

# THE WARBLER

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

volume 14, issue 2

## Upcoming Events

### JUNE

- Tues. 10** Our Geologic Past  
**Fri. 13** Friday Fun: Wish for Fish  
**Sat. 14** Taste For Nature:  
Wisconsin Craft Beer and  
Wine Tasting Fundraiser  
**Sat. 21** Taste for Nature rain date  
**Mon. 16** Lewis and Clark Day  
Camp begins  
**Wed. 25** Welty Wednesday: Bugs!  
**Fri. 27** Friday Fun: The Life  
Aquatic  
**Sat. 28** Welty Whimsies:  
Garden Gazing Balls

### JULY

- Wed. 2** Welty Wednesday: Wet and  
Wild Critters  
**Wed. 9** Welty Wednesday: Wingin' It  
**Fri. 11** Friday Fun: Hidden Worlds  
**Wed. 16** Welty Wednesday: Mammals,  
Oh My!  
**Fri. 18** Friday Fun: Prairies and the Past  
**Sat. 19** Welty Whimsies: Wine Bottle  
Lamps  
**Wed. 23** Welty Wednesday: Natural  
Playgrounds  
**Fri. 25** Friday Fun: Nature Play Day  
**Wed. 30** Welty Wednesday: Rocks Rock!  
**Wed. 30** Flora and Fauna of the Prairie

### AUGUST

- Fri. 1** Friday Fun: Geologic  
Wonders  
**Wed. 6** Welty Wednesday: Creek  
Stomp  
**Fri. 8** Friday Fun: Creekside  
**Mon. 11** Living the Wild Life Day  
Camp begins  
**Sat. 16** Welty Whimsies: Rustic Log  
Candleholders from Nature  
**Tues. 19** Summer Harvest Cast Iron  
Cooking Class

### SEPTEMBER

- Sat. 20** Welty Whimsies: Golden  
Pumpkins

## President's Message

By Jim Van De Bogart

Welcome to the June 2014 issue of the Warbler. In it you will find information on our programs, events and upcoming activities, as well as ways to volunteer and contribute.

My first act as the new President of Welty is to thank Jan Knutson, our past President, for her years of effort on behalf of the organization. Her service has been both exemplary and appreciated. Also in line for great thanks are Board members Susan Wright, Ed Chady, Chuck Mortenson, Sheryl Miller, Jason Washburn, and Tom Evert. Each is rotating off our Board of Directors after years of service. They all deserve our thanks and praise. It is very clear to me already that without the help and participation of these volunteers as well as the countless others who continue to help, our organization would not be anywhere near as successful in environmental education.

By way of introduction and background: I am an attorney. I have spent most of my career in public service as either an Assistant District Attorney in Rock County, or as a Court Commissioner in the same county. I've recently completed 10 years on the Beloit City Council. I previously served on the Board of Directors for the Rotary Gardens in Janesville and was a member of the now discontinued Rock River First organization. I look forward to working with our new and continuing Board members as well as the volunteers and other supporters.

Our mission remains vital. With the release this week of the report on climate change, it is even more important that we all become more aware and educated about our environment and how we as humans fit into it, affect it and can continue to live in it. Failure to do that doesn't seem to be an option.



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Visit the website - [www.weltycenter.org](http://www.weltycenter.org)!  
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# Reflections

By Lena Verkuilen, Director

Aldo Leopold said, “one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of a March thaw, is the spring.” Just as true, if a little less poetic, is that the first hummingbird at my feeder marks the late spring and tells me summer will soon arrive.

For beginning birders, hummingbirds are nice. There is only one species, the Ruby-throated or *Archilochus colubris*, which is native to the Eastern half of the United States. There are about 300 species in the Western hemisphere, and only a few venture this far north. In the western half of the country you will see 18 species, and sometimes one of these will get blown off course. The Ruby-throated hummingbird is a deep, jade green and the male boasts a bright red throat. The female is slightly larger, has no red patch, and her tail is more blunt. Both are aggressive feeders and will visit your red, yellow and purple flowers, along with commercial hummingbird feeders. They may visit you if you wear red!

You do not need to buy expensive, store-bought hummingbird nectar to bring in these beauties. Simply mix 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. Use warm water and the sugar will dissolve more quickly. It will spoil quickly in the sun, so just put out what your hummers will eat in a day or so, and keep the feeder well washed. The nectar can be stored in your refrigerator. Never use honey or molasses in your nectar! This is heavier than table sugar, and can ferment in the hummingbird’s stomach and cause a fatal mold infection. Plain old sugar is the one to use!

