THE WARBLER

A Periodic newsletter of The Friends of the Welty Environmental Center Volume 15, Issue 2

Fall Events

Unless noted otherwise, all programs will take place at the new home of the Welty Environmental Center, in the Big Hill Center in Big Hill Park, 1201 Big Hill Court, Beloit, WI 53511. Donations always appreciated.

Sunday, Sept. 13, Noon-4 p.m.	Welcome to Our New Home A Party for Everyone	
Thursday, Sept. 17, 9-11 a.m.	Preschool in the Park - Fall Treasures \$5 per child, accompanied by an adult	
Saturday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m3 p.m.	Super Saturday Day Camp - Big Hill Bonanza \$15 per Welty member, \$20 per nonmember	
Monday Sept. 28, 6 p.m.	Full Moon Hike Free for Welty members	
Thursday, Oct. 15, 9-11 a.m.	Preschool in the Park - Color Everywhere \$5 per child with adult	
Saturday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m3 p.m.	Super Saturday Day Camp - Autumn Glory \$15 per Welty member \$20 per nonmember	
Sunday, Oct. 18, 11 a.m 4 p.m.	Fall Family Harvest Festival at Beckman Mill County Park A Fund Raiser - admission is charged	
Friday, Oct. 30, 5:30-8:30 p.m.	Halloween at Big Hill Suggested Donation: \$5 per person	

Fall Calendar Continued on Inside Cover

SEPTEMBER 2015

Fall Events - continued

Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m Noon or 2 - 4 p.m.	Weather Watcher Registration Limited to 30 per session Cost: \$7 per person
Thursday, Nov. 19, 9-11 a.m.	Preschool in the Park - Turkey Trails \$5 per child with adult
Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m3 p.m.	Super Saturday Day Camp - Natural Thanksgiving \$15 per Welty member \$20 per non-menber
Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.mNoon	Get Moving! - A Winter Sports Primer Register by Dec. 1st. \$7 per person
Thursday, Dec. 17, 9-11 a.m.	Preschool in the Park - Natural Gifts \$5 per child accompanied by an adult
Saturday, Dec 19, 10 a.m3 p.m.	Super Saturday Day Camp - Natural Holidays \$15 per Welty member \$20 per nonmember

Please be sure to read the details of your event, later in this Warbler.



BIG NEWS: The Welty Environmental Center finds a new home

The Center's staff & operations will be moving this fall to Beloit's Big Hill City Park

By the time this Warbler arrives in your mailbox, the Welty Center will be moving to the Big Hill Center (the former Service Center of the Badger Council of Girl Scouts) in Big Hill City Park. We are moving to the new facilities in stages throughout the summer and fall. While the change in location might mean a slight change in scenery, it won't affect our level of programming, and it will greatly improve our staff's work environment. The space boasts a large classroom, a spacious lobby, offices for our staff, good parking, and, as center director Lena has pointed out, indoor flush toilets!



Exterior of Welty Classroom

Interior of Welty Classroom

The city of Beloit purchased this building from Badger Council Girl Scouts in May, and offered Friends of the Welty Environmental Center exclusive use of certain parts of the building in exchange for modest rent and for Welty's presence in the building as greeters to park visitors. We will be responsible for custodial maintenance of our space, but the city has overall responsibility for building upkeep and services. This is a large building (about 20,000 square feet) on two levels. The city has plans to rent out other areas of the building for special events such as wedding receptions.

You might already be familiar with the building and our new classroom if you attended our Maple Sugar Fest in the spring—it's where we have hosted the pancake breakfast in recent years!

Big Hill City Park encompasses 197 acres of mostly wooded land and some Rock River shoreline. The presence of maple trees has made it a perfect venue for the syrup-making programs we've conducted for schools for many years. The park staff has always been helpful to Welty, as we took over giving maple sugar programs in 2004. The park has shelters, playgrounds, trails, picnic sites, and interesting history. Its name comes from the ski jump that was in use throughout the 1930s. Stone monuments at the entrance and stone fireplaces throughout the park were built by the Civilian Conservation Corp in 1937, and the park has long served as a favorite picnic place or hiking destination (trails lead to great look-outs over the bluffs of the Rock River, an excellent sight in the autumn) for Stateline-area families.

