

# 'ROUND THE BEND

RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER, INC. APRIL, 2013

## OUR WEALTH OF ASSETS

**By Roger Chernik, Board President**

River Bend's first seven months were about making the buildings and grounds safe and functional, putting the organizational structure, board, committees, policies, corporate documents in place and hiring core staff members. While these things continue to be developed, our focus now has shifted to our long-term mission of environmental education.



So far this year we have seen:

- Classes of school children laughing, observing, learning and bouncing along the snow covered trails.
- A "standing room only" crowd of adults attending a presentation by a leading professional on the history of the Root River.
- Several hundred individuals and families enjoying a pancake breakfast and a guided hike in the woods.
- A nature centered book club meeting in front of a warming woodstove on a cold evening.
- Creation of educational summer camps for children 2-13 years old.
- Development of a broad array of environmental science classes supporting public, private and home schooled children.
- The beginning of a core staff of professionals to manage and deliver programs.
- Additions to our community of friendly, knowledgeable volunteers.

As we move into this next phase of our business plan we hope you are pleased with River Bend's progress and will continue to offer your support and ideas.

## UPCOMING EVENTS (APRIL—JUNE)

**Wednesday, April 17 • 5:30pm-7:30pm**

*Adult Lecture Series Great Lakes Potpourri: Aquatic Invasives, Climate Change & Coastal Community Resiliency*

**Tuesday, April 23 • 6:30pm**

*River Bend Book Club—Last Child In The Woods by Richard Louv*

**Friday, April 26, May 3, May 17, May 24 • 8am**

*Friday morning migratory bird hikes—sponsored by Hoy Audubon*

**Tuesday, April 30 • 6:30pm**

*River Bend Volunteer Meeting*

**Saturday, May 11 • 11am-3:00pm**

*Racine Bird Day—sponsored by Hoy Audubon*

**Tuesday, May 21 • 6:30pm**

*River Bend Book Club—Silent Spring by Rachel Carson*

**Wednesday, May 29 • 9:30am-11:30am**

*Adult Lecture Series Phillip Pellitteri: The changing insect fauna and ongoing impacts of a number of insect species during the last 30 years.*

**Monday, June 17 • 8:00am**

*Summer Camp begins!*



**Visitor Center**  
3600 North Green Bay Road  
Racine, WI 53404

Open Daily  
8am – 4pm

**Hiking Trails**  
Open daily from dawn to dusk

**Phone/Fax/Web**  
262-639-1515  
262-639-1411 (fax)

**Email:**  
[Info@RiverBendNatureCenterRacine.org](mailto:Info@RiverBendNatureCenterRacine.org)  
[www.RiverBendRacine.org](http://www.RiverBendRacine.org)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2012-2013**

Roger Chernik – President  
Michelle Gabor - Treasurer  
Jim Wilber - Secretary  
Jane Batten  
Chris Henke-Mueller  
Nancy Hennessey  
Murali Vedula

River Bend has many friends and supporters who have made our vision come back to life.

Racine County Conservation League (RCCL) has been an invaluable asset to River Bend. RCCL is the oldest active conservation club in Wisconsin, having been in existence since 1935.

RCCL has been a supporter of River Bend since 1982, with a donation to support a summer intern and purchase the movie “Maple Sugar Farmer”. Since the “reopening” of River Bend, RCCL has donated over \$25,000 toward building repair, and has budgeted an additional \$10,000 for 2013.



*New roof installation on Main Lodge*



*New flooring in the library*

Some of the projects RCCL has sponsored included a new roof, building the garage, parking lot lighting installation, flooring in the library, office and apartment, interior painting and plumbing repairs to name a few.

RCCL is also proud to add this year a \$500 scholarship to River Bend’s Summer Camp Program, to allow camp for kids who may not otherwise be able to afford it.

Wally Ott, President of RCCL, explains why they have such an interest in River Bend “RCCL is working to keep River Bend the special place you experienced as a child, and to protect it for the next generation of children.”

