



The Warbler

A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE WELTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER, INC. volume 10, issue 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY JAN KNUTSON

Upcoming Events at Welty

- Sat. Sept. 11
Monarch Migration

- Sun. Sept. 12
Heritage Days
Local Wildlife Residents - past and present.

- Wed. Sept. 15
Deadline for calendar photos

- Sat. Sept. 25
Nature Rocks: Wild Times

- Sun. Oct. 10
Welty Fall Harvest Fest

- Sat. Oct. 16
Nature Rocks: Leaf Safari

- Sat. Oct. 30
All Hallows Eve Night Hike

- Sat. Nov. 20
Nature Rocks: Rock Hounds

- Sat. Dec. 11
Nature Rocks: Wildlife Treats

- Sat. Dec. 18
Birds of a Feather

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- For more information, check out the Event Calendar starting on page 5.

We're BACK at it! ...BACK to school...BACK to work...BACK to regular routines...

Looking BACK at summer... It was a great summer out at Welty. We launched Summer Day Camps for the first time and had 2 exciting weeks of camp activities. The Survivor Day Camp put new meaning to the term SURVIVOR with a week of 90 degree temps and mosquitoes galore...but everyone cooled off with some Raccoon Creek time and we're all looking BACK at great memories! Welty Wednesdays and Fishing Fridays were also very popular this summer!

Now, BACK to the future! Because it's not so much looking BACK... as it is what's ahead...

Welty Fall Harvest Fest, Sunday
October 10, 1-4pm
at Beckman Mill Park
Entry fees: \$15.00/ per family for members
\$20.00/ per family- non-members

Come try these traditional harvest time events:

Fall Art Activities, Cider Pressing & Tasting, Pumpkin Carving, and Scarecrow Building

We're also having a Pie Contest!

- All amateur bakers are welcome to enter a fruit or vegetable pie.
- Pie judging will take place at 2pm.
- Pie slices will be available for purchase after the judging

Popcorn and beverages will be available for purchase.

This is an important fund raiser for the Welty Center. You can help by bringing old clothes for scarecrow building, and/or by volunteering at the event. To help, please call the Welty Center at: 608-361-3771 or e-mail to: info@weltycenter.org

Come enjoy the colors of fall with the Welty Environmental Center!



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The spiders are more active, the goldenrods are blooming, and the days are getting noticeably shorter – that must mean fall is nearly here. Autumn for me brings both busyness and a time of winding down. Personally I am harvesting and processing the tomatoes from my garden as fast as I can, it's time to clean the bird feeder before winter, and I realize how much I've neglected my house for the outside work. There is also the welcome cool evenings, pulling out the sweaters, and curling up with a good book and a cat or two when it's too dark to work outside. Here at the Welty Environmental Center we have wrapped up the busy summer programs, but are gearing up for fall school and scout groups. It is also a time to reflect on past events and plan future ones. My walks through the park are more leisurely, as I have to stop and watch the birds prepare to migrate, listen to the bawdy blackbird flocks, pop a few touch-me-not pods, and enjoy the glory of the oak savanna.



Please make some time yourself to slow down and enjoy the spectacle of nature in the fall.

Autumn at the Welty Environmental Center brings an annual tradition – the Fall Family Harvest Festival! Make plans now to bring the whole gang on Sunday, October 10. Fall hikes for Beloit School District 2nd graders will take place throughout October. Please consider volunteering to help – especially if you want a chance to see Big Hill Park through the eyes of a child. Our Nature Rocks Family Nature Club kicks off in September as well. Pack up the binoculars, camera, field guides, or just a snack and be ready to soak up the delights of autumn. Happy fall, and I'll see you outside!

See you outside!
Lena Verkuilen
Director, Welty Environmental Center

VOLUNTEER CORNER BY KELLY WASHBURN

Become a Welty Volunteer and help us grow! By playing a vital role in the growth of the Welty Center you will see your work make a difference by educating today's youth about nature. You will see first hand how your work makes a difference. Learning new skills, meeting new people and learning about the local environment are just some of the different opportunities that are available at the Center. Enjoy a fall morning or afternoon at Big Hill Park as a hiking guide or hiking aid during the month of October. Hike with second graders along the trails and point out animals and plants seen along the way. No experience is necessary and training will be provided at your convenience. The annual Fall Festival will once again be held October 10. Volunteers are encouraged to help set up, help with

various fall activities throughout the grounds and clean-up. What a wonderful way to enjoy the weather and festivities in beautiful fall surroundings.

