

**2010 –2011 School Year  
Educational Program Guide**

**Waukesha County Parks  
Retzer Nature Center  
Environmental Education Center**

 Retzer  
Environmental  
Learning Center &

Charles Z. Horwitz  
Planetarium 

**NEW PROGRAMS  
AVAILABLE FOR  
2010-2011**

**School District of Waukesha  
Charles Horwitz Planetarium**

Come explore the only combined Nature Center and Planetarium Facility  
in the Midwest.

S14 W28167 Madison Street  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 896-8007  
Fax: (262) 896-6822

[www.waukeshacountyparks.com](http://www.waukeshacountyparks.com)  
[www.waukesha.k12.wi.us/planet](http://www.waukesha.k12.wi.us/planet)

**Program Reservations (262) 548-7801**

This unique Nature Center / Planetarium Facility offers you the best of two worlds, land and space. You have the option of experiencing it all in a single visit.

Book a visit to both the Nature Center and Planetarium during your field trip and get double the fun without double the cost.

Need help in planning your field trip, our staff is ready to assist you in putting together a program package to fit your curriculum needs and time available.

**Call (262)-548-7801**

## Program Fees

### Retzer Nature Center Fees

#### **Programs At the Retzer Nature Center Fees:**

*(3 week lead time required)*

<u>Students</u> 1	<u>Hour</u> 1.5	<u>Hours</u>
1-10	\$20.00	\$35.00
11-15	\$30.00	\$52.50
16-20	\$40.00	\$70.00
21-25	\$50.00	\$87.50
26-30	\$60.00	\$105.00
31-35	\$70.00	\$122.50
36-40	\$80.00	\$140.00
41-45	\$90.00	\$157.50
46-50	\$100.00	\$175.00
Etc.	Etc.	Etc.

#### **Traveling Programs:**

*(30 students maximum per program.)*

#### **Program Fee: \$75.00 per 1 hour program**

Price includes mileage charge.

Max distance: 40 mile radius from Retzer Nature Center.

Snowshoe Rental Fee is an additional \$2.75/person.

### Water Resource Center

Water study and testing equipment for teachers, community groups, and citizen monitors.

**Call Retzer Nature Center (262) 896-8007  
for additional information.**

### Planetarium Fees

#### **Programs at the Planetarium:**

*(3 week lead time required)*

**Admission: \$3.00 per person**

One teacher is admitted free per 25 students

### Chaperone Guidelines

**Planetarium:** 1 teacher per 25 students  
*(chaperones pay admission fee for show)*

**Nature Center:**  
≤ 10 students - 2 chaperones  
11-20 students - 3 chaperones  
21-30 students - 4 chaperones  
31-40 students - 5 chaperones Etc.  
*(chaperones are free)*

**Combination Planetarium & Nature Center:**  
Follow Nature Center Chaperone requirements  
*(chaperones are free)*

## **Cancellation Policy**

A three week lead-time is required to book all programs. Because your program has been specifically booked for your group (date, program, time, etc), fees must be paid 21 days before program date. When booking a program 21 days before the program date, payment is due at the time of the booking. (We do accept MasterCard and Visa over the phone) If payment is not received 21 days or more before your program date, the program will be cancelled.

If you cancel your program less than 21 days before program date, we reserve the right to forfeit the whole program fee, or issue credit on account instead of refunding money. Credit on account must be redeemed with the same calendar year unless otherwise noted.

# Retzer Nature Center Programs

## **Our philosophy:**

At Retzer Nature Center, our goal is to teach students the workings of the local land system while they strive to make personal connections to nature. Such an approach is the best way to foster an early understanding and appreciation for the land, one that will last a lifetime.

## **Our approach:**

We use a two-layer teaching approach in all of our programs. First we use a hands-on activity that encourages students to touch, smell, listen to, and observe the natural world around them. Naturalists then take this opportunity to interpret and expand on specific ecological concepts.

### **Nature Storytime Hike**

Grades 4K-1  
1 hour  
1.5 hour with craft\*

This program is all about reading and roaming! Teachers will select one of a Season's storytime program and our naturalists will conduct an outdoor nature hike designed to compliment the theme.

