



River Bend

NATURE CENTER

Summer 2017, Volume 38, Issue 2

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

Program Highlights!

See calendar insert for complete listings.

July

- 6 -- Star Finders
- 8 -- Shells & Scutes: Turtles of River Bend
- 9 -- Geology Tour
- 15 -- What's for Dinner? : Summer Foraging Workshop
- 16 -- What's in the Water?
- 19 -- O.W.L.S. Luncheon
- 20 -- Timber Rattlesnakes
- 21 -- Campfire Program
- 27 -- Annual Meeting
- 29 -- Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project Workshop

August

- 3 -- Whitetails
- 4,11,18,25 -- Family Fridays Series
- 6 -- Campfire Cook-Off
- 12 -- Finding Fossils
- 16 -- O.W.L.S. Luncheon
- 19 -- Oh, For Goodness Snakes!
- 17 -- Plaster Track Making
- 20 -- Macro Invertebrate Investigation
- 26 -- Night Hike
- 31 -- Eat or Be Eaten!

September

- 2 -- Bagels & Birds
- 20 -- O.W.L.S. Luncheon

Director's Desk

By Breanna Wheeler, Executive Director

Summer is in swing and we are less than a year from celebrating 40 years of RBNC from June 2018 to June 2019. Thanks to nearly 80 community members and staff and board members for providing input and ideas in a recent survey. In addition to ideas for how to celebrate, we also asked some strategic questions about why you value RBNC now and how RBNC will be valuable moving into the next 40 years. Here is what you told us:

You value RBNC as a "gateway to natural world," a place to go to be introduced to, observe, explore, and enjoy nature and outdoors. You see it as a place for lifelong learning across generations whether its education programs, events or your own independent explorations. Within this theme, there were many mentions of the importance of kids getting outside in nature to help promote future generations of caretakers of natural resources and our planet.

You value the diversity of wildlife, rocks, water, plants and their habitats found at RBNC and the model we provide for the importance of these features.

You value RBNC for recreation: walking, running, hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing, dog walking, driving through, and watching birds.

The leading reason provided for RBNC's future value is that with increasing development, many respondents believe

there will be fewer places to go into authentic natural and wild settings to observe and enjoy nature / the outdoors.

Other responses fell into three areas: 1) how RBNC benefits individuals through their personal connection with the place (quiet, peace, stress relief, place to be with family and friends, escape from technology, spiritual connection) 2) the organizational benefits of programs and natural setting in the community (point of pride, connects community, having "nature near home," trails and facilities, it's affordable, there's something for everyone, the historic value, and the staff and volunteers, and 3) benefits to larger society (promoting an environmental ethic and developing future nature caretakers, more urbanized and changing population is less connected with outdoors than in past).

We hope to ignite and re-ignite your connection with River Bend and increase understanding of the power that nature has to impact individuals, the community and region, and overall society/culture. River Bend Nature Center plays a central role in facilitating these connections and does so with your involvement and investment. Please continue to provide us with your gifts of membership, donations, time and skills, and ambassadorship – share what you value with us, consider increasing your involvement, help us build a strong future.

River Bend Nature Center

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www.rbnc.org

Board of Directors

Steve Underdahl, *President/City Council Rep.*
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Matt Carlander, *Treasurer*
Cody VanDerVeen, *Secretary*
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Tim Madigan
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Elizabeth Wright
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Staff

Breanna Wheeler, Executive Director
Amber Brossard, Education Coordinator
Emily Greger, Naturalist, Resource Manager
Cindy Clayton, Administrative Coordinator
Jason Pecore, Facility Assistant
Karen David, Receptionist

Temporary Staff

Stephanie Rathsack, Interpretive Naturalist
Jennifer Arndorfer, Environmental Educator
Sydney Dean, Environmental Educator
Mackenzie Nagel, Environmental Educator

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Phenology Update

By Emily Greger, Naturalist, Resource Manager

“Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth”

