

THE WARBLER

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

volume 12, issue 3

Upcoming Events

See pages 8 - 10 for details

AUGUST

- Wed 8** Welty Wednesday:
Camouflage!
- Sat 11** Welty Whimsies
Birdhouse, Wind Chimes
- Sat 11** Brodhead Wildflowers
- Mon 13** Summer Camp
- Fri 17** Latino Community Fair
- Sat 18** Welty Whimsies:
Garden Basket
- Fri 24** Community Movie, *UP*
- Sat 25** Welty Whimsies:
Birdbath, Planter
- Sat 25** Master Gardener Fair

SEPTEMBER

- Sat 8** Monarch Migration
- Sun 9** Beloit Heritage Days
- Sat 15** Bioblitz
- Sat 15** Geocaching
- Sat 22** Vintage Garden Party
- Sat 29** Nature Rocks:
Aldo Leopold trip

OCTOBER

- Thur 4** Stateline Fossils
- Sat 13** Fall Festival
- Sat 13** Town of Beloit Fair
- Sat 20** Nature Rocks:
Fall Hike
- Sat 27** Stories in the Sky

President's Message

By Jan Knutson

Some of you may know that I am a basket weaver. I enjoy both weaving handmade baskets and teaching others. I am continually amazed at the variety of baskets and patterns in weaving just as I am continually amazed at the variety in nature. Basket weaving is connected to the natural world in many ways.

Basket weaving is an intimate art of rhythm, form and time. Because reed is a natural material, each strand will have its own unique character. Sometimes you can guess which strands will be more flexible and easier to weave, but the true character of the weavers will only be revealed as your basket takes form.

The same is true of nature. Our natural world is a combination of many inter-woven components, some having more flexibility and strength, others more endangered and needing more attention. All the parts of both baskets and nature are entwined and interwoven and that's what holds everything together.

My basket weaving is an amalgamation of techniques derived from many different teachers, cultures and experiences. I will be sharing my basket techniques and teaching in the natural setting at Welty. If you are interested in trying your hand at basket weaving...give Kelly a call and sign up to weave a Garden Basket on Saturday afternoon, August 18. See the ad. for Welty Whimsies on page 3 for further details.



Reflections

By Lena Verkuilen, Director

Carter's Critters

Summer can be very busy here at the Welty Environmental Center. Is the box for the outreach program ready and stocked? Has the center been cleaned and set up for the next program? How is the paperwork going for the bookkeeper? It's easy to get caught up in all the details and not see the forest for the trees. But every program brings me a reminder of why we work so hard all year to get people, especially children, outdoors and having real interactions with the natural world.

Carter came into a Welty Wednesday session with his hands full - this week it was a mud dauber nest, red-spotted purple butterfly he had found dead, and his new pet wolf spider. He captured a carpenter ant and showed the rest of the group how he fed his spider, and explained how it caught and ate its prey. Last week it was cocoons that he brought so we could wait for them to hatch here at the center. For Carter the outdoors has something new to explore and discover at every turn. His enthusiasm never wanes no matter



the weather, and he brings me back to my explorations as a child. This is the spirit I personally want to foster here with the Welty Environmental Center. Carter is one of many examples I can show here. Maybe it's James and Kyle, who though they have very different styles, both have an amazing love of fishing. Christopher splits his time between exploring in the water for hidden life and sitting on the shore with a fishing pole in his hands. Talia will sit at a rock crevice where a water snake slinked away for hours waiting for it to come back out. These youths are our future scientists, game wardens, politicians, teachers, activists and leaders.

Thanks to your support of the Welty Environmental Center there is a new generation with a deep appreciation of the natural world growing with them. As summer turns to autumn please make the time to get outdoors and rekindle that spirit of discovery you had in your youth, and find out something new on your next hike. And if you can, bring a child important to you along to explore the natural world with you.



Fall Festival

Sunday, Oct. 14

1 - 4:30 p.m.

**Beckman Mill
County Park**

- Pumpkin carving
- Make a scarecrow
- Food for purchase
- Apple cider pressing
- Fall arts and crafts
- Music and folk dancing

***Bake a fall harvest pie and enter it in our pie contest!
Pie judging will begin at 2 p.m.***

**Admission Fee: \$5⁰⁰ per person
\$3⁰⁰ for kids
\$12⁰⁰ for the whole family**



Volunteer Corner

By Kelly Washburn, Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager

The Special Events Committee: If you have considered being on a committee but cannot find the time to dedicate all those extra hours, this committee is for you! It is a fun, laid back committee which meets to explore new ideas that will benefit and add to the already existing programs already offered at Welty. We will work around your schedule and make sure you come away with excitement and inspiration!

