

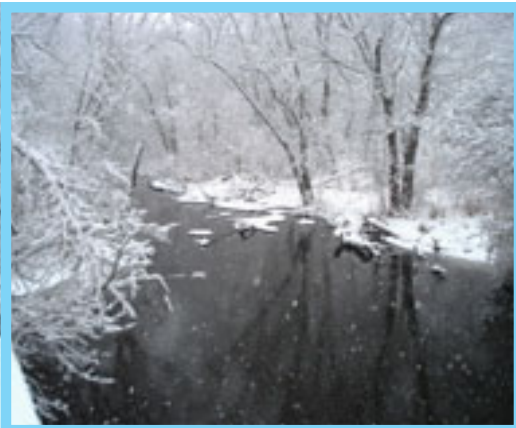
THE WARBLER

A periodic newsletter of the Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Inc.

volume 12, issue 1

Upcoming Events

Feb. 7	Full Moon Ski, Hike, Snowshoe
Feb. 11	Nature Rocks Family Nature Club: For the Birds
Feb. 21	Native Gardening
Feb. 25	Making Tracks
Feb. 25	Sipping for Nature: Wine Tasting Gala
March 12	Maple Sugar Mania
March 13	Maple Sugar Mania
March 17	Nature Rocks Family Nature Club: Maple Sugaring
March 19	Maple Sugar Mania
March 20	Maple Sugar Mania
March 31	Maple Sugar Fest
April 14	Recycled Kites
April 16	Earth Day events all week
April 21	Nature Rocks Family Nature Club: Spring Beauty
April 22	Annual Meeting



Big Hill Park in winter

President's Message

By Jan Knutson

Connecting People & Nature in 2012



As we close out one year and begin the next, I want to take a moment to reflect... Along with the arrival of the new calendar year typically come a variety of New Year's resolutions. The arrival of 2012 offers a chance to begin anew and help to shape the future direction of our community. It is a great opportunity for all of us to help empower a new generation to be connected with nature.

What has helped Welty Environmental Center continue to be relevant and respected throughout the community? The answer is simple... YOU! THANK YOU for your generous support in years past, and in the New Year with your help we can continue to conserve our local wildlife and natural resources as we provide environmental education in the Stateline community.

Clearly our experiences in nature profoundly influence each of us, as well as the paths we take in lifestyle and career. Welty's future is in your hands for NOW...but down the road it will be the youth of our community that will carry this vision forward. We have to be thoughtful and help cultivate a relationship with the land for all people, especially children, if we are to save our natural heritage.

Welty has ambitious plans to connect people and nature in the coming year and beyond. Among the many initiatives are spearheading a Welty Nature academy, launching a new Welty website and designing a Welty eco-vehicle to educate and inspire environmental learning near and far.

Welty's future is in your hands. Your volunteer efforts and contributions help us in our mission to ensure a healthy and vibrant future for our community. The Welty legacy gives us much to be proud of. But the best is yet to come.

On behalf of the environment and all its animals and plants THANK YOU for your continued support as we start Welty's 2012 journey and I wish you the very best throughout the coming year!

Visit us at
www.weltycenter.org

Reflections

by Lena Verkuilen, Director

Happy New Year! In our culture getting to that New Year's party can be important. The new year is greeted all over the world with bells, whistles, fireworks and of course kisses. In nature the new year slips in quietly. If you step outside on a cold, winter's night you will notice a stillness and deliberation to life. Perhaps you may hear an owl call or a coyote howl greetings across a field, but more likely you will hear only the wind through the branches.

To appreciate nature in winter requires an attention to detail. Stripped away are the bright colors and frivolous activity of the warmer months. Now extra time spent wandering in search for food may be the difference between life and death. A chipmunk awakened too soon from its winter torpor will waste so much energy it may not see the spring. Those hardy animals active during the winter, you and I included, have a purpose

for most wanderings. Follow a set of tracks in the snow and you will see a story of that animal's day. The rabbit moved from cover to cover, leaving tell-tale scats along its path, until it reached its cover for the rest of the day. The wing marks next to the cover shows that the Great-Horned Owl was watching the rabbit silently above. As the snow wanes you can mark the height of the winter's snow cover by noting the deer nibblings on the bark and twigs. No matter your attitude to winter I challenge you to bundle up, put on those boots, or better yet skis or snowshoes, and take a winter hike. Go slowly enough to see and hear the wonders of winter. Bring a camera to capture the beauty of a seed head topped with snowflakes. Or binoculars to observe the tumbling joy of a chickadee flock as they move from feeding area to feeding area. Bring a thermos of your favorite warm drink to enjoy as the sun sinks for the day, spilling its fleeting color over the seemingly barren landscape. When you get home enjoy the heat summer grew for you in your winter firewood.

Sipping for Nature on a Winter's Eve

Saturday, February 25 ❖ 6 - 8 p.m.

at Bushel & Peck's
State & Grand in downtown Beloit



Ward off the late winter blahs at our February wine tasting gala. Tip your glass . . . enjoy tasty cheeses and delicious hors d'oeuvres while the music plays. Select an item or two from the silent auction.