A heartfelt "Thank-YOU" goes out to all our wonderful volunteers that dedicate their time and talents to our great Center. If you would like more info on joining our team of volunteers, email Kelly at volunteer@weltycenter.org or call 608-361-1377. Have a great Fall!

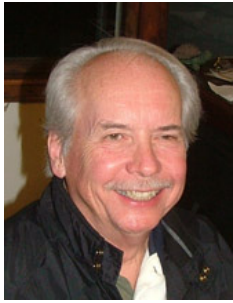
Kelly Washburn
Volunteer Coordinator
Welty Environmental Center
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Beloit, WI 53511
(608) 361-1377
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volunteer@weltycenter.org

CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS!

Do you enjoy nature photography? Do you have some great pictures to share? Then this contest is for you! The Friends of the Welty Environmental Center are putting together a calendar for 2011 and we need your pictures. Photos can be of flora, fauna, landscapes, weather, and especially people enjoying nature and Welty Environmental Center programs.

Send your photos by e-mail to Gill Batterman at gbatterman@gmail.com by Sept. 15. You can also drop them off at Welty Center. Any photos including people will require consent that the photo may be used in promotional material for the Welty Environmental Center. Watch for our calendar information in November. They will make great Christmas presents!

MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER: RICHARD OTT



Richard grew up in Monroe, WI and now lives in Janesville. He has been a loyal member of FWEC since 2001 and was

elected to the FWEC Board in April of 2010. He was employed as an account manager at Alliant Energy for 34 years.

In retirement, he served on the Rock County Board for a total of 12 years, and during 5-1/2 of those years he served as the Chairman of that board. Richard became aware of the Welty Center organization through its many appearances before the Rock County Public Works Committee, on which he sat.

He likes to bike, hike and grow vegetables in his garden. In summary, he likes to be close to the earth. Richard is interested in the challenge of reducing his own Carbon footprint, and those of others. He is a firm believer in the importance of the 3 Rs (repair, reuse and recycling), and he loves to tinker with discarded objects to find new uses for their parts. He confesses to being a pack rat.



When you search on the internet, log onto Good Search, and shop via Good Shop – with Welty Environmental Center identified as recipient of the donations Yahoo will make because of your use of their site.

A NEW LOOK FOR THE WELTY CENTER RAIN GARDEN

By the Center's front porch, between the ramp and the driveway, is a small (6' x 10') area that receives the outflow of a drainage system for the occasional build up of water under the building.

A rain garden was originally planted there in 2004, but it had become overgrown and unattractive. In June 2010 Jan Herbert and Stephanie Dobson reworked the plot and planted moisture tolerant, butterfly attracting native plants, which Jan Herbert generously donated. Take a look for them when you visit the center.

GET THE WARBLER BY EMAIL!

Would you like to receive your future Warblers by e-mail?

Currently 71 people receive e-mail notices when a new Warbler is published. This notice contains a summary of the Warbler's contents and a convenient link to click whenever you wish to receive the full Warbler, as a pdf file. We're pleased by the number of people who have already chosen this method of delivery, which has the following advantages:

- ☛ You will get the e-mail a few days earlier than you would receive a paper copy through the US mail.
- ☛ E-delivery saves trees, and it saves the expense and labor of printing, labeling and mailing.
- ☛ E-delivery gives you a link that you can freely pass on to your

CALLING ALL ARTISANS AND NATURE ENTHUSIASTS

Welty is looking for help to sponsor a series of classes and workshops integrating the arts and nature. We are looking for individuals who would be willing to share time and talents with others. Nature photography? Watercolor painting? Black-line sketches of birds or trees? Quilting with Nature themes? Creating art with natural materials? Creating art with nature as the subject? Creating art with recycled and re-purposed items? Can you suggest a topic and/or volunteer?

Give Welty a call...361-1377.

friends, to get them interested in joining FWEC or participating in its activities.

- ☛ E-delivery gives you all the photographs in the Warbler in living color on your computer monitor.

To sign up now for e-delivery, just send an e-mail to <dobsond@beloit.edu> with "e-Warbler" as the subject, and with your full name and complete contact information in the body of the message. Thank you for helping us to deliver news about the Welty Environmental Center more broadly, while also saving money for other Welty activities.

If you do nothing now, you will continue receiving paper Warblers by mail, as a current member of FWEC.

A BUSY WELTY SUMMER

PICTURES FROM THE WELTY SUMMER PROGRAMS



Director Lena and kids inspect an enormous crawfish during Welty's June Summer Camp.



