



# FRIENDS *of Retzer*

## FRIENDS OF RETZER NATURE CENTER

### SUMMER, 2021 NEWSLETTER

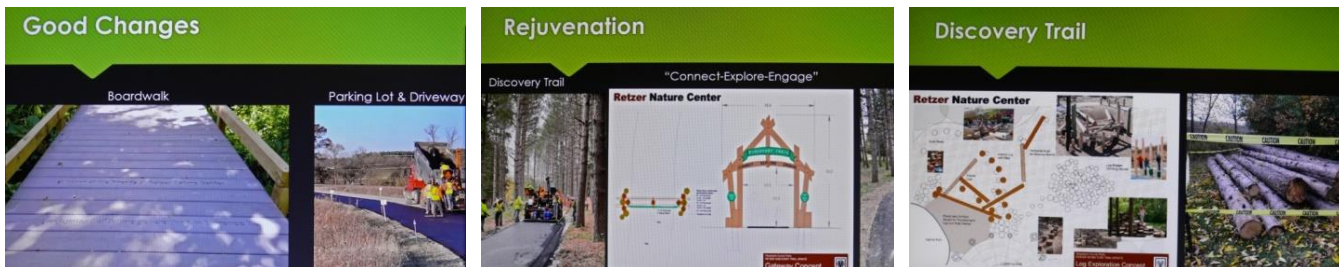
#### **FRIENDS BOARD UPDATE:**

Our annual meeting was held via Zoom on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Outgoing President Elaine Haberichter opened the meeting by welcoming all who were able to attend, and shared everyone’s wish that we might return to our traditional chili dinner and membership gathering next April. Kathy Arts read the minutes from our last annual meeting, Lyle Drier gave the Treasurer’s report, Elaine gave the President’s report, and Retzer Nature Center Supervisor Janet Barthel gave an update report on facility changes over the past year (including boardwalk completion and driveway paving), as well as ongoing changes during the current year (such as rejuvenation of the former Adventure Trail into a new Discovery Trail which, when completed, will feature several “connect-explore-engage” learning stations). At the end of the full membership meeting, several current board members were re-elected to new three-year year terms. And at the following Board meeting, Larry Kascht was elected as our new Friends president.



*A sampling of the Zoom meeting gallery*

*Janet Barthel’s talk included visuals of recent nature center improvements and ongoing site enhancements.*



## Recent Spring-Summer Activity

- **Earth Week** activities in April included weekend “Mission Possible” 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 was held at Retzer Nature Center on Thursday evening, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and attracted nearly a hundred participants. On Saturday morning, April 24<sup>th</sup>, twenty pre-registered volunteer groups helped clear garlic mustard from the Retzer grounds.



*left: A Waukesha family enjoys their Earth Day Candlelight Hike at Retzer; nearly a hundred residents participated in the evening event. right: Jaclyn Jenks and Josie Peck supervised the Saturday morning “Mission Possible” service project targeting garlic mustard removal from the nature center grounds; 20 groups participated. below: a family from Big Bend assisted Jaclyn in harvesting the invasive weed near the boardwalk.*



Kohl’s Cares Arbor Day Outing at Menomonee County Park – On April 30<sup>th</sup>, over 60 volunteers joined Conservation Biologist Julia Robson and Natural Land Management Assistant Samantha Kiser on in planting three dozen potted trees and countless saplings. The open field will be forested in beech, oak, hickory, silver maple, sycamore, hazelnut, dogwood, witch hazel, and other species in the years to come.