*Proceeds to benefit environmental education
by the Welty Environmental Center!*

\$35⁰⁰ single

\$30⁰⁰ each for two or more

Contact Welty Center for a
reservation form, 608-361-1377
or info@weltycenter.org
For further information or to volunteer,
call Dick Newsome at 608-365-2609

**We'll write to you more
than your children do!**

If you would like to receive email
notification of upcoming Welty
events, please sign up by
sending an email to

info@weltycenter.org

Volunteer Corner

by Kelly Washburn, Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager

It is once again time to talk about our up and coming pre-spring volunteer opportunities at the Welty Center. Shifting gears and getting into a spring mindset always brings me to the wonderful thoughts of maple sugaring in Big Hill Park. What a wonderful feeling watching the school children step off the bus with their animated faces wanting to learn the process of making maple syrup. As Lena and all the dedicated volunteers wind up the month of teaching and enjoying the glowing faces after

being outside in the fresh air, it is time for our yearly community pancake breakfast, Maple Sugar Festival! It is so reassuring to know that we can depend on such wonderful volunteers to help with the tours and the breakfast. Don't be shy, the tours are easy and full of fun and flipping or serving pancakes can be just as enjoyable, with a room full of great volunteers and pancake lovers!

We Need You!

Welty Center always needs more volunteer involvement. Please consider any of these possibilities:

- Be a Maple sugar guide almost any weekday in March! Training for new guides at Big Hill Park on Monday, Feb 20 at 10:00 a.m. or Tuesday, Feb 21 at 1:00p.m.
- Greet or guide people, cook or serve food, at the Maple Sugar Festival, Sat. March 31st.
- Help with Sipping for Nature on a Winter's Eve wine tasting gala, Sat. February 25th, including advertising and encouraging your friends to attend.
Contact Dick Newsome, newsome@beloit.edu or phone 608-365-2609.
- Work on planning other Welty events e.g. the April reptiles and amphibians family event or the June Nature Rendezvous.
- Clean the Environmental Center – once a week, once a month, on your own or bring a friend!
- Research information on local animals, birds or plants for the Welty website.
- Take photos of animals, birds, plant and Welty events: the larger our photo library the better!
- Cut brush and help with savannah restoration in Beckman Mill County Park.
- Join one of Welty's Committees: Members and Volunteers, Programming, Personnel, Development or Building.
- Put us in contact with the relevant people in local businesses we could approach for support.
- Send us the name of foundations that support Welty's type of work and services.
- Experienced in writing grant proposals? Work with us on raising money!
- Go out to collect simple data on local watersheds.
- None of these volunteer opportunities quite right for you? Contact Kelly to discuss where you might fit in!

To volunteer, or for further information, call Kelly at 608-314-4340 or e-mail her at volunteer@weltycenter.org

Report on the Fall's Activities

by Lena Verkuilen, Director

Fall 2011 was busy at the Welty Environmental Center. Here are a few highlights:

On September 9 the Welty Environmental Center and Rock County Parks came together to sponsor a showing of, *Green Fire*, a documentary on the life and work of Aldo Leopold. The film was shown



Beloit College Duffy intern Katy Sandt dries kerchiefs at Beloit Heritage Days. 75 children used natural dyes to decorate their Welty kerchiefs.

outdoors at Beckman Mill County Park after an expo featuring environmental groups from all over the area.

Beloit's Heritage Days, September 11, was a great success with both Friends of the Welty Environmental Center and Beckman Mill hosting activities at Beckman Mill County park. Welty highlighted our green heritage with natural dyes decorating handkerchiefs, medicinal plants from the area, looking at how plant families are related, and tasting

herbal teas. Many thanks to all of our supporters who helped and participated in this event.

A scrap metal drive on September 24 collected 3,040 pounds of metal saved from the landfill, and added \$304 to Welty's coffers. Thank you for your donations, and keep saving for future metals drives.

September and October saw four pontoon boat ride programs cosponsored by The Rock restaurant in Beloit. Topics included urban wildlife, reptiles and amphibians, and with Halloween just around the corner, Beloit's haunted past and Halloween animal lore. Many people took advantage of a calm cruise on the river, so look for these to start up again next spring and summer.

October is a great month to get out and explore, and all 36 second grade classes from the School District of Beloit took advantage of this at Big Hill Park outside Beloit. We walked on the trails, looked under logs, listened and watched for



Second graders hike through the woods at Big Hill Park.



Carving pumpkins at the Fall Festival.

birds, and explored how the forest is a community of life. Thanks to our volunteers who helped with this fun but large task!

Fall Fest on October 9 was another success! The weather was warm and sunny, and many people came out to enter the pie contest,



Kelly Washburn provides herbal teas at Beloit Heritage Days.

make a scarecrow, carve a pumpkin, hike the trails, press cider and make natural art.

