identify than those in summer! They can't run away from you, so take a closer look!

A quick glance at the branching pattern will narrow it down to a few species immediately. If the tree has opposite branching, where branches grow directly across from one another, it must be a maple, ash, buckeye, buckthorn, or dogwood. All other trees are alternately branched. Then you can examine

the bud shape, size, and color; leaf bundle scars - where the leaf attached to the stem (some patterns actually look like funny animal faces); bark color and texture; twig thickness, shape, and texture; leftover fruits or flower stems; and the tree's overall form. You can even scratch the bark off the twigs of some species and the smell will help with the ID! When you look at all of these features, and put the pieces together, it actually becomes quite easy to make a positive identification!

If you are interested in learning more about winter tree identification, consider attending my class that will be held on Saturday, February 3. While I can't guarantee that you will walk away knowing every tree in your woods, you will be given some tools, and a lot of hands-on identification practice, to take home with you. After that, it's up to you to get outside, explore, and discover.

Join me on Saturday, February 3rd (see page 5) and be ready to learn about your winter trees.

Questions?
 Email: jim@beavercreekreserve.org.

Jim Schwiebert, BCR Naturalist



Tag Alder Cones and Catkins.



CSC Update Pg. 2
 Start Them When They're Young



Director's Update Pg. 3
 North Campus Plan



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 Why don't Bird's Feet Freeze?



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CSC Update

Start Them When They Are Young

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NEWSLETTER

Editor..... Brianne Markin

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

You have likely noticed that Beaver Creek Reserve has been focusing our attention on our youngest members in recent years. The additions of the Fledgling Forest, the Nature Nooks, the Storybook Hiking Trail, the Little Free Library, and the Tadpole Toddler Camp have been geared towards connecting young children to nature. These additions to Beaver Creek may seem unrelated to citizen science, but in our own selfish ways, we hope these new areas will plant the seed for future generations of citizen scientists.

The Citizen Science Center is currently developing an addition to the popular Nature Nooks: a Family Nook. The Citizen Science Center has received a grant from Nordson Corporation and 3M to convert the underutilized outdoor amphitheater

area into a safe place to play for parents and their little ones. The main focus of this area is to provide an environment for little kids to cultivate their imagination and gain a positive attitude towards nature. The Family Nook will also provide an area for families to picnic and engage with other families.

Proposed ideas for the Family Nook are for the birth to 3 year old age group and include infant swings, toddler size picnic tables, natural building blocks, a sandbox, and a teeter-totter.

We hope to have the new Family Nook open in Summer 2018. Please watch our website and check our newsletter for updates. Thank you to Nordson Corporation and 3M for their support.

Jeanette Kelly, CSC Director



Left: Nature Nuts Enjoying the nooks during summer camp. Photo by Ruth Forsgren. Right: The Natures Symphony is a big hit with all ages. Pictured Jameson Markin age 9, and Josie Markin, age 3.



Photos by Ruth Forsgren



HOLIDAY CRAFTING FOR KIDS 2017

Holiday Crafting for Kids in one of our favorite programs of the year! Thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered to make this such a successful day.



ECLIPSE Students from UW Eau Claire volunteered with crafting and reading nature-themed, winter books to kids. Photo by Ruth Forsgren



Director's Report

PARKING LOT UPDATE AND ANNUAL MEETING

Winter is a great time to reflect and plan for the coming year. Our dedicated volunteers are busy planting seeds for the spring Native Plant Sale. Our staff is putting together the final details for our second Frosty Frolic, eagerly waiting for the maple syrup to run, planning for our 32nd French Toast Breakfast in March, and looking for new program ideas and camp games for the busy summer season.

After completing our solar project and parking lot in 2017, we are now continuing our campus planning for the North side of Hwy K or the "North Campus," as we have been referring to it. We held a stakeholder meeting in November to bring together staff, board members, friends members, and even camp renters to provide feedback on what improvements could be made. Beaver Creek Reserve has changed and evolved throughout the years. Comments indicated that there are certain areas on the North Campus of Beaver Creek that still operate smoothly, while others

could use changes and improvements to enhance visitor experiences. Pedestrian safety, lighting options that do not adversely affect the observatory, the proposed Wildlands school expansion, maintenance needs, and parking were some of the considerations that the group discussed.

It was really eye-opening for all attendees to see the various perspectives and needs of the many users and visitors to Beaver Creek Reserve. The stakeholders in attendance were divided into two groups and tasked to come up with an ideal campus that addressed the needs listed above. Ayres and Associates led the meeting and will be creating a campus plan with continued input from our staff and board. It will then fall to the board to create a funding and implementation plan based on the recommendations set forth in the campus plan. As we move through this process, we will continue to keep our members and stakeholders up to date.

