



## Upcoming Nature Programs



### JULY

- July 1-31 Summer Camps
- July 6 - Story Time: Turtle-ly Awesome
- July 13 - Story Time: Prairie Party
- July 13 - Family Paint: Prairie Landscapes
- July 20 - Members Sat: Animal Ambassadors
- July 27 - Story Time: Cool Coyotes
- July 27 - Family Paint: Cool Coyotes

### SEPTEMBER

- Sept 7 - Sweet Reads Book Club: Locally Laid
- Sept 7 - Bagels & Birds
- Sept 7 - Story Time with a Naturalist
- Sept 9 - Little Sprouts
- Sept 18 - Lunch & Learn: All About Bats
- Sept 21 - Boy Scout Badge Day
- Sept 23 - Little Sprouts
- Sept 23 - Mike Lynch Star Watch
- Sept 28 - National Public Lands Day

### AUGUST

- Aug - Every Tuesday & Thursday: River Bend Bounty
- Aug 3 - Bagels & Birds
- Aug 3 - Sweet Reads Book Club - Braiding Sweetgrass
- Aug 6 - Northfield ComEd: Geocaching
- Aug 13 - Northfield ComEd: Compass Course
- Aug 17 - Story Time & Family Paint: Pond Theme
- Aug 17 - Member Sat: Prairie Sweep Netting
- Aug 20 - Northfield ComEd: Archery
- Aug 21 - Lunch & Learn: Prairie Seed Collecting
- Aug 23 - Northfield ComEd: Canoe & Kayaking
- Aug 24 - Story Time: Harry Hopper

### SAVE THE DATE

**JULY 25 @ 5:00 PM**

Annual Meeting & Pancake Dinner

**AUGUST 10 @ 4:30 PM**

45th Anniversary Ramble Dinner

**OCTOBER 26**

Bats, Bones & Bonfires



# River Bend Nature Center

1000 Rustad Rd - PO Box 186  
Faribault, MN 55021

**Trail Hours:** 6 am - 10 pm

**Summer Building Hours:** Mon: 8 am - 7 pm  
Tues-Fri 8 am - 4 pm, Saturdays 10am - 2pm

## Board of Directors

Dustin Dienst, *President*

Patrick Mader, *Vice-President*

Karen Zeller, *Treasurer*

Tom DeMatteo, *Secretary*

Tom Spooner, *City Council Liaison*

Cindy DeSormeau, Sarah Hammer, Erica Jakes,  
Nort Johnson, Abby Malmanger, Patrick Schaefer,  
Greg Simons

## Staff

*Executive Director*

Brad Bourn

*Associate Directors*

Brittany Smith, Environmental Stewardship  
Molly Dulka, Programs & Engagement  
Katy Anderegg, Administration

*Program Coordinators*

Matt Johnson & Morgan Heier

*Naturalists*

Kate Ford, Leah Inman

*AmeriCorps Members*

Randall McMeekin, Dennis Wilcox, Dan Heinen,  
Julia Gates, Caitlin Juvland, Io Harris, Andrew Flicek,  
Lucy Paschke

# SUMMER CAMP

## ADVENTURES WAITING TO HAPPEN...

### FULL DAY CAMPS FOR CHILDREN GRADES K-9

Happy summer!

This season brings warmth and plenty of sun along with the sound of summer campers returning to River Bend Nature Center for days filled with activities, time exploring nature, and lots of fun! Below are a couple of highlights from the summer camp season so far!



- Playing "camouflage" and building shelters in Kids in the Wild
- Discovering what lives at River Bend
- Learning how to build a fire
- Going extreme with outdoor sports
- Books, crafts, games.... and so much more!

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## We still have space for registrations!

Head over to [rbnc.org/summer-camp](http://rbnc.org/summer-camp) to register.

Space is open for the following camps.

- **Animal Ambassadors (K-2nd Grade) July 8 & 9**
- **Explorers Camp (K-2nd Grade) July 10 & 11**
- **Nature Detectives Camp (K-2nd Grade) July 29 & 30**

# Director's Desk

Summer is off to a wild start for River Bend. As I'm writing this, the Straight River is up over the banks all the way to Trout Lilly Trail and the waterfall is raging. This near historic flooding season follows last summer's drought and a very dry winter. As these wide pendulum swings in climate and weather are likely going to be our new normal, we must be ready at River Bend to adapt and do our best to continue to care for our natural resources.

I'm proud of the work River Bend staff, volunteers, and supporters are doing to step up to meet these new challenges by leveraging new resources to care for what we have while training our next generation of environmental stewards who'll care for River Bend when we're gone. Together, we've secured over a half million dollars in grants in the last few months to provide environmental education and job training opportunities for folks wishing to pursue careers in conservation. These youth and young adults will be providing invaluable work caring for River Bend's natural resources while they're meeting their conservation career goals. At the same time, we received additional grants-in-service to host 9 full-time AmeriCorps Climate Impact Corps members at River Bend. These Climate Impact Corps members work full-time at River Bend for anywhere between 3 and 11

months, enhancing our work in delivering educational programs and caring for the nature center.