In the late 1990s, before the Friends of the Welty Environmental Center had been organized, there was a movement to build a nature center in Big Hill Park . J. Carl Welty had passed away more than a decade earlier, and John Quinn, a member of the Beloit Parks and Recreation Committee, suggested that the nature center be named in honor of Dr. Welty. When the Girl Scouts were planning to build the service center there were conversations between them and the "Welty" people to collaborate on the building, Those conversations ultimately were not fruitful, and the Welty group decided to reside elsewhere.

The last 15 years saw the Welty organization, located 7 miles west of the City in Beckman Mill County Park, grow, serve, and develop a reputation as the foremost environmental education organization in the Stateline area under the leadership of our founders Richard Newsome and Fred Mathews. FWEC needed better and bigger facilities. We are most grateful for the leadership of now retired Beloit City Manager, Larry Arft, whose vision for Big Hill Center has included us. We also appreciate the confidence of the Beloit City Council, which approved the agreement.

The Friends of the Welty Center, Inc. is most fortunate to have a true friend who has pledged to cover the full cost of our "rent" at the Big Hill Center for the foreseeable future. His generosity is making a huge difference!

The entrance to Big Hill Park is about one mile north of the intersection of Rock County Highways Q (Beloit-Newark Road) and D (Afton Road).

We invite you to come and visit us in our new abode as part of Beloit's Heritage Days on Sunday, Sept. 13, from noon to 4 p.m. for an open house!



Introducing our new Treasurer

Martin (Marty) Howe was elected Treasurer of FWEC at the April 19, 2015 Annual Meeting. He retired in 2009 from Edward Jones, where he was a financial adviser. He has served for the past six years as an AARP Tax-Aide volunteer and is currently a board member of Gateway Community Bank.

Why Welty? Thoughts of a Middle School Volunteer

by Alex Buchko, Willowbrook Middle School

Though there are many reasons I love to go to the Welty Environmental Center, the main reason is simple: Nature.

Every year for the past five years, I've gone there as much as I physically can, because of the stunning habitats and animals.

Whether I am fishing, hiking, or doing something else, nature always brings me back. Sometimes you miss a lot of things about the Welty Center just driving by it going fast, but if you stop by, you will realize that on the Beckman Mill property there is a fish ladder, the mill pond, and many beautiful trails.

I hope that hundreds of years from now people will still be able to come to the Welty Environmental Center and have as much fun as I've had there.

Reflections from our Center Director



Welty programs reap even more than is sown!

As I write it is harvest season in my garden. This year has been particularly bountiful. I have picked gallons of cucumbers for pickles, bushels full of green beans—plenty to freeze and can to enjoy this winter— tomatoes both red and yellow, and even some watermelon

for an end-of- summer treat. The environmental education program at the Welty Environmental Center this year has also produced a bountiful harvest.

Just like a garden the programs at Welty produce much more than is put into them. I planted only eight bean plants in my small garden, and have reaped bushels of delicious fresh green beans. Our program participants take what they have learned here at the Welty Environmental Center and pass it on to their friends, classmates and families. We had a new participant run into some stinging nettle at the fish ladder in Beckman Mill County Park this summer, and without anyone having to say a word one of our veteran campers ran and collected some jewelweed leaves to take away the sting. Not only did we reap knowledge of the natural world in that camper, but also a sense of compassion for others. I am always proud that our campers and program participants seek out animals that cause fear in others, like spiders and snakes, so they can observe them and better understand how they fit into the ecosystem. Routinely program participants ask to observe and raise tadpoles and caterpillars to see the changes as they grow for themselves. Before an animal, even a caterpillar, leaves the park with a child they must know what it eats, what it will need in its enclosure, and when and where to release it. Activities like this foster a lifelong love of the natural world, and a sense of stewardship for our natural resources.

The Welty Environmental Center is in a transition of its own this fall as we move from our small home base in Beckman Mill County Park to our larger home in the Big Hill Center in Big Hill Park. I am excited as we move as this will give us greater opportunity to better serve the people of the Stateline region. We will be more centrally located between Beloit and Janesville, and still not very far away from our Northern Illinois neighbors. We will have larger classroom and storage facilities and can serve our clients better when the weather is poor. What this translates to is a larger garden of children, families, and adults to learn about our local natural resources and how to be better stewards of the Earth.

