

# THE WARBLER

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

volume 12, issue 4

## Upcoming Events

See pages 8 - 10 for details

### NOVEMBER

- Wed. 14 -** Fun in the Fall Homeschool  
**Fri. 16** Camp  
**Sat. 17** Nature Rocks: Homes for Wildlife

### DECEMBER

- Sat. 1** Nature Rocks: Wreath and Swag Making  
**Fri. 7** Holidazzle  
**Sat. 15** Parents' Day Out: Winter in the Woods

### JANUARY

- Sat. 5** Beginning Cross Country Skiing Workshop  
**Sat. 5** Winter Workouts - Naturally  
**Sat. 19** Nature Rocks: Animal Tracking  
**Sat. 19** Making Tracks  
**Mon. 21** School Day Out  
**Mon. 28** Full Moon Hike

### FEBRUARY

- Sat. 2** Homemade Simple Snowshoes  
**Sat. 9** Feathered Friends - Bird Workshop  
**Fri. 15** Nature Rocks: Candlelight Oak Savanna Hike  
**Thurs. 21** Owl Hoot  
**Mon. 25** Full Moon Hike and Owl Prowl

### MARCH

- Sat. 2** Taste for Nature  
**Sat. 23** Maple Sugar Fest

## President's Message

### Connecting and Reconnecting to Nature

By Jan Knutson

It's the season - that time of year when, whatever our religious beliefs, we often think most directly about family ties. We can spend a lot of time reminiscing about our own childhoods and how different things appear to be for families today, especially children and youth. Many of us have memories of our favorite youth pastimes, like building forts and skipping stones and hanging out car windows as we traveled with our families. In those days we spent lots of time outdoors.



But it seems that today we are in a different mode... It is hard to deny the growing disconnect between children and the outdoor world. Every day there is a new TV show, video game or smart phone app. Cars come standard with DVD players to entertain kids while traveling so they never even look out the car windows. The more high-tech our world becomes, the more we need nature in our lives. Young, old, or in between, we can reap extraordinary benefits by connecting or reconnecting to nature.

Children must have nature in their lives to nurture their mental well-being. If a child never sees the stars, never has meaningful encounters with animals, never experiences the richness of nature, what happens to that child?

Welty Environmental Center is working to help educate and inspire the next generation of our youngest students by providing for outdoor education to pre-school and daycare students, as well as to elementary, middle and high school kids in the Stateline area. Our vision is a world in which every child is inspired by nature to become a healthy individual and create a sustainable future.

At Welty Environmental Center we believe that nature experiences can tighten family bonds. Our goal is to make the Stateline community a place where children and families will be actively engaged to experience the great outdoors, learn about nature, and build a lasting commitment to conservation and land stewardship.

According to Richard Louv in "The Nature Principle" the future will belong to the "nature-smart"—those individuals, families, businesses and communities who develop a deeper understanding of the transformative power of the natural world, and who balance the virtual with the real world.

Your continued support helps us all as we strive to keep connecting families and nature. Would you be able to increase your gift to Welty? Please watch for the Welty annual appeal coming in the mail and give generously!

# Reflections

By Lena Verkuilen, Director

A quiet winter hike is a great time to think about deep things in life. There is nothing but the wind rustling last year's growth or an occasional call from a crow or jay to disrupt your thoughts. With the foliage out of the trees it is easy to spot the hawks perched as they scan the countryside for a meal. Those hawks always bring me back to Roger.

Roger Gustafson was my first real teacher about life in the prairie. He's the one who made a crab spider hiding in a dried Queen Anne's lace a magical instead of repulsive

creature. Roger always had time to point out the hidden details to life. As a child, this ignited my love for learning everything I could about the natural world.

After college I had the pleasure of working with Roger in Belvidere. When there was a free moment from leading a hike or preparing for groups and Roger was going for a walk, I would be going with him. His personal favorites were the hawks. I would ask him what a particular song bird was and his answer would usually be, "Hawk



Lena teaching second graders the sign language for forest.