Intern Jessica and kids look for insects by the new handicap accessible fishing pier in Beckman Mill county Park on a Welty Wednesday in July.



Lena helps kids examine a beetle at the "Creepy Crawlies" Welty Wednesday in July.



Lena and the kids find creepy crawlies everywhere.



Lena teaches Snappy the Turtle and kids the bee dance (the method bees use to communicate the location of food) at "Bee Movie" in Beloit's Riverside Park in August.

2010 WELTY FALL/WINTER EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Saturday, September 11, 2010

Monarch Migrations

10am-11:30am at Welty

Environmental Center in Beckman Mill County Park

Ages: Families and Adults

Cost: \$3 per person Welty members, \$5 per person for nonmembers

One of the most amazing migrations of the natural world is starting around us – that of the monarch butterfly. Scientists are learning more about this amazing life cycle and journey every day. Come to the Welty Environmental Center, located in Beckman Mill County Park, to learn more about the monarch's life history, it's fantastic journey, and what you can do to help this species.

—

Sunday, September 12, 2010

Our Wildlife Residents: Past and Present

11am-4pm at the Welty

Environmental Center in Beckman Mill County Park

Ages: Everyone

The Welty Environmental Center is celebrating this year's Beloit Heritage Days with a salute to the wildlife in the region – both of today and years past. Scheduled

events are tracking activities, a fossil display, guided nature walks, Hoo Haven wildlife rehabilitation with live animals, and games for children of all ages.

—

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Nature Rocks: Wild Times

2:00-3:30pm at the Welty

Environmental Center in Beckman Mill County Park

Ages: Families of all ages

Cost: \$5 per family for Welty members, \$10 per family for nonmembers

Bring everyone in the family from great-grandparents to toddlers to this event. Celebrate National Public Lands Day with a kick-off to the Nature Rocks Family Nature Club season! This afternoon we will explore all the nooks and crannies of Beckman Mill Park from the woods to the prairie to the water. Come to all sessions through May and receive a special treat!

—

Saturday, October 2, 2010

Branching Out: Tree Identification and Adaptations for Girl Scouts

1pm-3pm at Big Hill Park

Ages: Brownie & Junior Girl Scouts

Cost: \$5 per scout

Learn how trees survive in Wisconsin and how to identify local trees. We'll start with the basics before heading out on the Big Hill Park trails to put our new skills to use. Girls will learn adaptations of trees, leaf types, tree lore, and how to identify trees using leaves, twigs, bark, seeds and identification keys.

Sunday, October 10, 2010

Annual Welty Center Fall Family Harvest Festival

1:00-4:00pm at Beckman Mill County Park

Ages: Families of all ages

Cost: \$15 per family for Welty members, \$20 per family for nonmembers

Bring out the whole family for an afternoon of old-fashioned fall fun! Your admission fee covers scarecrow making, apple pressing, pumpkin carving, art activities, games and more! For you bakers, enter your best fruit or vegetable pie in the pie contest. Pies must be entered by 2pm, with judging immediately following. Pie slices, along with popcorn and apple cider, will be available for sale.

—

Saturday, October 16, 2010

Nature Rocks: Leaf Safari

10am-11:30am in Big Hill Park

Ages: Families of all ages

Cost: \$5 per family for Welty members, \$10 per family for nonmembers

Enjoy an autumn morning in the woods! We will meet near the maintenance shed in Big Hill Park to experience forest ecology first-hand. Be ready to peek under logs and leaves, find fungi and make acorn whistles. Wear your hiking shoes to tackle the "big hill!"

2010 WELTY SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR CONTINUED

Saturday, October 16, 2010

Branching Out: Tree Identification and Adaptations for Girl Scouts

1pm-3pm at Big Hill Park

Ages: Brownie & Junior Girl Scouts

Cost: \$5 per scout

Learn how trees survive in Wisconsin and how to identify local trees. We'll start with the basics before heading out on the Big Hill Park trails to put our new skills to use. Girls will learn adaptations of trees, leaf types, tree lore, and how to identify trees using leaves, twigs, bark, seeds and identification keys.

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Saturday, October 30, 2010

All Hallows Night Hike

6:30pm-8pm at Big Hill Park

Ages: Families of all ages

Cost: \$5 per family for Welty members, \$10 per family for nonmembers

Night is traditionally a time when people stay inside. Come brave the fall evening for a hike to discover the amazing life that only comes out at night. We'll listen for owls, learn the truth about bats, and hear stories about wonders of the nocturnal world. Meet at near the maintenance shed in the park.