Work Day: Join a group for a one day fall work event. Fall duties include: washing windows and putting up plastic, cleaning the garage, cleaning out flower beds, storing the window air conditioners, stacking or cutting wood pieces, washing the siding, or organizing the closet space. Day to be announced.

End of summer programs: Lena invites you to become involved with the summer and fall programming she has lined up. Duties include giving her a little help with the kids and enjoying the program right along with the group. No experience is necessary and be prepared to have a lot of fun, I promise! Check out our website at www.weltycenter.org for upcoming programs, especially camp in August!

Fall Harvest Festival: Of course what would fall be without this family oriented festival at Welty! Many talented volunteers are needed on October 14th, to help families make scarecrows, carve pumpkins, create a dried flower centerpiece, run the popcorn machine, pour cider and of course just hang out and have a great time interacting with other Welty volunteers.

Want to enter a pie for the “Best Pie Ever” contest? First, second and third prizes will be awarded by a panel of well known pie eatin’ judges chosen within our community. Don’t miss out! You are invited to stop by or give me a call at anytime with a volunteer

opportunity or idea that you may have in the back of your mind and would like to explore it further. All ideas, big or small, are welcome.

Happy volunteering!

**Call Kelly at
608-314-4340 or email
volunteer@weltycenter.org**

Welty Whimsies

Who says adults can't have fun? Join us at Welty Environmental Center for a fun, relaxing and crafty Saturday afternoon!

Birdhouses & Wind Chimes

August 11, 1:00 p.m. to finish
Cost - \$30



A Garden Basket

August 18, 1:00 p.m. to finish
Cost - \$40

Birdbath or Planter

August 25, 1:00 p.m. to finish
Cost - \$30

Register by calling 608-314-4340.

Ask for Kelly or

send e-mail to volunteer@weltycenter.org

Register early ... there are only 20 spots per class.

Spring Snapshots

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. We think so too.



A Beloit High School Ecology Club student meets a corn snake at Cold-Blooded Critters. They both look uncertain.



At the Adult Nature Academy participants learned how to estimate the height of a tree.



Families enjoyed the Night Flight program at the Elkhorn Library.



Vendors at Little Plants on the Prairie.

**It's informative! It's colorful!
It's interactive!
It has way less
annoying ads than Facebook does.**

It's our all new website!!

**Check it out at
www.weltycenter.org**

continued on page 5

Spring Snapshots

continued from page 4



Optimistic workshop participants learn how to make a rain barrel in case we get enough rain to fill it.



An intrepid and curious Welty Wednesday participant investigating a hollow tree.

Participation in Welty Center Activities April through June 2012

ACTIVITY	# PRESENTATIONS	# CHILDREN	# ADULTS	# PARTICIPANTS
College Presentations	2	31	2	33
Earth Week Public Programs	5	8	22	30
River of Life Church Family Night	1	35	15	50
Earth Day School Reading Program	1	40	5	45
Rotary Gardens Earth Day Expo	1	139	75	214
Evansville Energy Fair	1	222	20	242
Nature Rocks Family Nature Club	1	0	3	3
Cold-Blooded Critters Show	1	Many	Many	91
5th Grade Beloit Ecology Programs	21	660	42	702
Bird Day Hike	1	2	9	11
Scout Programs	1	10	5	15
Adult Nature Academy	2	0	9	9
Miscellaneous School Spring Field Trips	19	310	107	417
Library Outreach Programs	4	155	70	225
Welty Wednesday Programs	3	20	8	28
Friday Fun	1	6	0	6
Even Start Dads & Lads Program	1	20	20	40
Young Explorers Day Camp	1 week	17	0	17
Annual Meeting	1	0	25	25
Rendezvous	1	10	30	40
Little Plants on the Prairie	1	40	160	200
TOTAL	70	1,725+	627+	2,444+

Rock County Parks Update

By Joleen Stinson, Rock County Parks Community Coordinator

In the last issue, I reported that improvements were being planned for the northwoods trail in Beckman Mill Park. The trail work is now complete! Here are a couple of photos of the process. Be sure to hike this trail next time you are in the park, it is a big improvement!



