



River Bend
NATURE CENTER

PO Box 186
1000 Rustad Rd
Faribault, MN
55021
507.332.7151
www.rbnc.org

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River Bend
NATURE CENTER

Fall 2021, Volume 43, Issue 4
October, November, December

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

Our River Bend Holiday

Laura Isenor, Board of Directors Member

Our family moved to Wanamingo when our son, Jack, was one-year-old. After him we had a spunky girl, Dorothy, who is four now and our tiny tornado, Ray, who is now two-years-old. We spend a lot of time at the River Bend Nature Center, going on walks, bird watching, and playing with the toys in the exhibit center. Growing up in the cities, I would visit my family in Faribault and often visited the nature center too. While my husband and I regularly go to the nature center with our kids, I have started a ritual picnic holiday that our kids really enjoy.

My first 'big' outing as a mom of two was in the spring of 2017, after Dorothy was born. Our outing was to the River Bend Nature Center for a picnic. The center is just the right distance for little Jack to take a "road trip" but not too far for Dorothy to sit in her car seat. We went on a hike, had a picnic, and, of course, played with toys inside of the exhibit building.

After that we formalized our springtime picnic to be a regular holiday!

In December of 2018, Ray was born prematurely and spent four months in the intensive care. During his stay, we were stressed and family time was limited. But a couple weeks after he was discharged from the hospital, we made our annual trek to the Nature Center...for a hike, a picnic, and to play with toys. Our third annual picnic trip was wonderful and helped us all reflect and regroup after such a big change.

We really enjoy going to the nature center and our spring picnics are our regular holidays now. Because of River Bend, Jack, Dorothy, and Ray have so many great experiences and little adventures to remember. Thank you to the naturalists, for your hard work to make sure we have a special place to celebrate our yearly picnic trip!



Upcoming Programs

Oct

- 2- Bagels & Birds
- 12- Little Sprouts The Secret of Seeds
- 15- Science Day: Batty About Bats & Forests& Feathers
- 20- Lunch & Learn Secrets of Skulls
- 20- MEA Adventure Day 1
- 21- MEA Adventure Day 2
- 22- MEA Adventure Day 3
- 26- Little Sprouts Colorful Leaves
- 30- Bats, Bones, & Bonfires

Nov

- 1- Adventure Day
- 4- Adult Night Out Hike & S'mores
- 6- Bagels & Birds
- 9- Little Sprouts Birds of a Feather
- 17- Lunch & Learn Field Biology Internship class
- 19- Science Day: Minnesota History, Nature Art
- 23- Adventure Day
- 23- Little Sprouts Rocks Rock!

Dec

- 4- Bagels & Birds
- 14- Little Sprouts Animal Signs
- 17- Science Day: Animal Adaptations & Rocks Rock
- 22- Winter Break Adventure Day 1
- 28- Little Sprouts Snowy Days
- 28- Winter Break Adventure Day 2
- 29- Winter Break Adventure Day 3
- 30- Winter Break Adventure Day 4



PAY WHAT YOU CAN SCHOOL'S OUT ADVENTURE DAYS

GRADES K-5

PAY WHAT YOU CAN, SUGGESTED:

\$40/MEMBER, \$50/NON-MEMBER

9AM-3:30PM

SUGGESTED \$10 FOR OPTIONAL

BEFORE/AFTER CARE FROM 8AM-4:30PM

October 20, 21 & 22

November 1 & 23

December 22, 28, 29, & 30

For More Information and to register, visit rbnc.org/adventureday or call 507-332-7151



BATS, BONES & BONFIRES

S'MORES, MEET & GREET THE ANIMAL AMBASSADORS, GAMES, COSTUME CONTEST, MUSIC BY ECLIPSE & MORE!

OCTOBER 30, 2021
2PM-6PM

RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER
1000 RUSTAD RD. FARIBAULT, MN

CAPACITY MAY BE LIMITED DUE TO COVID GUIDELINES REGISTER AT WWW.RBNC.ORG/BBB

River Bend Nature Center

1000 Rustad Rd—PO Box 186
Faribault, MN 55021

Trail Hours: 6am-10pm

Building Hours: Fridays: 10am-4pm

1st and 3rd Saturdays: 10am-2pm

During the week the building is reserved for prescheduled programs.

Board of Directors

Dustin Dienst, *President*

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Kevin Mattson, Naturalist

Matthew Johnson, Naturalist



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9AM-3:30PM

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For More Information and to register, visit rbnc.org/adventureday or call 507-332-7151

Masks are required only while indoors for all participants



Little Sprouts



A parent/child class exploring the natural world. For children birth-5 years old. Each week has planned educational activities and nature-play time. Dress for the weather.