\*A craft may be added to your program for an additional charge

#### **September thru November Themes:**

(Craft - Autumn Preparations)

**\*see last page for descriptions**

- ◆ *Spiders, Bugs, Slugs & Ughs*     ◆ *Turtle Time*
- ◆ *Gathering Time*     ◆ *Things with Wings*

#### **December thru March Themes:**

(Craft - Winter Survival)

- ◆ *Time to Sleep*     ◆ *Footprints in the Snow*
- ◆ *Fine Feathered Friends*

#### **April thru June Themes:**

(Craft - Spring Wake -up)

- ◆ *Spring has Sprung*     ◆ *Wiggly Worms*
- ◆ *Looks Who's Hatching*

### **Nature Discovery**

Grades K-3  
1 hour

Naturalists serve as guides and interpreters while children seek out and explore while looking for natural treasures.

#### **Themes for Nature Discovery:**

##### **Alphabet Sleuths**

Discover nature objects for each letter of the alphabet. A group collection will be made of each "ABC" found.

##### **Silly Senses**

Enjoy an exploration of smells, sights, sounds and textures. We add the twist in discovering new ways to use our senses in exploring nature.

##### **Counting on Colors**

Join the naturalist on a colorful exploration of the trails. Children will hunt for natural objects that complement a variety of colors on this rainbow adventure.

### **I Spy the Pond**

(Available May to June)  
Grades K-3  
1 hour

Explore a water world by playing our version of the game "I Spy". Meet the cool creatures who call the muck home in a pond. Learn about the adaptations and features they possess to live in this watery world.

### **I Spy Bugs**

(Available Sept., Oct., May & June)  
Grades 1-3  
1 hour

Join our naturalists as we play "I Spy" to uncover a world of insects. Students will "sweep" down and under during this hands-on adventure exploring the unusual habitats of our 6-legged friends.

## Home Sweet Habitat

Grades 1-3

1.5 hours



Explore wildlife habitats from the viewpoint of the animals. Go on the hunt in search of an animal's survival needs for food, water, cover and space. Finally decide which animal would call a given area home sweet habitat.

## Get M.A.D

Grades 3-6

1.5 hours

Discover the options all living things in their own survival. Whether it be "Move, Adapt or Die" these are the choices each species has when they are challenged in their environment. Join us as we explore MAD by examining the wildlife living here at Retzer.



## Life of Plants

Indoor/Outdoor Program

Grades 3-5

1.5 hours

Piece together the mystery for the role plants have in the ecosystem. Take a close up look at plants from their down to earth start as a seed all the way to supporting structures of development. Then we will venture outdoors to contrast distinctive plant habitats by looking at the soil, plant diversity, and the relationships plants have with animals in each location.

## In's & Out's of Owls

Grades 3-6

1 hour

Glide through the forest on silent wings, search out a meal from high in a tree. Come learn about these specialized hunters as we uncover a few of their cloak and talon secrets. We will finish off your adventure by tearing apart an owl pellet to see who was its most recent meal. A fascinating way to study owl adaptations.



## Prairie by Design

(Available Sept. to Late Oct.)

Grades 3-8

1.5 hours

The beautiful autumn prairie is a place of wonder and discovery. Customize a prairie program to fit your curriculum requirements.

### **Select up to 3 activities per program from the following options:**

Prairie Plant Design: Shape, size and textures

Seeds On the Move: Seed Dispersal

Roots: How deep do they go?

Prairie Wildlife: Animals and insects of the prairie

Below Ground Construction: A Recipe for Soil

History of the Prairie: Looking back to the start

Prairie Plants Adaptations: Cool facts and amazing stuff



## Tracks, Scat and other Wild Stuff

(Available January, February, & March)

Grades 3-8

1.5 hours

Animals leave behind a number of clues for us to find as we explore our winter world. Start indoors with a slideshow on animal tracks and evidence of their adventures, then venture outdoors to hunt for some of these winter clues.

*Snowshoes rental is an additional cost*

## Snowshoe Trekking

(Available January, February, & early March)

Grades 3-8

1.5 hours

Don't let winter get you down. Come out to the nature center and learn how to snowshoe. Our naturalists have cool outdoor games and adventures waiting for you as your class learns about the history of snowshoeing and the hours of fun that await you along the trails.

