

# THE WARBLER

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

volume 13, issue 2

## Upcoming Events

### JUNE

Sat. 22 Welty Whimsies:  
Paint a Barn Quilt

Mon. 24-Fri. 28 Day Camp

### JULY

Wed. 3 Welty Wednesday:  
Wonderful Worms

Fri. 5 Lazy Summer Friday

Wed. 10 Welty Wednesday:  
Cold-Blooded Critters

Fri. 12 Wingin' It With Welty

Sat. 13 Welty Whimsies:  
Paint a Barn Quilt

Wed. 17 Welty Wednesday:  
Bugs!

Fri. 19 Creepy Crawly Friday

Mon. 22 Full Moon &  
Frog Hike

Wed. 24 Welty Wednesday:  
Birds on the Wing

Fri. 26 Survivin' With Welty

Wed. 31 Welty Wednesday:  
Marvelous Mammals

### AUGUST

Fri. 2 Nature Play Friday

Wed. 7 Welty Wednesday:  
Creek Stomp

Fri. 9 Funky Friday With  
Welty

Mon. 12- Fri. 16 Day Camp

Sat. 17 Frog Jumpin' Jamboree

Wed. 21 Family Campfire

Sat. 24 Welty Whimsies:  
Gourd Bowls

### SEPTEMBER

Sun. 8 Heritage Sunday

Sat. 14 Welty Whimsies:  
Candles & Wind Chimes

Fri. 20 Fall Equinox Wander  
& Storytelling

## President's Message

By Jan Knutson

### Welty is "on the move"

Summer's in sight...and as we look ahead to an amazing summer schedule of Welty events and programs, I want to pause for a minute to take a look back.

I really love it when a plan comes together and everything works out! That's exactly what happened for Welty Maple Sugar Fest 2013. Planning began right after last year's Maple Sugar Fest. We researched and applied for a JET grant from Visit Beloit to extend our marketing base. We brainstormed new Maple Sugar Fest ideas...like the Maple Sugar Carnival and the Maple Sugar Bake Sale. Our goal was to double our participants... In 2012 we sold about 150 pancake breakfasts. So when the final count for 2013 showed 374 pancake breakfasts sold in the "cook shanty" and 522 people visiting the park for Maple Sugar Fest we deemed this a SUCCESSFUL event. For a summary of more details, see page 14.

Additionally, analytics from the Welty website on March 25, 2013 showed 60% new visitors to our website and steadily increasing web traffic since February.

And yet it is more than just about numbers. I see the highly successful Maple Sugar Fest 2013 as a symbol of our growing audience and support in the entire Stateline area. Welty is "on the move" and we invite YOU to join in.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Maple Sugar Fest. Thank you to VISIT BELOIT and the Stateline Community Foundation! Also, thank you to Genencor for their donation and Old Fashion Bakery for the delicious cookies. And finally thank you to all who came and enjoyed Maple Sugar Fest 2013.



Visit us at

[www.weltycenter.org](http://www.weltycenter.org)

# Reflections

By Lena Verkuilen, Director

My neighbor accuses me of letting my yard “bloom” - an accusation with which my husband and I proudly agree. We are quietly replacing our lawn grass with other plantings. We have a few hostas, day lilies, and even some of Susan Welty’s lilies of the valley, but our focus is on local native species. We are passionate about this for a few reasons.

Lawn grass is, in my opinion, boring, and it is tedious to maintain. On cooler spring days it grows like gangbusters and weekend days are spent walking behind the mower instead of on the trails. In the heat of summer this species that is adapted for cooler climates turns brown, dormant and downright depressing. You feel hot just looking at it. Aside from personal aesthetic reasons against lawn grass, it is a virtual desert as far as wildlife is concerned. There is little food value, and when maintained to the neighborhood standard there are no seeds produced. The chemical fertilizers and herbicides that promise a lush, green, weed-free lawn also eliminate earthworms, other soil invertebrates, beneficial soil fungi and other microorganisms. My native shade plants in the front yard and sun-loving, drought-resistant prairie plants in the back thrive on the biological interactions soil fungi provide and the aeration and fertilization from the earthworms and other invertebrates living underground. We have a tool to pluck dandelions by their taproot without chemicals, and I get some degree of pleasure watching them shrivel on the sidewalk while protecting the other life in the soil.