The ripples from Welty Environmental Center programs will travel even further. Watch for new programs better suited to the meadows, forests, and Rock River of Big Hill Park. Each new program, like every one before it, will still be done with the spirit of love for the natural world as inspired by the lives and work of Carl and Susan Welty. I hope you will spread the word and work of the Welty Environmental Center as our garden grows.

Volunteer Corner



by Kelly Washburn, development coordinator

We will be coming into the fall season here in Wisconsin very soon. The mornings will be cooler, leaves will be changing, and it becomes dark much earlier.

Along with the season change, we have the fall harvest to look forward to. Like many people, I've noticed a climate change as the seasons change around us. There's a lot to be said for someone who's made a decision to take care of self and earth. By this I mean you've become aware of a destructive cycle of consumerism, which contributes to the landfills and depletes the earth.

Recycling and repurposing is a good start to end this cycle. Take a good look at your lifestyle and the beautiful world of nature all around us. Nature-isolated people suffer from excess stress, conflict, and destructiveness. Contact with nature helps them transform and recycle back into peaceful and less stressful lives. Changing your perspective can change your life. It has for me and it can for you! I walk outdoors more consistently, and ride my bike when the weather permits. I do my best with what I have and buy used whenever possible. I continue using most things until they are unusable. The next time you decide to dump waste material into the earth, you may want to ask yourself: will this benefit or destroy the environment for future generations?

Let us all keep a positive outlook believing the seasons will forever arrive and forever depart, like with a waving of a hand, in all its partings, a promise of meetings farther down the road.

Along with the fall season comes the yearly Family Fall Harvest Festival! Volunteers are welcome to begin thinking of how they would like to help put on a great family event! Volunteers are needed at the pie contest table, flower arranging, scarecrow making, pumpkin carving, serving table, and apple cider grinding & pressing! Give me a call soon at: 608-361-4340 to sign up for your favorite spot. This is a favorite fundraiser and volunteers are welcome to join the fun October 18!.

Using the Things at Hand:

I find a treasure trove of natural and re-useable materials for use in our projects and creations in the Welty Whimsies classes. The products of nature and the "things at hand" provide many opportunities for creative art pieces. I was invited to take the "show on the road" to the Beloit Public Library in July. Ten excited girls ages 12 to 18, created wearable art from recycled jewelry pieces, lace, buttons and beads. Many thanks to volunteers who contribute to this program! I could not carry on without your generosity.

Wishing you butterfly mornings and wildflower afternoons,

Kelly

Fall Programs

Unless noted otherwise, all programs will take place at the new home of the Welty Environmental Center, in the Big Hill Center in Big Hill Park, 1201 Big Hill Court, Beloit, WI 53511.

Welcome to Our New Home Party

Sunday, September 13 Noon-4 p.m.

Check out the new home of the Welty Environmental Center in the Big Hill Center near the entrance to Big Hill Park, Beloit (formerly the Girl Scout Center). Join staff and volunteers to tour the new facility, have some treats, and enjoy guided birding hikes. Most hikes will be on level paths, but bring your sturdy shoes if you want to explore the rest of the great trails in the park. Help us celebrate our past and check out new opportunities. Donations are accepted. Come enjoy a day in nature as we participate in this FREE community-wide event. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for more information.

Preschool in the Park - Fall Treasures

Thursday, September 17 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. \$5 per child with adult

Calling all pre-K families that want to learn about nature - this program is for you! Come enjoy an interactive story, outdoor activities, nature craft and a snack with the Welty Environmental Center. This month we'll be exploring all the wonderful treasures Mother Nature reveals each fall as the seasons change. Dress to be outdoors for this hands on program! We'll explore Big Hill Park for birds that are moving to their summer homes, changing leaves, seeds, acorns, and other secrets we can only find after summer has moved on. This program is open to all children up to 6 years of age. This program is a great chance for parents and grandparents to learn and experience with their youngsters. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org by Sept. 15 to register.

Super Saturday Day Camp - Big Hill Bonanza

Saturday, September 19 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$15 per Welty member, \$20 per nonmember

School is back in session, and you might be missing all the fun you had at summer camp. Come enjoy the great outdoors today! Dress to be outdoors as we explore the fall bounty in Big Hill Park. We will be investigating the natural world as time turns from summer to fall. Get ready to look for wild edibles, check out seeds, look and listen for birds preparing for winter, and more! Included in the hands-on nature study will be an afternoon snack and a craft to take home. This camp is open to children ages 6-12 years. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and register by September 16. Limit: 20 campers

Full Moon Hike

Monday, September 28 6 p.m.



