

NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION OF WISCONSIN

# 2026 FIELD TRIP GUIDEBOOK

Celebrating 40 Years of Conservation



**280**  
AMAZING  
ADVENTURES

REGISTER STARTING NOON APRIL 8



Join expert naturalists for up-close experiences  
of our state's natural wonders.

Register online at

[WISCONSERVATION.ORG](http://WISCONSERVATION.ORG)

Member registration opens April 8 at noon.

## KEEP IN MIND...

- ▶ Trips are non-refundable if you cancel your reservation.
- ▶ Trips run rain or shine.
- ▶ Online registration only (not by phone, email or mail).
- ▶ Limit of 4 total trips per person from April 8-12. If someone else registers you for a trip, that counts towards your limit. Waitlisted trips do NOT count towards your limit.
- ▶ Starting April 13, register for unlimited additional trips.
- ▶ Please only register for 1 paddle trip per person prior to April 13.
- ▶ No dogs are allowed on trips.
- ▶ Your membership and Field Trip registration supports conservation in Wisconsin!



# SYMBOLS



**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE** These trips have accessible parking spaces and bathrooms (unless noted), no stairs, and ADA compliant surfaces. Contact us for specifics.



**FAMILY FRIENDLY** Young naturalists welcome! Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Recommended age and youth fees (\$10 discount) are listed.



**SNAs** State Natural Areas (SNAs) protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native natural communities. Explore these precious gems.



**BIRDS** Get out and birdwatch with some experts and learn about bird conservation and research.



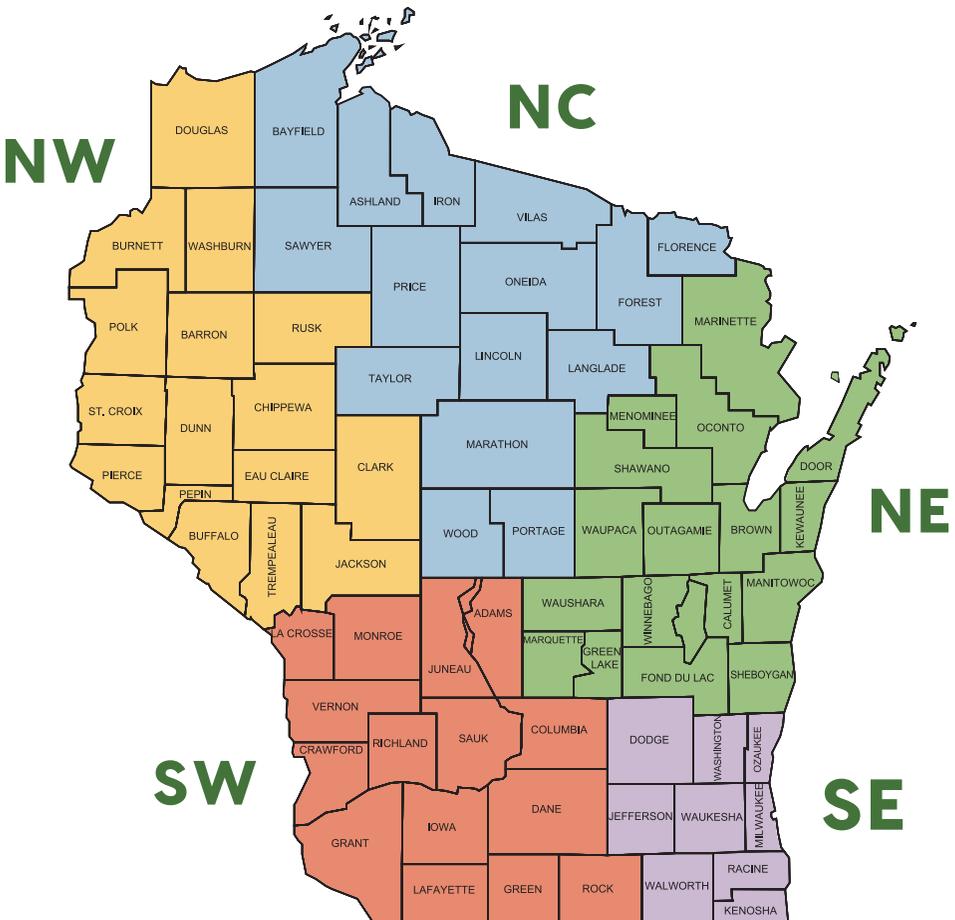
**CITIZEN SCIENCE** Learn how you can contribute to important scientific research by sharing your observations.



**OUR IMPACT** See firsthand the sites, species, and conservation projects that have benefited from NRF support.

# NEW! REGIONS

Not familiar with Wisconsin counties? Look for region indicators in parentheses after each Field Trip location. Example: Madison, Dane Co. (SW)



# 2026 FIELD TRIP INDEX

## TOPIC

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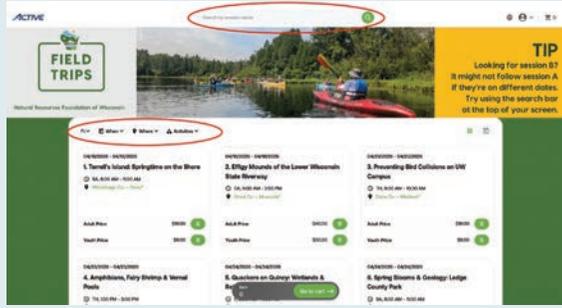
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# ONLINE REGISTRATION TIPS

## Our registration site has a new look!

Search bar, calendar view, activity filters, and new tile layout make for smoother navigation.



*Trips are listed chronologically. So, if session B is on a later date it may not follow A in the list. Try using the search bar at the top of the screen.*

Trips are reserved the moment you add them to your cart. No need to rush entering contact info during checkout.

Registration will require the birth dates of your guests. Don't know them? Just enter 01/01/2000 for adults, and something close to accurate for children.

If a trip is full, register for the waiting list at no cost. We will email you if spaces open.

**Find more tips & videos: [WisConservation.org/Field-Trips-Registration](https://www.wisconservation.org/Field-Trips-Registration)**

## FIELD TRIP RULES

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- ▶ Starting April 13, register for unlimited additional trips, as space allows.
- ▶ Please only register for 1 paddle trip per person prior to April 13.
- ▶ Please refrain from registering for trips you have already attended. This gives others the chance to experience and learn too.
- ▶ No dogs are allowed on trips.

## FIELD TRIP POLICIES

- ▶ **Youth pricing** is \$10 less than adult prices and is listed for trips that are Family Friendly. NEW! People ages 25 and under are invited to use our youth pricing.
- ▶ **Financial assistance:** In an effort to make Field Trips affordable for all, we offer financial assistance for registration fees. Funds are limited. Please apply prior to April 1. Details and application here: [WisConservation.org/Field-Trips-Financial-Assistance](https://www.wisconservation.org/Field-Trips-Financial-Assistance)

For FAQs, registration tips & video tutorials, visit [WISCONSERVATION.ORG/FIELD-TRIPS](https://www.wisconservation.org/field-trips)

QUESTIONS?

Email: [FieldTrips@WisConservation.org](mailto:FieldTrips@WisConservation.org)

Phone: 608-409-3123





# HOW TO REGISTER

## 1 CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE

Look above your name on the mailing label of this booklet. If your renewal date is before April 9, please renew now at [WisConservation.org](http://WisConservation.org)

## 2 FIND YOUR MEMBER ACCESS CODE

Look on the back cover of this booklet.

## 3 REVIEW FIELD TRIP RULES (AT LEFT)

## 4 GATHER YOUR DETAILS

Have the names, contact information, and birthdays of all members in your party handy for when you register.

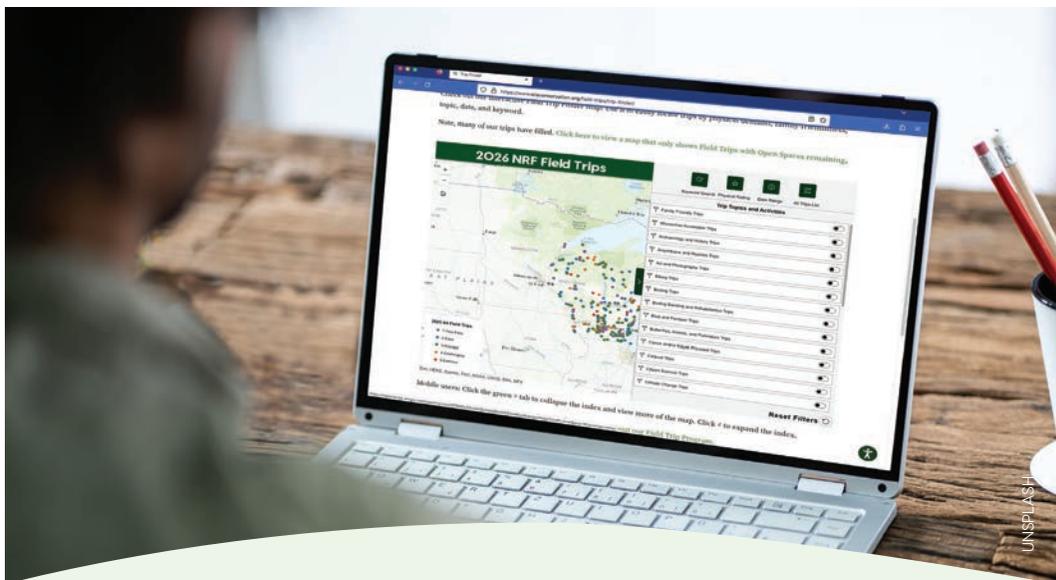
Some trips fill quickly, so have several back-up choices in mind.

## 5 GET YOUR ACTIVE.COM PASSWORD HANDY

- ▶ **Registered before?** If you registered online for NRF Field Trips since 2018 you created a login password with our registration site Active.com. Forgot it? Reset your Active password prior to registration day here: [WisConservation.org/Field-Trips/Password-Reset](http://WisConservation.org/Field-Trips/Password-Reset)
- ▶ **First time registering online?** No Active.com password is needed; you will create one during registration. There is no pre-making an account prior to your first online registration.

## 6 REGISTER AT WISCONSERVATION.ORG

**Registration starts April 8 at noon.** No phone or email registrations accepted.



UNSPLOSH

## USE ONLINE TOOLS TO FIND YOUR PERFECT TRIPS

Use our interactive map tool to easily locate Field Trips by physical demand, family-friendliness, topics, date range, or keyword search. Find a digital copy of the guidebook too!



[WisConservation.org/Field-Trip-Finder](https://WisConservation.org/Field-Trip-Finder)

## ACCESSIBILITY

**NEW!** We've gathered details on the amount of standing during a trip and seating options along the trail. Contact us for details about a particular trip.



Trips with this symbol have accessible parking spaces and bathrooms (unless noted), no stairs, and ADA compliant surfaces. Find more specific details for these trips on our website (link below).

**Use an all-terrain outdoor wheelchair!**  
(pictured right)

- ▶ Outdoor wheelchair available on-site for Field Trips: 104, 265, 276. Contact us for reservation information.
- ▶ **Access Ability Wisconsin (AAW)** has all-terrain outdoor wheelchairs available to reserve and use free of charge at several locations throughout the state.

Don't hesitate to contact us for details on using wheelchairs, walkers, or outdoor wheelchairs on a particular Field Trip.



RIVEREDGE NATURE CENTER

Learn more: [WisConservation.org/Field-Trips-Accessibility](https://WisConservation.org/Field-Trips-Accessibility)

MEMBER REGISTRATION OPENS AT NOON APRIL 8 AT  
WISCONSERVATION.ORG

## CARPOOL OR BUS TO YOUR FIELD TRIP

**Carpool and win an NRF t-shirt!** An organized carpool program will not be offered this year. We value the benefits of driving together and will continue to run a monthly t-shirt drawing when you drive to a Field Trip with someone outside your household. Learn more and enter the t-shirt drawing here:

**[WisConservation.org/Field-Trips-Carpool](https://www.wisconservation.org/Field-Trips-Carpool)**

Going solo and need a ride? Contact us a few weeks prior to your Field Trip and we will try to connect you with others who may be attending from your area.

**Take a bus!** These trips have starting points located within ½ mile of a public bus route: 16, 28, 38, 44, 74, 123, 128, 130, 141, 158, 160, 181, 184, 186, 188, 196, 226, 227, 231, 247, 250, 259, 268, 278.



## SHARE YOUR FIELD TRIP STORY

What was your favorite moment on an NRF Field Trip? To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, we want to hear your special memories. Share your story and help inspire others to explore, love, and protect nature in Wisconsin.

**[WisConservation.org/Share-Your-Story](https://www.wisconservation.org/Share-Your-Story)**





STEVEN W. LEPAK

### 1. Terrell's Island: Springtime on the Shore

Behold spectacular views of migrating birds! Learn about wetland ecology and local history as we venture onto two portions of what was once a complete breakwall. Spy terns, egrets, herons, waterfowl, cormorants, pelicans, and other wildlife on the southern shore of Lake Butte des Morts. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Shannon Davis-Foust, Anita Carpenter & Holly Hoitink

**Trail:** 3 miles, mostly flat, potholes, muddy

**Saturday, April 18, 8-11AM**

Omro, Winnebago Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 2. Effigy Mounds of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway

Journey on wooded trails along the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway to see well-preserved earthworks from the Late Woodland Tradition. Although thousands of these effigy mounds were built on the Wisconsin landscape between 700 and 1200 A.D., few remain today. Learn about Wisconsin mound types and visit several premier sites in Richland County. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Mark Cupp & Don Greenwood

**Trail:** 2 miles, uneven, one hill

**Saturday, April 18, 9AM-2PM**

Muscoda, Grant Co. (SW)

Cost: \$40 per person



### 3. Preventing Bird Collisions on UW Campus

Join local experts for a walking tour visiting four buildings on the UW-Madison campus that feature bird-friendly windows and design. These buildings are a mix of bird-safe glass as well as retrofits to reduce bird deaths that result from window collisions. Learn about the Bird Collision Corps, and what bird-friendly changes you can make at home. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Brenna Marsicek & Bryan Lenz

**Trail:** 1 mile, flat, paved, mowed grass

**Thursday, April 23, 9-10:30AM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



STEVEN THOMPSON

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### 4. Amphibians, Fairy Shrimp & Vernal Pools

*Challenging: hills, off-trail.* Assist amphibian researchers in surveying vernal pools for salamanders, frogs, and fairy shrimp! These small ponds are only present in the springtime but they contain a tremendous amount of biodiversity. Learn more about these unique ecosystems and the creatures that inhabit them. Fundraiser for WI Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Fund. Ages 8+ Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Rori Paloski, Madison Wikston, John Peterson & Rich Staffen

**Trail:** 2 miles, off-trail, hills, gravel, option for wading

**Thursday, April 23, 1-3PM**

Baraboo, Sauk Co. (SW)

Cost: \$33 adult, \$23 youth, per person



### 5. Quackers on Quincy: Wetlands & Returning Birdlife

Explore the vast network of sedge meadows and waterways of Quincy Bluff SNA in search of returning spring bird life. Learn about recent wetland restorations, observe a variety of marsh birds, and search for furbearers that call this area home. No bathrooms. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Tim Holme & Shannon Haley

**Trail:** 3 miles, flat, mostly mowed grass

**Friday, April 24, 8-11AM**

Adams, Adams Co. (SW)

Cost: \$23 per person



### 6. Spring Blooms & Geology: Ledge County Park

*Challenging: steep stone stairs.* Hike the Niagara Escarpment in early spring to experience stunning geologic formations of "the Ledge" during its most beautiful display of exquisite spring flora. Travel along, inside, and below the escarpment in search of budding spring wildflowers while unraveling the history of this unique landscape spanning millions of years. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Chelsy Herring & Jenny Kilburg

**Trail:** 2.5 miles, very steep stone stairway

**Friday, April 24, 8-11AM**

Horicon, Dodge Co. (SE)

Cost: \$33 per person





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### 7. Gems of Green County

*Note: one steep hill.* Experience the majestic old-growth forest of Abraham's Woods SNA, known for its huge trees and spectacular display of spring wildflowers. Then drive to Muralt Bluff Prairie SNA and hike up to a sweeping vista to enjoy springtime plants and songbirds. Blooming trilliums and pasque flowers await! No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Ryan O'Connor & Amy Staffen

**Trail:** 1 mile, short off-trail climb up steep hill

**Friday, April 24, 9AM-12PM**

Albany, Green Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 8. Birding the Cedarburg Bog: Canoe & Hike

A true wilderness experience only 20 miles from a major metropolis! The Cedarburg Bog is a designated Important Bird Area, SNA, and a top birding hotspot in Ozaukee County. Hike along bog boardwalks and wooded trails awash in spring blooms. Then canoe on Mud Lake in search of uncommon birds, including bitterns, rails, waterthrush, warblers, and flycatchers. Canoes provided. Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 24

**Leaders:** John O'Donnell, Nathaniel Reinartz, Alex Mann, Steve & Rachal Holzman

**Paddle:** 1.25 miles, easy; **Hike:** 3 miles, uneven, forest trail

**Saturday, April 25, 6:30-10:30AM**

Saukville, Ozaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$55 per person\*



ANDY RAUPP

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### 9. Reptiles & Amphibians: Kettle Moraine

Get hands on exploring the Kellings Lakes as we wade in shallow water and hike prairies in search of rare snakes, salamanders, and frogs. See how biologists capture, ID, and monitor various amphibians and reptiles and learn about their ecology and habitats. Family-friendly fun! No bathrooms. Fundraiser for WI Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Fund. Ages 7+ Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Richard Staffen, Rori Paloski & Jeff Lorch

**Trail:** 1 mile, a few moderate hills, no seating

**Saturday, April 25, 10AM-1PM**

Dundee, Sheboygan Co. (NE)

Cost: \$33 adult, \$23 youth, per person



### 10. Northwoods Birding Weekend

Our first multi-day offering! Join us May 1-3 at Trees for Tomorrow on a weekend-long birding adventure for beginner and intermediate birders. Explore unique habitats in search of common and rare birds during spring migration. Enjoy canoe outings to observe waterbirds. Learn how to identify warblers, raptors, waterfowl, and other species that call the Northwoods home. This is a special opportunity to improve your birding skills and learn about Northwoods birds while hiking through some of Wisconsin's finest northern birding locations. Price includes dormitory-style lodging, food, canoes, and transport during the trip. Limit: 18

**Leaders:** Todd Starling, Frank Schroyer & Bethany Heft

**Paddle:** 2 miles, calm; **Hike:** 3 miles/day, gradual slopes, rocky, exposed roots

**Friday, May 1, 12PM through Sunday, May 3, 1PM**

Eagle River, Vilas Co. (NC)

Cost: \$433 per person



\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible



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### 11. Springtime Waterfowl Paddle

Enjoy a peaceful morning paddle through Poygan Marsh Wildlife Area. Watch for ducks, geese, and other waterfowl returning to the wetlands. Along the route, learn about ongoing wild rice restoration and efforts to improve habitat for migrating birds and other wetland species. No bathrooms. \*You must bring your own canoe/kayak. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Miah Peterson & Ben Sedinger

**Paddle:** 5 miles, calm water, shallow marsh

**Saturday, May 2, 6-10AM**

Poy Sippi, Waushara Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 12. Horicon Marsh Birding Blitz

A birder's wonderland! Venture through forests, wetlands, and grasslands of Horicon Marsh to spot waterfowl, raptors, warblers, and more. There are species to delight everyone in this nationally recognized birding paradise where 300+ species have been sighted. Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Liz Herzmann & Jeff Bahls

**Trail:** 3 miles, mostly level, small hills

**Sunday, May 3, 6:30AM-2PM**

Horicon, Dodge Co. (SE)

Cost: \$75 per person\*



### 13. A Shiitake Log of One's Own

Dive into the fascinating world of fungi! This shiitake log inoculation workshop will examine the mushroom life cycle, at-home growing methods, cultivating mushrooms in your yard, and care tips for inoculated logs. Get hands on with power tools to drill holes in oak logs, inject mushroom spawn, and seal the logs with wax. Take home an inoculated shiitake mushroom log of your very own. Ages 10+ Limit: 25

**Leader:** Matt Neff

**Trail:** 0.25 mile, flat, paved

Choose one session to attend:

**13-A. Sunday, May 3, 9AM-2PM**

**13-B. Sunday, May 17, 9AM-2PM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$68 adult, \$58 youth, per person



### 14. Spring Ephemerals & Edible Plants in an Urban Gem

Discover a remnant southern hardwood forest in Milwaukee: the Forest Exploration Center! This 60-acre hidden gem harbors more than 50 different plant species, including many spring ephemerals. Hear the history of the land and explore the cultural and ecological significance of local plants. Learn (and taste!) the basics of sustainable foraging. No bathrooms. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Emma Czarnecki & Julie Hein

**Trail:** 2 miles, crushed gravel

**Sunday, May 3, 9:30-11:30AM**

Wauwatosa, Milwaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 15. Tour the Tri-County Recycling Facility

*Note: many stairs.* Where do recyclables go when they leave your curb? Tour a recycling facility to find out! See firsthand how 16% of Wisconsin's recycled materials are processed, from unloading a recycling truck to material being sorted, baled, and shipped back to market.