- Henry David Thoreau

I love tracking the season - recording my observations of what I've seen, and venturing out to find what I predict to be there. I eagerly await the black-capped chickadee's message to me that spring is near when the familiar call “chickadee, chickadee” quiets, and instead he fills the forest with song “fee-bee, fee-bee”. As I explore each season I record my observations in a nature journal, and I often reference these notes year after year to gain a better understanding of the phenological events. Phenology is nature's calendar; it refers to the study of key seasonal changes in plants and animals such as the first date a flower blooms, or when a turtle has been spotted laying her eggs. It not only guides us in our estimate of when we might see the first monarch float past our shoulder, but it also helps us identify changes in trends that are taking place overtime. Understanding phenology helps farmers know when to plant seed, and plan ahead for when they might harvest. It assists resource managers in tackling invasive species, and provides a guidance to conservation biologists set-out to locate and protect threatened or endangered species. At River Bend you can help us track the season's changes by adding your observations to our phenology board located just inside of the interpretive center, or by posting your photos on our Facebook page.

Spotted in June 2017

- o Fawns wandering around the prairie and forest edges.
- o Snapping turtles covering large distances to find suitable habitat to lay their eggs.
- o Milkweed plants hosting to monarch eggs.
- o Busy caterpillars munching milkweed leaves.
- o The very first ripe wild strawberries.
- o Humans racing woodland creatures to score one of the small juicy morsels.
- o Swallowtail butterflies sipping the sweet nectar from wild bergamot flowers.
- o A peony—a remnant from past land use—blooming near Rustad Road just west of the Interpretive Center



So You've Found a Baby Animal...

It's that time of year again! Young birds are beginning to fledge and test their wings. Baby turtles will be hatching from their shells and venturing out in search of water.

When we find ourselves face to face with an adorable, seemingly defenseless baby animal, it's only natural to want to rescue it. However, many times the parent is still actively caring for their young, and our intervention could cause them undue stress or harm. Mother cottontail rabbits, for instance, only visit the nest twice a day often going unnoticed. By limiting her time near the nest, predators are less likely to find and harm her offspring.

At the nature center we get many calls each week asking us to help in rescuing sick or abandoned animals. As much as we would love to take in each and every one of them, we just don't have the proper resources to give these animals the care they need. Luckily there are a number of organizations in the community that do exactly that!



If you're worried about the wellbeing of an animal follow the guide below to determine if action is warranted.

- Is there evidence of bleeding?
- If a bird, is it featherless or near featherless and on the ground?
- Are there any obvious broken bones or injuries?
- Is the animal shivering?
- If these animals are in a nest, do they appear to be losing weight?
- Is the mother nearby and injured or dead

If you answered "yes" to any of following question, contact the organizations listed below.

MN DNR Hotline Rehab Contact - 1-888-646-6367

Wildlife Rehab Center in Roseville - 651-486-9453



Mosquitoes in a Changing Climate

By Kara Johnson, Environmental Educator

When it comes to summer, it seems Minnesotans have one complaint that we share across the state: mosquitoes. We try all kinds of methods to ward them off, but somehow we still end up itching ourselves all summer. From the 51 species we have in Minnesota, they can be grouped into two categories: Spring species and summer species. Mosquitoes that fall into the spring category hatch from eggs early in spring, live about three to four months, and lay eggs in late summer which will need to freeze before they can hatch. Mosquitoes that fall into the summer category produce multiple generations per year. Their life cycle generally takes a couple weeks from egg to adult when their

ideal conditions are met. The ideal conditions for mosquitoes are warm, humid days. A study performed by Climate Central showed that with the increasing temperatures, the amount of days with ideal conditions has increased by 34 days; from 74 days in the 1980s to an average of 108 days since 2006. Having more warm and humid days allows for those summer species to reproduce faster, more frequently, and for longer. Assuming our climate continues to change, our mosquito season is only going to get longer, giving us more reason to combat the changing climate.

News & Notes

Welcome, Cindy Clayton!



An enthusiastic welcome to Cindy Clayton, our new Administrative Coordinator. Cindy started with River Bend on May 15th, and has a strong background in administrative work, human resources, and bookkeeping. For the past 17 years, Cindy has worked at Quad Graphics in Waseca. She held several positions within the company, including finance, and human resources. Cindy has a well-rounded knowledge of business and personnel organization. She is at ease in a natural setting, as she and her husband own and operate a small dairy farm in Waseca. She is an avid runner, camper, and bicyclist, and makes the most of the great outdoors in all seasons. When you're in the area be sure to stop by and meet our new staff member, Cindy Clayton!