The birds love hanging out in our yard too. It is a suburban oasis with not only the feeding and water stations we provide, but they also enjoy the worms and grubs they find in the soil. The non native house sparrows that live on our block do us a favor by hunting down and relishing in eating adult Japanese beetles, so no need to spray them. As the sunflowers that sprout around my feeders grow it is fun to watch the goldfinches pluck the ripening seeds from the heads. That is, until



*“I am absolutely certain that is NOT a miniature shark.” Lena leads a fifth grade class in aquatic studies in Raccoon Creek.*

the squirrels figure out they can chew the whole head off and leave with all the bounty.

The small things my husband and I do on our property in the middle of town may not seem like a lot; however, it does make a difference to the wildlife we see taking advantage of the food and water. It also reduces the amount of chemicals being washed into the storm drains directly into the stream just down from our house. Because we have added plantings, we have added food and shelter for wildlife, and it has seemed to impact our neighbors who are adding more plants and reducing their own grass. Every action is a ripple in the water. What you do every day on a small scale will have an impact on the world around you. I hope you have the chance to improve your own piece of nature, and take the time to sit with a cup of coffee and enjoy your own personal ripple.



*Note: The following organizations have a wealth of information on their websites about using native plantings:*

*Wild Ones: <http://www.wildones.org/>*

*Taylor Restoration Nurseries, Brodhead, WI:*

*<http://www.restorationnurseries.com>*

*Prairie Nursery, Westfield, WI:*

*<http://www.prairienursery.com/store/>*



# Volunteer Corner

By Kelly Washburn, Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager

What a glorious spring and summer are unfolding at the Welty Center! With the help of all our wonderful volunteers we were able to expand the Maple Sugar Festival and make it the best ever in the history of the event. Our volunteers represent the heart of our programs and we are so grateful to all who are willing to step forward, work hard and have fun all at the same time. Many thanks extend to the maple sugar program guides who willingly volunteered multiple shifts to ensure the school kids received a quality learning experience in the art of maple sugaring!



*An enthusiastic group for Welty Whimsies: Garden Art.*

The Welty Whimsies/Rustic Art Classes remain a great success! Thank you to all who have taken a class and supported the Welty Center. When I say “rustic art”, some think stuffy or old fashioned. We take every day rusty, crusty, junky stuff and turn it into a smile! Take a class with me and reinterpret recycled elements into “modern useable art pieces”-something fresh, fun and useable. See the ad on page 6 for the list of upcoming Welty Whimsies. Sign up soon as the classes fill up fast.

Lena has many exciting programs lined up for kids and adults this summer as noted in Schedule of Events. Please check them out and contact me at your convenience if a particular program looks like something you would like to help with. Fun and enjoyment await you

and no experience is necessary. Lena would love to show you the ropes!

Do you love those little frogs like I do? I am inviting you to join me in planning and executing a fun and exciting fall fundraiser! A Frog Jumpin’ Jamboree is in the planning stages and will be

held August 17<sup>th</sup> from 5-9PM in Beckman Mill Co. Park. Lots of food, drinks, music and laughter! I would really love you to join me in sharing ideas, decorating, making food choices and all the other fun details of putting together a successful upbeat fundraiser. Give me a call or email me to get in on the action!



*Until next time, wishing you butterfly mornings and wildflower afternoons . . .*

*Kelly*

Email: [volunteer@weltycenter.org](mailto:volunteer@weltycenter.org)

Phone: 608-314-4340



*Style is everything - The Red Hat ladies made paper beads.*

# Spotlight on Members

## Our Two New Board Members Introduce Themselves

### Neil McLaughlin

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of Welty, which is indeed a privilege.

I built my home in Rockton, IL. 30+ years ago. A life long resident of Winnebago County.

Volunteered with a number of organizations. Red Cross for 3 years as a lead worker at their Homeless Shelter. Had been a Board member with Rockton Seniors Bus transportation. Presently with the Retired Senior Volunteer program.



*Every week Neil helps monitor 32 bluebird boxes in a local forest preserve.*

I started as a volunteer with Welty several years ago and helped with the youth fishing event. Inactive for a period of time due to travel. Jumped back in working the Maple Sugar Fest and enjoyed it thoroughly. Birding has become a new found hobby I enjoy. Have taken birding trips to Puerto Rico, Texas, etc.

Retired from a 27 year career in law enforcement. 3 years with the Winnebago County Sheriffs Police. 24 years as a field warden with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Those duties included enforcement in the areas of Fish, Game, Parks, Boating, Snowmobile, and Forestry.

My interests have always been directed toward the outdoors and the environment. It is obvious the goal of the folks at Welty is directed toward environmental

education of all ages. Especially the youngsters. Their willingness to learn is insatiable and rewarding. I look forward to taking an active part in Welty's future...Many thanks...

