



Retzer Nature Center

Waukesha County Park System
 S14 W28167 Madison Street
 Waukesha, WI 53188

Return Service Requested

Environmental Learning Center Office Hours:

Sunday - Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information call - (262)896-8007

For Program Registration call - (262)548-7801

Your Spring Nature Program Guide March - May 2011

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|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| March | Volunteer Teacher Naturalist Training | April 1,8,15,22,29 <i>Fridays</i> | Morning Bird Hikes | May 6,13,20,27 <i>Fridays</i> | Morning Bird Hikes |
| March 2 <i>Wednesday</i> | Retzer Camera Club | April 6 <i>Wednesday</i> | Retzer Camera Club | May 7 <i>Saturday</i> | Bird & Wildflower Hike at Monches Parkland |
| March 5 <i>Saturday</i> | Aldo Leopold Weekend | April 9 <i>Saturday</i> | Basket Workshop "Check It Out" | May 7 <i>Saturday</i> | Retzer Spring Native Plant Sale |
| March 8 <i>Tuesday</i> | Wee Wonders "A Turtle's Life" | April 9 <i>Saturday</i> | GPS Aided Hiking Family Program | May 7 <i>Saturday</i> | Bird & Wildflower Hike at Menomonee Park |
| March 12 <i>Saturday</i> | Private Septic & Well Systems Workshop | April 12 <i>Tuesday</i> | Wee Wonders "Puddle Hop" | May 10 <i>Tuesday</i> | Wee Wonders "Ready, Plant, and Grow" |
| March 12 <i>Saturday</i> | ID of Trees & Shrubs in a Leafless Condition | April 17-23 <i>Sunday-Saturday</i> | Earth Week Programs (See Insert) | May 17 <i>Tuesday</i> | GPS Aided Hiking Adult Program |
| March 15 <i>Tuesdays</i> | Yoga Class | April 30 <i>Saturday</i> | GPS Aided Hiking Family Program | May 18 <i>Wednesday</i> | Nature Sprouts "Choral Copse" |
| March 16 <i>Wednesday</i> | Nature Sprouts "Welcome Home!" | May 4 <i>Wednesday</i> | Retzer Camera Club | May 21 <i>Saturday</i> | Bird Hike at Fox River Park |

VOLUNTEER TEACHER NATURALIST TRAINING

This apprenticeship program is for adults interested in volunteering to lead hikes for school groups that come to Retzer Nature Center. Topics will include: general interpretation of the Wisconsin landscape (especially the plants, animals, and ecology of Retzer Nature Center); environmental education activities (and equipment) used at Retzer; and strategies and tactics for outdoor teaching of school children. Training will include assisting with scheduled programs.

There is no registration deadline; we welcome new volunteers anytime of the year.

Call Retzer Nature Center (262) 896-8007 to sign up or for additional information.

RETZER NATURE CENTER CAMERA CLUB

The Camera Club meets monthly, with instructional programs, sharing/critique of members' photographs, discussion of equipment and technique, and opportunities for taking photographs at Retzer Nature Center and other nature areas.

DATE: Wednesdays: March 2, April 6, May 4
TIME: 7:00 p.m.

ALDO LEOPOLD—A VISIT

Adults/Children 12 and over who are interested in Leopold

In this return of his first-person interpretive program, Retzer Naturalist Larry Kascht will portray the great Naturalist Aldo Leopold, in an hour-long visit to our time—to discuss the value, the ethic, and the joy of land discovery. Don't miss Leopold's visit from the past. Following the hour-long visit from Leopold, there will be an informal discussion of the "delights and dilemmas" of Leopold's Celebrated Land Ethic. Maximum number of registrants 100, minimum 5.



DATE: Saturday, March 5
TIME: 10:30-Noon
FEE: Free
REGISTER BY: Thursday, March 3

ALDO LEOPOLD—READING THE LANDSCAPE

Adults/Children 12 and over

Join Retzer Naturalists for a 2-hour outdoor Leopold-style exploration, Reading the Landscape. We'll use Aldo Leopold's inductive approach, to discover the secrets of the early spring land. An indoor discussion, with hot chocolate, will follow. Maximum number of registrants 100, minimum 5.

DATE: Saturday, March 5
TIME: 1:00-4:00 p.m.
FEE: Free
REGISTER BY: Thursday, March 3

Waukesha County Parks'
Camp Grounds open April 1st.
Menomonee Park
Mukwonago Park
Muskego Park
Naga-Wauke Park

WEE WONDERS

Ages 2-4

This monthly program is designed for parents or grandparents with young children ages 2 to 4. Wee Wonders will introduce sensory skills that help you, the adult, experience the natural world with your child. Each child must be accompanied by a parent/grandparent for participation in this program. Maximum number of registrants 30, minimum 5.

"A Turtle's Life"—Turn into a turtle and discover how they eat, move and hide. Meet our resident Box Turtles, as we learn about this wonderful creature.