October wrapped up with a new program on Halloween weekend, the Feast of the New Waxing Moon. We

continued on page 5

Report on the Fall's Activities

continued from page 4

started in late afternoon by cooking the vegetable soup, courtesy of WrightWay Farms. Participants and volunteers alike came in costume in the spirit of fun to celebrate the late fall. As the new waxing moon set in the early evening we set off on a hike looking for animal eyeshine along the north woods trail and wetland boardwalk. Everyone warmed up by the fire with cups of soup and toasted marshmallows. The evening concluded with the judging of the jack-o-lantern carving contest. It was



Lena talks to second graders during a fall hike in Big Hill Park.



Stephanie Dobson talks about plant families at Beloit Heritage Days.

a great event and we hope to see you again next Halloween.

The Nature Rocks Family Nature Club, cosponsored this year with Rock County Parks, continued over the fall. Joleen Stinson, Community Coordinator with Rock County Parks, led families on a scavenger

hunt through Lee County Park near Clinton in September, and on Welty's behalf, I hosted October's fall color hike at Magnolia Bluff County Park near Evansville. There is still time to get your family involved before this year's program wraps up in May 2012!

Participation in Welty Center Activities

September to December 2011

ACTIVITY	# EVENTS	# CHILDREN	# ADULTS	TOTAL #
Green Fire documentary	1	0	27	27
Beloit College class presentations	2	0	43	43
Rock River pontoon ride	3	1	17	17
New Waxing Moon	1	35	15	15
Girl Scouts	1	25	5	5
Home School Groups	1	34	20	20
School District of Beloit	27	493	80	80
2nd Grade Nature Hikes				
Miscellaneous School Groups	4	62	18	18
Miscellaneous Public Programs	2	Many	Many	Many
Private Birthday Party	1	8	2	2
Nature Rocks	4	18	11	11
Family Nature Club				
TOTAL	47	717	197	197

Need a Program for Senior Citizens?

Welty offers programs specially tailored to assisted living centers, senior centers and the like.

Special price - \$25 per program plus mileage

Spotlight on Members

The Cawkins Family

Lora Cawkins writes:

Hello to Welty members from the Cawkins family, Bruce, Lora, Keegan and Madeline. For us nature is in our blood. We love to camp and be outdoors. The Welty Center fits our lifestyle to a T. We haven't kept great track as to how long we have been involved with the Welty program, but we suspect it has been around 9 years now.

Bruce has had the most involvement with Welty. Since he has Wednesdays off, he has been able to work with the schools as a guide when the schools come out for nature hikes or nature programs. He has been on several hikes with the school kids, works the Maple Sugar program, and other various programs he has time for. He loves showing children how important nature is even if he has a tendency to get bitten in the process, as when he was showing the children a snake. He truly loves working with kids.

Madeline is following in her father's footsteps and loves nature as well. She has gone on several hikes and has found the Geo Caches in the park. She has been to the programs offered in the summer and has been a regular at the Fall Fest. This was her first year to be a junior judge with the pie contest and she loved every bite; of course who wouldn't with all the wonderful pies to taste! She has also made a lot of pancakes during the Maple Sugar Fest and was inspired to tap our own maple trees this past spring. So the Welty Center has inspired the next generation.



Keegan is one of our under the radar Welty members. She has been to the summer programs, and Fall Fest. She has also made pancakes during Maple Sugar Festival and loves to put her hand in the hidden object boxes. She loves the Maple syrup.

As for me, I've started taking photos of Fall Fest, and Maple Sugar days and any event I can get at, and I provide them to Welty free of charge. Taking photos of nature has become a passion and I love to help in that capacity. I have also made pancakes, and have helped out with cutting the pies for the contests; it's fun to see everyone's reaction when they take a bite.

Thank you to everyone who has given us an opportunity to work where we can. It has been incredible to see what nature can provide for us and we wish the Welty Center many, many more years to continue inspiring children and adults with the world around us.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide leadership in environmental and ecological education to students, teachers and individuals of all ages so that residents of this region can make informed decisions leading to respect for and the enjoyment, preservation, and sustainable use of our natural resources.

Spotlight on Members

Talia Bossingham

Thirteen year old Tali from Clinton, WI, writes:

I reached down through the cool water and seized the wiggling crayfish; it flipped its tail at me and snapped its claws menacingly— well, in a way that was meant to be menacing. It's hard to look scary when you're being held by something a few thousand times bigger than you are. I waded to shore and put the crayfish in a tin. A ground squirrel looked up from where it was burying a walnut and a bird chirped in a nearby tree. A hawk was circling lazily, probably looking for its next meal. The Welty Center is a great place to look for many types of plants and animals. I have been going there for many, many years.