A birding group stepping off of the boardwalk onto the northwoods trail (before improvements).



Mike from Trail Design Specialists working with a Ditch Witch - specialized trail equipment. The tread was raised almost 6 inches using soil from the park, topped with gravel and compacted. The stumps were grubbed for a smooth hiking surface and the trail will no longer puddle water.

Welty Wish List

We found an old lamp and rubbed it but so far that's not working very well. So . . .

We are in the middle of our busy season here at the Welty Environmental Center. As we run programs items get used up, or used to the point where repairs are needed. Here are some items that would make life easier here at the center in case you have some to spare:

- Fishing poles (closed reel) and tackle
- White tee shirts and Rit dye for camp tie-dye
- Aquatic nets and other outdoor exploration items
- Loppers, gloves and other tools to help with restoration in the oak savanna
- General office and cleaning supplies, including copy paper (white and color), scotch and masking tape, staples, file folders, paper towels, green cleaning supplies, etc.
- General arts and crafts supplies, including school glue, scissors, glue sticks, pipe cleaners, etc.
- 2L soda bottles, film canisters, toilet paper tubes, plastic container and other repurposable recycleables
- Basic first aid items including band aids, sting kill, antiseptic cream, cold packs, etc.
- Folks to help repair fishing gear
- Box of freeze pops for summer programming
- Color printer that is compatible with Windows 7



Thank you for your help and support!

Spotlight on Members

The Boardman Family

By John Boardman

Our family has been getting more involved with the Welty Center recently. We moved back to my hometown, Beloit, in recent years, to be near family, and have been exploring opportunities for education and enrichment. We have visited the fall festivities in the past, in which my mother (Joy) has volunteered. This year my wife (Eunyung) and I have attended two workshops (on making rain barrels and on worm composting) and brought along the kids. Our rain barrel hasn't seen much use, but we're hoping it will rain soon...our garden and lawn need it. The worms are doing better, as there has been no "drought" of kitchen scraps.

Now involving a third generation, this summer our son, Max (9) and daughter, Tia (almost 6) attended the Young Explorers Week summer camp and had a great time. Max loved seeing animals, including



Jack, Euyung, Max and John proudly display their rainbarrel.



"I'm looking for crayfish!," says Tia.

crayfish, which he spent a fair amount of time with, as well as fish, fireflies and toads. His younger sister, Tia, also enjoyed herself catching crayfish, drawing and visiting a nearby farm (she was a little less happy about getting pinched by one of the crayfish she held). Our youngest son, Jack, was too young to attend, but really loved to go out to Beckman Mill Park to bring his siblings lunch, and to run and play with the other kids.

In the future we hope to be involved with many more fun and educational experiences through the Welty Center, both for ourselves and our children, and instill in our kids an appreciation and awareness of nature and their environment.

Welty Summer/Fall Events Schedule

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

AUGUST

All events are at Welty Envir. Center unless otherwise noted.

Wed. 8 - Welty Wednesday: Camouflage!

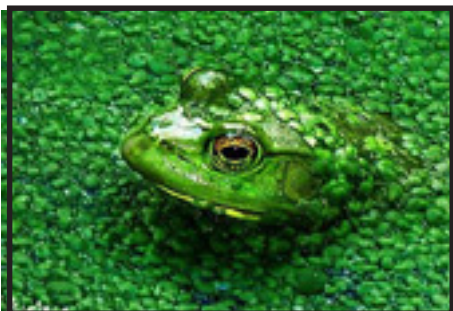
Join us for a morning of stories, hands-on nature activities and games, crafts and a snack along the shores of Raccoon Creek. There are so many plants and animals in nature that we don't notice because they blend in. We'll play a game to blend in ourselves, and hunt for animals disguised as sticks, leaves, and even bird poop! Make it more fun by dressing in camouflage yourself.

When: 9:00-11:00am

Age: 5-10 years
4 & under, with caregiver

Cost: \$8 Welty member
\$10 for nonmember

Register: by Aug. 6



Sat 11 - Welty Whimsies: Birdhouses & Wind Chimes

See ad on page 3.

Sat. 11 - Brodhead Wildflower Weekend

Look for Welty!

