

Riveredge Nature Center

March 2009 Events

Bird Club:

Impacts of Communication Towers to Avian Migrants

Tuesday, March 3, 7-9pm

Tall communication towers are thought to be a key mortality factor for migrating birds. Emilie Travis describes her work to quantify the role of tower height, migration density, and season to mortality events at 11 south-central WI towers.

Fee: Free

Storytime in Spring

Maple Syrup Season by Ann Purmell

Thursday, March 5, 9:30 – 10:45am

Everybody's favorite time at Riveredge is Maple Sugarin' season. We'll check out what's happening in the sugar bush. Dress for the weather. While geared mainly toward 3 – 5 year olds, all ages are welcome. A healthy snack will be provided.

Fee: Adults \$5, Children \$3

Members: Adults \$4, Children \$2

Bird Club Field Trip:

North Woods Winter Birds

Friday, March 6 to Sunday, March 8

Visit cranberry bogs in Jackson, Juneau & Wood Counties to look for golden eagles and rough-legged hawks. Then, move on to the Buena Vista Grasslands in search of greater prairie-chickens and short-eared owls. Stay Friday night in Eagle River. Leave from there to find spruce grouse, before heading to the Nicolet National Forest for Black-Backed Woodpeckers, Evening Grosbeaks, Crossbills and Gray Jays. On Sunday, scout the area for more winter wanders before birding your way home. Bring good boots, warm clothes and a bag lunch. Register with Carl Schwartz at cschwartz3@wi.rr.com or call 414-446-9501.

Nature Tots: Tapping for Tots

Saturday, March 7, 1-2:30pm

Join us in the sugarbush during this special time of year and learn first-hand how to tap a sugar maple tree. We will also enjoy a seasonal treat produced by this old friend. Pre-registration suggested.

Fee: Adult \$5, Nature Tot \$3

Member: Adult \$4, Nature Tot \$2

Nature Detectives:

Maple Magic

Saturday, March 7, 1-3pm

Join us for a hike into the sugarbush to celebrate the maple sugarin' season! Beneath the bark of the sugar maple trees, the sap is rising. Come tap a tree and enjoy a tasty maple syrup treat! Pre-registration Suggested.

Fee: Adult \$5, Nature Detective \$3

Member: Adult \$4, Nature Detective \$2

Nature Tots: The Mitten

Wednesday, March 11, 10-11:30am

What happens when 8 wild animals squeeze into a woolen mitten? We'll re-enact Jan Brett's classic tale *The Mitten*, and speculate about their possible interactions. We will also try to attract our own wild animals here at Riveredge! Pre-registration Suggested.

Fee: Adult \$5, Nature Tot \$3
Member: Adult \$4, Nature Tot \$2

Riveredge Speaks Out Series: Help Birds in Your Backyard and on Your Land: Vicki Piaskowski, Birds without Borders

Thursday March 12, 7pm at the Washington County Agency Bldg. - rm. 1113

If you enjoy seeing beautiful songbirds in your yard, come to this presentation and learn easy ways to make your property bird-friendly. At this event Vicki Piaskowski, International Coordinator of Birds without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (BWB-ASF), will discuss a new guide, called "How to Manage Your Land to Help Birds." The guide is already available online at www.zoosociety.org/wilandowner. Come to the talk and **get your free copy!**

Fee: Free,\$5 Suggested Donation

Maple Sugarin' for Scouts and Youth Groups

Saturday, March 14, 12:30-2pm and 2:30-4pm

The sap is running and sugarin' time is here. Join a naturalist to tap a tree, gather sap and crowd around the evaporator to see how boiling sap becomes syrup. Enjoy the final product on a pancake before heading for home.

Preregistration and payment is required. Space is limited.

