



River Bend

NATURE CENTER

Fall 2016, Volume 37, Issue 3

Helping people discover, enjoy, understand, and preserve the incredible natural world that surrounds us.

Mark Your Calendar

See calendar insert for complete listings.

October

- 19 -- OWLS Luncheon:
Indoor Agriculture: The Future of Farming
- 24 -- Homeschool Program:
Citizen Science and the Scientific Method
- 29 -- **Bats, Bones & Bonfires:**
A Halloween Family Festival

November

- 2 -- Lifelong Learning:
Misunderstood Animals
- 5 -- Bagels & Birds
- 16 -- OWLS Luncheon:
Water Resources 101
- 17 -- **Give to the Max Day!**
- 28 -- Homeschool Program:
Three "R" Warriors

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Director's Desk

By Breanna Wheeler, Executive Director

Roar

This morning when I arrived at River Bend, the roar of a flooded Straight River as it crashed through trees and over trails hummed in the distance. On my drive to work, I saw an almost-submerged vehicle with only its roof showing and a house with water halfway up its height. Surely there were countless others battling water in their basements. The roar is a reminder of the power of nature to cause devastating loss and heartache, and at the same time, call people together in various ways.

The idea of building community through nature is so compelling that we used it as our theme for the River Bend Ramble a few weeks ago. Having a place like River Bend Nature Center to spend time being present in the moment to observe nature can lead to appreciation for nature and next a desire to engage resources to preserve it for others. That progression motivated the people who founded River Bend and others who have worked hard over the years to make this a place for others to do the same.

River Bend is a treasure of the community and has a legacy of environmental education and nature experiences to celebrate. This legacy would not exist without people coming together to invest their time, skills,

talents, and financial resources in River Bend which, like a pebble dropped in a pond, ripples out to also generate good for the community, the region, and our shared future.

Please plan to contribute to River Bend Nature Center's future and mission to help people discover, enjoy, understand, and preserve the incredible natural world. Give to the Max Day is Thursday, November 17. We are incredibly grateful to the Carlander Family for their generous offer to match all donations made to River Bend through Give to the Max Day up to a total of \$10,000. Help us meet our goal of raising \$10,000! Donations of any size are welcome. If you are not a member, please join, renew or increase your membership level. Volunteer your time. Introduce someone new to River Bend Nature Center. Feel free to call me and share your story and interests in helping us meet our goals.

May you find peace in the celebrations and struggles nature presents us with and engage with the distant roar. Thank you for your ongoing support. ✂

River Bend Nature Center

1000 Rustad Rd - PO Box 186
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507.332.7151
rbncinfo@rbnc.org
www.rbnc.org

Board of Directors

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Emily Greger, Public Program Coordinator
Leslie Kennedy, Administrative Assistant
Jill Engle, Marketing & Comm. Coordinator
Jason Pecore, Land & Facility Assistant
Karen David, Receptionist

Seasonal Environmental Educators School Year 2016-2017

Katie Elam
Kara Johnson
Elsa Litecky
Stephanie Rathsack

All content
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unless otherwise noted.



Trails Open During Deer Hunt

River Bend Nature Center will be holding an archery deer management hunt from November 1st through November 14th. This hunt is to help control the deer population in the Nature Center with a goal of ensuring healthy natural communities. When too many deer populate one area, native plants and animals are negatively affected. River Bend will remain open to the public during the hunt.

Please follow the safety guidelines below when visiting the nature center during this time:

1. Stay on designated trails and maintained areas. Do not walk off trail.
2. Keep your pets on leash. It is River Bend policy that dogs remain on a physical leash while on the property. It is critically important that this policy is followed during the deer hunt.
3. Wear blaze orange or other brightly colored clothing, even if you will not be hunting.
4. Watch carefully for any hunt-related signs, and be sure to follow them!
5. Check in at the Interpretive Center when you arrive, or one of the outdoor kiosks to see if there is any additional hunt-related information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Emily Greger at 507.332.7151.

Our Committees and Task Forces Need You!

