



FRIENDS *of Retzer*

FRIENDS OF RETZER NATURE CENTER

SPRING, 2021 NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS BOARD UPDATE: Our Board has moved to schedule our annual membership meeting via Zoom on Monday evening, April 26th. The electronic meeting will formally begin at 6:30pm, but the Zoom session will open at 6pm for those who would like to socialize informally beforehand. If you are interested in attending, please respond to the following link: [click here](#) . (If you cannot access this link, please reply to Board member Almuth Soffee (Soffee@wi.rr.com) and let her know you'd like log-in access to the meeting.)

Our Friends-only *Night of Nostalgia* event, featuring a memorable celebration of past Central America and Alaska natural history tours plus a vintage oldies rock performance by Larry Kascht and “The Time Travelers – Just Arrived From 1969,” is still on hold pending a pandemic-safe scheduling date. (Note: as we impatiently await that day, we're reminded that the oldies group must time-travel 52 years just to join us.)

Recent Winter Activity

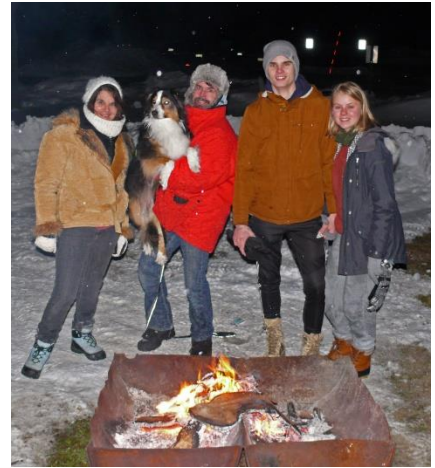
- As part of Waukesha's **2021 JanBoree**, Retzer Nature Center hosted self-guided trail hikes, a scavenger hunt and snowshoeing on Saturday, January 16th. Retzer naturalists prepared a self-guided “Winter Wildlife Exploration” hike and “Once Upon a Time” scavenger hunt. Visitors were treated to a mild day and a nice snow base – perfect for trail hiking and snowshoeing. Planetarium shows also provided Covid-safe indoor activity. Over 250 people preregistered for the day's activities.



Left: Julie, Rachel and Scott, visitors from Cedarburg and Lake Mills, slide son John down into the woods

Right: John, Jean and Dave, visitors from Pewaukee and Lannon, enjoy snowshoeing along the prairie trail

- Sponsored annually by the Friends of Retzer, this year's **Wild Winter Night** event was hosted at two county parks, Muskego Park on Friday, February 19th and Menomonee Park on Friday, February 26th. To address pandemic meeting size and spacing protocols, each site required participant pre-registration. The big draw was an evening candlelight hike, capped with warm campfires and hot drinks at the trail end. Brutal temperatures limited participant numbers in Muskego, but mild weather on the latter date drew over 320 hikers.



Left: A local family begins their candlelight hike

Middle: Diana and her Mama D's Coffee Shop crew provide hot drinks and snacks

Right: Shiloh the dog enjoys campfire time with his human friends

Upcoming Programs at Retzer

- **Earth Week** activities in April will spotlight weekend volunteer service projects at every county park, with focus on resource sustainability and control of garlic mustard and other invasive plants. An Earth Day candlelight hike is scheduled at Retzer Nature Center on Thursday evening, April 22nd, from 7:00-8:30pm. Pre-registration is requested so that participants can be staggered along the one-mile trail. Then on Saturday morning, April 24th, from 9:00 to noon, "Mission Possible" volunteer work projects are planned for Retzer and other Waukesha County park sites. Pre-registration is also requested. Check out www.waukeshacounty.gov/retzerevents for more regarding Earth Week event registration.
- The *Green Alliance Sustainability Fair* will be held outdoors at Retzer on Saturday, August 28th. Look for more details in our next newsletter.
- Good news! *Apple Harvest Festival* is tentatively a "go" for Saturday, September 18th, and the fall *Howl-O-Ween* event is tentatively set for Friday, October 22nd. Once again, please look for more details in our next newsletter. Meanwhile, keep your fingers crossed for good news regarding vaccination success in our state and our long awaited return to normal, yet safe, public gatherings.
- Progress on the Discovery Trail continues, with a late summer completion date envisioned. Educational "pods" are being developed along the trail. Meanwhile, boardwalk planks await more donor messages. (Call 262-875-9180 to make a donation)

“Where Were They Taken?”

Many of you have travelled to Central America on one of our past Friends sponsored natural history tours. The following photos were taken in **Panama** during the 2015 and 2016 trips. Do you know of what they are and where they were taken? *(answers are posted at the end of this newsletter)*



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"

*1 – Volcanic Mt. Baru, Panama's tallest peak 2 – Tamarin monkey visits our tour boat, Gatun Lake
3 – Approaching Embera tribal village, Chagres National Park 4 – Traditional Embera home, Chagres Nat. Park
5 – Old Town Panama City, Simon Bolivar statue; St. Francis of Assisi Church 6 – Miraflores Lock, Panama Canal Zone
7 – Old Town Panama City, Casablanca Hotel 8 – Portobelo, historic Spanish fort on Caribbean coast
9 – Embera families dancing, Chagres National Park 10 – Old Town Panama City, traditional dancers at Diablicos
11 – Gatun Lake container ship, Panama Canal Zone 12 – Tropical botanical gardens, Boquette town
(all photos taken by David Block)*

newsletter prepared by: David Block, Vice President David@FriendsofRetzer.org

RETZER IN WINTER: Fresh snow blankets the banks along Retzer Creek as it flows past the boardwalk