Fall in Big Hill Park is gorgeous, and even better by the light of a full moon. Come with your sturdy hiking shoes and we will match the hike terrain to the abilities and preferences of our participants. You may bring a flashlight if you like, but the light of the full moon is bright enough to cast a shadow. This program is great for adults and families. Please call or email ahead so we will know how many to expect. Cost is free for Welty members, though donations are gladly accepted. Call (608) 361-1377 or email info@weltycenter. org for information and registration.

Preschool in the Park - Color Everywhere

Thursday, October 15 9 a.m.-11 a.m. \$5 per child with adult

Calling all pre-K families that want to learn about nature - this program is for you! Come enjoy an interactive story, outdoor activities, nature craft and a snack with the Welty Environmental Center. This month we'll be exploring the color nature brings at the height of autumn. Dress to be outdoors for this hands on program! We'll explore Big Hill Park for all the colors of fall leaves - up close and a view from above - and hidden colors on the forest floor. This program is open to all children up to 6 years of age. This program is a great chance for parents and grandparents to learn and experience with their youngsters.

Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org by October 13 to register.

Fall Family Harvest Festival

Sunday, October 18 at Beckman Mill County Park 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bring the whole family for an afternoon of old-fashioned harvest fun. Your admission to this annual festival includes music, scarecrow building, cider pressing demonstrations, guided nature walks through the oak savanna restoration and wetlands of Beckman Mill County Park, and more. Bakers are invited to bring a fruit or vegetable pie for the annual pie contest as well - you could win a fabulous prize. The concession stand will have lunch, and new this year, a potato bar with potatoes grown right here in the park! The days will be cold and the nights long soon enough, so come out to enjoy a golden October day! Admission is charged - please call (608) 361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for details.



Super Saturday Day Camp - Autumn Glory

Saturday, October 17 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$15 per Welty member, \$20 per nonmember

School is back in session, and you might be missing all the fun you had at summer camp. Come enjoy the great outdoors today! Dress to be outdoors as we explore the fall bounty in Big Hill Park. Peak fall color season is here, and we'll spend all day enjoying it. Check out the view of the changing leaves along the Rock River at the overlook, make leaf inspired art, and find out what the animals are doing to prepare for winter. Included in the hands-on nature study will be an afternoon snack and a craft to take home. This camp is open to children ages 6-12 years. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter. org for information and register by October 14. Limit: 20 campers

Halloween at Big Hill Friday, October 30 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$5 per person



Get ready for trick or treating by giving your costume a test run outside. We'll enjoy some natural Halloween celebrations, have night hikes to investigate the lives of nocturnal critters, enjoy stories about the night sky, and have a few Halloween treats. Make some fun Halloween crafts to decorate your home for the weekend. Enjoy a campfire and some not-so-scary stories about the natural world. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information.

Weather Watcher

Saturday, November 7 10 a.m.-Noon or 2 p.m.-4 p.m. \$7 per person

Come learn the science behind forecasting the weather. At this session participants will 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 as we will be observing weather with our new instruments and information! Cost of this program includes all materials. Registration is limited to 30 participants per session. Call (608) 361-1377 or email info@ weltycenter.org for information and registration by November 2.

Preschool in the Park - Turkey Trails

Thursday, November 19 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. \$5 per child with adult

Calling all pre-K families that want to learn about nature - this program is for you! Come enjoy an interactive story, outdoor activities, nature craft and a snack with the Welty Environmental Center. This month we'll be exploring our local, natural connections to Thanksgiving traditions. Dress to be outdoors for this hands on program! We'll explore Big Hill Park for signs of turkeys, deer, and other critters. Make a nature-inspired centerpiece for your Thanksgiving table. This program is open to all children up to 6 years of age. This program is a great chance for parents and grandparents to learn and experience with their youngsters.

Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org by November 17 to register.