Fee: Adults \$5, Children 12 & under \$3

Riveredge Speaks Out Series: Tuesday March 17, 7pm at the Cedarburg Cultural Center (Speaker & topic to be announced)

Fee: Free,\$5 Suggested Donation

Storytime in Spring Numbers, Shapes and Colors - again

Thursday, March 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

We'll pull out our best counting, shapes and colors books to capture the kid's attention. Then, it's out the door to find shapes and colors in nature. Once we are thoroughly cold, we'll come inside and count out a healthy snack. While geared mainly toward 3 – 5 year olds, all ages are welcome.

Fee: Adults \$5, Children \$3

Members: Adults \$4, Children \$2

Films that Matter Series: The End of Suburbia

Thursday, March 19, 7-9pm

This provocative documentary, a regular on the film festival circuit, examines the history of suburban life and the wisdom of this distinctly American way of life. A post-World War II concept, suburbia attracted droves of people, giving rise to sprawl and all that comes with it. How has the environment been affected by this lifestyle, and is it sustainable? Pre-registration is suggested. Fee: FREE, \$3 donation suggested.

3rd Thursday's Club: A Reading and Activity Program for 4th, 5th & 6th Grade Students Thursday, March 19, 4pm-5:30pm

(If getting to Riveredge by 4 is a challenge because of your school schedule, please call and let us know you are interested.)

We'll get together once a month to discuss a good book and to do a fun outdoor activity. Activities may include archery, GPS and a special earth day work project in April. Each month's reading will be available on the Riveredge website. Ask for carpool information if interested.

Fee: \$10 (per session), Members: \$6 (per session)

A Family Event: Maple Syrup Magic Open House

Saturday, March 21, 10am–3pm

Imagine you have stepped back in time and must learn how to survive our Wisconsin winters....

Riveredge's Open House, sponsored by Port Washington State Bank, will take you back to the origins of maple syrup making. Witness the collection and distillation of sap, stir the syrup cooking over an open fire, see how our pioneers lived. Children can explore signs of animal survival in the woods as well as arts and crafts projects. Finish your journey with Riveredge's syrup and famous pancakes made with organic ingredients donated by *Outpost Natural Foods*. Enjoy wonderful coffee provided by *Alterra Coffee Roasters*. Pre-registration suggested for groups.

Fee: Adult \$10, 10 years & under \$5

Members: Adult \$5, 10 years & under \$3

Fly Tying, The Next Step:

Sunday, March 22 and 29, 12:30 to 3:30pm; Tuesday, March 24, 6-9pm

If you've done a little fly tying before and want to perfect your skills, you'll want to sign up for this class. Learn different ways to weight flies and how to tie poppers, nymphs, dry flies and little 20/24 flies. There are three sessions, for a total of nine hours of class time. We'll supply the material, you bring your tools. Pre-registration is required.

Class is limited to six.

Fee: \$55, Members: \$45

Nature Tots: Sweet Treats from the Sugarbush

Wednesday, March 25, 10-11:30am

Together, let's journey to Riveredge's main sugarbush! We'll take a trip to the Sugar Inn, visit the wigwam and the evaporator and tap a maple tree. Afterward, we'll enjoy sweet treats (pancakes, maple syrup and pickles). Please dress for an outdoor adventure and meet us at Riveredge's West Entrance. Pre-registration Suggested.

Fee: Adult \$5, Nature Tots \$3

Member: Adult \$4, Nature Tots \$2

Photo Club

Tuesday, March 31, 7-8:30pm

The Photo Club brings together those who enjoy photography and wish to take better pictures through practice. Held at Riveredge on the last Tuesday of every month.

Fee: FREE

April 2009 Events

Riveredge Speaks Out Series:

The Ecology of Shorebirds: Bill Volkert, Horicon Marsh

Wednesday, April 1, 7pm at the Washington County Agency Bldg. - rm. 1113

Bill Volkert, DNR Naturalist at Horicon Marsh, will discuss a group of birds that are among the greatest long-distance migrants in the world. Follow the spectacular migration of shorebirds and gain an insight into the lives of this large family of birds. As scientists increasingly understand the ecology of shorebirds, they are better able to develop management strategies to help these incredible wanderers maintain their place in nature.