While we've been very successful in leveraging these resources, there's always more work to do and we'll continue to need your help as members, volunteers, and donors to meet today's challenges head on. In the weeks ahead, I have a few specific requests on how you can help in our work:

1. Please consider joining River Bend's board of directors. We're electing new members at our annual meeting on July 25th. Please reach out to me if you want to learn more.
2. We have increased volunteer needs to do flood cleanup and trail repairs. Please reach out to Randy at [Mcmeekin@rbnc.org](mailto:Mcmeekin@rbnc.org) to volunteer
3. Please spread the word about our the full-time AmeriCorps positions we're recruiting among your network (see the article on page 5)
4. Please join us at our annual Ramble fundraiser and celebration on August 10th to help us meet our annual fundraising goals (see the invitation below)

I hope to see you at River Bend soon!

Brad Bourn, Executive Director - [bourn@rbnc.org](mailto:bourn@rbnc.org)

## Building Community through Nature Fundraiser

August 10, 2024 | 4:30 pm

The Inn at Shattuck  
1000 Shumway Ave  
Faribault, MN 55021

RSVP or donate  
by August 2nd  
[www.rbnc.org/ramble](http://www.rbnc.org/ramble)

### Ramble Sponsors

Dr. Richard & Nancie Huston | Dr. Karen & Simon Zeller



# Business Members

## Star Members

Faribault Rotary Youth Services, Inc.



## Wellness Members



## Founder Members

Faribault Flyers Bike & Ski Club



## Patron Members

Faribault Area Retired Educators . Mercury Minnesota  
Schroder Concessions . Sertoma Club of Faribault



## Advocate Members

Anderka Construction . Community Co-op . Donahue's Greenhouse . Erickson's Furniture  
Faribault Animal Center . Faribault Rental Equipment, Inc. . Faribault Transportation Co.  
Faribo Sno-Go Club . Frandsen Bank & Trust . Glenn's Service & Towing . HomeTown Credit Union  
Mill Town Cycles . Quality Appliance . Tom's Lock & Key



**Thank you business members for your support!**

## Enroll in River Bend's Business Wellness Membership

River Bend Nature Center's wellness program can be an essential part of helping your employees live a healthy life. When you join our wellness program today, your employees will receive membership perks and more! Contact Brad Bourn (bourn@rbnc.org) or Katy Anderegg (anderegg@rbnc.org) to discuss perks and enrollment.

	Bluebird	Heron	Owl
Small Employer (0-10 employees)	\$500	\$1000	\$2000
Medium Employer (11-49 employees)	\$1500	\$2500	\$3500
Large Employer (50-99 employees)	\$3000	\$4000	\$5000
Regional Employer (100+ employees or franchises, etc.)	Contact us to discuss pricing and benefits	Contact us to discuss pricing and benefits	Contact us to discuss pricing and benefits

# Conservation Corner

*Brittany Smith, Associate Director of Environmental Stewardship*

## AmeriCorps members serving with Climate Impact Corps

This past year, River Bend has been fortunate to host 5 AmeriCorps members serving with Climate Impact Corps. These members spent their service leading environmental education programs, removing invasive species, helping with native plantings, and engaging the community. River Bend's current members wanted to share what their favorite part about serving at River Bend was.

*"I love working with the volunteers. You meet such interesting people. Knowing that they choose to give their time and energy to something they care about just for the sake of doing good is so encouraging and motivating." -Randy*

*"I enjoy utilizing prior skills like filmmaking, in my current term of service." -Caitlin*

*"I have enjoyed many aspects of my AmeriCorps service at River Bend but my most enjoyable experiences have been working with my colleagues on many enjoyable and important projects involving environment science and climate change resilience." - Dennis*

*"I enjoyed getting to know nature with the community and developing a passion for bettering our Minnesota's land." - Julia*

River Bend is fortunate to have been selected to be a host site for the 2024-2025 service terms and applications are open. If you, or someone you know is looking for an opportunity to make a difference see below for more information.

### **Be a force for nature in MN with Climate Impact Corps.**

Average annual temperatures in Minnesota are rising faster

than both the national and global average. As more communities feel the effects of climate change, Climate Impact Corps is training people to help support local sustainability solutions.

River Bend Nature Center is looking for 3 Climate Impact Project Coordinators. As part of Climate Impact Corps, members join a movement to support Minnesota's Climate Action Framework and help build climate-resilient communities.

Project Coordinators will lead environmental education programs for the more than 10,000 students that visit River Bend annually, be part of area tabling events to engage with the community, and care for the 743 acres of natural area through natural resource management activities and trail management.

