

'ROUND THE BEND

RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER, INC. NOVEMBER, 2013

FALLING FORWARD

By Roger Chernik, Board President

Fall, what a great time to be outdoors. This morning at River Bend you could have enjoyed vibrant leaf colors, a lower but still warm sun, cooler air, and very few bugs. Migrant birds are flying through, and a few wild flowers brighten the landscape. You would also have seen: an 8th grade class learning about water science (one of many K8 classes this month), two new rain gardens and a bio-swale taking root in front of the main building, a new trail loops through the southeast corner of the property, several areas cleared of invasive species, and a newly painted main building and Em's Cabin.



All of this has been accomplished by our expanding volunteer cadre and by the support of you, our donors. Thanks to these efforts we continue making steady progress implementing our business plan.

UPCOMING EVENTS (NOVEMBER—FEBRUARY)

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 (Adults) —Drop in for wood carving instruction

Saturday, December 7 • 9am—11:30

Adult Indoor Archery Class - Registration required.

Saturday, December 14 • 9am—Noon

Gifts of Nature Art Program - Registration required.

Saturday, January 4 • 9:30—11:30am

Children's Wood Carving Class—\$3.00 per child

Saturday, January 18 • 9:30—11:30am

Children's Wood Carving Class—\$3.00 per child

Saturday, February 1 • 9:30—11:30am

Children's Wood Carving Class—\$3.00 per child

Saturday, February 15 • 9:30—11:30am

Children's Wood Carving Class—\$3.00 per child

Looking Ahead: Sugarin' Off Pancake Breakfasts:

Sunday, March 9 • Sunday, March 16 • Sunday, March 23



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
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Nancy Hennessey
Murali Vedula
Wally Ott

STAFF

Jeanne Dernehl—
Executive Director
Nancy Carlson—Naturalist
Sandra Johnsrud—
Office Manager

VOLUNTEER GROUPS



UW Parkside



Walden School

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

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

BRANDED!

Thank you to the owners and staff of **DuraColor, LLC** for donating the
River Bend logo imprints for our canoes & kayaks!



Congratulations to Girl Scout Troop 5158 for earning their Survival Skills badge!

Is your scout troop working on a specific merit badge?
River Bend offers programs to meet badge requirements
for all levels of scouting.

Contact the River Bend office for more information.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Laurie Bauer
Jean Becker
Liz, Dave & Rachel Christensen
Marty Hunt
Michael Kadamian
Kenneth Klawinski
Kelly Koll
Sheryl Lentz
Bobbe Lewis
Gary Nelson
Marcia Rottino
Erin Ruggaber
Randal Savaglio
Rose White
Tom & Rae Wood

RIVER BEND A NATURAL PLACE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT

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

For rental rates and details, call River Bend at 262-639-1515

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AT RIVER BEND

We couldn't do it without you! Our dedicated group of volunteers have logged over 15,000 hours to 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 younger generations by leading weekday school field trips. Training provided.

Maple Syrup Makers

A team of maple syrup makers needed to prepare for Sugarin' Off at River Bend. Outdoor work will be done in the afternoons and evenings for a few short weeks in February and early March. No experience required, training is 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.

THANKSGIVING BREAK NATURE CAMP



Monday—November 25

Tuesday—November 26

Wednesday—November 27

Come 1 or all 3 days!

8:00am to 1:00pm

Ages: 8 – 12

Registration is required.

Cost: \$30 per day for members /
\$35 per day for non-members

**CORPORATE /
BUSINESS PARTNERS**

Affordable Comfort
Affordable Tree Care
Alaskan Fireplace
Alisa Swire, Esq.
Alpha Delta Kappa
The Bird Nest
Central Saw and Mower
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Kohl's CARES
Krekling Decorating
Lakeside Tree Service
Optimist Club of Racine
RCCL
Racine Community Foundation
RIC Electric
Runzheimer Foundation
SC Johnson & Son
The Sign Shop

CHILDREN'S CARVING CLASSES

Do you have a young artist ready to try their hand at wood carving?

The River Bend Carving Club will begin offering wood carving classes for kids, on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month (first class: Saturday, January 4th).



These drop-in classes are from 9:30 to 11:30 and are for children 10 and older.

Initial training classes will be with clay or wood, and for knife carving only. Classes are \$3.00 per student.

Upcoming Dates: January 4 & 18, February 1 & 15, March 1 & 15

Are you interested in Adult Wood Carving?

Drop in for wood carving instruction—regular adult Tuesday carving sessions will continue every Tuesday from 3p—7pm. New carvers are welcome.

RIVER BEND BOOK CLUB

Join us on the fourth Tuesday of every other 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 at 6:30pm.