Fee: Free, \$5 Suggested Donation

Storytime in Spring

First the Egg by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Thursday, April 2, 9:30 – 10:45am

We'll look for nests, play with eggs and make an egg craft. Maybe we'll even crack a joke or two. While geared mainly toward 3 – 5 year olds, all ages are welcome. Dress for the weather. A healthy snack will be provided.

Fee: Adult \$5, Child \$3

Members: Adult \$4, Child \$2

Maple Sugarin' Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 5, 9-1pm

The secrets and sounds of the sugarin season add to the pleasure of the Maple Sugarin' Pancake Breakfast outside at the Sugar Inn. A unique treat featuring Riveredge's maple syrup, "All you can eat" pancakes made with organic flour, ham, coffee and other beverages. Dress for the weather. See www.riveredge.us for more details.

Fee: Adult \$12, 12 and under \$8

Member: Adult \$10, 12 and under \$6

Bird Club: All of This and Robins Too: A Guide to the 50 or So Best Places to Find Birds in Wisconsin

Tuesday, April 7, Hike 6pm, Meeting 7-9pm

Steve Betchkal has just published this informative and entertaining book. He uses it to demonstrate Wisconsin's preservation ethics and to prove birders are committed, fun-loving people who link great outdoor experiences to quality of life.

Fee: Free

Prairie Burn Training

Friday, April 10 & Saturday, April 11, 9am-3:30pm

Feel the heat and smell the smoke. This hands-on course will give you the knowledge and experience to plan and safely conduct small grassland burns to achieve your management goals. Pre-registration is required. Fee is for both sessions.

Fee: \$50, Members: \$35

Family Program: Back to Basics with Spring Cleaning

Saturday, April 11, 1-3pm

It's time to clean out the dust bunnies this spring! Get the dirt on various conventional products and the toxic ingredients they contain, and learn about safe and natural ways to clean your home. Make your own eco-friendly cleaning products during this hands-on program using ingredients that can be found in your pantry and won't harm the environment or your health. Please bring an empty spray bottle if you would like to take a sample home.

For adults and children ages 8 and up

Fee: Adult \$5, 12 & under \$4

Member: Adult \$4, 12 & under \$3

Nature Tots: Wacky Weather

Wednesday, April 15, 10-11:30am

Sun, wind, rain, snow, anything goes! Wisconsin spring weather can go from mild to wild in less than a day... prepare to explore these amazing changes. Through observation and experiments, we will learn about the wacky weather where we live. Pre-registration Suggested.

Fee: Adult \$5, Nature Tot \$3

Member: Adult \$4, Nature Tot \$2

Films that Matter Series:

An Inconvenient Truth

Thursday, April 16, 7- 9pm

Former Vice President Al Gore wages a passionate campaign - not for the White House, but for the environment.

Presenting the facts about global warming, without getting political, Gore makes a sobering impression in this Oscar-winning documentary on the audiences who hear his message, urging them to act "boldly, quickly and wisely"... before it's too late to act at all. Pre-registration is suggested. Fee: FREE, \$3 donation suggested.

3rd Thursday's Club:

A Reading and Activity Program for 4th, 5th & 6th Grade Students

Thursday, April 16, 4pm-5:30pm

(If getting to Riveredge by 4 is a challenge because of your school schedule, please call and let us know you are interested.)

We'll get together once a month to discuss a good book and to do a fun outdoor activity. Activities may include archery, GPS and a special earth day work project in April. Each month's reading will be available on the Riveredge website. Ask for carpool information if interested.