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Donations from participants are always welcome and appreciated.

Saturday, November 6, 2010

Weather Watch for Girl Scouts

10am-Noon, and 1pm-3pm at the

Welty Environmental Center in

Beckman Mill County Park

Ages: Juniors and up

Cost: \$5 per scout

Come learn the science behind forecasting the weather. At this session girls will learn to read the sky, make tools to predict the coming weather, and learn how to stay safe during extreme weather conditions. The difference between climate and weather will be examined as well. Be ready to be outdoors for this meteorological experience!

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Saturday, November 20, 2010

Nature Rocks: Rock Hounds

10am-11:30am at Carver Roehl

County Park

Ages: Families of all ages

Cost: \$5 per family for Welty

members, \$10 per family for nonmembers

Every rock beneath our feet tells a story, and plays a part in what the world around us is like. Today we will be exploring the geological gem of Carver Roehl County Park near Clinton. Find out about Wisconsin's oceanic and more past.

Saturday, December 11, 2010

Nature Rocks: Wildlife Treats

1pm-2:30pm at the Welty

Environmental Center in Beckman

Mill County Park

Ages: Families of all ages

Cost: \$5 per family for Welty members, \$10 per family for nonmembers

Winter is coming fast, and the wildlife around us find the weather a challenge when it comes to finding food. Help them out as we make outdoor decorations that look great. And the critters think they taste great too!

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Saturday, December 18, 2010

Birds of a Feather

9am-3pm at the Welty

Environmental Center in Beckman

Mill County Park

Ages: 6 and up

Cost: \$12 per person for Welty members, \$15 per person for nonmembers

Come find out what Harry Potter's world would be like if Hogwarts was in Wisconsin. Parents, enjoy a day off as your children explore and imagine for the day at the Welty Environmental Center. We'll find wands from just the right trees, wander through the "forbidden forest," find signs of our own "magical" creatures, and more. Participants will need to bring a lunch, but some magical snacks will be provided. There is a limit of 15 participants for this day-long program.

CALLING ALL BAKERS!



Enter the 4th Annual Pie Contest
At the Welty Center's
Fall Harvest Festival



Who Can Enter?

-Amateur bakers of all ages encouraged to enter!

What kind of pie?

-Pies should be made with local fruits or vegetables. Fall harvest fruits preferred.

When is the deadline for entering a pie?

-Pies must be dropped off at the Welty Center on Sunday October 10, 2010 anytime between 12-2pm.

When will the judging take place?

-Judging will take place at 2pm on Sunday, October 10, 2010 during the Welty Center's Harvest Festival.

How will the pies be judged?

-A panel of 3 judges will judge the pies on appearance, crust, filling, and overall taste.

Will others be able to taste the pies?

-After the judging, slices of the pies will be for sale for everyone to enjoy.

Will there be a prize?

-The winning pie baker will win a family membership to the Welty Center along with a small prize.

Will pie plates be returned?

-Yes, after the judging all pie plates can be picked up by the baker.

**For more information
contact:**

Phone: (608) 361-1377

Welty Environmental Center

www.weltycenter.org

info@weltycenter.org



Welty Center's Harvest Festival Pie Contest

ENTRANCE FORM

PIE # _____

TYPE OF PIE: _____

NAME OF BAKER(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

COMMENTS: _____

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Membership Dues for Calendar Yr 2010

- Student/Child (\$10)
- Individual (\$15)
- Family (\$25)
- Organizational (\$100)
- Lifetime (\$1000)

Join the Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Inc. Today Help support environmental education and programming in our region. FWEC 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. All dues and contributions are tax-deductible.

NAME(S):			
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			

Contributions	
Level	Amount
Swallow	\$25
Killdeer	\$50
Goldfinch	\$75
Cardinal	\$100
Bluebird	\$150
Crane	\$250
Great Blue Heron	\$500+

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 Tom Evert, Treasurer
 Stephanie Dobson, External Secretary
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 Office Manager/
 Volunteer Coordinator: Kelly Washburn

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 Jan Herbert John Nevins
 Richard Ott Susan Wright

'Warbler' Newsletter Editors
 Jan Knutson Jason Dettman

After reading this issue of The Warbler, file it for future reference or pass it on to a friend. Better yet, send the friend's name to us and we'll send them a copy!

Visit us at www.weltycenter.org



This paper is made with recycled fibers



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Beloit, WI 53512

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