Ages 14+ Limit: 19

**Leader:** Jordan Hiller

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, many flights of stairs

Choose one session to attend:

**15-A. Monday, May 4, 8:30-11AM**

**15-B. Monday, June 8, 8:30-11AM**

Appleton, Outagamie Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible





ANDY RAUPP

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### 16. Sunset, Sights & Sounds at Pheasant Branch Conservancy

*Challenging: steep, hummocky.* Hike to the top of Frederick's Hill for a commanding sunset view of the prairie, marsh, and watershed below. Watch birds and wildlife circling freshwater springs and blooming grasslands. Listen to the serenade of snipes and woodcocks in the dusky twilight. Learn history, restoration, and management of this cherished urban oasis. No bathrooms. Limit: 16

**Leaders:** Tom Bernthal & Patricia Trochlell

**Trail:** 3 miles, moderately steep, gravel, hummocks

**Wednesday, May 6, 5:30-8:30PM**

Middleton, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 17. Bus Tour: Bayfield County Forests

Enjoy springtime in the Northwoods on a bus tour showcasing Bayfield County's sustainable forests. Explore six scenic sites that feature timber harvests, habitat restoration, and trail integration. Hear from professional foresters and partners about how their work supports both economic and ecological goals while also providing recreation to the community. Bonus: one site has waterfalls! Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Catie Geib & Sara Hudson

**Trail:** Multiple 0.5-mile hikes, some uneven ground

**Thursday, May 7, 1-5PM**

Washburn, Bayfield Co. (NC)

Cost: \$33 per person



TOM SCHULTZ

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### 18. Avon Bottoms: Migration Madness

Caravan to the wetlands, grasslands and forests of Avon Bottoms State Natural Area during peak bird migration! We'll search for warblers, tanagers, thrushes, flycatchers and other migrants and discuss the habitat restoration of this site. Find out why this site is a designated Wisconsin Important Bird Area and Wetland Gem. Complimentary lunch provided. No bathrooms. Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Mike Foy, Brad Paulson, Quentin Yoerger & Nancy McGill

**Trail:** 3 miles, paved, packed dirt

**Friday, May 8, 7AM-12PM**

Brodhead, Rock Co. (SW)

Cost: \$38 per person



### 19. Biking Tour of Eau Claire Area Grant Projects

*Challenging: some steep hills.* Pedal along the Chippewa and Eau Claire rivers with stops to visit a variety of parks located along this stellar paved bike trail system. Enjoy scenic beauty and learn about the grants that helped create and support these cherished green spaces, such as the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. Limit: 12

**Leaders:** Sarah Brenner, Gina Keenan & Grace Mikelsons

**Trail:** 17-mile bike ride, some hills

**Friday, May 8, 1-5PM**

Eau Claire, Eau Claire Co. (NW)

Cost: \$18 per person



BETSY MATZINGER

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## 20. Shinrin-Yoku (Forest Bathing) and Japanese Tea Ceremony

Rejuvenate your energy and attitude by practicing Forest Bathing, or Shinrin-Yoku as it's known in Japan. Sit by a pond or walk slowly through fields and woods awash in spring blooms, using all your senses to appreciate the healing qualities of nature. Enjoy a traditional Japanese tea ceremony and find community with new friends sharing a bit of food around a fire as dusk arrives. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 10

**Leaders:** Mary Binkley & Sumire Kawamoto Williams

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, flat, easy

Choose one session to attend:

**20-A. Friday, May 8, 1-5:30PM**

**20-B. Saturday, May 9, 1-5:30PM**

Waunakee, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$50 per person\*

## 21. Spring Frog Chorus at The Ridges Sanctuary

Twilight inspires a frog chorus! Enjoy a short indoor program to learn about Door County frogs and their life cycles, adaptations and sounds. Then hike out into The Ridges Sanctuary to listen and identify frogs. Ages 10+ Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Jane Whitney, Julie Knox & Katie Krouse

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, boardwalks, sandy beach

**Friday, May 8, 7-9PM**

Baileys Harbor, Door Co. (NE)

Cost: \$23 adult, \$13 youth, per person



CHASE MATZINGER

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## 22. Train Ride & Birds: Tiffany Wildlife Area

All aboard! Ride on an antique open-air train into the most remote areas of the Tiffany Wildlife Area. Enjoy stops with short hikes into floodplain forests, wetlands, savannas, and prairies. We may see up to 75 bird species during peak migration. Fundraiser for Lower Chippewa River Basin Conservation Fund. Limit: 60

**Leaders:** Dave Linderud, Steve Betchkal & Anne Geraghty

**Trail:** 0.75 mile, short hikes, some hills

**Saturday, May 9, 7AM-12PM**

Durand, Buffalo Co. (NW)

Cost: \$50 per person\*



## 23. Birding Fair Meadows SNA

Enjoy a spring walk through diverse habitats of oak woods, sedge meadows, and prairies. From bald eagles to warblers – birds will be singing, feeding, or resting in the trees, shrubs, grasses, or ponds. Spy both migrant and resident birds, and beautiful blooming wildflowers to boot! Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Penny & Gary Shackelford

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, grass, limited shade

**Saturday, May 9, 8-10AM**

Milton, Rock Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



## 24. Paddling a Restored Wetland on Private Land

Paddle through an amazing transformation! See firsthand how 400 acres were restored from cropland to wetland using the Wetland Reserve Easement Program and expertise from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited partners. Spy migrating and resident waterfowl and marsh birds. Some prior paddling experience required. No bathrooms. \*You must bring your own canoe/kayak. Limit: 16

**Leaders:** Tally Hamilton, Brendan Woodall & Brian Hornung

**Paddle:** 3 miles, flat water

**Saturday, May 9, 9AM-12PM**

Portage, Columbia Co. (SW)

Cost: \$20 per person

\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible





SHELLY TORKELSON

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### 25. Ice Age Trail Hike: Mekan Springs SNA

Enjoy a springtime hike along the Ice Age Trail as it meanders through the headwaters of the Mekan River. Experience the diverse flora and fauna that thrive near the picturesque bubbling springs, and learn a little history of the area and the unique trail complex.

No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Diane Humphrey Lueck

**Trail:** 3.7 miles, steep, rocky, rustic footpath

**Saturday, May 9, 9:30AM-12PM**

Coloma, Waushara Co. (NE)

Cost: \$28 per person



### 26. Mindfulness in Nature: Driftless Connection

Create a deep connection with the Driftless! Immerse yourself in a guided Forest Bathing experience to reawaken your senses, deeply connect to the land, and satisfy your sense of BE-longing. Release stress and re-focus from fast-paced “doing” in the bucolic setting of Wild Oaks Preserve. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Colleen Robinson

**Trail:** 2 miles, mowed, dirt trails

**Saturday, May 9, 12-3:30PM**

Belleville, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$28 per person

### 27. Incredible Invertebrates: Treehaven Field Station

Despite not having a spine, invertebrates are the backbone of ecosystems and make up over 90% of life on Earth. They include insects, arachnids, worms, crustaceans and mollusks, and their populations are in trouble. Discover their unique adaptations as we catch and release invertebrates in a variety of habitats. Learn how to support invertebrate conservation by documenting sightings and making small lifestyle changes. Ages 6+

Limit: 30

**Leader:** Fox Corvus

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, mostly flat, sandy, some hills

**Saturday, May 9, 1-4PM**

Tomahawk, Lincoln Co. (NC)

Cost: \$28 adult, \$18 youth, per person



ERIC PRESTON

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### 28. Woodcock Watch at The Ridges Sanctuary

Experience firsthand what Aldo Leopold described as the “sky dance.” After a short indoor presentation to learn about woodcocks, head into the field to watch their ethereal courtship dance in the twilight. Ages 10+

Limit: 14

**Leaders:** Katie Krouse, Jane Whitney &

Julie Knox

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, established dirt trail

**Saturday, May 9, 7-8:30PM**

Baileys Harbor, Door Co. (NE)

Cost: \$23 adult, \$13 child, per person



### 29. Around Mauthe Lake on the Tamarack Circle Trail

Originally named “Moon Lake,” Mauthe Lake is the heart of the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Northern Unit. Enjoy spring blooms and migratory birds as we hike the various habitats encircling this beautiful lake. Get to know two eBird hotspots and a unique variety of wildflowers and uncommon plants. Ages 10+

Limit: 12

**Leader:** Douglas Stadler

**Trail:** 2 miles, crushed limestone, paved, dirt

**Sunday, May 10, 8:15-11AM**

New Prospect, Fond du Lac Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



### 30. Spring Ephemerals: Martin’s Woods SNA

Springtime is alive with color, both on land and in the sky! Enjoy hands-on learning from identifying ephemeral wildflowers, grasses, and sedges to spring warbler and bumble bee ID. Enjoy a deeper understanding of the plants, birds, and pollinators that make oak woodlands so unique. No bathrooms. Limit: 18

**Leaders:** Helen Holtz & Aaron Feggstad

**Trail:** 2 miles, dirt trail, mild slopes

**Sunday, May 10, 10AM-12PM**

Big Bend, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$28 per person





DAVID MARVIN

33

### 31. Evening Birding: Zeloski Marsh

As daylight fades, the wetland comes alive with bird activity and song! Enjoy an easy stroll through a charming section of the Lake Mills Wildlife Area to explore the marsh's diverse habitats, observe bird behaviors, and revel in the peaceful beauty of a spring evening outdoors. No bathrooms. Limit: 15

**Leader:** Miah Peterson

**Trail:** 2 miles, crushed rock, no seating

**Sunday, May 10, 5-8PM**

Lake Mills, Jefferson Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person 

### 32. The Wonders of Wyalusing!

*Note: some steep stairs.* Located at the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers, Wyalusing State Park boasts amazing cliff-top views. Spy birds (peak migration!) as we walk along bluffs overlooking expansive floodplain forests. Learn about threats facing the park and how partners work together to resolve them. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Mike Mossman & Yoyi Steele

**Trail:** 2 miles, steep steps, some hills

**Tuesday, May 12, 8-11AM**

Prairie du Chien, Grant Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person  

### 33. Waterfalls of Northern Wisconsin Adventure

*Challenging: steep hills and stairs.* The Lake Superior basin is home to some of Wisconsin's most spectacular waterfalls. Travel by van to three geology-rich destinations: Interstate Falls, Superior Falls, and Potato River Falls. Then, hike to Corrigan's Lookout for picturesque views of Upson Lake, the Gogebic Range, and Lake Superior. This full-day excursion provides plenty of time to explore each area's fascinating geology and natural features. Limit: 17

**Leaders:** Licia Johnson & Mike Porter

**Trail:** 3 miles, hills, stairs, rocky, exposed roots

**Wednesday, May 13, 8AM-5PM**

Manitowish Waters, Iron Co. (NC)

Cost: \$60 per person



JANICE SELFRIDGE

34

### 34. Birding Bonanza (Year 11): Waukesha & Jefferson Counties

New route! Join three expert guides on a 12-hour caravan tour to the great birding haunts of Waukesha and Jefferson counties. We'll maximize our species total with stops at Retzer Nature Center, Vernon Marsh, Fox River Park, Southern Kettle Moraine SF, Scuppernong Springs, Zeloski Marsh, Rose Lake SNA, Lake Koshkonong, and Prince's Point SWA. We aim for a high bird-tally (100+) with short hikes into diverse habitats while paying attention to in-the-moment hotspot reports. Breakfast and lunch included. Key fundraiser for the Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 16

**Leaders:** Carl Schwartz & Karen Etter Hale

**Trail:** 3 miles, flat, dirt, paved

**Thursday, May 14, 6AM-6PM**

Waukesha, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$268 per person\*  

### 35. Lower Wisconsin Riverway Wetlands: Paddle & Hike

*Challenging: portages over beaver dams and navigating shallow waters.* Paddle through a river-bottom slough and hike through floodplain forest and recently managed oak barrens, all from the same location! Spy birds including prothonotary warbler, red-shouldered hawk, hooded merganser, lark sparrow, and perhaps cerulean warbler. Visit several natural communities that contribute to its designation as Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. No bathrooms. \*You must bring your own canoe/kayak. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Katie Beilfuss, Mike Mossman,

Travis Anderson & Annie McDonnell

**Paddle:** 2 miles, challenging portage and

**Hike:** 1 mile, off-trail

**Thursday, May 14, 8AM-12PM**

Lone Rock, Richland Co. (SW)

Cost: \$22 per person  

\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible





KATIE BELFUSS

35

### 36. Old Growth: Cathedral Pines & Diamond Roof SNAs

Marvel at two types of old forests while learning about their natural and cultural history. Trek under towering old-growth hemlock and pine forests at Cathedral Pines SNA. Then, caravan to Diamond Roof SNA to enjoy a stunning spring ephemeral display under a canopy of mature hardwoods on a hike to Hiwanka Lakes. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Nicole Shutt, Steve Janke & Nick Gremban

**Trail:** 2.5 miles, some hills, off-trail, exposed rocks

**Thursday, May 14, 9AM-1PM**

Lakewood, Oconto Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 37. Birding Hotspots of Bong

Hike various habitats of Richard Bong State Recreation Area, an Important Bird Area where 267 species have been documented. Explore the fields, woodlands, and grasslands in search of diverse birdlife such as yellow-headed blackbirds, bobolinks, Henslow's sparrows, meadowlarks, migrating warblers, and more. Birders of all levels welcome! Limit: 20

**Leader:** Beth Goepfinger

**Trail:** 2 miles, gravel, dirt, grass

**Friday, May 15, 7-10AM**

Burlington, Kenosha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$28 per person



BRUCE BARTTEL

37

### 38. Former Badger Army Ammunition Plant: Healing of People & Place

Visit Maa Wácačąk (Sacred Earth) to learn about the projects underway to heal the land and people. Hear the history of the land from a Ho-Chunk perspective, through a century of Euro-American settlement, to the development of a massive ammunition plant. Now transformed into an expansive green space, the 7,400-acre Badger Lands are managed by three different landowners with a shared vision. Enjoy a bus tour with stops to learn about geology, natural history, restoration, and future plans. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 34

**Friday, May 15, 8:30AM-12:30PM**

Prairie du Sac, Sauk Co. (SW)

Cost: \$50 per person



**Leaders:** Randy Poelma, Mike Mossman, Curt Meine, Alison Duff & Nancy Frost

**Trail:** Stairs into bus, optional short hikes

### 39. Paddle Tichigan Wildlife Area

Paddle the Fabulous Fox River Water Trail into Tichigan Wildlife Area, the largest and most diverse wildlife property in Racine County. Spot a variety of plants and wildlife and learn how local partnerships restored this cherished waterway. Paddle downriver and loop back.

\*You must bring your own canoe/kayak.

Limit: 10

**Leaders:** Marty Johnson, Ola Kotlarski & Jessica Knackert

**Paddle:** 6 miles

**Friday, May 15, 8:30AM-1PM**

Waterford, Racine Co. (SE)

Cost: \$28 per person



ALEX KASPAR

40

### 40. Dells Off-Trail Trek

*Extreme: very challenging, steep, off-trail.* Take a strenuous, fast-paced power-hike through areas of the Dells of the Wisconsin River SNA not normally accessible to the public. Spectacular gorges, mossy glens, unique geological formations, and scenic river views await as we traverse steep off-trail terrain. Pack a lunch to enjoy atop a sandstone bluff with amazing vistas. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Thomas Meyer

**Trail:** 3 miles, off-trail, rocky, steep

**Friday, May 15, 9AM-1:30PM**

Wisconsin Dells, Adams Co. (SW)

Cost: \$45 per person



### 41. Little Bear Hemlocks SNA: Spring Ephemerals

*Challenging: off-trail, some wet areas.*

Experience this rare remnant of vast forests that historically occupied the northern landscape. Hike under a canopy of towering hemlocks, sugar maples, and white pines with a brilliant tapestry of spring ephemerals and ferns in the understory. No bathrooms.

Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Tim Holme & Shannon Haley

**Trail:** 1 mile, rocky, exposed roots, wet terrain

**Friday, May 15, 9-11AM**

Junction City, Portage Co. (NC)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 42. Scuppernong Springs: Legacy of the Land & People

Nestled within Kettle Moraine State Forest, Scuppernong Springs has an interesting land legacy rooted in its formation by glacial forces, and by the plants, wildlife, and people that followed. Learn about freshwater springs, sand prairie, and savannas touched by Indigenous and industrious peoples. No bathrooms.

Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Peter Duerkop & Cory Peters

**Trail:** 1.8 miles, unpaved, small hills

**Friday, May 15, 9AM-12PM**

Ottawa, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person



UW-MILWAUKEE

45

### 43. Lizard Mound: Effigy Mounds & Cultural Landscape

Tour one of the most well-preserved Native American effigy mound sites in the nation. Lizard Mound contains 28 extant conical, linear, and effigy mounds that represent spiritual and/or animal-like forms. Hear a brief history of the site and its people while traversing through the sacred grounds and learning the significance of each mound shape.

Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Samantha Lindquist & Ricky Kubicek

**Trail:** 1 mile, level, grass, crushed rock

**Friday, May 15, 10AM-12PM**

West Bend, Washington Co. (SE)

Cost: \$28 per person

### 44. Bjorklunden: Wildflowers & Ancient Shorelines

Hike the trails at Bjorklunden, Lawrence University's 425-acre private nature preserve on the shores of Door County. Learn the geology of ancient shorelines, enjoy spring wildflowers and migrating birds, and visit a wind turbine and solar field. Also tour the Boynton Chapel, a stave church built on the property. Limit: 18

**Leaders:** Jane & John Whitney

**Trail:** 2 miles, rustic, uneven, rocky, sand, hills

**Friday, May 15, 1-3:30PM**

Baileys Harbor, Door Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 45. Tour UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences

Did you know UW-Milwaukee has the first graduate school in the nation dedicated solely to the study of freshwater? Take a walking tour to see groundbreaking research projects conducted in these state-of-the-art facilities in Milwaukee's Harbor District. Enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the largest academic research institute on the Great Lakes! Limit: 50

**Leaders:** Liz Sutton & Aaron Thiel

**Trail:** 2 miles, much standing

**Friday, May 15, 1-3PM**

Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person





RYAN BRADY

49

### 46. Sips & Sunsets: Lodi Marsh

*Challenging: uneven terrain, hiking in the dark.* Take a springtime evening stroll on the Ice Age Trail as it meanders through Lodi Marsh Wildlife Area. Bring your favorite beverage to enjoy at sunset while chatting with local wildlife biologists. Listen for frog and toad calls, use ultrasonic detectors to ID bats, and scan for other fascinating nighttime acoustics. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Julie Widholm & Sara Kehrl  
**Trail:** 1 mile, steep, uneven hiking in the dark  
**Friday, May 15, 7-9PM**  
Lodi, Columbia Co. (SW)  
Cost: \$23 per person

### 47. Door County Birding: Woodland Warblers & More

Beautiful birds in a scenic setting! Enjoy a caravan tour in search of migrating warblers and other songbirds along the Door shore. We'll seek out a variety of habitats and lovely locations from the bay of Green Bay to the shores of Lake Michigan for a high bird tally. Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 15

**Leader:** Paul Regnier  
**Trail:** 1.5 miles, both easy and rough trails  
**Saturday, May 16, 6:30-11AM**  
Fish Creek, Door Co. (NE)  
Cost: \$30 per person



### 48. Birds of Donald Park

Enjoy spring migration in one of Dane County's most beloved parks! Discover birding hotspots and learn a bit about restoration of different habitats along the way, including prairie, oak woods, springs, and streams. Beginner birders welcome! Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Brad Kolhoff, Mike Healy & Bryant Luhman  
**Trail:** 3 miles, some hills  
**Saturday, May 16, 7-10AM**  
Mount Vernon, Dane Co. (SW)  
Cost: \$23 per person



CHRISTINE TANZER

51

### 49. Rare Birds of the Namekagon Barrens

Anything but barren, this landscape harbors the highest population and best lekking views of sharp-tailed grouse in Wisconsin. Spy upland sandpipers and other rare birds as we caravan through unique pine-oak barrens habitats, which formerly covered millions of acres in northwestern Wisconsin and boast an amazing diversity of native grasses, flowers, butterflies and wildlife. Limit: 16

**Leaders:** Jerome McAllister & Gary Dunsmoor  
**Trail:** 1 mile, flat, grassy, some brush, much standing  
**Saturday, May 16, 8-11AM**  
Danbury, Burnett Co. (NW)  
Cost: \$18 per person



### 50. Yellow-headed Blackbirds & Bobolinks along the Bark River

See yellow-headed blackbirds with the possibility of bobolinks, meadowlarks, trumpeter swans, and more at this eBird hotspot along the Bark River. Discover prairie restoration efforts on a hike through wet habitat (rubber boots required). No bathrooms. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** David Adam & Michael Adam  
**Trail:** 3.5 miles, wet, boggy, grassy trails  
**Saturday, May 16, 8-11AM**  
Cold Spring, Jefferson Co. (SE)  
Cost: \$18 per person



### 51. Introduction to Foraging

Learn the basics of foraging for wild food in southern Wisconsin. Learn tips, tricks, techniques, and recommended readings for beginner and experienced foragers alike. Then explore Festge County Park with a focus on identifying edible plants and learning their specific uses. Ages 8+ Limit: 25

**Leader:** Chris Gavin  
**Trail:** 1 mile, easy, flat, wide trail  
Choose one session to attend:  
**51-A. Saturday, May 16, 9AM-12PM**  
**51-B. Saturday, June 6, 9AM-12PM**  
Cross Plains, Dane Co. (SW)  
Cost: \$28 adult, \$18 youth, per person





ERIC PRESTON

52

### 52. Spring Ephemerals in Forest County

Explore a 6-acre privately-owned land filled with native woodland wildflowers, ferns and shrubs. See prolific blooms of trillium, yellow trout lily, bloodroot, jack-in-the-pulpit and more. Learn how to restore and do a floristic quality assessment of your own property.

Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Sherry Pethers & Clair Carty

**Trail:** 1.5 mile, dirt, uneven

**Saturday, May 16, 11AM-1PM**

Crandon, Forest Co. (NC)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 53. Man Mound's Neighborhood: Lower Baraboo River Effigy Earthworks

Man Mound, the best-known effigy mound in Wisconsin, is at the center of a hidden constellation of earthworks five miles wide. Join an archaeologist to visit Man Mound and other unmarked sites including Langdon Mound's three bear effigies and the Lower Narrows SNA that overlooks several effaced effigy and conical earthworks. Gain a deeper appreciation through stories, maps, and scale models. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Rob Nurre

**Trail:** 1 mile, uneven, grass, dirt, much standing

**Saturday, May 16, 1-4PM**

Baraboo, Sauk Co. (SW)

Cost: \$35 per person



ARUN CHRISTOPHER MANOHARAN

55 & 204

### 54. Wildflowers Galore at Logan Creek Preserve

The spring wildflowers at The Ridges Sanctuary's Logan Creek Preserve are not to be missed! Hike part of the 170-acre State Natural Area that borders Clark Lake in search of Canada mayflower, yellow trout lily, sharp-lobed hepatica, and other spring ephemerals. Discover the hidden beauties of this spectacular site! No bathrooms. Limit: 12

**Leaders:** Jane Whitney & Julie Knox

**Trail:** 2 miles, narrow, uneven, rocky, some inclines

**Saturday, May 16, 1-3:30PM**

Jacksonport, Door Co. (NE)

Cost: \$23 per person



### 55. Dark Sky Discovery

Immerse yourself in the dark skies of the Driftless Region. The Kickapoo Valley Dark Sky Initiative in Vernon County is actively changing the outdoor lighting landscape in surrounding communities. Enjoy a night hike, witness best practices in action, and leave inspired and empowered to restore darker nights where you live. Limit: 40

**Leaders:** Scott Lind, Marla Lind & Susan Cushing

**Trail:** 3.5 miles, flat, paved

Choose one session to attend:

**55-A. Saturday, May 16, 7-11PM**

**55-B. Thursday, September 10, 7-11PM**

La Farge, Vernon Co. (SW)

Cost: \$23 per person





JOSHUA MAYER

59

### 56. Baraboo Hills Bird Banding

*Extreme: steep, narrow trails.* See science in action and songbirds up close! Visit one of the Baraboo Hills Ecology Research Collective's sites to watch a bird banding demonstration and learn about their research on Neotropical migrant songbirds. Hear how ongoing research informs the land management at this site. No bathrooms. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Maia Persche, Ashley Olah, Lisa Hartman & Laura Berman

**Trail:** 2 miles, steep, narrow, uneven

**Sunday, May 17, 8AM-12PM**

Leland, Sauk Co. (SW)

Cost: \$38 per person



CLAIRE WERNER

60

### 59. Mukwonago River Oak Barrens Restoration

Explore unique sandy oak barrens and adjacent sedge meadows teeming with blooming plants such as hairy puccoon, hoary frostweed, Canada frostweed, blunt-leaf milkweed, prairie pinweed, and blue toadflax. Learn about the restoration of this increasingly rare ecosystem and what it takes to protect it. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Daniel Carter

**Trail:** 1.7 miles, some off-trail, uneven ground

**Sunday, May 17, 1-3PM**

Eagle, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$25 per person

### 57. Spring Birding in Hoyt Park

Spend a morning birding the pocket prairies and oak savannas with the Friends of Hoyt Park. This 23-acre park within the Madison city limits is part of the historic Owen Parkway "pleasure drive." Learn your warblers from a plumage and song expert and enjoy this gem nestled in the iconic Regent, VanChaMasShe, and Sunset Village neighborhoods. Ages 8+

**Leaders:** Anne Reis & Owen Boyle

**Trail:** 1 mile, uneven, stairs, gravel, mowed grass

**Sunday, May 17, 8-11:30AM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$23 adult, \$13 youth, per person



### 58. Mississippi River Conservation Paddle

Paddle through meandering backwaters of the Mississippi River with eagle nests dotting the forest canopy overhead. Witness soaring eagles, see springtime unfolding, and learn about conservation efforts that are keeping this iconic riverway healthy. A 1PM admission to the National Eagle Center also included. Kayaks and gear provided. Limit: 16

**Leaders:** Michael Anderson & Drew Savage

**Paddle:** 3 miles, flat water

**Sunday, May 17, 9:30AM-12PM**

Wabasha, MN (NW)

Cost: \$116 per person



### 60. Birding Bonanza: Door County

See birds/protect birds! Aim for good looks and a high bird-tally on a 12-hour caravan tour of stellar birding haunts across Door County. Join three expert birders to explore grasslands in search of grasshopper sparrow, bobolink and upland sandpiper. Spy migrant songbirds in Peninsula State Park and Baileys Point. Visit legendary Toft Point SNA for migrants, ducks and shorebirds. Other possible stops include Heins Creek, Cave Point and Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal. Includes breakfast at Sister Bay Yacht Club and picnic lunch. Key fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 16

**Leaders:** Carl Schwartz, Karen Etter Hale & Mark Korducki

**Trail:** 2.5 miles, mostly flat, short hikes

**Wednesday, May 20, 6AM-6PM**

Sister Bay, Door Co. (NE)

Cost: \$268 per person\*



\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible



CHALLENGING



EXTREME

Key for regions on page 2.