*'Tis the month before Christmas and you're really miffed.  
You just cannot find that great holiday gift.  
You've searched all the stores - K-Mart, Target, Best Buy.  
You're out of ideas, your well has run dry.  
But do not despair - we're your holiday mentor.  
Just purchase a gift card that says "Welty Center"!*

**Gift certificate**  
**Happy Holidays!**  
A gift for Everyone on my list  
**Value: \$800,000**  
Good towards attending any program  
at Welty Environmental Center

You may not be feeling *quite* that generous but a gift certificate towards programs at Welty Center does make an excellent gift or stocking stuffer.

**For details on purchasing gift certificates,  
contact the Welty Environmental Center.**

**Call (608) 361-1377 or email  
info@weltycenter.org**

food." I remember the day we went to catch water snakes for a woman because she was concerned. Roger knew she would always have the snakes swimming in her creek and saw this as an opportunity to teach her they were harmless. The day ended up with two big water snakes in a pickle jar, blood running down Roger's arm where they bit him, and me covered in snake musk; I'm not sure we accomplished his goal. Roger taught me so much about the local flora and fauna, and inspired me to share this love.

We've all had someone in our life to provide our inspiration, and winter walks make me think of such things. If yours is around, give him or her a call or write a letter. For those who have passed on like Carl and Susan Welty you can support organizations, such as the Welty Environmental Center, who champion their cause.

We lost Roger several years ago, but to this day when I see a hawk or have a water snake bite me I can't help but smile a little. Thank you, Roger.

# Meet Steffany Streb, Our Intern

Steffany, a junior at Beloit College, is the fall 2012 intern for the Welty Environmental Center, facilitated by the Duffy Community Partnership Program. This program is a hands-on and interactive learning experience designed for students at the college level. It is geared towards exploring the Beloit community all the while keeping one question in the back of our minds, “what makes a good society?” At the Welty Center, Steffany works with her site advisor, Lena Verkuilen, closely observing the interactions between society, the center, and the influences it has on the greater Beloit community. She actively participates in the events hosted by the Welty Center, playing different roles: tour guide, assistant, turtle care-taker, program planner, nature enthusiast and promoter. You might have seen her at the Garden Party Fundraiser or helping Welty give nature hikes to second grade classrooms at Big Hill Park. Steffany is an Education and Science for Elementary Teaching double major, so through this partnership she has been able to see the benefits environmental science



has on the Beloit community of all ages. She believes that “learning science should be fun and engaging; the Welty Center provides events and programs that combine educational facts with interactive and fun activities for the whole community.”



Give an Alternative Gift -

## *The Gift of Nature -* to the **Welty Environmental Center**

Do you have people on your gift list who have everything they need and want?  
Are they interested in the environment? In outdoor education? In natural history?  
When a friend or relative asks you what you want for a gift do you wrack your brain to come up with an answer?

### **Choose a donation to Welty as your Alternative Gift**

You could give money on behalf of a friend or relative. You could suggest that you would be delighted if other people donated to Welty instead of giving you a material gift this year. When the Welty Center receives an alternative gift donation we will send an attractive gift card with information about the Welty Center's work.

***This holiday season please consider Welty when you shop.***

***Call (608) 361-1377 for details.***



# Volunteer Corner

By Kelly Washburn, Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager

Success is doing what you love and making it a career. Working at the Welty Environmental Center has given me great insight into wonderful programs while working alongside some of the greatest volunteers I could possibly imagine. My motto has always been “Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can.” The July-August Welty Whimsies Rustic Art & Nature Crafts is a prime example of this. Whether a beginner or a pro, our classes were a gathering of casual, inspiring adventures with lots of friendly folks. Some called it “summer camp for adults”. As winter sets in and you begin to “itch” to get out of the house, get your creative juices flowing and learn some practical “know how” by attending informative hands- on Welty Whimsies workshops beginning in January.

The weather can be very unpredictable in September, but to our great relief, the night turned out to be beautiful for the Fall Vintage Garden Party. The night was perfect with beautiful décor, soft classical music, and wonderful food prepared by our very dedicated volunteers, donated

by local growers. The Welty Center was host to many new faces and graciously thanked our members who returned to support our efforts at fundraising. I am so pleased to be able to thank the many volunteers who helped in any way to make this first event a wonderful success. A special thank you to Jan Herbert for loaning me with the beautiful vintage dinnerware and to Kris Grutzner for all the advice and moral support. Thank you Stephanie Dobson, Jason Washburn, Brienna Key, Kris Grutzner, Lena Verkuilen, Loni Powers, Margie and Moe Carroll, and Connie Matusiak for preparing such mouthwatering dishes. Last but not least, thank you to all the caring people that bought tickets and attended the Garden Party. With your support, we are able to carry on our mission.