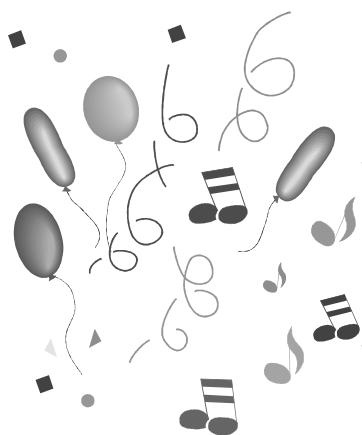
Welty is beautiful in all seasons, and you can always see something interesting. In the spring many different birds come to nest and live by Welty, including the great blue heron, cedar wax-wings and bluebirds. In the summer Welty hosts many different programs about how nature and humans can co-exist. At survival camp we learned about coexisting with nature; for instance, we built shelters out of natural material and made homemade fishing poles. In the fall Welty hosts a fall festival with scarecrow making, pumpkin carving and nature walks. In the winter there are bonfires and we track animals by following their trails through the snow. Even when I got to be too old for some of the programs I could still participate by volunteering to help with the younger children, which was just as much fun. I saw everything in a new and wonderful way!



Welty on Wheels

Want a special treat for a favorite teacher, niece or grandkid? Welty offers customized school classroom lessons. YOU can sponsor an environmental classroom lesson. Welty will contact the teacher to create and present a special lesson at a local school.

Cost \$75



**Are you looking for
the perfect place to
hold a birthday party?**

Have your next children's party at the Welty Center. We take care of the activity and meeting room. You bring the cake.

Call us at 361-1377 for more information.

Welty Winter/Spring Events Schedule

For all Welty Center events, you can call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and registration.



Tues. February 7 - Full Moon Ski, Hike and Snowshoe

Enjoy an evening under the full moon, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing, conditions permitting; winter hikers are always welcome! The park has flat terrain, but points of interest include a restored 1868 grist mill, oak savanna restoration, and trail through wetlands and woodland. Some snowshoes available. *In conjunction with Rock County Parks.*

When: 6:30pm
Where: Beckman Mill Park
Cost: \$5 per person
\$20 per family
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sat. February 11 - Nature Rocks Family Nature Club:

For the Birds

In the dead of winter we can help wildlife by providing food. They can help us by brightening our winter days! We'll make a homemade feeder and learn feeding and bird identification tips. *In conjunction with Rock County Parks.*

When: 10-11:30am
Where: Welty Center
Cost: \$10 per family
Register by February 6.

Tues. February 21 - Native Gardening Tips and Tricks

Winter is winding down and spring will be here before we know it. This is the perfect time to plan your garden! This talk will help you incorporate native plants in your home landscaping. Bring your questions, and be prepared to be inspired!

When: 6:30pm
Where: Welty Center
Cost: \$5 suggested donation
Register by February 20



Milkweed

Sat. February 25 - Making Tracks

What animals are active all winter, which are starting to wake up, and how can you tell which is which? This hands-on workshop will take you to the field to identify animal tracks, scats and other signs. We'll keep our eyes and ears peeled to hopefully see some critters too. A special snack will be provided.

When: 1-3pm
Where: Welty Center
Cost: \$10 per person
\$25 per family
Register by February 23.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Sat. February 25 - Sipping for Nature on a Winter's Eve

Join us for a wine and cheese tasting gala to support environmental education in the Stateline region. Indulge in some local cheeses and wines as you enjoy conversation, music and a silent auction. Get your tickets early as space is limited.

When: 6pm-8pm
Where: Bushel and Peck's
238 State St., Beloit
Age: 21 years and older
Cost: \$35 per ticket
\$30 if you purchase 2 or more tickets

Welty Winter/Spring Events Schedule

Mon. March 12, Tues. March 13 - Maple Sugar Mania

The nights are still cold, but the days are getting warmer so that means it's maple sugar time! Enjoy an afternoon in the sugar grove learning about how maple syrup is made, from the tree to the table. This hands-on session will look at the biology of maple trees, the history of maple sugaring, and the science and art of cooking sap into syrup. Of course, girls will get to sample the real maple syrup! *Especially suitable for Girl Scouts and Home School groups.*

Level: 2nd through 6th grades.

When: 4-6pm

Where: Big Hill Park, Beloit

Cost: \$10 per student.

Adult chaperones free.

Sat. March 17 - Nature Rocks Family Nature Club:

Maple Sugaring

Learn about the whole process, from tree to table, and taste real maple syrup.

When: 10am-11:30am

Where: Big Hill Park, Beloit

Cost: \$10 per family.



Maple Tree

Mon. March 19, Tues. March 20 Maple Sugar Mania

Details same as March 12 and 13

January 2012

Sat. March 31 -Maple Sugar Fest

Tour the sugar maple grove, watch demonstrations on the evaporation process, check out indoor displays and a video, eat a delicious meal of sausage, pancakes and maple syrup, and take a horse-drawn wagon ride between the meal and the sugar bush.

When: 10am-2pm

Where: Big Hill Park, Beloit

Cost: Event is free.