January 28 – Notes from Little Lakes by Mel Ellis

For many years, Wisconsin's Milwaukee Journal readers enjoyed a newspaper column "Notes from Little Lakes", in which the late Mel Ellis described the joys and sorrows, triumphs and disappointments of turning a tract of worn out pasture land into a haven for trees, flowers and wildlife. The best of these writings was carefully assembled by Ted Rulseh with the help of the Ellis family and now appears for the first time in book form. In the lore and landscape of Wisconsin, Mell Ellis' Little Lakes is as familiar and as important as Aldo Leopold's Sand County.

VOLUNTEER MEETING

Please mark your calendars! Our last volunteer meeting of the year will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

If you're interested in volunteering, this is a great opportunity to find out what is happening at River Bend. Everyone is welcome!

MEMORIALS

Mary Harms

Roger & Suzanne Chernik
Ellen Larsen
Luan Wells

Tom McDowell

Jim & Carla Wilks

David Wishau

Sam Aiello
Jeff & Nikki Benn
Judy Chicantek
Pete & Sandy Christensen
Rick Fare
Tony Ferraro
Michael & Ruth Jansen
Marcia Pfof
Shelly Watson
Betty Wishau
Bill & Marilyn Wishau
Phyllis Wishau

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
Glue Guns
Beads

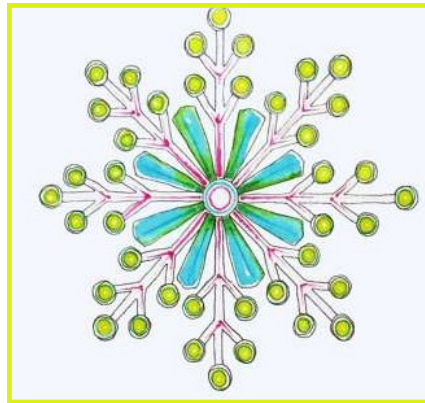
GIFTS OF NATURE

Make handmade gifts during our
"Gifts of Nature" art program.

Our volunteers and naturalists will help your child learn about the natural world and create works of art with a variety of mediums, just in time for the holiday season.

\$15
members

\$20
non-members



All materials are included in the program fee.

Please register at least one week in advance.

Live music / bees wax candles / natural dyed fabrics / jewelry making / wreaths / twig art

DISCOVER ARCHERY TWEENS & ADULT INDOOR ARCHERY CLASS

Saturday, December 7th
9am—11:30am

No matter the weather outside—this 2^{1/2} hour course will be held indoors in the Main Lodge. We will focus on form and safety, giving basics of safe shooting and a general feel for archery, taught in a fun, WARM and 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



CHAIN SAW CARVING FESTIVAL

A special thanks to everyone who came out in October and supported the River Bend Chain Saw Carving Festival!

Over 600 people stopped out during this 2-day event to watch logs turn into works of art. Our amazing group of 6 carvers were able to make 42 pieces to be auctioned off, generating over \$11,000 in sales.

We couldn't have made this event such a success without the support of our volunteers! Thank you to everyone who sold tickets, handled the raffles, helped with food & beverages, organized children's events, supervised parking, did cleaning and the hundreds of other jobs needed to make the weekend run smoothly.



We want to thank our Sponsors for helping make this inaugural event such a success: Central Saw & Mower, Alaskan Fireplace, Racine County Conservation League, River Bend Woodcarving Club, The Sign Shop, Johnson Bank, General Rental, Lakeside Tree Service, Kenson Enterprises, Imkahling Auctions, Batten Airport & the EAA Museum.

Thank you!

Carvers: Shawn Krueger, Monte Smock, Bob Younger, Kai McNulty, Elmer Hickey

*Not pictured: Sherry Martin

SNOW SHOE / CROSS COUNTRY SKI RENTALS

Don't Forget! Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe rentals are available once there is at least 6 inches of snow on the ground.

\$5 per person, per hour –
with an one hour minimum.

All rentals are weather permitting and are on a first come, first served basis.



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

SUGARIN' OFF PANCAKE BREAKFAST

It's not too early to start thinking about SPRING!

Mark your calendars for our annual Sugarin' Off Pancake Breakfasts!
Sunday: March 9th, March 16th & March 23rd.

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer Maple Syrup Maker? We are looking for a team of volunteers to help tap, collect and boil down the sap from the 70+ sugar maple trees found in River Bend. Please let us know if you're interested—training is provided!

We are also looking for scouting troops, clubs or interested organizations to volunteer during our Sunday pancake breakfasts. Volunteer tasks may include cooking, serving, cleaning & bussing tables. Give us a call if you are able to help!