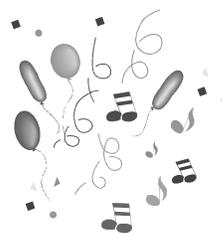
### Sheryl Miller

I retired from the School District of Janesville two years ago. I held the position of Public Information Specialist and Community Involvement Coordinator. My position involved: media and marketing, safety, community partnership and parent involvement.

As a volunteer I served on the Wisconsin PTA and National PTA Board of Directors for 16 years. With an emphasis on legislation at the state and national level, advocating for parent, children and public education. Currently I am a member of the Janesville Boys and Girls Club board.

I would like to offer my experience in marketing and media to promote the Welty Environmental Center. The center offers many interesting events and programs. It also serves as a wonderful educational experience for students.

I was raised in an agricultural family and was taught to respect and protect the environment. Living in the city, gardening is a source of enjoyment. Many people do not realize how their daily lives change the landscape of our environment. I feel the center is a resource to help people learn more about our natural resources and grow a sense of ownership.



**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.**

# From Tapping to Table: The Making of Maple Syrup

*By Diane Geminiani, third grade teacher at Todd School, School District of Beloit*

Maple Syrup time at Big Hill Park is one of my favorite field trips! My 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were excited! We had taught them some lessons from the material the Welty Center sent us. They thought they knew everything about maple sugaring!



us how to identify a maple tree, even when there were no leaves on it. I didn't know how to do that! And then one of my kids asked, "What's this green stuff?" And none of the other students knew either. – Moss! I so quickly forget how many children do not have an



winter March morning with snow on the ground!

The excitement built as we drove into the park. "Look at the forest!" "Look for bears!" We stopped in front of the garage and unloaded. The kids were all smiles and huge eyes. Lena and the friendly volunteers were right there to welcome us. We divided into three groups. My group went with Lena first on a short hike into the woods. Lena showed

an awareness of the nature around them.

Lena patiently showed them moss and lichen. She told us about the animals that live under the snow, and about the animals she sees when she arrives at the park early in the morning. My students were amazed – right here in Beloit! We hiked on to see the blue bags hanging on the maple trees. You could see the drops falling into the bags. Who knew the activity going on all around us on a

Our next stop was the garage where the sap was being boiled down. Our volunteer showed us how the spiles are inserted into the trees. All of the students were able to use a bit-brace to drill a hole in the stump and tap a spile into it. Then our volunteer let us sample the maple syrup! He gave us a teaspoon of store-bought syrup, and he gave us a teaspoon of real maple syrup. What a difference! Most of us agree that the real maple syrup is delicious!



Our last stop was the nature center. Our volunteer showed us a short video of how a Native American family does maple sugaring the way their ancestors did. Next we had some choices. We could reach into boxes and try to identify what we were feeling – a pelt, a skull! In another center, there was a large hollowed-out log that Native Americans would have used to boil down their sap. Students concentrated and worked together to use antlers and bones to try to lift "hot" rocks into the log. It's not as easy as it looks!

What an awesome field trip! We now know about another Wisconsin resource – our maple trees. We and our Native American ancestors/fellow Wisconsinites use our ingenuity to create maple syrup, a product we all know and love. Thank you for all the time and money it takes to make this experience possible for our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students!

# Welty Spring Activity by the Numbers

| ACTIVITY   | # PRESENTATIONS | # CHILDREN   | # ADULTS   | # PARTICIPANTS |
|--|-----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Winter sports programs   | 2               | 0            | 2          | 2              |
| Nature Rocks & Scouts tracking   | 2               | 6            | 2          | 8              |
| Welty Whimsies: Barn Quilts, Baskets,<br>Natural Soaps, Paper Crafts, Garden Art | 5               | 0            | 69         | 69             |
| School Day Out (January)   | 1               | 6            | 0          | 6              |
| Guided Hikes   | 4               | 11           | 17         | 28             |
| Adult Group Presentations  | 6               | 0            | 97         | 97             |
| Homemade Snowshoes   | 1               | 0            | 7          | 7              |
| EvenStart Programs   | 1               | 25           | 10         | 35             |
| 3rd Grade Maple Sugar Programs   | 22              | 479          | 86         | 565            |
| Maple Sugar Fest   | 1               | Many         | Many       | 522            |
| Scout Programs   | 3               | 25           | 17         | 42             |
| Rotary Gardens Earth Day Weekend   | 2               | Many         | Many       | 318            |
| Live Raptor Show   | 1               | Many         | Many       | 130            |
| Green Earth Expo   | 1               | Many         | Many       | 100            |
| School Spring Field Trips  | 15              | 203          | 56         | 259            |
| Turtle Outreach Program  | 1               | 50           | 50         | 100            |
| 5th Grade Ecology Programs   | 20              | 560          | 30         | 590            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>87</b>       | <b>1,614</b> | <b>742</b> | <b>2,878</b>   |