Fee: \$10 (per session), Members: \$6 (per session)

Family Program: Trash into Treasure - Practical Plastic Creations

Saturday, April 18, 1-3:30pm

Wondering what to do with all that plastic? Join us for a hands-on session as we learn and practice techniques to turn plastic waste into treasure. Try your hand at knitting or crocheting a durable "plarn" (plastic yarn) shopping bag or purse, weave wallets from snack wrappers, or create a basket masterpiece from plastic strapping. No previous craft experience necessary! The color and creativity involved in this program—not to mention the positive implications for the earth—are bound to delight all. For adults and children ages 8 and up.

Fee: Adult \$6, 12 & under \$5

Members: Adult \$5, 12 & under \$4

Riveredge Speaks Out Series:

Tuesday, April 21, 7pm at the Cedarburg Cultural Center

(Speaker & topic to be announced)

Fee: Free, \$5 Suggested Donation

Storytime in Spring

In the Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming

Thursday, April 23, 9:30 – 10:4am

There's never a dull moment at the ponds at Riveredge. We'll check out what's happening and who's around at the pond. Time permitting we'll come inside for a fun arty project. While geared mainly toward 3 – 5 year olds, all ages are welcome. Dress for the weather. A healthy snack will be provided.

Fee: Adult \$5, Child \$3

Members: Adult \$4, Child \$2

Friday Morning Bird Walks with Paul Boyer

Friday, April 24, 7:30-10am

Start your Fridays with an early morning walk at Riveredge. Join Paul Boyer to see (and hear) a wide variety of migrating spring birds. Paul is a local birder, best known for his sight and song identification skills. Hikes take place rain or shine. Bring your binoculars and field guide – or borrow ours!

Fee: Free, \$5 suggested donation

Earth Day Work and Learn

Saturday, April 25, 10 am – 3pm

Join the Riveredge staff in activities that promote the health of our community and planet. You can help prepare the beds and plant cool weather crops in the organic garden, participate in a prairie burn (weather dependent) and/or work as a habitat healer and conduct grounds clean up and invasive species eradication. There are opportunities for groups, families and individuals of all ages to get involved. Check the website for more information and other activities on this exciting day. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers. Please call Volunteer Director Pat Fox-Schindler if you plan to help us.

Fee: FREE

Knoothing But Knots:

Sunday, April 26, 12:30-3:30pm

The weakest link between you and the fish on your line is the knot you tie. Learn how knots weaken the leader. Discover two methods of attaching the leader to the line, and two knots commonly used to attach a tippet to the leader and more. Teaching begins with oversized material so you understand how the knot is made, then tying with actual fishing line. All material will be supplied. Class size is limited to six. Pre-registration is required.

Fee: \$30, Members: \$25

Babies, Books & Bugs ~ for parents/grandparents and their babies

Ages 0 – 2 years old with caregiver

Monday, April 27, 9:30 – 11am

Two of the most important things we can instill in our small children are the love and comfort of the natural world and the same for a good book. Please join us if you:

- Want to provide an outdoor sensory experience for your child;
- Want to discuss children's literature with other parents and learn tips and techniques for reading to your child;
- Meet other parents who share your love of books, bugs and babies!

Fee: \$10, Members: \$5

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Photo Club

Tuesday, April 28, 7-8:30pm

The Photo Club brings together those who enjoy photography and wish to take better pictures through practice. Held at Riveredge on the last Tuesday of every month.

Fee: FREE

Nature Tots: Do You Believe in Fairies?

Wednesday, April 29, 10-11:30am

Fairies bring magic to storybooks and they also appear at Riveredge once a year. Where are they found? Let's go and find out! (Get ready to hike because this adventure will take us to the vernal pond). Pre-registration Suggested.

Fee: Adult \$5, Nature Tot \$3

Member: Adult \$4, Nature Tot \$2

Sturgeon Project: Volunteer Training

Thursday, April 30, 9am - noon

Life offers few opportunities to change history and rectify mistakes of the past. Volunteer for the Lake Sturgeon Restoration Project and do just that! Join a group of dedicated volunteers feeding the fish, maintaining the tanks, monitoring systems and verifying water quality. Volunteers commit to one-half day per week after being trained.

Fee: Free