*Snowshoes rental is an additional cost.*



### **Flight Plan - An Aviation Design**

(Available beginning January 2011)

Grades 4-6

1.5 hours

Ready for take off, soar with us as we examine feathers, bone construction, and wing design in the performance of flight. Venture outdoors with binoculars to view these navigators at work. Learn how habitats and occupations influence birds in their flight styles and wing design performance. Complete your experience by creating and test flying paper airplanes using various bird wing designs.



### **Catchable Critters**

(Available Sept., Oct., May & June)

Grades 4-8

1.5 hours



Students connect with the insect world through the use of sweep nets, guide books, and hand lenses, as they investigate various sampling techniques and compare a number of insect communities. Naturalists assist students in identifying and examining unique adaptations these creatures display.



### **I DIG Soil!**

(Available Sept. to Late Oct.)

Grades 4-8

1.5 hours

Expand your horizons! Begin with a tour of our Prairie Roots and Soil Profile displays. Drill a soil core and unearth the mysteries locked within each sample. Join our naturalists as we explore the ABC's of soil, how soil is formed, and the five soil forming factors (F.S.F.F.).

### **What Lurks in the Water?**

(Available May to June)

Grades 4-8

1.5 hours



Scoop up a net full of pond muck and pick your way through to discover the unusual creatures lurking in the pond. Students investigate pond ecology through interactive observation, temperature readings, and an in-depth study of aquatic organisms.

Mud Risk: High (come prepared)

### **Wet & Wonderful**

(Available May to June)

Grades 4-8

1.5 hours

From the pond to the Fen, we will explore a selection of different aquatic habitats found on the property. Take samples from various wetland spots and compare the water quality by inhabitants found in your nets.

Mud Risk: High (come prepared)

### **Leopold's Legacy**

(Available beginning March 2011)

Grades 4-8

1.5 hours

Each month we will feature a topic from Aldo Leopold's "The Sand County Almanac". We will begin with an indoor discussion on the theme and then move into an exploration of the land as it relates to the months topic.

Oct: Smoky Gold

Nov: A Mighty Fortress

Dec: Home Range

Jan: January Thaw

Feb: Good Oak

Mar: The Geese Return

April: Sky Dance

May: Alder Fork

June: Prairie Birthday

## **Indoor and Traveling Program**

### **Animal Adaptations**

Grades 1-8

1 hour

Enjoy a visit from the Retzer teaching animals! See how an animal's physical and behavioral traits can help it to survive, as we explore the concepts of habitat and adaptation.

(As a Traveling Program - 30 students maximum per program)

# Charles Horwitz Planetarium Programs

The planetarium is a multi-media sky and space theater. The main instrument, a Spitz 512 Star Projector, projects an image of the day or night sky on the underside of a dome-shaped ceiling. The Planetarium serves as a resource of current trends in astronomy for students, teachers and the community.

*\* Programs begin with a brief tour of the current evening sky. Highlights include; finding your directions, phase of the moon, locating visible planets and constellation identification.*

## “The Skies Over Mr. Roger’s Universe”

Recommended for Ages 3-4

This program uses the scenes and show characters from the famous television show “Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood” to introduce your young students to the wonders of the day and night sky. A great sky and space experience.

## “The Sky Tonight”

Recommended for Ages 4-6

Reach up and paint the sky blue, make a rainbow, sing a song about space and clap to the music as we all meet Joe Star, Marsha Moon and Mike Meteor in this fun, participatory sky theater program.

A classic sky show!

## “Our Place in Space”

Grades 1-2

\*This award-winning, participatory children’s planetarium show introduces jungle animals and a space crossword puzzle to unravel the wonders and the mysteries of the universe.

## “Honey, I Shrunk the Solar System”

Grades 3-5

\*This solar system exploration show takes the audience on an imaginary bike ride past the sun, moon and planets. Students help answer space questions along the way.

## “A Solar System Adventure Tour”

Grades 3-5

\*You won’t believe how fun learning about the planets can be when you step aboard the “Star Traveler” spaceship on your interactive journey past the planets in our solar system.

