



FRIENDS *of Retzer*

FRIENDS OF RETZER NATURE CENTER

WINTER, 2022-23 NEWSLETTER

Fall Activity

- **(Saturday, September 10) Literatus Bookstore outreach event in Watertown:** Retzer staff naturalist Jacci Jenks brought several live critters and hands-on materials for her kids' show-and-tell presentations. The Friends also added an information table to promote the nature center and our organization to residents in Jefferson County.



Jacci Jenks offered four hours of educational fun for visitors to the Watertown bookstore and coffee shop.



A local student group was schooled on snakes, toads, and other critters found in southcentral Wisconsin. Larry and Kathy tended the Friends' information table.

- (Saturday, September 17, 9am-4pm) Retzer's Apple Harvest Festival:** Over 1400 cars full of area residents attended the Friends' largest sponsored event of the year on a weather perfect mild, sunny day. The popular Apple Market featured over 20 varieties of fresh picked apples -- plus apple pies, apple crisp, apple cider, and caramel apples. Nearby, vendors lined the drive with their craft tents, Delafield Brewhaus offered a multitude of refreshments, and JC Ayer provided music entertainment. The newly dedicated Discovery Trail was a magnet for kids of all ages, and included a Passport Expedition with several points of interest. Friends volunteers raised over \$3000 through their impressive silent auction and used and new book sale, plus distributed over 1000 free raffle tickets to visitors for hourly planetarium, gift shop, membership and apple pie prizes. All in all, it was a great day for a great cause!



The Apple Market and Discovery Trail were prime attraction for Apple Fest visitors



Over 20 vendors lined the drive with craft items for sale.



Live entertainment was provided by JC Ayer , and Delafield Brewhaus offered a busy food and beverage tent



Board members MK, Bev, Kathy and Elaine set up the silent auction, and Marlin Johnson sold classic ecology texts



Larry, Almuth and Cathy handed out raffle tickets for free prize drawings; Kathy, Joe and _____ offered over 200 books at the nature book sale and organized an ongoing Reading Corner activity for Passport Expedition trekkers.



The Reading Corner drew kids and parents to a shaded storytelling spot under the pines



Students from Waukesha South High School manned the Passport Expedition registration table



Discovery Trail was a hit for energetic kids...



... as was Scarecrow Lane, which featured over 40 "unique" entries



The Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium attracted over 500 visitors

- **(Thursday, October 6 to Saturday, October 8) Wisconsin Summit for Natural Resources Volunteers:** The Friends served as Silver Sponsors for the event, which was held at various sites in Waukesha County, including Retzer Nature Center. The meeting attracted 230 nature center volunteers, citizen scientists, field researchers, environmental educators, and natural resource specialists, and was a great opportunity for the Waukesha County Parks System and Retzer Nature Center to be highlighted.
- **(Saturday, November 5) Retzer Science Fest:** Co-sponsored with Generac, the theme of this year's event was "Inside and Out," with opportunity for families to investigate various aspects of nature from micro to macro scale. Admission was free for Friends members. Outdoor activity on the blustery day included Discovery Trail hikes and bird walks. Indoor activity included hands-on topics ranging from pond life to urban runoff to leaf blight to forest critters, plus entertaining *Mad Scientist* demonstrations. Thanks to the students from Pewaukee High School and employees from Generac who volunteered at the science stations. Over 100 local residents attended the event.



Pewaukee high school science students and folks from Generac managed the indoor activity tables



*Left: Delafield Wild Birds Unlimited store owner Mary Kay Diderrich promoted song bird preservation at her info booth
Right: Waukesha County conservation, recycling and environmental education specialists gathered at the event with Retzer Nature Center Supervisor and Friends Board liaison, Janet Barthel (center).*

UPCOMING WINTER EVENTS

- **(Saturday, January 14, 11am – 2pm) Winter JanBoree at Retzer:** The event will include self-guided hikes, campfire storytelling, free snowshoe use, and warm drinks and sweet treats for purchase indoors courtesy of Mama D's.
- **(Thursday, February 2, 6:00pm – 8:30pm) Wild Winter Night at Retzer Nature Center:** Enjoy a Discovery Trail candlelight hike, guided outdoor activity and campfire, indoor planetarium shows, community room displays, and reading corner selections. Plus, once again, Mama D's will have warm drinks and sweet treats available for purchase. Admission is free for Friends members and \$5 for others. Pre-registration is required. Check out the Waukesha County website for specifics. (Note: a Wild Winter Night candlelight hike is also slated for Fox Brook Park on Thursday, February 16. And for both sites, make-up dates will be scheduled one week later if inclement weather forces postponement.)

For more information on these upcoming winter events, please check out the following link:

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

FRIENDS BOARD UPDATE: CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

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

Class of 2025:

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

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