The River Bend Nature Center Board of Directors seeks community members to join its committees and task forces. Current needs are as follows:

- **Strategic Planning task force:** Responsible for developing a plan for and identifying resources for community engagement and timeline for the strategic planning process.
- **40th Anniversary planning task force:** River Bend will celebrate its 40th Anniversary in 2018 and individuals are needed to envision and plan for how River Bend may celebrate it.
- **Program/Events committee** is charged with developing metrics to evaluate current programs/events and assisting with researching community and stakeholder interest and identifying resources to enhance program/event success.
- **Membership committee** is charged with studying the River Bend membership and membership structures, identifying, planning, and participating in ways to develop, engage, and retain members; and building awareness of River Bend in the region.
- **Development/Fundraising committee** helps identify and contributes to overall fundraising strategy of River Bend.

Ideal candidates would have knowledge or experience in a particular area to contribute and be able to dedicate up to 5-8 hours a month for meeting and/or projects. Committees and task forces will meet bi-monthly to quarterly or more often as needed. Both short and longer-term involvement is desired, so if you have limited availability, there is probably a task that we could match for your interests and time. Please contact Breanna at wheeler@rbnc.org or 507.332.7151 with questions or to express your interest.

Introductions



Emily Greger

Public Program Coordinator

Emily graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Conservation and Resource Management. She is very ecosystem focused and passionate about habitat restoration. She says, "There are few things I find more satisfying than removing a truckload of invasive species from our parks."

Prior to working within the natural resource field, she spent 12 years employed as a Mental Health Practitioner working with children and young adults diagnosed on the autism spectrum. However, having always loved the outdoors and spending most of her time exploring and learning about nature, Emily's career-altering "a-ha moment" happened while hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park, when she realized she wanted a career protecting our natural resources.

Upon returning home from vacation she enrolled in the environmental program at the University, and has been diving into the field, learning as much as possible ever since. Emily says, "It will never cease to amaze me that I can get paid to hike through the woods and talk about what I love. I feel extremely fortunate to have this opportunity and I look forward to getting to know all of the volunteers and local groups that make up River Bend Nature Center."

Emily's free time is spent foraging for wild edibles with her best pal Artie, a 100-pound St. Bernard mix, paddling the St. Croix, and camping in the state and national forests.

River Bend's executive director, Breanna Wheeler, says, "We are very excited to have Emily join us. Her combination of experience in natural resource management and enthusiasm for involving the public through programs and volunteering will be a great addition to the River Bend team."

Jason Pecore Land & Facility Assistant

Jason Pecore joined our staff in July as our part-time Land and Facility Assistant. Jason has a background in landscaping and carpentry, which has been a huge asset while he assists in rebuilding our trails after the recent flood event. When he isn't making our trails safer, Jason is working to maintain our Interpretive Center and Trailside Center buildings. Please join us in welcoming Jason!



Seasonal Naturalists

Pictured, left to right, above are
Kara Johnson, Stephanie Rathsack,
Elsa Litecky & Katie Elam

Kara Johnson

I graduated December 2015 from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities with a Bachelors of Science in Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management. My past summers were spent up north in Walker and Bemidji working for the MN DNR as a Watercraft Inspector and a Forestry Intern. I grew up in Golden Valley but I spend my weekends and spare time up north at the cabin, surrounded by nature: sailing, hiking, camping, canoeing, biking, and adventuring. I also love working with children and encouraging kids to use their imagination to explore the world. I am thrilled to be able to spend my work days at such a beautiful nature center, and educate our youth about why they should love nature as much as I do.

Stephanie Rathsack

I have always been interested in Environmental Education—I started volunteering at Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley at age ten and never looked back. Every Saturday for the next ten years you would find me cleaning cages and feeding animals. With this background it seemed only natural to pursue a similar career, and I attended the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, graduating with a major in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology. While in school, I worked at the Bell Museum of Natural History as an interpretive guide, as well as at the Monarch Butterfly Lab.

After graduating, I spent two years as a naturalist at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro where the majority of my time was spent outdoors teaching a variety of subjects from basic geology, to living history,

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stream ecology, and adventure high ropes courses. I also had the opportunity to teach using captive raptors and a rattlesnake, as well as give programs in our portable planetarium. And while my experience covers a broad range of subjects, my passions include monarch butterflies, astronomy, rocks/minerals, and just about anything that will get me outdoors. I hope to utilize my experience at River Bend by continuing to provide quality programs, as well as to introduce new and exciting opportunities.