CHRISTINE FANZER

64

### 61. Life on the Ledge: Wonders of Oakfield Ledge SNA

*Challenging: steep ascent among boulders.* Enjoy a springtime splendor of blooms as we explore above and below dolomite cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment. Wildflowers such as Jacob's ladder, yellow pimpernel, woodland phlox, and shooting star dot the landscape with bursts of color. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Jake Koebernik

**Trail:** 2 miles, steep, rocky, unsure footing

**Wednesday, May 20, 9AM-12PM**

Oakfield, Fond du Lac Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 62. Growing Shiitake Mushrooms: Kemp Station

Discover the life cycle of shiitake mushrooms. Learn how hardwood logs are prepared, inoculated, and cared for to grow these delicious mushrooms. Enjoy a cup of chicken shiitake wild rice soup and leave with an inoculated log to grow your own shiitake mushrooms. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Susan Barrett, Steve Hubbard & Scott Bowe

**Trail:** Mostly stationary & seated

**Wednesday, May 20, 10-11:30AM**

Woodruff, Oneida Co. (NC)

Cost: \$28 per person



### 63. Whooping Crane Reintroduction

Become part of the flock! In 2001, whooping cranes were reintroduced to Wisconsin in an effort to establish a migratory flock that breeds here and winters in Florida. That flock has grown to nearly 100 cranes! Spend the day with biologists touring the Necedah Wildlife Refuge to observe whooping cranes and learn about unique methods used to study and protect this still-fragile comeback. Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Anne Lacy & Davin Lopez

**Trail:** 2 miles, paved, gravel, boardwalk, stairs

**Thursday, May 21, 8AM-3PM**

Necedah, Juneau Co. (SW)

Cost: \$110 per person\*



BRUCE BARTEL

65

### 64. The Inside Scoop on Devil's Lake State Park

Ever wondered what it takes to keep Wisconsin's largest, most beloved, and busiest State Park running strong? Now's your chance to find out firsthand! Hike along the north shore of Devil's Lake with the park superintendent to learn some lesser known facts about the park and hear answers to a wide range of questions that get asked by park visitors. Limit: 25

**Leader:** Jim Carter

**Trail:** 1 mile, paved, level, ADA accessible, much standing

**Thursday, May 21, 10AM-12PM**

Baraboo, Sauk Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 65. Kirtland's Warblers & Pine Barrens

*Challenging: off-trail, rugged, difficult terrain.* Chance to spy one of Wisconsin's rarest birds! Explore two carefully protected pine barren sites to learn about Kirtland's warbler life history. Learn about cowbird control efforts, how these forests are managed especially for this bird, and with a bit of luck, see/hear the elusive and rare Kirtland's warbler! Enjoy wildflowers and other barrens birds such as clay-colored sparrow. Fundraiser for Kirtland's warbler conservation. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Davin Lopez, Ashley Olah, Rich Staffen, Trina Soyk & Hannah Butkiewicz

**Trail:** 2 miles, off-trail, rugged, downed trees

**Friday, May 22, 7:30-11:30AM**

Rome, Adams Co. (SW)

Cost: \$54 per person\*



\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible





66

## 66. Tracking, Observing & Enjoying Birds at Afterglow Farm

Wonder what routes birds take on their migrations? Learn more by visiting a radio telemetry tower that tracks bird migration along the Lake Michigan shore. We'll continue our walk to see two thriving purple martin colonies, and birdwatch at private 120-acre Afterglow Farm with its beaches, wetlands, vernal ponds, hardwood forest, ravine, and upland meadow. Breakfast included. Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Carl Schwartz, Jacob Woulf, Jill Kunsmann & Medhavi Ambardar  
**Trail:** 1.5 miles, established trails, some hills

**Friday, May 22, 7:30-11:30AM**  
 Port Washington, Ozaukee Co. (SE)  
 Cost: \$100 per person\*



## 67. Open Door Bird Sanctuary: Behind the Scenes

Raptor geeks wanted! Go behind the scenes to meet resident raptors up close and assist in food prep, feeding, and training of education ambassador birds. Enjoy a birding and nature hike on beautiful trails in the unique natural landscape of Door County. Ages 8+ Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Rob Hults & Sandor Bittman  
**Trail:** 0.5 mile, flat, mowed grass

Choose one session to attend:

**67-A. Friday, May 22, 12:30-3:30PM**

**67-B. Saturday, September 12, 12:30-3:30PM**

Jacksonport, Door Co. (NE)

Cost: \$38 adult, \$28 youth, per person



68

## 68. Golden-Winged Warblers & Northwoods Migration

Grab your binos and lace your hiking boots, it's spring migration in the Northwoods! Explore the Woodboro Lakes Wildlife Area, a picturesque mosaic of Northwoods habitats that includes several small lakes. Learn how recent research on golden-winged warblers, a Species of Special Concern in Wisconsin, relates habitat management to breeding success of this striking bird. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Vanessa Haese-Lehman, Nancy Richmond & Curt Rollman  
**Trail:** 3 miles, mostly flat, dirt, mowed grass

**Saturday, May 23, 6:30-11AM**  
 Rhinelander, Oneida Co. (NC)  
 Cost: \$18 per person



## 69. Birding at Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area

All birding levels welcome! Start with a quick lesson on how to use binoculars and birding apps, then advance to identifying birds by sight and sound. We'll see everything from backyard species to rare warblers on a fun, family-friendly hike. Ages 12+ Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Penny Thiede-Klish, Marie Young & Calvin Kunkle  
**Trail:** 3 miles, grass, paved, some hills

**Saturday, May 23, 8-11AM**  
 Menomonie, Dunn Co. (NW)  
 Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



## 70. Eastern Bluebird Workshop

Delve into the ecology of eastern bluebirds! Learn which nest boxes they use, habitat that attracts them, and how to set up a single box or a Bluebird Trail. Peer into nest boxes at Seno K/RLT Conservancy to see firsthand how to record data, how often to check, and what to do with the data collected. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Nancy Carlson & Rick Fare  
**Trail:** 1 mile, level ground, much standing

**Saturday, May 23, 10AM-12PM**  
 Burlington, Kenosha Co. (SE)  
 Cost: \$23 per person





GRAYSON SMITH-USEFWS

71

### 71. Bovines for Bobolinks: Wisconsin's Working Grasslands

A two-for-one adventure! Start the morning spying rare grassland and savanna birds such as bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, dickcissels, and grasshopper sparrows. Then, hear from regional experts on the rewards and challenges of using cattle grazing to manage grasslands. See this innovative approach in practice on the Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Stream Conservation Area's Davis Unit. **Limit:** 25 **Leaders:** Andy Bingle & Mary C Anderson **Trail:** 2 miles, uneven pasture dirt, grass

**Wednesday, May 27, 6-9AM**

Mineral Point, Iowa Co. (SW)

Cost: \$23 per person



### 72. Lake Sturgeon: Lifting Nets on Lake Superior

Board boats in Lake Superior with DNR biologists to lift nets for lake sturgeon! Handle and hold these fish that can live 50+ years and grow to 9 feet long. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a close encounter with this ancient species that swam while dinosaurs roamed the earth. Fundraiser for sturgeon conservation. **Limit:** 10

**Leaders:** Bradley Ray, Chris Zunker, Ross Lind & Dray Carl

**Trail:** N/A- in boats

Choose one session to attend:

**72-A. Wednesday, May 27, 8:30AM-12:30PM**

**72-B. Thursday, May 28, 8:30AM-12:30PM**

Ashland, Ashland Co. (NC)

Cost: \$100 per person\*



JIM BLOCK

72

### 73. Migration at Wisconsin Point

Wisconsin Point juts into Lake Superior and offers some of the richest concentrations of birds found in Wisconsin. Look for a spectrum of waterbirds, boreal songbirds, shorebirds, and raptors. From scenic woodlands to expansive shorelines and a seemingly endless Great Lakes horizon, the birding is a treat to behold! Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund.

**Limit:** 20

**Leader:** Erik Bruhnke

**Trail:** 3 miles, sandy trail, flat

**Thursday, May 28, 6-11AM**

Superior, Douglas Co. (NW)

Cost: \$48 per person\*



### 74. Hay Wagon Birding: Sandhill Wildlife Area

Enjoy a unique perch for birdwatching: a hay wagon! Take a ride to discover the diverse array of cranes, raptors, and songbirds that inhabit Sandhill's various habitats, from low sandy uplands to forests of oak, aspen, and jack pine. Great fun for beginner and experienced birders alike. **Limit:** 15

**Leaders:** Quentin Yoerger, Anne Reis,

Darren Ladwig & Zach Knab

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, gravel, paved, short off-trail section, wagon ride

**Thursday, May 28, 7-11AM**

Babcock, Wood Co. (NC)

Cost: \$23 per person



### 75. Butterfly Royalty: Monitoring Monarchs at Holy Wisdom

Does your heart fill with wonder when a monarch flutters by? Are you concerned about their decline? If so, become part of the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project! Attend this training session to learn biology, monitoring, and data sharing. Your help is vital for scientists to gain a better understanding of monarch population health! Ages 10+ **Limit:** 20

**Leaders:** Karen Oberhauser & Amy Alstad

**Trail:** 1 mile, flat, groomed trails

**Thursday, May 28, 1-3:30PM**

Middleton, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible





STEVEN THOMPSON

73

## 76. Turtles of the Mississippi River

Learn to identify all 11 native turtle species in Wisconsin. Start with an indoor presentation, then venture on a hike through the La Crosse River's Myrick Marsh to practice your new ID skills. See how easy it is to become a citizen scientist for the Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program! Fundraiser for WI Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Fund. Ages 10+

Limit: 25

Leader: Andrew Badje

Trail: 2 miles, flat, paved, gravel

Thursday, May 28, 1-4PM

La Crosse, La Crosse Co. (SW)

Cost: \$33 adult, \$23 youth, per person



## 77. Dawn on the Driftless: Birds & Plants of Bloomfield Prairie

Enjoy the serenity of sunrise over this 400-acre planted prairie and little-known birder's paradise. Listen to the dawn chorus of bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, upland sandpipers, grasshopper sparrows, and Henslow's sparrows. Learn to ID these birds by sight and sound, and identify prairie plants too! Hear about the partners involved in the Grassland Bird Conservation Area. Limit: 20

Leaders: Rocco Delmedico, Britta Petersen & Andy Bingle

Trail: 1 mile, knee-high grass, rolling hills, no shade

Friday, May 29, 5:30-8:30AM

Dodgeville, Iowa Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



DAVE BRUGGINK

76

## 78. Birds & Blooms: York Prairie SNA

York Prairie SNA is a rare gem! This remnant native prairie is teeming with rare grassland birds such as upland sandpipers, dickcissels, bobolinks, and Henslow's and grasshopper sparrows. Be prepared to be dazzled by its rare plants, including prairie bush-clover, Hill's thistle, cream gentian, wild quinine, and marbleseed. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

Leader: David Sample

Trail: 2 miles, uneven ground, moderate slopes

Friday, May 29, 8-11AM

New Glarus, Green Co. (SW)

Cost: \$23 per person



## 79. Mud Lake & Waterloo Quartzite SNA

In the heart of Mud Lake Wildlife Area is Pella, a 24-acre island that harbors Waterloo Quartzite Outcrops SNA. Hike through oak and hickory forests to discover abundant quartzite outcrops deposited in the Precambrian times. Learn about geology and local history, and spy birds, plants, and animals. No bathrooms. Limit: 15

Leaders: Jeff Bahls & Chelsy Herring

Trail: 1 mile, paved, dirt trails

Friday, May 29, 8-10AM

Reeseville, Dodge Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person



## 80. Lion's Den Gorge: Birding & Natural History

Visit one of the last remaining stretches of undeveloped bluffs along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Lion's Den Gorge offers expansive views from 100-foot bluffs, perfect to scan for loons, herons, waterfowl, and migrating raptors. Hear about ongoing restoration efforts as we spy birds within grasslands, forests, and wet meadows. Over 230 bird species have been documented here! Limit: 20

Leaders: Andrew Struck & Kristina Kroening

Trail: 3 miles, stairs, boardwalk, gravel, woodchips

Friday, May 29, 8:30-11:30AM

Port Washington, Ozaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person



SHELLY TORKELSON

81

### 81. Geologic History of the Baraboo Hills

*Challenging: rugged steep off-trail hikes.* The Baraboo Hills are among the oldest rock outcroppings in North America and a geologic marvel of the Midwest. Hike with an expert to learn how geologic forces, from mountain-building to glaciers, have shaped this unique landscape. Caravan with stops to hike and explore Van Hise Rock, Abelman's Gorge, Parfrey's Glen, and Devil's Lake. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 25

**Leader:** Phil Fauble

**Trail:** 5 miles, off-trail, rugged, steep hills, stream crossing

Choose one session to attend:

**81-A. Saturday, May 30, 9AM-4PM**

**81-B. Saturday, September 26, 9AM-4PM**

Baraboo, Sauk Co. (SW)

Cost: \$45 per person\*



### 82. Shooting Stars of Chiwaukee Prairie SNA

Tread among blooming shooting stars as we explore the richest prairie in Wisconsin, which supports 400+ native plant species! Learn about prairie ecology, property history and restoration at this premier site recently declared a Wetland of International Importance. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Trent Leaf, Kay McClelland, Pam Holy & Dru Snavely

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, dirt, grass, much standing, no seating

**Saturday, May 30, 9-11:30AM**

Kenosha, Kenosha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$23 per person



USFWS

83

### 83. Trout Streams & Karner Blues: Mecan River Watershed

An enchanting day awaits! Tread amongst blooming wildflowers to spy endangered Karner blue butterflies and other pollinators that now thrive in a 40-acre prairie and oak savanna restoration. Side by side with biologists, see fish in a restored trout stream up close, then release them back into the water unharmed. Learn how the power of partnerships has restored this landscape, helped endangered species and grassland birds, and improved water quality. Ages 10+ Limit: 40

**Leaders:** Emily Snelson, Brendan Woodall, Tom Gross, Scott Allen, Danielle Nelson & Bo Hendrickson

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, flat, mowed grass, off-trail optional

**Saturday, May 30, 9AM-12PM**

Dakota, Marquette Co. (NE)

Cost: \$38 adult, \$28 youth, per person



### 84. Guardians of the Green: Forest Home Cemetery & Arboretum

Discover Wisconsin's largest and oldest operating cemetery founded just two years after statehood. Explore the natural aspects of this urban greenspace, larger than any Milwaukee city park. Visit the graves of the city's early environmentalists: Increase Lapham, Christian Wahl, Alfred Boerner, Haskell Noyes, and Dorothy Vallier. Learn about green burial options. Limit: 30

**Leader:** Sally Merrell

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, paved, grass, some rolling hills, no seating

**Saturday, May 30, 10AM-12PM**

Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$30 per person

\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible





LEXI ANGEMI

85

### 85. Macroinvertebrate Survey: Baird Creek

Grab a net and wade in for some family fun collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates. Discover aquatic insects, crustaceans, mollusks, worms, and a myriad of other small animals that comprise the second step in the food chain of streams and lakes. Get hands on and up close with fascinating underwater creatures! Ages 4+ Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Lexi Angemi & Charlie Frisk

**Trail:** 0.25 mile, paved, dirt, small descent

**Saturday, May 30, 10AM-12PM**

Green Bay, Brown Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



### 86. Snapshots of Urban Wildlife

Black bears, badgers, and bobcats, oh my! Discover the world of urban wildlife through the lens of trail camera images captured at the Forest Exploration Center. Learn how the DNR's Snapshot Wisconsin project, a statewide network of volunteer-managed trail cameras, supports wildlife research. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Demetra Toniolo

**Trail:** 2.5 miles, crushed gravel, ADA accessible

**Saturday, May 30, 10AM-12PM**

Wauwatosa, Milwaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 87. Horicon Marsh: Pontoon & Hike

Birds and wildlife abound on this enjoyable naturalist-guided pontoon tour of the famed Horicon Marsh, home to more than 300 bird species! Also venture on a boardwalk hike to enjoy more birding and a different perspective of the marsh. Fundraiser for NRF. Ages 12+ Limit: 32

**Leaders:** Liz Herzmann, Jeff Bahls &

Troy Kirchoff

**Trail:** 2 miles, flat, grass, gravel, boardwalk

Choose one session to attend:

**87-A. Sunday, May 31, 8AM-12PM**

**87-B. Thursday, June 4, 8AM-12PM**

Horicon, Dodge Co. (SE)

Cost: \$70 adult, \$60 youth, per person



MICHELLE MILFORD

87

### 88. Birding Paddle: St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Mix two passions: birding and kayaking! Search for eagles, herons, ospreys, mergansers, and spring migrants on a birdwatching paddle along the scenic Namekagon and St. Croix rivers. Learn birding techniques and enhance your bird identification skills on a most picturesque paddle. Intermediate paddling skills required. Kayaks and gear provided. Limit: 10

**Leaders:** Katrina Schlicker & Daniel Peterson  
**Paddle:** 8.5 miles

**Tuesday, June 2, 10AM-3PM**

Danbury, Burnett Co. (NW)

Cost: \$88 per person



### 89. Fire Effects in Oak Woodland Restoration

Behold giant white oaks on a trek through a 35-acre oak woodland being restored using prescribed fire. Witness firsthand the effects of fire, particularly on brush, and explore how fire is integral to restoring woodlands of all types. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Kristina Weld

**Trail:** 1 mile, gradual slope, uneven, much standing, no seating

**Wednesday, June 3, 9AM-12PM**

Blue River, Richland Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 90. There & Back Again: An Ecologist's Tale

Saunter through a recovering ecosystem near the Sugar River and discover the ecological merits of nature-based farming. Sugar Valley Farm was a conventional, row-cropped farm for much of the past century and is now being converted to pasture, prairie, and savanna. See the amazing transformation from barren to biodiverse! No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** David Laufenberg,

Richard Laufenberg & Joann Laufenberg

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, mowed vegetation, some hills

**Wednesday, June 3, 6-8PM**

Mount Horeb, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



LARRY STOPA

91

### 91. Black River Barrens

Embedded in the Black River State Forest are rare remnants of historical barrens. Learn what makes barrens ecology unique and look for uncommon species it harbors, such as Karner blue butterflies, snakes, and blooming pasqueflowers. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Jason Garstka

**Trail:** 2 miles, mostly flat, some brush, much standing, no seating

**Thursday, June 4, 9AM-1PM**

Millston, Jackson Co. (NW)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 92. Eagle Banding & Pontoon Tour: Turtle Flambeau Flowage

*Challenging: off-trail, steep climb onto/off boat.*

Visit an eagle nest and watch up close as eagle nestlings are banded by licensed banders!

Then take a scenic pontoon ride through the flowage to learn about the history, fishery, and land management of the 36,000-acre Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area. Enjoy an exciting full day of wildlife and scenic vistas. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 24

**Leaders:** Jenna Malinowski, Zach Lawson, Jason Folstad, Sean Strom, Dan Goltz & Jim Bokern

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, off-trail, rough, steep scramble off boat

**Friday, June 5, 8:30AM-4PM**

Springstead, Iron Co. (NC)

Cost: \$100 per person\*



### 93. Paddle & Birdwatch Mud Lake Wildlife Area

Birding while boating is fun! Paddle the Beaver Dam River as it flows through the scenic wilds of Mud Lake Wildlife Area in Dodge County. Search for species such as bitterns, black tern, yellow-headed blackbird, common gallinule, and rails. Shuttle provided. No bathrooms.

Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. \*You must bring your own canoe/kayak. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Liz Herzmann, Jeff Bahls & Eric Killburg

**Paddle:** 6 miles, flat water

**Friday, June 5, 8:30AM-12PM**

Watertown, Dodge Co. (SE)

Cost: \$40 per person



JEFF KIEFER

92

### 94. Fish Passage along the Milwaukee River

Lake sturgeon, walleye, and northern pike, oh my! Fifteen years of hard work have reconnected more than 150 miles of rivers and streams in the Milwaukee River Watershed, allowing native fish access to high-quality spawning habitat. Caravan to several sites to discover dam removals, habitat restoration projects, and a fish passage with an underwater camera. Optional lunch stop at brewery after trip. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Matt Aho & Andrew Struck

**Trail:** Car caravan with short walks

**Friday, June 5, 9AM-12:30PM**

Thiensville, Ozaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 95. Retzer's Reptiles & Amphibians

Meet Retzer Nature Center's reptile and amphibian ambassadors, including turtles, salamanders, toads, and snakes. Learn about their unique features, habitats, roles in the environment, and how you can help these amazing animals. Then, head outside to look for their wild counterparts as we explore the wetlands. Ages 5+ Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Christine Kavalauskas & Erin McKeon Ricchio

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, rolling hills, woodchips, grass

**Friday, June 5, 2-4PM**

Waukesha, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$25 adult, \$15 youth, per person



\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible





**96. Bobolinks, Bluebirds & Bank Swallows**

Listen for the bubbling songs of bobolinks on a jaunt through Retzer Nature Center. Spy Henslow's sparrows, eastern bluebirds, and orchard orioles flitting through the prairies and oak savannas. Also enjoy a show in the planetarium for a unique view of Milwaukee bluffs and the nesting bank swallows who visit each year. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Erin McKeon Ricchio & Chris Kavalauskas

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, hill, mowed grass, woodchips

**Saturday, June 6, 7-9AM**

Waukesha, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$30 per person



**97. Colorful Birds: Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area**

With coastal marshes and hardwood forests, this Important Bird Area is the breeding ground for many colorful and charismatic birds. New and experienced birders alike will enjoy a morning on the marsh spotting a variety of breeding birds including yellow-headed blackbird, Forster's tern, American white pelican, marsh wren, American bittern and common gallinule. No bathrooms. Limit: 12

**Leaders:** Joel Trick & Dave Halfmann

**Trail:** 3 miles, crushed rock

**Saturday, June 6, 7-10AM**

Suamico, Brown Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person



**98. Fire & Pine Relicts: Snow Bottom SNA**

*Challenging: off-trail, rocky terrain.* Visit pine forests that have persisted for thousands of years! Delve into the natural history of pine relicts: their complex relationship with fire, their characteristic plant communities, and their future in a rapidly changing climate. No bathrooms. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Matt Zine & Jed Meunier

**Trail:** 3 miles, off-trail, brushy, rocky terrain

**Saturday, June 6, 9AM-12PM**

Montfort, Grant Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



**99. Hartland Marsh Preserve: Ecology Hike for Families**

Hike along the Ice Age Trail to discover hidden natural wonders. Explore how plants, animals, water, and land all work together to keep our ecosystems healthy. Learn to spot signs of wildlife, uncover fascinating ecological connections, and see nature through a new lens on this fun and educational hike. Ages 7+

**Limit:** 35

**Leaders:** Helen Holtz & Allison Heine de Romero

**Trail:** 2 miles, some hills, mowed grass, boardwalk

**Saturday, June 6, 10AM-12:30PM**

Hartland, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



**100. Urban Woodworking: A Tree to Table Story**

Journey from seed to sawdust on the urban wood cycle! Enjoy this exclusive tour of The Wood Cycle, a Wisconsin-DNR Green Tier participant, to see the process of how urban trees are logged, milled, dried, and then custom made into a variety of home products and furnishings. Discover firsthand the story of how an urban tree goes from side yard sentry to bedside table. Limit: 12

**Leader:** Paul Morrison

**Trail:** 0.25 mile, ADA accessible trail, gravel driveway

Choose one session to attend:

**100-A. Saturday, June 6, 10AM-1PM**

**100-B. Saturday, September 19, 10AM-1PM**  
Oregon, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$28 per person

**101. Bog Walk in Forest County**

Experience a small, privately-owned bog in peak bloom! Likely plants include Labrador tea, bog rosemary, leather leaf, cotton grass and lady slipper orchids. Learn to make your own bog mats. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Sherry Pethers & Clair Carty

**Trail:** 1.5 mile, uneven, wooden bog mats

**Saturday, June 6, 11AM-1PM**

Crandon, Forest Co. (NC)

Cost: \$18 per person



102

### 102. Wildflowers & Butterflies: Namekagon Barrens

Marvel at an incredible diversity of flowers, butterflies, bees, and birds while hiking the rolling hills of pine-oak barrens, a globally-rare ecosystem. See Wisconsin's northernmost stand of wild lupine, and perhaps spy an endangered Karner blue butterfly! **Limit:** 16 **Leaders:** Kathy Bartilson, Jerry McAllister & Steve Thomas

**Trail:** 1 mile, packed sandy dirt

**Saturday, June 6, 1-4PM**

Danbury, Burnett Co. (NW)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 103. Namekagon River: Wood Turtles & Wildflowers

Tour a private 250-acre reserve within the St. Croix River National Scenic Riverway with restored wetlands, prairie, and savanna, and through which the Namekagon River flows for one mile. Visit 20 scenic stations located in various habitats to identify native flowers and grasses and learn about turtle ecology. Sessions correspond to when wood turtles are laying their eggs (June) or when spiny softshell, wood, and snapping turtle hatchlings are emerging (August). Ages 10+ **Limit:** 25

**Leader:** Damian Vraniak

**Trail:** 3 miles, mowed trails, some hills

Choose one session to attend:

**103-A. Sunday, June 7, 7-10:30AM**

**103-B. Sunday, August 23, 7-10:30AM**

Springbrook, Washburn Co. (NW)

Cost: \$68 adult, \$58 youth, per person 



103

### 104. Fair Meadows SNA: Prairies in Bloom

Immerse yourself in the white and blue splendor of Fair Meadows State Natural Area! White wild indigo and Ohio spiderwort will be at peak bloom to create an ethereal view. A slow walk through the prairie will reveal other early prairie blooms and pollinators galore. **Limit:** 20 **Leaders:** Penny & Gary Shackelford

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, flat, mowed, limited shade

**Sunday, June 7, 9-11AM**

Milton, Rock Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person 

### 105. Forest Bathing & Foraging: Jackson Woods

Forest Bathing guides you to find stillness, open your senses, and profoundly connect with nature. Learning about wild edible and medicinal plants can further hone your relationship with the landscape and natural world. Join a Certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide and expert forager at Jackson School Forest. No bathrooms. **Limit:** 25

**Leaders:** Kate Bast & Vince Aiello

**Trail:** 2 miles, rolling, rugged trail, one steep incline

**Sunday, June 7, 9AM-12PM**

Verona, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$48 per person

### 106. Northern Kettle Moraine Standout SNAs

*Challenging: some off-trail, steep sections.* Explore two very different State Natural Areas nestled within the Northern Kettle Moraine. Hike through a mature sugar maple and red oak forest to identify plants and wildlife at Haskell Noyes SNA. Then off to Spruce Lake Bog SNA for a short boardwalk stroll into this National Natural Landmark with habitats and species more characteristic of northern Wisconsin. No bathrooms. **Limit:** 15

**Leaders:** Connie Ramthun & Douglas Stadler

**Trail:** 2.25 miles, dirt paths, some steep hills, off-trail

**Sunday, June 7, 9AM-12:30PM**

New Prospect, Fond du Lac Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person 





TINA SHAW/USFWS

108

### 107. Research for Restoration: Orchids & Dwarf Lake Iris

Delve into the wonderful world of orchids! Enjoy an indoor presentation, then meander the trails of The Ridges Sanctuary in search of ram's head, showy, and yellow lady's slipper orchids. Learn about orchid reproduction, restoration, and germination techniques, and hear details of the current dwarf lake iris research project. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Tony Kiszonas & Anna Foster

**Trail:** 1 mile, flat, boardwalk, smooth trail

**Monday, June 8, 9-11AM**

Baileys Harbor, Door Co. (NE)



Cost: \$23 per person

### 108. Wisconsin Black Bear Research

Enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the Wisconsin Black Bear Research Project! Join wildlife professionals on a caravan to visit bear research sites, view specialized bear traps, and watch a demonstration of radiotelemetry and other field techniques. Hear about the complexities of managing bears in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Jennifer Summers, Cady Sartini & Hayden Walkush

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, uneven, some off-trail

**Monday, June 8, 11AM-3PM**

Clam Lake, Ashland Co. (NC)

Cost: \$70 per person



ERIC SIMON

109

### 109. Beauty & The Beasts: Karner Blues & Bison

Opposites attract! The Sandhill Wildlife Area has hosted American bison for 50+ years, transforming the land into a vast oak savanna ecosystem. Take a wagon ride to marvel at hundreds of acres of lupine that boast one of the largest populations of federally endangered Karner blue butterflies in the Great Lakes Region. Learn why this odd couple, a delicate butterfly and a massive herbivore, thrive as roommates. Fundraiser for bison conservation. Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Darren Ladwig & Cheyenne Wehler

**Trail:** 1 mile, brushy sections

**Tuesday, June 9, 8:30AM-12PM**

Babcock, Wood Co. (NC)

Cost: \$58 per person

### 110. Learn to Love Native Shrubs

Where are the native shrubs? In many areas, removing invasive shrubs like buckthorn and honeysuckle is a primary focus of restoration efforts, but the important role of establishing diverse, native shrubs is often neglected. Learn about native shrubs of southern Wisconsin, how to identify them, and which species can be planted to attract birds and beneficial insects. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Amy Alstad & Sylvia Marek

**Trail:** 1 mile, mowed grass, gentle hills

**Tuesday, June 9, 10AM-12PM**

Middleton, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$23 per person



BRUCE BARTEL

83, 109 & 111

### 111. Karner Blue Butterflies & Oak Savanna

Experience a living classroom where trees are your teachers! Hike through a privately-owned Demonstration Forest that is actively being managed for oak savanna and wild lupine, the preferred host plant for federally endangered Karner blue butterflies. Learn about the process of releasing oaks, view some recent timber harvests, and hopefully see Karner blues amongst a field of lupine! Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Jacob Fluor, Claire Harwood & Jennifer Glad

**Trail:** 3 miles, dirt, mostly flat, gradual slopes

**Tuesday, June 9, 12-3PM**

Almond, Portage Co. (NC)

Cost: \$23 per person

### 112. Paddle the Upper Sugar River

*Extreme: challenging navigation for experienced canoeists only.* Meet at the historic Davidson House to hear the story of the old stone house and surrounding sacred land. Then canoe the beloved Upper Sugar River as it winds its way from Verona to Paoli. Bask in scenic beauty as you glide by eagles, hawks, and cranes. Fundraiser for the Upper Sugar River Watershed Fund. Canoes and gear provided. Limit: 10

**Leaders:** Bill & Lisa Keen

**Paddle:** 4.4 miles, tight curves, strong current

**Wednesday, June 10, 1-4PM**

Verona, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$63 per person



CARLY LAPIN

113

### 113. Spread Eagle Barrens SNA: Barrens & Birding

Note: driving on rough roads. Marvel at a mosaic of natural communities famed for their unique species. Caravan with stops to hike and explore barrens ecology, broad vistas, interesting plants, and rare barrens birds. Search bracken grassland, jack pine, scrub oak, and quaking aspen for mourning warbler, clay-colored sparrow, Brewer's blackbird, and other species that require large, open landscapes. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Carly Lapin & Nancy Richmond

**Trail:** 2 miles, flat, gravel roads

**Friday, June 12, 6-11AM**

Florence, Florence Co. (NC)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 114. Birding, Boating & Breweries along the Milwaukee River

*Challenging: experienced paddlers only.* Enjoy paddling the scenic Milwaukee River from Waubedonia to the Town of Grafton. Stop at parks along the way to birdwatch and learn about restoration of terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic habitats within Ozaukee County. End at a local brew pub for a beer (optional). \*You must bring your own canoe/kayak. Limit: 10

**Leaders:** Andrew Struck & Brittany Whyte

**Paddle:** 11 miles

**Friday, June 12, 9AM-4PM**

Fredonia, Ozaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person





SHELLY FORKELSON

116

### 115. Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve: Wild Diversity

Explore one of Door County's hidden gems where three distinct habitats — sweeping Lake Michigan dunes, undulating ridges and swales, and rich Great Lakes barrens — converge to create a unique landscape. Discover threatened and endangered plants, including the Pitcher's dune thistle. Observe and record pollinators visiting dune habitat as part of a citizen science monitoring project. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Paige Witek & Carl Cochrane

**Trail:** 3 miles, loose sand, some hills

**Friday, June 12, 9-11:30AM**

Sturgeon Bay, Door Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 116. The Farley Center: Natural Path Sanctuary & Green Burial

With 100+ acres of farm and wooded land, the Farley Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting ecological sustainability, social justice, and peace. Their Natural Path Sanctuary is a nature preserve as well as a green burial ground/cemetery. Learn about their focus on sustainable end-of-life natural burial practices and support of local market gardeners through a Farm Incubator. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Shedd Farley, Dustin Duve & Seth Riley

**Trail:** 2 miles, dirt path, hills

**Friday, June 12, 10AM-12PM**

Verona, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



LEX ANGELO

117

### 117. "Streaming" the Old-Fashioned Way

*Challenging: wading in rocky stream bottom.*

Discover the fascinating world of stream ecology! Dive into the pristine waters of Genesee Creek to net crustaceans, insects, and mollusks. We'll use our findings to calculate the stream's biotic index and learn how the physical and chemical aspects of waterways influence the wildlife that calls them home. Ages 8+

Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Jayne Jenks & Todd Levine

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, wading in rocky stream bottom

**Friday, June 12, 1-4PM**

Genesee Depot, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$20 adult, \$10 youth, per person



### 118. Mississippi River Boat Cruise

Cruise the Mississippi River via pontoon to spot wildlife such as eagles, deer, turtles, snakes, and beavers. Hear insights and stories about this famed waterway, and learn about navigational channels, the lock and dam system, and see barges moving goods. Enjoy spring migration on this iconic waterway!

Ages 8+ Limit: 48

**Leader:** Aaron Repinski

**Trail:** N/A - boat

**Friday, June 12, 1-3PM**

Winona, MN (NW)

Cost: \$43 adult, \$33 youth, per person



### 119. Regenerative Birding

Witness a farm being transformed into a paradise for birds. Flynn Creek Farm grows produce, livestock, and nature through regenerative land practices. Take a stroll through this beautiful setting to hear about their regenerative methods and identify the diversity of birds you see and hear along the way. Complimentary breakfast included.

Limit: 20

**Leaders:** David Laufenberg, Brad Kolhoff & Jeannie Blasburg

**Trail:** 3 miles, mowed grass, dirt, some hills

**Saturday, June 13, 6-9AM**

Paoli, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$38 per person





LEN HARRIS

121

## 120. Damsels & Dragons of Jackson County

Damsels and dragons may sound like legends of old, but not so! Wisconsin is currently home to 100+ species of damselflies and dragonflies. Begin with a short introduction on ecology and ID, then search for these fascinating insects on a caravan trip to diverse aquatic habitats near Black River Falls. Get hands on to see many of Wisconsin's Odonata up close. Fundraiser for NRF. Ages 8+ Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Dan Jackson & Jeff Fischer

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, short walks on level ground

**Saturday, June 13, 9AM-3PM**

Black River Falls, Jackson Co. (NW)

Cost: \$35 adult, \$25 youth, per person



## 121. Get Hooked! Fly Fishing for Beginners

Ever wondered how to fly fish for trout, but felt unsure where and how to begin? Tackle your curiosity about fly fishing on this fun and inexpensive introduction to the sport. Experts will demystify the equipment and teach the basics of gear selection, fly rod casting, knot tying, and stream ecology, including live identification of trout prey and the fly patterns that imitate them. Loaner fly rods available for those without equipment. Fundraiser for NRF. Ages 12+ Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Michael Williamson, Mark Maffitt & Mary Ann Doll

**Trail:** 100 yards, mowed grass, paved

**Saturday, June 13, 9AM-12PM**

Black Earth, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$48 adult, \$38 youth, per person\*



PAUL SPARKS

124 & 245

## 122. McMillan Wildlife Area: Wagon Ride

Experience springtime beauty on a scenic wagon tour. Keep an eye and ear out for the countless amphibians, birds, mammals, and reptiles that call this 6,500-acre preserve home. Enjoy frequent stops to disembark and explore nature's brilliance. No bathrooms. Limit: 25

**Leader:** Craig Ziolkowski

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, level, mowed grass, step up to wagon

**Saturday, June 13, 9AM-12PM**

Marshfield, Marathon Co. (NC)

Cost: \$18 per person

## 123. Vernon Marsh: Hike the New Trail & Boardwalk

*Challenging: long 5-mile hike.* Venture upon the trails and new boardwalk through Vernon Wildlife Refuge to search for waterfowl and other wildlife nestled within the Fox River and its vast wetlands. Explore the nearby grasslands, oak savannas, and lowland forests to learn about their conservation and management. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Erin McKeon Ricchio & Kelsey Norton

**Trail:** 5 miles, flat, mowed grass, gravel

**Saturday, June 13, 9AM-1PM**

Mukwonago, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person

## 124. Meditation & Mindfulness: Navarino

Slow down and reconnect with your senses at Navarino Wildlife Area. Begin with a forest bathing guided meditation, followed by a gentle 1-mile hike for mindful observation and nature journaling. No experience is needed, just an openness to noticing the natural world. Limit: 15

**Leader:** Miah Peterson

**Trail:** 1 mile, boardwalk, gravel, packed dirt

**Saturday, June 13, 10AM-12PM**

Shiocton, Waupaca Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person

\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible





TOM McDONALD

125

### 125. Beaver Paddle

Beavers are one of the most vilified animals in Wisconsin and yet play an incredibly important role for wetland ecosystems. Canoe through two small lakes in search of downed trees, lodges, and dams. Learn about beaver ecology and how Hunt Hill Nature Center balances the needs of these industrious animals with the desires of nearby landowners. Canoes and gear provided, beginner paddlers welcome. Ages 10+ Limit: 24

**Leader:** Sage Dunham

**Paddle:** 1 mile, calm; **Hike:** 0.25 mile, steps, rough terrain

Choose one session to attend:

**125-A. Saturday, June 13, 3-5PM**

**125-B. Saturday, June 20, 3-5PM**

Sarona, Washburn Co. (NW)

Cost: \$25 adult, \$15 youth, per person



### 126. Archaeology at the Historic Indian Agency House

The Historic Indian Agency House was built in 1832 to serve as an embassy between the U.S. government and the Ho-Chunk Nation during a pivotal juncture of American history. Join archaeologists to explore the cultural and historical significance of this site. Get hands on with archaeological field methods, artifact analysis, and more. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Adam Novey

**Trail:** 1 mile, flat, mowed grass, optional hilly hike

Choose one session to attend:

**126-A. Sunday, June 14, 10:30AM-4PM**

**126-B. Sunday, June 21, 10:30AM-4PM**

Portage, Columbia Co. (SW)

Cost: \$30 per person



JOSHUA MAYER

128, 137 & 141

### 127. Private Lands Restoration: Wetland Woods Farm

Hike the trails and boardwalks of Wetland Woods Farm to experience forward-thinking land management that promotes healthy soils, clean water, and resilient woodlands and prairies. Year-round restoration practices maintain the sedge meadow, calcareous fen, wooded fen mound, and other diverse wetland habitats. Regenerative farming advances soil health and productivity while minimizing chemicals. A sustainable model for the future! Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Brittany Pierpont & Jake Michaels

**Trail:** 3 miles, flat, wide trail, boardwalks

**Tuesday, June 16, 10:30AM-1:30PM**

Rubicon, Dodge Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 128. Kestrel Banding at Badger Mining Corporation Grasslands

Learn about America's smallest falcon! Join Beaver Creek Reserve researchers for an up-close view of American kestrels being measured and banded. Visit nest boxes located at Badger Mining Corporation, a privately held, family-owned silica sand mine that works to protect these fantastic falcons. Ages 8+ Limit: 14

**Leaders:** Heather Horton, Betsy Sippel, Santiago Tabares Erices

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, inclines, uneven ground, tall grass

**Wednesday, June 17, 9AM-12PM**

Taylor, Jackson Co. (NW)

Cost: \$33 adult, \$23 youth, per person



129

### 129. Remnant Bluff Prairies: La Crosse Blufflands

**Challenging:** *steep terrain.* Visit beautiful and endangered remnant bluff prairies at Hixon Forest and see some of the restoration work that NRF has helped to fund. Learn about the unique geology of the bluffs and local flora and fauna as you soak in the spectacular views of the Mississippi River Valley below. Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Jon Rigden & Mike O'Brien

**Trail:** 3 miles, dirt trails, some steep sections

**Wednesday, June 17, 9AM-12PM**

La Crosse, La Crosse Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 130. Bogging at Beulah

Explore an undisturbed bog lake in southeast Wisconsin. Learn about the formation and successional history of bogs and what makes Beulah Bog SNA a unique wetland gem. Look for unique plants such as cotton grass, sphagnum, pitcher plant, sundew and bladderwort. No bathrooms. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 18

**Leaders:** Caleb Lang & Pete Duerkop

**Trail:** 2 miles, some off-trail, one steep slope

**Wednesday, June 17, 10AM-12PM**

East Troy, Walworth Co. (SE)

Cost: \$33 per person



### 131. Unique SNAs: Battle Creek Hemlocks & Glocke Lake Bog

Take an in-depth look at two captivating Northwoods natural communities: a northern mesic forest and a bog. Start at Battle Creek Hemlocks SNA along the North Branch of the Oconto River to explore a diverse forest with large hemlock and super-canopy white pine trees. Then, caravan to Glocke Lake SNA for a walk on the bog mat to see carnivorous and rare plants up close. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Nicole Shutt, Steve Janke & Nick Gremban

**Trail:** 2.5 miles, some hills, downed logs, boggy terrain

**Thursday, June 18, 9AM-1PM**

Lakewood, Oconto Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person



130, 131 &amp; 138

### 132. Bikes & Botany: Green Circle Trail

Enjoy a leisurely 7.5-mile bike tour on Stevens Point's Green Circle Trail. Learn about buckthorn and phragmites management, Eurasian watermilfoil biocontrol weevils, and Wisconsin's watercraft inspections program while enjoying views of the Wisconsin River, outdoor sculpture park, Schmeeckle Reserve, and Lake Joanis. \*You must bring your own bike and helmet. Ages 12+ Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Claire Harwood, Jacob Fluor & Chris Hamerla

**Trail:** 7.5 miles biking, flat, paved, some gravel

**Thursday, June 18, 10AM-2PM**

Stevens Point, Portage Co. (NC)

Cost: \$23 adult, \$13 youth, per person



### 133. Chiwaukee Prairie SNA & Lake Plain Coastal Preserves

Chiwaukee Prairie is Wisconsin's largest and highest quality coastal prairie and is nationally recognized for its ecological importance. Stroll amongst ancient beach ridges, oak openings, and a rich biological tapestry of plants. Learn about this site's history, flora and fauna, active management partnerships, and its impact within the Lake Plain Coastal Preserves. Limit: 25

**Leader:** Belynda Alberte

**Trail:** 2 miles, flat, uneven ground, soggy, no seating

**Thursday, June 18, 10AM-12:30PM**

Pleasant Prairie, Kenosha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person





