

Naturalist Programs at Hartman Creek

The Friends of Hartman Creek are sponsoring these Naturalist Programs at the Park this season. They are free and open to the public, but a State Park Pass is required to enter the park.

Visit our website (<https://friendsofhartmancreek.org/>) and follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/hartmancreekfriends>) to get the latest updates on the naturalist programs in the Park. Many more will be added to the schedule.

Sun., May 7: 8:00-10:00 am – Meet at Allen Lake Fishing Dock **Spring Morning Bird Walk #1**

May in the park is full of bird song, returning migrants, and colorful warblers including orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks, towhees, tanagers, vireos, and thrushes. This will be a one mile walk around Allen Lake with a stop at Camp Host Site 23 to see what birds are visiting the bird feeders. Beginner and experienced birders are welcome. A few binoculars will be available if you do not have your own. We will meet at the Fishing Dock on Allen Lake. The trail could be muddy in some places.



Sat., May 13: 8:00-10:00 am – Meet at Amphitheater by Hartman Lake **Spring Morning Bird Walk #2**

May in the park is full of bird song, returning migrants, and colorful warblers including orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks, towhees, tanagers, vireos, and thrushes. This will be an easy one mile walk on the Dike Trail on Hartman Lake. Beginner and experienced birders are welcome. A few binoculars will be available if you do not have your own. We will meet at the amphitheater on Hartman Lake.



Sat., May 13: 8:00-9:00 pm – Meet at Hellestad House, Allen Lake Parking Lot **Evening Frog Songs**

Have you ever experienced the deafening, full chorus of frogs on a spring night? Can you pick out the calls of the different frog species? Join our camp host on a short easy walk to listen and learn about frogs and toads that inhabit the park. We will meet at the Hellestad House by the Allen Lake Parking Lot

Sat., May 20: 10:00-11:30 am – Meet at Beach Shelter by Concessions **Bluebirds, Boxes, Babies, and Banding**

Nest boxes provide critical breeding locations for a variety of species, including Tree Swallows, House Wrens, Black-capped Chickadees and Eastern Bluebirds. Come join us and discover the wonders of monitoring a nest box trail. Memuna Khan, Ph. D., will guide you through the process and discuss the biology of these secondary cavity nesters. If nestling bluebirds are found, we will learn about bird-banding.

Memuna Khan is Professor of Biology at Ripon College. With her students, she studies the behavior and ecology of a local population of Eastern Bluebirds. They monitor almost 100 nest boxes!



Sat., June 10: 10:00-11:30 am @ Picnic Shelter at Allen Lake **The Fascinating World of Honey Bees and Native Pollinators**

Kids and adults are invited to meet Julie Mazzoleni, a beekeeper, who will introduce us to the fascinating world of the honey bee. We will learn about the different casts in the hive, their individual roles and why an entire hive is considered a “superorganism”. Besides the honey bee, she’ll talk about the many native pollinators we see in our gardens and in the park, and their critical importance for a strong, healthy ecosystem. Julie will touch on how and why they are at risk, and what we can all do to help them survive.

Julie Mazzoleni has been Vice-President of Brown County Beekeepers Association for five years and a beekeeper for eight. She mentors new beekeepers of all ages and regularly presents to classrooms, libraries, garden clubs, 4H groups, botanic gardens, etc. In 2022, she received the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association Education Award for Excellence. This year she is involved in a citizen science program for Waupaca area bumble bees.



Sat., July 29: 4:00-5:00 pm @ Enclosed Picnic Shelter near Amphitheater
Live Birds of Prey – Up Close!

Kids and adults are equally fascinated by birds, and this will be an opportunity to see live Wisconsin raptors up close! Aves Wildlife Alliance will bring five or six birds of prey which will include hawks, owls, and falcons. Raptors are a highly specialized group of animals that are not only beautiful to see but play a critical role in helping to maintain a healthy environment. Learn how raptors work for us and what makes them different from your usual backyard birds. Beka Weiss and her assistants will happily answer your questions and discuss bird biology and natural history.

No dogs will be allowed at this program because of the live birds. Thank you for understanding.

Aves Wildlife Alliance is a nonprofit, licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility in Neenah. Founded in 2009, Aves mission is to conserve and restore native wildlife through innovation and excellence in community outreach and wildlife rehabilitation. It is supported by tax deductible donations and volunteer staff.

Sat., August 26: 1:00-3:00 pm @ Enclosed Picnic Shelter near Amphitheater
The Traveling Snake Show

Come learn about the wonderful world of snakes – one of the most misunderstood creatures. We'll talk about different snakes of the world, including ones you can find right here in Wisconsin. After presenting our snakes, you get a chance to interact with them in a safe, controlled environment. All ages welcome.

No dogs will be allowed at this program because of the live snakes. Thank you for understanding.

Steve Keller and the Traveling Snake Show has been showing people the magical world of snakes for over 20 years. Steve sees it as "Edutainment" – a combination of education and entertainment. The Snake Show offers experiencing snakes in a safe and friendly environment, while being instructed by experienced handlers. He strives to teach people that snakes are not the vicious creature as portrayed in movies, tv, and stories, but an integral part of our ecosystem, and even beneficial to medical advancements with medicines being made from snake venom! Steve has also been a scout leader, is an avid harmonica player, and starred as Fat Tony in the film, "[The Hungry Bull](#)."



Sat., Sept. 9: 1:00-3:00 pm @ Group Campsite Prairie
Catch, Tag and Release Migrating Monarchs

Learn about the life and migration of the monarch butterfly. We will demonstrate how to tag a monarch and learn why it is done. Then you will be free to wander through the prairie to net monarchs. We will assist you in tagging and releasing them. Some insect nets will be available for use. Please wear long pants and closed shoes (no sandals) to prevent scratches and cuts while in the prairie. All ages are welcome to participate. We all have an inner child who would love to do this. We will meet at the Group Campsite prairie.

Sat., Sept. 30: 3:00 pm @ Amphitheater on Hartman Lake
The Enduring Hops of Hartman Creek

The presentation will focus on the story of how land that is now part of Hartman Creek State Park was once home to sprawling hop yards that supplied hops for brewers in Wisconsin and beyond. We'll explore the culture of hops and how farmers from New York flocked to the area in and around Hartman Creek to establish one of the most productive hop growing regions in the United States.

Meet our speaker: Lee Reiherzer's fondness for all things beer developed after his father gave him a taste of Bohemian Club Lager. That sip triggered a lifelong interest in beer and brewing history. He began writing about beer in 2010 after launching the Oshkosh Beer website and has since written dozens of articles about his favorite subject for numerous print and online publications. In 2012, he coauthored the book *The Breweries of Oshkosh, Their Rise and Fall*. In 2019, he published another book, *Winnebago County Beer, A Heady History*. In his spare time, Reiherzer enjoys hop cultivation and is an award-winning homebrewer who loves brewing the old-time lagers that were once revered in Winnebago County.