When: 10:30am-4pm

Where: Brodhead Library and cabin by the school

Mon. 13 – Fri 17 - Unhuggables Summer Day Camp

Snakes and spiders and skunks - oh my! It seems like no one likes critters like this, but maybe you do! We'll look for these animals and more in the park this week while we learn to love them. Be ready for a week of exploring, crafts, games and more as we learn the truth behind the animals no one loves, and maybe get close to a few too. It's going to be a batty week!

Come back for a special Friday Family Night. An optional camp out (additional fee charged) in Beckman Mill Park for the whole family will cap off the week. We'll go on a night hike, check out the constellations, and enjoy songs, stories and smores at the campfire before going to bed. Light breakfast provided Saturday.

When: 9:00am-3:00pm
6:00pm Friday Family Night

Age: 6-12 years

Cost: \$75 Welty members
\$100 nonmembers
Partial scholarships available.

Registration limited to 15 campers, so sign up now!

Note: The June camp filled fast!

Fri. 17 - Latino Community Fair

Look for Welty!

When: 5-7pm

Where: Riverside Park, Beloit

Sat. 18 – Welty Whimsies: A Garden Basket

See ad on page 3



Fri. 24 - Community Movie, UP

Look for Welty!

When: before dusk, onwards

Where: Riverside Park, Beloit

Sat. 25 – Welty Whimsies: Birdbath or Planter

See ad. on page 3

Sat. 25 - Master Gardener Volunteers' Garden Fair

Look for Welty!

When: 9am-3pm

Where: Rock County Fair Grounds, Janesville

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

Welty Summer/Fall Events Schedule

SEPTEMBER

Sat. 8 - Monarch Migrations with the Scheunemanns

See ad. on page 10 for details

Sun. 9 - Beloit Heritage Days - Wisconsin's Natural Heritage

Celebrate history and nature together. We will spotlight important naturalists from the Badger State, like John Muir, Gaylord Nelson, Aldo Leopold, and our namesakes Carl and Susan Welty. Enjoy guided hikes through the oak savanna restoration and wetland boardwalk in the park. Even learn about Wisconsin's Native American heritage through stories and activities near the center. Tour the exhibits inside the Welty Environmental Center to find out more about our local flora and fauna.

Come enjoy a day in nature as we participate in this FREE community-wide event.

Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for more information.

When: 11:00am-4:00pm

Age: All

Cost: Free



Sat. 15 - Bioblitz at Angelic Organics Farm

Have you ever wondered just what plants and animals live in our area, but are often overlooked? This event will bring together respected scientists, local environmental educators, and citizen scientists (that's you!) to inventory every possible living species in an area that has been farmed and is about to be restored to a native landscape. Watch Welty's website for exact times as species active at all times of the day and night will be inventoried. Get ready to get your science on! *Cosponsored by the Four Rivers Environmental Coalition*

When: All day

Where: Angelic Organics
1547 Rockton Rd
Caledonia, IL 61011

Sat. 15 - Geocaching - A Nature and Technology Treasure Hunt

Learn a new skill and use technology to plug into the natural world with geocaching expert Deb McCann! The class will begin with instruction inside the Welty Center, and then put your skills to use in Beckman Mill Park as you hunt for hidden treasures and natural gems. This is a perfect family hobby with minimal cost that provides a lot of fun and learning! Some GPS units will be available, but if you have your own please bring it.

Deb McCann and her husband Terry have been geocaching together since 2006 and have logged over 366 finds in Mexico, Taiwan, Ireland and most of the 50 states. They find geocaching a wonderful way to explore the world and see beautiful

and interesting locations that they might otherwise have overlooked.

When: 10:00-11:30 am

Cost: \$5 members

\$10 nonmembers

\$15 member family

\$30 nonmember
family

Register: by Mon. 10

Sat. 22 - Vintage Garden Party

See ad. on the back page for details.

