



# FRIENDS *of Retzer*

## FRIENDS OF RETZER NATURE CENTER

### SUMMER, 2023 NEWSLETTER

#### Recent Events

##### ■ (Saturday, April 22) Retzer's Earth Day Celebration

This year's annual event included numerous indoor and outdoor kid-friendly activities plus a formal "Your Actions Matter" recycling program. The Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium also offered shows on Alaska throughout the midday hours. In addition to the visiting crowd, 160 volunteers rolled up their sleeves and heeded the Earth Day call for trail cleanup and litter pickup across the grounds. Over 100 of these volunteers were participants from WCTC who were celebrating the college's centennial anniversary with a much appreciated community outreach activity.



*Trail maintenance and roadside litter pickup supplies awaited WCTC volunteers of all ages.*



*Loppers and mulch cleaned up trails for summer access.*



*Refuse recycling and litter reduction underscored an Earth Day theme of environmental stewardship.*



*(left to right) Friends Board members MK, Larry, and Cathy offered learning table advice.*

■ ***(Monday, April 24) Friends of Retzer Chili Supper and Annual Membership Meeting***

Three dozen hungry and enthusiastic Friends gathered in the nature center’s community room for the annual chili supper and membership meeting. Friends President Larry Kascht provided a summary of the organization’s busy year of activity and financial support for sponsored events and project initiatives; and Nature Center Supervisor Janet Barthel shared numerous nature center highlights, summarizing that over 10,000 youth and adults had been served by nature center programming in the past year. Our featured annual speaker was Waukesha County Senior Landscape Architect Nikki Jensen, who offered an overview of typical 3-year cycles of project planning and implementation by the County and highlighted two current ‘works in progress’ at the nature center: the new Science Lab upgrades slated for the Burr Oak Room and a proposed Outdoor Classroom envisioned for an area adjacent to that building. Her presentation was followed by a planetarium show on “The Blue Planet.” A cake commemorating the longstanding service of retiring Board members Lyle Drier, Jerry Strom and Beverly Dunk was served up to all, and new Board members Andrea Kornowski, Susan Bosman and Jim Kavemeier were unanimously elected to fill the Class of 2026 vacancies.



*Waukesha County Senior Landscape Architect Nikki Jensen was our annual meeting featured speaker.*



*Board members Kathy S and Kathy A served up the chili, and Friends members enjoyed a hearty meal together.*



Dessert included a special cake honoring the contributions of retiring Board members Bev Dunk, Lyle Drier and Jerry Strom.

■ ***(Friday, April 30) Arbor Day Tree Planting at Mukwonago County Park***

Waukesha County Conservation Biologist Julia Robson and her staff orchestrated a wonderful Arbor Day tree planting event at Mukwonago Park which included over fifty volunteers from Kohl's Cares, Tim O'Brien Homes and Batteries Plus. Rob Dummert from Johnson's Nursery shared tree planting advice and expertise for first time tree planters. Weather was sunny, cool and ideal for spring planting of 440 potted trees and saplings.



*Rob Dummert and Julia Robson prepped the volunteers before they dispersed to pre-selected planting sites.*



*Special thanks to the Kohls Cares and Tim O'Brien Homes teams for volunteering in large numbers...*



*... and to the families and individuals who came to honor a valued Arbor Day tradition.*

### **Upcoming Activities**

- The *Wisconsin Master Naturalist Training Workshop* is slated for the week of July 17-22.
- Retzer Nature Center will be hosting a summer beer garden on Friday, August 18 (4-9pm) and Saturday, August 19 (3-9pm). It's a great way to meet local folks and check out the nature center's beautiful site.
- The County Green Team's *Sustainability Fair* is set for Saturday, August 26 (9-3pm). The event will showcase numerous initiatives which underscore the value of resource stewardship and sustainable living.

- Retzer’s annual *Apple Harvest Festival* is set for Saturday, September 23, from 9am to 4pm. Come check out the vendor wares, apple consumables, music entertainment, and nature center displays. The event is sponsored by our Friends organization, and entrance is free for Friends members.
- Retzer Nature Center’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is coming in 2024! Look for special event activities in April (with focus on Earth Week), in June (timed to the summer solstice), and in September (at Apple Harvest Festival).

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/](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/park-system/find-a-park/retzer-nature-center/specialevents/)

### Mission Statement of the Friends of Retzer Nature Center

*The mission of the Friends of Retzer Nature Center shall be to promote and support activities and initiatives which enhance the goals of natural resource conservation and environmental education and involve the community, through financial support and volunteer work, in the growth and improvement of programs and facilities at Retzer Nature Center.*

### ***FRIENDS BOARD UPDATE: CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS***

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

Class of 2025:

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

Class of 2026:

Andrea Kornowski, Digital Communications  
 Susan Bosman  
 Jim Kavemeier  
 Kathy Strazishar, 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](http://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!

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