



FRIENDS *of* Retzer

FRIENDS OF RETZER NATURE CENTER

WINTER 2017-18 NEWSLETTER

Summary of Fall Activities

Apple Harvest Festival: The annual Friends of Retzer Apple Harvest Festival was held on Saturday, September 23rd. The day was unusually warm, which seemed to limit participation in some event activities, such as the hayrides. Nevertheless, the county sponsored beer garden enjoyed its successful debut, and our Passport for Adventure stops featured use of many newly purchased pieces of field monitoring equipment. All told, we collectively netted over \$900 in proceeds from our silent auction, used book sale, booth sales, reading corner, and hayrides. Thanks for your support!

Howl-O-Ween: Our second sponsored fall event was held on Friday, October 13th, and included guided night hikes, craft activities, games, s'more bar, and shows in the newly upgraded and dedicated Charles Horwitz Planetarium. A sizeable costumed crowd enjoyed the family event.

Upcoming Winter Events

Waukesha Janboree: Scheduled for Sunday, January 28th. Join us at Retzer for a day of trail hiking, snowshoeing, indoor games and crafts. And don't miss the new high tech planetarium.

Wild Winter Night: Scheduled for Saturday, February 10th, 6-9pm. Once again, join us for an evening of hiking, snowshoeing and indoor activities, plus a campfire and s'mores outside.

Out of Town – Out of Sight! Retzer Natural History Tours

Central America -- Our two-week 2018 natural history trip to Panama and Costa Rica is now fully booked for this coming February, and a group of 18 participants is meeting monthly to prepare for the venture. The itinerary encompasses five nights in Panama and nine nights in Costa Rica. Highlights will include tours of the Panama Canal and an indigenous tribal village in Panama, followed by tours of Wilson Tropical Botanical Gardens, Manuel Antonio National Park, Arenal Volcano National Park, Rincon de la Vieja National Park, Carara National Park, and other ecotourism destinations in Costa Rica.

Alaska and the Yukon -- Meanwhile, our two-week trip to Alaska is tentatively planned for early June of 2018, and will build off the itinerary success of last summer's trek to the Northwest. Itinerary highlights will include visits to several Alaskan national parks (Denali NP, Kenai Fjords NP, Sitka NHP and Skagway NHP), ferry travel through the state's scenic Inside Passage, coach travel into central Alaska and the Yukon, and overnights in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. The estimated all-inclusive cost of the trip (including flights, gratuities, park fees and a daily meal allowance) is \$3900.

Note: An INFORMATION SESSION for the upcoming Alaska-Yukon trip is scheduled for MONDAY, JANUARY 22nd at 6:30pm at RETZER. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending if you want to know more about the venture. You can also contact tour leader David Block at David@FriendsofRetzer.org if you have any inquiries before this formal meeting.

Friends of Retzer Nature Center Survey

The Friends of Retzer Nature Center would like feedback from you regarding communication and membership benefits as well as elicit volunteer help in some upcoming projects and events throughout the year. We hope that you would be willing to help us out by completing the following electronic survey: <https://tinyurl.com/FriendsSurvey17>. The survey will be open for feedback until **January 10th, 2018**. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any additional questions. Thanks for your help!

Membership Renewal

If you need to renew your Friends of Retzer membership, you can do so either by mailing a check to the Nature Center, stopping by at the front desk, or paying via our new website at: www.FriendsofRetzer.org. Membership helps us support vital projects and programs at the Nature Center, and provides discount benefits to those on the membership list. Many thanks!

Membership Levels:

- \$ 20.00 Hummingbird (Individual)
- \$ 25.00 Robin (Family)
- \$ 50.00 Cardinal (Donor)
- \$ 75.00 Owl (Donor)
- \$ 100+ Eagle (Donor)