Elsa Litecky

I am originally from Forest Lake. I went to college at the University of Wisconsin--River Falls and have a B.S. in Field Biology with a minor in Conservation. I initially was going to college for research and restoration work but as much as I love being outdoors my real passion is working with people and getting them excited about the outdoors. I have a wide variety of experiences under my belt everything from prescribed burning to scuba diving, volunteering on wolf trapping research up north to doing a fly-in to Washington D.C. as a Minnesota angler for the Clean Water Act. Two things I am proud of are meeting Jane Goodall and being a part of the Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps. I also have a wide variety of passions including fishing, archery, tracking, downhill skiing, edible and medicinal plants, camping, star gazing, folklore, writing, reading, art, predator and misunderstood species, and history so feel free to come talk whether it's to learn something new or share your passion!

Katie Elam

I graduated from the University of Wyoming in May 2015 with a dual major Bachelor's degree in Biology and Environment & Natural Resources. I have lived all across the United States and just love exploring new places, learning new things, and meeting new people! Most of my jobs over the last four years have been working at museums or nature centers that have raptor programs, so I have had the incredible opportunity to work with and care for live birds of prey, as well as teach people about them. I love to read, hike, take pictures, and bake, and I am really excited to be here and to see what Faribault and Minnesota have to offer! 



Thank you for making the Ramble a success!

35th Annual RAMBLE

EVENT SPONSORS

1st United Bank KGP Companies Jennie-O Turkey Store

DESSERT DONOR
Hy-Vee

RAMBLE VIDEO
Troy Temple

FLOWER DONOR
Faribault Growers, Inc./
Mum From Minnesota

AUCTIONEER
Larry Lee

MUSIC
Steph Helkenn

EMCEE
Mike Sandberg

RAMBLE COMMITTEE

Lynette Dickson, Anne Dienst, Olga Knapp, & Mike Sandberg

Live Auction Donors

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Baymont Inn & Suites
Moe Brand
Country Inn & Suites
Cross Country Soaring
The Depot Bar & Grill
Holiday Inn & Suites
Northfield Arts Guild
The Ole Store Restaurant
Paradise Center for the Arts
Kathy Sandberg/Nalani
McCutcheon
The Inn at Shattuck-St. Mary's
School
Sunset Salon & Spa
Breanna/Matt Wheeler

Event Donations

Carol Anderson
Dawn/Patrick Andreas
Angell's Images
Allina Health Community
Engagement Program
Annie Belle Creations
Fran Babbitt
Delores Barta
Gregory/Diane Barta
Bauer's Southside Liquor
Suzanne and Jon Birch
Gary/Valerie Bollinger
Richard/LaVonne Brick
Melinda Brown
Ken/Linda Butzow
Cabela's
Cannon River Offroad Cycling
& Trails (CROCT)
Cannon River Winery
Carlander Cattle Company
Greg/Sue Carlson
Chanhassen Dinner Theatres
Chappuis Jewelry
Chuck & Don's Pet Food Outlet
College City Beverage
Community Co-op Oil Assoc.
Court Sports and More
Crossroads Skin Care Clinic
Connie DeGroot
Mark Hodge/Anne DeMuth

Lynette Dickson
Donahue's Greenhouse
Father Henry Doyle
Amy Elliott/Matt Drenth
Erickson Furniture
Faribault Animal Center
Faribault Garden Center
Faribault Parks & Recreation
Faribault Vacuum & Sewing
Center, LLC
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Jonathan Finnesgard
Firehouse Liquor
Marian Fruechte
Dave/Dianne Frye
F-Town Brewery
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Lana Good
GrandStay Residential Suites
Sandy Hagel
Haskell's Wine & Spirits
Wendell/Linda Herron
Penelope Hillemann/David
Keyes
Glenn/Kathleen Holman
Matt/Leah Inman
Jay C. Hormel Nature Center
Barbara Jenkins
Just Food Co-op
Gary/Kathleen Kasten
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Ryan/Emily Kjesbo-Johnson
Knecht's Nurseries &
Landscaping
Sally Kramer
Debra Krause
Krause Feeds & Supplies Inc.
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Joan McCutcheon
Betty Mealey
David Menke
Milltown Cycles
Minnesota Landscape
Arboretum
Becky Minnick