Once the nectar is in the feeder the fun begins! You will not hear the hummers sing. They make a variety of squeaks and grating sounds. The buzz of their wings sounds similar to a large bumblebee. Those wings will beat 35 times each second, and because of their unique attachment to the bird hummers can move in any direction. Our little ruby-throats are so competitive they will chase other hummers away from the feeder, so be ready with lots of feeding ports. Their long, thin beak conceals a forked tongue that laps the nectar at a rate of 3 times each second. These birds are non-passerine, or non-perching. They are always on the move, and need all that energy to keep their heart beating 600 times a minute. At night they enter a state of torpor, which is like hibernation but only overnight, to conserve energy so they do not starve to death by morning. Hummingbirds have even affected the way their favorite flowers grow. Most of these flowers, like Columbine, have long, tube-like flowers, and the pollen is



*Female ruby-throated hummingbird*

situated so that the bird gets a little on its beak at each feeding.

Males and females do just about everything separately. The males arrive about a week before the females, and each prefers a different habitat. Males prefer

woodland edges, flower gardens and hedgerows. Look for the females in areas with dense cover to conceal their nests. Hummingbird nests are small - just big enough for the female and two, pea-sized white eggs. The female chooses a downward slanting twig about 20 feet high. She secures bud scales together with spider silk, lines the nest with plant down, and



*Male ruby-throated hummingbird*

camouflages the nest with lichens, also securing them with spider silk. In 16-18 days the eggs hatch, and 2-3 weeks later the young are fledged and off on their own. Young hummingbirds drink nectar and eat small insects and spiders the female brings.

Enjoy your time outside watching these amazing birds. You may leave your hummingbird feeders up in the fall. It is a myth that the hummingbirds will stay because you are providing food. In fact, you are helping those who got a late start on their migration. Our Ruby-throated hummingbirds will fly to the Gulf states, then in one long, restless stretch, fly over the Gulf of Mexico to Central America. Enjoy them while they are here, and be amazed that a bird so small it can get caught in a spider’s web has made it across the Gulf to your backyard!

# *Corporate Business Sustaining Membership Program*

This past year the Welty Board recognized the need to increase our funding for center operations and developed the Corporate Business Sustaining Membership program. In February 2014, Welty welcomed DuPont Industrial Biosciences as the FIRST member of this new program. They have been Welty Environmental Center supporters in the past and we are pleased to have them as a sustaining member for our future efforts in the mission of bringing environmental education to citizens in the greater Beloit area community.

We are looking for business contacts to help us “get-in-the-door” to explain this new corporate sustaining membership program to area businesses. If you can help please contact Jan Knutson, [jdknutson@netzero.net](mailto:jdknutson@netzero.net)

## **2014 Friends of the Welty Environmental Center Held Annual Meeting**

The weather was gloomy on April 27, 2014 the day of the annual meeting, but friendships and refreshments made it a bright occasion. The venue was the Beloit Historical Society.

High on the agenda was the presentation of a plaque recognizing DuPont Industrial Bio Sciences as the first Corporate Business Sustaining member of the Friends of the Welty Environmental Center. Receiving the plaque on behalf of DuPont were Michele Ianni and Evan Fitzgerald.

Five new at-large directors were elected:

- Brenda Plakans
- Lynn Vollbrecht
- John Boardman
- Loni Powers
- Brock Spencer

Elected as President was Jim VanDeBogart and as Internal Secretary, John Watrous.

Retiring board members, Jan Knutson, Susan Wright, Charles Mortensen, Ed Chady, Tom Evert, and Jason Washburn received fruit baskets in appreciation of their years of service to FWEC. Several expressed their intentions to continue volunteering for the Welty Center.

The meeting continued as presenter Paul Kinzer gave tips on getting started in recreational astronomy. He displayed an impressive collection of binoculars, telescopes, and eye pieces which he had brought from his home in Galesville WI, North of LaCrosse. He made it clear that this hobby is easy and not expensive, but one needs to get away from city light pollution. Poor equipment has squelched the enthusiasm of some would be observers; expensive stuff is not necessarily better!



*Jan Knutson, on behalf of the Friends of Welty Environmental Center, presented a plaque to Michele Ianni and Evan Fitzgerald of DuPont Industrial Bio Sciences*

# Highlights from the winter/spring programming

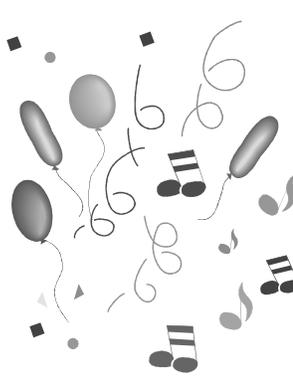
By Lena Verkuilen, Director

This winter may have been long and cold, but here at the Welty Environmental Center we decided to get out and enjoy it - and so did you! Kelly kept us warm inside turning our trash into treasure - warm pie, candle glow from jars, and beautiful bangles, oh my! Kelly has more Welty Whimsies planned for the future so be on the lookout as these classes fill up quickly.