## Welty Whimsies Rustic Art Classes

*Who says adults can't have fun?*

*Join us at Beckman Mill County Park for a fun, relaxing and crafty Saturday afternoon!*

### Barn Quilts

June 22 & July 13, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Cost - \$45

Register by June 1

### Candle Dipping & Rustic Wind Chimes

September 14, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Cost - \$35

Register by August 31

### Gourd & Pine Needle Basket

August 24, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Cost - \$40

Register by August 9

**Register by calling 608-314-4340.**

**Ask for Kelly or send e-mail to  
volunteer@weltycenter.org**

**Reserve your spot soon . . . classes fill up fast!**

# *What Went On at Welty*



*Children enjoy a January day out.*



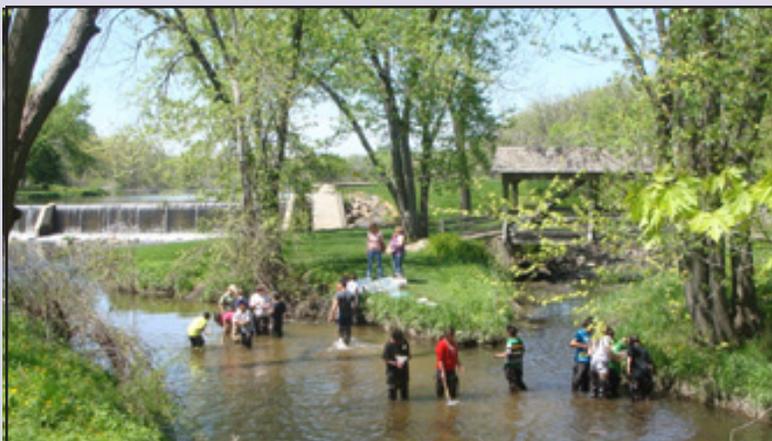
*Raptor demonstration.*



*Earth Day mystery hikers at Colored Sands Park.*



*A true work of garden art.*



*Enthusiastic fifth graders are not too worried about getting wet and muddy doing aquatic studies.*



*Homemade snow shoes.*

# Welty Summer/Fall Events

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

## JUNE

### Sat 22 - Welty Whimsies: Paint a 36X36 Barn Quilt

See page 6 for details



### Mon. 24-Fri. 28 - River Rats Day Camp

See page 15 for details

## 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**

## JULY

### Wed 3 - Welty Wednesday: Wonderful Worms

We'll investigate the world of worms, including charming for worms, checking out a worm farm, and playing a worm trivia life-size board game. Leave with plans to make your own worm farm. Stories, hands-on nature activities and games, crafts and a snack.

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

*Where:* Welty Envir. Center

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

*Cost:* \$8 Welty members  
\$10 nonmembers

*Register by* Fri. 1<sup>st</sup>

### Fri. 5 - Lazy Summer Friday

Today is all about slowing down. We'll fish, explore the creek, and generally enjoy the height of summer.

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

*Where:* Welty Envir. Center

*Age:* 6-12 years  
*Cost:* \$15 Welty members  
\$20 nonmembers

*Register by* Wed. 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Wed. 10 - Welty Wednesday: Cold-Blooded Critters

We'll investigate the amazing lives of the reptiles and amphibians in the area, and hopefully find a few on the shores of Raccoon Creek. Snakes and turtles and frogs and toads, oh my! Stories, hands-on nature activities and games, crafts and a snack.

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

*Where:* Welty Envir. Center

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

*Cost:* \$8 Welty members  
\$10 nonmembers

*Register by* Mon 8<sup>th</sup>

### Fri. 12 - Wingin' It With Welty

We will enjoy the natural wonders of Big Hill Park. Be ready to go for a hike, search on a scavenger hunt, peek in the water and get generally dirty and sweaty.