To become part of the new, exciting upcoming opportunities at the Welty Center, pick up the phone and call me at 608-314-4340 or e-mail me at [info@weltycenter.org](mailto:info@weltycenter.org). We would love to have you.



## Summer Welty Whimsies

**Bird Houses,  
Miniature Gardens,  
Baskets, Wind Chimes**



# Fall Vintage Garden Party

Beckman Mill County Park



Early arrivals stake out their places.



Happy hour in the pavilion before dinner.

❖ Check out the new website - [www.weltycenter.org](http://www.weltycenter.org)! ❖



## Welty Wish List

*We're making a list, we're checking it twice. We're sure that we're not naughty - we're nice. But in case Santa doesn't come through, here are some things we need.*

### For Welty programs:

- Regular tab file folders
- Poster board
- Peanut butter for bird feeders
- Bird seed (black oil sunflower preferred)
- General craft supplies (beads, glue sticks, pipe cleaners, etc.)

### For Winter Welty Whimsies:

- Barn Quilts: plywood scraps about 36, outside paint (any color)
- Garden Art, Vintage Jewelry: beads, buttons, light gauge wire, glue that hold glass or ceramic pieces (e.g. E-1000).
- Scribble, Nibble, Live a Little: anything in the metal dept. that would connect rustic simple paper (for making journals, recipe books, etc.), bags of popcorn
- Lotions and Potions: herbs from your garden, small glass jars with lids

### For Holidazzle gift baskets:

- Pretty Christmas ribbon to tie the baskets
- Clear wrapping paper to finish the baskets
- Nice teas, jams, coffee packs, packaged soups
- Wine would be a great gift too!

*Thank you for your help and support!*

# Woodland Ecology Hike

*By Monica Grismer, teacher, Robinson School, Beloit*

It was a great day of teaching, when my co-teacher, Becky Lund, and I took our second graders on a field trip to Big Hill Park. Our students were prepared and sooooo excited to spend the morning exploring the forest habitat.

Anticipation rose as the children read the Big Hill Park sign on Afton Road. Winding along the road inside the park they were already oooing and ahhing at the fall colors and amazed by the golden leaves. As our bus slowed to a stop, Lena was ready and waiting to greet us.



*Lena teaching how to recognize poison ivy leaves.*

After Lena shared some guidelines about safety and a brief introduction to consumers, producers and decomposers, we began our walk. I loved seeing our children so totally engaged in learning. They came alive, picking up leaves and comparing their shapes with the leaves overhead. They found acorns and insects, learned to identify poison ivy, felt and smelled decomposing wood.

When a little brown snake slithered in front of us, Lena was quick enough to scoop it up so the courageous could touch it. A fat ground hog scurried across the trail and found a hiding place in the rocks. Along the river, four turtles were sunning



*Friends enjoying their day of outdoor learning.*



*All Lena's ducks are in a row here.*

on a log for all to see. Two sandhill cranes and lots of geese were in the river.

For second graders the climb back up the hill via a stone stairway was fun and challenging. It led us to the overlook, where we saw, as one student described, "all of the city".

Thanks to the Welty Center and the School District of Beloit our students were able to have this high quality, hands-on experience. For me, this was one of the best teaching days of the whole year. The students were very interested and engaged the whole time. It fits perfectly with our study of habitats and the concepts of living, non-living and once-living. I see evidence of learning because they have lots to talk about with their families, in their writing and drawing as well as in class discussions. It gave them background information to draw on as they read. And it fits with my personal belief that kids need to spend time in the natural world. Today a child was able to imitate a robin's walk, just the way Lena did! To me, that is a great day of teaching and learning.