Janet Mitchell
Mount Kato
Sigrid Nelson/Dan Schonebaum
Nerstrand Meats & Catering
Next Chapter Winery
Glen/Shirley Norgaard
Northwoods Theatre
Lawrence/Linda Olson
Lyle/Ruth Olson
Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic
Richard/Karen Paquette
Zachery/Jenny Pelletier
Carole/Mike Perron
Dirk Peterson
Richard/Marianne Peterson
Roberta Peterson
Reptile & Amphibian
Discovery Zoo
Rice County Abstract & Title
Co.
Rice County Historical Society
Museum
Richie Eye Clinic
Bruce/Penny Rippentrop
Brynild Rowberg
Sand Creek Adventures
Katherine Sandberg/Nalani
McCutcheon
Michael Sandberg
Jerry Sherwood
Signature Bar & Grill
John/Kathryn Smith
Southern Heights Dental Group
Steele Co. Historical Society
Story Landscaping, LLP
Straight River Sports and Fitness
The Cheese Cave
The Rare Pair
The State Bank of Faribault
Phillip/Beth Trout
Trump's Orchard
Chris/Dena Whillock
George Wickstrom Jr
Winds of Peace Foundation
Ray/Linda Wood
Mark/Mary Ziegler
Richard Zoesch

Naturalist Notebook

Illustrated by Moe Brand
Text by Brooke Piepenburg, Seasonal Environmental Educator



North American Porcupine *Erethizon dorsatum*

While *Erethizon dorsatum*, or the North American porcupine, may be slow-moving, these rodents can sure pack a punch with up to 39,000 long, sharp quills, which are modified hairs that can be lodged into a predator in order to injure, and even kill, the attacker. In fact, as soon as the quills of a newborn porcupine are dried, even the smallest porcupine is able to defend itself against predators, which allows porcupines to live for up to seven years in the wild.

Weighing in between 10 and 35 pounds, an adult porcupine can be 24 to 40 inches in length – including their tail of 5 to 7 inches – making them the second largest rodent in North America. They tend to have a dark grey to black coloration with white-banded quills covering their body. As they age, they become increasingly gray or white in color.

These rodents can be found throughout Minnesota's forests and wooded farming areas that make up the upper two-thirds of the state, as well as the state's eastern border. It is in these areas that porcupines are able to find the bark, buds, leaves, nuts, and berries that make up their daily diet. However, this habitat is also home to some of the porcupine's greatest predators – fishers, bobcats, wolves, and coyotes. These predators all use the

same method of attack when hunting a porcupine, including rapid bites to the porcupine's face followed by biting into the porcupine's quill-free underside.

The annual mating behaviors of porcupines occur in the late fall months when males of reproductive age begin seeking out receptive females, who "scream" from the tree tops to communicate their readiness to mate. Because female porcupines will attract multiple potential mates with her calls, a successful male must actively defend the female for up to 4 days after mating with a female, as to prevent other males from attempting to mate with her. This defensive behavior of the successful male ensures that the resulting offspring shares his genetic makeup. The baby porcupine, called a porcupette, will remain with its mother until it is approximately five months old. It is at that time that the little one will leave the nest and take on the world all on its own. ✍

News & Notes

On the Road with River Bend

River Bend is taking their programs on the road! A new contract was developed with Lonsdale Elementary School starting in fall 2016 to bring our environmental education programs to the nature area at their school. River Bend naturalists will work with all of the students at Lonsdale once each season. "The goals for this partnership are to use programs we have already developed for use at the Nature Center to reach students that are outside of our typical range, and to build the confidence of their teachers to be able to use the outdoors as a classroom," says River Bend's education coordinator Amber Brossard. "This outreach program also eliminated the need to transport all of the children to Faribault, which helps keep the program costs down." River Bend is looking forward to developing more partnerships of this type to reach as many students as possible.

State Academies for the Deaf and Blind Continue Partnership

River Bend will continue its partnership with volunteers from Minnesota State Academy for the Blind and Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf during the 2016-2017 school year. Approximately ten hours each week, several volunteers visit River Bend and assist with crucial operation duties such as maintaining facilities, taking care of animals, and trail maintenance. We are thrilled to see the return of this partnership and look forward to working more with both schools in the future.

Summer Camp Wrap-up

Summer at River Bend was busy as ever as we ran 24 summer camp sessions, reaching a total of 245 kids! New camps this year included an art in nature camp and a mountain biking camp. We're already planning new and

exciting adventures for your children and grandchildren for Summer Camp 2017! Camp registration is slated to open on February 1st -- mark your calendars!



