



FRIENDS *of* Retzer

FRIENDS OF RETZER NATURE CENTER

SPRING, 2023 NEWSLETTER

Winter Activity

- *(Saturday, January 14) JanBoree at Retzer:* Sunny skies, chilly air... but very little snow cover greeted hundreds of visitors to the nature center. JanBoree activities included a self-guided *Winter Wildlife Exploration* hike, a *Call of the Wild* scavenger hunt, *Wild Stories by the Campfire* read by Bridges Library System librarians, outdoor *Sunspotter* viewings and indoor *Space Quiz* shows courtesy of the Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium, and hands-on exhibits in the Community Room.



Snow shoes weren't needed as families trekked the trails on foot.



Visitors listened to stories around the patio fire pit and observed sunspots through a portable spotting device.

- (Thursday, February 2) Wild Winter Night at Retzer:** On a chilly, windy night with meager snow cover insufficient for snowshoeing, nearly a hundred hearty visitors nevertheless turned out and enjoyed a candlelight hike on Discovery Trail, a warm outdoor campfire on the pavilion, indoor planetarium shows, Community Room and lobby displays, and interesting *Reading Corner* selections. Thanks also to Mama D's Coffee for providing warm drinks and treats for purchase. The event was sponsored by our Friends group and admission was free for members.



Board members MK Kelly, Jerry Strom and Larry Kascht manned the Friends info table in the Community Room.



Board member Carrie Frantz volunteered at the Reading Corner; Waukesha West students handled visitor inquiries.

- GOOD NEWS!** In January, the Friends of Retzer received a \$25,000 grant award from the *Kohl's Hometown Giving Program* for use in the design and construction of educational signage along Retzer's Discovery Trail and at exploration stations along the trail. Special thanks to Waukesha County Parks and Land Use colleague Jason Wilke for his oversight in the grant application process. Friends President Larry Kascht was interviewed by Milwaukee's CBS58 morning team upon receiving the good news.

UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS

- (Saturday, March 18) SPRING WORKSHOP DAY:** Join us for a 9am-noon gathering in the Community Room, featuring a presentation on songbird preservation at 9am by Mary Kay Diderrich of Wild Birds Unlimited, followed by a presentation on Monarch butterfly preservation at 10am by U.W. Arboretum Director Karen Oberhauser. Pre-registration and payment is required. (see link below)

NOTE: Also on March 18, the *Friends of the Planetarium* have invited us to join them for a “Starball Retirement Show” at noon, led by retired planetarium director Dave DeRemer. The Starball projector is heading into retirement to serve a planetarium in Minnesota, now that the Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium is fully digital! If interested, please RSVP for this FREE program at www.bit.ly/2023hdstarballshow.

- **(April 19-22) Friends of Retzer EARTH WEEK CELEBRATION:** The nature center has a number of activities scheduled for Earth Week. Join us on Saturday, April 22 from 10am-1pm for indoor and outdoor kid-friendly activities, including a “Your Actions Matter” recycling program (no registration required). The Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium will also be offering shows on Alaska from 11am-1:15pm. If you’d like to roll up your sleeves and embrace an Earth Week volunteer activity, you can pre-register your family or group for the *Waukesha County Parks Volunteer Cleanup* activity on Saturday morning, April 22, or pre-register for an *Arbor Day Volunteer Tree Planting* activity at Mukwonago County Park on Friday morning, April 28. (see link below)

For more information on all upcoming spring events, please check out the following link:

www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/park-system/find-a-park/retzer-nature-center/specialevents/

- **(Monday, April 24) Friends of Retzer CHILI SUPPER AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Join us in the Community Room for supper at 5:30pm, followed by our business meeting at 6:15pm, a presentation by Waukesha County Landscape Architect Nikki Jensen regarding two proposed nature center projects at 7pm, and a planetarium presentation of ecological interest at 7:30pm. Your Friends Board will provide the hearty chili, Italian bread, crackers, cheese, and beverages. You are welcome to bring a side dish (dessert, relishes, munchies) to share. No registration necessary. Hope to see you there!
- **Looking Ahead:** *Wisconsin Master Naturalist Training* is set for July 17-22. Retzer Nature Center will be hosting a beer garden on August 18-19. And the Green Team *Sustainability Fair* is set for August 26.

FRIENDS BOARD UPDATE: CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Class of 2023:

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

Class of 2025:

Larry Kascht, President
Elaine Haberichter, RTN, President emeritus
Kathy Arts, Secretary
Carrie Frantz, RTN
Cathy Ward, 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, Treasurer, 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.

<u>Membership Levels:</u>	\$ 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!