## “Time Bandits”

Grades 3-8

\*Our calendars and many of our methods of timekeeping are based on the motions of the sun, moon and earth. This fascinating show describes the astronomical reasons for modern-day timekeeping. It also presents many of the world’s wonderful and elaborate mechanical clocks and how they work.

## “Two Small Pieces of Glass”

Grades 3-8

\*This program celebrates 400 years since Galileo first pointed his telescope at the sky. Learn how telescopes are designed, how they work and how astronomers have refined them to produce breathtaking images from space.

## “Nine Planets and Counting”

Grades 4-6

\*See the most current images of the Sun, Moon and Planets in our Solar System. Find out why Pluto is now a “Dwarf Planet”. This very beautiful *new* show investigates the formation and the composition of our neighbors in space.

## “Starship Earth”

Grades 4-8

\*This fast-paced astronomy presentation uses spectacular visuals to answer questions about our home planet Earth. Views of Earth from space, reasons for the seasons, and Earth’s place in the universe are explored.

## Planetarium Programs Continued

### “Explorers of International Space Station”

Grades 5-8

\*This program shows science research being done on the International Space Station. Communication, medical technology and life aboard the space station are just some of the topics in this spectacular visual presentation.



### “More Than Meets the Eye”

Grades 5-12

\*This beautiful sky show presents the night sky from several perspectives. It first shows the stars, moon and planets as seen from our own back yards. It then zooms in with binoculars, telescopes and finally the sensitive cameras onboard our finest space probes.

### “Journey to the Stars”

Grades 6-12

\*This fascinating show presents close-up views of the sun, moon and planets, then takes the audience into deep space to explore white dwarfs, neutron stars and black holes. Also in this program, scientists explore some of the most current trends in space exploration. This program meets many of the goals and objectives of state and national science education standards.

### “Blown Away, The Wild World of Weather”

Grades 6-12

\*Experience our fascinating world of weather as you ride out a thunderstorm, fall into a tornado and view storms from space. This program studies the dynamics of the water cycle, cloud types, lightning and auroras.

### “Hubble Vision II”

Grades 6-12

\*Images from the Hubble Space Telescope have revolutionized the way modern-day astronomers view the universe. These new images from space are strange and beautiful. Don't miss the story of the life and technology of the Hubble Space Telescope.

### “Black Holes, Point of No Return”

Grades 6-12

\*Scientists explain that stars are born, live out their lives and die. Some of the most fascinating theories that astronomers develop, are those which involve the explosive deaths of massive stars. This program explores some of the strangest theoretical objects in the universe, white dwarfs, neutron stars, quasars and black holes.

### “The Stargazer”

Grades 6-12

\*Nichelle Nichols (Lt. Uhura of the television series *Star Trek*) narrates this fascinating program about stars. “Stargazer” traces the life experiences of astronomy professor Dr. James Kaler. From childhood to adult, his love for the sky shows us all that there is a “human” connection to the stars.

Visually spectacular!



*If you would like to stay for lunch , space may be available and will need to be reserved at the time of your booking.*

