

THE WARBLER

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

volume 13, issue 3

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

- Sat. 12** Branching Out: A Tree Study
Sun 13 Fall Harvest Festival
Fri. 18 Falling Leaf Full Moon Hike

NOVEMBER

- Sat. 9** Weather Watcher
Wed. 20 - Fun in the Fall:
Fri. 22 Homeschool Camp
Sat. 16 Journey to our Geologic Past Hike
Mon. 18 Full Moon Hike

DECEMBER

- Sat. 7** Get Moving:
Winter Sports Primer
Sat. 14 Parent's Day Out
Tues. 17 Dark Winter's Night
Full Moon Hike
Sat. 21 A Natural Holiday

JANUARY

- Sat. 11** Making tracks
Mon. 20 School's Day Out
Sat. 25 Welty Whimsies:
Backwoods &
Homestead Cooking

President's Message

By Jan Knutson

Look Through My Window

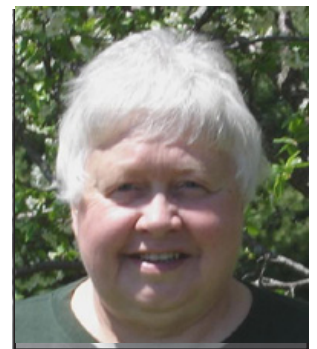
We are changing the face of our world at an alarming rate. Experts say that worldwide at least 2 species become extinct each hour. The natural world is also disappearing from children's lives...from their books and their education!

Recently, I looked through an amazing wordless picture book, *Window*, written by Jeannie Baker. This powerful work illustrates how a boy's view from his window gradually changes as he grows from infancy to adulthood. The landscape is being destroyed—forest and animals are replaced by neighbors and houses, then stores and factories are built and the view is changed forever.

A research group studying children's books over the last 10 years says there has been a significant decline in the depiction of the natural environments (those that appeared relatively unchanged by humans) and a steady increase in the illustrations of built environments (anything constructed by humans). During the years analyzed there also has been a definite decrease in the number of pictures showing wild and domestic animals in children's picture books.

If children are seeing less and less of nature in what they read and what they are exposed to in real life, the message being conveyed is clear...that nature really isn't an important part of day-to-day living. We can look at another reflector of society—the dictionary. The 2007 edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary created quite a stir when several nature words like dandelion, acorn, heron, and willow were dropped from the book. Of course, new words were added—blog, broadband, voicemail and “cut and paste”. The nature words that were eliminated were evidently not viewed by the editorial staff as being a part of children's typical experience.

Nature is playing an increasingly smaller role in today's culture of learning! And looking through my window...that is creating a BIG



continued on page 3

Reflections

By Lena Verkuilen, Director

Fall is my favorite season for many reasons. I love harvesting the bounty from my garden and preserving it for the months to come. I love having to break out the sweatshirts after a long, hot summer. Fall is a time of transition for people and the rest of the natural world. For us fall is a time to put away the lazy summer activities and bear down again to school, work, and projects. The birds gather in great flocks to fly south as food supplies dwindle with the decreasing sunlight. Frogs, turtles and snakes move to their hibernacula and spend most of their fall days drinking in the sun to ward off the chills. Even the constellations dance subtly across the sky until we notice

that our summer stars have set for yet another year.

Fall and early winter are also times of gathering with friends and family to celebrate the past year and bid farewell to those who have left us. Meals filled with plenty draw us together, we light candles as the nights grow longer, and we exchange gifts with those we love. I hope, as you enjoy the changing of the seasons and celebrate the holidays, that you think of the Welty Environmental Center. Please consider giving that special child in your life a registration to a nature program, instead of a new toy. For the cost of a video game, you can sponsor a field trip or in-class visit



from Welty for that child's whole class. For those children who want to share their love of the outdoors with their friends, there are nature birthday parties available. Picture children shrieking with delight as they catch and hold a crayfish for the first time, or follow a set of tracks in the snow to fresh scat. As nature is disappearing more and more from our lives and our children's lives, it is imperative for us all to learn about the world around us. We fight for what we love, and only love that which we truly know.