On the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, from 9:30-11 am

Sept 14- What's in the Water Nov 9- Birds of a Feather

Sept 28- Turtle Time Nov 23- Rocks Rock!

Oct 12- The Secret of Seeds Dec 14- Animal Signs

Oct 26- Colorful Leaves Dec 28- Snowy Days

for more information and to register, visit rbnc.org/little-sprouts

SCIENCE DAYS

AGES 5 - 12; \$10/STUDENT/PROGRAM

TWO PROGRAMS PER DATE, REGISTER FOR

BOTH AND BRING YOUR LUNCH!

10:00 - 11:30 AM & 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Enjoy outdoor science class as we explore different topics each month. Students should come prepared to spend most of the program outside.

Bring appropriate seasonal outdoor gear.

September 17

The Buzz on Pollinators (AM) Prairie Power (PM)

October 15

Batty about Bats (AM) Forests & Feathers (PM)

November 19

Minnesota History (AM) Nature Art (PM)

December 17

Animal Adaptations (AM) Rocks Rock! (PM)

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Dr. Karen & Simon Zeller



MAYO CLINIC
HEALTH SYSTEM

River Bend
Scholarship Fund



**I made a new friend!
Can we have a
playdate?**



**I wish
camp was
all summer!**



RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER
BUSINESS MEMBERS

STAR



The Putrah Foundation

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- A&W Restaurant
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- Boldt Funeral Home
- Cedar Lake Electric
- Clean River Partners
- Donahue's Greenhouse
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- Faribault Area Retired Educators
- Faribo Sno-Go Club
- Humphrey Manlift Company, Inc.
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- Erickson Furniture
- Faribault Rotary Youth Services, Inc.
- Fette Electronics
- KidzRule Daycare & Preschool
- Parker Kohl Funeral Home
- Sertoma Club of Faribault

Become a Business Member today at rbnc.org/membership

- For more information on:
- How to sponsor 2021 events (Fun Run, Camps, Ramble, or Bats, Bones, & Bonfires)
 - Group volunteering
 - Team building programs
 - How to match employee donations
 - How to buy memberships for your employees

Contact us at rbncinfo@rbnc.org or call 507-332-7151

THANK YOU!

News & Notes

Welcome Matthew Johnson



Matt grew up exploring River Bend while being raised in Faribault, Minnesota. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Matt has previously served as an intern and volunteer at River Bend. He enjoys being able to share his love and knowledge of nature with others. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, biking, traveling and following the ups and downs (mostly downs) of Minnesota's sports teams.

Donate to RBNC this Giving Season

Please consider a donation to your favorite 501(c)(3) nonprofit nature center and help keep environmental education, conservation, and outdoor recreation strong at RBNC from 11/1/21 to 12/31/21 and on Give to the Max Day on Thursday, November 18. Visit the Give to the Max website at givemn.org, go to rbnc.org/donate, or send a check to RBNC, PO Box 186, Faribault, MN 55021.

So far, \$12,000 has been committed as a challenge by The Putrah Foundation and Friends of RBNC and donations in any amount will be matched dollar for dollar by these challenge funds. Watch our website and social media as we near the end of the year for more information! Please share these opportunities with your friends.

Thank you for your continued support which helps connect more people with nature at RBNC, something that grows more important every day.

Team Building Programs

Looking for a fun way to build team chemistry and productivity in your organization or company? Then book a team building program at River Bend Nature Center. These fun, hands-on programs help teams build stronger relationships, effective communication, and develop problem solving strategies. These skills all lead to better results, job satisfaction, and happy employees. River Bend staff work with you to construct a custom program based on your organizational goals. Contact us for more information.

Leave a Legacy at River Bend Nature Center

There are many ways you can help your favorite nonprofit nature center that not only help today but into the future. Besides memberships, donations, and memorial or tribute bricks at Honor Point, you can also write River Bend Nature Center into your will or estate plan. Please contact us for further information should you be interested in cash or noncash donations now or in the future.

New and Upgraded Membership Promotion

If you enjoy the trails, interpretive center, programming, or just observing nature from your car on a drive down Rustad Road, consider becoming a member or upgrading your membership. Nature is important for our physical and mental wellbeing. To ensure River Bend is here for you now and in the future, please join or donate today! Visit rbnc.org/membership for more information and to join!