*Note: All second grade classes in the Beloit School District (over 500 students) learn woodland ecology in Big Hill Park, led by the Welty Environmental Center.*

# Spotlight on Members

## Three Generations of the Carroll Family

*By John Carroll*

Margie Carroll came to the Welty Board as a life-long champion of the environment. Margie's dad, Philip Allen, is a locally known expert on birds and birding and has been very active in volunteering and developing the Colored Sands Banding Station on the Sugar River,



*Margie, Moe, Isaiah, Mary Anne, Miles Carroll Family*

near The Welty Center. Margie's yard on Hobart Place in Beloit is a model neighborhood habitat with a dozen bird feeders and watering areas, heated bird bath, plenty of hiding places for all types of possum, racoon, squirrels, chipmunks, owls, and a very lucky Cooper's Hawk. She has very possibly altered the migration patterns for most Midwestern songbirds.

Margie's husband of forty years, John (Moe) Carroll, has given up the fight and now joins Margie in the many volunteer projects that she helps organize, as long as they fit in around the Badger and Packer and Brewer games. He has been overheard saying, "I guess I do like the Environment; too bad it's outside!" But, seriously, Moe is keenly aware of the importance of what goes on at Welty and an enthusiastic worker.

Daughter, Mary Anne, is working to bring new, younger families to Welty (and to the outside) after seeing what Welty has meant for her kids. Isaiah (13) is a major

youth volunteer worker, participant, and mentor for the younger Welty visitors, and Isaiah's little brother, Miles (6), loves the kids' events that are constantly being offered. He is becoming a savvy naturalist like Isaiah.

The Carrolls highly recommend organizations like Welty as a way to bring the family together doing something that matters. As Moe puts it, "There are so many pressures to alter and destroy our environment, and Welty gives us a way to resist the pressures and improve our way of life. And, it is a really fun organization that does cool stuff, even though it is outside!"

### *Welty Winter Whimsies*

**Don't give in to cabin fever.**

**Join us for some indoor winter fun!**

- ❖ An exciting basket weaving adventure with Jan Knutson
- ❖ Painting barn quilt patterns on wood with Kelly
- ❖ Creating vintage jewelry pieces from recycled materials with Kelly
- ❖ Scribble, Nibble, Live a Little: A Women's Retreat
- ❖ A women's rustic art party
- ❖ Garden art using vintage glass & ceramic finds

**No experience necessary but bring your sense of humor & willingness to have a great time!**

***Watch our website for further details!  
Or call Kelly Washburn at 608-314-4340***



# Welty Winter Events Schedule

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

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

## NOVEMBER

### Wed. 14 – Fri. 16 - Fun in the Fall Homeschool Camp

Send off autumn and get ready to kick off winter with three days of hands-on learning about Native American lore, what plants and animals are doing to prepare for the cold, the night sky and more with this camp designed specifically for homeschool students. Spend the day exploring and learning.

**When:** 9:00am-3:00pm daily

**Age:** 6 and older

**Cost:** \$50 Welty member  
\$60 nonmember

**Register:** by Nov. 5



### Sat. 17 - Nature Rocks -

#### A Mighty Fortress: Homes for Wildlife

Inspired by the essay, *A Mighty Fortress* in *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold, learn how a diseased or dead tree is valuable to the life of the forest around it. We'll look for life in the trees of the park, and make a shelter for the birds. Leave with plans to make your own yard a haven for wildlife in the harsh winter and after the long spring migrations. Bring the whole family! Co-sponsored by Rock County Parks Department

**When:** 10:00am-11:30am

**Age:** tots to grandparents

**Cost:** \$5 per person  
\$15 per family

**Register:** by Nov. 16

## DECEMBER

### Sat. 1 - Nature Rocks - Pines Above the Snow: Wreath and Swag Making

Inspired by the essay, *Pines Above the Snow* in *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold, use the boughs of pines to bring a bit of nature inside for the holidays. The Leopold family planted hundreds of pines at the shack to give shelter to birds and other animals. Use this inspiration to think about sunnier times as winter is about to begin. All materials and equipment provided. Bring the whole family! Co-sponsored by Rock County Parks Department

**When:** 10:00am-11:30am

**Where:** Turtle Creek Parkway, outside Shopiere

**Age:** tots to grandparents

**Cost:** \$20 per project

**Register:** by Nov. 28



### Fri. 7 – Holidazzle

Look for the Welty table this year! We will be selling upscale "Second Time Around" Gift Baskets filled with beautiful goodies "Mixed, Matched and Layered with Past Treasures."