Whether or not you are able to give monetarily, please take the time to enjoy the changing of the seasons before deep winter sets in. Walk in the falling leaves in their glorious colors and smells, run outside to catch the first snowflake of the season on your tongue, take in the kettles of hawks moving on to warmer haunts, and be sure to bring a friend to spread the joy and peace the natural world brings. As you bite into that warm Thanksgiving pie be thankful for your family and friends gathered, the bee that pollinated the fruit, the sun that fed the vine and the nourishment they all bring.

*'Tis two months 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

Volunteer Corner

By Kelly Washburn, Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager

It occurs to me from time to time that one of the best reasons to live is to experience the look of the sun coming through the windows among the colors of fall. If you also enjoy the colors of fall, the Welty Center is once again inviting you to become a “fall hike guide” or “assistant guide” with the second grade classes in Big Hill Park. October is the month and we will be teaching the kids the wonder of the season. Volunteers are needed for both morning and afternoon sessions. No experience is necessary except a willingness to give some of your time to this wonderful yearly fall program. Sign up soon to experience a great outing and a wonderful hike along the paths of this beautiful park setting. Be sure to check out all the exciting activities on our fall calendar in this issue and contact me if you would like to lend a helping hand. As always, no experience is necessary!

Winter Welty Whimsies in the Woodland

The Welty Whimsies Rustic Art Classes are returning to the little cabin in the woods at Big Hill Park. They will run from January to May. Those of you returning to the Welty Whimsies will find plenty of new and exciting, repurposing projects. If you have the handy gene, so much the better. But if a tube of glue confounds you, or your idea of a difficult project is to hot glue some beads onto a cardboard box, no worries! The winter rustic art classes are right up your alley!

What a wonderful time was had by all who attended the Frog Jumpin’ Jamboree on August 17th! All proceeds went towards supporting our wonderful array of environmental educational programs! Many thanks to our sponsors - Hendricks Foundation, Hormel, Frito Lay, Grays Beverages, Culvers, Everett’s, and the Brad Paulson Farm. Last but not least, A BIG thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who helped make this event a night to remember!

If you did not visit the Welty Center’s booth at Holidazzle last year, another opportunity awaits you. We will once again be at Bushel and Peck’s in downtown Beloit on December 13th. Many unique Welty Whimsies “one of a kind gifts”, plus our famous “Second Time Around” gift baskets, will be reasonably priced. Get there early as our goodies sell out fast!



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

Email:
volunteer@weltycenter.org
Phone: 608-314-4340

President’s Message

continued from page 1

problem. Most people who identify themselves with nature have had some experiences with nature when they were kids. What happens if that virtually fades away? Who will be the future stewards of the earth? As Richard Louv says, “Conservation will always exist but if we’re not careful, conservationists will carry nature in their briefcases not in their hearts and that’s a very different relationship, and I don’t believe it’s sustainable.”

Students most certainly will not be interested in pictures of natural environments, or expect to find nature words in dictionaries, unless we provide a culture of learning that clearly values exploration of the natural world.

Our mission at Welty is first of all to help kids really know nature and experience the outdoors. Then, and only then, can they begin to love it, value it and protect it from disappearing.

How can you help protect the view through the window?????

Welty Summer Activity by the Numbers

June - September 2013

ACTIVITY	# PRESENTATIONS	# CHILDREN	# ADULTS	# PARTICIPANTS
Week-long Day Camps	2	37	0	37
Library Outreach Programs	21	941	384	1,325
Welty Whimsies	5	9	56	65
Welty Wednesdays	6	38	23	61
Friday Fun Days	6	54	0	54
Other Public Programs	1	3	4	7
School Field Trips	19	313	77	390
Nature Birthday Parties	1	12	12	24
Four Rivers Environmental Coalition	2	0	11	11
Expos and Other Events	5	157	212	369
Beloit Heritage Days	1	48	112	160
TOTAL	66	1,553	747	2,503