Our school programs have expanded into several outreach options. With generous support from the Stateline Community Foundation and EcoLab the Welty Environmental Center is able to bring our programs to schools and preschools that cannot otherwise come to us. We were able to bring programs to 6 different schools over the winter, so thank you very much for the support!

As winter slowly turns to spring we usher in the season with the age-old tradition of maple sugaring, and this year was no different. The season started about a week late due to the cold weather, but this did not stop us from showing 585 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, their teachers and their chaperones how to go from tap to table. At the annual Maple Sugar Festival we gave another 250 people tours of the sugar bush. We'll see you in the woods of Big Hill Park again next spring! When all was said and done, from approximately 120 gallons of maple sap we processed about 3 gallons of syrup that was given out as samples to our visitors, and some is in the freezer to start next year's program.

The spring season was rounded out by a successful Earth Week. On Earth Day a group of us went for a hike on about every trail you could at Big Hill Park and enjoyed the wildflowers, songs of the tree frogs, and got to see a white pelican resting on the Rock River. We visited a few Earth Day expos in the area over the week. On Saturday, April 26 the Welty Environmental Center hosted the first annual Beloit Community Earth Day Celebration with about 20 local organizations represented to Celebrate Nature's Kaleidoscope. About 275 people came out to Riverside Park in Beloit on a beautiful day to check it out. This celebration was bookended with a presentation from the Racine Zoo on Friday night, and Paul Kinzer educating us about how to watch the sky at FWEC Annual Meeting on Sunday.



**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.**

## Participation in Welty Center Activities January - April 2014

ACTIVITY	# PRESENTATIONS	# CHILDREN	# ADULTS	# PARTICIPANTS
School Field Trips	34	767	132	899
Scout Programs	3	20	11	31
Public Programs	10	72	161	233
Festivals & Special Events	3	Many	Many	344
Expos & Other Events	7	Many	Many	433
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>859+</b>	<b>304+</b>	<b>1,940</b>

# Welty enjoys a picture-perfect winter



*Inspecting a maple tree*



*Boiling down maple sap to make maple sugar*



*Dissecting an owl pellet*



*Winter tracking program*



*Beloit Community Earth Day event*



*Lena and Will Pollock collecting metal for Welty's annual metal drive*

# *Master Naturalist Volunteer Program*

*By Scott Steurer, Welty volunteer*

Eight years ago I was asked by a friend to get involved with a beautification project called America in Bloom. That friend is Jan Herbert. She recently served on the Welty board and thought I needed something to do in our community. We worked with other volunteers for months to make Rockton look beautiful in this competition. We did win the Tidiness award. Beloit won overall for a city its size. Since then I have volunteered with Beckman Mill and Welty, along with the Natural Land Institute working at getting rid of invasive plants, planting native seedlings and getting involved with programs that are offered.

In 2010 I enrolled in the Master Naturalist program with the University of Illinois Extension in Winnebago County. The program runs the spectrum of nature and conservation education and encourages its participants to get involved in their communities.

In order to become a certified Master Naturalist, the participant must do a project. I chose pulling invasive plants in the oak savanna at Welty. Lots of hours and lots of work. My daughter Lauren and Jan Herbert helped out. We would come out early in the morning and were surrounded by the sounds, colors and rhythms of nature along with gun shots in the distance from deer hunters.

The Master Naturalist program has led me to continuing education with college courses, including botany, biology, soil ecology, and environmental science to name a few. I enjoy prescribed burnings when I can be involved as well.

The best part of being a Certified Master Naturalist and going to school is the amazing conservationists,



biologists, birders and other professionals I get to meet, work with and now call my friends and colleagues. One of my mentors is Lena Verkuilen. She, as we all know, is wonderful. Her hard work has put Welty on the map. I have learned so much from her while watching her work and working with her. We are lucky to have her.

I support her and Welty in working to make the new Wisconsin Master Naturalist Volunteer program viable. I believe the program will bring in new volunteers and grow nature education programs at Welty and all over Rock County for the residents to learn and share a passion for nature and our environment. We hope people will visit any nature area and enjoy the beauty. It will benefit Welty greatly to promote the Master Naturalist Volunteer program and make it one of its top priorities as we move forward.