Meal: \$5 per adult

\$4 per Welty member

\$3 children ages 10

and under.

Sat. April 14 - Recycled Kites

Spring is here, and the winds are blowing. Come learn basic kite safety and how to make a kite out of nothing but newspaper and other green options. After making kites we'll go to the big lawn in Beckman Mill County Park to test our creations.

When: 10am-Noon

Where: Welty Center

Cost: \$8 per kite builder

\$5 for Welty members

Register by April 11.

Children must be accompanied by an adult

Homeschool groups are welcome to attend any program. We can also design custom programming for your curriculum.

Week of April 16th - Earth Day

Watch the website for events all week leading up to and celebrating Earth Day! For example, on Sat. April 21 a family program by Dan Nedrelo, Wisconsin herpetologist, with live reptiles and amphibians.

Sat. April 21 - Nature Rocks Family Nature Club:

Spring Beauty

The days are warming, but the trees do not have their leaves yet - it's the perfect time to look for spring wildflowers! The rocky backdrop and Spring Creek of Carver Roehl Park offer a great setting. *In conjunction with Rock County Parks.*

When: 10-11:30am

Where: Carver Roehl Co. Park north of Clinton, WI

Cost: \$10 per family

Register by April 16.



Blood Root

Save the Date

Sun. April 22 - Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Inc.

Sat. June 16 - Welty Nature Rendezvous

June 18-22, August 13-17 - Summer nature camps

Who's Partying in Your Backyard?

By Tom Garrett, retired science teacher

Who is partying in your backyard while you are sleeping? Well, maybe "party" isn't the correct term: it is a jungle out there, you know! Your yard is the scene of far more wildlife activity than you may think. Winter is a wonderfully fun time to find out who is foraging, hunting, cavorting, or just passing through your property, and snow reveals all. In summer you may see a deer track in your garden, or a muddy 'coon track on your deck; snow will tell you of every critter who moves, day or night.

Where should you look for tracks, and what should you look for? I suggest you start around your bird feeder. Birds leave very distinct tracks; you will find a variety of sizes and patterns of bird tracks in the snow under your feeder. By observing, you will soon learn which

are those of juncos, jays, cardinals, and you may even find the tracks of pheasants or wild turkeys there as well. Under the feeder you are very likely to find the signs of squirrel and rabbit, and in February, 'possum also.

Check closely around the foundation of your house, especially if you have shrubbery there. Here, mice, voles, and even shrews leave tracks that look like little railroad tracks in the snow as they forage and hunt at night.

In the fields and woods near your house, or in Beckman Mill County Park, you will find a variety of tracks which appear to be single holes in the snow in a straight line. All is not as it appears. Look carefully down into these tracks. At the bottom you will see pad and claw prints or cloven hoof prints. You can learn to differentiate among coyote, fox, dog,

and even cat tracks. You will also find that what you are seeing is the print of the hind foot over the front foot, making it look like each hole in the snow is but one foot print. Such is not the case. You will also learn to tell the direction of travel by closely inspecting the bottom of tracks in the deep snow.

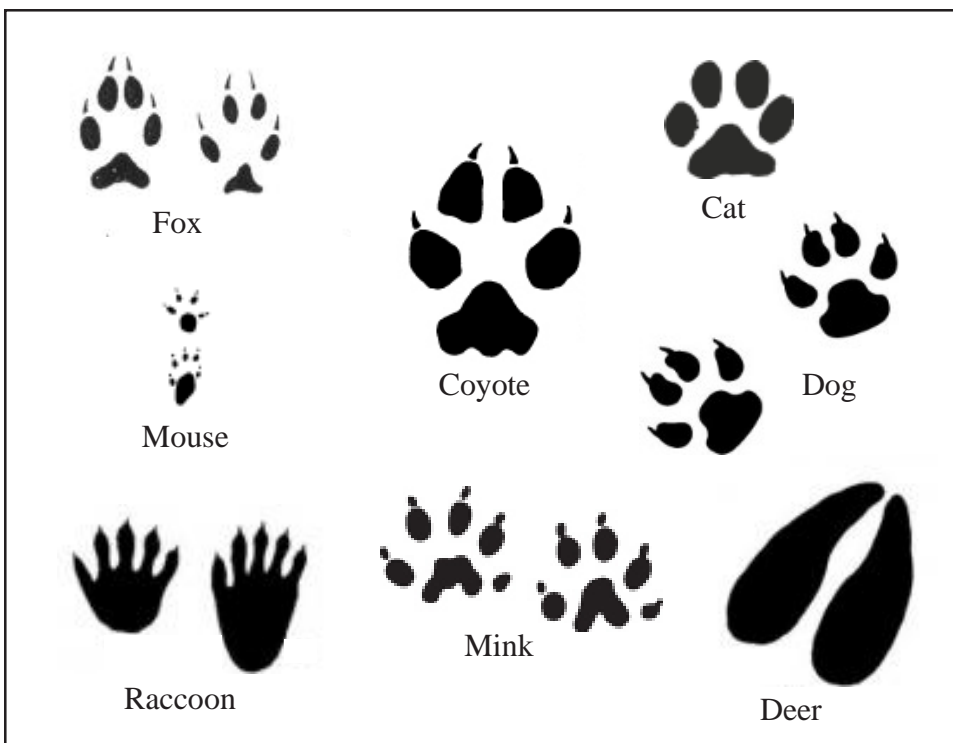
You can learn a great deal about the habits of an animal by following its tracks for a long distance. A fox, for example, will visit every hole holding a hibernating skunk, will regularly mark the boundaries of its territory, and loves to get up higher by leaping up onto and walking along logs.