Honor Point Memorial Bricks

Honor your loved ones, living or deceased, at a gorgeous overlook on the Straight River. Honor Point serves as a way to recognize people's contributions that support programming and other environmental education initiatives at River Bend. Memorial contributions such as this help advance River Bend's mission of helping people discover, enjoy, understand and preserve the incredible natural world that surrounds us. Not only are your loved ones remembered by all who visit Honor Point, but their legacy lives on in the experiences of all the children and families who participate in River Bend's programs. For more information email rbncinfo@rbnc.org or call 507-332-7151

Outdoor Updates

By: Brittany Smith

Deer Management: Archery ONLY Deer Hunt October 16-October 17

River Bend will be hosting another special deer hunt this fall. The hunt will be Saturday, October 16 starting at 3:00am-Sunday, October 17 at 10:00pm. **All of River Bend will be CLOSED for use by the general public during the hunt.** This includes all trails, parking lots, buildings, and any land within the boundaries of River Bend Nature Center.

River Bend hosts these special deer hunts to manage the health of the deer herd in River Bend. Without these hunts the deer herd would become too large, which in turn, results in deer over browsing (eating) plants at River Bend and can destroy the native vegetation. Large numbers of deer in one location also increases the risk of disease transmission, including Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), amongst the herd.

CWD is 100% fatal in deer and can spread quickly when too many deer congregate in one area. This is why it is important to not feed the deer either. Rice County is under a feeding banned, therefore it is **ILLEGAL** to leave food out for deer. Please **DO NOT FEED THE DEER AT RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER!!**

Cross-Country Ski Trails

It is that time of year again when River Bend starts to gear up for cross-county ski season! Volunteers and staff will be working to cut back brush along the trails and preparing them for when the snow starts to fall. If you or anyone you know is interested in helping to maintain and groom the cross-county ski trails please contact River Bend. A Minnesota state ski trails pass is required for anyone age 16 and above on River Bend trails. Passes can be purchased at the front desk of most Minnesota State Parks, or online at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/skipass/index.html>

Thank You Ramble Sponsors

Thank you to those who sponsored, donated and attended this year's Ramble Fundraiser. Your generosity helped Renew, Restore and Raise funds for River Bend Nature Center.

Platinum

The Putrah Foundation

Gold

Dr. Karen & Simon Zeller



Silver

Bill & Wendy Wustenburg Family

Marvin & Sara Schrader

Dr. Richard and Nancie Huston



Naturalist Notebook

By: Kevin Mattson

Ring Necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Ring-necked Pheasants are a ground dwelling bird originally native to Asia, but were brought to the United States as a game bird in the 1800s. It's no wonder why these birds were brought to America in the first place; the male's plumage consists of maroon, navy, indigo, teal, copper, gold, silver, black, and a white ring around the neck. Males are also identifiable by their long gold and black striped tail feathers. Meanwhile, the female is rather drab, utilizing a more thoughtful approach to survival by means of camouflage: various shades of brown, gray, and black help to hide in plain sight from predators. Regardless of what they look like, both the male and female Ring-necked Pheasant are similar in size (think "lean chicken" sized, about two to three pounds), with the males being slightly larger than females. Ring-necked Pheasants are found abundantly in the southern half of Minnesota, and can often be found in agricultural areas, such as farm fields, foraging for crops, seeds, and insects. Pheasants opt to spend their winters here rather than migrating, which is wonderful for birders and hunters since they are much easier to spot when the crops have been cut.

Ring-necked Pheasants mate in April & May; male pheasants will typically mate with multiple females, with each hen laying about 12 eggs that will hatch in about 3-4 weeks. Newborn pheasants are small and covered in downy feathers, resembling a baby chicken with dark spots and stripes similar to their mother. Luckily for the hen, the chicks are able to walk and feed themselves once they have hatched, but will stay with her for protection until they are old enough to completely fend for themselves, about three to four months.

Ring-necked Pheasants are prey for fox, coyote, owls, and hawks, but their eggs can also be a quick and easy meal for egg eating mammals such as raccoons and skunks. Adult pheasants are able to fly, but only for short distances. Because of this, they are typically observed running from threats.

To find a Ring-necked Pheasant, visit local corn and soy fields after the fall harvest when the birds are easiest to spot. Be sure to look close along roads in ditches as pheasants will also pick at gravel to help them digest their food. Additionally, be sure to listen for their distinct crowing noise, which can be heard over a mile away.



Photo By USFWS

Mountain-Prairie - Ring-necked Pheasant, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=48047718>