Member List 2016

Thank you to all of our generous members for their support of River Bend Nature Center. Your contributions help us offer valuable programs, and allow us to continue to educate children and adults about the importance of being good stewards of the natural world around us. We reach over 10,000 visitors each year, and we're only able to maintain and care for River Bend's land with the help of your thoughtful and generous gifts.

Rice County Fair

Don't forget to stop into the Conservation Building this summer at the Rice County Fair! River Bend staff and friends will be there with a number of exciting activities. For the past several years, RNBC has coordinated booths throughout the Conservation Building. Our goal is to bring all the local conservation-based groups together to get the word out about our work in the community. This year at the River Bend booth we'll have nature scavenger hunts, games, prizes, and information on upcoming programs. "We hope to reach people that aren't familiar with RBNC at community events like the fair," says Education Coordinator, Amber Brossard, "we find it rewarding to introduce what RBNC can offer and learn from others how they connect with RBNC."

If you'd like to volunteer, contact us at education@rnbnc.org for more information.

Attention, Members!

Mark your calendar for the RBNC Annual Meeting: Legacy Edition, to be held Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 6:30pm. Bring your own picnic! Meet and hear from the board and staff, elect new board members, and make your own ice cream sundae. We invite all past board members, staff, and volunteers to join us as we set the stage for a celebration of our next 40 years!

Maple Syrup Fun Run & Pancake Brunch Recap

Thank you to everyone that helped make our Fun Run and brunch a success! We hosted over 250 runners, walkers, and brunchers. We appreciate all of the feedback shared by participants, and we look forward to using your suggestions to make next year's race even better!

We Want to Hear From You!

River Bend Nature Center is in the process of updating our strategic and land/resource plan, and we're looking for your input. We'll be holding public meetings to find what you value in River Bend, and changes that you'd like to see in the future to the trails, land, and programming.

Our first public meeting will be on August 30, 2017 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. If you're unable to attend the meeting but would still like to take part, please visit our website at rnbnc.org and follow the Land Resource Plan Public Comment Survey link by September 1, 2017.

The River Bend Ramble in October

Our largest fundraising event of the year, the River Bend Ramble, will be held Saturday, October 7th, at the Inn at Shattuck. This year's theme will be "Choose Your Own Adventure." Thank you to early sponsors ABC Bus, KGPCo, the 1st United Bank, and donor Met-Con Companies. We are still seeking sponsors and donors for this event – watch for a letter and email soon with more details about how you can sponsor, donate, or otherwise join in the fun during the Ramble.

Become a Member of Our Board

Are you passionate about RBNC and our mission and willing to bring you skills to help lead the organization and be an ambassador in the community for RBNC? Check out these opportunities:

The RBNC Board of Directors is seeking nominations for open board positions. Please apply by Monday, July 10 at www.rnbnc.org or call to request or visit to pick up an application. New board members will be elected during the Annual Meeting at RBNC on 7/29.

Naturalist Notebook

Illustrated by Moe Brand
Text by Stephanie Rathsack, Naturalist

Timber Rattlesnake *Crotalus horridus*

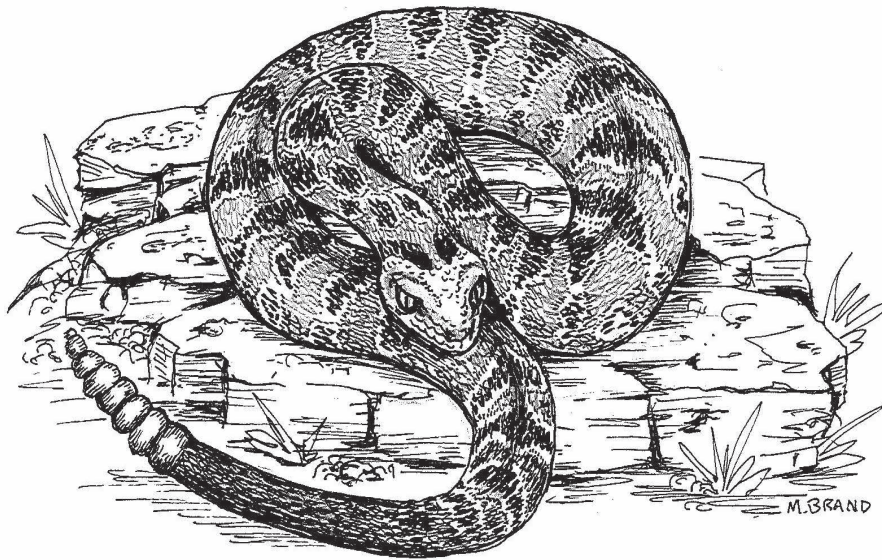
In 1909, Minnesota created a bounty specifically designed for the eradication of a single species: the Timber Rattlesnake. This bounty was in place for eighty years before finally being repealed, and during this time, thousands of snakes were killed. And though the bounty has been removed since 1989, this species is still brutally persecuted—often killed on sight; for though the species is shy and non-aggressive, it is primarily fear that drives people every year to kill these animals. The decline of this species is so great, that at one time, they were found as far north in Minnesota as Goodhue County—a direct neighbor to River Bend Nature Center. But now, the species is widely considered to be extirpated from counties in which it

