

Naturalist Programs 2026

at Hartman Creek State Park - Page 1



Sponsored by the Friends of Hartman Creek State Park
with the generous support of the Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce.



Free and open to the public, but a State Park Pass is required to enter the Park.

DRESS FOR WEATHER/TRAIL CONDITIONS. For the latest updates on the naturalist programs in the Park, follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hartmancreekfriends>.

Sounds of the Night #1

Tuesday, April 28 / 8:00 pm-9:00 pm - Meet at the Allen Lake Picnic Shelter

Join our camp host for a short, easy walk to listen and learn about frogs, whippoorwills, and other creatures of the night that inhabit the park. This walk is on a paved accessible trail. No dogs please.

Spring Morning Bird Walk #1

Sunday, May 3 / 8:00 am-10:00 am - Meet at the Allen Lake Fishing Pier

May is full of bird song, returning migrants, and colorful warblers. Join us for a one mile walk around Allen Lake - it could be muddy in places. Beginner to experienced birders are welcome. Bring binoculars. Some will be available.

Spring Morning Bird Walk #2

Saturday, May 9 / 8:00 am-10:00 am - Meet at the Amphitheater

May is full of bird song, returning migrants, and colorful warblers. Join us for this easy one mile walk on the accessible Dike Trail on Hartman Lake. Beginner to experienced birders are welcome. Bring binoculars. Some will be available.

Sounds of the Night #2

Saturday, May 9 / 8:00 pm-9:00 pm - Meet at the Allen Lake Picnic Shelter

Join our camp host for a short, easy walk to listen and learn about frogs, whippoorwills, and other creatures of the night that inhabit the park. This walk is on a paved accessible trail. No dogs please.

Live Birds of Prey - Up Close!

Saturday, May 23 / 1:00 pm-2:00 pm - Amphitheater

Raptor rehabilitator and educator Jane Kelly of On the Wing, will present a live raptor program in the park. Audience members will have a very special opportunity to view a variety of live birds of prey, while Jane provides an overview of their natural history. No dogs will be allowed at this program because of the live birds. Thank you for understanding.

RAIN DATE: Sat., May 30.

Learn to Fish

Saturday, June 6 / 1:00 pm-3:00 pm - Allen Lake Fishing Pier

Let's go fishing on Free Fishing Weekend (no fishing license or park pass needed). This will be a great chance go learn all about fishing from experienced fishers. Fishing gear will be available for use, but bring your own if you have it. Family-friendly.

Nature's Potpourri Hike

Saturday, June 13 / 9:00-Noon - Meet near Allen Lake Fishing Pier

Winnebago Audubon invites you to join Anita Carpenter in exploring her favorite park where there is lots to discover in its varied habitats. The focus is to discover whatever nature presents including birds, flowers, trees, insects, and more. This is a family-friendly event.

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Steve and Carl's Traveling Snake Show

Saturday, June 20 / 1:00 pm-3:00 pm - Amphitheater

Join us to learn about the wonderful world of snakes - one of the most misunderstood creatures. Carl will talk about different snakes of the world, including ones you can find right here in Wisconsin. Then you will have the opportunity 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.

Shakespeare in the Park: Hamlet

Sunday, June 21 / Workshop: 1:00 pm; Performance: 2:30 pm - Amphitheater

The Summit Players present Shakespeare's "Hamlet". The workshops are specifically built for children ages 8 and up, but younger children and "fun adults" can still have plenty of fun and learn things they never knew about Shakespeare! The workshops are about practical skills and "learning by doing" - even adult members of our audience can embrace their inner child by playing Shakespeare's characters.

Family Music Fun with Tom Pease

Saturday, June 27 / 6:30 pm-7:30 pm - Amphitheater (In case of rain: Enclosed Shelter)

Tom Pease has an infectious sense of fun and community building. With movement, sign language, humor, and joy, he creates concerts through attendee participation and leaves audiences of children and adults laughing and singing. Join as he celebrates the moments in the park.

Bats in the Park!

Saturday, July 11 / 8:00 pm-9:00 pm - Beach Picnic Shelter

Learn about the bats that inhabit the park from those who monitor the bat houses. After a short presentation, we will walk down the path to the bat houses to do our bat monitoring. Bring a chair to comfortably sit and watch awhile.

Ryan Meisel's Spiritual Currents Concert

Saturday, August 22 / 6:30 pm-8:00 pm - Amphitheater (In case of rain: Enclosed Shelter)

Music and storytelling in a relaxed setting creates an enjoyable experience for all. Ryan Meisel's Spiritual Currents blends Indigenous world music with his background in jazz. It honors his spiritual connection to nature and cultures from around the world. He performs Native American flutes, saxophones, and indigenous woodwinds (East Indian Bansuri, Lithuanian Skuduciai & Birbyne, Irish flutes & whistles, Slovakian Fujara, and Andean Pan Pipes). Upon completion of the performance Ryan will lead a drum circle for guests of the event to participate in.

Our Amazing Birds and How YOU Can Help Them

Saturday, August 29 / 1:00 pm-2:30 pm - Amphitheater (In case of rain: Enclosed Shelter)

Learn about why birds are so incredible, but also how their numbers have been declining at an alarming rate. Then discover how you can help birds in a simple way, by reducing the number of bird collisions with windows. We'll wrap up with a bird walk.

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Monarch Magic with Randy Peterson

Saturday, September 12 / 1:00 pm-2:00 pm - Amphitheater

Artist and Monarch enthusiast Randy Peterson presents a fascinating look at the monarch butterfly life cycle. Using large and lifelike sculptures he has created, Randy will present many little-known facts about these beloved insects. This program is geared for all ages.

Live Birds of Prey - Up Close!

Saturday, Sept. 26 / 1:00 pm-2:00 pm - Amphitheater (In case of rain: Enclosed Shelter)

Aves Wildlife Alliance will bring live birds of prey including hawks, owls, and falcons. Raptors are critical to a healthy environment. No dogs will be allowed at this program because of the live birds.

Pumpkin Hike

Saturday, October 17 - Save the Date!

Invasive Species Workdays

Opportunities to volunteer to keep our park healthy!

Workdays are listed on

[MyImpactPage - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Search Volunteer Opportunities by Property Name - HARTMAN CREEK STATE PARK](#) page with more information.

Please sign-up to help us plan for number of tools, refreshments, and work areas.

Meet at Maintenance Building.

Hand pulling garlic mustard, celandine, ditch lilies, and crown vetch in the Pollinator Garden and Family Campground.

Please bring work gloves, knee pads, and a trowel.

Tuesday, May 5
9:30 am - Noon

Sunday, May 10
12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Buckthorn control in the Family Campground using the Critical Period Cutting (CPC) method.

Please bring work gloves and a lopper.

Tuesday, June 2
9:30 am - Noon

Sunday, June 7
12:30 - 3:00 pm

Tuesday, June 9
9:30 am - Noon

Tuesday, Sept. 22
9:30 am - Noon

Sunday, Sept. 27
12:30 - 3:00 pm