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

*Where:* Big Hill Park Cabin

*Age:* 6-12 years

*Cost:* \$25

*Register by* Wed. 10<sup>th</sup>

*Co-sponsored with* City of Beloit Leisure Services



### Sat. 13 - Welty Whimsies: Paint a 36x36 Barn Quilt

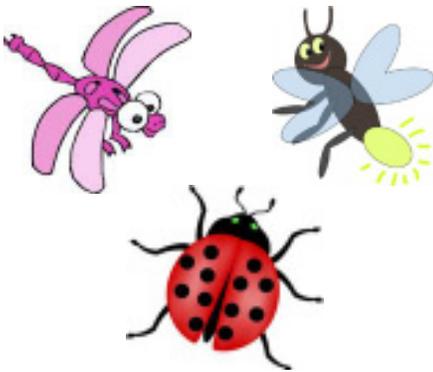
See page 6 for details

# Welty Summer/Fall Events

## Wed. 17 - Welty Wednesday: Bugs!

Find out what makes insects and spiders and arthropods alike and different as we check out these critters in person in the park. Equipment provided, but if you have a favorite bug net, bring it along. Be an entomologist for the day! Stories, hands-on nature activities and games, crafts and a snack.

*When:* 9:00am-11:00am  
*Where:* Welty Envir. Center  
*Age:* 5-10 years  
4 & under, with caregiver  
*Cost:* \$8 Welty members  
\$10 nonmembers.  
*Register by Mon. 15<sup>th</sup>*



## Fri. 19 - Creepy Crawly Friday

Be ready to look for, enjoy and learn to respect bugs, spiders, reptiles, frogs and more! If it creeps, has a lot of legs, is slimy and more, this is the day to check it out!

*When:* 9:00am-3:00pm  
*Where:* Welty Envir. Center  
*Age:* 6-12 years  
*Cost:* \$15 Welty members  
\$20 nonmembers.  
*Register by Wed. 17<sup>th</sup>*

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

## Mon. 22 - Full Moon and Frog Hike

Enjoy a peaceful evening along the shores of Raccoon Creek. We'll start at dusk to look for local frogs and toads and listen for their evening calls. As night falls we'll enjoy the moonrise over the boardwalk and wetland. Bring the whole family to enjoy a peaceful summer evening outdoors.

*When:* 8:00pm-9:30pm  
*Where:* Beckman Mill Co. Park  
*Age:* All  
*Cost:* Donations  
*Register by:* call for info



## Wed. 24 - Welty Wednesday: Birds on the Wing

Check out local birds, find out how to use binoculars, learn bird calls, and more. Leave with plans to make a bird feeder for your own back yard. Be an ornithologist for the day! Stories, hands-on nature activities and games, crafts and a snack.

*When:* 9:00am-11:00am  
*Where:* Welty Envir. Center  
*Age:* 5-10 years  
4 & under, with caregiver  
*Cost:* \$8 Welty members  
\$10 nonmembers  
*Register by Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup>*

## Fri. 26 - Survivin' With Welty

Today we will find out what it takes to live off the land. Make a shelter to keep you safe in a storm, practice making a one-match fire and outdoor cooking, identify poisonous plants and other dangers, and more.

*When:* 9:00am-3:00pm  
*Where:* Big Hill Park Cabin  
*Age:* 6-12 years  
*Cost:* \$25  
*Register by Wed. 24<sup>th</sup>*  
*Co-sponsored with City of Beloit Leisure Services*

## Wed. 31 - Welty Wednesday: Marvelous Mammals

We'll go on a hunt for our furry neighbors and find out what sets mammals apart from other critters. Be ready to look for animal tracks, signs, and even scat! (That's poop!!) Stories, hands-on nature activities and games, crafts and a snack.

*When:* 9:00am-11:00am  
*Where:* Welty Envir. Center  
*Age:* 5-10 years  
4 & under, with caregiver  
*Cost:* \$8 Welty members  
\$10 nonmembers  
*Register by Mon. 29<sup>th</sup>*

*Continued on page 10*

# Welty Summer/Fall Events

Continued from page 9

## AUGUST

### Fri. 2 - Nature Play Friday

Summer is winding down, so let's get out and play! This is a day for all sorts of fun, like building forts, making our own fishing poles, creating art from nature, and enjoying the outdoors.

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

*Where:* Welty Envir. Center

*Age:* 6-12 years

*Cost:* \$15 Welty members  
\$20 nonmembers.

*Register by* Wed 31<sup>st</sup> July

### Wed. 7 - Welty Wednesday: Creek Stomp

Today is all about getting our feet wet! We'll get in Raccoon Creek to catch crayfish, scoop tadpoles, sneak up on turtles and more. Enjoy water crafts and snacks on the shore. Stories, hands-on nature activities, games and crafts.