Within the last year, I was appointed to the education committee with the Natural Land Institute and the program committee with Welty. I consider both positions an honor and enjoy being a part of these committees. I even think my kids are proud of me. My six and five year old grandsons now come out to Welty for programs and hikes with their papa.

Conservation is now a part of who I am.

I don't call it volunteering anymore.

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.

# Welty Announces Fall 2014 Master Naturalist Volunteer course

Welty Director Lena Verkuilen and Dan Bartlett, Curator of Exhibits and Education at Beloit College's Logan Museum, will again be offering this certification course. The program costs \$250 and participants register online directly with UW-extension, the lead certifying organization, at [www.wimasternaturalist.org](http://www.wimasternaturalist.org). They will need to complete the 40 hour training course, a capstone project, and over a year they need to put in 40 hours of volunteer work to achieve their Master Naturalist Volunteer status. Every year after that Master Naturalist Volunteers will need to put in their 40 hours of volunteer work and take eight hours of additional training.

The tentative course dates are:

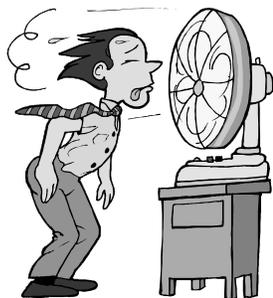
Thursday evenings 6-8:30pm  
from August 28 - November 13  
Saturday field trips all day  
on September 27 and October 18

**Watch the Welty Environmental Center website for further details:**  
<http://weltycenter.org/>



## Color Your World!

Imagine how this newsletter would look in glorious color! You can see it for yourself by signing up for the online version. And, as an additional feel-good bonus, you will be saving a tree by your lack of paper consumption!! Send an email to Lena at [info@weltycenter.org](mailto:info@weltycenter.org)



## The Welty Center's Needful Things

*We're havin' a heat wave, a tropical heat wave.  
Well, okay, actually it's coming soon and we're planning ahead . . .*

Window air conditioners. The warm weather is on its way and Lena and I are still in need of two newer, cost efficient window air conditioners. If any of our members can donate one or two it would be greatly appreciated. Give me a call at 608-314-4340 or email me at [volunteer@weltycenter.org](mailto:volunteer@weltycenter.org) for sizes or more information. Thanks! *Kelly*.

### More needful things:

- Good youth fishing poles
- Fishing tackle (to use and give to children)
- Latex-free bandaids
- Baby wipes
- Powdered presweetened drink mix
- Mop
- Broom and dust pan
- Cleaning products
- Grout
- Old dishes to break up for mosaic (Welty Whimsies)
- Coffee cans

# Welty Summer 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

### Tues. 10 - Our Geologic Past

Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois were once under an inland sea. Most recently we were covered with mile-high glaciers. See what geologic treasures and stories can be read in the landscape and geologic deposits in the region. Come get a preview of this fall's Master Naturalist Volunteer training course! Bring a picnic supper and good hiking shoes. Materials provided.

**When:** 4:30pm-7:30pm

**Where:** Magnolia Bluff County Park

**Age:** Adults and teens

**Cost:** \$15

**Register by:** Tues. 3rd



View from the top of Magnolia Bluff

### Fri. 13 - Friday Fun: Wish For Fish

Fishing is a great pastime for folks of any age. We'll learn the basics: how to tie on hooks, what bait to use for which fish, and how to think like a fish. A special craft is included, so bring a light-colored shirt to create your very own lucky fishing shirt. We'll provide all bait and tackle, but if you have a pole or a favorite lure please bring it along.

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

**Age:** 6-12 years

**Cost:** \$15 Welty members

\$20 nonmembers

**Register by:** Wed. 11<sup>th</sup>

### Sat. 14 - Taste For Nature: Wisconsin Craft Beer and Wine Tasting Fundraiser Sat. 21 - Rain date

Enjoy a variety of Wisconsin craft beers, wines, light hors d'oeuvres and conversation on the back lawn of the Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead. Live music by the New Standard Quartet will feature jazz, Latin, fusion and pop styles. The Stateline Brewing Society will serve samples and give knowledge and advice. The homestead will be open for tours as well. Your attendance at this fundraiser supports environmental education for over 6,000 people in the Stateline area!

**When:** 6:00pm-8:00pm

**Where:** Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead, 2149 St. Lawrence Ave., Beloit

**Cost:** \$35

### Mon. 16 - Fri. 20 EXPLORE With Lewis and Clark Day Camp See information on page 10

### Wed. 25 - Welty Wednesday: Bugs!

They're creepy, crawly, small, big, flying, crawling, and awesome! Bugs may be spiders, dragonflies, worms, and more. Learn what makes each special and why they are important for our own lives.

