

'ROUND THE BEND

RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER, INC. JULY, 2013

OUR WEALTH OF ASSETS

By Roger Chernik, Board President

It is the third week of June and the first week of River Bend Summer Camp. Forty children ages 4-10 years are tired, sunburned and smiling and laughing. They have been outside all day engaged in archery, canoeing, fishing and other outdoor skills. No video games, cell phones or parents. They are also carefully watched over by River Bend staff and volunteers. The megawatt smiles light up the archery range as they pop a balloon with an arrow for the first time or have the satisfaction of hitting the large, round multi-colored target. Every child feels the accomplishment of learning a new skill.



They are a little anxious when stepping into a canoe for the first time. Soon they are familiar with the rocking motion and begin to paddle. It is an adventure they will long remember.



You, our members, donors and volunteers have made these life experiences possible by your contributions. Please feel proud of what you given these children. They and 250 more to follow in the next seven weeks are on their way to become productive adults and good citizens!

UPCOMING EVENTS (JULY—OCTOBER)

Every Wednesday & Saturday • 9am—Noon

Habitat Healers Join a great group of volunteers to work on ground & trail maintenance.

Every Tuesday • 3pm—7pm

River Bend Carving Club—Drop in for wood carving instruction

Saturday, July 20 • 9am—11:30am

Adult Archery Class

Tuesday, July 23 • 6:30pm

River Bend Book Club—*Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver

Saturday, July 27 • 4:30pm

River Bend Volunteer Meeting followed by *Friends & Family Cook-Out*

Monday, August 12 • 7pm

Perseids Meteor Shower & Star Presentation

Saturday, August 17 • 9am—11:30am

Adult Archery Class

Sunday, August 18 • 1pm—3pm

Summer Camp Family Ice Cream Social

Saturday & Sunday, October 19 & 20

Fall Festival—*Chain Saw Carving Event & Auction*



Visitor Center
3600 North Green Bay Road
Racine, WI 53404

Open Daily
8am – 4pm

Sunday
10am—4pm

Hiking Trails
Open daily from dawn to dusk

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

Email:
Info@RiverBendNatureCenterRacine.org

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

SOME OF OUR VOLUNTEER GROUPS



The Starbuck's Volunteer Group



The Johnson Bank



The Johnson Bank



SC Johnson & Son—Make a Difference Day



The Prairie School—high school students

Thank You to all of
the volunteer groups
who have donated their time
and talents to River Bend!!

*If your group or scout troop is
interested in volunteering, please call
the River Bend Office.*

RIVER BEND BOOK CLUB

Join us on the fourth Tuesday of every month to discuss an important work of fiction or non-fiction that helps us examine our relationship to the natural world. Meetings are open to adults and take place in the Main Lodge.

Tuesday, July 23—6:30

Prodigal Summer

By Barbara Kingsolver

Kingsolver continues to take on timely issues, here focusing on the ecological damage caused by herbicides, ethical questions about raising tobacco, and the endangered condition of subsistence farming. A corner of southern Appalachia serves as the setting for the stories of three intertwined lives, and alternating chapters with recurring names signal which of the three protagonists is taking center stage.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Sever Antonescu
Sheryn Abraham & Manoj Babu
Dane Becker
Jean Becker
Tiffany & Jon Behrends
Cindy Bendtsen
Cleo & Erica Briggs
Valerie Conner
Barbara & Robert Dean
Jennifer Eastman
Mike & Ann Flegel
Deb Fredericks-Thoennes
Carol Gavigan
Tom & Janice Hjelmgren
Dylan Hoffman
Oliver Hoffman
Joyce Janusiak
Nikolai Kellogg
Sasha Kellogg
Brian & Camela Langendorf
Amy Larsen
Stephanie Ledvina
Martin Lee
Sheryl Lentz
Luanne Frey & Mark Lukow
Cherie Lyford
Demske / Malone Family
Cynthy McCrory
Phyllis McNab
Stefanie Meiri
Heather Moeller
Maria Piotrowski
Dana Ray
Shirley Reynolds
Miranda Rochol
Marcia Rottino
Scott & Kate Schnetzky
Kristine Schulz
JermeY & Marcia Werner
Nicole Zimmer

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AT RIVER BEND



We couldn't do it without you! Our dedicated group of volunteers have logged over 8,000 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 – Wednesdays & Saturdays 9a – noon

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

CORPORATE / BUSINESS PARTNERS

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Alisa Swire, Esq.
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Keystone heating
Krekling Decorating
MAWI Mechanical Contractors
RCCL
RIC Electric
Runzheimer Foundation
SC Johnson & Son
Terry Custom Floors

RIVER BEND CARVING CLUB



Whether you are an absolute beginner or a highly experienced woodworker, you are invited to join the River Bend Wood Carving Club every Tuesday between 3p and 7p in the Main Lodge.



With the guidance of craftsmen dedicated to sharing their skills, they will provide help to anyone with an interest in learning woodcarving. The wood carvers will provide the materials, templates and the knowledge to get you started!



If you saw some of the carvers' work at the Bird Day or Fall Fest events, you know that this is a group of very skilled folks.

All ages are welcome! Hope to see you soon!

