



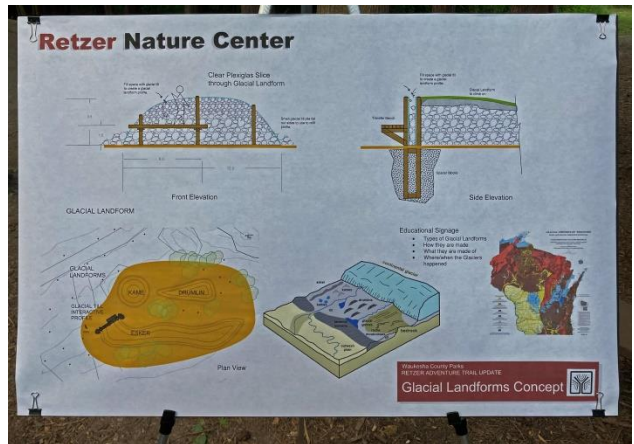
FRIENDS *of Retzer*

FRIENDS OF RETZER NATURE CENTER

FALL, 2020 NEWSLETTER

Recent Summer Activity

FRIENDS' BOARD UPDATE: In addition to implementing changes to the organization's bylaws which will enable us to hold official meetings online (if necessary) in the future, the Board continued to address the "new norm" in programming at the nature center given the prognosis for extended pandemic restrictions. Despite the cancellation of public school field trips to Retzer for the remainder of the year, Supervisor Janet Barthel has shared that onsite educational services for home schoolers, scouts, and other small groups will continue this fall. Also this summer, the Board was granted a walking tour of Retzer's new *Adventure Trail* site by the county's Senior Landscape Architect, Jason Wilke. Thanks to matching fund support by the Friends of Retzer and the Waukesha Rotary Club, the initial project phase will commence with paving of the trail loop and handicap accessibility to the new creekside boardwalk.



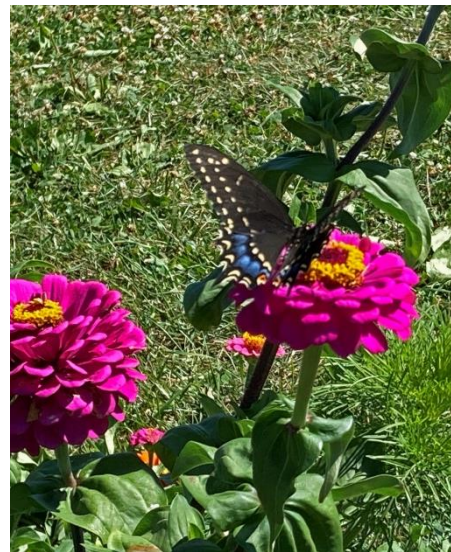
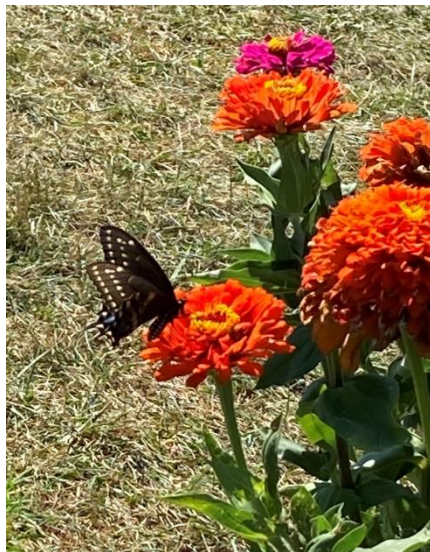
(Socially distanced... Jason and Janet flank the Preliminary Master Plan for the proposed Adventure Trail. Activity stations will educate children about butterflies, spiders, mushrooms, nuts and seeds, native vegetation, and the region's glacial heritage.)