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

**Age:** 5-10 years

4 and younger, with

caregiver

**Cost:** \$8 Welty members

\$10 nonmembers

\$5 4 years and younger

**Register by:** Mon. 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Fri. 27 - Friday Fun: The Life Aquatic

Life in the water includes fish, frogs, turtles, snakes, crayfish, and lots of cool bugs. We'll explore them all as we check out Raccoon Creek with nets, viewers and our own bare hands. We'll check out wet and wild crafts celebrating our water critters.

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

**Age:** 6-12 years

**Cost:** \$15 Welty members

\$20 nonmembers

**Register by:** Wed. 25<sup>th</sup>

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

# Welty Summer Events

## Sat. 28 - Welty Whimsies: Garden Gazing Balls

Want to create a beautiful piece of art for your garden or flower bed? Kelly will show you how to create a beautiful gazing ball from recycled bowling balls, pieces of colorful dishes, vases, buttons, beads, old jewelry and grout. Have a special piece you would like to use? Bring it along! No experience necessary!

**When:** 1-4pm

**Where:** Beckman Mill County Park

**Cost:** \$35

**Pre-register.**

## JULY

## Wed. 2 - Welty Wednesday: Wet and Wild Critters

Lots of living things lurk underwater. We'll check out as many as we can from the large to the small. Nets will help us catch the little ones, and we might be lucky enough to meet some frogs, turtles and snakes.

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

**Age:** 5-10 years  
4 and younger, with caregiver

**Cost:** \$8 Welty members  
\$10 nonmembers  
\$5 4 years and younger

**Register by:** Mon. 30<sup>th</sup>

## Wed. 9 - Welty Wednesday: Wingin' It

There is a lot of life in the air! We'll check out birds, butterflies, dragonflies, and even seeds and spiders that sometimes take flight! Make your own special flying craft.  
June 2014

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

**Age:** 5-10 years  
4 and younger, with caregiver

**Cost:** \$8 Welty members  
\$10 nonmembers  
\$5 4 years and younger

**Register by:** Mon. 7<sup>th</sup>

## Fri. 11 - Friday Fun: Hidden Worlds

Have you ever wondered if there is more to life? Well, there certainly is more than meets the eye! Be ready to carefully explore under rocks and logs, in the water, and though the microscope and lens. For some living things, a drop of water is their universe!

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

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

**Register by:** Wed. 9<sup>th</sup>

## Wed. 16 - Welty Wednesday: Mammals, Oh My!

They've got hair, backbones and make their own heat, and range from tiny shrews to the largest animal to ever live on this Earth. And we're one too! Find out what makes mammals special, and be ready to explore for the signs they leave behind.



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

**Age:** 5-10 years  
4 and younger, with caregiver

**Cost:** \$8 Welty members  
\$10 nonmembers  
\$5 4 years and younger

**Register by:** Mon. 14<sup>th</sup>

## Fri. 18 - Friday Fun: Prairies and the Past

Our prairie will be in its glory as summer reaches its height, so come check it out. Find out amazing wonders hiding in the tall grass and plants, and try out how the Native Americans and pioneers who lived on the prairie used its resources. All our crafts and snacks will come from the prairie today.

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

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

**Register by:** Wed. 16<sup>th</sup>



## Sat. 19 - Welty Whimsies: Recycled Wine Bottle Lamps

Making lights out of wine bottles is a cool way to re-cycle bottles and look beautiful. A wine bottle light makes an appropriate gift for a wine lover or unusual decoration for a party. Line a walkway with the lights or just place one or two on the table for a lovely centerpiece.

**When:** 1-4pm

**Where:** Beckman Mill County Park

**Cost:** \$35

**Pre-register.**

# Welty Summer Events

Continued from page 9

## Wed. 23 - Welty Wednesday:

### Natural Playgrounds

A playground doesn't have to be built by people. Some of the best are all around us. We'll build shelters in the woods, make games from seeds and stones, and try out climbing on stumps.

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

**Age:** 5-10 years  
4 and younger, with caregiver

**Cost:** \$8 Welty members  
\$10 nonmembers  
\$5 4 years and younger

**Register by:** Mon. 21<sup>st</sup>

## Fri. 25 - Friday Fun: Nature Play Day

Mother Nature gives us her own playground. We'll make games from natural material, find out how to make a corn husk doll, and use nature as our source of fun all day long. The creek gives a special place to play and explore!