had once been common. The Timber Rattlesnake is an extremely misunderstood animal that suffers as a result of years of myths and poor information. It is a relatively large bodied snake, weighing between 1 and 3 pounds, though most individuals range on the lighter end of the scale. They can get up to lengths of 60 inches, but more commonly are found to be around 40 inches in total length. And while the species is venomous, there has not been a documented human fatality in Minnesota in the last century. The species prefers habitats that are generally not frequented by humans, such as steep bluffs along rivers, and difficult to access “goat prairies”. This, coupled with the snakes’ mild temperament make it extremely rare for bites to occur. Even

when feeling threatened, timber rattlesnakes will flee if possible before defending itself otherwise. This is because venom is costly for a snake to produce, and it would be a waste to use it on anything it was not able to eat. For this reason, more than half of timber rattlesnake bites are classified as “dry”, or lacking venom. This venom is a mixture of hemotoxins,

neurotoxins and cytotoxins, and is generally used only on the snakes’ preferred pray: small rodents, which it is able to sense with its heat sensing pit organs found below the nostrils. Considered to be an “ambush predator”, timber rattlesnakes will lie in wait for their pray to approach, rather than wasting energy hunting them. A single meal will be enough to sustain an individual for several weeks, as their cold-blooded metabolism does not require much energy. In this way, the

species will spend the warm months feeding and basking on warm outcroppings of rock. In mid-summer, couples will begin mating, and the females will remain gravid for several months (often postponing fertilization for up to a year), giving live birth in mid to late-summer to an average of seven young. When temperatures begin to fall, the snakes will move from their forest and prairie hunting grounds to rocky hibernation sites, which allow them to move deep into the ground below the frost line where they will remain until the next spring. These hibernation sites, or hibernaculum, are vital for the snakes’ survival as they will return to the same one for the entirety of their lives.



Generosity Spotlight

Thank you, Henkel Foundation!

Thanks to a generous donation from the Henkel Foundation/Bergquist Company located in Cannon Falls, MN, River Bend was able to conduct prescribed burns - a critical habitat restoration technique - on over 30 acres of tall grass prairie. In April, the Henkel Foundation awarded River Bend a \$1,750 grant part of which was used to purchase fire equipment such as drip torches, bladder bags, and protective clothing. This equipment will allow us to develop and maintain a strategic burn plan that will help us decrease non-native invasive species, and increase wildlife habitat. River Bend has been extremely fortunate to have the assistance of the Faribault Fire Department, and we will continue to rely on their support during our burn seasons. The remaining grant funds were used to hire a work crew to remove hazard trees along the trails in order to make for a safer experience for all River Bend visitors.



Thank you Henkel Foundation/Bergquist Company!



Business Members

Please support our business members!