RCCL meets at River Bend on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. For more information about RCCL contact Wally Ott at 262-498-9649 or [wott@wi.rr.com](mailto:wott@wi.rr.com)

**RIVER BEND  
BOOK CLUB**

Wednesday, April 24th, join us for a field trip to the Neenah Public Library to listen to best selling author Richard Louv discuss “What Comes After Environmentalism? The New Nature Movement and the End of Nature-Deficit Disorder.” Richard Louv is the author of April’s bookclub selection *Last Child In The Woods*.

We will meet at River Bend at 8am and return in the evening after lecture, lunch and a short hike at a local nature center. Please contact the River Bend office if you would like to attend.

**ROOT RIVER**

*River Bend is partnering with Root-Pike WIN, the Root River Council, and UW-Parkside to sponsor the 3rd Annual Root River Paddle on June 1.*

*This fun family event features a river to lake paddle from Island Park to the Racine Yacht Club.*

*Register at [www.rootpikewin.org](http://www.rootpikewin.org) (click on “Join A River Paddle”)*

## NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Jon Antonneau  
John & Lila Berge  
Kimberly Bergman  
Abby Carr  
Rose Christensen  
Jeanne Dernehl  
Rick Fare  
Therese Fellner  
James & Susan Fergus  
Mark Giese  
Susan Goelz  
David Grebetz  
Tom & Mary Hauch  
Marge Henze  
Mary Lou Hill  
Nancy Huennekens  
Jim & Brenda Kasproovich  
Matthew & Emily Koepnick  
Dennis & Sandra Kontra  
Kay Krause  
Micaela Krueger  
Judith Larson  
Jim & Patricia Limburg  
Ralph & Kathleen Lisowski  
Melissa & Robert Melby  
Debra Meltzer  
Paul & Rita Miller  
Bob Oertel  
Wally Ott  
Emily Papara  
Sandra Pendell  
Donna Peterson  
John & Paula Rowland  
Allen & Jane Scheef  
Andrea Scott  
Frances Scott  
Maria Scott  
Aaron & Karen Sens  
Tom Simonson  
Alan & Beverly Sorenson  
Spitzer Family  
Susan Steinbrueck  
Sally Toepfer  
James Wilber  
MaryBeth Zuhlke

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AT RIVER BEND



*River Bend Pavilion, photo taken by  
volunteer Kay Krause*

We couldn't do it without you! Our dedicated group of volunteers have logged over 4,800 hours since September to once again make River Bend an environmental education and outdoor recreation center the residents of Racine County can be proud of.

We are enduringly grateful to all of our volunteers. If you are interested in donating your time, please call our office at 262-639-1515.

### **Teacher Naturalist**

Share your love of nature with future generations by leading weekday school field trips. Training provided.

**Habitat Healer** – alternate Wednesdays & Saturdays 9a – noon  
(start date to be determined)

Join a great group of people to restore and maintain the sanctuary by removing invasive species, collecting seeds, planting and much more. Training and tools are provided.

### **Office Volunteer**

Answer phones, greet people and handle equipment rentals. Bring your book or hobby to work on when you're not busy. Great opportunity to volunteer with a friend. We are especially looking for weekend and afternoon volunteers.

### **Cleaning Volunteers**

Looking for volunteers who would be willing to do building cleaning—clean floors, restrooms, and windows. During the week, or as an on-call volunteer when we have building rentals.

### **Seasonal / Special Events**

Volunteers needed to help with children's games, registration, parking, etc.

## RIVER BEND—A NATURAL PLACE FOR YOUR WEDDING OR MEETING

Both the Main Lodge and Em's Cabin are available for your next meeting, dinner, wedding, seminar or retreat.

For rental rates and details, call River Bend at 262-639-1515 or contact us at [info@RiverBendNatureCenterRacine.org](mailto:info@RiverBendNatureCenterRacine.org)

## CORPORATE / BUSINESS PARTNERS

Affordable Comfort

Alisa Swire, Esq.