School field Trips

End of school field trips included 3 classes from the Janesville Montessori School doing creek and insect studies, Janesville's Roosevelt Elementary 3rd graders learning about local habitats, and an educational field day at Beckman Mill County Park with Welty and Beckman Mill for all 9 classes in Parkview Primary School. In July the Welty Environmental Center helped Wilson Elementary School in Janesville cap off a summer school season of birding with a hands-on birding session for 4 classes focusing on bird behaviors and adaptations. Thanks to volunteers Neil Deupree, Neil McLaughlin and Nancy Stabb for their help with this program. Rounding out the summer was a visit from the school-age class at Janesville's Community Kids Daycare to explore the habitats of Beckman Mill County Park.

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
- ❖ Give a gift certificate good towards any Welty program
- ❖ 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 his or her name

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

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

What Went on at Welty over the Summer

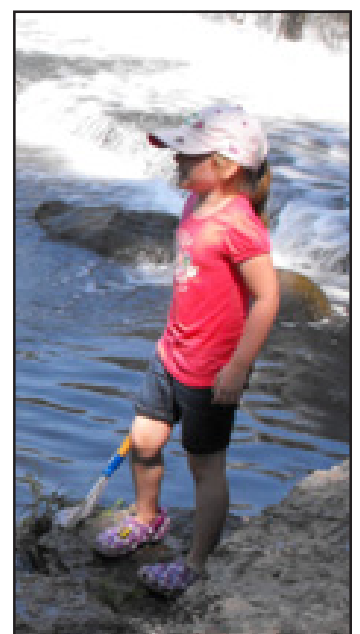
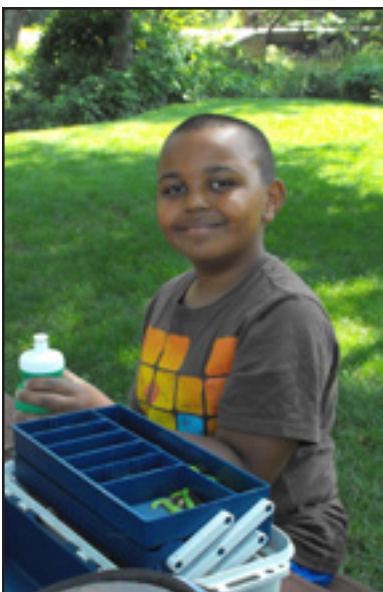
Library Outreach Program

This summer the Welty Environmental Center took our Wonderful Worms program to 21 local libraries in Rock, Walworth, Green, Jefferson and Winnebago counties to compliment the summer Dig Into Reading program. Families heard a story written by Beloit College Summer Sustainability intern Anne Bardo about Willie the Worm and what makes worms unique and important organisms. An oversized worm showed everyone worm anatomy inside and out. Participants played a life-sized board game by answering questions about worms and their importance. Welty's worm composting bin was on display and almost everyone had to hold a worm before the end of the program; we found not only their food and castings, but also worm cocoons! Directions were available so families could start their own worm composting system at home. To keep the experience in everyone's minds after the program participants could use beads and pipe cleaners to make a beaded worm that was anatomically correct with segments, a collar or clitellum, and a digestive tract. This outreach program was phenomenally



successful as we were able to reach 1,325 people with the truth about Wonderful Worms who may not have otherwise come to a program at the Welty Environmental Center.

Fishing and Investigating the Critters in Raccoon Creek is Always a Favorite Pastime



What Went on at Welty over the Summer

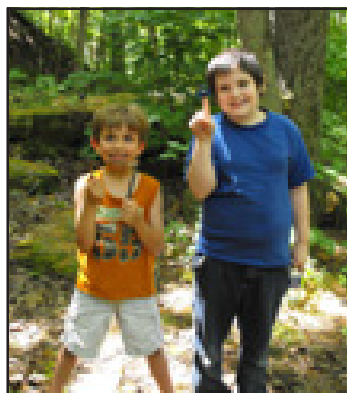
The Welty Whimsies Rustic Art classes continue to be popular and to fill to capacity.



