



# The Warbler

A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE WELTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER, INC. volume 8, issue 3

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Did you know that over the last year Welty has provided educational experiences for 3580 people, including children from 30 different schools?

Did you know that over 50 individual volunteers have supported Welty Center Director, Tanya, in numerous roles, including local teen volunteers in a new summer program called Eco-Leaders?

The amazing thing is that Welty does all of this out of the little 1200 sq. ft. house at the southeast corner of Beckman Mill Park!

As we look ahead to the future of Welty Environmental Center, we need to consider our current status and ask some serious questions:

- ☞ Are we ready to begin a Capital Campaign for our new Welty Center building?
- ☞ Do we have enough support and potential donations from our strong membership base?
- ☞ Can we solicit community support and donations to make a new building a reality?

A Peer Consult with expert representatives from ANCA



(Association of Nature Center Administrators) will soon help the Board of Directors focus on answering some of these questions. But we are calling on all "Friends" of Welty to also get on-board and renew their support for Welty Environmental Center.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ☞ If your membership is not up-to-date...RENEW it NOW! (check your newsletter label to make sure it says "2008 member")
- ☞ Talk to friends, neighbors, relatives and encourage them to join and support Welty.
- ☞ Talk to area businesses and encourage them to support Welty Environmental Center.

Across the nation we are hearing about communities where kids are spending more time indoors than outdoors and growing up isolated from nature. This increasing "nature deficit" has resulted in alarming health issues and is threatening our country's environmental ethic.

Help us provide for the future of youth in the Stateline area by supporting Welty Environmental

Center. Let's assure that Welty will be equipped for the future, to serve our local Wisconsin/Illinois residents with experiences in nature, leadership opportunities and thoughtful consideration of environmental issues, for children, families and adults.

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What puts a smile on a child's face? Is it catching their first fish, identifying a chickadee by their song, spotting a frog in the pond, holding a crayfish despite their fear of being pinched, or perhaps watching a monarch caterpillar munching on milkweed? Many children were smiling this summer at the Welty Center as they experienced all these things and more.

Boys and girls loved exploring the fish ladder, pond, and creek no matter what the program topic. The Scales and Tails program was the most popular Welty program with Fishing Fun a close second.

Libraries, daycares, and day camps came to the Welty Center this summer as well! Area libraries celebrated their summer reading theme "Catch the Reading Bug", by inviting the Welty Center to their libraries to lead programs on insects. In addition, the Clinton, Evansville, and Orfordville libraries brought children on field trips to the Welty Center for more insect explorations and nature walks! The Beloit Public Library held their end of summer reading celebration at the Welty Center.

The City of Beloit Big Hill Adventure Camp came to Welty every Wednesday for a "Welty Wednesday" nature camp. The Boone County Conservation District brought their nature campers to Welty for a pond discovery and mill tour. Kiddie Ranch Daycare came to Welty for a series of programs every Monday throughout the summer. Cargill Preschool and Daycare from Janesville came to the Welty Center for the first time this summer. Last but not least, Community Action from Delevan brought 60 children to

Welty for a day of nature discoveries. It was a busy summer at the Welty Center filled with many insect hunts, nature walks, pond

explorations, and more! The fun doesn't stop there though, as fall at the Welty Center will be just as exciting!



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## ENJOY THE COLORS OF FALL WITH THE WELTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

BY TANYA ZASTROW, CENTER DIRECTOR

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### **Stream Monitoring**

**Wednesday, Sept 17, 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

At Beckman Mill County Park. Participants will assist in the collection of ecological information to assess how good the water of Raccoon Creek is relative to the needs and tolerances of organisms that live in the creek. Free.

### **Nature Explorers**

**Sunday, Sept 21, 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

Fall is here! What better way to celebrate fall than by exploring the

woods, creek, and more while on a nature exploration event! This exploration is the first program of the **Nature Rocks Family Nature Club!** All families welcomed to participate. Fee: \$5.00 per FWEC member families, \$10.00 per non-member families. Registration required by phone or email one week prior to the program.

See page 5 for more information on the Nature Rocks Family Nature Club.

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## WOULD YOU LIKE WELTY EMAIL UPDATES?

The Warbler is published four times each year to communicate with Welty members and Friends. In this day and age we also find that many appreciate electronic communication via e-mail. Please make sure that we have your e-mail address if you would like Welty news and updates between newsletter mailings. Send us your e-mail address at: [info@weltycenter.org](mailto:info@weltycenter.org) and put "add us to your e-mail list" in subject line.

## THANK YOU!

Over the last few months the Welty Center has been the recipient of many generous donations from area businesses and community organizations. Their continued support is greatly appreciated as it enables the Welty Center to provide quality environmental education for all ages.

### **Kerry America - \$100.**

Thank you to Kerry America for their unrestricted donation to Welty Environmental Center.