134

### 134. Agroforestry & Coexistence: Ravensholme Farm Preserve

Tour a 265-acre farm situated along the banks of the Fox River that demonstrates sustainable agriculture practices and the coexistence of farmland and wildlife. As you meander through the newly established agroforestry project, learn how Tall Pines Conservancy is making farmland a shared space for bat populations. After catching glimpses of bats around the farm at dusk, explore the historic barn and farmstead. Ages 7+ Limit: 30  
**Leaders:** Paul Meuer & Jessica Mysliwski  
**Trail:** 1 mile, slightly uneven pasture

**Thursday, June 18, 6:30-8:30PM**

Waukesha, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



### 135. Wonderous Wetlands with Whooping Cranes

Whooping cranes were reintroduced to Wisconsin starting in 2001, and are now breeding throughout the state. Walk scenic boardwalks and trails in Horicon Marsh in hopes of seeing this iconic bird. Learn from International Crane Foundation biologists about the whooping crane reintroduction and gain insight on conserving wetlands and endangered species. Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Alicia Ward & Hillary Thompson

**Trail:** 2.5 miles, flat, boardwalk, gravel

Choose one session to attend:

**135-A. Friday, June 19, 8-11AM**

**135-B. Friday, June 19, 12-3PM**

Waupun, Dodge Co. (SE)

Cost: \$48 per person\*



63 & 135

### 136. Private Lands Restoration: Pine Relicts & Savanna

Discover the woodland, fields, savanna, and pine relicts on a private property near Ridgeway Pines SNA. Hear from experts at Adaptive Restoration about land management strategies and conservation easements. Birds abound, including pileated and red-headed woodpeckers, yellow-billed cuckoo, and Acadian flycatcher. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Brad Kolhoff

**Trail:** 3 miles, primitive trails, some hills

**Saturday, June 20, 8-11AM**

Ridgeway, Iowa Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 137. Kestrel Banding on the Buena Vista Grasslands

Enjoy an amazing opportunity to get up close with Wisconsin's smallest falcon: the American kestrel. Caravan to visit several kestrel nest boxes in this scenic grassland and watch researchers as they weigh and band nestlings. Learn about the ecology and long-time monitoring of this revered raptor. Fundraiser for kestrel research. Ages 8+ Limit: 24

**Leaders:** Janet Eschenbauch &

Amber Eschenbauch

**Trail:** Car caravan with short walks

**Saturday, June 20, 9AM-12PM**

Bancroft, Portage Co. (NC)

Cost: \$43 adult, \$33 youth, per person



### 138. The Beauty of Bogs & Fens

*Challenging: wet, uneven footing.* Start with learning the basics of wetlands at Trees For Tomorrow's historic Northwoods campus. Then, head out into a bog for an intimate firsthand encounter with the flora that makes these ecosystems unique. Wear rubber boots, or get your feet wet. It promises to be an adventure! Ages 10+ Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Bethany Heft & Jenny Sadak

**Trail:** 1 mile, wet, uneven, unstable footing

**Saturday, June 20, 9AM-12PM**

Eagle River, Vilas Co. (NC)

Cost: \$35 adult, \$25 youth, per person



\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible

120, 139 &amp; 162

### 139. Dragonflies & Damselflies of Plum Lake

Explore the fascinating world of dragonflies and damselflies with the Wisconsin Dragonfly Society. Hike trails around Plum Lake and wade into a creek for up-close encounters with snaketails, jewelwings, spiketails and more. Discover their life history, diversity, and how to contribute to citizen science. Note: bring waders to stay dry or get your feet wet in knee-high waters. No bathrooms. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 12

**Leaders:** Emily Hjalmarson & Brett Roberts

**Trail:** 2 miles, slippery rocks, knee-high wading

**Saturday, June 20, 9:30AM-12:30PM**

Sayner, Vilas Co. (NC)

Cost: \$35 per person 

### 140. Geneva Lake: Wetlands, Woodland & Prairies

Explore Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy, a beautiful 231-acre preserve with bountiful habitats. Saunter through the prairies, oak woodlands, kettles, and the last remaining wetlands on the shore of Geneva Lake. Once slated for development, this site is now a protected haven for birds, coyote, fox, river otter, and many other wildlife species. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Brian Cook, Don Skalla & Jim Killian

**Trail:** 2 miles, unpaved, wide trail

**Saturday, June 20, 10AM-12PM**

Williams Bay, Walworth Co. (SE)

Cost: \$23 per person

### 141. Kestrel Banding in and around Sheboygan County

Enjoy a caravan trip to visit several American kestrel nests and watch as researchers weigh and band kestrel nestlings. Learn about the ecology of this beloved and smallest falcon of Wisconsin. Fundraiser for raptor banding efforts. Ages 8+ Limit: 22

**Leaders:** Annie Mueller, Danny Erickson & Steve Holzman

**Trail:** Car caravan with short walks

**Saturday, June 20, 10AM-2PM**

St Anna, Sheboygan Co. (NE)

Cost: \$43 adult, \$33 youth, per person\* 



143 &amp; 146

### 142. Medicinal Plant Exploration

Stroll the grounds and gardens of North Lakeland Discovery Center to search for medicinal plants. From herbal tea remedies to topical uses, learn which herbaceous species can heal your body and mind. Create and take home your own tea blend and salve from medicinal herbs you foraged. Ages 12+ Limit: 12

**Leader:** Jenna Richardson

**Trail:** Less than 1 mile, flat, gravel, grass

Choose one session to attend:

**142-A. Saturday, June 20, 9-11AM**

**142-B. Saturday, June 20, 1-3PM**

Manitowish Waters, Vilas Co. (NC)

Cost: \$36 adult, \$26 youth, per person 

### 143. Become a Purple Martin Landlord

Purple martin populations have dropped dramatically in the past 50 years, and are listed as a Species of Special Concern in Wisconsin. They rely exclusively on humans to provide them with nest structures to raise their young in colonies. Visit an active colony and peer into nests to see martins up close. Learn how to attract and care for a colony on your property! Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Patrick & Patricia Hermesen

**Trail:** Mostly stationary

**Tuesday, June 23, 9AM-12PM**

Oregon, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person   

### 144. Rock Island History Hike

*Challenging: long hike, hills, remote location.*

Discover one of Wisconsin's most unique state parks! Explore the island's rich history from original inhabitants to European settlers and the history of the Thordarson Estate. Visit the iconic Pottawatomie Lighthouse and Thordarson boathouse on this bucket list trip. Requires two ferry passages to get to meeting location. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 15

**Leader:** Brian Grube

**Trail:** 5.5 miles, steep, exposed roots, some loose rock

**Wednesday, June 24, 10:30AM-3PM**

Washington Island, Door Co. (NE)

Cost: \$38 per person 





SHERI MOOR

145

### 145. Let's Talk Turtles of Wisconsin

Enjoy a sunset walk through a variety of wetland habitats to look for basking turtles. Then venture inside to see native turtles up close and enjoy a presentation about all 11 species found in Wisconsin. Learn their unique characteristics, behaviors, and roles in the ecosystem, and how to contribute to their conservation. Ages 10+ Limit: 35

**Leaders:** Helen Holtz & Howard April

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, woodchips, paved, some stairs

Choose one session to attend:

**145-A. Wednesday, June 24, 5-7PM**

**145-B. Thursday, June 25, 5-7PM**

Franklin, Milwaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$23 adult, \$13 youth, per person



### 146. Building Bird Habitat at Any Scale

Join the Lake Michigan Bird Observatory to discover how native plants can transform residential landscapes of all sizes into thriving backyard habitat. Caravan to inspiring sites including urban lots, suburban yards, and a public natural area with a bird box trail. Learn practical tips and how the Neighborhood Habitat Improvement Project reduces barriers through community science. Breakfast included. No bathrooms. Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Jenny Bardeen, Joanna Demas & Mabel Kirst

**Trail:** Car caravan with walks on flat, paved, grass trails, 1 mile total

**Thursday, June 25, 8AM-12PM**

Port Washington, Ozaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$30 per person



JOSHUA MAVER

147

### 147. Hogback Prairie SNA: Plants & Pollinators

*Challenging: tall grass, steep incline.* Enjoy spectacular views hiking a ridgetop trail through remnant dry prairie filled with rare plants, birds, and invertebrates. Learn native plant identification, land management history, and have a chance to observe hilltopping butterfly behavior. No bathrooms. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Paul Napierala & Nick Horzewski

**Trail:** 3 miles, knee-high grass, steep, no shade, no seating

**Thursday, June 25, 10AM-1PM**

Steuben, Crawford Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 148. Sips at Sundown: Vernon Marsh

Take a summer evening stroll on the trails of Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area. Bring your favorite beverage to enjoy the sunset and chat with local wildlife biologists. Listen for frog and toad calls, spot a variety of wetland bird species, and learn about restoration projects at the marsh. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Jessica Knackert, Kelsey Norton & Kelsey Aliota

**Trail:** 1 mile, hilly

**Thursday, June 25, 7-9PM**

Mukwonago, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 149. Lower Green Bay West Shore: Birding & Restoration

Did you know that the world's largest freshwater estuary is in Wisconsin? Green Bay is now one of only 30 sites across the coastal U.S. designated a National Estuarine Research Reserve. Caravan through the Green Bay West Shores State Wildlife Area and Ken Euers Nature Area with leading ecologists to learn why this area is so special. Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Emily Tyner, Dave Halfmann & Amy Carrozzino-Lyon

**Trail:** 3 miles, flat, crushed rock, boardwalk, much standing

**Friday, June 26, 9AM-12PM**

Green Bay, Brown Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person



\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible



CHALLENGING



EXTREME

Key for regions on page 2.



151

## 150. Manoominikaan: History & Ethnobotany of Rice Lake

Have you wondered why Rice Lake is called that? Paddle around the lake to learn about the interwoven history of people and place. Learn about wild edibles on the lake such as wild rice (manoomin) and their importance for the Anishinaabe and settlers. \*You must bring your own canoe/kayak. Fundraiser for NRF.

Limit: 15

Leaders: Anna DeMers & Ryan Urban

Paddle: 3 miles, mostly calm, waves with wind

Friday, June 26, 1-4PM

Rice Lake, Barron Co. (NW)

Cost: \$30 per person

## 151. Wood Thrush Tracking & Monitoring

The ethereal song of the wood thrush is the embodiment of wilderness. Unfortunately, it is a sound less often heard due to the dramatic population declines of this species. Learn how scientists are using nanotag technology to better understand the reasons behind their decline and head into the field to track tagged wood thrushes with radiotelemetry. Ages 10+

Limit: 20

Leaders: Jennifer Vieth, Ashley Goldbeck & Randy Newton

Trail: 3 miles, gravel

Saturday, June 27, 7-10AM

Hudson, St. Croix Co. (NW)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



## 152. Entomology: Bill Cross Wildlife Area

Learn about insect ecology, from beetles to ants to butterflies, on a hike through scenic woodlands and wet meadows along the banks of the Wisconsin River's northern meanderings. No bathrooms. Limit: 15

Leader: Miah Peterson

Trail: 2 miles, uneven, some off-trail

Saturday, June 27, 9AM-12PM

Merrill, Lincoln Co. (NC)

Cost: \$18 per person



153

## 153. Mazomanie Oak Barrens SNA: Rare Plants & Animals

*Challenging: off-trail, hills.* From oak barrens to wetlands, from mice to reptiles, there is much to explore at Mazomanie Oak Barrens SNA. Learn how DNR crews and volunteers have managed this unique location, and get to know the rare plant community and animals that live here. No bathrooms. Limit: 18

Leaders: Jared Urban & Jeff Lorch

Trail: 1.5 miles, off-trail, mostly flat, some small hills

Saturday, June 27, 9AM-12PM

Mazomanie, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



## 154. Nonbinary Nature: The Queer Native Species of Wisconsin

Although queerness is sometimes called “unnatural,” nothing could be further from the truth! Nature is full of species with a wide variety of sexualities, genders, and family relationships. Hike the Kelly Creek Preserve for a look at some of those species that occur in Wisconsin, including oaks, mushrooms, flowers, deer, eagles, and more. The information presented is educational, lighthearted, and identity-affirming. No bathrooms. Limit: 15

Leader: Emilee Martell

Trail: 2 miles, moderately flat, mowed grass

Saturday, June 27, 10-11:30AM

River Falls, St. Croix Co. (NW)

Cost: \$18 per person

## 155. Horicon Marsh Sunset Kayak Exploration

Bask in the sunset glow as we paddle to discover history, geology, flora, and fauna in one of our nation's largest freshwater marshes, recognized as a Wetland of International Importance. Kayaks and gear provided. No bathrooms. Limit: 12

Leaders: Steff Merten & Alina Prah

Paddle: 4.5-mile loop, calm, slow water

Sunday, June 28, 6-9 PM

Horicon, Dodge Co. (SE)

Cost: \$88 per person





157 &amp; 193

### 156. Technical Tree Climbing

*Challenging: moderate physical exertion needed.*

Experience the forest in a unique and energizing way — high in the branches above! Technical tree climbing uses rope and harness to ascend into the crown of mature trees for an unparalleled view of the forest from the canopy. Climbing mature trees, you can discover your true essence and connection with the forest ecosystem and feel your anxiety and stress slip away. Limit: 10

**Leaders:** Curt Andrews & Jennifer Andrews

**Trail:** 600 feet, flat

Choose one session to attend:

**156-A. Sunday, June 28, 10AM-12:30PM**

**156-B. Sunday, June 28, 1-3:30PM**

Menomonee Falls, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$58 per person

### 157. Bumble Bees at the UW Arboretum

Wisconsin is home to 20 bumble bee species, including the federally endangered rusty-patched bumble bee. Enjoy an indoor presentation to learn about bumble bee life history and conservation needs, and then head outside to identify bees in the field, and perhaps find rusty-patched bumble bees! Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Susan Carpenter & Elizabeth Braatz

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, level, paved, mowed grass

**Tuesday, June 30, 10AM-12PM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$28 per person



159

### 158. MAPS: Banding Birds at Beaver Creek

Marvel at birds up close! Join biologists checking mist nets for golden-winged warbler, indigo bunting, rose-breasted grosbeak, and more. Since 2003, this location has banded over 1,700 birds and contributed data to the continent-wide Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program, which guides conservation planning efforts. Ages 8+ Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Mackenzie Curtis, Judy Schwarzmeier & Karen Mittag

**Trail:** 2 miles, uneven terrain

**Thursday, July 2, 6:30-9:30AM**

Fall Creek, Eau Claire Co. (NW)

Cost: \$33 adult, \$23 youth, per person



### 159. Paddle the Upper Waupaca Chain O'Lakes

Discover bubbling springs, crystal blue waters, and the pristine Pope Lake SNA as we paddle through a picturesque chain of five connected no-wake wild and undeveloped lakes. \*You must bring your own canoe, kayak, or stand-up paddle board. Ages 10+ Limit: 20

**Leader:** Fred Silloway

**Paddle:** 3 miles, calm water

**Tuesday, July 7, 10AM-2PM**

Waupaca, Waupaca Co. (NE)

Cost: \$23 adult, \$13 youth, per person



### 160. Sustainability at Madison Children's Museum

Enjoy a guided museum tour to learn about sustainability, green building, upcycling, recycling, renewable energy, and natural sciences. Explore the museum's green rooftop and outdoor Wonderground for a glimpse of urban ecology and meet some native animals up close. Ages 5+ Limit: 20

**Leader:** Cheryl DeWalt

**Trail:** Less than 1 mile, flat

**Wednesday, July 8, 10AM-12PM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 child, per person





LISE KITCHEL

163, 178 & 183



JOSIAH SAN TIAGO

168

### 161. Paddle Horicon Marsh

Enjoy a leisurely paddle to explore the scenic waters of Horicon Marsh. Learn about the wildlife, history, and future of this amazing marsh of international importance. You never know what we may find around the river bend! No bathrooms. \*You must bring your own canoe/kayak. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Liz Herzmann, Jeff Bahls & Eric Kilburg

**Paddle:** 5 miles, mostly calm waters

**Friday, July 10, 8AM-12PM**

Horicon, Dodge Co. (SE)

Cost: \$28 per person

### 162. Discovering Dragonflies and Damselflies

Discover dragonfly and damselfly ecology in one of Milwaukee's beloved urban green spaces: Washington Park. Learn about Wisconsin odonate (dragonfly and damselfly) ecology, how to properly catch and identify species, and how you can get involved in the statewide Odonata Survey. Ages 8+ Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Maggie Steinhauer & Amanda Tokuyama

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, paved, mowed grass

**Friday, July 10, 9-11:30AM**

Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$23 adult, \$13 youth, per person



### 163. Treasures in the Stream: Mussels of Embarrass River

Wade in the cool, clear waters of the Embarrass River to search for one of our state's most diverse yet hidden treasures: freshwater mussels (clams). Learn about our 50 native species, their fascinating life cycle, interrelationship with fish, and their unique contribution to Wisconsin history, from food to buttons to pearls. Great fun for kids and adults! Ages 5+ Limit: 30

**Leader:** Jesse Weinzinger

**Trail:** 100 yards, uneven stream bottom, slippery bank

**Friday, July 10, 9AM-12PM**

Pella, Shawano Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



### 164. Snorkel & Explore: Underwater World of Sparkling Lake

Sparkling Lake is heralded for crystal clear waters and abundant aquatic life including fish, turtles, and mussels. Explore this underwater world and learn about freshwater ecology in a unique way: snorkeling! Snorkels, masks, fins, and life vests will be provided. Some swimming skills required; beginning snorkelers welcome. No bathrooms. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 10

**Leaders:** Abby Vogt, Lydia Dobberstein & Jamie Vandengenberg

**Trail:** Swimming 275 yards

Choose one session to attend:

**164-A. Friday, July 10, 10AM-12PM**

**164-B. Friday, July 10, 1-3PM**

**164-C. Saturday, August 8, 10-12PM**

**164-D. Saturday, August 8, 1-3PM**

Arbor Vitae, Vilas Co. (NC)

Cost: \$60 per person

### 165. From Logging to Loons: Star Lake

Enjoy the flora and fauna of the Northwoods! Hike through towering trees along the scenic shores of a peninsula that juts out into Star Lake. Learn about the rich logging history of the area, which is now full of diversity from conifers to bogs thanks to dedicated forest management. Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Bethany Heft & McKenzie Grant

**Trail:** 2.5 miles, rolling and uneven terrain

**Saturday, July 11, 9AM-1PM**

Eagle River, Vilas Co. (NC)

Cost: \$35 per person





169

### 166. Caving at Carolyn's Caverns

Descend into a matrix of four interconnected caverns to discover geologic history from millions of years ago! Learn how caves are formed and the animals that use them. We will use stairs and ladders to access the caves, with the option to crawl through tunnels. Ages 7+ only Limit: 50

**Leaders:** Louise Marum & Alaina Tiedt

**Trail:** 1 mile, ladders, stairs, crawling

**Saturday, July 11, 9:45AM-12:45PM**

Chilton, Calumet Co. (NE)

Cost: \$27 adult, \$17 youth, per person 

### 167. Private Lands Restoration: Mineral Point

*Challenging: hills, primitive trail.* Enjoy a hike through a mature prairie restoration. Join experts from Adaptive Restoration for an exclusive tour of a 160-acre private property with 16 years of habitat restoration. Learn tips and tricks for managing restored and remnant prairies, oak savannas and woodlands, and wetlands. Discuss interseeding prairie into old hayfields and creating habitat for grassland birds. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Bryant Luhman

**Trail:** 3 miles, primitive trails, hills

**Saturday, July 11, 11AM-1PM**

Mineral Point, Iowa Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 168. Tour the Raptor Education Group Inc.

View spectacular birds up close at REGI, one of Wisconsin's most important bird rehabilitation and education facilities which cares for 900-1,000 patients annually. They accept all federally protected, native bird species as patients with a specialization in bald eagles, raptors, and trumpeter swans. Ages 6+ Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Samantha Brooks & Cinna Smallwood

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, gravel

Choose one session to attend:

**168-A. Saturday, July 11, 10AM-12PM**

**168-B. Saturday, July 18, 10AM-12PM**

Antigo, Langlade Co. (NC)

Cost: \$23 adult, \$13 youth, per person 



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### 169. Butterfly Field Day in Fort McCoy

Explore a slice of Wisconsin seldom accessible to the public: Fort McCoy! Search amongst the vast blooming prairies for butterflies: Otte skipper, regal fritillary, and the rare and exquisite Karner blue. Learn how Fort McCoy biologists are managing the land to conserve the rich biological diversity of this unique site. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Jessup Weichert & Jessica Salesman

**Trail:** 3 miles, uneven, some hills

Choose one session to attend:

**169-A. Monday, July 13, 8:45-11:45AM**

**169-B. Monday, July 13, 12:30-3:30PM**

Tomah, Monroe Co. (SW)

Cost: \$23 per person

### 170. Kickapoo Caverns: Cave & Bat Ecology

*Challenging: steep stairways, requires agility.* Tour a stunning limestone cave and marvel at underground pools, beautifully-colored stalactites, and a 40-foot-high cathedral-like chamber that provides an important winter hibernation site for several threatened bat species. See how active land management benefits bats while also learning about the importance of protecting Crawford County's karst geology. Not recommended for people with claustrophobia. Fundraiser for NRF. Ages 12+ Limit: 48

**Leaders:** Chris Kirkpatrick, Michael Reitz & Jennifer Redell

**Trail:** 2 miles, steep stairs, uphill, narrow passages, low ceilings

**Tuesday, July 14, 9AM-12PM**

Wauzeka, Crawford Co. (SW)

Cost: \$50 adult, \$40 youth, per person 



173

### 171. Photography Hike: Kettle Moraine

Get your cameras out to discover diverse prairies and woodlands of the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit. Enjoy a short hike with a seasoned photographer to explore the variety of picturesque settings and subjects.