Sat. 29 - Nature Rocks - Trip to Aldo Leopold's "Shack"

Kick off a year with Aldo Leopold, naturalist, writer, wildlife manager and Wisconsin's adopted son, with a trip to the "shack" where the famous *A Sand County Almanac* was set! We will begin the day with a tour of the new Aldo Leopold Center then make a pilgrimage to the shack where the Leopold family escaped to nature. After lunch we will finish the day with a tour of the International Crane Foundation. Bring a sack lunch. Transportation provided. *Cosponsored by Rock Co. Parks Department*

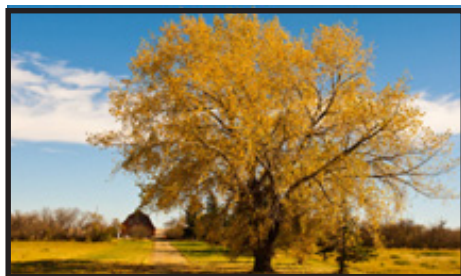
When: 7:45am-4:30pm

Where: Rock Co. Parks
Dept. Office
3715 Newville Rd
Janesville

Cost: \$35 per adult

\$25 per child

Register and prepay: by
Fri. 14



Continued on page 10

Welty Summer/Fall Events

Continued from page 9

OCTOBER

Thurs. 4 - Windows to the Past:

Fossils of the Stateline

A warm breeze blows across a shallow sea as the sun sets. It's Wisconsin, but only about 450 million years ago! Come see and touch fossils that offer hints to a tropical long-past revealed in the rock. Do you have fossils that you would like identified or to share? Bring them along! We'll make a "fossil" to take home as well to see how the process works. Learn about how the landscape we know today, formed by sheets of ice, has a history in the ocean.

When: 6:00pm

Cost: free for Welty members
\$5 nonmembers.

Register: by Thurs. 4

Sat. 13 - Town of Beloit Health and Wellness Fair

Look for Welty!

When: 10am-2pm

Where: To be announced

Sun. 14 - Fall Festival

See ad on page 2 for details



Sat. 20 - Nature Rocks

Smoky Gold: Fall Colors Hike at Magnolia Bluff

Inspired by the essay, *Smoky Gold* in *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold, follow the trails of Magnolia Bluff County Park in NW Rock County to experience some of the best autumn views in the area. Bring your camera as the vistas from the bluff are fantastic! *Cosponsored by Rock Co. Parks Department*

When: 10:00 -11:30am

Where: Magnolia Bluff Co. Park

Ages: Tots to grandparents

Cost: \$5 per person

\$15 a family

Register: by Fri. 19

Sat. 27 - Stories in the Sky

Long ago people had only the sky to gaze at after the sun had set. Tonight we will connect to these people of the past as we explore the night sky and the stories contained in the firmament. We will meet at the main pavilion in Beckman Mill County Park before heading out to the boardwalk for a great view of the stars. Warm up by the campfire and enjoy some treats and stories by the flames. The full moon is only a few days away, so enjoy a bright evening.

When: 6:00 -8:00pm

Cost: \$5 per person

\$10 member family

\$20 nonmember family

Register: by Fri. 26



Monarch Migrations!

with the Scheunemanns

Saturday, Sept 8 - 1:00 p.m.

Welty Environmental Center

Join Larry and Emily Scheunemann as they tag migratory monarchs moving through our area so their migration route can be studied. Learn about the life cycle of Monarchs. Karen Albrecht will show monarch eggs, caterpillars and chrysalids and demonstrate their care.

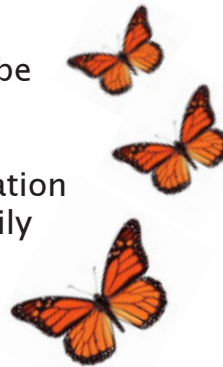
All ages are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult

Free for Welty members or suggested donation is \$5 per person, maximum \$20 per family

Call 608-361-1377 or email

info@weltycenter.org

by Sept. 6 to register



Lifecycle of the Monarch butterfly

By Emily Scheunemann

The Monarch butterfly is one that is easily seen as it swoops and flies among our roadside flowers. It is a most remarkable butterfly. Sadly, its population is declining rapidly and may become a rare sight in Wisconsin.

The Monarch/milkweed family of butterflies numbers 127 varieties and is found throughout the world in tropical or subtropical areas. Because it cannot survive winter in our temperate zone, Monarchs migrate to central Mexico (1,800 miles) to wait out winter and return again in the Spring. We didn't know where the butterflies went until roosts of butterflies were discovered in Mexican mountains at 8,000 feet of elevation. Tagging with a numbered label has enabled scientists to learn a great deal about the migration of Monarch butterflies in Eastern North America.