In addition, our staff is moving

forward on the next phases of our technology improvement plan which, as you may remember from a previous issue of Woodprints, is thanks to a large donation from Don and Leatrice Mathison. These technology improvements will focus on our website and its integrated database. By consolidating multiple databases that contain our program registration, membership, volunteer, and donation histories, we will not only create efficiencies for our staff by eliminating redundancy in tasks, but will make for a more seamless visitor experience. While these may not be the most exciting improvements for staff to work on, the improved work flow, complete data, and reporting capabilities will allow for more time in the future to do the really important work of "connecting people with nature."

Erik Keisler, Executive Director



Candlelight Snowshoe Hikes

February 2

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

Friends \$3, Nonmembers \$5

\$3 to rent snowshoes



UPCOMING

programs



Snowshoe Hike for Experienced Explorers (55 and older)

Three Sessions – Sign up for one, or all three:

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

Thursday, February 8, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 8, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wise Nature Center

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. Participants should expect a moderately strenuous outing, over uneven terrain, with a one mile hike. If walking is difficult for you or you have balance issues, you may want to pass on this

offering. Wear your winter clothes and boots; snowshoes and instruction will be provided. If needed, snowshoe rental rates are \$3 per pair.

Registration and full payment required by Jan. 9, Feb. 6, and Mar. 6.

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

Introduction to Snowshoeing

Two Time Options:

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

Wise Nature Center

Have you ever wanted to try snowshoeing but weren't sure where to begin? Come 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.

The snowshoe rental fee is included in the program cost. Be sure to indicate how many children (recommended age 8 years or older), and adults are in your party.

Registration and full payment required by Jan. 10.

Friends \$6 **Nonmembers \$9**

Winter Bird Banding Demo

Saturday, Jan 20, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Wise Nature 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.

FREE

Register Today

Online:

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.

JANUARY

Snowshoe Hike for Experienced Explorers (55 and older)

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

Introduction to Snowshoeing

Two Time Options:

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

Winter Bird Banding Demo

Saturday, Jan 20, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

The Frosty Frolic

Saturday, January 20, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike

Friday, February 2

Two shifts: First shift 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Second Shift 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Tree and Shrub ID in Winter

Two separate classes

Saturday, February 3, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., or 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Snowshoe Hike for Experienced Explorers (55 and older)

Thursday, February 8, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

"Who's Been Here?" Winter Tracking for Kids

Two Time Options:

Saturday, February 17, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., or 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.



The Frosty Frolic

Saturday, January 20, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Back by popular demand for a second year! Beaver Creek's Frosty Frolic features a full day of fun in the snow! Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, dogsledding, crafts, coloring contest (see insert) cozy fires, hot chocolate and much more!

Advanced Tickets

Friends: Adults \$6, Kids \$4

Nonmembers: Adults \$8, Kids \$6

At the door:

Dogsledding (2 adults or 1 adult and two children) ¼ mile loop. \$20 per ride (not per person)



SAVE THE DATE

Maple Syrup Saturday

Saturday, March 3, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Snowshoe Hike for Experienced Explorers (55 and older)

Thursday, March 8, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

French Toast Breakfast

Saturday, March 10, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Owl Prowl

Tuesday, March 20, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.



Candlelight Snowshoe Hike

Friday, February 2

Two shifts:

First shift 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Second Shift 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Wise Nature Center

Candles and moonlight will illuminate the way as you explore the trails on snowshoes. A warm campfire awaits you as you finish the trail. Snowshoes will be available to rent for one of the two shifts, either 6 until 7:30 p.m. or 7:30 until 9 p.m. If you have your own snowshoes, you may register for either session. Please be sure to indicate how many children and adults are in your party, and the number of snowshoe rentals, adult and youth that are needed - a snowshoe sizing guide is available for online registrations. Please note that rental equipment is limited and may sell out. Prices for snowshoes and program are per person. If the weather does not provide enough snow to allow for safe snowshoeing, then you will be able to hike the trails. This decision will be made by the Reserve staff.

Registration and full payment due by January 31, 2018

Snowshoe rental: \$3 per set

Friends \$3

Nonmembers \$5



Tree and Shrub ID in Winter

Two separate classes

Saturday, February 3, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., or 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Wise Nature Center

Leaves are one of the biggest clues for tree and shrub identification. So what do you do when there are no leaves? Winter offers a special time to appreciate trees and shrubs in a totally different way. This program will point out unique bud and bark characteristics of many of our native trees and shrubs, making identification possible even in winter! A power-point and a hands-on session inside will be followed by an outdoor hike around the Reserve to apply what we learned inside. Some easy tips and a simple winter tree and bark key will be provided for participants to take home. Bring warm clothes and boots along for the outdoor portion of the program.

