



FRIENDS *of Retzer*

FRIENDS OF RETZER NATURE CENTER

SPRING, 2022 NEWSLETTER

Recent Winter Activity

- *The City-wide Waukesha JanBoree* took place January 14-23, with activities held at Retzer Nature Center on Saturday, January 15th. The chilly, but sunny, weather was ideal for self-guided interpretive hikes, and 100 folks took advantage of free snow shoe use to survey the trails. In addition, nearly 300 people attended ongoing planetarium shows indoors.



(Larry Kascht and Kathy Strazishar greet local visitors in the lobby, and meet JanBoree guests from polar climes)



(left: a group from New Berlin completes their trail loop on snowshoes right: sisters Emery and Addy hike the woods)

■ ***Our Friends-sponsored Wild Winter Night*** was held at Fox River Park, Fox Brook Park, and Retzer Nature Center on three Thursday evenings in February. The two parks hosted evening candlelight hikes, while Retzer offered candlelight hikes plus planetarium shows on “Constellations With Tails”, presentations on “Owls of Wisconsin”, stories at the Reading Corner, an “Animal Tails” table in the Community Room, and a warm campfire outdoors. Mama D’s Coffee Shop offered hot beverages and snacks for visitors. The event at Retzer drew nearly 400 visitors on a chilly, windy night.



(left: a Delafield couple enjoys their candlelight hike)



(right: a New Berlin family warms up at the campfire)



(left: Almuth and Elaine greet visitors at the Friends table)



(right: Janet offers an “Owls of Wisconsin” presentation)



(left: Kathy shares children’s books at the Reading Corner)



(right: Pewaukee High youth and RTNs at the Animal Tales table)



(left: *Mama D's offers hot drinks and dessert items for customers*

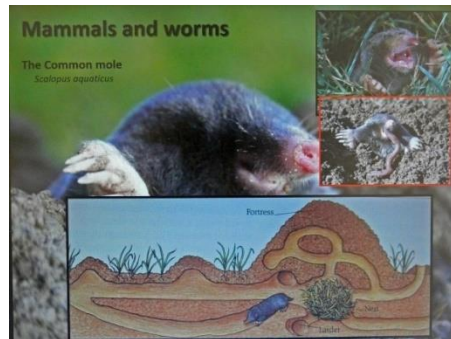


(right: *Chris introduces a young visitor to Peaches*)

- The **Retzer Spring Workshop** drew a capacity crowd on Saturday morning, March 12. The event included a presentation by Waukesha County Conservation Specialist Jayne Jenks on “Understanding Soils,” a presentation by Johnson’s Nursery Horticulturist and Landscape Designer Carrie Hennessey on “Incorporating Native Plants in Your Landscape,” and a presentation by WisDNR Plant Pest and Disease Specialist Bernie Williams on “Everything You Wanted to Know About Worms but Were Afraid to Ask”



Bernie Williams



Upcoming Programs at Retzer

- **(April 18-23) Earth Week Celebration at Retzer:** Check out the following...

Monday, April 18, 6:30pm: “A Wealth of Nature” visual presentation by local photographer Edee Daniel, highlighting nature and green space in SE Wisconsin.

Tuesday, April 19, 9am-11am: Habitat restoration work day and wildflower hike at Muskego Park.

Wednesday, April 20, 7:30pm: Sunset Meditation Planetarium Show, followed by 8pm hike (registration and fee required)

Friday, April 22, 7:00am-10:00am: Morning Bird Hike

Friday, April 22, 7:00pm-9:00pm: Earth Day Candlelight Hike (no registration required, and no dogs allowed on the one-mile loop)

Saturday, April 23, 9am to noon: Retzer’s Earth Week Finale Celebration: Events that day will include Discovery Trail adventures, a story hike, ongoing recycling exhibit presentations, and “Mission Possible” self-guided garlic mustard removal volunteering. Half-hour planetarium shows are also scheduled from 10am-1:30pm. Please check out the Waukesha County website for more information: www.waukeshacounty.gov/earthweek.

- **(Monday, April 25, 6pm) Friends of Retzer Annual Membership Meeting and Chili Supper:** Join us at the nature center for a bowl of chili, beverages, and dessert treats as we meet again in person after two years of Covid separation. Our featured speaker will be Waukesha County Landscape Architect Jason Wilke, who will provide us with a slide update on the ambitious Discovery Trail project and lead us on a short walk around the trail. Dinner begins at 6pm, followed by meeting at 6:30pm and speaker at 7pm. There's no need to bring any pot luck food this year, but please let us know you're coming by RSVP'ing via [SignUpGenius](#) or (if you don't have email access) by calling Elaine Haberichter at 414-357-5238.
- **(Saturday, May 7, 9am to noon) Members-only Bird Banding Program:** Led by naturalists from the Urban Ecology Center, this event will involve three one-hour sessions: 9-10am, 10-11am, and 11-noon. The event is open to Friends members and immediate family (children must be 5 years or older). A maximum of 12 participants is allowed for each session. If you wish to attend, please sign up through [SignUpGenius](#) or (if you don't have email access) by contacting Elaine Haberichter at 414-357-5238. Registrants should meet at the nature center lobby 15 minutes before their scheduled session and dress accordingly for the conditions. If weather is inclement, a back-up date will be set for May 21.

FRIENDS BOARD UPDATE: CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Class of 2022:

Larry Kascht, President
 Elaine Haberichter, RTN, President emeritus
 Kathy Arts, Secretary
 Andrea Kornowski, Digital Media Coordinator
 Cathy Ward, RTN

Class of 2023:

Lyle Drier, Treasurer
 Beverly Dunk, Correspondence Secretary
 Gerald Strom, RTN, President emeritus
 Kathy Strazishar, RTN

Class of 2024:

David Block, Vice President, newsletter editor
 Steve Martin, Legal Adviser
 Mary Kay Kelly, Co-Treasurer, RTN
 Dave Zemanovic, RTN
 Almuth Soffee, RTN

Membership Renewal Reminder

As always, if you need to renew your Friends of Retzer membership, you may do so as follows: a) mail your check to Retzer Nature Center; b) stop at the nature 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 such events as Apple Harvest Festival and Wild Winter Nights.

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

FYI: Stay up-to-date with what is going on at Retzer Nature Center, plus help us meet our 2022 goal of getting 500+ likes on Facebook, by [liking our page](#) and sharing it with friends. Thanks for your support!