Give to the Max Day Matching Grant

We are very excited to announce that as part of Give to the Max Day 2016, the Carlander Family has generously offered to match all donations made up to \$10,000. So for the first \$10,000 given by our donors, River Bend will receive \$20,000! Watch for more information to come as the big day nears. Thank you, Carlander Family!

Business Members *Please support our business members!*

PLATINUM

1st United Bank – Faribault
Brushwork Signs
Post Consumer Brands
Paddington's Seed & Feed
Shattuck-St. Mary's School
State Bank of Faribault

GOLD

ABC Bus Companies, Inc.
Faribault Transportation Company

PLUS

Cannon River STEM School
Canneidigh, Inc./Inisfail, Inc.
Faribault Flyers Bike & Ski Club
Faribault Rotary Youth Services, Inc.
Faribo Farm & Home Supply, Inc.
Mercury Minnesota
Milltown Cycles
Schroder Concessions, Inc.
Sertoma Club of Faribault

BASIC

A & W Restaurant
Anderka Construction
Arnold Law and Mediation
Boldt Funeral Home
Brite Way Window Service
Cannon River Watershed Partnership
Donahue's Greenhouse
Faribault Animal Center
Faribault Area Retired Educators
Faribo Air Conditioning and Heating
Faribo Insurance
Faribo Sno-Go Club, Inc.
Fette's Electronics
Goat Dispatch
Historic Hutchinson House B&B
HomeTown Federal Credit Union
Humphrey Manlift Company, Inc.
Hy-Vee
Landscape Restoration, Inc.
Mortenson Fire & Safety, Inc.
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R.C. Mutual Insurance Co.
Reese, Winter & Associates, Ltd.
Reliance Bank
Reynolds Services, Inc. Seal Coating
Tom's Lock and Key LLC
TRB Electric LLC
Treadway Graphics

The Volunteer Page

Thank you to our June through September volunteers,
listed below, for their hard work and dedication!

Office Mailings

Delores Barta
Cecilia DeGroot
Charlotte Dirksen
Kathleen Holman
Judy Lee
Kandie Mensing
Joan Nordquist

Office Receptionist

Janet Mitchell

Policy

Lori Pommerenke

IT Support

Myron Engle

Public Programs

Evan Brossard

Rain Garden Care Crew

Dustin Demmer
Brenda Pittman
Jean Westberg

Ramble

Lynette Dickson
Anne Dienst
Michael Sandberg
Olga Knapp

Restoration Club

Phil Anderson
David Angell
Alexis Bussert
Cheryl Culbreth

Kim Cunningham

David Lee
Douglas Miller
Scott Reher

Rice County Fair

Kenn Dubbels
Ron Engle
Dave/Diana Hering
Penelope Hillemann
Michael Sandberg
David Lee
Eddie/Janet Lozon
Tim Madigan
Janet Mitchell
Deb/Rick Scheil
Robert Stossel
Steven Underdahl
Jean Westberg

Volunteer Naturalists

John Battles
Diana Hering
Glenn Holman
Robby Holmes
Lianna Koberoski
Janet Mitchell
Mary Niermann
Barb Rost
Monica Wallace

Summer Camp Assistants

Evan Brossard
Mikey Cross
Serena David

Tiernan Donahue
Eli Howells
Eddie Nigon
Amber Olson
Maddy Schiffer

Trail Maintenance

David Angell
Seth Brossard
Cheryl Culbreth
Friendship House
Volunteers
David Lee
Mary Niermann
Scott Reher

Vehicle Maintenance

David Lee

Weekend Volunteers

Wally Wetzel
Eddit/Janet Lozon
Binn/JoAnne
Rodgers

Service Groups

Faribault
Evangelical Free
Church
Shattuck-St. Mary's
School Staff
Shattuck-St. Mary's
Hands Across
Faribault Students,
Staff, Alumni

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

A great way to support River Bend Nature Center is by volunteering your time.

Restoration Volunteers

Volunteer for our monthly Restoration Club which meets the fourth Wednesday of each month, year round. We also need volunteers for other land restoration projects, mostly seasonally.

👉 Contact Emily at emily@rbnc.org to volunteer.

Saturday Volunteers

Volunteers greet, assist, and provide an interpretive and educational experience to weekend visitors. Shifts are from 9am-12:30pm and 12:30pm-4pm. Training will be provided.

👉 Contact Amber at amber@rbnc.org to volunteer.