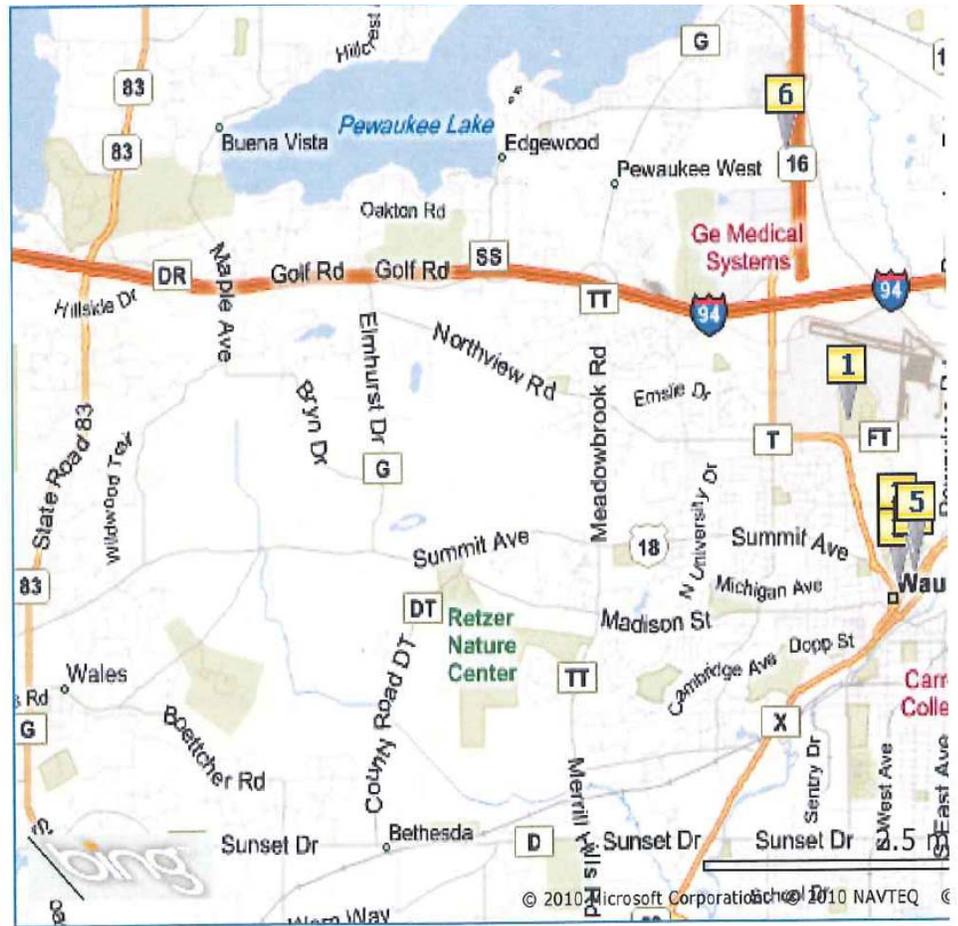
## Directions to the Nature Center/Planetarium

### Heading East from Madison:

Take I-94 east to Hwy 83 exit. Turn right (south) onto Hwy 83. Go about 2.5 miles to Hwy 18, turn left onto Hwy 18. Go 3.5 miles to Hwy DT, turn right onto Hwy DT. Go 1/4 mile to Madison St., turn left onto Madison St. The entrance to Nature Center is on the right about 1/8 mile.

### Heading West from Milwaukee :

Take I-94 west to Hwy G exit. Exit to the right and turn left (south) at overpass onto Meadowbrook Rd. Go south about 1.7 miles to Hwy 18. Turn right (west) on Hwy 18. Go about .6 miles & turn left onto Hwy DT. Go 1/4 mile to Madison St, turn left onto Madison St. The entrance to Nature Center is on the right 1/8 mile.



Retzer Nature Center  
S14 W28167 Madison St  
Waukesha, WI 53188



## **September thru November Themes**

(Craft - Autumn Preparations)

**Spiders, Bugs, Slugs & Ughs** – *Pill bugs, slugs, spiders, and more! Dig in the dirt to discover the world of crawly creatures.*

**Turtle Time** – *Learn more about the life of a box turtle. See where and how she spends her days. What does she eat? Where does she hide?*

**Gathering Time** – *The fall is here and it's gathering time! All of the animals are making plans, and each has something of value to offer.*

**Things with Wings** – *Is it a bird, insect or see that has wings? Discover cool stuff about wings... and things.*

## **December thru March**

(Craft – Winter Survival)

**Time to Sleep** – *Learn more about hibernation as we read cozy stories about animals in winter.*

**Footprints in the Snow** – *Winter is here and someone has left footprints in the snow. Whose could they be? Learn about the secret tracks and signs they leave behind.*

**Fine Feathered Friends** – *Explore the world of our fine feathered friends as we look at nests, feathers and wings, and enjoy a visit with our Retzer doves.*

## **April - June**

(Craft – Spring Wake-Up)

**Spring has Sprung** – *This program is a celebration of spring! Explore the signs of life in the spring as we look at caterpillars, tadpoles, seeds, eggs, and more.*

**Wiggly Worms** – *Learn what your life would be like as a worm. How do you help the flowers and plants grow? Touch and explore these composting creatures and make a wiggly worm craft.*

**Looks Who's Hatching** – *They don't hatch all at once. Let's take turns to discover who's hatching when. How many animals can you count that lay eggs?*