



# FRIENDS *of Retzer*

## FRIENDS OF RETZER NATURE CENTER

### SUMMER-FALL, 2018 NEWSLETTER

#### Upcoming Fall Activities

After a busy summer of *Wee Wonders* hikes to the pond, *Retzer Rangers* glacial landscape talks, citizen science butterfly counts, morning bird hikes, and planetarium shows, the Retzer staff and Friends naturalists are now preparing for fall. Two of our sponsored events are coming up soon:

*Apple Harvest Festival* -- Retzer's premier event will be held on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9am until 5pm. Activities will include the popular Passport Expedition, craft beer garden, vendor booths, live music by Apple Jam, and of course, lots of apples and apple products. Once again, the Friends will be organizing hayrides, children's games and crafts, a used book sale, a children's Reading Corner, and a silent auction. Your membership card gets your car in for free.

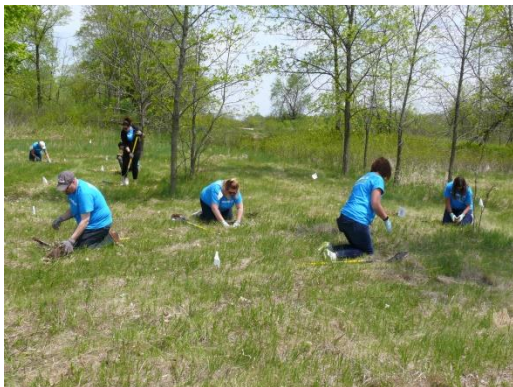
*Howl-O-Ween* -- Our second fall event will be held on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, and will include guided night hikes, craft activities, games, and planetarium shows. Admission is free with your membership. Pumpkins will be waiting for you in the Children's Garden. Come in a costume if you'd like. There's indoor and outdoor fun for all ages.

#### Summary of Summer Activities

*Earth Day Celebration* -- Retzer Nature Center hosted several fine environmental education activities during this past spring's Earth Week. The Earth Day Celebration Finale on April 28<sup>th</sup> featured a dozen indoor and outdoor Discovery Station activities for families to enjoy, plus the grand public opening of the newly renovated Learning Center. Kids were wowed by the colorful, hands-on displays in the recycling area, and over 400 visitors attended shows in the planetarium.



*Kohls Volunteers Lend a Hand* – Many thanks to the “Kohls Cares” volunteers for their eager assistance and helping hands with several spring and summer work projects at various Waukesha County parks. In April, a dozen volunteers did trail wood chipping and outdoor painting at Retzer Nature Center. In May, over three dozen more planted, watered and fenced in 500 oak tree saplings at Menomonee County Park. And in June, another two dozen painted barn boards and cleared buckthorn and garlic mustard at Naga-waukee Park. Amazing!



*(above) Park Manager Jason Steele and Conservation Biologist Julia Robson organized the Kohls Cares tree planting activity at Menomonee Park in May. (next page) Kohls volunteers painted new barn boards, pulled garlic mustard, and cleared buckthorn at Naga-Waukee Park in June.*



*Memorial Gathering in Honor of Jerry Schwarzmeier* -- Over fifty family members and friends gathered at Retzer on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> to honor the life of Jerry Schwarzmeier, whose life as a naturalist and career at Retzer impacted the life of countless acquaintances and colleagues. The event included a slide presentation on his life, lots of storytelling, and the ceremonial planting of a burr oak in the midst of the Vista Prairie restoration site he worked so passionately to establish. MK Kelly commented at the tree planting site: "Children will gather in the shade of this tree for years to come and learn about Jerry's prairie surrounding them."



*Alaska and Yukon Natural History Tour* -- Our two week Friends' trip to Alaska this past June was a memorable one. Highlights included visits to several national parks (Denali NP, Kenai Fjords NP, Sitka NHP, Skagway NHP, and Kluane NP), ferry travel through the state's scenic Inside Passage, minibus travel through the Yukon and central Alaska, and overnight stays in Sitka, Juneau, Skagway, Whitehorse, Fairbanks and Seward. The trip was organized and led by board member David Block.

*(group photos on next page) Posing on the Malaspina ferry on the Inside Passage, at Exit Glacier in Kenai Fjords Nat Pk, at a Tlingit totem pole in Sitka Nat Hist Pk, and at the Alyeska pipeline near Fairbanks. (feature photos on next page) A grizzly mom and her cubs carefully cross the Alcan Highway in Kluane Nat Pk, a sockeye salmon run overwhelms a coastal creek, a sea otter feasts on salmon scraps, a pod of orcas patrols Resurrection Bay near Seward, and young caribou cross a snowpack at Denali Nat Pk.*





*Larry Kascht Retires* – At the Friends’ annual meeting in April, honored guest Larry Kascht gave his final formal presentation as our nature center’s full-time director. He shared memories, stories, insights and highlights of a career at Retzer which spanned nearly three decades. In July, a formal retirement reception was held in his honor. (read more on Larry in our next newsletter)

*Preparing for an Earth Week hike*

*Embracing his office artifacts*

*Exploring Costa Rica’s paramo*



*Posing with Friends’ board member MK Kelly, fellow retiree Duane Grimm, and wife Jackie at retirement reception*



## 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](http://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)

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