Then, return at sunset to the location that inspired you the most and photograph subjects of your choice! No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Nathan Holoubek, Eddee Daniel & Jessica Knackert

**Trail:** 1 mile, dirt, gradual slope, much standing

**Tuesday, July 14, 6:30-9PM**

Eagle, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$28 per person



### 172. Loon Pontoon: Lake Owen

Embark on a pontoon exploration of a scenic Northwoods lake to learn amazing facts about these ancient birds and the beautiful lakes where they live. Enjoy stories from a local naturalist and author about the facts and fantasies behind this Northwoods icon. Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 11

**Leaders:** Emily Stone & Heaven Walker

**Trail:** Step-up into boat

**Wednesday, July 15, 9AM-12PM**

Cable, Bayfield Co. (NC)

Cost: \$110 per person\*



### 173. Red Banks Alvar SNA: Snails & Rarities

*Extreme: challenging footing, very steep hike!*

One of the rarest ecosystems of Wisconsin, alvars occur on limestone plains, have very little soil, and boast a unique geologic history in the Niagara Escarpment. Discover uncommon plants, natural wonders, and one of the most diverse land snail communities known in the Midwest. No bathrooms. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Jake Koebernik, Julie Hawkins-Tyriver & Josh Martinez

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, very steep, rocky terrain, hummocks

**Wednesday, July 15, 9AM-1PM**

Dyckesville, Brown Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person



174

### 174. Demystify Waste: Tour Dane County Landfill & Trash Lab

Reduce, reuse, recycle! See how the Dane County Landfill facilities are putting those words into action. Explore the Dane County Trash Lab, and how Clean Sweep, the C&D Recycling facilities, and landfill are protecting the health of the community and environment while creating millions of dollars' worth of renewable energy every year. Become part of a sustainable future! No bathrooms. Ages 7+

**Leaders:** Wyeth Augustine-Marceil & Hanna Kohn

**Trail:** Stairs into bus

**Wednesday, July 15, 9:30-11AM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



### 175. Johnson's Nursery Native Plants

Go behind the scenes at Johnson's Nursery to see their greenhouses, production areas, pond and water reclamation facilities, and floating islands. Discuss with horticultural experts which native plants are most appropriate for your yard. Then, peruse their plant inventory to make your yard a pollinator haven! Limit: 30

**Leader:** Rob Dummert

**Trail:** 0.25 mile, gravel, much standing, no seating

**Wednesday, July 15, 10AM-2PM**

Menomonee Falls, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person

\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible





CHRISTINE TANZER

180

### 176. Where Magic Happens: Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands

Paddle through urban and wild areas of the East and West Twin Rivers to discover habitat, wildlife, and history. Located on the transition from uplands to lakes, coastal wetlands are dynamic habitats that play an important ecological role for many species, including as spawning habitat for fish. Join us on a paddle adventure to celebrate coastal marshes! \*You must bring your own canoe/kayak. Limit: 15  
**Leader:** Titus Seilheimer  
**Paddle:** 6 miles, challenging wind, slow current

**Friday, July 17, 9AM-12PM**  
 Two Rivers, Manitowoc Co. (NE)  
 Cost: \$18 per person

### 177. Exploring Trees at Stewart Lake County Park

Take a stroll to learn about Wisconsin trees. Discover what makes each tree unique—from leaf shape to bark texture. Learn how to use field guides, dichotomous keys, and simple clues to identify common native species. Come ready to look up, look close, and see the forest in a whole new way! Limit: 20  
**Leader:** Angela Rivera Rautmann  
**Trail:** 1 mile, steep, uneven, exposed roots

**Friday, July 17, 9:30-11AM**  
 Mount Horeb, Dane Co. (SW)  
 Cost: \$28 per person

### 178. Paddle Manitowish River in Search of Mussels

Paddle scenic waters in search of native mussels (freshwater clams). Learn about our state's 50 species of mussels, their amazing life cycle, interrelationship with fish, and contributions to the history of Wisconsin, from food to pearls to buttons. Stop along the way to snorkel and explore the underwater world to find and identify mussels. Canoes and snorkel gear provided. Limit: 12  
**Leaders:** Abby Vogt & Jesse Weinzinger  
**Paddle:** 4.5 miles

**Friday, July 17, 10AM-5PM**  
 Manitowish Waters, Vilas Co. (NC)   
 Cost: \$53 per person



CLIFF NEUMENHUIS

181

### 179. Creating Spaces for Crane Conservation

Tour the International Crane Foundation to discover how they protect ecosystems and safeguard crane populations worldwide. Enjoy interpretive sites and crane exhibits. Explore a tallgrass prairie and see what it takes to raise endangered cranes. Limit: 25  
**Leader:** Jennifer Drayna  
**Trail:** 0.5 mile, ADA accessible, paved

Choose one session to attend:  
**179-A. Saturday, July 18, 9AM-12PM**  
**179-B. Saturday, July 18, 1-4PM**  
 Baraboo, Sauk Co. (SW)    
 Cost: \$28 per person

### 180. Deep History of a Prairie: York Prairie SNA

Look through the lens of anthropology and paleontology to learn about prairie ecology as you never have before! Hear the story of York Prairie SNA back to its very beginning. Contemplate how the plants that we see today reflect this deep history. No bathrooms. Limit: 20  
**Leader:** Jim MacDonald  
**Trail:** 0.5 mile, no trails, tall grass, hills

**Saturday, July 18, 9AM-12:30PM**  
 New Glarus, Green Co. (SW)    
 Cost: \$18 per person

### 181. Insect Diversity: Collecting, Preserving & ID

Though you may not see many insects at first glance, entomologists know how to find them! Venture into Schmeckle Reserve and Iverson Park to try your hand at several insect sampling techniques in different habitats. Then head to the lab to pin, preserve, identify, and label insects and explore the entomology collections. Fee includes a kit to take home, including a collection box, labeling supplies, forceps, insect pins, and pinning board.  
 Ages 8+ Limit: 30  
**Leaders:** Paul Whitaker & Jamee Hubbard  
**Trail:** 2 miles, flat, dirt, gravel, woodchips

**Saturday, July 18, 9AM-3PM**  
 Stevens Point, Portage Co. (NC)   
 Cost: \$40 adult, \$30 youth, per person



KATIE SALES

182

### 182. Olson Oak Woods Mushroom Foray

*Challenging: off-trail hiking on uneven terrain.* Join members of the Madison Mycological Society to look for common and unique mushrooms. Hunt for fruiting fungi and then identify what we find. This trip is good for novices and experts alike to learn more about mushrooms and how to safely identify them. No bathrooms. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Jessica Ross, Ben King &

Bartje Wakker

**Trail:** 3 miles, some off-trail, uneven ground

**Saturday, July 18, 9AM-12PM**

Verona, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$40 per person



### 183. Treasures of the Mukwonago River: Native Mussels

Wade in the cool waters of the Mukwonago River to search for one of our state's most diverse yet hidden treasures: freshwater mussels (clams). Learn about our 50 native species, their fascinating life cycle, and their unique contribution to Wisconsin history, from food to buttons to pearls. Great fun for kids and adults! Ages 5+ Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Lisie Kitchel & Jesse Weinzinger

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, short walk, wading in river

**Saturday, July 18, 9AM-12PM**

Mukwonago, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



### 184. Botanical Cyanotype Printmaking & Plant Walk

Create your own botanical cyanotype print! Learn about this historical photographic technique and leave with your own blue and white print as a souvenir. Take a short plant walk while the prints dry to learn about native plants found in prairies and oak savannas, how these habitats are managed, and the wildlife that use them. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Savanna Hartman & Britta Petersen

**Trail:** 1 mile, mowed grass, gravel, flat

**Saturday, July 18, 10AM-12PM**

Portage, Columbia Co. (SW)

Cost: \$28 per person



CHERYL ROBINSON

189

### 185. Apostle Islands: Kayak the Sea Caves

Get up close with some of the biggest sea caves on the Apostle Island National Lakeshore mainland! Start at Meyers Beach with basic sea kayak instruction, then launch into the waters of Lake Superior for a paddle alongside towering red cliffs and exploration into iconic sea caves. Note: max weight 275lb; max height 6'6". Tandem sea kayaks and gear provided. Limit: 12

**Leader:** Ellie Kolodzieski

**Paddle:** 4 miles, strenuous if windy

Choose one session to attend:

**185-A. Saturday, July 18, 10:45AM-2:30PM**

**185-B. Saturday, July 18, 3:45-7:30PM**

Cornucopia, Bayfield Co. (NC)

Cost: \$103 per person

### 186. Birdies, Bogies & Butterflies: Sand Valley Golf Resort

*Challenging: sandy hills, hot with no shade.* You can have your native habitats and golf in them, too! Once a red pine plantation, Sand Valley has been thoughtfully converted to a place where natural areas and golf course co-mingle in harmony. Learn how sand barrens and sand prairie restorations were incorporated for aesthetics, conservation, and a great round of golf. Spy Karner blue butterflies who now thrive in this Central Sands landscape. Limit: 15

**Leader:** Jens Jensen

**Trail:** 3 miles, rolling hills, sandy, no shade

**Wednesday, July 22, 8AM-12PM**

Rome, Adams Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person

\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible





NAOMI HADLEY

WDNR

190

191

### 187. Restoring a Lost Landscape: Westport Prairie Partnership

*Challenging: steep, rocky terrain.* Visit a showpiece of Wisconsin's glacial and prairie heritage where 100 native plant species thrive. Majestic bur oaks dot the landscape amongst the blooming wild indigo, blazing stars, compass plants, and coneflowers. Hear about prairie management and the partnerships that protect this stunning site in Empire Prairie SNA. No bathrooms. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** BJ Byers & Sam Douglass

**Trail:** 2 miles, very steep, rocky, unsure footing

**Wednesday, July 22, 9-11:30AM**

Westport, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 188. Turtle Flambeau Flowage Pontoon Tour

Explore the history and natural beauty of the 13,000-acre Turtle Flambeau Flowage Scenic Waters Area on a guided pontoon tour. Enjoy excellent birding and wildlife viewing as you learn about the history and cultural traditions of this jewel of the Northwoods. Fundraiser for local conservation. Limit: 9

**Leaders:** Hannah Thorpe & Jim Bokern

**Trail:** Step-up into boat

Choose one session to attend:

**188-A. Wednesday, July 22, 11AM-4PM**

**188-B. Thursday, July 23, 11AM-4PM**

Springstead, Iron Co. (NC)

Cost: \$75 per person\*



### 189. Paddle, Discover, Connect: Wisconsin River

Enjoy a delightful paddle on a serene section of the Upper Wisconsin River! Learn about the geological history of the area. Search for eagles, great blue herons, and a plethora of other wildlife and renew your connection with nature on this peaceful journey. Canoes and gear provided. Limit: 24

**Leaders:** Elizabeth & Rick Hengel

**Paddle:** 8 miles, flat water

Choose one session to attend:

**189-A. Thursday, July 23, 9AM-3PM**

**189-B. Thursday, August 20, 9AM-3PM**

Portage, Columbia Co. (SW)

Cost: \$79 per person

### 190. Pontoon Tour: History & Habitat of the Harbor District

Enjoy a pontoon cruise through Milwaukee's Harbor District to see where three ecologically important rivers meet to flow into Lake Michigan. Explore its changing history from rich freshwater estuary to industrial hub, and learn about current efforts to restore and revitalize this working waterfront. Boat has shade canopy with open sides. Limit: 40

**Leader:** Aaron Zeleske

**Trail:** Step down into boat, no handrail

Choose one session to attend:

**190-A. Thursday, July 23, 12:45-3PM**

**190-B. Thursday, August 20, 12:45-3PM**

Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$60 per person

### 191. Lakeshore State Park: Urban Oasis

Lakeshore is one of the newest and most urban of Wisconsin's State Parks. Located on a Lake Michigan peninsula in downtown Milwaukee, it sports spectacular views of both the city and lake. Hike through its shortgrass prairies to learn about ecology and marvel at the surprising diversity of wildlife, plants, and birds that inhabit this urban oasis. Limit: 25

**Leader:** Elaine Zautke

**Trail:** 2 miles, ADA accessible, paved

**Friday, July 24, 10AM-12PM**

Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 192. Behind the Scenes: Wild Rose Fish Hatchery

Have you ever wondered where the fish on the end of your line may have come from? Experience a rare behind-the-scenes tour of Wisconsin's largest fish hatchery. Come see how this state-of-the-art facility raises trout, salmon, walleye, musky, and even sturgeon to support angling opportunities across the state. Ages 10+ Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Jesse Landwehr & Jennifer Sperling

**Trail:** 3 miles, paved, gravel, some hills

Choose one session to attend:

**192-A. Saturday, July 25, 9AM-12PM**

**192-B. Saturday, July 25, 12:30-3:30PM**

Wild Rose, Waushara Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person





KATIE STEIGER-WEISTER-USFWS

192, 195, 252 & 277



UW-SUPERIOR

196

### 193. Bumble Bee Walk: Owen Conservation Park

Wisconsin is home to 20 bumble bee species, including the federally endangered rusty-patched bumble bee. Learn about the life history and conservation needs of these docile insects, and how to identify them in the field. Let's see how many of the 12 expected species we can find in this high-quality urban habitat! Limit: 20

**Leader:** Susan Carpenter

**Trail:** 1 mile, level, mowed grass and gravel, some hills

**Saturday, July 25, 10AM-12PM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 194. Penokee Hills: Beaver Ponds & Wetlands

*Extreme: off-trail, tripping hazards, standing water, steep rugged terrain.* Journey to one of Wisconsin's highest quality watersheds: the headwaters of Bull Gus Creek, a tributary to the Bad River. Learn about the importance of beavers in helping maintain upper watershed wetlands for capturing runoff, recharging groundwater, and supporting trout and wildlife habitat. Explore several different kinds of wetlands, including large beaver ponds. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Tracy Hames & Bill Heart

**Trail:** 2 miles, off-trail, steep, wet, tripping hazards

**Saturday, July 25, 10AM-3PM**

Mellen, Iron Co. (NC)

Cost: \$28 per person

### 195. Genoa National Fish Hatchery & The Great River Road

Did you know Genoa National Fish Hatchery is one of the most diverse hatcheries in the nation? They rear freshwater mussels, Hine's emerald dragonfly larvae, and mudpuppy salamanders, along with 15 species of fish. Take a walking tour of the 20 different ponds and explore fascinating exhibits on wildlife and conservation in the Upper Mississippi River region. Ages 5+ Limit: 30

**Leader:** Erica Rasmussen

**Trail:** 2 miles, flat, paved, woodchips, boardwalk

Choose one session to attend:

**195-A. Tuesday, July 28, 9-11AM**

**195-B. Wednesday, July 29, 9-11AM**

Genoa, Vernon Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



### 196. Catamaran Tour: the Nation's Largest Freshwater Estuary

One of the busiest ports in the Great Lakes is embedded within the nation's largest freshwater estuary. The proximity of Port of Duluth-Superior and St. Louis River Estuary raises the stakes for aquatic invasives spreading on ships. Climb aboard the Sadie Ann, a grand catamaran-style floating classroom, to view the scenic estuary and experiment with water sampling techniques. Then tour a ballast water research facility on shore. Note: the boat may rock and sway in waves. Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Alan Brew & Matt TenEyck

**Trail:** 0.25 mile, gravel, paved

Choose one session to attend:

**196-A. Friday, July 31, 12:30-5:30PM**

**196-B. Friday, August 14, 12:30-5:30PM**

Superior, Douglas Co. (NW)

Cost: \$98 per person





197

### 197. Wolf Howl

Join naturalists from the Timber Wolf Alliance to learn about area wolf packs. Caravan in your own vehicles through wolf territory with stops along the way to howl, look for wolf tracks and signs of other wildlife including elk and various forest carnivores. Enjoy dinner at Lakewood Resort and an outdoor tour of Forest Lodge on Lake Namakagon (included). Limit: 20  
**Leaders:** Adrian Wydeven & Sarah Boles  
**Trail:** 2 miles, dirt roads & paths

**Saturday, August 1, 3PM-Midnight**

Cable, Bayfield Co. (NC)

Cost: \$88 per person



### 198. Trumpeter Swans Return to Wisconsin

After a century of overhunting, trumpeter swans were completely gone from Wisconsin and nearly all their breeding range by 1900. Thanks to valiant efforts by WDNR and partners, including NRF, the trumpet of our largest waterfowl species can once again be heard across our skies. Hear a presentation about the tribulations and successes of this recovery program. Then enjoy a wagon ride through Sandhill Wildlife Area to view nesting swans! Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Mike Mossman & Lisa Hartman

**Trail:** Wagon ride

**Tuesday, August 4, 8-11AM**

Babcock, Wood Co. (NC)

Cost: \$38 per person



198

### 199. UW Zoological Museum Tour & Mammal ID Skills

Go behind the scenes at the UW Zoological Museum to explore the biological specimens housed in this 10,000 square-foot facility. Sharpen your identification skills of Wisconsin's mammals by studying their tracks, skulls, and field markers up close. Limit: 20  
**Leaders:** John Stuhler & Emily Halverson  
**Trail:** Less than 1 mile, indoors

Choose one session to attend:

**199-A. Thursday, August 6, 9:30AM-12PM**

**199-B. Friday, August 7, 9:30AM-12PM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$28 per person



### 200. Dunes of Kohler Andrae: Ecology, Archaeology & Geology

*Challenging: steep, off-trail hiking on sand.*  
 Explore the amazing world of dunes along the Lake Michigan shore. Hike off-trail to discover unique sand dune ecology, rare plants, interdunal ephemeral wetlands, and a dry-mesic white pine forest in beautiful Kohler Park Dunes SNA. Learn about its unique archaeology and geology. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** James Buchholz & Butch DuMez

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, sandy, cordwalk, steep sections

**Saturday, August 8, 9:30AM-12PM**

Sheboygan, Sheboygan Co. (NE)

Cost: \$28 per person



### 201. Exploring Frog Bay Tribal National Park

Hike the nation's first Tribal National Park that protects nearly 180 acres of pristine Lake Superior shoreline. Traverse rare boreal forests, coastal wetlands, and undeveloped sand beaches for an unequalled wilderness experience on the Bayfield Peninsula with scenic views of five Apostle Islands. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** John Bates & Mary Burns

**Trail:** 2 miles, rolling, exposed roots and rocks

Choose one session to attend:

**201-A. Sunday, August 9, 9:30AM-12PM**

**201-B. Sunday, August 9, 1-3:30PM**

Bayfield, Bayfield Co. (NC)

Cost: \$38 per person



MGE

203

## 202. Ridge & Swale: Plant Ecology Ramble

Over hill, over swale, we will hit the Ice Age Trail as it rambles through one of the highest quality coastal ecosystems along Lake Michigan — Point Beach SNA. Learn how the ridge and swale wetland complex formed as lake levels receded over thousands of years, leaving concentric dune ridges behind. See a unique assemblage of plants only found in a few locations in the state. Fundraiser for WI Rare Plant Preservation Fund. No bathrooms. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Kevin Doyle & Ryan O'Connor  
**Trail:** 3 miles, unpaved, flat to rolling, sand dune climb

**Monday, August 10, 10AM-2PM**

Two Rivers, Manitowoc Co. (NE)

Cost: \$28 per person



## 203. Agrivoltaics: How Solar Energy & Agriculture Coexist

Explore two solar facilities owned by MGE, a Wisconsin Green Tier participant, that combine land management and agrivoltaics for a greener future. Visit O'Brien Solar Facility to learn how solar power works and how native plantings beneath the solar panels are providing pollinator habitat. Then caravan to Tyto Solar for a rare chance to see a unique collaboration of solar technology and sheep grazing. No bathrooms. Ages 10+ Limit: 40

**Leaders:** Emily Sunnucks, Jeanne Burns-Frank & John Armstrong

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, unpaved, uneven, flat, much standing

**Wednesday, August 12, 2-4PM**

Fitchburg, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



SUNNY LO

206

## 204. Falling in Love with the Night Sky: Wyalusing

Join the StarSplitters to explore astronomy! Start the evening in a classroom learning about the night sky: planets, galaxies, star clusters, and nebulae. Then venture outside with telescopes to view the Great Hercules Cluster, the Lagoon Nebula, the Andromeda Galaxy, and much more. Limit: 24

**Leaders:** Jean Napp & Kyle Kearn

**Trail:** 0.2 mile, flat walking path

**Thursday, August 13, 8-11PM**

Prairie du Chien, Grant Co. (SW)

Cost: \$23 per person

## 205. Fontana-on-Geneva Lake Preserves

Stroll through four different preserves located in Fontana-on-Geneva Lake. Trek through prairies bursting with color, a rare calcareous fen, a woodland gem with a Class 1 trout stream, and nine different educational gardens. Hear from local experts about the features that make these preserves unique. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Tai Thompson, Kiera Senese & Jaden Nickelsen

**Trail:** 2 miles, grass, paved, woodchips, small hills

**Friday, August 14, 9-11:30AM**

Fontana-on-Geneva Lake, Walworth Co. (SE)

Cost: \$20 per person

## 206. Shorebirds & Waterbirds of Cat Island

*Challenging: long, 5-mile hike, no shade.* Enjoy an exclusive opportunity to hike into the usually closed-to-the-public Cat Island Wave Barrier for a rare chance to see its amazing birdlife. Spy great egrets, black-crowned night herons, terns, pelicans and more on this island that has hosted more species of migratory shorebirds than any other location in Wisconsin! No bathrooms. Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 18

**Leader:** Tom Prestby

**Trail:** 5 miles, gravel road, hot, no shade

**Saturday, August 15, 8AM-12:30PM**

Green Bay, Brown Co. (NE)

Cost: \$120 per person\*



\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible





MICHAEL JANKE

208

## 207. Old-Growth & Fire Ecology: Frog Lake and Pines SNA

Witness the beauty of an old-growth northern white and red pine forest. Marvel at magnificent trees more than 3 feet in diameter, and explore a stretch of Frog Lake's pristine shoreline with fire-scarred trees likely burned by Native Americans over many decades.

No bathrooms. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** John Bates & Mary Burns

**Trail:** 2.5 miles, flat, some downed trees

Choose one session to attend:

**207-A. Saturday, August 15, 9AM-12PM**

**207-B. Saturday, August 15, 1-4PM**

Manitowish, Iron Co. (NC)

Cost: \$38 per person



## 208. Mushrooms of the Northwoods

Hike the woods with a seasoned guide to identify Northwoods mushrooms. Learn to forage safely and how mushrooms interact with and support the rest of the forest. No bathrooms. Ages 9+ Limit: 30

**Leader:** Arne Martinson

**Trail:** 2 miles, groomed trail, optional off-trail

Choose one session to attend:

**208-A. Saturday, August 15, 9:30-11:45AM**

**208-B. Friday, August 28, 9:30-11:45AM**

Bayfield, Bayfield Co. (NC)

Cost: \$33 adult, \$23 youth, per person



## 209. Sketching in the UW Zoological Museum

Are you an artist *and* nature lover? Looking to hone your drawing skills? Enjoy a workshop sketching from mounted museum specimens, focusing on full figure as well as detailed close ups of both mammalian and avian subjects. Begin by drawing skeletal anatomy and bones and then move on to furred and feathered taxidermy mounts. Sketching materials provided. All levels of art experience are welcome! Limit: 16

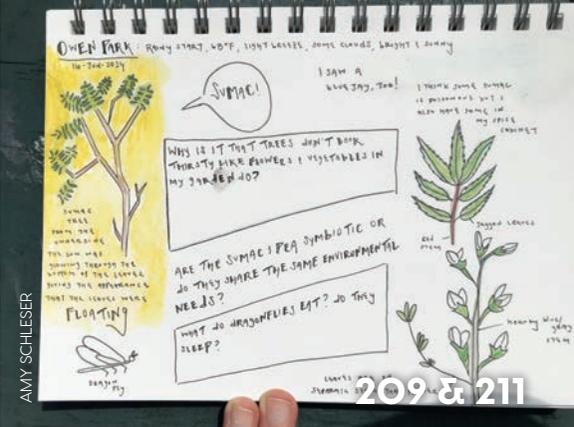
**Leader:** Jack Whisenant

**Trail:** 100 yards, indoors

**Saturday, August 15, 10AM-2PM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$28 per person



AMY SCHLESER

209 & 211

## 210. Monarch Tagging: St. Croix Valley

Monarchs need our help! One of the most recognizable butterflies on the planet is now on the decline. Become a citizen scientist and take an active role in their protection. Learn details of their fascinating life cycle then grab a net to help tag monarchs for scientific study within restored prairies of Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center's Wisconsin Campus.