A mink or weasel will run along in the snow and then dive under it, coming up again several feet further on.

Wing marks in the snow mark the spot where an owl or hawk has caught its meal.

Developing your powers of observation while out in the winter will help you become a more aware member of the winter community. All you need to begin enjoying this fun winter hobby are some warm clothes (no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothes) and a good field guide to animal tracks. There are a number of them out there. I use *Field Guide to Tracking Animals in Snow* by Louise Richardson Forrest, and the *Peterson Field Guide to Animal Tracks*.

One of the most fun seasons of the year is upon us. Take up the hobby of "Tracking" and enjoy the snow!



Girl Scout Badge Programs

Note: Girl Scout programs are open to all.

- Register directly with the Welty Environmental Center at 608-361-1377 or info@weltycenter.org.
- Dress for the weather as all sessions will take place outdoors, unless listed otherwise.
- Cost is \$10 per girl. No cost for adults. Some programs may have additional materials costs.
- Scout leaders provide badges or awards.
- Programs may be done at your site as well, if scheduling and staff permit.

Between Earth and Sky

Work on your Blue Bucket and Firefly Awards. We'll use our senses to explore the natural world around us, hunting down trees, flowers, seeds and more. Sneak a peek where secret critters roam. You may even be able to help us bring back some natural treasures! Craft materials and a snack provided.

Level: Daisies (grades K-1)
Journey: It's Your Planet -Love It!
Location: Beckman Mill County Park
Date and Times: Sat. May 12, 10am-Noon,
or 1-3pm

Wonders of Water

Earth is a planet of mostly water. We'll work on the LOVE and SAVE Water Awards while we explore all the ways that water affects life. We'll explore Beckman Mill Park looking for water in places that don't seem wet. Using nets and viewers we'll peek into Raccoon Creek to investigate life in the water. Finish the day by taking a pledge to be a water saver yourself! Craft materials and a snack provided.

Level: Brownies (grades 2-3)
Journey: It's Your Planet -Love It!
Location: Welty Environmental Center
Dates and Times: Tues. April 24, 4-6pm
Sat, April 28, 10am-noon,
or 1-3pm

Stepping Off the Grid: Energy Issues

Work on your Energy Award. We will explore all the ways we use, and sometimes abuse, energy and investigate how we can save energy in our homes, schools and life in general. We'll even get creative as we cook our own snack with energy most of us rarely think of! Craft materials and a snack provided.

Level: Juniors (grades 4-5)
Journey: It's Your Planet -Love It!
Location: Welty Environmental Center
Date and Time: Thurs. February 9, 4-6pm

Everything Old is New Again: Recycling and Composting

Where does our trash go after the garbage truck leaves? We'll investigate this and how we can reduce our trashy footprint on the Earth by reducing, reusing, recycling and more. Learn how to put a few thousand worms to use in your own home, too. When scheduling please note how many worm composting bins your group would like to make. Work toward your Energy Award. Craft materials and a snack provided.

Level: Juniors (grades 4-5)
Journey: It's Your Planet -Love It!
Location: Welty Environmental Center
Additional cost: \$15 per worm composting bin
Date and Time: Thurs. February 16, 4-6pm

Breathe

Work on your Aware Award as we investigate what is in our air, why it is important, and how all of us can do our part to keep it clean. We'll enjoy the wonders and calming powers of air as we explore the park. Before we go we'll make something to make home life more Earth-friendly. Materials and a snack provided.

Level: Cadettes (grades 6-8)
Journey: It's Your Planet -Love It!
Location: Beckman Mill County Park
Dates and Times: Thurs. April 12, 4-6pm
Thurs. May 3, 4-6pm

Development Committee Report

By Dick Newsome, Chair, Development Committee

As a non-profit organization that draws no government financial support, we rely heavily on philanthropy. That includes the volunteer time of individuals like you, who understand the benefits society derives from the services of the Welty Center and similar organizations, as we move inexorably into global dependencies and increasingly difficult environmental dilemmas. We need to succeed, and we need your help.