**When:** 5-7pm

**Where:** Bushel and Peck's,  
328 State St, Beloit

### Sat. 15 - Parents' Day Out: Winter in the Woods

The holidays are coming, and the plants and animals are settling in for winter too. Today is for children to explore the outdoors as winter approaches, make some nature-themed holiday crafts, and enjoy all Mother Nature has to offer. Parents: you get a day to prepare for the holidays!

**When:** 10:00am-4:00pm

**Age:** elementary school

**Cost:** \$15 Welty member  
\$20 nonmember

**Register:** by December 13

# Welty Winter Events Schedule

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

## JANUARY

### Sat. 5 - Beginning Cross Country Skiing Workshop

Did you get a new pair of XC skis for the holidays, or just rediscover that old pair in the back of the closet? Come learn and practice basic skills. We'll start indoors with some basics, then go outside to practice new skills. The terrain is mostly flat and open, so it's perfect for getting started! Must provide your own equipment.

**When:** 9:00am-11:00am

**Age:** All welcome

**Cost:** Free for Welty members

\$5 for nonmembers

**Register:** by January 4.



### Sat. 5 - Winter Workouts - Naturally

Layer up and get outside to beat those winter blues! Come ready to move. We'll start with the basics of how to prepare for a day of winter sports, then head outside to try out cross country skiing, snow shoeing, or just plain old winter hiking. Some equipment will be available, but if you have your own please bring it along.

**When:** 1:00pm-3:00pm

**Age:** designed for scouts, but all are welcome

**Cost:** \$5 per person

**Register:** by Jan. 3

### Sat. 19 - Nature Rocks - January Thaw: Animal Tracking

Inspired by the essay, *January Thaw*, from Aldo Leopold's, *A Sand County Almanac*, we will be exploring for signs that the animals are moving a little from their winter rest. We'll be looking for more than just tracks, so be ready to be observant. Bring the whole family! *Co-sponsored by Rock County Parks Department*

**When:** 10:00am-11:30am

**Age:** tots to grandparents

**Cost:** \$5 per person  
\$15 per family

**Register:** by Jan. 14.

### Sat. 19 - Making Tracks

Winter is wearing on and the animals are getting restless too! Come out to search for all the signs that animals have been around, and which animal is which. There are much more than just footprints to follow.

**When:** 1:00pm-3:00pm

**Age:** designed for scouts but all are welcome

**Cost:** \$5 per person

**Register:** by Jan. 17

### Mon. 21 - School Day Out

There's no school today, so spend the day enjoying the outdoors! We'll play the natural way - snow angels, tracking animals, pinecone art and more. Participants will need to bring a lunch, but hot chocolate and an afternoon snack are included.

**When:** 9:00am-3:00pm

**Age:** elementary school

**Cost:** \$15 Welty member  
\$20 nonmember

**Register:** by Jan. 17

### Mon. 28 - Full Moon Hike

The moon is full and so this is a great excuse to shake off the cabin fever and go for a walk. We'll meet at the pavilion in Beckman Mill County Park before heading out on the trails. The moon should be rising just as we start.

**When:** 5:00-6:30pm

**Where:** Beckman Mill County Park

**Cost:** Free for Welty members

\$5 nonmember

**Register:** by Jan. 28



*Continued on page 10*

# Welty Winter Events Schedule

Continued from page 9

## FEBRUARY

### Sat. 2 - Homemade Simple Snowshoes

Learn how to use simple natural materials and a few other items to make a pair of basic snowshoes. After making the snowshoes, head out into the park to explore with your new creation. We'll also practice how to walk, fall and get up while wearing snowshoes. All materials provided. *Co-sponsored by City of Beloit Leisure Services*

**When:** 10:00am-Noon

**Where:** Big Hill Park

**Cost:** \$20 per project

**Register:** by Jan. 31

## 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**



### Sat. 9 - Feathered Friends - Bird Feeding and ID Workshop

Is winter getting to be too long for your taste? Imagine how it is for the birds! We will go over basic identification tips you can use from your window to tell which bird is which. We'll also go over what feed attracts which birds, and make a simple feeder or two.

**When:** 10:00am-Noon

**Age:** all ages

**Cost:** \$5 per person

**Register:** by Feb. 7

### Fri. 15 - Nature Rocks - Good Oak: Candlelight Oak Savanna Hike

Inspired by the essay, *Good Oak* in *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold, take a hike or snowshoe



## Taste for Nature

You won't want to miss it!  
Wines from Staller Estates  
and Swiss Cellars  
Cheese from the  
Cheese People  
New surprises this year!  
**Watch for further details**

**March 2, 2013**

6 - 8:30 p.m.