Super Saturday Day Camp - Natural Thanksgiving

Saturday, November 21 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$15 per Welty member, \$20 per nonmember



School is back in session, and you might be missing all the fun you had at summer camp. Come enjoy the great outdoors today! Dress to be outdoors as we explore the late fall in Big Hill Park. Many foods included in Thanksgiving are native to Wisconsin - and several can be found in Big Hill Park. We'll track down signs of wild turkey and other animals, make a nice Thanksgiving table decoration, have some local Thanksgiving treats and get tell Mother Nature thank you for all the bounty on the Earth. Included in the hands-on nature study will be an afternoon snack and a craft to take home. This camp is open to children ages 6-12 years. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter. org for information and register by November 18. Limit: 20 campers

Get Moving! - A Winter Sports Primer

Saturday, December 5 10 a.m.-Noon \$7 per person

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. If you have your own equipment please bring it along. Get ready to love winter! Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and registration by December 1.

Preschool in the Park - Natural Gifts

Thursday, December 17 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. \$5 per child with adult

Calling all pre-K families that want to learn about nature - this program is for you! Come enjoy an interactive story, outdoor activities, nature craft and a snack with the Welty Environmental Center. This month we'll be exploring using materials and inspiration from Mother Nature to make fun holiday gifts. Dress to be outdoors for this hands on program! We'll explore Big Hill Park for materials and ideas, then make nature-inspired treasures for your friends and family. This program is open to all children up to 6 years of age. This program is a great chance for parents and grandparents to learn and experience with their youngsters. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org by December 15 to register.

Super Saturday Day Camp - Natural Holidays

Saturday, December 19 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$15 per Welty member, \$20 per nonmember

The school year is halfway over, and you might be missing all the fun you had at summer camp. Come enjoy the great outdoors today! Dress to be outdoors as we enjoy the start of winter in Big Hill Park. The holidays are upon us, and nature can provide materials and inspiration for gifts and decorations for the season. We'll find evidence of animals active all year as we explore the park as well. Included in the hands-on nature study will be an afternoon snack and a craft to take home. This camp is open to children ages 6-12 years. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and register by December 16. Limit: 20 campers

Corporate Business Sustaining Membership

The Friends of the Welty Environmental Center is pleased to announce that the DuPont Industrial Biosciences has continued its financial support of FWEC for a second year again, at the Gold Level. They have given us a total of \$6,000.00 in 2015.



Small Business Sustaining Membership

The FWEC's Development Committee has been working recently to create a program and brochure to promote sustained giving by local area small businesses along the same lines as the Corporate Memberships.

This program, with appropriate sustaining donation levels, will be called the Small Business Sustaining Membership Program. K & W Greenery in Janesville has agreed to be its first member.

Search, Shop, and Support the Welty Environmental Center

Did you know that supporting the Welty Environmental Center is as easy as a click of the mouse – and this comes at no cost to you?

Thanks to **GoodSearch**, a product of Yahoo.com, you can donate to the Welty Environmental Center, while you conduct your ordinary normal online searches.

Here's how:

1. Log on to www.goodsearch.com and click on learn more >>

2. On their home page, look for a line that offers you a chance to support a non-profit of your choice. Type in or select: **WELTY ENVI-RONMENTAL CENTER**.

3. Once Welty is selected, GoodSearch will donate a fixed amount to Welty each time you use their search engine.

Thanks to **Amazon**, you can also donate to the Welty Environmental Center while you shop at Amazon. Here's How:

1. Log on to www.smile.amazon.com. To learn more, just click on "About Amazon Smile" at the bottom of the home page. Or click on "Your Account", then click on "Change Your Charity"

2. Search for WELTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER, and when it shows up Select it.

3. Now each time you log on to www.smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to Welty, with no added cost to you.

Both sites donate to the Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Inc. without costing you anything! Thanks as always for your support – we depend on you This simple means of modest support from individuals can amount to significant income through the action of many loyal supporters.

Welty Environmental Center Staff and Friends of Welty Center Board Members

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Kelly Washburn

Vision Statement

Friends of the Welty Environmental Center Board of Directors approved the following vision statement, which is how we 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.

Please renew your Membership to the Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Inc. Help suport 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 I prefer to receive my Warbler by internet (email reminder) Planity or Couple \$40 Planity or Couple 0.5. Mail I prefer to receive my Warbler by or Student 0.5. Mail Organization \$40 I prefer to receive my Warbler by or Student 0.5. Mail I prefer to receive my Warbler by internet (email reminder) Please send me email information Organization \$100 Internet (email reminder) I freitime 1 Please send me email information I freitime \$100 I thereat I thermation I freitime \$100 I thereat I thereat I thermation I freitime I thermation I thermation I thermation I thermation I freitime I thermation I thermation I thermation I thermatin information I freitime
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