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

**Age:** 6-12 years

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

**Register by:** Wed. 23<sup>rd</sup>



## Wed. 30 - Welty Wednesday: Rocks Rock!

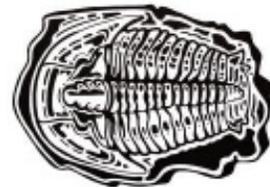
That rock under your feet can tell a great story. Learn about rivers of ice, and oceans that once covered the area. Make your own fossil to take home.

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

**Age:** 5-10 years  
4 and younger, with caregiver

**Cost:** \$8 Welty members  
\$10 nonmembers  
\$5 4 years and younger

**Register by:** Mon. 28<sup>th</sup>



Continued on page 11

## Welty Summer Day Camps



### June 16 - 20 - Explore with Lewis and Clark Week

Over 200 years ago Lewis and Clark travelled down rivers and across unknown lands to open the West to the Pacific Ocean. We'll relive this time by checking out our creek, learning to read the land, and finding out about local Native American lore. Be ready for a busy week of exploring, mapping, playing and crafts!

Register by Monday, June 9

### Aug. 11 - 15 - Living the Wild Life Week

Check out our local animal Creature Powers as we explore for life in the park from the small to the tall, and everything in between. Campers will be transformed into their own super creature by the end of the week!

Register by Monday, August 4



### Details for Each Week of Camp

**Ages:** 6-12 years; ages 13 & up volunteer as Junior Naturalists (no fee to volunteer)

**Hours:** Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

**Friday Night:** Family Night at 6pm, followed by optional family overnight Camp-out. Family brings camping gear.

**Cost :** \$75 for Welty Envir. Center members; \$100 for non-members Additional fee for camp-out event.

**Limit:** 15 campers each week so register early!

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

for more information and registration materials.

# Welty Summer Events

Continued from page 10

## Wed. 30 - Flora and Fauna of the Prairie

Come learn details of life on the prairie. Get a preview of this fall's Master Naturalist Volunteer training course! We will be exploring the native plants, insects and other animals of the prairie as we examine an oak savanna restoration. Bring a picnic supper and comfortable shoes for easy hiking. Materials provided.

**When:** 4:30pm-7:30pm

**Age:** Adults & teens

**Cost:** \$15

**Register by:** Wed. 23<sup>rd</sup>

## AUGUST

### Fri. 1 - Friday Fun: Geologic Wonders

The landscape of this area tells a story of rivers of ice a mile high, and oceans deep. Bring your sense of adventure and keen eye as we check out rocks in the park for the stories they tell. We'll look for real fossils, and make one to take home too.

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

**Age:** 6-12 years

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

**Register by:** Wed. 30<sup>th</sup>

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

Today is a summer tradition all about getting our feet wet! We'll get in Raccoon Creek to catch crayfish, scoop tadpoles, sneak up on turtles and more. *Note: footwear must be worn in the creek.*

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

**Age:** 5-10 years  
4 and younger, with caregiver

**Cost:** \$8 Welty members  
\$10 nonmembers  
\$5 4 years and younger

**Register by:** Mon. 4<sup>th</sup>

### Fri. 8 - Friday Fun: Creekside

The summer can be long and hot, so let's take a day to be lazy and enjoy the wonders along the creek. Bring your pole, or borrow one of ours and catch a fish or two. Make boats to race in the fish ladder, and maybe we'll be lucky enough to sneak up on a snake or turtle.

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

**Age:** 6-12 years

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

**Register by:** Wed. 6<sup>th</sup>

### Mon. 11 – Fri. 15 - Living The WILD Life Day Camp

See information on Page 10

### Sat. 16 – Welty Whimsies: Rustic Log Candleholders from Nature

Logs with a pattern of dark knot holes blend well with both the rustic and contemporary decorating styles. We can make a candleholder from a section of log to use at a holiday table or sit in a fireplace. We will be decorating with pinecones, nuts, acorns and all things natural.

**When:** 1-4pm

**Where:** Beckman Mill County  
Park

**Cost:** \$35

**Pre-register.**

### Tues. 19 - Summer Harvest Cast Iron Cooking Class

Learn how to take the bountiful harvest from your garden to your table. We will be using cast iron Dutch ovens to create a soup course, bread, main course and dessert. Bring your sense of culinary adventure and an appetite. All food, supplies and instruction provided, and also recipes and tips for your future campfire suppers.

**When:** 4:30pm-7:30pm

**Where:** Beckman Mill County Park

**Age:** Adults, culinary-minded  
teens

**Cost:** \$30

**Register by:** Tues. 12<sup>th</sup>

## SEPTEMBER

For more events,  
check the web site.

