



# Retzer Nature Center

Waukesha County Parks & Land Use  
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**

[www.waukeshacountyparks.com](http://www.waukeshacountyparks.com)



## Your Winter Nature Connection Program Guide December 2009 - February 2010



<b>December 2</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Camera Club</b>	<b>January 9</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Tracking Workshop</b>	
<b>December 8</b> <i>Tuesday</i>	<b>Wee Wonders</b> "Winter Visitors"	<b>January 9, 16, 30</b> <i>Saturdays</i>	<b>Winter Wildlife on</b> <b>Snowshoes</b>	<b>February 3</b> <i>Wednesday</i>
<b>December 16</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Nature Sprouts</b> "Winter Solstice"	<b>January 12</b> <i>Tuesday</i>	<b>Wee Wonders</b> "Sounds of Nature"	<b>February 6</b> <i>Saturday</i>
<b>January 5</b> <i>Tuesday</i>	<b>Bird Feeding Workshop</b>	<b>January 12</b> <i>Tuesday</i>	<b>Yoga Class Begins</b>	<b>February 9</b> <i>Tuesday</i>
<b>January 6</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Camera Club</b>	<b>January 20</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Nature Sprouts</b> "Scent-sational Skunks!"	<b>February 13</b> <i>Saturday</i>
		<b>January 24</b> <i>Sunday</i>	<b>Winter JanBoree</b> <b>Family Fun!</b>	<b>February 13, 20, 27</b> <i>Saturdays</i>
		<b>January 24</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>JanBoree</b> <b>Charles Horwitz</b> <b>Planetarium</b>	<b>Winter Wildlife on</b> <b>Snowshoes</b>
				

### 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: Wednesday, December 2  
TIME: 7:00 p.m.

DATE: Wednesday, January 6  
TIME: 7:00 p.m.

DATE: Wednesday, February 3  
TIME: 7:00 p.m.

### 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 month we will introduce a new theme to stimulate and intrigue your young adventurer with focus on interactive discoveries. Join the Naturalist as she helps you explore and search the surroundings just outside Retzer's back door. Each child must be accompanied by a parent or grandparent for participation in this program. Please dress for the weather. Maximum number of registrants 30, minimum 5.

**"Winter Visitors."** Make a treat for the birds to enjoy. See who visits your backyard feeder with this make and take project.

DATE: Tuesday, December 8  
TIME: 9:30-10:15 a.m.  
FEE: \$3.00  
REGISTER BY: Thursday, December 3

**"Sounds of Nature."** Winter is a great time to get out and listen for sounds that make up this crisp season. A bird sings, a tree groans, a dog barks. Listen—and we will find many more sounds to experience along our trail as the naturalist paves the way.

DATE: Tuesday, January 12  
TIME: 9:30-10:15 a.m.  
FEE: \$3.00  
REGISTER BY: Thursday, January 7

### WEE WONDERS cont.

**"Animal Fiesta."** When winter keeps us indoors, come out and meet a few of our staff animals as they brighten up a winter day.

DATE: Tuesday, February 9  
TIME: 9:30-10:15 a.m.  
FEE: \$3.00  
REGISTER BY: Thursday, February 4

### NATURE SPROUTS

#### *Ages: 4-6*

Participants must be accompanied by an adult. Maximum number of registrants 15, minimum 5.

**"Winter Solstice."** Let's celebrate the shortest day of the year! Discover some new winter traditions! Craft included for extra fun!

DATE: Wednesday, December 16  
TIME: 10:00-11:00 a.m. or 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
FEE: \$3.00  
REGISTER BY: Friday, December 11

**"Scent-sational Skunks!"** Discover scent-sational skunks! What do you suppose they're up to in the middle of January? Are they asleep or awake? What's their favorite winter treat? Join the fun as we discover SKUNKS! Craft included for extra fun!

DATE: Wednesday, January 20  
TIME: 10:00-11:00 a.m. or 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
FEE: \$3.00  
REGISTER BY: Friday, January 15

### BIRD FEEDING WORKSHOP

#### *Adult & Families with older children (Ages 12 +)*

When you select the right food and presentation, it's generally easy to attract and observe a wide variety of birds in your backyard. Through careful placement of your feeder and selection of foods, you'll have the opportunity of seeing birds up close. Join Naturalist Larry Kascht for a program on all aspects of bird feeding. The program will include types of feeders, kinds of seed (and which birds eat them), bird identification, ecology of feeder visitors, and related topics. Maximum number of registrants 30, minimum 5.

DATE: Tuesday, January 5  
TIME: 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
FEE: \$4.00  
REGISTER BY: Wednesday, December 30

### TRACKING WORKSHOP

#### *Adult/Family Program*

In winter, nature records the fascinating activities of animals. We can often tell more about animals by the signs they leave behind than we can from direct contact with them. Animal tracks are important clues but nibbled branches, stray animal fur, or scat makes these clues all significant to the story they tell. Participants will learn how to identify the tracks of different animal species, and read the animals' activities. We will even learn how to move the way different animals do in order to make certain kinds of tracks. When you learn to read the signs, it's like being let in on little secrets of animal life. Maximum number of registrants 30, minimum 5.