Fairy Gardens

Gourd and Pine Needle Baskets

Several programs took place in Beloit's Big Hill Park



Spotlight on Members

The Robinson Family

Hi everyone! We're the Robinson family—Scott, Becky, Owen (6) and Charlie (4). We discovered Welty shortly after moving to the area, by way of a program about bats at Beloit Memorial High School. After this introduction to the center, we attended our first Welty Wednesday event, and then we were hooked! Since that time, we have attended dozens of events both at the center and off campus (for example, the glorious Maple Sugar Festival!) Our family has had so much fun together at Welty; the events hosted by the center count among our favorite activities to do together, and the Welty Center has given us many precious memories. Whether it be catching crayfish in the stream, sucking up critters with the bug vacuums, spying on the bats living in the outhouse, listening to Native American stories around a campfire, or seeing a water snake up close, we know our boys have had experiences at Welty that will stay with them forever. And, quite frankly, these experiences are ones they may not have had at all were it not for the center. By the way, Miss Lena (as my boys call her) is responsible in large part for the character and quality of these experiences. She is knowledgeable, committed, and, best of all, a great teacher of children. Her kindness



and patience are remarkable, and our boys love her. She embodies for us the spirit of the Welty Center—a steward of nature not just for the present, but for the future; in touching the lives of kids, and imbuing them with an appreciation for the natural world, she and the center are helping to ensure the perpetuation of a sense of the value of nature. Oh, and that water snake—Miss Lena is the one who caught it. Even though it bit her many times, she held on to it so that the children could see it and pet it. She literally gives her blood, sweat, and tears to the Welty Center. Now that's dedication!

Spring Welty Whimsies: Rustic Art at a Woodland Gathering

Who says adults can't have fun?

- ❖ Jan. 25 Backwoods and Homestead Cooking
- ❖ Feb. 15 Rustic Jar Fixin's
- ❖ March 22 Buttons, Beads and Bangles
- ❖ April 19 Pallet Vertigo Garden

Classes are held in the cabin at Big Hill Park from 1 - 4 p.m.

Cost - \$35⁰⁰

Register by calling 608-314-4340 or email volunteer@weltycenter.org

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

Welty Fall/Winter Events

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

OCTOBER

Sat. 12 - Branching Out: A Tree Study

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

When: Noon-2pm

Where: Big Hill Park

Age: All

Cost: \$5

Register by: Thurs 10th

Sun 13 - Fall Harvest Festival

Bring the whole family for an afternoon of old-fashioned harvest fun. Music, scarecrow building, cider pressing demonstrations, bouncy castle, folk dancing, guided nature walks through the oak savanna restoration and wetlands of Beckman Mill County Park, and more. Bring a fruit or vegetable pie for the annual pie contest as well - you could win a fabulous prize. Buy your lunch here!

When: 11:00am-4:00pm

Where: Beckman Mill County Park

Age: All

Cost: \$5 individual

\$15 family

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

Fri. 18 - Falling Leaf Full Moon Hike

Enjoy a hike through one of the highest points in Rock County as the sun sets and the moon rises. Views of the fall color from the bluff are fantastic! We will enjoy the stars and fall folklore as we hike around the bluff.

When: 6pm

Where: Magnolia Bluff County Park

Age: All

Cost: \$5 individual suggested

\$15 family suggested

Register by: Thurs. 17th

NOVEMBER

Sat. 9 - Weather Watcher

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

When: 10am-Noon

or 1pm-3pm

Where: Welty Environmental Center

Age: All

Cost: \$7

Register by: Thurs. 7th



Welty Fall/Winter Events

Wed. 20 – Fri. 22 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 time exploring and learning in Beckman Mill County Park.

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

Where: Welty Environmental Center

Age: 6 and up

Cost: \$50 Welty members

\$60 for nonmembers.

Register by: Thurs. 14th

Sat. 16 - Journey to our Geologic Past Hike

Enjoy the view of the limestone bluffs in this unique county park near Clinton, WI now that the vegetation has died back. Be ready for intermediate hiking on this trip. We will explore the geologic past of the region as we hike along Spring Creek. Bring your camera to capture the wonderful scenery.