Volunteer Naturalists

Help make a difference in the lives of local students by spending time teaching them about the natural environment. Volunteers meet once a month for training and then sign up to help with school programs on days that they are available. All training provided.

👉 Contact Amber at amber@rbnc.org to volunteer.

Weekday Receptionists

Volunteers needed to greet Interpretive Center visitors, help answer questions, answer the phone, and assist with office projects during our business hours.

👉 Contact Leslie at leslie@rbnc.org to volunteer.

Housekeeping Volunteers

We have a need for supplemental light housekeeping help with tasks such as vacuuming, sweeping, mopping, and window cleaning in the Interpretive Center and Trailside Center buildings during business hours. If you would like to help,

👉 Contact Emily at emily@rbnc.org to volunteer.

Trail Grooming

We need volunteers to join our winter trail grooming crew. Volunteers groom trails for skiing and walking with our snowmobile-groomer after each new fallen snow or as conditions warrant it. Training provided.

👉 Contact Emily at emily@rbnc.org to volunteer.



Event Volunteers Needed



Bats, Bones & Bonfires - Saturday, October 29th, 2-6pm

WinterFest - Saturday, January 21st, 1-4pm

Two of our biggest events of the year are our Halloween celebration, Bats, Bones & Bonfires, and our winter celebration, WinterFest. Many volunteers are needed to make these events happen, so we're asking for your help. Volunteers help with admission, parking, games, crafts, food service, and more. Shifts are usually 1.5 to 2 hours long; volunteer for one shift and spend the other enjoying the event free of charge!

👉 For more information or to volunteer, contact Emily at emily@rbnc.org or 507.332.7151.



River Bend NATURE CENTER

PO Box 186
1000 Rustad Rd
Faribault, MN
55021

507.332.7151
www.rbnc.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

*New members, welcome!
Members who have been away, welcome back!*

JULY-SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIPS

Brett Belcourt	Troy, Lorry & Tyler Karow
Christine/Andrew Bothun	Tabbatha/Jeffrey LaPanta
Deni Buendorf	Kai Xin/Hua Lin
Christian/Brita Bragnalo	Calvin/Nicolle Mann
Chad Caron	Kyle McConnell
Darla Crosby	Dallas/Delon Musselman
Kelly/Lynnette DeShane	Eric/Jennifer Olson
Matthew Dilworth	Steve/Leona Openshaw
Christy Dore	Robert D. People
Catherine/Eric Gasner	Dirk Peterson
Katherine/James Hauschild	Cale/Kristina Politoski
Jacob Helgeson	Lori Pommerenke
Janette Gould Martin	Dan Powers
Kristin/Darwin Grosse	Hayley Rosenfield
Jane/Brian Hake	Peter/Lori Schleif
Elizabeth Hanrahan	Thomas Spartz
Tom/Liz Hartman	Nathan Stroud
Mike/Michelle Johnson	Mary/David Whitlow
	Joy Zimmerman

BATS, BONES & BONFIRES

A HALLOWEEN FAMILY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, 2-6PM

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

ADMISSION:
\$7/PERSON OR \$20/FAMILY

RIVER BEND MEMBERS:
\$5/PERSON OR \$15/FAMILY

SPONSORED BY
MIKE'S GARAGE



MUSIC BY
MARK HEDENSTROM
GUITAR & VOCALS
3-5PM

ST. OLAF TAIKO DRUM CLUB
5-6PM

WAGON
RIDES
BOUNCY
HOUSE

LIVE
ANIMALS
GAMES
CRAFTS

S'MORES
ON THE CAMPFIRE

UNCLE B'S LAST CHANCE
BBQ SHACK
FOOD/DRINK FOR SALE



WWW.RBNC.ORG/HALLOWEEN



FALL PROGRAM & EVENT SCHEDULE 2016-17

OCTOBER

24 Homeschool Science Day
2:00-3:30pm
Cost: \$8 per child



Topic: *Citizen Science and the Scientific Method*
See ad below for program description or rbnc.org/homeschool.
Pre-registration is required by Oct. 21st.

25 Nature Book Club
7:00-8:00pm
Cost: Free!



October Book: *The Earth Moved: On the Remarkable Achievements of Earthworms* by Amy Stewart
Join us once a month for a nature book club and discussion.
Open to adults.