Platinum

1st United Bank – Faribault
Shattuck-St. Mary’s School
State Bank of Faribault

Gold

ABC Bus Companies, Inc.
Faribault Transportation Company
State Bank of Faribault

Plus

Cannon River STEM School
Cenneidigh.
Mercury Minnesota

Sertoma Club of Faribault
Schroder Concessions Inc.
Faribo Farm & Home Supply, Inc.
Paddington’s Seed & Feed

Basic

Faribault Animal Center
Faribo Sno-Go Club, Inc.
Reynolds Services, Inc. Seal Coating
Rice County Abstract & Title Co.
Landscape Restoration, Inc.
Krause Feeds & Supplies Inc.
Anderka Construction
Brite Way Window Service
Community Co-op Oil Assoc.
Cannon River Watershed Partnership

Humphrey Manlift Company Inc.
Hy-Vee
Parker Kohl Funeral Home
R.C. Mutual Insurance Co.
Donahue’s Greenhouse
A & W Restaurant
Tom’s Lock and Key LLC
Faribault Area Retired Educators
Quality Appliance
HomeTown Federal Credit Union
Mortenson Fire & Safety, Inc.
Reliance Bank
Historic Hutchinson House B&B
TRB Electric, LLC
Faribault Flyers Bike & Ski Club
Fette’s Electronics
Reese, Winter & Associates Ltd

The Volunteer Page

Thank you to the volunteers listed below for their hard work and dedication to River Bend! Our mission is at work in our community because of you. *April through June volunteers listed.*

Board Committees

Doug Zahn
Matt Carlander
Steve Underdahl
LaVonne Brick
Gene Buhr
Sean Canney
Stacy Dupont
Dave Green
Dustin Simpson

Weekend Volunteers

Eddie/Janet Lozon
Dave Simmons
Charlene/Wally Wetzell

General Cleaning

Lisa Johnson
MSAD
Mowers
Ralph Meehan
Roger Riesing
Dave Lee

Larry Olson
Lyle Olson

Newsletter Art

Maureen Brand

Trail Maintenance

Glenn Holman
David Lee

Office Mailings

Delores Barta
Judy Lee
Kathleen Holman
Charlotte Dircksen

Lisa Johnson

Volunteer Naturalists

John Battles
Diana Hering
Glenn Holman
Janet Mitchell
Mary Niermann
Barb Rost
Monica Wallace

Larry Vorwerk
Leah Weston
Dianne Rodman
Jean Westberg

Animal Ambassadors

Chandler Apling
MSAD
MSAB

Maple Syrup Fun Run & Brunch

Penny Hillemann
Don Speulda
Barb Rost
Chris/Dave Angell

Delores Barta
Dave/Diana Hering
Harriet/Jim Dietz
Joni Pierce
Shattuck-St. Mary's
Anna Tovar
William Bliss
Elaina Hagel
Adam Mousel
Gary Lazarz
Larry Pierce
John Battles
Sandy Hagel
Jane Egerdal

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

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

Volunteer Naturalists

With the school year fast approaching we are getting excited to fill our team of volunteer naturalists (Volnats)! Volnats work directly with the students that visit, leading hikes, catching pond critters and more! Training is provided for each program.

Contact education@rbnc.org for more information.

Animal Care

River Bend is looking for volunteers to assist with the care of our live animals. Training in feeding, enrichment, and general care is provided. Our animals consist mostly of reptiles and amphibians.

Contact education@rbnc.org for more information

RBNC Board Committees

The RBNC Board has multiple committee positions available including the finance, membership, and Ramble committees. Visit www.rbnc.org to view available committee charters and to apply.

Contact rbncinfo@rbnc.org for more information

Marketing

We need your help to get the word out about RBNC and how people can get involved here. Are you willing to drop off our newsletter / flyers to specified stops along a route list? Stop in and see what's available and let us know of places that would like or could use information about RBNC.

Contact rbncinfo@rbnc.org for more information

Volunteer Spotlight



For the past three years we've been lucky to have retired biology and ecology teacher Dave Angell as a volunteer. Dave was a critically important member of our maple syruping operation, a faithful participant in our resource management activities, and a huge asset during special events.

Dave enjoys a second career in nature photography, and greeting cards with his images can be found in our gift shop. His favorite things about volunteering at RBNC are working with people who are passionate about environmental stewardship, and teaching environmental education. If you'd like to check out some of his photography visit <http://angellsimages.com/>.



River Bend
NATURE CENTER

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507.332.7151
www.rbnc.org

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SAVE THE DATE!