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

*Where:* Welty Envir. Center

*Age:* 5-10 years

4 & under, with  
caregiver

*Cost:* \$8 Welty members  
\$10 nonmembers.

*Register by* Mon 5<sup>th</sup>



### Fri. 9 - Funky Friday With Welty

This is a day to spend at the water's edge. Drop a line in the water and fish, whether you are an experienced angler or this is your first time. Scoop for other critters that live in the water, and maybe even make some watery crafts. We'll be getting wet and dirty today.

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

*Where:* Big Hill Park Cabin

*Age:* 6-12 years

*Cost:* \$25

*Register by* Wed 7<sup>th</sup>

*Co-sponsored with* City of  
Beloit Leisure Services



### Mon. 12- Fri. 16 -

#### Life in the Shire Day Camp

See page 15 for details

### Sat. 17 - A Frog Jumpin' Jamboree

Lots of food, drinks, music and laughter! Watch the Welty web site for further details.

*When:* 5:00pm-9:00pm

*Where:* Beckman Mill Co. Park



### Wed. 21 - Farewell to Summer Family Campfire

Bring the whole family for a fun farewell to summer. We'll have hot dogs, s'mores fixings, cooking sticks and the fire set for you. Bring your sense of wonder for night hikes, star gazing and storytelling. If you have a musical instrument you are welcome to bring it and share your songs and stories. We're staying up late because the cold will be here sooner than we like.

*When:* 7:30pm-9:30pm

*Where:* Beckman Mill  
Co. Park

*Age:* All

*Suggested donation:*

\$5 person

\$20 family

*Register by:* call for info.

### Sat. 24 Welty Whimsies: Gourd Bowls trimmed in pine needles

See page 6 for details

It's informative! It's colorful!

It's interactive!

It has way less  
annoying ads than Facebook does.

It's our website!!

Check it out at  
[www.weltycenter.org](http://www.weltycenter.org)

# Welty Summer/Fall Events

## SEPTEMBER

### Sun. 8 - Heritage Sunday at Beckman Mill County Park

Bring the whole family to visit the Welty Environmental Center and Beckman Mill during Beloit's Heritage Weekend. Discover the natural history of the area, take a hike through the park, and watch the mill in action.

Age: All

Cost: Free

### Sat. 14 Welty Whimsies: Candle Dipping and Rustic Wind Chimes

See page 6 for details

### Fri. 20 - Fall Equinox Wander and Storytelling

Hike through the park and down the hill as night falls on the eve of the fall equinox. The nearly-full moon will rise shortly after sunset to light our way. At the bottom of the hill we will enjoy a campfire, treats, storytelling, and stargazing. Soon the nights will turn cold, so let's enjoy fall while she lasts.

When: 6:30pm

Where: the first pavilion, Big Hill Park

Age: All

Suggested donation:

\$5 person

\$20 family

Register by: call for info.

## 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

## Welty gets wired

We aren't trying to cyber-stalk any of you, but we now have many ways to keep you informed and up-to-date with what is going on at the Welty Environmental Center. We would love to add you to our online family (in a totally non-creepy way).



### ■ Facebook

"Like" us on Facebook to receive updates on events & fun tidbits from Lena.

### ■ Warbler on the web

Email Lena, [info@weltycenter.org](mailto:info@weltycenter.org) to let her know you'd like to save both Welty's and the world's resources by reading the Warbler on the web instead of receiving a paper copy through the mail. We'll then send you an email announcement when there's a new newsletter.

### ■ Email reminders of upcoming events

Email Lena, [info@weltycenter.org](mailto:info@weltycenter.org), to let her know you'd like to receive these. Never again miss a Welty event that you saw in the calendar but forgot to write down!

### ■ Web site [www.weltycenter.org](http://www.weltycenter.org)

Our web site has a calendar of events, information about local flora and fauna and a photo gallery.

*We wish we could help you with remembering your spouse's birthday but you're on your own there.*

# Remembering Fred Mathews, FWEC Founder

*By Stephanie Dobson, External Secretary*



January 25, 2013 marked the passing of Fred Mathews at the age of 95. Along with Richard Newsome, Fred was one of the two founding fathers: In 1998 they put together a steering committee, which met for a year to form Friends of the Welty Environmental Center (FWEC). Some others who served on that committee were: Heidi Andre, Darrah Chavey, Stephanie Dobson, Joe Kobyłka, David McGauchlin, Lloyd Page, Sue Teteak, and James Van de Bogart.