Bushel and Peck's

by candlelight. The moon rises late tonight so be ready to enjoy a starlit evening. Some snowshoes will be available for use. Bring the whole family! *Co-sponsored by Rock County Parks Department*

**When:** 5:00pm-7:00pm

**Where:** Magnolia Bluff  
County Park

**Age:** tots to grandparents

**Cost:** \$5 per person, with  
\$15 a family

**Register:** by Feb. 11

## SAVE THE DATE

### Thurs. 21 Feb - Owl Hoot

Nocturnal program at Big Hill Park

### Mon. 25 Feb - Full Moon Hike and Owl Prowl

in Beckman Mill County Park

### Sat. 2 March - Taste for Nature

Bushell and Peck's. You won't want to miss it!

### Sat 23 March - Maple Sugar Fest

Big Hill Park

**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](mailto:info@weltycenter.org)

# *No Pets Allowed*

*By Gary Hess*

For eight years now, Darcy and I have participated in the Ornate Box Turtle “head-start” program started many years ago by Bob Hay, retired herpetologist for the Wisconsin DNR. Under this program, we go out each spring and search for the nests of these endangered turtles, dig up the eggs, and incubate them to hatch the little babies. Then, we keep them through the winter in a heated terrarium, feeding them nutritious Reptomin sticks to give them 4-6 years of growth compared to living in the wild. The following spring, we release the fattened turtles to the wild, then begin looking for the next generation of eggs to start the head-start cycle all over again.

The reason for all this effort is to try to stabilize and hopefully increase the declining population of this species, which has endangered status in Wisconsin. We live right on one of the last three areas of habitat in Wisconsin that support ornates, who require dry, sandy conditions, and we see first-hand the trials and tribulations of a species that has essentially been backed into a corner.

As with other threatened and endangered species, there are several reasons for the decline in the population of ornate box turtles. Habitat loss from urbanization, industrialization, and farming is a major factor; habitat loss removes places to feed, reproduce, and hibernate. Slow-moving turtles are also easy targets for cars and farm machinery when they try to cross roads and fields, and predation of nests by skunks, foxes, and other animals takes a heavy toll on ornates.

Yet, of the many reasons for the decline of this and other species, perhaps the most frustrating is the tendency for humans to want to capture, possess, and keep these animals for pets. Although it is illegal to possess, sell, and transport endangered species in Wisconsin, the deliberate taking of these species continues, both by individuals just wanting a pet and by poachers who sell them worldwide in the exotic pet trade.

If you are ever tempted to capture or purchase a wild animal for a pet, especially a threatened or endangered one, remember that you are not just removing that animal from the wild world it belongs in, but you are preventing future generations of that individual animal from being born. Unless you are running a breeding program for

your “pet” at home, you have forever removed that animal from the wild breeding population; your pet will never again contribute to the continuation and the future of its species.



*Ornate box turtles ready for release*

When we first began working the ornates, Darcy, at one point, referred to the turtles we found as “our” turtles. I quickly reminded her that they are not “our” turtles; they are simply crossing our land on the way to another place. Someone once said that we humans do not own the land we live on—we are just borrowing it. By the same token, we do not own the wild animals; we are simply privileged to know their presence and appreciate their lives and place in the larger scheme of Nature.

Don’t feel guilty about your pet dog or cat; these are domestic animals that have evolved over countless generations to be with us, and there is little chance of them becoming extinct due to any action of ours. But if you see a turtle, snake, or other wild animal crossing your path, remember that it is exactly where it needs to be, and taking it to be a pet in your home reduces the total population now and for all time. These wild animals are already home, and their lives are meaningless outside the context of wild.

*Gary is a Technical Writer, essayist, conservationist, nature lover, Peak Oiler, and Great Doubter of the human experiment. Gary and Darcy live on 20 acres of wildness in southern Wisconsin where turtles roam free and live undisturbed.*

# What Went On at Welty

The summer and fall have been busy, as usual. A glance at the participation table (p. 14) reveals that the Welty Environmental Center presented 69 programs to well over 2,000 adults and children! Our only failure was the Fall Festival, which unfortunately we had to cancel because of rain. Our successes, however, were many. The following photos show some of the programs that were open to the general public. They give you an idea of the wide variety of subjects and activities covered, and the high level of involvement and enjoyment of participants, both children and adults.