DATE: Tuesday, March 8
TIME: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
FEE: \$4.00
REGISTER BY: Thursday, March 3

"Puddle Hop"—Put on your boots, we are in search of puddles. Join the naturalist as we hop along the trail looking for a few puddles to explore. Please dress for the weather, as we will be outdoors.

DATE: Tuesday, April 12
TIME: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
FEE: \$4.00
REGISTER BY: Thursday, April 7



"Ready, Plant, Grow."—Let's get our hands in soil, and plant seeds in your own window garden. Take them home to watch as the seeds sprout and grow...ready to be planted outside. Please dress for the weather, as we will be outdoors.

DATE: Tuesday, May 10
TIME: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
FEE: \$4.00
REGISTER BY: Thursday, May 5

ID OF TREES & SHRUBS IN A LEAFLESS CONDITION

Adult Program

Explore the peaceful early spring woods of Minooka Park as you learn to identify common trees and shrubs. Focus on leafless twig identification! Maximum number of registrants 30, minimum 5.

DATE: Saturday, March 12
TIME: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
PLACE: Minooka Park - Picnic Area 3.
FEE: \$5.00, plus park entrance fee.
REGISTER BY: Monday, March 7

PRIVATE SEPTIC & WELL SYSTEMS WORKSHOP

Adult Program

Learn the ins and outs of septic and well systems, how they work and the best way to manage them! This topic is especially important for homeowners in unincorporated and suburban areas.

DATE: Saturday, March 12
TIME: 9:00-11:00 a.m.
FEE: \$4.00
REGISTER BY: Monday, March 7

YOGA CLASS

Age 12 thru Adult

Yoga is the oldest system of personal development in the world, encompassing body, mind, and spirit. Get started and discover how Yoga can be beneficial to the quality of your life. This 6-week course with Certified Instructor, Fred Varin, will focus on the basics of Hatha Yoga, a physical and mental form of Yoga that emphasizes Asanas or physical postures. Postures exercise every part of the body, stretching and toning muscles and joints, the spine, and skeletal system. This gentle introduction to Yoga will help you stretch and introduce you to a series of movements. It will also include balanced postures and relaxation. You will learn techniques on how to breathe to minimize the stress in your life and gain vital inner energy. You do not need to have prior Yoga experience to join. Participants should bring a mat/blanket and wear loose, comfortable clothing. Ages 12 to 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Maximum number of registrants 15, minimum 5.

DATE: Tuesdays, starting March 15
TIME: 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
FEE: \$60.00 for 6 weeks of class over an 8-week period
REGISTER BY: Monday, March 14

NATURE SPROUTS - A LEOPOLD YEAR

Ages: 4-6 Participants must be accompanied by an adult.

Maximum number of registrants 15, minimum 5.

Welcome Home! "One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese...is the spring!" Let's welcome them home! Join the Naturalist on an outdoor hike. A snack and craft included for extra fun. Dress for the weather.

DATE: Wednesday, March 16
TIME: 10:00-11:00 a.m. or 1:00-2:00 p.m.
FEE: \$4.00 per child
REGISTER BY: Friday, March 11

Sky Dancing. "The Woodcock is a refutation of the theory that the utility of a game bird is to serve as a target, or pose gracefully on a slice of toast." We'll learn about the life and habits of these unusual little birds!

DATE: Wednesday, April 20
TIME: 10:00-11:00 a.m. or 1:00-2:00 p.m.
FEE: FREE in celebration of Earth Week
REGISTER BY: Friday, April 8

Coral Copse "The silence is suddenly broken by a dozen contralto voices no longer able to restrain their praise of the day to come." Let's discover the amazing changes of Spring! You will be hiking with a Retzer Naturalist to discover the changes of spring. A snack and craft will be included for extra fun.

DATE: Wednesday, May 18
TIME: 10:00-11:00 a.m. or 1:00-2:00 p.m.
FEE: \$4.00 per child
REGISTER BY: Friday, May 13

MORNING BIRD HIKES

Adults & Families with older children

They're back! Our frisky, feathered friends are back! We'll explore their habitats, welcome back spring migrants, and check on our year round residents. Don't forget your binoculars. Binoculars are available at Retzer on a limited basis. No Registration needed.

DATES: Fridays - April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
May 6, 13, 20, and 27
TIME: 7:00-8:30 a.m.
FEE: \$1.00 per person

GPS AIDED HIKING

Family and Adult Program

Are you interested in using or exploring GPS techniques in your hiking? Come and explore our nature trails with a Retzer Teaching Naturalist. Try one of our GPS units, or bring your own GPS, with instruction manual, and sharpen your skills. We will review basic GPS operation while hiking, and develop orienteering skills. In case of rain, there will be an indoor GPS discussion program. Maximum number of registrants for family programs 12, for adult programs 6.