Fred was a friend and admirer of J. Carl Welty. They both lived in Turtle township and were colleagues at Beloit College where Carl taught Biology and Fred taught Chemistry for 12 years. Fred started Laboratory Craftsmen, a small business manufacturing laboratory supplies, which continues in Beloit to this day. He was affable, optimistic, highly respected in the community and very well connected, serving on the Boards of many non-profits. His business acumen and inventiveness were invaluable in launching the Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Inc.

Thank you Fred!



## *Hazel Zick of Clinton, Wisconsin, Friend of Susan Welty*

*By Kelly Washburn, Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator*

As Hazel is 89 years young and has decreased vision and a hearing problem, thus this is the story she told me on a beautiful Sunday morning while enjoying breakfast at the Tiffany Inn where we meet most Sunday mornings and enjoy a good visit. Hazel enjoys working in her beautiful garden of flowers and is an avid bird watcher. She loves to visit and has a wondrous knowledge of life and nature.

Hazel first became fast friends with Susan Welty through the Ned Hollister Bird Club. Carl and Susan Welty loved birds and were instrumental in starting the club. When Carl passed away, Hazel and Susan Duggan of the Round Barn began to pick up Susan at her home so she would not miss a single meeting.

When Susan gave up her home and moved to an apartment on Park Avenue, Hazel and Fred Mathews were there to help her downsize. Susan had thrown a bundle of letters in the trash that Carl had written to her while he was in Germany, and Fred spotted them. He convinced her to keep them and share them with others. They were published in the Beloit Daily News and eventually Susan shared them with the world in a book, "The Hunger Years", by Joel Carl Welty.

Hazel enjoyed many afternoons with Susan drinking pots of tea and visiting. They both loved nature, birds and flowers. When Susan became ill and moved to a facility to receive the care she needed, Hazel continued to visit her. Susan's eyes would light up in acknowledgement when she entered her room. Hazel speaks with excitement and joy when revisiting the wonderful moments she spent with Susan.



# *Take a Walk on the Wild Side!*

*By Gill Batterman, Warbler Editor*

The best way to enjoy nature is to get out into the countryside and take a hike. Within an hour of the Welty Environmental Center, there are a number of places where you can go for either a gentle stroll or a good leg-stretch. Of course, our state and county parks provide the most opportunities, but there are some other gems. Here are some of my favorites, usually because they offer a variety of terrain, and thus of vegetation and bird life. The mileages are my best guess on the longest loop available!

## ***Winnebago Forest Preserves***

<http://www.wcfpd.org/preserves/>

### **Sugar River – Colored Sands - 2.8 miles**

10602 Haas Road, Durand, IL 61024

A huge bonus of a hike here during spring and fall weekends is popping into the Sand Bluff Bird Banding Station, right by the parking lot. We love to talk to the volunteers as they identify, measure and record the birds they have carefully extricated from mist nests.

### **Sugar River Alder – 4 miles**

10255 Haas Road, Shirland, IL 61079

A great place for solitude, for we rarely meet other hikers here. I am impressed by the expansion and restoration work accomplished by the Winnebago Forest Preserve District, steadily replacing farmed fields with prairie.

### **Sugar River – 4 miles**

Preserve Road, Durand, IL 61024

### **Hononegah – 2.7 miles**

#80 Hononegah Road, Rockton, IL 61072

***Rock County Parks*** <http://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/departments-m-z/parks>

### **Beckman Mill County Park – 1 mile**

### **Carver Roehl - 1.5 miles**

4907 South Carvers Rock Road, Clinton, WI 53525

### **Magnolia Bluff - 3.5 miles**

4002 North Croak Road, Evansville, WI 53536

## ***Other favorite hiking places***

### **Big Hill Park - 3 miles**

Afton Road & Big Hill Road, Beloit, WI 53511

In spring Big Hill has the greatest variety of ephemeral flowers that I know about in the Stateline area, and so far Beloit's parks department and dedicated volunteers have succeeded in keeping invasive garlic mustard largely at

June 2013

bay. In fall, the hike down the hill to the Rock River is bathed in magical gold, as sunlight filters through the maple leaves.

### **Nygrens Wetlands - 2.5 - 4 miles**

3190 W. Rockton Rd., Rockton, IL 61072

[www.naturalland.org/nygren.html](http://www.naturalland.org/nygren.html)

The variety of wildlife we have seen here is wonderful. Memorable bird sightings include at least 100 herons standing in the water, perhaps 50 pelicans flying in to land on the water, sandhill cranes with a baby, and migrating whooping cranes. Our animal sightings include a skunk skulking below the abandoned railway embankment, and we're still hoping to see the returned otters.