Generation of income to support Welty operations for 2011 has been relatively good, considering the national financial circumstances of the USA. The arenas in which we fall short are support from businesses and foundations. We're short-handed for making satisfactory improvement in support from these organizations. Discovering the name of the proper contact person in a business, and its current philanthropic interests, has grown increasingly difficult and time-consuming as phone calls mostly reach a computerized, un navigable

system. Having this information is essential, **and here is where you can help:**

1. Tell us the name of the person to contact in a business, and how to contact them. Could you introduce us to them?
2. You could contact businesses of our selection to get such information.
3. Send us the name of any foundation that supports the work and services provided by the Welty Center.
4. The help of people experienced in writing proposals is always welcome.

Contact Dick Newsome to lend your help or get further information.

Email: newsome@beloit.edu or phone 608-365-2609. (evenings are best.)

What's on *YOUR* bucket list?

1. See the Taj Mahal by moonlight.
2. Climb Mount Everest.
3. Compete on "Dancing with the Stars".
4. Help raise the next generation of earth stewards.

We can help you with that last one! If you would like to name Welty Environmental Center in your will or bequest, contact Welty and your attorney or financial advisor for advice.

608-361-1377



Classroom Opportunities

If teachers want to come to Welty or have Welty come to them, please call us at

608-361-1377

Welty Environmental Center

Annual Statistics - 2011

Welty Environmental Center Director Lena Verkuilen and volunteers presented 174 educational programs during 2011. A large number of these programs were attended by students and teachers from area school districts.



Educational programs presented: 174

Number of **school classes** attending programs: **107**

Children attending programs: **3,112**

Adults attending programs: **1,706**

Total participants: 4,818

Note: *These numbers do not include the many people who attended Welty's **Maple Sugar Fest** (March), **Nature Rendezvous** (June), or the **Fall Festival** (October). Also not included are participants in Welty activities during **City of Beloit** events, **environmental fairs**, and **farmers' markets** where Welty had a booth and activities.*

Congratulations on a successful year!!

**Become a Junior Naturalist
with the
Welty Environmental Center
and stand out in the crowd!**



Are you between the ages of 13 and 18 years and looking to get outside and work with children? We have a great opportunity for you! Come to the Welty Environmental Center on **Saturday, February 11 from 1pm-4pm** (refreshments provided) to get a fun, hands-on crash course in teaching outdoor education. With this training you will be able to help plan summer camps and programs, help lead groups, and perhaps even run your own program. This opportunity can help you log volunteer hours for school, get experience for jobs working with children, and give you great skills which future employers will look for.

Friends of Welty 2011 Members

Contributors of \$1,000 or More

Catherine & Homer Anderson *in memory of Susan & Carl Welty*
David & Stephanie Dobson *in memory of Charles Dobson*
Loni Powers *in memory of Mike Powers*

Contributors of \$250 - \$999

Gillian & Mark Batterman
Ivan Eckholm *in memory of Shirley Eckholm*
Tom Evert & Bette Lang
Nancy Johnson & James VanDeBogart
Jan & Dave Knutson
Fred Mathews *in honor of Nell*
Richard & Shirley Newsome
Jane Noble
Ken & Lois O'Tool
Will Pollock *in memory of Muriel Pollock*
Gary & Teresa Sommers
Martin & Nancy Stabb

Contributors of \$100 - \$249

Larry & Karen Arft
Charles & Joy Boardman
Carol Welty Faris
Helen Gjessing
Peter & Nancy Halverson
Lois Hough
Robert Hunter
Martin & Rita Kades
Penny & Tom Kennedy
Christine Kopec *in memory of Mike Powers*
Ronald Lange
Carol Mankiewicz & Carl Mendelson
Constance Matusiak
John & Carol Meland

Philip & Victoria Melzer
Millie Moffett
Charles & Helen Mortensen
Karen & Sam Niehans
Dick & Joan Niemiec
Lloyd & Peggy Page
Elsa Rockwell *in memory of Betty Rockwell*
Joan & Karl Salzberg
Ray & Joan Schultz
John & Kendyle Smith
John & Marianne Stanton
Henry & Lyn Woodard
Quentin Yoerger
Tanya Zastrow

Other Contributors

Den & Judy Adler
John & Joanne Anderson
Heidi & Richard Andre
Kate & Bob Baldwin
Bob & Shirley Barnum
Buzz & Fran Beckman
David & Barbara Bendlin
Al Bennett & Nancy Hansen-Bennett
John & EunYung Boardman
Roy Bossingham & Carol Wickersham
Carolyn Brandeen
John & Karen Butchart
Jenny Buttke
Paul Campbell & Melanie Schneider
John & Margie Carroll
Richard & Francine Case
Bruce & Lora Cawkins
Lisa & Erik Chamberlain
David & Annie Collins
Marilyn & Gary Cook
James & Karel Cripe
Sonja Darlington
Shirley DiFrancesco
George & Barbara Dilling