*(left) Johnson’s Nursery horticulturist Rob Dummert demonstrates the proper way to plant a potted tree, as Waukesha County Conservation Biologist Julia Robson and Natural Land Management Assistant Samantha Kiser look in. (right) Samantha works with a Kohls volunteer to prepare a spot for planting.*



*Kohls volunteers worked quickly to plant all the trees; cool, sunny weather conditions made for an ideal outing.*



*(left) Friends Board members posed with Julia and Samantha at the Arbor Day event sign. (right) One of three Kohls volunteer groups prepared to dig in at the Menomonee County Park site.*

## Upcoming Programs at Retzer

- Retzer Nature Center will host a *Master Naturalist Training Workshop* from **July 26-31**.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** Our long postponed 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 rescheduled for **Friday, August 20**. Check out our full-page flyer at the end of this newsletter for sign-up information.
- The *Green Alliance Sustainability Fair* will be held outdoors at Retzer on **Saturday, August 28**.
- *Apple Harvest Festival* is a “go” for **Saturday, September 18**; a bird banding workshop is planned for mid-October; and *Science Fest* is set for **Saturday, November 6**. Look for specifics in our next mailing.
- Progress on the Discovery Trail continues, with a late summer completion date envisioned. Meanwhile, boardwalk planks await personalized messages. For more information, check out the following link: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/park-system/donate/>

### “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 **Costa Rica** during the 2013 and 2018 trips. Do you know of what they are and where they were taken? (*answers are posted at the end of this newsletter*)





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### Membership Renewal Reminder

As always, if you need to renew your Friends of Retzer membership, you can do so as follows: a) mail your check to Retzer Nature Center; b) stop at the center's front desk; or c) pay online via our website: [www.FriendsofRetzer.org](http://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"  |

*RETZER IN SPRING: Marsh marigolds grace Retzer Creek's riparian zone during Earth Week*



*Photo Set Answers... (all photos taken by David Block)*

1- Arenal Volcano 2- Crocodiles lounging in Tarcoles River 3- "Chocolate Tour" cacao farm, La Fortuna  
 4- Strangler fig, Monteverde Cloud Forest trail 5- Hanging Bridges trail, La Fortuna 6- "carreta" ox carts, Sarchi  
 7- beach at Manuel Antonio NP 8- Cypress sculpture garden, Zarcero 9- volcanic mudpots, Rincon de la Vieja NP  
 10- Paradise Hot Springs, La Fortuna 11- boat tour through coastal mangroves, Tarcoles 12- Pacific sunset, Quepos

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## **FRIENDS of RETZER NATURE CENTER *Members Only Special Event***

**WHAT:** *“A Night of Nostalgia”*

**WHEN:** *Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm – 9:30pm*

**WHERE:** *Retzer Nature Center’s large meeting room and pavilion*

**WHY:** With the cancellation of so many events at Retzer this past year due to the pandemic, we simply wanted to offer a fun social event designed solely for bringing members back together again -- limited in size and with general Covid-19 health recommendations applied to refreshment distribution and seating arrangements.

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

Can you believe it? Since 2012, over 200 people have participated in 12 Friends of Retzer sponsored international natural history tours! Our trips have drawn groups to some of the finest ecological sites in Costa Rica, Panama, Belize, Cuba, and Alaska/Yukon. Join us in Session One for an informal sharing of stories and a memorable sampling of trip slides, including a “where did we see this?” trivia contest. Individually wrapped sandwiches and snacks will be served, along with non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages.

### **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 Retzer Nature Center’s program supervisor, has resurrected his old two-person 60’s rock group: the “Time Travelers: Just Arrived from 1969”. Larry and Bill will have two full sets of memorable oldies to entertain us with during this final session, including a “name that group” trivia contest. Session Two refreshments will include individually prepared desserts and coffee, along with non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages.

**How to respond? A reservation is required.** Simply reply to Vice-President David Block ([David@friendsofretzer.org](mailto:David@friendsofretzer.org)) and provide him with your name(s) and which sessions you plan on attending (one? both?). If you receive this invite via postal mail, you can leave a clear voice mail message with President Larry Kascht (262-853-6548) and provide the same information. Finally, if you *cannot* attend but wish to share a favorite trip memory with the Session One group, please share your story via email or even via voicemail. Thanks!