26 Restoration Club
4:00-6:00pm
Cost: Free!



Join us on the 4th Wednesday of the month for a land restoration work day. Every month we will head out onto the River Bend property to practice implementing restoration techniques such as bud ID, buckthorn removal, trail repair, and more.
Open to adults. New members welcome anytime.

29 Bats, Bones & Bonfires
2:00-6:00pm
Cost: \$7 each, capped at \$20/family.
Member Cost: \$5 each, capped at \$15/family.



Bats, Bones & Bonfires is a fun Halloween event for the whole family! All ages will enjoy our non-scary activities and entertainment. Wear your costumes!

NOVEMBER

5 Bagels & Birds
9:30-10:30am
Cost: Free!



Enjoy coffee and bagels in a relaxed atmosphere while watching the antics of wildlife. We'll meet in the comfort of the building to observe the birds and other visitors to the Windows on the Wild backyard habitat feeding area. Help with identification, fun facts, binoculars, guide books, and conversation will make this a great way to start the.
Open to all ages.

16 OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors)
12:00-2:00pm
Cost: \$12 (\$10 for members)



Topic: *Water Resources 101: Farmers Protecting Soil Health and Water Quality* by Tonya Kjerland of the Cannon River Watershed Partnership (CRWP)
Join us once a month for a catered meal and nature presentation. CRWP Agriculture Program Assistant, Tonya Kjerland, will talk about the water cycle, effects of storm water runoff, and how recent work by local farmers is benefiting soil health, streams, and downstream neighbors.
Open to seniors. Pre-registration is required by Nov. 11th.

NOVEMBER

17 Give to the Max Day
12:00am-11:59pm



Support River Bend on this state-wide day of giving to Minnesota nonprofits. Your donation on Give to the Max Day 2016 will be matched by a generous \$10,000 matching grant given by the Carlander Family. Give on November 17th and your dollars will have double the impact!

22 Nature Book Club
7:00-8:00pm
Cost: Free!



Join us once a month for a nature book club and discussion. Call us for title of this month's book - 507.332.7151.
Open to adults.

28 Homeschool Science Day
2:00-3:30pm
Cost: \$8 per child



Topic: *Three 'R' Warriors*
See ad below for program description or rbnc.org/homeschool.
Pre-registration is required by Nov. 25th.



Open to homeschoolers in grades K-6.

Upcoming Dates & Topics

October 24th 2-3:30pm

Citizen Science and the Scientific Method Are you interested in science projects that can be done in your own backyard, or projects that help scientists all over the world? Join us as we learn about the awesome citizen science opportunities available to add to your science curriculum.

November 28th 2-3:30pm

Three 'R' Warriors Reduce! Reuse! Recycle! We've all heard it before, but why is it important? We'll learn all the ways you can help our environment by reducing, reusing, and recycling!

December 19th 2-3:30pm

Winter Weather Join us as we test the weather! We'll learn how to test the current weather conditions and use the signs in nature around us to predict the weather.

January 30th 2-3:30pm

Awesome Astronomy How far away is the moon? What would it be like to live on another planet? Come take a trip through the stars with us as we learn about our solar system, constellations, and what lies beyond.



DECEMBER

3 **Bagels & Birds**
9:30-10:30am
Cost: Free!



Enjoy coffee and bagels in a relaxed atmosphere while watching the antics of wildlife. We'll meet in the comfort of the building to observe the birds and other visitors to our Windows on the Wild backyard habitat feeding area. Help with identification, fun facts, binoculars, guide books, and conversation will make this a great way to start the day.
Open to all ages.

19 **Homeschool Science Day**
2:00-3:30pm
Cost: \$8 per child



Topic: Winter Weather
See ad on reverse for program description or rbnc.org/homeschool.

Pre-registration is required by Dec. 16th.

21 **OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors)**
12:00-2:00pm
Cost: \$12 (\$10 for members)



Topic: *Misunderstood Animals: Mosquitoes, Ticks, Leeches & More with River Bend Naturalist Elsa Litecky*
Join us once a month for a catered meal and nature presentation. Have you ever wondered why on earth mosquitoes exist? Or gross leeches? Join us for a new eye-opening perspectives on some of nature's less lovable critters.
Open to seniors. Pre-registration is required by Dec. 16th.

23 **Hibernate, Migrate, Adapt or Die**
2:00-3:00pm
Cost: Free will donation.