## Summer Camp

Like the first summer camp, the weeklong “Unhuggables” camp was full, with 12 campers – the maximum the Center can hold.



*Twelve happy campers*



*Volunteer Rolf Lund explains canoeing safety and techniques before taking campers out on the mill pond.*

## Welty Wednesdays were popular



*Welty Wednesday Rascally Raccoons - Charlie shows off his raccoon mask.*



*Welty Wednesday Creek Stomp – Grandpa joined in, too.*

# What Went On at Welty

## Monarch Migrations

Emily and Larry Scheunemann, with Karen Albrecht, presented a program on the amazing life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly. They are certified by Monarch Watch to tag monarch butterflies, but unfortunately the strong wind prevented us from netting any.



*Looking for Monarchs with Emily.*

**The Adult Nature Academy** is supported by a grant from Ecolab. In these workshops, participants learned how to teach aspects of the natural world to children.



*Amy Chance shows off her assignment.*

*Insects & Invertebrates Adult Nature Academy* **Library Outreach Programs** continued all summer.

Welty is able to reach many people through this outreach who would otherwise not be served.

## Evenstart and Welty

together received a grant to support both literacy, and fathers interacting with their young children, particularly outdoors. Whole families (grandparents, parents and children) enjoyed a day of fishing.



*Showing off their bluegill catch.*



# What Went On at Welty

## Nature Rocks Family Nature Club

The club is jointly sponsored by Welty and the Rock County Parks Dept. This year they are highlighting the life and work of Aldo Leopold. The kick-off trip for the 2012-13 series took a group to the famous Leopold “shack” near Baraboo.



*The Nature Club group stands in front of the “shack”.*

## Beloit Heritage Days



*Lena reaches for jewelweed, and delights us with the way it springs open to disperse its seeds.*

## Participation in Welty Center Activities

July through October 2012

ACTIVITY	# PRESENTATIONS	# CHILDREN	# ADULTS	# PARTICIPANTS
Library Outreach Programs	9*	273*	101*	374*
Public Programs	4	8**	14**	22**
Expos	9	Many	Many	751**
Nature Rocks Family Nature Club	2	0**	6**	6**
Fall Vintage Garden Party	1	0	53	53
Beloit Schools 2nd Grade Ecology Hikes	18	524*	72*	596*
Fall Fest	Cancelled due to rain.			
Adult Presentations	1	0	30	30
Adult Nature Academy	3	0	5**	5**
Welty Whimsies Programs	4	5	26	31
Miscellaneous School Field Trips	5	129*	35*	164*
Welty Wednesday Programs	5	47	16	63
Friday Fun Programs	4	30	0	30
Even Start Dads & Lads Program	1	20	20	40
Unhuggables Day Camp	1 week	12	0	12
Birthday Parties	2	22	20	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1,070+</b>	<b>398+</b>	<b>2219+</b>

\*Programs pending - estimates based on numbers expected

\*\*Programs scheduled - some programs pending so totals are incomplete.

## ***(Re)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.

<b>Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2013</b>			
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	

**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](mailto:dobsond@beloit.edu)**

## **Welty Environmental Center Staff and Friends of Welty Environmental Center Board Members**

### **Executive Committee**

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.

# Give the Gift of Nature this Holiday Season!

*The Welty Environmental Center offers you several possibilities to "go wild".*



## For children, grandchildren or adults

- ❖ Sponsor an environmental lesson for your favorite kid's or teacher's classroom (see *Welty on Wheels*, page 12)
- ❖ Gift a gift certificate good towards any Welty program (see page 2)
- ❖ Give a Welty gift basket bought at Holidazzle (see page 8)
- ❖ Hold a kids' holiday party at the Welty Environmental Center

## And for the adult who has everything

- ❖ Give an alternative gift by donating to the Welty Environmental Center in their name (see page 3)

**For details on how to give any of these gifts, contact the Welty Center.**

**Call (608) 361-1377 or  
email [info@weltycenter.org](mailto:info@weltycenter.org)**