### **Beloit Noon Kiwanis – \$200.**

Thank you for rewarding the Welty Center a grant to purchase Bug-Zookas. Over 200 children, who attended Welty insect programs as part of the summer reading

theme “Catch the Reading Bug”, thoroughly enjoyed finding and catching insects outside the front doors of their libraries.

### **Alcoa Wheels - \$250**

Thank you to Alcoa Wheels for their unrestricted donation to Welty Environmental Center.

### **Metso Corporation - \$500.**

Thank you to Metso Corporation for their unrestricted donation to Welty Environmental Center.

### **Fairbanks Morse - \$1000.**

Congratulations for winning your company’s safety award. Thank you for sharing your success with the Welty Center. We appreciate your donation.

### **Genencor International - \$1000.**

Thanks to your generosity, program participants explored the soil and creek like never before. The new pond nets, aquavues, soil thermometers, soil probes, soil sifters, and more were used by over 700 children in May-July. Thank you also for the donation of chairs. They will provide comfortable seating for all Welty visitors.

### **Kettle Foods – \$5000.**

Thank you to Kettle Foods. This generous unrestricted gift is greatly appreciated. Thank you for the wonderful donation!



*Pictured here: Pete Kangas, Bob Manzer and Jerry Sonnenberg from Kettle Foods with Welty Center Director, Tanya Zastrow.*

## WELTY HELPS TO RE-USE & RECYCLE CHAMBERLIN HALL SCIENCE BUILDING BY DAVE DOBSON

The move of Beloit College science departments from Chamberlin Hall to the newly constructed Science Center occurred last month. Many items of furniture and fixtures from Chamberlin were not being re-used by the College, and became available to the Welty Center for use later in our new building. Volunteers worked hard over a period of several weeks, removing cabinets, doors, tables and chairs, and hauling them to a vacant store at the Eclipse Center (the old Beloit Mall) where they will be stored until the new Welty Center is built.

Over 250 items were saved, weighing an estimated 11 tons, and saving the Welty Center an estimated \$40,000.00 in the eventual cost of completing and furnishing our new building. We thank Beloit College for making these items available, and we thank the Hendricks Development Group for donating the use of storage space. We also wish to thank volunteers: Dave Dobson, Mark Batterman, Dick Newsome, Stephanie Dobson and Bea Lengjak for helping with the move.

## JUNIOR ECO-BUDDY LEADERS BY KELLY WASHBURN

The Welty Center greatly benefited from the Eco-Buddy Junior Leader program this summer. As a Junior Leaders, older youth were able to share their experiences with the younger participants. They learned responsibility by assisting with activities and programs. Most of all, everyone had fun outdoors!

**Eco-Buddy Profile: Henry Karlzon**  
Henry has been participating in

programs at the Welty Center for three years. He heard about them through Morgan Elementary School. He loved the programs from the beginning. He made many new friends while learning about the environment. Henry's favorite programs are fishing, hiking and exploring. Henry enjoyed being a Junior Leader this summer and plans to participate in numerous programs in the future.



## FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL 2008 BY STEPHANIE DOBSON

Before you know it, pumpkin carving time will be here again. Mark your calendar on October 12, 2008 for this family fun event 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the picnic shelter at Beckman Mill Park. Back by popular demand is the pie baking contest. Pie judges include Lynne Green and an owner of Culver's! Bring a pie(s) and /or buy a piece(s). There will be prizes for the winners.

For information call WEC at: 608-361-1377 or Stephanie Dobson at 608-364-1023

## WHO'S ON THE FWEC BOARD

BY STEPHANIE DOBSON

Tom Klubertanz  
Tom was elected to the FWEC Board in 2002. He is associate professor of Biology at UW Rock County and associate Dean of Academic Affairs there. Entomology is his field with emphasis on control of agricultural pests by integrated management techniques. These integrated practices reduce pesticides in the environment.



Tom is the parent of three children ages 8, 10, & 14 yr. He likes creating and conducting programs to educate youth to the end of a developing sustainable life styles in the a next generation. We appreciate the teaching he has done at Welty programs and the bird walks he leads. At Board meetings he often contributes much appreciated helpful insights.

### EVENTS

- ☞ Cider pressing
- ☞ Baking Pumpkin Seeds
- ☞ Art Activities
- ☞ Apple Games
- ☞ Pumpkin Carving
- ☞ Refreshments
- ☞ Scarecrow Building (Please bring clothes and hats to share.)

Cost: \$12 per family, \$5 per adult, \$3 children ages 2-12yr

# NATURE ROCKS! A WELTY CENTER FAMILY NATURE CLUB

*Moms, dads, brothers, sisters, grandmas and grandpas, let's get back to nature's original playground and play outside! All families are welcome to join the Welty Environmental Center in exploring nature outside our backdoor. Come to one program or come to them all!*

## What is Nature Rocks!?

Nature Rocks! is a family nature club that will focus on getting children and adults active in nature all year long! Program topics will vary as will locations.