The Bird Nest

Busy Bee Carpet Cleaners

Cardinal Builders

Central Saw and Mower

Chicago District Council  
of Carpenters

Educators Credit Union

Frank Sterbin, CPA

Greene Glass

Hallman Lindsey Paint

Hostak, Henzel & Bichler, SC

Iron Workers, Local 8

Johnson Outdoors, Inc.

Kennedy Painting & Decorating

Krekling Decorating

MAWI Mechanical Contractors

RCCL

RIC Electric

Runzheimer Foundation

SC Johnson & Son

Terry Custom Floors

## WISH LIST

Volunteers

Label Maker

Copy Paper

Laminator

Sponge Mops

Hot Pads, Dish Towels

Bike Rack

Power Point Projector

Clear Rubbermaid Totes with Lids

Paper Towels

Hand Loppers

Wood Splitter

Canoes

Cross Country Ski Equipment

Fishing Poles

Fishing Nets

Postage Stamps

Tractor

## GRANTS AWARDED

River Bend is pleased to announce we have recently received a number of grants supporting our projects and programs!

### **The Barbara Beetow State Grant from the Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority – Tau Chapter**

The grant will fund the purchase of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) units to be used at River Bend.

### **Root Pike WIN grant**

Invasive species removal and maintenance project.

### **Racine Community Foundation—*Samuel C. and Imogene P. Johnson Fund, the Hamilton Family Fund, and the Ruth T. Grossberg Designated Fund***

To be used toward the purchase of equipment and supplies to provide science-based environmental education

### **Kiwanis Foundation of Racine**

To be used for the purchase of maple syrup making equipment.

### **Racine County Conservation League**

Scholarships for summer camp

### **Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church Endowment Fund Award**

For the purchase of iPads to support science based environmental educational programming being developed for public, private and home-schooled children.

### **SC Johnson Earth Day Grant**

For the purchase of support materials for volunteer projects.

### **Potpourri Garden Club**

Scholarships for summer camp



*Terri Klaus-Past President Tau Chapter, Margaret Oliver-President Tau Chapter, Jeanne Dernehl-Executive Director, Melissa Warner-Volunteer*

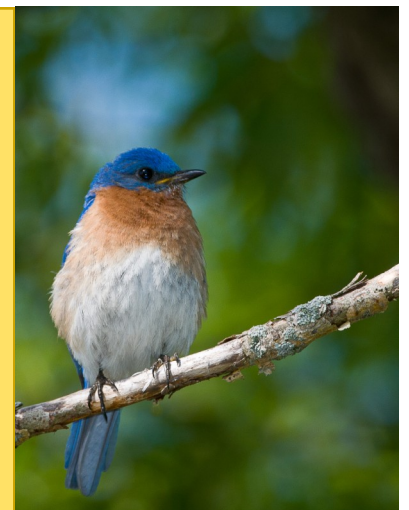
## MIGRATORY BIRD WALKS

Our bird walks are free and open to the public! Join Rick Fare as you hike through River Bend looking for migratory birds and our native feathered friends. Bring binoculars and come dressed for the weather.

Dates: Fridays—April 26, May 3, May 17 & May 24

Time: 8:00am

Location: Main Lodge



## MEMORIALS

### Connie Grebetz

Daniel & Karen Andersen

BNI Racine Pacesetters

Peter Chiappetta

James & Cheryl Deibler

Joann DeMark

Lisa & Davis Driver

Rosalie Frey

David Grebetz

James & Mary Hanson

Thomas & Laura Heried

James & Carie Hilt

Gail & Herbert Katt

Jane Martin Fox

Diane & Steven Mekeel

Debra Meltzer

Jean Meyers

Dean & Jennifer Miller

Karen Miller

S & D Nyiri

Todd & Heidi Olson

Dianne Paulson

Ted & Susan Rademacher

William & Linda Seidel

Joseph & Kristine Troy

Jonathan & Ruth Tylock

Donald & Jeanne Tyree-Francis

Jesse & Debra Villarreal

### Ruth Fergus

Ruth Bradford-Johnson

David & Kim Brussat

Joyce Janusiak

John & Lynn Sinclair

### Mary Runge

Kimberly Bergman

### Lil Yokel

Patricia Raymond

## ADULT LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013 • 5:30pm

*Great Lakes Potpourri: Aquatic Invasives, Climate Change & Coastal Community Resiliency*