CHILDREN'S GARDEN: The Children's Garden looks wonderful this year! This is due to a dedicated group of volunteers who have weeded and watered it regularly throughout the summer, and to the generous donation of over 30 prairie plants from Johnson's Nursery. The prairie plants make up a pollinator garden which has attracted many butterflies and bees. The other half of the garden contains vegetables as well as a sensory area with plants that smell and feel different to the touch. These include scented geraniums, silver mound, and popcorn plants (whose leaves really smell like popcorn!). A large raised bed contains squash, pumpkin and decorative gourd vines. Volunteers planted the floral front border from seed, and it is very

impressive, attracting butterflies, bees... and photographers. The Friends help pay for many of the plants, seeds and straw bedding. If you haven't visited the garden, stop out and see it before summer transitions to fall. You won't be disappointed.



(Nasturtiums, popcorn plants, and prairie plants offer an explosion of color; the floral edge attracts swallowtails. Many thanks to Lyle Drier for her oversight of the garden and contribution to this newsletter entry.)



Regarding Fall Programs at Retzer

APPLE HARVEST FESTIVAL: *cancelled... with a pledge to return in 2021*

HOWL-O-WEEN: *cancelled, with a virtual "Howl at Home" activity planned in October, featuring bats and spiders and other cool critters (check out the Retzer Nature Center website for more details)*

SCIENCE FEST: *cancelled, but substituted by a virtual statewide meeting October 15-18 (check out www.wisconsinsciencefest.org for more information)*

CENTRAL AMERICA NATURAL HISTORY TOURS: *Though trips to Cuba (April), Ecuador (May), and Costa Rica (August) were cancelled due to coronavirus travel restrictions, hope springs eternal for resurrection of the Cuba venture in spring/2021...*

But wait, all is not lost...

Despite the pandemic and all the aforementioned cancellations, we continue to look for ways this fall to remain committed to the nature center's mission *plus* connected together as Friends of Retzer. To this end, we have planned and placed on the front burner a special event designed solely for our membership. Though final scheduling awaits a positive COVID-19 outlook, we hope to lock in a safe date before the 2020 year becomes mere hindsight. So... stay tuned for a future mailing regarding the event date and related reservation information. Meanwhile, read below what we have in store:

WHAT? "A Night of Nostalgia"

WHEN? (yet to be determined) a Friday or Saturday date, 5:30pm – 9:30pm

WHERE? Retzer Nature Center's large meeting room (and possible outdoor pavilion use), with adherence to social distancing and other safety protocols

SESSION ONE: 5:30-7:30pm Celebrating our international trip experiences

Can you believe it? Over 200 people have participated in 12 Friends' sponsored international natural history tours since 2012! Our trips have featured some of the best ecological sites in Costa Rica, Panama, Belize, Cuba, and Alaska/Yukon. Join us for an informal sharing of stories and a nostalgic sampling of slides, including a "where did we see this?" trivia contest.

SESSION TWO: 7:30-9:30pm Recalling the good ol' days via vintage music

Can you also believe it? Our own Larry Kascht, now retired as the nature center's Naturalist Supervisor, has resurrected his old two-person 60's rock group – "The Time Travelers: Just Arrived from 1969". Larry and Bill have two full sets of memorable oldies to entertain us with during this final session. Good luck competing in the "who sang it?" trivia contest.

Refreshments will be safely served: Individual canned and bottled non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages, plus individually wrapped snack and dessert items.

Membership Renewal Reminder

As always, if you need to renew your Friends of Retzer membership, you can do so as follows: a) mail a check to Retzer Nature Center; b) stop at the center's front desk; or c) pay online via our website: www.FriendsofRetzer.org. Your membership truly helps support vital projects and programs at the Nature Center, and provides discount benefits for everyone on the list. Thanks!

Membership Levels: \$ 30.00 "Individual" \$ 40.00 "Family" \$ 50.00 "Contributor"
 \$ 75.00 "Supporter" \$ 100.00 "Sustainer" \$ 250.00 "Benefactor"

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