36th Annual
RAMBLE

DINNER · ENTERTAINMENT · LIVE & SILENT AUCTION · RAFFLE

TICKETS ON SALE
JULY 15TH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH



UPCOMING NATURALIST PROGRAMS

More details and registration at rbnc.org or call 507-332-7151

JULY 2017

Paper Making

Saturday, July 1st 11:30am—12:30pm

All ages Fee: \$5/person (\$3/member)

Join a naturalist for the chance to practice every step in the paper making process as we recycle old paper into new.



Geocaching 101

Saturday, July 1st 1:30pm—3:30pm

All ages Fee: \$5/person (\$3/member)

Join us as we learn the history of geocaching, make our own geocaches, and put our skills to the test in an outdoor challenge! The majority of our time will be spent outdoors. Optional: Bring your own GPS or GPS enabled smart phone

Macroinvertebrate Investigation

Sunday, July 2nd 10:00am—11:00am

All ages Fee: None

Beneath the surface of River Bend's ponds is a rich variety of animals. We'll use nets to catch them and microscopes to observe them larger than life during this exciting hands-on program.



Star Finders

Thursday, July 6th 6:00pm—7:00pm

All ages Fee: \$2/person (Free for members)

Join us to learn the basics of constellations, and then create your own star finders and constellation viewers to help you practice your new skills.

Shells and Scutes: Turtles of River Bend

Saturday, July 8th 9:30am—10:30am

All ages Fee: \$5/person, \$15/family (\$3/member, \$10/member family)

Come learn about our "turtle-y" cool animal ambassadors, and the amazing adaptations that help them to survive!



Geology Tour

Sunday, July 9th 10:00am—12:00pm

All ages Fee: None

Rocks can give some of the best insight on the history of the land. Join a naturalist as we explore the fascinating geology of River Bend—including fossils, landslides, remnants of glaciers, volcanoes, and more!



Intro to Orienteering

Sunday, July 9th 1:30pm—3:00pm

All ages Fee: None

Learn to operate a compass, and then head out to the woods to try several River Bend orienteering courses. Dress for the weather and wear close-toed shoes. Compasses provided.

What's for Dinner? - Summer Foraging Workshop

Saturday, July 15 10:00am—11:30am

All ages welcome, but most suitable for ages 8 and up

Fee: \$5/person (\$3/member)



Morels aren't the only mushroom worth the hunt! Join one of our naturalists as we dive deeper into the world of wild edibles! Wear sturdy shoes, and long pants.

What's in the Water?

Sunday, July 16th 1:30pm—3:00pm

All ages Fee: None

Join MN GreenCorps member Leah Weston as we break out the dip nets and investigate the diversity of macro-invertebrates in River Bend's aquatic ecosystems.



Timber Rattlesnakes

Thursday, July 20th 6:00pm—7:00pm

All ages Fee: \$2/person (Free for members)

Join a River Bend Naturalist for a look at Rice County's misunderstood and imperiled neighbor: the timber rattlesnake, and meet one of its non-venomous cousins.



Campfire Program

Friday, July 21st 7:00pm—9:00pm

All ages Fee: None

Songs, stories, and skits! This family-friendly program has something for everyone. Benches, fire, and fun provided.

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP) Workshop

Saturday, July 29 1:00pm—4:00pm

Ages: 10 and up Fee: \$5/person (\$3/member)

Monarch butterflies are at risk of becoming an endangered species within our lifetimes. During the afternoon we will be learning all about this fascinating insect, as well as its famous migration. In the second half of the class, we will be learning how to be citizen scientists--collecting real data that will help protect the monarch butterfly. The majority of our time will be spent outdoors, please wear close-toed shoes, and be prepared to be off trail.



H2Only

Sunday, July 30th 10:00am—11:30am

All ages Fee: None

Join a River Bend Naturalist as we investigate the water of River Bend as we visit several locations throughout the park. scientific tools to find out just how clean our water is.



UPCOMING NATURALIST PROGRAMS

More details and registration at rbnc.org or call 507-332-7151

AUGUST 2017



Whitetails

Thursday, August 3rd 6:00pm—7:00pm

All ages Fee: \$2/person (Free for members)

Join a naturalist as we put one of River Bend's most common mammals under the spotlight. Learn what they eat, how fast they can jump, and even wear a pair of antlers yourself!