### Sat. 20 – Welty Whimsies: Golden Pumpkins

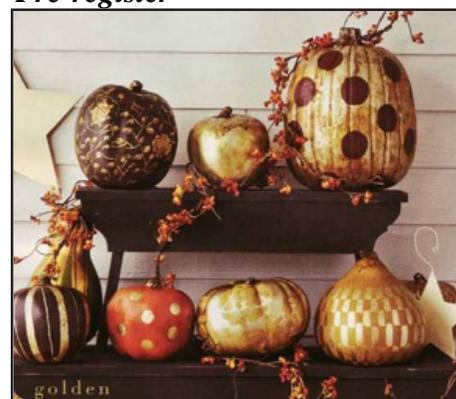
Feeling like you would enjoy sprucing up that same old orange pumpkin this year? Sign up with Kelly to paint, stencil, bead, stripe or even polka dot that vegetable!

**When:** 1-4pm

**Where:** Cabin, Big Hill Park

**Cost:** \$35

**Pre-register**



# Volunteer Corner

By Kelly Washburn, Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager

Hello everyone and welcome to springtime and the beginning of summer! These days, I know the rain. Working at the Welty Center we have an intimate relationship with the weather. Today, as I work at my desk, I don't have to look out the window to know it's pouring down rain. I hear its rowdy tap dance on the roof and I get up from my desk to grab my coat and favorite hat and hurry outside. Rain boots not optional. Umbrella? Nope, I am wash and wear. I look over Beckman Mill Park and am struck by the beauty of the dam, the giant trees in the Oak Savannah and memories of all the programs that have gone on before this day in this beautiful environment. I finally start back to the Center...and stop still in the pouring rain. I smell wet earth. I am overcome with emotion. My hair is frizzy, I am muddy and messy.....what is that feeling? Utter contentment. It crosses my mind that my grandma would have told me that I "don't have sense enough to come out of the rain." I gather my senses and head into the Center and brew a cup of tea. Here's the thing..... There is nowhere I'd rather be in any kind

of weather than the Welty Environmental Center. Join us as a volunteer and this wonder of pure enjoyment of beauty awaits you. Lena has many wonderful programs lined up for the summer season. You are invited to join us. No experience is necessary except the love of the outdoors and helping us connect people with nature!

A plot in the Heritage Garden, located in the park, has been donated to the Center. We will be planting and tending potatoes this summer. The "tators" will then be harvested and used at our yearly Fall Festival! If you would like to give me a hand at tending the little garden, contact me! I would love to work with you.

My love for creating has squirmed its way into every niche of my life, but it wasn't until a few years after working at the Welty Center that I actually found a way to teach recycling through art. I love the serendipity involved in never knowing exactly how things are going to go and the surprises that come up along the way. I love the creative process of moving what is a "throw away" and moving it into



an intangible idea, or feeling and seeing it form into a visible touchable piece of art. The Welty Whimsies Rustic Art classes continue to provide this teachable moment for all the creators who sign up for class after class. Check out our website and join us this summer for some great upcoming classes.

A SPECIAL thank-you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with the Maple Sugar program, whether you took time out of your busy schedule to be a guide, baked a treat for the bake sale, or volunteered at the Maple Sugar Festival! We could not do it without your dedication.

Wishing you Butterfly Mornings and Wildflower Afternoons!

Kelly

## Hot Fun in the Summertime

### Welty Wednesdays

A morning of stories, hands-on nature activities and games, crafts and a snack.

**Age:** 5-10 years

4 and younger, with caregiver

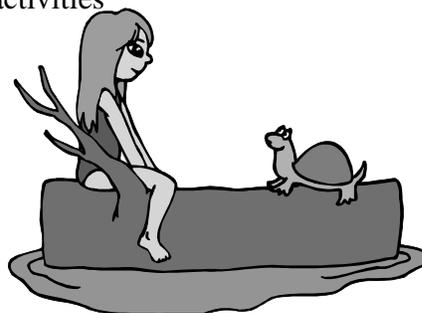
**When:** 9:00am-11:00am

**Where:** Welty Environmental Center

**Cost:** \$8 Welty members

\$10 nonmembers

\$5 4 years and younger



### Friday Fun

**Age:** 6-12 years

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

**Where:** Welty Environmental Center

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

**See Schedule of Events for dates and activities**

# Welty Whimsies are a Saturday Success



Jason Washburn and Brianna Key making Flat Apple Pie at the January Welty Whimsies: Backwoods & Homestead Cooking



Molly Burden at the February Welty Whimsies: Primitive Jar Fixin's



Creative jewelry made at the March Welty Whimsies: Buttons, Beads and Bangles



A sample of the pallet gardens from the April Welty Whimsies

## Summer Welty Whimsies: Rustic Art in a Scenic Setting

Who says adults can't have fun?