DATES: Saturday, April 9 (Family Program)
Saturday, April 30 (Family Program)
Tuesday, May 17 (Adult Program)
TIME: 10:00-11:30 a.m.
FEE: \$4.00 per person
REGISTER BY: Wednesday, April 6 & 27, for April 9 & 30 classes
Friday, May 13 for May 17 class

BASKET WORKSHOP

Adult Program

"Check It Out" Various sizes of spokes and striking colors lend a visual "checkerboard" to this convenient desktop storage basket. Emphasis is on shaping with multiple sized materials. Finished size is approximately 5" wide x 13" long x 6" high



– perfect for collecting mail or desktop clutter! Students will have a choice of colors. This basket is suitable for all level weavers. Please bring the following supplies to class with you: clippers or strong scissors, flexible tape measure, several clip clothespins, pencil, old towel, small flat screwdriver, bucket or pail, and a plant mister. Maximum number of registrants 12, minimum 5.

DATE: Saturday, April 9
TIME: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
FEE: \$38.00
REGISTER BY: Friday, March 25

EARTH WEEK PROGRAMS

April 17-23

See the Earth Week Brochure
for all the FREE
Retzer Nature Center & Charles Horwitz
Planetarium programs and times.

BIRD & WILDFLOWER HIKE AT MONCHES PARKLAND

Adults and families with older children

Monches should be full of migrating and resident birds in full voice and bright spring plumage, and the wildflowers should be near their peak. We will meet at the private parking area on Hoff Lane at 7:00 a.m. The hike will be conducted by Larry Kascht, Retzer Nature Center Naturalist. Inclement weather never stops bird hikes. Maximum number of registrants 30, minimum 5.

DATE: Saturday, May 7
TIME: 7:00-11:00 a.m.
FEE: \$6.00
REGISTER BY: Monday, May 2

SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE

Come out to Retzer to see and purchase our potted native grasses and wildflowers! We will have prairie species such as Shooting Star and Prairie Dropseed (which are difficult to start from seed), along with many others. We will also have a number of choice woodland wildflowers including Trillium and Virginia Waterleaf. These plants come from our native wildflower nurseries, all brought together just for you. Bring along your questions and plant samples for identification.

Durning the plant sale, a 10-minute power point program "Planting and Care of Your Native Plants" will run continuously for plant sale customers, stop in the Nature Center's Forest Room to view this program, after buying your plants!

Sales Manager: Dick Bautz.
DATE: Saturday, May 7
TIME: 9:00 a.m.-Noon

BIRD AND WILDFLOWER HIKE

Adults and families with older children

Menomonee Park's woods come alive with warblers and wildflowers in springtime. Join Naturalist, Larry Kascht, on Saturday afternoon for a walk. We will identify, smell, photograph, and appreciate the flowers, and learn about their life and ecology. We will identify as many of the warblers as we can, let ourselves be awed by their incredible beauty, and learn about their migration. Bring your field guide, camera, and binoculars! Maximum number of registrants 30, minimum 5.

DATE: Saturday, May 7
TIME: 1:00-3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Menomonee Park – Meet at the beach house parking lot.
FEE: \$5.00, plus park entrance fee
REGISTER BY: Monday, May 2

BIRD HIKE

Adult Program

Come to Fox River Park for a fascinating look at the resident birds of early summer, as they nest, lay eggs and raise their young. We will explore their ways of life and ecology as summer unfolds in one of our most magnificent nature areas. Maximum number of registrants 30, minimum 5.

DATE: Saturday, May 21
TIME: 7:00-10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Fox River Park - Meet at Picnic Area 3
FEE: \$5.00, plus park entrance fee
REGISTER BY: Monday, May 16

Program Payment & Cancellation Policy:

Program fees must be paid 10 days before program is held, or at the time of booking if less than 10 days before program, unless listed otherwise in this program guide.

A cancellation fee of \$5.00 maximum if cancelled on program registration date. If cancelled after registration date, we reserve the right to forfeit the whole program registration fee. We reserve the right to issue credit on account, or a voucher toward future programs, instead of refunding money. Credit on account and vouchers must be redeemed within the same calendar year unless otherwise noted.

March - May 2011
Retzer Nature Center Programs

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Day Phone _____
Home Phone _____
E-mail _____
Fee Enclosed \$ _____

Please enroll me in the following class(s):

| Name | Workshop/Time | Date | Child's Birth Date |
|------|---------------|------|--------------------|
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Make checks payable to: **Waukesha County Parks**
Master Card and Visa accepted.

Mail form and fee(s) to:
Retzer Nature Center Programs
Attn: Jan
515 W. Moreland Blvd., AC 230
Waukesha, WI 53188
Questions: (262) 548-7801

Some workshops fill up quickly, please call to verify openings.

HELP US SAVE SOME TREES!

Please think of the environment and consider receiving this Program Guide via e-mail.



Please e-mail your name, postal address (to take you off the postal mailing list) and your e-mail address with PROGRAM GUIDE in the subject line to: retzer@waukeshacounty.gov

Thank you for helping us in our mission to create a sustainable environment.