Trees & Keys

Saturday, August 5th 9:00am—10:30am

All ages Fee: \$5/person (\$3/member)

This program will cover the basics of tree identification, as well as fun facts about our Minnesota trees. We'll end the class with a friendly competition in a Tree ID scavenger hunt.

Advanced Orienteering

Saturday, August 5th 2:00pm—3:30pm

All ages Fee: \$5/person (\$3/member)

Already have some experience using a compass, and want to learn more or challenge yourself? This is the program for you! We'll briefly review compass-work, as well as how to use a map before head out to compete in this fast-paced race to the finish!

Nature Photography

Sunday, August 6th 8:30am—9:30am

All ages Fee: None

We'll spend the first half of our class discussing and practicing common techniques before heading outside to nearby forests, prairies, and ponds. Participants will need to bring their own camera-enabled phones or cameras for the hike portion of this class.

The Great Campfire Cook-Off!

Sunday, August 6th 2:00pm—4:00pm

All ages Fee: \$10/team, maximum of 5 people/team

Pre-registration required by August 5th

Enter for a chance to compete in River Bend's campfire cook-off! Teams will be asked to prepare an entree and dessert for a panel of three judges. All dishes must be cooked over an open fire, and as an extra challenge, three secret ingredients must also be incorporated into your meal. Teams provide their own ingredients and cooking equipment.



Finding Fossils

Saturday, August 12th 10:00am—11:30am

All ages Fee: \$5/person (\$3/member)

Become a time traveling detective as a River Bend Naturalist leads you on a journey that spans millions of years. During the course of our travels we'll be discovering what Minnesota looked like 450 million years ago!

Let's Make Tracks

Thursday, August 17th 6:00pm—7:00pm

All ages Fee: \$2/person (Free for members)

Learn all about the animals making tracks around River bend, go on a hike to discover some for yourself, and even take home a plaster replica!

Oh, For Goodness Snakes!

Saturday, August 19th 11:00am—12:00pm

**All ages Fee: \$5/person, \$15/family
(\$3/member, \$10/member family)**



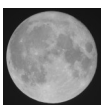
Join us for a presentation that includes activities and a chance to meet our bull snake and watch it gulp down its lunch!

Macroinvertebrate Investigation

Sunday, August 20th 10:00am—11:00am

All ages Fee: None

Beneath the surface of River Bend's ponds is a rich variety of animals. We'll use nets to catch them and microscopes to observe them larger than life during this exciting hands-on program.



Night Hike

Saturday, August 26th 8:00pm—9:00pm

All ages Fee: \$5/person (\$3/member)

Leave your flashlights at home, and head over to the visitor center as we explore the park after dark! We'll let our other senses guide the way, as we explore how nocturnal animals navigate the darkness.

Eat or Be Eaten

Thursday, August 31st 6:00pm—7:00pm

All ages Fee: \$2/person (Free for members)

Learn about Minnesota animals by exploring their furs and skulls. We'll investigate how they live, eat, and adaptations that help them survive.



Family Fridays Series!

Join us each Friday in August as River Bend hosts a family-oriented workshop dedicated to teaching outdoor skills in a fun and hands-on way. Program meets in the interpretive center at 5:30pm and ends at 6:30pm. Cost: \$3/person(\$1/member). *Families that participate in the first three workshops can attend the 4th for free!*

August 4th - Topic: Navigating Nature

August 11th - Topic: Fishing and Foraging

August 18th - Topic: Fire Starting and Shelter Building

August 25th - Topic: Survival Competition!



UPCOMING NATURALIST PROGRAMS

More details and registration at rbnc.org or call 507-332-7151

FALL 2017

Bagels & Birds

Saturday, September 2nd 9:30am—10:30am

Saturday, October 7th 9:30am—10:30am

Saturday, November 4th 9:30am—10:30am

All ages Fee: None



Welcome the return of our monthly program—Bagels & Birds! Join us on the first Saturday each month September—April. Enjoy coffee and bagels in a relaxed atmosphere while watching wildlife from the comfort of the Interpretive Center through our Windows on the Wild viewing area.