Suanna & Richard Douglas
Mary Driscoll
Gerald Druckrey & Patricia Harper
Richard & Val Dunagan
Roger Dutcher
David & Jodie Dvorak
Jeffrey Eno & Suzanne Cox
Eric & Willie Ericson
Lee & Marilyn Fassett
Carolyn Finley
Christina & Tim Finley
Frank Fiorina
Matt & Ann Forbeck
Nancy & Ken Forbeck
Mary Ellen & Charles Fulton *in memory of Carl & Susan Welty*
Tom & Nancy Garrett
John & Cindy Glaberson
Kathleen Greene & Teresa Leopold
Yaffa Grossman & Karin Jacobsen
Michael & Debra Guisleman
Robert & Wanda Haas
Janet & Roy Hahn
Ken Hansen
Mary Alice Harris
Janet & Dan Hedtcke
Janet Herbert & John Verhaar
Gary & Darcy Hess
Barbara Higgins & Shawn Gillen
John Hilburger
Marline & Tom Holmes
Kathleen Engel Hunt *in memory of Art Engel*
Jacqueline Dougan Jackson *in memory of Ron & Vera Dougan*
Laura Johnson
Virginia Karstaedt
Thomas & Rosemary Kautz
Douglas & Janet Kent
Paul & Kathleen Klespis-Wick
Craig & Julie Knutson
Virginia Knutson
Kristin Koeffler
Timothy Krause & Elizabeth Babler

Friends of Welty 2011 Members

Mary & Greg Krisco	Steve & Dorothy Paynter Pollock	Connie & Jerry Sveum
Robert & Elizabeth Kuranz	Daryl & Mary Porter	Dwight Swacina
Thomas & Peggy Lang	Jessica & Curtis Primus	Elizabeth Tardola
Bea Lengjak	Kenneth & Mary Jane Rehard	Joanne Thompson
Lois Lenz	Thelma Robbins	Edna Thorp
Darin & Melinda Ludlum	Paul Roemer	Pablo Toral
Tamara & Jack Maegli	James Rougvie & Brenda Plakans	Jane Couffer Townsend
Jerry & Phyllis Mathews	Mae Sanford	Katie & Andy Udell
Richard & Mary Jo McCauley	Stephen Schmaeng	Gene & Connie Van Galder
John McDonnell & Judith Christensen	Henry & Carol Schreve	Jennifer Vangeisen & Tim Zierfuss
Becky Moffett & Kevin Minter	Curt & Kathy Schroeder	Shirley Von Allmen
Jess & Darlene Nelson	Philip Selgren	Paul & Beth Von Driska
Douglas & Janet Nicoll	Mark & Gloria Senz	William Walz
Darsha Olsen & John Norman	O. V. Shaffer	Kelly Washburn
Richard Ott & Jean Vining	John & Sherri Sole	Jim & Marianne Wilson
Fran & Jacquelyn Patch	Brock & Barbara Spencer	Kurtis & Elaine Yankee
Dean & Jayne Paynter	August & June Stellberg	Daniel Youd & Tamara Ketabgian
Steve Pink Woodworking <i>in memory of Thomas Pink</i>	Richard & Georgina Stenstrom <i>in memory of Hazel Brown</i>	Larry & Barbara Zastrow
	Scott Steurer	Robert Zeek Jr.
	Nadine Stoner	

Join the Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Inc. today!

Help support environmental education and programming in our region. Friends of Welty members receive issues of this newsletter and information about programming and events. We have 501(c)(3) tax exempt status and are solely a private, non-profit educational organization. Dues and contributions may be tax-deductible.

Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2012

Senior/Student (\$20)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organizational (\$100)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual (\$25)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifetime (\$1,000)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family (\$40)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Total (dues & contributions) _____ Please make checks payable to and mail to:

Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Inc.,
P.O. Box 131, Beloit, WI 53512

FWEC Board of Directors

Jan Knutson, President
Heidi Andre, Vice President
Tom Evert, Treasurer
Stephanie Dobson, External Secretary
Karen Nienhans, Internal Secretary

At-Large Directors

Dave Dobson
Jan Herbert
Richard Ott
Paul Roemer
Pablo Toral
Susan Wright

Welty Center Director: Lena Verkuilen

Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator: Kelly Washburn

Warbler Newsletter Editors: Gillian Batterman,
Linda Wendt

Maple Sugar Fest

Saturday, March 31

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. ❖ Big Hill Park ❖ Beloit, WI

A day of outdoor fun for the whole family!

- Tours of the sugar maple grove
- Demonstrations on the evaporation process
- Indoor displays and a video
- Sausages, pancakes and maple syrup
- Horse-drawn wagon rides between the meal and the sugar bush

Meal at Girl Scout building, demonstrations at the Big Hill cabin

Cost: Event is free.

Meal: \$5 per adult, \$4 per Welty member, \$3 children ages 10 and under.

WELTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
connecting people with nature

P.O. Box 131
Beloit, WI 53512
(608) 361-1377
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Permit No. 71
Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Beloit, WI 53511



This paper is made with recycled fibers.

FOUR RIVERS
ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

Visit us at www.weltycenter.org