When: 9:00am

Where: Carver Roehl County Park

Age: All

Cost: \$5 individual suggested

\$15 family suggested

Register by: Thurs. 14th

Mon. 18 - Full Moon Hike

Winter is setting in quickly. We will enjoy a hike around the historic buildings at Beckman Mill County Park, and watch the moon rise over the wetland on the boardwalk. Native people called this the beaver moon - perhaps we will see some animals preparing for winter tonight. A campfire will warm us up at the end.

When: 5:00pm

Where: Beckman Mill County Park

Age: All

Cost: Free Welty members

\$5 nonmember individual suggested

\$15 nonmember family suggested

Register by: Sat 16th



DECEMBER

Sat 7 - Get Moving:

Outdoor Winter Sports Primer

Does the wintertime get you down? Well, get up and get moving! We'll get ready for winter by learning different ways to enjoy the outdoors in the middle of winter during this session. Different types of recreation to be covered include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and winter hiking. We'll go over dressing for safety and comfort, and the basics of the sport before heading out to the trails to enjoy the morning. Get ready to love winter!

When: 10am-Noon

Where: Big Hill Park

Age: All

Cost: \$5

Register by: Thurs 5th

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**

Continued on page 10

Welty Fall/Winter Events

Continued from page 9

JANUARY

Sat. 14 - Parent's Day Out

The holidays are coming and there's lots to do! Drop the kids off for a day of winter fun and nature play while you take care of what you need to - even if that is nothing at all. We'll play outside, make some natural holiday crafts, and more.

When: 9am-3pm

Where: Welty Environmental Center

Age: Elementary school

Cost: \$15 Welty member

\$20 nonmembers

Register by: Mon 9th

Tues. 17 - A Dark Winter's Night:

Full Moon Hike

The full moon is rising tonight one last time for autumn, so let's enjoy it. Depending on trail conditions this will be either a hike, cross country ski or snowshoe event. Relax and take in the moonlight in the middle of this hectic season.

When: 5:30pm

Where: Beckman Mill County Park

Age: All

Children accompanied by adult

Cost: Free; donations welcomed!

Register by: Mon 16th

Sat. 21 - A Natural Holiday

Do you have some last minute decorating or gifts to take care of? Bring the family out to the Welty Environmental Center for a morning of making decorations from natural materials.

When: 10am-Noon

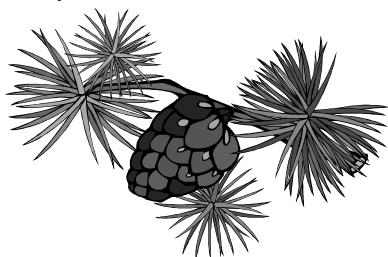
Where: Welty Environmental Center

Age: All

Cost: \$5 individual

\$15 family

Register by: Mon 16th



Sat 11 - 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 is much more than just footprints to follow. We'll have a special snack to help us keep our energy as we hunt Beckman Mill County Park in search of wildlife.

When: 1pm-3pm

Where: Welty Environmental Center

Age: All

Cost: \$5

Register by: Thurs 9th

Mon. 20 - School's 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. Dress to be outdoors for this hands-on program.

When: 9am-3pm

Where: Welty Environmental Center

Age: Elementary school

Cost: \$15 Welty member

\$20 per nonmember

Register by: Wed. 15th

Sat. 25 Welty Whimsies:

Backwoods and Homestead Cooking

A self sufficient homestead is never complete without a good supply of recipes that allow you to make your favorite foods without buying mass-produced versions. We shall be making flat apple pie, homemade noodles, and a simple rustic loaf of Irish soda bread. Join Kelly at the cabin for great fun, treats and conversation!

When: 1-4pm

Where: Big Hill Park cabin

Cost: \$35 without apron

\$40 with apron

Register: call Kelly at 608-314-4340

**See the Welty Environmental Center
at Beloit's Winterfest!**

Wonderful Worms: Starting your own Worm Composting Bin

By Lena Verkuilen, Director

This summer the Welty Environmental Center brought a program highlighting worms and vermicomposting to 21 local libraries. Here are some details so you can compost with worms at home, and some amazing facts about worms.