What's for Dinner? - Fall Foraging Workshop

Saturday, September 9th 10:00am—11:30am

All ages welcome, but most suitable for ages 8 and up

Fee: \$5/person (\$3/member)

Fall might just be the best time of the year for foraging! Wild grape and sumac are ripe and ready to be harvested; the lobster mushrooms and hen of the woods fill your baskets. Join a naturalist, and we'll head out on the property to explore this exciting time for gathering wild edibles! Wear sturdy shoes and long pants.



River Bend Ramble

Saturday, October 7th

Tickets go on sale July 15th for the 36th annual Ramble fundraiser event. Join us at the Inn at Shattuck St. Mary's for dinner, entertainment, live and silent auctions, and a raffle. More details can be found on our website—rbnc.org



Fall Colors Walk

Sunday, October 15th 10:00am—11:00am

All ages Fee: None

Join a naturalist as we venture out to observe the season's changes. This will be a 1-mile walk on relatively even terrain. Wear sturdy shoes, and bring your camera along!



Bats, Bones & Bonfires

Saturday, October 28th

Save the date! Don't miss our 35th Annual Bats, Bones & Bonfires. This family friendly event will have naturalist programs, activities, games, s'mores and more!

Turkey Talk

Saturday, November 18th 10:00am—11:00am

All ages Fee: \$3/person (\$2/member)

Once considered rare, wild turkey populations are booming across the southern half of the state. Join a naturalist as we explore the history and biology of the wild turkey.





UPCOMING NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Reoccurring Programs



Monthly O.W.L.S Program

Join us every third Wednesday of the month for a catered lunch followed by an indoor nature presentation. This program is for adults, and takes place in the interpretive center from 12:00pm—2:30pm. **Pre-registration required.**

July

Topic: Minnesota Bluff Lands—A Biodiversity

Hotspot

Wednesday, July 19th 12:00pm—2:00pm

Ages: Adults Fee: \$12/person (\$10/member)

In July, the Nature Conservancy's Southeast Minnesota Conservation Coordinator, David Schmidt, will be showcasing the Minnesota bluff lands, and discussing what contributed to this landscape being a biodiversity hotspot.

August

Topic: Timber Rattlesnakes

Wednesday, August 16th 12:00pm—2:00pm

Age: Adults Fee: \$12/person (\$10/member)

One of the most rare and misunderstood animals in Minnesota, the Timber Rattlesnake is an immensely important part of our ecosystem. Come listen to River Bend Naturalist, Stephanie Rathsack, as she discusses its life, habits, and what we can do to help protect it. Program includes a meet and greet with River Bend's bull snake.

September

Topic: Our Changing Climate

Wednesday, September 20th 12:00pm—2:00pm

Age: Adults Fee: \$12/person (\$10/member)

Join Alan Anderson, Northfield resident, as he discusses factors contributing to changes in our climate, and why it's something that we should all be thinking about.

Restore River Bend's Native Landscape!

Join us for a restoration-themed work day. Twice a month through the summer, we'll head out onto the River Bend property to remove non-native invasive species, and work to restore native habitat. You'll learn restoration skills at River Bend that you can take home and implement on your property! No experience needed! All ages welcome, but most suitable for ages 10 and up.

This free program meets at the interpretive center on the Second Wednesday (3:00pm —5:00pm), and Fourth Sunday (10:00am—12:00pm) each month through the summer.

Wild Parsnip Pull

Wednesday, July 12th 3:00pm—5:00pm

Sunday, July 23rd 10:00am—12:00pm

Wild parsnip, an agricultural escapee, poses a human health risk in addition to degrading our natural habitats. Help us reduce the populations at River Bend to increase user safety. Wear long sleeves, pants, and long socks—we'll provide the gloves.

Native Seed Collection

Wednesday, August 9th 3:00pm—5:00pm

Sunday, August 27th 10:00am—12:00pm

Wednesday, September 13th 3:00pm—5:00pm

Restoring landscapes often requires reseeding or planting of native species in order to ward off non-native invasives. Help us enrich our landscape by gathering seeds from our prairies and forests to be distributed back on our land.

Buckthorn Blitz!

Sunday, September 24th 10:00am—12:00pm

Calling all volunteers! We've got a great opportunity for scout, work or school groups looking to complete community service hours. Help us make this one of our biggest removals yet, and if the weather permits we'll finish our day off with a s'more roast over a buckthorn fire!