

FRIENDS OF RETZER NATURE CENTER  
FALL WRAP-UP - 2016  
WINTER NEWSLETTER 2016-17

Fall, a time when the trees lose their green leaf color and explode into every shade of red, orange, yellow and brown. Viewing this change of season is one of the fun events of September, October and even into November. Also the warm sun of summer starts heading further south, the days get shorter, and cooler. What a wonderful Fall we had this year and what wonderful times we had on the trails of Retzer. Here is a recap on two of our annual events that are popular at Retzer

*Friends of Retzer Sponsored Apple Harvest Festival*

As usual, Apple Harvest Fest was held on the third Saturday in September. (Mark your Calendar for next year.) We had a beautiful day with attendance estimated over 4,000. In addition to the vendors, food, children's area, silent auction, apples of many varieties, pies, taffy apples, planetarium shows, hayrides, hikes, live music, children's reading corner, and live animals, we had a new special program called passport. The passport game started at the reading corner where each person received a blank passport and were directed to visit various stations around the Retzer grounds. At each station they learned something about nature and then had their passport stamped. When they completed visiting all the stations, they returned to the final station where they received a special reward. Every one of the stations were busy from start (10 AM) to finish (3 PM). It was a big hit for all participants. We are hoping to expand on this introduction to the many natural areas and the beauty of the Retzer Nature Center next year.

*Friends Sponsored 2016 Howl-O-Ween*

The Friends of Retzer sponsored another successful non-scary Howl-O-Ween event on the night of October 14<sup>th</sup>. The weather was cool and clear with a full moon. An estimated 1000 persons did the wolf pup, mystery, bat and/or owl hikes. We had many volunteers to lead or play the parts of the animals. Many stories were told by the leaders and by the animals about their lives at Retzer. There were games, crafts, a bonfire, and dancing to the DJ music. Many of the children and parents came in wonderful costumes. Retzer was properly decorated for a wonderful, fun night.

We are sorry to announce that our Annual Photo Contest had to be canceled this year due to a lack of contributing photographs.

UPCOMING WINTER EVENTS

*Jan-Boree, Sunday Jan. 22, 2017*

While Jan-Boree is a three day event, the last day is at Retzer Nature Center. There will be indoor games and projects. Retzer Naturalists will lead hikes and weather permitting, these hikes may be on snowshoes. Find the tracks of animals who are looking for meals in this winter environment. See if you can guess whose tracks they are.

*Friends Sponsored Wild Winter Nights, Feb. 11, 2017*

Join us around the campfire for snacks and songs. Go on snowshoes to check out the trails. If you listen you may hear owls calling in the night. There will be outdoor observations of the night sky as well as indoor Planetarium programs during the course of the evening. Dress for outdoors.

### Membership System Update

The Friends Board has been working on a new membership system. As a result of developing and refining the system we have been delayed in sending some members renewal notices. We are very close to completing the new system, but request your help to catch up. If you check your membership card it should have your "valid until" date indicated. If your card is expired, we ask that you send in your renewal. You can go on line to <http://friendsofretzer.org>, select join/renew and follow the instructions. You can also mail your renewal to Friends of Retzer, S14W28167 Madison St., Waukesha, 53188. If you are visiting Retzer you can renew at the front desk with check, cash or credit card. As a reminder membership for an individual is \$20, Family \$25, or \$50 and up for donation/membership. Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful Nature Center. Please remember to show your membership card when attending the Friends sponsored events and you will receive free entrance. This Newsletter may also have an expiration date before with your address.

Mark your Calendars for the Friends of Retzer Annual Meeting on April 24, 2017. We are in need of a replacements for two board members who are retiring. If anyone is interested, please let us know.

The second interest meeting for the planned Alaska Trip will be held at Retzer on December 5, 2016 at 6:30 PM. The trip will be running in June. Come to find out more details.

As we look forward to 2017 and beyond, we are asking our members to send us a wish list of ideas, projects, and events you may want to see happen at Retzer for the coming years. If you have attended an event or saw an idea at another park, or in your travels, we would like to hear about it and see what we can do to make it happen here at Retzer. Remember, you are a valued part of Retzer and we look forward to seeing you at events or on the trails. I can't wait to see what you come up with! Email your ideas to [Jerry@friendsofretzer.org](mailto:Jerry@friendsofretzer.org) or to [Elaine@friendsofretzer.org](mailto:Elaine@friendsofretzer.org).

I wish to thank Jerry Strom and Mary Kay Kelly (both members of the Friends Board) for submitting articles to the Newsletter.

Hope to see you at one of these events or just come out to enjoy the beauty of Retzer in Fall and Winter. Happy Trails.

Elaine Haberichter