To start a worm composting system all you need is a container that will contain moisture with some ventilation holes drilled in the top, shredded newspaper, water, fruit and vegetable scraps and some worms.

For the container I prefer those opaque plastic bins designed for storing under a bed. The worms will like the flat surface, and since worms do not like light the clear ones are not recommended. In fact, I keep my worm compost bin under my bed as it is dark, quiet, and a consistent temperature. If you do not over feed your worms there should be no odor, and the worms are nice and quiet.

The best worms to use in a home composting system are Red Wigglers (*Eisenia foetida*) or Red Earthworms (*Lumbricus rubellus*). Both are available fairly readily at your local bait shop, but if you want to set up a larger bin they are available for sale by the pound on the internet. Your worms will eat about their weight in kitchen scraps each day, so the amount of worms you start with depends on how much waste you intend to process. Worms require grit to process their food, and a handful of garden soil works well. You can also add crushed egg shells. This is best if you feed your worms more acidic foods.

Setting up your bedding is an important step. The bedding should be moist, but not too wet. Worms breathe through their skin and will like to hide under the bedding to eat. Spritz the bedding with water until it consistently feels like a wrung-out sponge. If you have city water with chlorine added you will need to use distilled water as the chlorine will kill your worms. I speak from experience! Keep a spray bottle with your worm bin to spray it as needed.

Feeding your worms is not a stressful task. They prefer to eat things that are soft and in small pieces. I generally cut up my kitchen scraps to give the worms

more surface area to feed. You only need to check on their food supply once or twice a week. Some foods the worms really enjoy are apple cores, banana peels, tomato seeds, sweet pepper cores, and most any other fruit or vegetable you use at home. Some exceptions are citrus fruit peels - they are too acidic for the worms, and hot pepper cores - they don't like spicy foods. Do not feed your worms salty foods, meat, cheese or bread. These foods will spoil and make the bin smell bad as the worms will not eat them.

Harvesting your worm bin is the fun part. As the worms eat the scraps they convert it into rich castings for you to use on any plants. The castings are a neutral pH and can be applied directly to plants without burning them like other fertilizers. This black gold can be mixed with soil, soaked in water and used as "compost tea" on houseplants, or in any combination. To separate worms from the compost the easiest method is to divide and conquer. Place all your vermicompost bin contents on one side of the bin. Remove any worms or cocoons you see and place them on one side, and the bedding, remaining scraps and worm castings on the other side. The cocoons will look like a small lemon, and each contains the eggs for up to 10 worms. Remove the castings for your gardening pleasure.

Make sure you do not release live worms or cocoons into your garden, as they are not native to this area. Invasive worms can create great damage in ecosystems where they are introduced as they feed more aggressively than other soil invertebrates, and they affect the entire system. To eliminate this problem it is best to freeze your compost before using it to make sure any worms or cocoons that are left in the compost are killed. Now, just add fresh, moist bedding and kitchen scraps and you are ready to go again. Depending on the size of your vermicomposting system you will need to harvest castings every 4-6 weeks.

If you are interested in further details about composting with worms, or would like to schedule a vermicomposting talk for your school or group please contact the Welty Environmental Center today!

River Rats Summer Camp



Summer camps continue to be popular at Welty. We had 19 campers in “River Rats” week in June, and 18 campers in “Life in the Shire”, our hobbits week in August. While we originally set the limit at 15 campers, thanks to our fantastic interns and volunteers we were able to take a few extra campers each week.

When Mother Nature provided a little extra rain in June our River Rats took to the fish ladder for creek explorations. And when she flooded the creek we went on a worm hunting

expedition along the north woods trail and came back with treats for our turtles, Carl and Aldo, along with bait to last the rest of the week.

Games, crafts, creek time and daily quests filled each week. Friday Family nights showcased the wonderful arts, crafts and talents of our campers to their friends and family.