From cross-country journeys to long winter naps, Minnesota animals have adapted well to deal with below freezing temperatures. Join one of the naturalists as we explore how our native species survive the winter.
Open to all ages.

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To pre-register for our programs you have four options, choose what works best for you.

CALL US
507.332.7151

GO ONLINE
shop.rbnc.org

EMAIL US
rbncinfo@rbnc.org

OR STOP IN TO SEE US
1000 Rustad Rd, Faribault

Programs are subject to change. Please check our web site for complete details and updates.
www.rbnc.org

JANUARY

1 **New Year's Snowshoe & Hike**
10:00-11:00am
Cost: Free will donation.



Let's start the year off right! Join one of the naturalists for a winter walk. Wear snowshoes or boots, and bundle up! We'll take a one-mile scenic stroll to work off those holiday meals!
Open to all ages.

7 **Bagels & Birds**
9:30-10:30am
Cost: Free!



See description on December 3rd.

14 **Animal Ambassador Meet & Greet**
9:30-11:00am
Cost: \$5 (\$3 for members)



What do you know about insects, arachnids, amphibians, & reptiles? Are you interested in seeing some amazing examples of them and learning some cool facts? Join a naturalist to get up close and personal with our incredible Animal Ambassadors!
Open to all ages.

18 **OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors)**
12:00-2:00pm
Cost: \$12 (\$10 for members)



Topic: To be announced, check website.

Join us once a month for a catered meal and nature presentation.

Open to seniors. Pre-registration is required by Jan. 13th.

21 **WinterFest**
1:00-4:00pm
Cost: \$7 each, capped at \$20/family.
Member Cost: \$5 each, capped at \$15/family.



Come to River Bend to celebrate the winter season at our annual WinterFest celebration! There will be fun for all ages including horse-drawn sleigh rides, snow games, sledding, nature crafts, kicksled races, snowshoeing, and live animal shows. We'll have hot cocoa and s'mores to eat at the campfire.

Open to all ages.

24 **Nature Book Club**
7:00-8:00pm
Cost: Free!



Join us once a month for a nature book club and discussion. Call us for title of this month's book - 507.332.7151.

Open to adults.

30 **Homeschool Science Day**
2:00-3:30pm
Cost: \$8 per child



Topic: *Awesome Astronomy*

See ad on reverse for program description or rbnc.org/homeschool.

Pre-registration is required by Jan. 27th.

RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER PRESENTS

NON-SCARY
FUN FOR ALL AGES!

BATS, BONES & BONFIRES

A HALLOWEEN FAMILY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, 2-6PM

ADMISSION INCLUDES

Wagon Rides
on the prairie

S'mores
to roast on the fire

Live Animals
to meet & greet

Hot Cocoa
Cider

Bouncy House
obstacle course

Fresh-popped
Popcorn

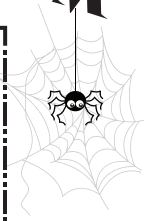
Games

Face Painting

Animal
Mystery Trail

Crafts

**FREE
GOODY BAGS
FOR KIDS**
While supplies last.



SPONSORED BY

Mike's Garage

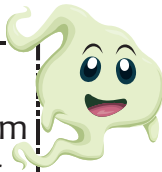
Faribo Air Conditioning
& Heating

Trumps Orchard

MUSIC BY

Mark Hedenstrom
Guitar & Vocals
3-5 PM

St. Olaf College
Taiko Drum Club
5-6 PM



ADMISSION:

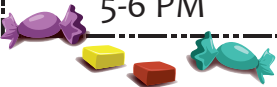
\$7 each

Max \$20 per family

River Bend Members

\$5 each or

Max \$15 per family



River Bend
NATURE CENTER

1000 Rustad Road
Faribault, MN 55021

www.rbnc.org
507.332.7151

**Double your donation to
River Bend Nature Center
on Give to the Max Day!**



On Thursday, November 17th, the state-wide day of giving returns. We are thrilled to announce that the Carlander Family has pledged to match all donations made to River Bend Nature Center for Give to the Max Day up to a total of \$10,000!

That means that your donation will have twice the impact. Twice as many schoolchildren will get a hands-on nature experience. Twice as many acres can have invasives removed and native habitat restored. And, twice as many hearts and minds will know the joys of the natural world.

To donate, visit www.rbnc.org.

give TO THE **MAX** 

NOV. 17, 2016