DATE: Saturday, January 9  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.-Noon  
FEE: \$4.00 (includes handouts)  
REGISTER BY: Monday, January 4

## WINTER WILDLIFE ON SNOWSHOES

### *Adult (Ages 15+) & Family Program*

Get moving! Get connected! Winter is a great time to get out and explore your environment, and snowshoes are a great way to do it. Join a Retzer naturalist as you trek the trails in the silent world of winter on snowshoes. These half-day Saturday sessions cover the various styles of snowshoes and how to use them. The program will emphasize wildlife tracks and signs, and recreational snowshoeing as you connect to your winter surroundings. Maximum number of registrants 25, minimum 5.

DATES/TIMES: Saturdays

January 9	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Adult
January 16	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Adult
January 16	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Scouts & Families
January 30	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Adult
January 30	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Scouts & Families
February 13	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Adult
February 13	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Scouts & Families
February 20	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Scouts & Families
February 20	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Scouts & Families
February 27	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Scouts & Families
February 27	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Scouts & Families

FEE: \$7.00 per person per session includes snowshoe rental

REGISTER BY: 5 days before program

## YOGA CLASS

### *Ages 12-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 a 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 30, minimum 5.

DATE: Tuesdays, starting January 12

TIME: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

FEE: \$60.00 for 6 weeks of class over an 8-week period

REGISTER BY: Monday, January 11

## WINTER JANBOREE

### *Adults & Families*

Winter JanBoree is a city/county-wide event sponsored by the City of Waukesha Park and Recreation Department. Retzer Nature Center offers a full day of *free* family fun on Sunday, which tentatively includes:

DATE: Sunday, January 24

TIME: Free Snowshoe Use	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Family Nature Activities	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Refreshments	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Bird Feeding Program	10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
Winter Tracking Program	12:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

## WAUKESHA JANBOREE--

### CHARLES HORWITZ PLANETARIUM

Continue the JanBoree celebration at Retzer Nature Center by attending the Charles Horwitz Planetarium Show, "Legends of the Winter Sky". This wonderful winter season program presents your favorite constellation characters, like "Orion the Hunter", "Taurus, the Bull", and Gemini, the Twins". Watch them all come alive on the planetarium dome to tell their fascinating stories from the winter evening sky. Join us for a winter day of fun. All programs are FREE admission. Tickets are available in the lobby.

For more information call: 262-896-8423

DATE: Sunday, January 24

TIMES: Show times starting every hour from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## WILD WINTER NIGHT

### *Adults, Families & Scouts*

Cure your winter cabin fever and join us for this wild winter adventure! There will be guided hikes throughout the evening led by Retzer Naturalist, free rental of our snowshoes, and an informal sing-along by a warm campfire with s'mores and hot cocoa. We'll explore the winter sky through an outdoor observation with telescopes, as well as an indoor Planetarium program entitled "The Skies Over Waukesha". This program takes you more than 150 years into the past to meet the settlers of our proud and historic city of Waukesha. It then parallels the advancement of aviation and space flight with the growth and prosperity of "Prairieville, the Saratoga of the West". This event is ideal for families and scout groups. Make sure your dress appropriately, this event will be held regardless of the weather.

DATE: Saturday, February 6

TIME: 6:00-9:00 p.m.

FEE: \$2.00 per person, payable at the door

PLEASE NOTE: There are a limited amount of snowshoes available for use, there may be waiting time. Planetarium Shows are limited to 90 people per show, which are first-come, first serve. We will begin distributing tickets at 6:00 p.m. and show times are at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30 and 8:00 p.m.

## BASKET WORKSHOP

### *Adult Program*

"Muffin/Fruit Basket". Learn the basic techniques for constructing a round basket suitable for serving muffins or fruit. You will begin the base in a wheel spoke manner. Sides are woven in the start/stop method featuring your choice of accent colors. Finish with a traditional style rim. Finished dimensions are approximately 12" diameter at the top, 7" on the bottom by 4" high. This basket is for all level weavers. Please bring the following supplies to class with you: clippers or strong scissors, flexible tape measure, plant mister, old towel, pencil, several clip clothespins, pail or bucket and a small flat screwdriver. Maximum number of registrants 12, minimum 5.

DATE: Saturday, February 13

TIME: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

FEE: \$28.00

REGISTER BY: Monday, February 8



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Family Activity Snowshoe Rental

Come breath in the fresh air and stretch those muscles as you make tracks in the snow on the Retzer trails.

Snowshoe rental is \$5.50 for a half day and \$9.00 for a full day.

## Bird Seed

Don't forget your feathered friends this winter. Retzer offers a variety of birdseed that will stop traffic at your feeder. Call for availability.

262-896-8007

## PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING!

The 2010 Retzer Calendar is here! Beautiful images highlight Retezr Nature Center. Sponsored by the Friends of Retzer Nature Center \$12.00



## Needed: Plastic Caps & Lids

FOR EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES  
Please bring caps & lids to Retzer  
before April 1

**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](mailto:retzer@waukeshacounty.gov). Thank you for helping us in our mission to create a sustainable environment.



## WAUKESHA JANBOREE

Join Retzer Nature Center in this family fun celebration on Sunday, January 24.  
See details within this flyer.

### 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.*

### December 2009 - February 2010

Retzer Nature Center Programs

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fee Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **Waukesha County Parks**  
Master Card and Visa accepted.

Please enroll me in the following class(s):

Child's Name    Workshop/Time    Date    Birth Date

Child's Name    Workshop/Time    Date    Birth Date

Child's Name    Workshop/Time    Date    Birth Date

Child's Name    Workshop/Time    Date    Birth Date

Mail form and fee(s) to:

Retzer Nature Center Programs  
Attn: Jan  
515 W. Moreland Blvd., AC 230  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
**(262) 548-7801**

Questions:

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