Monarchs use milkweed plants as a host plant for their caterpillars. The plant secretes a sap which, when an insect bites it, acts as a deterrent to plant predators. In turn, this toxin makes the caterpillar distasteful to insect predators. The female butterfly lays only one egg on each milkweed plant and thus increases the chances for survival if anything happens to that plant. You don't want all your eggs in one basket, as the saying goes.



Monarch caterpillar in last molt.

The eggs hatch into a caterpillar in three days. Each monarch caterpillar will grow and molt five times, increasing their weight 3,000 times. After the

final molt or "instar", the caterpillar will attach to a horizontal surface that is not on the host plant and hang in preparation for unzipping into its chrysalis. Fourteen days later the adult monarch butterfly emerges.

Monarchs mate, as do all butterflies. Sometimes you will see a mating pair flying in tandem. Just four days



Monarch nectaring on butterfly weed, a type of milkweed.

after a female Monarch emerges, she will start laying eggs. Most butterflies do not survive more than two to three weeks after emerging. The one exception is the sixth or seventh generation that emerges in late August. They do not become sexually mature, but start migrating south/southwest and will live seven months. After wintering in Mexico, they will return to Texas to lay eggs in April. WOW!

Last year two of our tagged Monarchs were recovered in El Rosario, Mexico. In the last two years five of our Monarchs have been recovered, which is remarkable since only 315 butterflies have been recovered from Wisconsin since 1995.



The chrysalis is a beautiful jade green.

We will be tagging in our Welty program on September 8. We stick a tiny label on the butterfly's wing; children's nimble little fingers are good at this. We may also be able to find Monarch eggs and caterpillars in the field.

Emily and Larry Scheunemann have a Monarch Waystation, certified by Monarch Watch, as well as a restored prairie on their farm near Whitewater.

Beloit's Fifth Grade Environmental Education at Welty

By John McClelland, Beloit Memorial High School Science Department

April showers bring May flowers, and the first three weeks of May bring the School District of Beloit's 5th Grade Outdoor Environmental Education trips. For the last 22 years I have had the privilege to help coordinate this program. A few years ago, the program moved to the Welty Environmental Center, where District students and educators have been blessed with two of the finest environmental educators in the area, Tanya Zastrow, and now Lena Verkuilen. Both Tanya and Lena have improved and refined a wonderful program that has been running for over forty years, originally created by district employees and later refined by Julius and Barbara Pelligrini.



Fifth grade plot study

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

During their half day visit, District 5th graders take part in both terrestrial and aquatic studies. Two terrestrial plot studies are performed, one in an open area, away from the trees, and a second in the woods. Students are asked to rope off a one-square-meter plot, and in each plot they count or estimate the number of grass plants, non-grass plants, leaf litter, and animals. They also measure air and soil temperature, relative humidity, soil texture, pH, and the quantity and effects of shade on the plot. Later, the data from the two test areas is compared and discussed.

Aquatic studies take place in the creek, where the students measure water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and sample for invertebrates. This information is also included in a discussion on the importance of water quality.

The sampling activities are facilitated by Beloit Memorial High School students. The high school students have taken Ecology, or AP Biology, or are involved with the Environmental Club. This experience allows BMHS students to share knowledge gained in the classroom, to perform service to the community, and to help spark an interest in the younger students. Every spring BMHS students look forward to these trips, and many have used the experience to help them determine future college and career paths, including education, environmental studies, wildlife management, primate research, and recreation.

We look forward to this continued cooperative effort, and hope for and expect the same success in the future.



Fifth grade water study of turbidity

Young Explorers Summer Camp

Summer camp is so much more than the little plastic lanyards we used to make while we were hoping not to get picked for the volleyball game. From June 18th to 22nd, our campers explored all over Beckman Mill County Park, poking around and discovering its plants, animals, insects and spiders. They made shelters (*always a favorite*), tried orienteering using a compass, and learned to play the fiddle. As usual, many happy hours were spent searching for crayfish and fishing in Coon Creek. The trip to Wrightway farm to plant squash gave them the opportunity to meet the chickens and horses, up close and personal. The week culminated with a family campfire on Friday night, looking at stars, listening to frogs, and learning to distinguish male and female lightning bugs (*males fly & females stay on the ground*).



What Went On at Welty

Coldblooded Critters

By Jan Knutson, President

Dan Nedrelo brought lots of real live reptile and amphibian friends for us to meet ...including many snakes and turtles, frogs and toads and salamanders. Over 100 kids and their families enjoyed up-close and personal encounters with herpetologist Dan and his cold-blooded critters on Saturday, April 21.