FRIENDS & FAMILY COOK-OUT

Interested in getting more involved in River Bend, and not sure how? Join us on Saturday, July 27th at 4:30pm for our Volunteer Meeting, then stay for our Friends & Family Cook-Out. Meet the staff and the Board of Directors, to hear all about the exciting programs and volunteer opportunities happening at River Bend.

River Bend will provide brats, hot dogs and beverages; we ask that you bring a dish to pass. Please RSVP to info@RiverBendNatureCenterRacine.org if you are interested in attending. We'll have entertainment & activities for the whole family.

Volunteers are also needed to help set up and cook. If you're interested in lending a hand, please contact the River Bend Office.

A Special Thanks To Our Members & Volunteers!

MEMORIALS

Ruth Fergus

Ruth Bradford-Johnson
David & Kim Brussat
Joseph Butler
Roger & Suzanne Chernik
Robert & Valerie Connor
Ethel Fergus
MH & JM Gandrud
Margaret Gruenwald
Ryen Hademann
Gary & Joy Hagen
Joyce Janusiak
Robert & Mary Johnson
James & Beth Jurgaitis
Marie Kanetzke
Elizabeth Ludeman
Bruce Knackert
John & Catherine Lehman
Patricia & Terry Ludeman
Mano Mastos
Andrew McLean
Julie Milligan
John Murphy
Dave & Carole Pucely
John & Lynn Sinclair
Jerry Cross & Jayne Steffens
Jerome & Donna Veltman

WISH LIST

Volunteers
Copy Paper & Card Stock
Popcorn Popper
Clear Rubbermaid Totes with Lids
Paper Towels
Wood Splitter
Canoes / Kayaks
Cross Country Ski Equipment
Postage Stamps
Clear Plastic Jars with Lids

MARY RUNGE MEMORIAL



This summer, over 300 children will have learned to shoot a bow on the new Mary Runge Archery Range. Located on the south side of the Nature Center, the range was made possible by a memorial gift from Mary Runge of Racine.

Mary was an avid outdoors woman and was a long time River Bend supporter and volunteer. She passed away in December of 2012, leaving a gift to be used for a significant project at River Bend. After consulting with River Bend, her family decided the archery range was a fitting project. The gift paid for bows, arrows, targets, protective backdrop curtain, arm guards, and the tools to maintain equipment.

In addition, several other groups and individuals made this range possible: Steve Hysell of Hysell Archery sold us all the bows, arrows and safety equipment at cost. Shane and Nancy Hill have been our teachers, mentors and consultants throughout the project. They trained our trainers, helped select equipment, made equipment for us and lent us equipment when we were short. This project would have been tougher without them. Finally, the volunteers and staff of River Bend have contributed greatly to clearing the land for the range, building quivers, installing poles, and so much more.



DISCOVER ARCHERY ADULT ARCHERY CLASS

Saturday, July 20 or Saturday, August 17
9am—11:30am

This 2^{1/2} hour course is suitable for adults who have never shot a bow, or those with some previous experience. Course taught by NASP certified instructors, using recurve equipment. We will focus on form and safety, giving basics of safe shooting and a general feel for archery, taught in a fun, relaxed manner.

Cost Per Session: \$30.00 River Bend Members ☐
\$35.00 Non-Members

Registration is required. Space is limited.

262-639-1515 or email
info@RiverBendNatureCenterRacine.org



LEADERSHIP RACINE—MURAL PROJECT



The main lodge at the River Bend Nature Center, has an improved educational display and a new wall mural through a community project from a Leadership Racine Class of 2013 team. The display table, containing nearly 30 items, including deer antlers, snake skins, wasp nests and fur pelts, was upgraded with labels, photographs and brief descriptions of each item. This allows visitors to handle the wildlife and plant items from the Nature Center property, learn about what they are touching and keep the display intact.

The Leadership Racine team members — Linda Szymczak, Tony Lewis, Amy Vanderhoef, Chris Greco and Paul Holley — researched the description information, prepared the labels and raised private donations for the wall mural in the main lodge's lobby area.

The new mural was both a learning experience — and a first-time collaboration — for mother-daughter artist team Anna and Sara Slaviero of Kenosha. The artwork, which covers the main lodge's east wall near the coat racks, was based on the design of the current RBNC brochure cover. Anna and Sara took the brochure's blue butterfly amid cattails and water then added elements around the edges, including a small green frog, an oak leaf, a pine cone, a bird house and a cricket.

The mural is intended to be interactive – without electronics, explains Anna. “We want them (RBNC visitors) to look at the painting and then go and find the object on the table,” she says. As fun as creating art is for the pair, they also enjoy learning what they're creating. “I can't just paint something,” says Anna. “I have to be knowledgeable about it.”

The mural and the educational display can be seen daily at River Bend.



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.



Like us on FaceBook and receive updates, share photos and stay current with all our posts!

TINY TOT CAMPS— LEARN & PLAY TOGETHER!

Explorations—Woods, Water, Prairie
9:00am—10:45am • August 6 or August 13
\$15 River Bend Members / \$20 Non-Members

This fun, hands-on program focuses on the critters and plants found around River Bend. Classes include a story, a short hike around River Bend, and theme-related activities designed for you and your preschooler to spend quality time together.

Classes are designed so that adults and children ages 2 & 3 can explore together. Children must be accompanied by an adult; limit two age-appropriate children per adult; adults attend free. Advance registration required. Dress for the activity and weather.