Full-time positions are available. Members commit to serving 40 hours a week with opportunities beginning in August. Give your time as a Climate Impact Corps Member & receive a scalable perks package based on your time commitment:

40 hours/week perks:

- A stipend of \$1,100 paid every two weeks
- Individual health insurance (monthly premium 100% paid)
- Up to \$7,395 for tuition or student loans
- Child care assistance – Based on family size and income

Learn more at [ampact.us/environment](http://ampact.us/environment).

Questions? Contact [join@ampact.us](mailto:join@ampact.us)

**River Bend Bounty in partnership with Paradise Center for the Arts (For more information & to register, call PCA)**



# River Bend Bounty



*Molly Dulka, Associate Director Programs and Engagement*

## Packed with Summer Programs!

River Bend is a really busy place this summer and into the school year! River Bend hosted and taught a full Minnesota Master Naturalist adult course in June and the group had a fun time learning about the Big Woods, Big Rivers Biome. Julia, Dan, Randy, and Caitlin, four AmeriCorps members serving at River Bend, are now Minnesota Master Naturalists! AmeriCorps member Dennis and director of programs Molly co-taught the course.

Now, our school aged summer camps are underway, as well as numerous public programs. There are a few spots left in our July camps. We have lunch & learn programs, little sprouts programs, and story times scheduled for the public to attend. Then, also check out our program partnerships with Northfield Community Education, The Paradise Center for the Arts & Family Paint with Kate Langlais for more family fun this summer. In addition to our summer camps and public programs, numerous groups are booking field trips and Director of Stewardship Brittany is leading our summer Outdoor Diversity Youth employment program.

The summer youth employment program is designed to create a more equitable and inclusive community by

opening up a career path program for underrepresented youth in the field of conservation work. For nine weeks high school students are paid to participate in the program where they gain knowledge and experience with conservation and restoration work. We have 17 youth this summer, triple last year's numbers!

We would like to take a moment and thank the five AmeriCorps members that have served with River Bend since August 2023, as their last day is in mid-July. Randy McMeeken, Julia Gates, Dennis Wilcox, Dan Heinen, and Caitlin Juvland have worked on numerous natural resource projects, helped with special events, and taught programs throughout their service. Dan and Caitlin will be serving a second year with River Bend, and we wish all of them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

You also might see more new faces at River Bend this summer, as there are three summer AmeriCorps members serving at River Bend through the end of August. Io Harris, Lucy Paschke, and Andrew Fleick are continuing to support programs and natural resource work for the summer while gaining experience and an education award! Please welcome them to River Bend!

Left: Outdoor Diversity Youth Employment Group

Right: AmeriCorps Members: Dan, Julia, Dan & Caitlin



# Naturalist Notebook

*Matt Johnson, Environmental Stewardship Coordinator*

## Summer's Unwelcome Companion

If you're reading this and you've spent any time outside this summer, there's a good chance you've already been bitten by a mosquito. Minnesota's "unofficial state bird" has been noticeably present this year. Weather conditions over the past few months have led to ideal conditions for mosquitoes to flourish. And while mosquitoes are seen as a nuisance to many of us, they are actually quite fascinating to observe and study. One of the most interesting things about mosquitoes is how specialized they are. We often think of mosquitoes as a singular insect, however there are actually around 50 different species found in Minnesota. Around half of these species are of no bother to us, as they prey on a variety of other animals. Some species prefer only amphibians, while others only bite birds. This specialization is a product of long-term evolution.

Amazingly, mosquitos have been evolving for hundreds of millions of years!

Mosquitoes also have quite an interesting life cycle. All mosquitos are born from an egg that is found on or near water. Some species, such as *Aedes vexans*, lay eggs on land in anticipation of rainwater or flooding. Once the eggs come in contact with water, they usually

*hatch within a few days. Once hatched, the emerged larva spends around a week in water. If you've ever seen mosquito larvae, you will recognize the familiar "wiggle" as they move about. The next stage of the life cycle is the pupal stage. Pupa float on top of the water until finally an adult mosquito emerges.*

So why do mosquitoes bite us? The answer revolves around reproduction. Surprisingly, many mosquitoes will actually visit plants to acquire nectar as their primary source of food. It is only in preparation of laying hundreds of eggs, will the female mosquito require a blood meal. If you are bitten by a mosquito, you are simply the victim of bad timing.

Many of us enjoy spending time on or near the water during our summers. Fortunately for us, the state of Minnesota is known for its abundant water. However, all of that water ultimately leads to more mosquitoes. Thankfully, there are some simple practices we can employ to keep them from ruining our time outside. Wearing light colored clothing, using bug spray that includes DEET, and avoiding early morning and late evening peak activity hours, can help us continue to enjoy our summers.





**River Bend**  
NATURE CENTER

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

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Faribault, MN  
Permit #35

**Return Service Requested**

## **Save the Date!**

### *Annual Meeting & Pancake Dinner*

**Thursday, July 25, 2024  
5:00-8:00 pm**

**River Bend will release its 2023 Annual Report,  
members will elect candidates to the  
Board of Directors**

**A Pancake Dinner will be provided.  
Donations Appreciated**