This program was co-sponsored by Welty and the Beloit Memorial High School Environmental Club. Every spring Welty partners with the BMHS Environmental Club to bring a LIVE-animal program to Beloit. It is always an exciting and informative hands-on experience focusing on kids and families. Watch for our next program in Spring 2013.

Little Plants on the Prairie

By Kelly Washburn, Volunteer Coordinator

Our spring program, "Little Plants on the Prairie" was a smashing success and oh! so much fun. If you missed it, you really missed a wonderful time and a great opportunity to volunteer at Welty. The program could not have been possible without a great team of volunteers who dedicated themselves with ideas, meetings and hands on work. Many thanks go to Connie Matusiak, Adrienne Massel, Loni, Kasi and Emmi Powers, Jan Herbert and all the vendors who sold their products that day! I cannot express my gratitude enough to all the volunteers who willingly donated (or lent) so many wonderful items that added so much to the program.

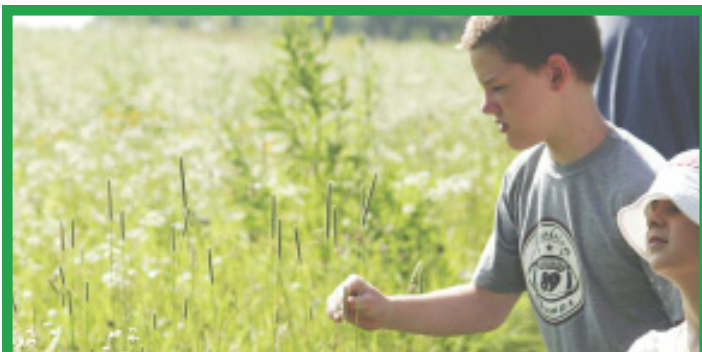
Rendezvous with Nature and Technology

By Stephanie Dobson, External Secretary

It was with some misgivings that we set up the silent auction while rain poured down wetting the tables along the west side of the picnic shelter, but as with so many former events, the weather cleared and people began to come.

Music was provided by a group of four fellows who call themselves the Dust Bunnies. Their renditions of folk tunes and sea chanteys, both serious and amusing, filled the event with a light spirit. We enjoyed the hammer dulcimer, guitar, accordion and very interesting percussion tools, along with great vocal harmonies.

Margy Carroll put together the lunch served during the event. Brats and hot dogs were grilled to order by John (Moe) Carroll, and all the trimmings were available. Fresh vegetables and dip, vegetarian beans, chips donated by Frito Lay, brownies donated by board members, fruit skewers by Jan Knutson, and lemonade made satisfying choices. Thanks to all the volunteers who served.



Classroom Opportunities

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

608-361-1377



Emi Powers “mans” the snack table for Little Plants on the Prairie.



Dan Nedrelo lets us meet a snapping turtle up close and personal at The Rock, Beloit.

**Please check your membership status on your address label.
Out of date or not a member? Please join today!
Incorrect? Please email dobsond@beloit.edu**

Welty Environmental Center Staff and Friends of Welty Center Board Members

FWEC Board of Directors

Jan Knutson, President
Heidi Andre, Vice President
Richard Newsome, Treasurer
Stephanie Dobson, External Secretary
Susan Wright, Internal Secretary

Welty Center Director: Lena Verkuilen

Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator:

Kelly Washburn

Warbler Newsletter Editors: Gillian Batterman,

Linda Wendt

At-Large Directors

Edward Chady
Charles Mortensen
Jason Washburn
Paul Roemer
Pablo Toral
Tom Evert

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.



Fall Vintage Garden Party

Saturday, Sept. 22 ❖ 5 p.m.

Beckman Mill County Park

Enjoy an elegant, locally grown dinner in a beautiful fall setting. Relax to the sounds of vintage music while you dine on basil tomato salad, rustic apple roast chicken, honeyed corn on the cob, baby roasted potatoes and country blackberry cobbler. After dinner, take a stroll on the beautiful boardwalk and enjoy the fall foliage!

Ticket price: \$30

For ticket reservations or more information, contact Kelly at 608-361-4340

or visit volunteer@weltycenter.org

Rain date - September 29