### **Lakeshore trail around Lake Geneva - 22 miles**

We have hiked the whole path, but not all at once. We usually start from Williams Bay, Fontana, Lake Geneva or Big Foot Beach State Park. There's often a breeze blowing across the water, so it's a good place on hot days. It's also fascinating to watch the constant building and remodeling of the amazing lakeshore houses.

### **The Kettle Moraine**

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/kms/pdfs/kmsforestmap.pdf>

E.g. Nordic Skiing and Hiking trails on highway H near La Grange, perimeter trail - 9 miles.

### **A segment of the Ice Age Trail**

<http://www.iceagetrail.org/trail-map-and-current-conditions>

e.g. starting at Storrs Lake by Milton, or in the Kettle Moraine.

I am always looking for new places where I can go for a good hike. Please let me know about your favorite places in the area which I have missed. Email me at: [gbatterman@gmail.com](mailto:gbatterman@gmail.com)

# Maple Sugar Fest 2013 Was A Terrific Success!

Visit *Beloit JET Grant* provided \$2,500 to advertise in two new outreach areas. We did billboards and radio advertising in both the Janesville market and the Rockton-Roscoe market, with exciting results. We also printed Maple Sugar Fest maps with other Welty events highlighted on the back.



Total number counted entering Big Hill Park during Maple Sugar Fest...522 people

- 36%...Beloit...192 people
  - 30%...Illinois...155 people
  - 24%...Janesville...125 people
  - 10%...Other Wisconsin cities...49 people
- Outreach to new areas = VERY successful*

Informal survey of pancake line people... "How did you hear about the Maple Sugar Fest?"

- 34% said they heard it on the radio...
- 27% said they saw it on billboard...
- 16% saw it in the paper



Total number of pancake breakfasts sold:

- 2012...150 breakfasts
- 2013...374 breakfasts

*More than doubled last year's numbers!!!*

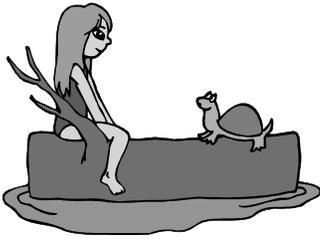
Although in preparation we bought twice the ingredients we'd needed in 2012, during the Fest we had to make two additional runs to the grocery store to buy yet more supplies!!

Don't count on your own memory! You may miss a great Welty event. Sign up for polite, non-judgemental email reminders of upcoming events. Email Lena at [info@weltycenter.org](mailto:info@weltycenter.org) and she will be your Welty event memory aid.



## Send a Kid to Camp!

You can sponsor a scholarship for an area child to go to day camp and have the nature experience of a lifetime!  
Call 608-361-1377 or email [info@weltycenter.org](mailto:info@weltycenter.org) for information.



# Welty Summer Day Camps

## June 24-28 - River Rats Day Camp

Get up close and personal with Raccoon Creek and all the life it contains. We'll go fishing, creep after crayfish, make water art, and enjoy life beside the water.

## Aug. 12-16 - Life in the Shire Day Camp

Live close to nature this week, like a Hobbit! Make nature art, spend lazy days by the creek, explore the woods and prairie, and maybe even write your own adventure, like Bilbo.



### Both Camps

- Ages:** 6-12 years
- Hours:** Mon-Fri 9am-3pm
- Friday Night:** Family Night at 6pm, followed by optional family overnight Camp-out
- Cost :** \$75 for Welty Envir. Center members; \$100 for non-members  
Additional fee for camp-out event, Partial scholarships are available
- Limit:** 15 campers

**Call 608-361-1377 or email [info@weltycenter.org](mailto:info@weltycenter.org)  
for more information and registration materials.**

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 Center Board Members

### Executive Committee

- Jan Knutson, President
- Dave Dobson, Vice President
- Dick 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

- Heidi Andre
- Edward Chady
- Tom Evert
- Neil McLaughlin
- Sheryl Miller
- Charles Mortensen
- Pablo Toral
- Jason Washburn

## 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.

# A Frog Jumpin' Jamboree



Okay so you can't channel Mark Twain by taking an extended paddleboat trip down the Mississippi. However, you **CAN** be part of a frog jumpin' jamboree! Lots of food. drinks, music and laughter!



***Saturday, Aug. 17***

***5 - 9 p.m.***

Beckman Mill County Park

**Watch the Welty web site for further details.**