Thank you all for your participation, and we hope to have you all back next summer!

Hobbit Life in the Shire Summer Camp

My favorite thing about camp is.....

Connor (6): going fishing

Kayden (8): the creek

Alex (11): spending time with Nature
and meeting new friends

Kristiana (12): water time

Max (10): crayfishing



Tia (7): making hobbit feet



Christopher (8): hanging out
with my friends

Carter (9): fishing



Hobbit Feet



Rosa (8)

Makayla (7): meeting new friends



Jacob (8): going down to the creek!

Eamonn (9): crayfishing and fishing!



Quentin (8): crafts and projects

Alec (8): fishing and doing the solo hike

Claire (8): crayfishing, scavenger hunt,
and doing arts and crafts



Ella (9): fishing

Aiden (11): everything, especially
the hikes

We Love You, Lena!

President Jan Knutson received the following unsolicited testimony to Director Lena's professionalism after Lena did a presentation on birds to summer school pupils at Wilson School in Janesville.

Shelley Gard, Wilson/Lincoln Innovation Specialist, School District of Janesville, wrote:

From the start, when I called and talked to Lena only a week prior to our experience, I was very impressed with her very confident and friendly approach to handling my request. Lena was interested in learning what we had already done with our students this summer with our birding unit so she could be sure that she could tailor the experience to enhance what we'd already been focusing on and take the students to the next level of understanding with her hands on presentation. Lena was very well prepared for the activity. She even stopped by the school the day before to get a feel for the layout of the facility. She arrived early the day of the experience in order to be set and ready well before the students arrived.

Lena obviously has experience working with a variety of ages. She did a great job of reading her audience and modifying her delivery so that it best matched what the students were ready and able to handle. She did a nice job of positively setting up the expectations/guidelines of what students could and could not touch. Her delivery was very informative, friendly, and lighthearted. It was clear that the kids were engaged and enjoying themselves throughout the experience.

Please extend my appreciation to Lena.

Thank you!

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
and she will be your Welty event
memory aid.



Note from Gill Batterman, Warbler editor: This summer I spent two happy mornings at Welty programs for kids. They yet again strengthened my commitment to supporting the work of the Welty Environmental Center. The kids were completely absorbed in the sorts of outdoor activities kids have pursued for generations, but which are rare for today's youth: exploring the woods where they howled loudly "like wolves", fishing, watching a toad, damming a stream, playing impromptu games under the trees, or simply sitting in the grass and chatting together. And yet again I was amazed at what kids don't know about the natural world, e.g. I watched a girl pick up what to her was an unfamiliar object and show it to Lena, who explained it was an acorn, the seed of that big tree – an oak. Don't we assume that every kid can recognize an acorn?

If you haven't seen Lena in action, I encourage you to visit a program – she welcomes both volunteers and observers. I believe you, too, will come away with an understanding of the importance of the Welty Environmental Center, and strengthened in your commitment to supporting its work.



***Please renew your membership to
the Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Inc.!***

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

Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2014			
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			
I prefer to receive my Warbler by <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. mail		<input type="checkbox"/> Interner (email reminder)	
Please send me email information about upcoming events		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

**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

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
 Sheryl Miller
 Charles Mortensen
 Pablo Toral
 Jason Washburn

Vision Statement

Friends of the Welty Environmental Center Board of Directors approved the following vision statement, which is how they see Welty in five years time:

The Welty Environmental Center will become regionally known for providing environmental leadership and educational experiences for diverse learners. The Welty Center will exemplify sustainable use of our natural resources.



Fall Family Harvest Festival

Sunday, Oct. 13

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Beckman Mill County Park



Where the Pie Contest is just one slice of "the whole pie"!

- Make a scarecrow
- Enjoy a Bounce Castle (kids only)
- Pumpkin carving
- Apple cider pressing
- Folk dancing
- Nature walks

Admission Fee: \$5⁰⁰ per person

\$15⁰⁰ for the whole family

**Hot dog lunch available for
a separate fee**



For more information

Call 608-361-1377

Contact info@weltycenter.org

Visit www.weltycenter.org