Wisconsin's climate is changing and Wisconsin Sea Grant stands ready to assist communities in stormwater management and protecting water quality. River Bend will host Tim Campbell, Titus Seilheimer and Jane Harrison from Sea Grant as they discuss Aquatic Invasive Species, Climate Change and the Economic Resilience of our Community. Wisconsin Sea Grant is a statewide program of basic and applied research, education, outreach and technology transfer dedicated to the stewardship and sustainable use of the nation's Great Lakes and ocean resources.



Wednesday, May 29, 2013 • 9:30am

*Phillip Pellitteri: The changing insect fauna and ongoing impacts of a number of insect species during the last 30 years.*

The lack of significant cold winter temperatures has led to a northern migration and establishment of a number of insects such as the Preying Mantis, Euonymus Caterpillar, Magnolia Scale, and White Oak Borers. Add to this the constant introduction of exotic species such as Asian Lady Beetles, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, Spotted Winged Drosophila, Japanese Beetle, Gypsy Moth, European Paper Wasp, pavement and odorous house ants; around 60% of what are defined as insect pests are non-native species!

## SUMMER CAMP



We want our children to feel like that group of kids wandering country backyards 50 years ago; independent, tired, muddy, wet and happy from the woods and wild.

Weekly themes inspire young adventurers as they learn and play in River Bend's 78 acres of ponds, fields and forest.

8-one week sessions give children an opportunity to simply "be a kid" while exploring the marvels of nature, making friends and engaging in canoeing, archery and fishing. Underlying the fun campers will experience a hands on environmental science curriculum.

We are now taking summer camp applications for kids 2 through 13! Visit our web site—[www.RiverBendRacine.org](http://www.RiverBendRacine.org) to download the camp session descriptions and the application form.



## SUGARIN' OFF PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Thank you to everyone who supported our pancake breakfasts. More than 900 people enjoyed pancakes, conversation, renewing old acquaintances and guided walks in the woods. We also thank the groups putting a great deal of effort into this fund raiser. They include: the volunteers and staff of River Bend, an enthusiastic Leadership Racine (RAMAC) class, long term supporters, Racine County Conservation League, River Bend Carving Club and the UW Extension Master Gardeners. The event would not be possible without their generous support!



## RACINE BIRD DAY SATURDAY, MAY 11

### Think Outside The Cage!

Celebrate Racine Bird Day from 11am to 3:30pm at River Bend as we appreciate the native wild birds flying outside our windows. The Hoy Audubon and River Bend teamed up to bring you a day dedicated to our feathered friends. Events that will be going on throughout the day include demonstrations, guided bird tours, beginning birding class, exhibits and displays, learning centers, birding by kayak/canoe, and many bird games & crafts.

Enjoy everybody's favorite raptor show brought to us by the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center. You'll see and learn about some of the most amazing and majestic birds of prey that have been trained to educate the public as charming ambassadors of their species. Witness many of the raptors taking flight and get a bird's eye view of the animals close up!



## CANOE & KAYAK RENTAL

Float through life and embark on a new adventure!

Take a self-guided canoe or kayak tour down the Root River where you could catch a fawn taking a drink, turtles sunbathing, or a heron soaring just feet above your head!

Canoe and kayak rentals are available May through October for \$10. Paddles and life vests are included. All rentals are weather permitting and on a first come, first served basis.

## GETTING FIT WITH NATURE

Tired of walking laps indoors or around your neighborhood? Come to River Bend Nature Center to enjoy the beauty of 78 acres of forest, prairie and pond life; where the sights, smells and sounds of nature will refresh and inspire you!