Ages 7+ Limit: 30

**Leader:** Lauren Smith

**Trail:** 2 miles, some off-trail in grasslands

**Saturday, August 15, 1-3PM**

Hudson, St. Croix Co. (NW)

Cost: \$23 adult, \$13 youth, per person



## 211. Field Sketching: Owen Park

Field sketching captures a sense of place in a dynamic, visual way. Learn the basics of field sketching and explore the different styles for close-up observations and long-range landscape views. You'll leave not only inspired but also fully equipped with a set of sketching supplies for your future adventures. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Jack Whisenant & Amy Schleser

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, flat terrain

**Sunday, August 16, 9AM-12PM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$38 per person

## 212. Banding Ducks Hands-On

Stealthily wait under the cover of darkness and watch ducks gather during sunrise at the Collins Marsh Wildlife Area. See biologists capture ducks with a cannon-net, then help catch and even band ducks yourself! A great hands-on experience to learn about waterfowl ecology and management. Fundraiser for NRF.

Ages 8+ Limit: 10

**Leaders:** Steve Easterly & Andrew Krsnich

**Trail:** 300 yards, gravel, grass, stairs, much standing

Choose one session to attend:

**212-A. Tuesday, August 18, 4:30-8:30AM**

**212-B. Thursday, August 20, 4:30-8:30AM**

Reedsville, Manitowoc Co. (NE)

Cost: \$40 adult, \$30 youth, per person





JOSHUA WAYER

213



LORRIHOWSKA

3 & 217

### 213. Save the Oaks! Managing Oak Wilt

Oak wilt kills thousands of trees annually. Learn how to recognize, prevent, and manage oak wilt in a field-based workshop designed for landowners and nature enthusiasts. Join forest health specialists for a short classroom presentation followed by a field tour of a diseased and managed oak wilt site. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Susan Barrett, Alex Hornung & Holly Patrillo

**Trail:** 1 mile, crushed rock, woodchips, boardwalk

**Tuesday, August 18, 8:30-11AM**

Stevens Point, Portage Co. (NC)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 214. Paddle Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area

*Challenging: possible portage and difficult conditions with low water.* Venture out on a scenic paddle to explore the vast wetlands of Theresa Marsh! We'll travel past swooping black terns and dabbling wood ducks to learn about the property's history, current habitat restoration efforts, and the wildlife and plants found in the marsh. No bathrooms. \*You must bring your own canoe/kayak. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Steffen Peterson, Megan Seidl & Jessica Knackert

**Paddle:** 5 miles, flat water, possible portage

**Friday, August 21, 8:30AM-1PM**

Theresa, Washington Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 215. Lulu Lake SNA: Terrain in Transition

*Challenging: steep, off-trail hike in wet terrain.* Take a walk on the historical side! Traverse oak openings and venture into the fen to see the bubbling springs that feed the Mukwonago River as well as rare ecosystems. Hear about the geological and human influences on this exceptional State Natural Area. No bathrooms. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Cory Peters & Caleb Lang

**Trail:** 3 miles, off-trail, very steep, hummocks

**Friday, August 21, 9AM-12PM**

Eagle, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 216. Finding Fungi: Van Loon Wildlife Area

Traverse the picturesque floodplain forest and sand prairies perched along the banks of the Black River on a fungi foray! Early autumn is the perfect season for learning identification tips for tricky fungi and the rules for foraging in State Wildlife Areas. No bathrooms.

Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Ben King & Miah Peterson

**Trail:** 3 miles, hills, marshy areas

**Saturday, August 22, 10AM-2PM**

Holmen, La Crosse Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 217. Wildlife & Windows: Preventing Bird Collisions

Do birds fly into your home's windows? Learn about this serious problem that kills over 1 billion birds annually. View displays of different window treatments and ways to prevent collisions at your home. Go behind the scenes at the Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center rehabilitation facilities where the luckier birds recover and prepare to fly again. Limit: 75

**Leaders:** Lisa Gaumnitz, Paige Pederson & Ellie Meng

**Trail:** 600 feet, flat, paved, gravel

**Saturday, August 22, 1-3PM**

McFarland, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$20 per person



### 218. Horicon Marsh Kayak Exploration

Paddle to discover the history, geology, flora, and fauna of one of our nation's largest freshwater marshes, recognized as a Wetland of International Importance. Kayaks and gear provided. Limit: 12

**Leader:** Steff Merten

**Paddle:** 6 miles, smooth water, some wind

**Sunday, August 23, 8AM-12PM**

Horicon, Dodge Co. (SE)

Cost: \$88 per person





JOSHUA MAYER

220 & 225

### 219. Geology of Waterfalls: Lake Superior Region

**Challenging:** steep sections. The Lake Superior Basin is home to some of the most spectacular waterfalls in the state. Car caravan to visit four waterfalls: Copper Falls, Potato River Falls, Saxon, and Superior Falls. Enjoy picturesque views and learn about the geologic history that is responsible for their creation. Fundraiser for local conservation. Limit: 15

**Leader:** Tom Fitz

**Trail:** 3 miles total, steep hills, stairs

**Sunday, August 23, 10AM-3PM**

Mellen, Ashland Co. (NC)

Cost: \$68 per person\* 

### 220. Bat Swarm & Science Night at Bay City Ridge SNA

By the light of the moon, experience the annual ritual of thousands of bats returning to swarm at the entrances of an underground mine. Witness science in action and see bats in hand. Learn from DNR experts and university researchers as they trap and tag threatened bat species at one of Wisconsin's largest hibernacula. No bathrooms. Fundraiser for WI Bat Conservation Fund. Limit: 35

**Leaders:** Jennifer Redell, J. Paul White & Heather Kaarakka

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, mostly flat, paved, optional steep section

**Thursday, August 27, 7-10PM**

Bay City, Pierce Co. (NW)

Cost: \$50 per person\* 

### 221. Havenwoods Habitat Hike

Explore prairies during summer's full-bloom splendor! From rain gardens to 200-acre restorations, see what's flowering and learn about upcoming and recent habitat improvement projects at Wisconsin's only urban State Forest. Limit: 30

**Leader:** Angela Vickio

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, mowed grass, gravel

**Friday, August 28, 9-11AM**

Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person 

\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible



ELAINA BROSSMAN

223

### 222. Sip & Seed: Ice Age Trail Seed Collecting

Provide a service to nature by harvesting native prairie seed at Swamplover's Preserve which will be used by the Ice Age Trail Alliance to restore native habitat. Learn about the 30 years of restoration activities on the property, then watch the sunset while enjoying snacks and drinks as you connect with fellow conservation enthusiasts. Ages 12+ Limit: 50

**Leaders:** Steven Pence & Allicyn Nelson

**Trail:** 3 miles, flat, packed dirt, tall grass

**Friday, August 28, 3-7PM**

Cross Plains, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person  

### 223. Hummingbirds: Ecology & Banding

Marvel at these flying jewels up close as we watch a licensed bander capture and tag ruby-throated hummingbirds. Learn about hummingbird ecology and glean ideas on attracting various birds and butterflies to your own yard. No bathrooms. Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Ages 7+ Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Mickey O'Connor, Larry & Emily Scheunemann

**Trail:** 0.25 mile, flat, mowed grass

**Saturday, August 29, 7:30-9:30AM**

Milton, Rock Co. (SW)

Cost: \$75 adult, \$65 youth, per person\*  

### 224. Habitat Restoration Paddle: Mississippi River

Journey by canoe into the heart of a multimillion-dollar habitat restoration project that is transforming the backwaters of the Mississippi River. Learn about the history and design of this ambitious effort to restore critical habitat and recreational access of upper Lake Pepin and ensure that this vital river system continues to thrive for generations to come. \*You must bring your own canoe/kayak. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Brenda & Scott Kelly

**Paddle:** 3 miles, easy

**Saturday, August 29, 9:30AM-1:30PM**

Bay City, Pierce Co. (NW)

Cost: \$28 per person



MICHELLE MILFORD

226



JILL TROCHELL ZEHR

210 & 228

### 225. Discover Bats: Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary

Join us to learn about the fascinating world of bats! Start indoors to learn about the natural history and biology of Wisconsin's bat species. Then, head outdoors to walk the trails and locate flying bats using ultrasonic bat detectors. Ages 5+ Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Jody Sperduto & Kim Diedrich

**Trail:** 2 miles, both paved and unpaved, uneven

**Tuesday, September 1, 6:30-8:30PM**

Green Bay, Brown Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person 

### 226. Horicon Marsh Sunset Cruise

Enjoy a hike through beloved Horicon Marsh to learn about ecology and discover wildlife. Then board pontoon boats for an enchanting sunset cruise in search of birds and other dusk-hour delights. Enjoy light snacks and a drink onboard (included). Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 32

**Leaders:** Liz Herzmann, Jeff Bahls, Troy Kirchoff & Carl Reinemann

**Trail:** 2 miles, flat, boardwalk, gravel, grass

Choose one session to attend:

**226-A. Friday, September 4, 3:30-7:30PM**

**226-B. Friday, September 11, 3:30-7:30PM**

Horicon, Dodge Co. (SE)

Cost: \$75 per person 

### 227. Life in the Barrens: Gotham Jack Pine Barrens SNA

*Challenging: off-trail hike in sandy soils and dense brush.* Explore one of the largest contiguous oak-pine barrens in southern Wisconsin to discover geologic, vegetative, and human history. Learn about ecological restoration and how timber harvests, prescribed fire, and manual labor are used to save rare species and benefit pollinators, reptiles, and game species. Note: potential poison ivy. No bathrooms. Limit: 16

**Leader:** Bridget Rathman

**Trail:** 3 miles, off-trail, sandy, some dense brush

**Saturday, September 5, 9:30AM-12:30PM**

Lone Rock, Richland Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person  

### 228. Tagging Monarch Butterflies: Hillside Prairie Sanctuary

Grab a net and blaze through prairies to capture and tag monarch butterflies! Discover details of monarch ecology, their awe-inspiring migration story, and learn how to attract monarchs and other butterflies to your yard. Enjoy this new 280-acre sanctuary of grassland and prairie restoration and learn about the history it holds. Ages 12+ Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Mark Martin, Susan Foote-Martin, Emma Raasch & Graham Steinhauer

**Trail:** 0.75 mile, grass, wagon ride

Choose one session to attend:

**228-A. Tuesday, September 8, 9:30AM-12PM**

**228-B. Tuesday, September 8, 1-3:30PM**

Rockdale, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$28 adult, \$18 youth, per person  

### 229. The Dells: Upham Woods Perspective on Place & Legacy

Note: Paddling experience required. Canoe along Blackhawk Island SNA in the Upper Dells and gaze up at the towering sandstone cliffs above. Climb onto the island's sandy shores and hike the craggy peaks to explore the cultural history, geology, and ecology of the area. Canoes and gear provided. Limit: 24

**Leaders:** Rachael Lewandowski Sarette, Amy Workman & Jen Maggio-Laack

**Paddle:** 2 miles, easy; **Hike:** 1.5 miles

Choose one session to attend:

**229-A. Friday, September 11, 3-6:30PM**

**229-B. Friday, September 25, 3-6:30PM**

Wisconsin Dells, Juneau Co. (SW)

Cost: \$55 per person 

### 230. Fish Diversity of Baird Creek - for kids!

Bring the whole family to learn about the fish and other aquatic creatures hidden in the waters of Baird Creek. Watch as fish are temporarily captured using a large seine net and get up close with aquatic biodiversity. Great fun for young kids and adults! Ages 3+ Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Charlie Frisk & Lexi Angemi

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, steep ascents, uneven surfaces

**Saturday, September 12, 1-3PM**

Green Bay, Brown Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person 





CHRISTINE TANZER

230

### 231. Restoring the Monarch Migration

Explore a rare migratory roost site for monarchs in the heart of Wauwatosa! Traverse the meadows, prairies, oak savanna, and wetlands of the Monarch Conservancy to learn about the monarch's complex life cycle and how you can help conserve this iconic species that is in decline. No bathrooms. Ages 7+ Limit: 20

**Leader:** Barb Agnew

**Trail:** 1 mile, bumpy, narrow trail

**Saturday, September 12, 4:30-6PM**

Wauwatosa, Milwaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person

### 232. Beginning Rock Climbing: Devil's Lake State Park

*Challenging:* vigorous, very steep hike on rocky terrain. Explore Devil's Lake like never before!

Take a steep hike to remote quartzite cliffs overlooking Devil's Lake and Oak Forest SNA. Then don climbing gear and harnesses to learn the basics from certified rock climbing instructors. Take 3-5 climbing routes, belay others, and experiment with scaling vertical cliff faces. All climbing gear is provided. Perfect for beginners! Ages 14+ Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Nick Wilkes, Mark Grman & Mikal Watson

**Trail:** 1 mile, steep, rocky, requires strength

**Sunday, September 13, 8AM-3PM**

Merrimac, Sauk Co. (SW)

Cost: \$68 adult, \$58 child, per person

### 233. Through Eyes of a Forester: the Art of Ecological Forestry

Discover the many climate adaptation tools used at the Forest Exploration Center. Hike through this 60-acre southern hardwood forest to learn how climate change is impacting our forests and what we can do to keep our forests healthy, sustainable, and resilient today and into the future. No bathrooms. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Brad Hutnik, Julie Hein & Ben Ross

**Trail:** 2 miles, crushed granite, ADA accessible

**Sunday, September 13, 10AM-12PM**

Wauwatosa, Milwaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person



DEVILS LAKE CLIMBING GUIDES

232

### 234. Elk Bugling in the Flambeau River State Forest

*Challenging:* off-trail, wet, shrubby areas. Greet the sunrise by bugling for elk! Tour the Flambeau River State Forest to look for signs of elk and discuss the biology of this majestic animal. Learn the history, present, and future of the Wisconsin elk program from initial reintroduction efforts to an annual harvest season by tribal and non-tribal hunters. Fundraiser for NRF. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Ron Weber, Jamie Goethlich & Laine Stowell

**Trail:** 2 miles, off-trail, wet, shrubby terrain

**Monday, September 14, 6AM-12PM**

Phillips, Sawyer Co. (NC)

Cost: \$38 per person

### 235. Bird Banding at an Urban Stopover Site

Experience birds up close! Join biologists to watch songbird banding and learn about the importance of urban parks to migrating birds. Hear about the process of turning a traditional manicured park into a thriving natural area of multiple habitats, and how these efforts have benefited birds and other wildlife. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Amanda Tokuyama, Brittany Peters & Maggie Steinhauer

**Trail:** 1 mile, paved, woodchips

**Wednesday, September 16, 8:30-11AM**

Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$33 per person



**222 & 239**

**236. Eagle Research: Kohler Co.'s Eagle Valley Nature Preserve**

The wooded bluffs and prairies of Eagle Valley provide vital winter shelter for hundreds of bald eagles. Several eagles nest here in the summer too, making it a prime location for 30 years of raptor research. Learn about raptor ecology and hike through diverse habitats that support 87 different breeding birds, dozens of mammals, and many amphibians and reptiles. Enjoy Mississippi River vistas too! Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 12

**Leaders:** Brett Mandernack, Davor Grgic & Ryan Schmitz

**Trail:** 2.6 miles, mowed grass, some hills

**Friday, September 18, 9-11:30AM**

Cassville, Grant Co. (SW)

Cost: \$43 per person\* 

**237. Birding Paddle: Flambeau River's North Fork**

*Extreme: rapids, paddle experience required.*

Ready for a whitewater adventure? Grab your paddle to explore a wild and scenic 11.5-mile river stretch that features Class I rapids, some wave trains, and rock gardens to test your paddle skills. Be on the lookout for interesting birds and plants within the 90,000 acres of the Flambeau River State Forest that surrounds you. \*You must bring your own canoe/kayak. Limit: 12

**Leaders:** Jenna Richardson & Lydia Dobberstein

**Paddle:** 11.5 miles, Class I rapids section, waves, some boulders

**Friday, September 18, 9:30AM-3:30PM**

Loretta, Sawyer Co. (NC)

Cost: \$60 per person 



**238**

**238. Exploring Soil Health: The Sauk County Farm**

Explore a former asylum turned farmland conservation incubator! In 1871, these 524 acres were the County Poor Farm and Asylum. Today, it's a living laboratory for experiments on cover crops and soil health practices and a conduit for farming partnerships. Learn about the Five Principles of Soil Health and their role in land and water conservation. There's a fascinating world below ground to explore! Limit: 60

**Leaders:** Melissa Schlupp & Randy Zogbaum

**Trail:** 1 mile, gravel, uneven, much standing

**Friday, September 18, 9:30AM-12PM**

Reedsburg, Sauk Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person

**239. Scuppernong Prairie SNA Seed Collection & Restoration**

Lend a helping hand to a rare natural community! Wade through the swaying big bluestem and Indian grasses at Scuppernong Prairie SNA on a hunt for ripe seedheads. Learn about the various plant species and their roles in the prairie ecosystem while you directly contribute to their conservation. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Trent Leaf & Aleksandria Winner

**Trail:** 3 miles, off-trail, uneven footing, unmowed grass

**Friday, September 18, 1-3PM**

Eagle, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 per person



\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible





ESMITH/DAS

240

### 240. Star Gazing at Washburn Observatory

*Note: steep staircase with no railing.* Tour historic Washburn Observatory and discover the fascinating history of the observatory's telescope and the study of astronomy at UW-Madison. Then, weather permitting, open up the observatory dome to view objects in the night sky with the 15.6-inch refracting telescope. Limit: 30

**Leader:** Jim Lattis

**Trail:** 0.25 mile, indoors, steep staircase, much standing

Choose one session to attend:

**240-A. Friday, September 18, 7-9PM**

**240-B. Saturday, September 19, 7-9PM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$28 per person

### 241. Autumn Prairies Abloom at Holy Wisdom

How many native plant species can you identify? Learn how to identify asters, goldenrods, and gentians on this meandering hike through Holy Wisdom's prairies and savanna. We'll keep a sharp lookout for birds, bees, and butterflies on this early autumn stroll!

**Limit:** 18

**Leader:** Sylvia Marek

**Trail:** 2 miles, mowed, some small hills

**Saturday, September 19, 9-11:30AM**

Middleton, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 242. Historical Tour of Meadow Valley Wildlife Area

Take a trip back in time to the logging days of the 1800's, the early settlers of the 1900's, and the land management of today. Enjoy a caravan tour with stops for short hikes to learn about historical events that shaped this land, including logging, railroads, wildfires, mossaing, and cranberry production. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Carrie Milestone &

Dave Rheinschmidt

**Trail:** 2 miles, uneven, forest roads

**Saturday, September 19, 9AM-2PM**

Babcock, Juneau Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person



BETH FEIND

244

### 243. Train Ride & Bluff Prairie Hike: Tiffany Wildlife Area

A full day of fun! Enjoy a morning walk in 5-Mile Bluff SNA for amazing views of the Chippewa and Mississippi rivers as we learn about glacial geology, goat prairie management, and snakes. Then off to the tracks for an open-air train ride into the remote areas of the Tiffany Wildlife Area, stopping for short hikes into prairies, savannas, and floodplain forests. Enjoy one of the most ecologically unique areas of the state! Fundraiser for Lower Chippewa River Basin Conservation Fund. Limit: 60

**Leaders:** Mark Rasmussen & Dean Edlin

**Trail:** 1 mile, hills, long periods standing

**Saturday, September 19, 9AM-5PM**

Pepin, Pepin Co. (NW)

Cost: \$50 per person\*



### 244. Daylight in the Swamps: Historic Logging of Northern Wisconsin

Take a trip back in time to the logging days of the 1850's-1930's. Enjoy a bus tour with stops for short hikes to trace the routes logs traveled from woods to rivers to railways. Discover the legends, lore, and legacy of this era that forever changed northern Wisconsin. Limit: 25

**Leader:** Ron Weber

**Trail:** 2 miles, gravel, uneven, gradual slope

**Saturday, September 19, 10AM-3PM**

Weyerhaeuser, Rusk Co. (NW)

Cost: \$38 per person

### 245. Forest Bathing & Foraging: Hoyt Park

Forest Bathing guides you to find stillness, open your senses, and profoundly connect with nature. Learning about wild edible and medicinal plants can further hone your relationship with the landscape and natural world. Join a Certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide and expert forager. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Kate Bast & Vince Aiello

**Trail:** 1 mile, unpaved, rolling hills

**Sunday, September 20, 9AM-12PM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$48 per person



249

### 246. Paddle the Dells

*Challenging: paddle experience required.* Explore the quiet side of the Wisconsin Dells! Paddle through a scenic sandstone gorge to view unusual rock formations in the Dells of the Wisconsin River SNA and learn about the natural and cultural history of this famous place. After paddling, take a short hike to enjoy your lunch atop a high bluff with breathtaking views. Fundraiser for NRF. \*You must bring your own canoe/kayak. Limit: 12

**Leader:** Thomas Meyer

**Paddle:** 5 miles, difficult landings, boat wakes

**Monday, September 21, 8:30AM-2PM**

Wisconsin Dells, Columbia Co. (SW)

Cost: \$50 per person\*



### 247. Paddle the "Boundary Waters" of Wisconsin

*Extreme: portaging canoes over steep slopes.* Adventure into the "Boundary Waters" of Wisconsin on a paddle excursion along the Loyhead Lake Primitive Canoe Route. Learn wilderness camping skills with a knot tying and friction fire workshop to prepare for your next expedition. Discover unique kettle lakes and admire the changes of autumn. No bathrooms. \*You must bring your own canoe. Limit: 12

**Leaders:** Cate Lucas & Anna DeMers

**Paddle:** 3 miles **Portages:** 1 mile, rugged, steep hills

**Thursday, September 24, 9:30AM-3:30PM**

Birchwood, Washburn Co. (NW)

Cost: \$28 per person



250

### 248. Conservation Legacy: UW-Madison Arboretum

Visit the birthplace of ecological restoration in the United States! The John T. Curtis Prairie was the first-ever attempt to return worn-out farmland to a native tallgrass community and is designated a National Historic Landmark. See grassland, wetland, and woodland restorations. Hear about pioneering research on prescribed fire and the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Anne Pearce & Kathy Miner

**Trail:** 2 miles, packed soil, some hills

**Thursday, September 24, 10AM-12:30PM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 249. Autumn Splendor: Fall on the Flambeau River

*Challenging: some rock scrambling.* Enjoy early autumn splendor on a day-long bus tour with stops to hike. View powerful rapids on the historic Flambeau River, visit a wilderness lake, and walk through enchanting hemlock-hardwood forests. Learn more about the history and future of hidden jewels within the Flambeau River State Forest. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Ron Weber & Maggie Lorenz