Activities will engage adults and children in active learning about the natural world around them.

## Why a family nature club?

Nature no longer plays a part in a child's daily life. This club strives to reconnect families with nature through activities they can do together.

## What are the benefits of attending Nature Rocks!?

Families will experience and learn new things about nature. Nature Rocks! offers an inexpensive opportunity for adults and children to learn about and explore nature together.

## Who can attend Nature Rocks!?

The club is designed for families. Families may consist of grandparents and grandchildren, preschoolers, elementary aged children, teenagers, and parents. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Where will this club meet?

The Nature Rocks! Club will meet at the Welty Environmental Center for all programs unless specified. Families will enjoy exploring other natural areas in Rock County for a few programs.

## When will this club meet?

Nature Rocks! will meet once a month September-May, with the exception of December. Families can attend as many programs as they wish.

## How long will each program last?

The programs will last approximately 1 hour 30 minutes.

## Program Fees:

- ☞ \$5.00/per FWEC family for each program
- ☞ \$10.00/per non-member family for each program

## Nature Rocks! Tote Package

Purchase a special **Nature Rocks! Tote** and receive the following:

- ☞ Welty Environmental Center canvas tote bag to hold all your Nature Rocks club exploration tools!
- ☞ A family membership to the Friends of the Welty Environmental Center. Member benefits include: reduced program fees for Welty Center programs and quarterly newsletter.
- ☞ Tools and information on how to play in nature on your own

**Nature Rocks! Tote - \$35.00**

## Registration

Families must register for programs one week in advance.

To register:

- ☞ Call (608) 361-1377.
- ☞ Email [info@weltycenter.org](mailto:info@weltycenter.org)
- ☞ Print a registration form from [www.weltycenter.org](http://www.weltycenter.org) and mail it to the Welty Center

## 2008-2009 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### Sunday, September 21st at 1pm

What better way to begin the Nature Rock Nature Club than a scavenger hunt? Embark on this journey to learn more about nature by exploring high and low near and far for leaves, feathers, animal homes, flowers, and more!

### Friday October 24th at 7pm

Nature at night is a fun place to explore. Bring a flashlight and your courage as we discover the night life in the woods at Beckman Mill County Park. Enjoy a campfire with smores after the night hike.

### November –

Program Topic TBA

### January –

Snow and cold, how do the animals survive? Test your survival skills and learn how animals adapt to their surroundings to survive.

### February –

The Friends of Carver Roehl Park invite our Nature Rocks Family Club to Carver Roehl County Park for a night hike or cross country ski and campfire.

### March –

The crows are cawing and the spring peepers are peeping, so it must mean one thing – it's Maple Sugar Time! Take part in tapping sugar maple trees, collecting sap, and boiling it to make maple syrup!

### April –

Venture out to explore the birds and insects at Cook Arboretum with local expert Dr. Tom Klubertanz from the University of WI—Rock County.

### May –

Wildflower expert, Rob Baller, will lead us through the oak savanna at Beckman Mill County Park. Along the way he will identify the many grasses and flowers and share interesting information about them. Also, discover which plants are natives and which plants are invasive exotics.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide leadership in environmental and ecological education to students, teachers and individuals of all ages so that the residents of this region can make informed decisions leading to respect for and the enjoyment, preservation, and sustainable use of our natural resources.

Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2008

- Student/Child (\$10)
- Individual (\$15)
- Family (\$25)
- Organizational (\$100)
- Lifetime (\$1000)

Contributions	
Level	Amount
Swallow	\$25
Killdeer	\$50
Goldfinch	\$75
Cardinal	\$100
Bluebird	\$150
Crane	\$250
Great Blue Heron	\$500+

**Join the Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Inc. Today**

Help support environmental education and programming in our region. FWEC members receive issues of this newsletter and information about programming and events. We have 501(c)(3) tax exempt status and are solely a private, non-profit educational organization. All dues and contributions are tax-deductible.

NAME(S):			
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	
ZIP		PHONE:	
EMAIL:			
TOTAL (DUES & CONTRIBUTIONS):	\$		
Please make checks payable to and mail to: Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Inc., P.O. Box 131, Beloit, WI 53512			

**FWEC Board of Directors**

- Jan Knutson, *President*
- Dick Newsome, *Treasurer*
- David Dobson, *External Secretary*
- Gillian Batterman, *Internal Secretary*

**At-Large Directors**

- Heidi Andre      Margie Carol
- Gina Castro      Linda Fair
- Tom Klubertanz      Nina Langoussis
- Bea Lengjak      Frank McKearn

**Welty Center Director**

Tanya Zastrow

**'Warbler' Newsletter Editors**

Jan Knutson      Jason Dettman

After reading this issue of The Warbler, file it for future reference or pass it on to a friend. Better yet, send the friend's name to us and we'll send them a copy!

Visit us at [www.weltycenter.org](http://www.weltycenter.org)

This paper is made with recycled fibers



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