Kelly will again be teaching how to recycle discarded objects into beautiful works of art

- ❖ June 28 Garden Gazing Balls
- ❖ July 19 Wine Bottle Lamps
- ❖ August 16 Rustic Log Candleholders from Nature
- ❖ September 20 Golden Pumpkins

See descriptions in Schedule of Events, pages 8 - 11.

Classes are held from 1 - 4 p.m.  
All classes are held at Beckman Mill Park except the Sept. one. That will be held in the cabin at Big Hill Park, Beloit

**Cost - \$35<sup>00</sup>**

Register by calling 608-314-4340  
or email [volunteer@weltycenter.org](mailto:volunteer@weltycenter.org)  
Reserve your spot soon . . . classes fill up fast!

# Spotlight on Members

By John Watrous, Internal Secretary

I'm excited to be joining the board of the Welty Center as the new Internal Secretary. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the readers of the *Warbler* and to tell you briefly about some of my interests that have led me to the Welty Center.

My professional training has been in Classics (the study of Greek and Latin languages and the cultures of the ancient world). I received bachelor degrees in Greek and Latin from the University of Washington in Seattle, and I did five years of graduate work in Classics at Harvard. I've taught off and on at Beloit College as an adjunct instructor in Classics, and I've also run several seminars for the Society for Learning Unlimited. I love teaching, in part because I enjoy seeing in my students the excitement that I felt when I first read Homer or the Greek tragedies, but also because I'm constantly learning from my students while I am in class with them.

I've lived in Beloit since 2001 with my wife Natalie, who is a Professor of Religious Studies at Beloit College. For those of you who know Beloit College well, we live across the street from the college in the house once owned by the Professor of English—and distinguished poet—Lou “Bink” Noll. Although we've lived in the house for 12 years, our neighbors still refer to our house as the Bink Noll house—as do we. We have so many reasons to be grateful for our home, but I'll mention only three. First, we have an extremely short commute. Second, we've inherited from Bink Noll a lovely flower garden, to which we've added a small vegetable garden in the back yard. Finally, Bink Noll composed a volume of poetry about the house, which we received as a gift a few years back from a colleague at the college.



*John in his backyard*

Outdoor activities have always been important to me, and I'm grateful that at critical junctures in my life I've known wise and generous people to show me the way. When we moved to Beloit and I started gardening for the first time, I relied heavily on the advice of my father-in-law, an experienced and avid gardener, as well as my many helpful neighbors, who shared their knowledge and their plants. Natalie and I were hikers before we came to Beloit (in Seattle visits to the Cascades and the rainforest in the Olympic Peninsula were easy), but we knew nothing about birdwatching until our friend Dr. Steven Fass sparked our interest. Steven was generous enough to give us advice on where to go, equipment, field guides, and a fairly detailed description of the order of the birds we were likely to see on our hikes during the spring migration. A dear friend of ours at the college showed us that kayaking was a perfect way to watch waterfowl.

I firmly believe that creating a bond with the natural world creates connections with other people. I see the Welty Center as a place where children begin and adults renew a life-long relationship with nature, but also as a place where a strong community is born and renewed. I'm glad to be part of that community. The Greek philosopher Solon said that he grew old by learning something new every day. I'm joining the Welty Center board as a freshman, and I'm eager to learn new things from everyone around me.

## 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**

***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  U.S. mail  Internet (email reminder)  
Please send me email information about upcoming events  Yes  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](mailto:dobsond@beloit.edu)**

❖      ❖      ❖      ❖      ❖

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

**Executive Committee**

Jim Van De Bogart, President  
Dave Dobson, Vice President  
Dick Newsome, Treasurer  
Stephanie Dobson, External Secretary  
John Watrous, 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  
John Boardman  
Brenda Plakans  
Loni Powers  
Brock Spencer  
Pablo Toral  
Lynn Vollbrecht

**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.

# Taste for Nature 2014

Wisconsin Craft Beer and Wine Tasting

*Friends of Welty Environmental Center invites members and the public to a*

## Fundraising Event, Saturday, June 14

(Raindate Saturday, June 21)

Featuring a variety of Wisconsin craft beers and wines,  
Stateline Brewing Society presenting  
samples and knowledge

Located at the historic  
Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead  
2149 St. Lawrence Ave., Beloit  
6 - 8 p.m.

Light food items  
**\$35<sup>00</sup> per person**

Music by New Standard Quartet  
*Jazz, Latin, fusion & pop*



Your attendance at this fundraiser supports environmental school programs, nature camps and family programs. Tickets may be purchased from Board members, through Paypal or at the door.