**Trail:** 3 miles, flat dirt trails, rocky section

**Friday, September 25, 9AM-3PM**

Winter, Sawyer Co. (NC)

Cost: \$40 per person

### 250. Autumn Paddle: Kickapoo River in the Driftless

Paddle beside beautiful sandstone cliffs along the meandering Kickapoo River. Hear how this incredible river was spared from a dam project and is now protected and managed by the State and Ho-Chunk Nation. Enjoy a lunch stop at Wildcat Mountain State Park to learn about the geography and history of the Driftless Region. \*You must bring your own canoe/kayak. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Patrick Wilson, Marcy West, Kevin & Carol Olson

**Paddle:** 9 miles, winding, narrow, moderate current

**Saturday, September 26, 9:30AM-3:30PM**

Ontario, Vernon Co. (SW)

Cost: \$33 per person





SARAJ LANG

254



GRAYSON SMITH-USFWS

255

### 251. Maiden Rock Bluff SNA

Enjoy a morning walk high above the mighty Mississippi River and see native prairie at its golden-best. Learn about the area's history and legends while taking in spectacular views of Lake Pepin. Hear firsthand about the 20-year project to protect and restore this iconic landmark, along with efforts to manage the property's unique habitat for special birds, snakes, and plants. No bathrooms. Limit: 25  
**Leaders:** Rick Remington & Dean Edlin  
**Trail:** 2.5 miles, mowed grass, gravel

**Saturday, September 26, 9:30AM-12PM**  
Stockholm, Pepin Co. (NW)  
Cost: \$18 per person 

### 252. Nevin State Fish Hatchery: Raising Healthy Trout

Ever wondered how fish that are stocked into our state waters are raised? Tour a fish hatchery with state culturists and fish health veterinarians to see firsthand how the Wisconsin DNR rears trout species to help jump-start, maintain, and conserve populations within the state. Limit: 20  
**Leaders:** Danielle Godard, Mike Aquino & Jason Himebauch

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, paved, some steps  
**Saturday, September 26, 9:30-11:30AM**  
Fitchburg, Dane Co. (SW)  
Cost: \$23 per person

### 253. Canoeing the Concrete Jungle

Note: paddle experience required. Many have paddled canoes under a canopy of trees, but here's a unique opportunity to paddle under a canopy of skyscrapers and museums in downtown Milwaukee! Explore how natural and human histories shaped the Milwaukee River and learn current efforts to restore the ecological health of this urban wilderness. Canoes and gear provided. Limit: 14

**Leaders:** Tim Vargo, Amanda Tokuyama & Maggie Steinhauer  
**Paddle:** 4 miles, mostly flat water  
**Saturday, September 26, 10AM-3PM**  
Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co. (SE)  
Cost: \$48 per person

### 254. Hunting Without Harvest: Nature Observation

Unlock the mysteries of nature on this stealthy hike! Practice skills used by traditional hunters to get close to and observe elusive wildlife, but leave the woods with only a photo, sketch, written observation, or memory. Learn animal tracking, habits and preferred habitats. Ages 8+

Limit: 20  
**Leaders:** Ron Weber & Spencer O'Brien  
**Trail:** 2 miles, some hills, some off-trail  
**Saturday, September 26, 10AM-3PM**  
Ladysmith, Rusk Co. (NW)  
Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person 

### 255. Hawk Banding: 70+ Years in Southeast Wisconsin

Experience a firsthand look at one of the oldest continuous hawk banding operations in the United States—over 70 years and 44,000 hawks banded! Get an up-close view of banding red-tailed hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, and other raptors. Fundraiser for raptor banding efforts. Limit: 6

**Leaders:** Steve Holzman & Danny Erickson  
**Trail:** 0.25 mile, level, some stairs

Choose one session to attend:  
**255-A. Wednesday, September 30, 9AM-12PM**  
**255-B. Wednesday, September 30, 1-4PM**  
**255-C. Tuesday, October 6, 9AM-12PM**  
**255-D. Tuesday, October 6, 1-4PM**  
**255-E. Thursday, October 8, 9AM-12PM**  
**255-F. Thursday, October 8, 1-4PM**  
Cedar Grove, Sheboygan Co. (NE)  
Cost: \$118 per person\*  

### 256. Old-Growth Forest: Sack Lake

*Challenging: long off-trail hike on uneven terrain.*  
Hike through the massive yellow birch and hemlocks surrounding Sack Lake. Learn about the ecology and importance of old-growth forests while being immersed in vibrant fall color. Limit: 12

**Leaders:** Troy Walters & Richard Bostwick  
**Trail:** 4 miles, some off-trail, rolling hills  
**Friday, October 2, 10AM-1PM**  
Pine Lake, Iron Co. (NC)  
Cost: \$28 per person

259

### 257. Poppy's Rock SNA: Ancient Volcanoes to Current Groundwater

*Challenging: steep, slippery trail.* Travel back in geologic time to see how ancient volcanoes, tropical beaches, and massive glaciers left their mark on the land and modern-day groundwater. Visit a quarry overlook, artesian well, and Poppy's Rock SNA to learn how bedrock geology governs present-day land use, from agriculture to frac sand mining. Plan to carpool during the trip. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Marcia Bjornerud

**Trail:** 0.25 mile, steep ascent, slippery trail

**Saturday, October 3, 10AM-1PM**

Readfield, Waupaca Co. (NE)

Cost: \$28 per person 

### 258. Porcupine Wilderness Area: Forest Ecology & Orienteering

*Extreme: long off-trail hike on steep, rugged terrain.* Unlike most Wisconsin forests, the Porcupine Lake Wilderness Area has been untouched by human influence for decades. Hike both off-trail and on the scenic North Country Trail to discover forest ecology and learn the art of orienteering with compass, map, and GPS. No bathrooms. Limit: 15

**Leaders:** Ron Weber & Justin Cook

**Trail:** 5 miles, off-trail, steep hills, rocks

**Saturday, October 3, 10AM-3PM**

Grandview, Bayfield Co. (NC)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 259. Northwest Sands Auto Trail: History, Ecology, Geology & Culture

Caravan through the sand barrens, a land shaped by melting glaciers, frequent wildfires, and historic cultures. We'll drive along the Northwest Sands Auto Trail with stops along the way to learn about geological, ecological, historical, and cultural points of interest. Experience the vastness of this landscape firsthand! Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Jane Anklam, Brian Finsatd &

Dave Peters

**Trail:** Car caravan with short stops

**Saturday, October 3, 12:30-4:30PM**

Gordon, Douglas Co. (NW)

Cost: \$18 per person 



263

### 260. Turkey Vultures Up Close

*Note: one climb up a very steep rock stairway.*

Hike upon the bluffs of Devil's Lake State Park to marvel at more than 100 migrating turkey vultures gathering in their nightly roost. Learn about turkey vulture natural history and meet a charming live vulture up close! Ages 7+

Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Lisa Hartman & Mike Mossman

**Trail:** 1 mile, steep climb on rocky stairs

**Sunday, October 4, 2:30-7PM**

Baraboo, Sauk Co. (SW)

Cost: \$28 adult, \$18 youth, per person  

### 261. Historic Bridges of McGilvray Road

Step back in time at Van Loon Wildlife Area!

Hike a scenic route that winds through floodplain forest and wetlands, crossing a series of historic wooden and steel bridges built in the early 1900's. Learn about the area's rich transportation history, unique habitats, and ongoing efforts to preserve both the bridges and surrounding natural landscape. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Miah Peterson & Ruth Scholze

**Trail:** 3.5 miles, stairs, gravel, mowed grass, wood

**Thursday, October 8, 10AM-1PM**

Holmen, La Crosse Co. (SW)

Cost: \$18 per person

### 262. Fall Foliage Paddle

*Note: paddle experience required.* Paddle down the scenic waters of the Eau Claire River in search of bald eagles, migratory birds, beavers, fish, and more! Immerse yourself in the brilliant fall colors and unique seasonal changes of Wisconsin's river ecosystems.

Kayaks and gear provided. Limit: 10

**Leaders:** Megan Giefer-Schimmel &

John Muetz

**Paddle:** 3.5 miles

**Friday, October 9, 10AM-1:30PM**

Fall Creek, Eau Claire Co. (NW)

Cost: \$83 per person 



### 263. Sunset Trolley Tour: Cranes of Navarino

Board an ADA accessible trolley to embark on a journey through the forests, prairies and waterways of Navarino Wildlife Area. Enjoy the sunset hour as hundreds of cranes fly overhead and fill the Pike's Peak flowage. Learn about history, logging, and management along the way. Trolleys are accessible for walker and wheelchair users. (Wheelchair space is limited, reserve prior to trip date.) Limit: 40

**Leaders:** Tim Ewing & Kaylee Lietz

**Trail:** Mostly sitting on trolley

**Friday, October 9, 4:30-6:30PM**

Navarino, Shawano Co. (NE)

Cost: \$28 per person



### 264. A Night at the Observatory

Deep sky nebulas, galaxies, star clusters, planets. Are we speaking your language? Then join experts from the Milwaukee Astronomical Society to view the night sky and learn the basics of astronomy. Tour the club's telescopes (one of the largest amateur astronomy observatories in the country) and revel in the celestial splendor! Ages 7+ Limit: 60

**Leaders:** Matthew Ryno & Lee Keith

**Trail:** 0.5 mile, mowed grass in darkness

**Friday, October 9, 6-9PM**

New Berlin, Waukesha Co. (SE)

Cost: \$28 adult, \$18 youth, per person



### 265. Exploring Mosquito Hill

Despite its name, Mosquito Hill Nature Center has far more to offer than just pesky insects. The large sandstone outcropping, located within Wisconsin's tension zone, provides scenic views and a diverse array of animal and plant species. Enjoy a hike to learn more about the unique history, geology and habitats of this special place. Ages 7+ Limit: 30

**Leader:** Ally Noll

**Trail:** 3 miles, dirt and paved trails, mostly flat, some steep climbs

**Saturday, October 10, 9AM-12PM**

New London, Outagamie Co. (NE)

Cost: \$23 adult, \$13 youth, per person



### 266. Glacial Landforms of Lincoln County

**Challenging:** hiking hilly, rocky terrain. Explore the geology of eastern Lincoln County on a bus trip with stops to hike. Delve into the glacial legacy where the Langlade and Wisconsin Valley lobes created a picturesque combination of high hills and ridges, lakes, and first-class trout streams. Marvel at the scenic Prairie River Dells and enjoy spectacular views from Lookout Mountain of vast hardwood forests awash in fall color. Limit: 26

**Leaders:** Scott Valitchka & Nelson Ham

**Trail:** Multiple hikes, 4 miles total, hilly, rocky, uneven

**Saturday, October 10, 9:30AM-4PM**

Merrill, Lincoln Co. (NC)

Cost: \$45 per person

### 267. John Muir's Boyhood Haunts

It's been over 100 years since John Muir penned his iconic book, "My Boyhood and Youth." Explore Muir Park SNA and other boyhood haunts that were part of the original Muir homestead, enjoy Observatory Hill SNA, and visit Wee White Kirk where John's father preached and his family is buried. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Mark Martin & Kathleen McGwin

**Trail:** 0.75 mile, narrow, steep, rocky

**Saturday, October 10, 9:30AM-3:30PM**

Montello, Marquette Co. (NE)

Cost: \$28 per person



### 268. Behind the Scenes at the Wisconsin State Herbarium

Botanists within the Wisconsin State Herbarium on the UW-Madison campus have been documenting flora for more than 175 years, and have amassed one of the world's largest collections of preserved plants, algae, lichens, and fungi. Learn about the herbarium's 1.3 million botanical specimens and enjoy hands-on activities with museum curators. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Ken Cameron, Mary Ann Feist & Melanie Link-Perez

**Trail:** 0.25 mile, indoors, short walks

**Sunday, October 11, 9AM-12PM**

Madison, Dane Co. (SW)

Cost: \$23 per person





271 &amp; 278

### 269. Fall Colors of the Blue Hills Felsenmeer SNA

*Extreme: long off-trail hike on steep, rugged terrain.* Discover an ecological rarity with unique geology: the Blue Hills Felsenmeer (felsenmeer is German for “sea of rocks”). Enjoy flora and fauna on this hike through forests awash in autumn color. Limit: 20

**Leader:** Ron Weber

**Trail:** 4.5 miles, steep, rugged, challenging

**Friday, October 16, 10AM-3PM**

Weyerhaeuser, Rusk Co. (NW)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 270. Kangaroo Lake: Fall for Autumn Foliage

Gaze in awe at the natural beauty of autumn at Door County's Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve and learn the biological secrets of how tree leaves change color and why. Travel along the trail beginning atop an ancient shoreline, winding down to the lake edge. Enjoy stunning views and observe wildlife. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

Limit: 20

**Leader:** Paige Witek

**Trail:** 1.5 miles, steep slopes, rocky terrain

**Friday, October 16, 3-5PM**

Baileys Harbor, Door Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person



### 271. Crex Meadows: Crane Roosting Caravan

Start indoors learning about sandhill crane ecology. Then caravan through Crex Meadows Wildlife Area during sunset hours to marvel at thousands of cranes flocking to their nightly roost. Ages 10+ Limit: 25

**Leader:** Lauren Thomas

**Trail:** Car caravan with stops at viewpoints

**Friday, October 16, 4:30-7PM**

Grantsburg, Burnett Co. (NW)

Cost: \$18 per person



272

### 272. Owls under the Stars

Did you know that many birds migrate at night using stars to navigate? Watch Beaver Creek Reserve researchers trap and band one of these nocturnal migrants: the tiny northern saw-whet owl. Then learn about the night sky, and weather permitting, view celestial objects through telescopes. Ages 8+ Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Jeanette Kelly, Mike Brown &

Lauren Likkel

**Trail:** 0.25 mile, mostly indoors, short walks

**Friday, October 16, 7:30-10:00PM**

Fall Creek, Eau Claire Co. (NW)

Cost: \$33 adult, \$23 youth, per person



### 273. Fall Waterfowl Viewing on Chequamegon Bay

Waterfowl galore! Caravan along the scenic shore of Lake Superior to view a plethora of waterfowl. Expect to see diving ducks, an assortment of dabbling ducks, and other waterbirds, such as common loons and horned grebes. There's a good chance we will see scoters, long-tailed ducks, or Pacific loons! Ages 12+ Limit: 20

Limit: 20

**Leader:** Nicholas Anich

**Trail:** Car caravan with stops at viewpoints

**Saturday, October 17, 8AM-12PM**

Ashland, Ashland Co. (NC)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



### 274. Saw-whet Owl Migration: Carpenter Nature Center

Have a close encounter with Wisconsin's smallest owl! Venture out with the research banding team as they capture and band northern saw-whet owls. Learn the natural history of this tiny predator and marvel up close at this mysterious bird of prey. The majority of this program is indoors. Ages 7+ Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Jennifer Vieth & Sonia Martinez

**Trail:** 0.25 mile, paved, flat

**Thursday, October 22, 8-10PM**

Hudson, St. Croix Co. (NW)

Cost: \$28 adult, \$18 youth, per person





273

## 275. Niagara Escarpment Geology: Door County

Descend the Niagara Escarpment for an intriguing discussion of glacial geology, karst features and challenges of protecting water quality in sensitive areas. Explore ancient glacial drainage paths and classic sinkhole/spring complexes while being immersed in Door County's spectacular fall color. No bathrooms. Limit: 22

**Leader:** Brian Forest

**Trail:** 2 miles, steep, packed dirt, exposed roots, rocky

**Friday, October 23, 10AM-12PM**

Carlsville, Door Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person

## 276. Glacial Ghosts of Whitnall Park

The Ice Age lives on! Journey back 15,000 years to an era when glaciers were in retreat and mammoths roamed. See up close the kettles, moraines, erratics, and other glacial features and discover how glaciers left their mark on the Whitnall Park we enjoy today. Ages 12+ Limit: 30

**Leaders:** Howard Aprill & Emily Brown

**Trail:** 1 mile, uneven ground

**Saturday, October 24, 9-11AM**

Franklin, Milwaukee Co. (SE)

Cost: \$18 adult, \$8 youth, per person



## 277. Tracking Trout Spawning

Discover the ecology of trout spawning and how to find trout "redd", the nest or spawning bed that female trout create for their eggs. Traverse Doty Creek Fishery Area to find redd and learn how you can become a community scientist by tracking trout spawning activity for Trout Unlimited. No bathrooms. Limit: 20

**Leaders:** Jonathan Pyatskowitz & Kyle Kossel

**Trail:** 1 mile, rocky, uneven, muddy, grass

**Saturday, October 24, 9AM-12PM**

Marion, Waupaca Co. (NE)

Cost: \$18 per person



279 &amp; 280

## 278. Crane Roosting: Sandhill Wildlife Area

Behold the beauty of cranes at sunset! Start indoors to learn about crane ecology. Then hike out to the marsh edge to marvel at breathtaking views of thousands of cranes coming to roost in Gallagher Marsh at sunset. There's a good chance to see eagles and swans too! Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Quinn Brownell &

Gabbie Harshbarger

**Trail:** 1 mile walk & 2 hours sitting on ground

**Saturday, October 24, 3-7PM**

Babcock, Wood Co. (NC)

Cost: \$25 per person



## 279. Migration on the Mighty Mississippi

A sight to behold! Expect to see thousands of waterfowl, including swans, on this caravan tour to 4-5 birding hotspots along the Mississippi River. Observe pelicans, bald eagles, hawks, and more during peak migration at this Globally Important Bird Area. Learn about management challenges and view successful habitat restoration efforts. Cross the river from WI to IA on a car ferry. Fundraiser for Bird Protection Fund. Limit: 25

**Leaders:** Jim Nissen, Steve Houdek & Luke Fara

**Trail:** Car caravan for ~80 miles with stops at viewpoints

**Thursday, November 5, 8:30AM-3PM**

La Crosse, La Crosse Co. (SW)

Cost: \$50 per person\*



## 280. Tips & Tricks to Mastering Waterfowl ID

Get to know the ducks, geese, and swans of the Mississippi Flyway. Learn tips and tricks for waterfowl identification in an indoor classroom, then venture to iconic Pools 8 and 9 on the Mississippi River to hone your skills during the peak of waterfowl migration. Limit: 40

**Leaders:** Brenda & Scott Kelly

**Trail:** Mostly indoors, some outdoor viewing

**Saturday, November 7, 9AM-1PM**

La Crosse, La Crosse Co. (SW)

Cost: \$23 per person



\*Percentage of cost is tax-deductible



SHELLY TORKELSON

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 PARTNERS

Our stellar Field Trip leaders have been the backbone of this program for over 30 years. We owe our success to these partners, who generously share their expertise about Wisconsin's lands, waters, and wildlife.

- Adaptive Restoration, LLC
- Aldo Leopold Foundation
- American Bird Conservancy
- Audubon Great Lakes
- Badger History Group
- Badger Mining Corporation
- Badgerland Girl Scouts
- Baird Creek Preservation Foundation
- Baraboo Hills Ecology Research Collective
- Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary
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- Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center
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- Duckie Unlimited Birding Tours
- Ducks Unlimited
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- Lake Superior Research Institute
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- Lower Chippewa River Alliance
- Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board
- Lussier Family Heritage Center
- Madison Children's Museum
- Madison Gas and Electric
- Madison Mycological Society
- Manitowish Waters Historical Society
- Milwaukee Astronomical Society
- Mississippi Valley Conservancy
- Mosquito Hill Nature Center
- Mu Mushrooms, LLC
- National Park Service
- Nature's Good Company, LLC
- Navarino Nature Center
- North Lakeland Discovery Center
- Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust
- Northern Mushroom Tours, LLC
- Northwest Sands Auto Trail
- Northwoods Land Trust
- Open Door Bird Sanctuary
- Outagamie County Recycling & Solid Waste
- Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Dept
- Pheasants Forever
- Preserve Our Parks
- Quercus Land Stewardship Services
- Raptor Education Group, Inc.
- Retzer Nature Center
- River Doc Nature Conservancy
- Riveredge Nature Center
- Sauk County Land Resources & Environment Dept.
- Seno K/RLT Conservancy
- Shinrin-Yoku Madison
- SOS Save Our Songbirds
- Southern Driftless Grasslands
- Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance
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- Tamarack Wetland Services, LLC
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Prairie Enthusiasts
- The Ridges Sanctuary
- The Wood Cycle
- Timber Wolf Alliance
- Trails North
- Treehaven UWSP
- Trees For Tomorrow
- Treetop Explorer, LLC
- Trout Unlimited
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center
- Upham Woods
- Urban Ecology Center
- UW Arboretum
- UW Space Place Outreach Center
- UW Zoological Museum
- UW-Green Bay
- UW-Madison
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- Waukesha County Land Conservancy
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- Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
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- Wild Wisco Waters Canoe & Kayak Outfitters, LLC
- Wisconsin Bird Conservation Partnership
- Wisconsin Dragonfly Society
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**APRIL 15-  
JUNE 15**

JOHN C. WALCH

**Great  
Wisconsin  
BIRDATHON**



**JOIN US FOR THE 15TH ANNUAL BIRDATHON**

Our state’s largest fundraiser for bird conservation is back for its 15th year! Every year, birders across Wisconsin form teams and count as many birds as possible. The pledges and donations that they collect support Wisconsin’s highest-priority bird conservation projects, benefiting warblers, whooping cranes, and more. New to birding? No problem! The Birdathon is for novices, experts, friends, families, classrooms — anyone can join the fun!

**[WISCONSERVATION.ORG/WIBIRDATHON](http://WISCONSERVATION.ORG/WIBIRDATHON)**

Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

**WAYFARERS**



SHELLY TORKELSON

The Natural Resources Foundation’s Wayfarers program connects Wisconsin’s young adults (20- and 30-year-olds) to unique outdoor experiences. Come paddle, hike, learn, and discover our state’s incredible natural places alongside others who are curious and passionate about nature.

**[WISCONSERVATION.ORG/WAYFARERS](http://WISCONSERVATION.ORG/WAYFARERS)**



DAVE HOEFLER



Since 1986, the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin has been on a mission to protect Wisconsin’s lands, waters, and wildlife and to connect all people with nature.

From trumpeter swans to accessible trails, from exploring Wisconsin on Field Trips to building school pollinator gardens — we couldn’t do any of it without our members, supporters, and partner organizations.



Thank you for attending Field Trips and supporting conservation. Join us to celebrate!

**[WISCONSERVATION.ORG/40TH](https://www.wisconservation.org/40th)**

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## PLANNED GIFTS ENSURE WISCONSIN'S FUTURE

The actions we take today will shape Wisconsin for decades. Your legacy gift will support Wisconsin's most critical conservation needs and protect our natural wonders for generations to come.



RALPH RUSSO

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**REGISTER STARTING: NOON – APRIL 8  
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