Registration and full payment required by Jan. 31.

Friends \$6

Nonmembers \$9

“Who’s Been Here?” Winter Tracking for Kids

Two Time Options:

Saturday, February 17, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., or 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Wise Nature Center

Did you ever go out in the morning and notice all the tracks under the birdfeeder or next to the shrub and wonder who had been there? Kids can come to this program and learn some of the detective work it takes to figure out the answers. If conditions allow, children will take a short walk outdoors, guided by a naturalist, to look for tracks and identify who may have passed that way. Class includes making a plaster cast of a wild animal track to take home. Please bring boots, gloves and warm clothing for outdoor exploration! Recommended for kids 8 and up.

Registration and full payment required by Feb. 14.

Friends \$7 (one chaperone is free)

Nonmembers \$10 (one chaperone is free)



Naturalist Notes

Why Don't Bird Feet Freeze in Winter?



Photo by Kristi Schumacher

Ever wonder why a bird's feet don't freeze in the winter time? They aren't exactly well insulated. Bird feet are mostly sinew, bone, skin, and not much else, so little blood flows into the feet in the first place. And in winter, at sub-freezing temperatures, a fine network of interlaced veins and arteries helps to keep their feet from freezing. The cold blood is carried from the feet through the veins back to the heart and is warmed by the adjoining arteries, which means the blood is warmed back up before it even reaches the heart. The feet are kept just warm enough to keep them from freezing, and very little heat is lost. Also, why don't their little feet freeze to the metal, ice, and snow-covered perches they sit on? Not to worry! Bird feet have no sweat glands, so there is no danger of feet freezing to a perch!

Jim Schwiebert, BCR Naturalist

Flakey Factoids

Ruth Forsgren, BCR Naturalist

❄️ Did you know that just like diamonds and rubies, snow is actually a mineral? According to the National Snow and Ice Center, a mineral is a naturally occurring solid that is inorganically formed and has a definite chemical composition.

❄️ Snowflakes are 6-sided crystals. The water vapor in a cloud joins a tiny dust particle from volcanic ash, pollen, or meteorites. As the water vapor freezes, the water molecules bond together in a specific way leading to the hexagonal shape.

❄️ It is estimated that between 1/2 to 2/3 of the world's population has never seen snow.

❄️ Snowflakes are colorless. The snow crystals are translucent and reflect all color waves equally which produces the white color that we see. Deep snow can appear blue because as light is reflected over and over again by all the snow crystals, some of the red waves are absorbed thus allowing blue waves to reflect back to our eye.

❄️ In 1988, a scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO found 2 identical snowflakes from a snow sample taken right here in Wisconsin.

Winter and Spring Volunteer Opportunities

SKI/SNOWSHOE GUIDES

Cross country skiing and snowshoeing can feel overwhelming to a beginner. YOU can make that process a little friendlier by helping Beaver Creek visitors choose and fit skis/snowshoes and teaching them how to use those goofy things they 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 HIKE

Be a part of making a magical evening happen. On Friday, February 2nd you can help hikers choose and fit snowshoes, walk the trails to keep the candles glowing, and hand out hot chocolate to chilly bodies. If this is something you haven't done before, don't miss out! If you've seen it before, then help us make it a terrific experience for those who have never participated.

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.

January 9 - Carol and Jerry Knabe
"Birds of Brazil"

Chippewa Valley

Store Sales

Save 15% off these
great items

January

- Cookie Cutters
- Bird Feeders
- Children's Books

February

- Snow Related Items
- Science Kits
- Coloring Books

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.

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 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 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 or www.beavercreekreserve.org



Winter and Spring Volunteer Opportunities Cont.

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 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Dozens of volunteers are needed starting Friday, March 9th. We need cooks, servers, cleaners, parkers, crafters, ticket sellers and much more!

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



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

Return Service Requested

**Non-Profit Org
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 Eau Claire, WI 54701**




FROSTY FROLIC

January 20, 10 a.m - 4 p.m.

Dogsledding • Snowshoeing • Cross-Country Skiing • Resource Tables • Kids Activities • Hot Chocolate • Much More!



Friends:
 \$10 Adults
 \$6 Kids (2-15)

Nonmembers:
 \$12 Adults
 \$7 Kids (2-15)

Dogsledding \$20 per 1/4 Mile Loop




FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST



**Saturday, March 10
 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

- Maple Syrup Programming
- CV Water Colorists Open House
- Kids Activities & Crafts
- Citizen Science Center Open House
- Visit with BCR Critters

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

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

