

# Jay C. Hormel Nature Center News

Spring & Summer 2017

Volume 36, Issue 1



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## Director's Desk

### Luke Reese, Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Director/Naturalist

As an Austin kid, my family and I frequented the Hormel Nature Center's forests and prairies. We might hike to the tower, identify trees, or ski the trails, but we *never* missed a chance to say "Hello" to the Old Oak Tree. The tree was a large, gnarled, and grandfatherly presence at the Nature Center. It was a sad day when that tree was struck by lightning and came down. The Nature Center seemed forever changed.

As a kid, I saw and loved nature for its enduring qualities. My thinking changed after taking forest ecology in college. I learned that forests, as well as the rest of the natural world, are dynamic and constantly changing, which is a good thing. I began to notice the young trees being recruited into the canopy instead of just looking for big trees. Now, I love nature for its dynamism *and* its constancy.

The Hormel Nature Center has recently experienced a lot of change of which I am excited to be a part. Our new Interpretive Center is opening in April and the old one will come down shortly after. We are beginning to reimagine the space where the old building stood. We are restoring another 50 acres of prairie while working to remove buckthorn. We are bringing honey bees back to the Nature Center.

Through this change, we remain committed to providing youth an environmental education that will prepare them to be stewards of the Earth. Families will continue to find the Nature Center a welcoming place to recreate. We continue to manage this land so that this community may easily find nature.

Please join us on Earth Day, April 22, at 1:00 p.m. to celebrate the new Interpretive Center that continues Jay C. Hormel's legacy on this land with a ribbon-cutting and dedication with self-guided tours open to the public.

Sincerely,  
J. Luke Reese



## Who is that New Intern?

### Savanna Dahl, Naturalist Intern

Born and raised on a dirt road in central Wisconsin, I have been immersed in the outdoors since day one. During high school, I took every opportunity to get outside and learn something new, whether that meant stumbling through the dark helping graduate students with radio telemetry or wearing a giant greater prairie-chicken costume for grassland outreach programs. This led me to Lawrence University, graduating in 2015 with a Bachelor

of Arts in biology and a Bachelor of Music in instrumental music performance. During my university years and since, aquatic invasive species (AIS) became my passion. What started as two five-month terms of service with AmeriCorps doing AIS education led to AIS research for Lawrence University, a senior thesis on Eurasian Watermilfoil, and then four months in Michigan's Upper Peninsula with the U.S. Forest Service conducting invasive species management on national forest lands and lakes. All of these adventures have been incredible, but in order to make a bigger difference, I knew I was going to have to focus more closely on environmental education. I began to gain this experience by spending nine months at the International Crane Foundation teaching the public and school groups about the world's crane species. I am, now, so excited that I get to spend 2017 here at the Hormel Nature Center!

I am looking forward to all that this year brings: meeting new people and animals, educating all ages, seeing the beginning of a new era in the new Interpretive Center, and creating curriculum that will get children excited about being outside and making a difference. Aside from the professional goals I have for myself this year, I am thrilled to be able to explore the community by kayaking, hiking, and biking—and using that inspiration in my music composition and performance and conservation activism-based art.

I would like to thank the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center for supporting my position and Luke Reese and Maria Anderson for choosing me for this amazing opportunity. Thank you!

—Savanna

### Friends of the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center's Mission Statement:

*To enhance and encourage environmental education, scientific opportunities, and the enjoyment of nature at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center.*

# From the Front Desk

The best things in life come out of change! We are headed into an exciting new chapter in the history of the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center. Here are some of the changes happening at the Nature Center:

- Our new building hours are **9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday** (we are no longer closed over the lunch hour) and **Sunday from 1:00-5:00 p.m.** when volunteers are available to staff the new center.
- The snakes and salamanders will be taken out by staff for holding and touching only at **10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.**
- Two new red-tailed hawks have joined our staff: male, **Sha**, which means *red* in the Lakota language, and female, **Wiyaka**, which means *feather*. Learn about their journey from the Indiana Raptor Center to the Hormel Nature Center on August 3 during the 10:00 a.m. Senior Special program and the 1:00 p.m. Nature Play program. You can see Sha, Wiyaka, and Guka (our barred owl) inside in our new raptor exhibit and outside on the southwest corner of our new building.
- We will have painted turtles on display in the new exhibit space alongside our current fox snakes and tiger salamanders.
- We have a new in-person registration system for summer classes that will be implemented on April 24 at 9:00 am. This will be far more efficient, with less wait time than in the past. (We can still only except cash or check.)
- We have been blessed with many summer scholarship donations this year. Scholarship essays must be turned in at the time you register for the class to receive the discount. See page 6 for more information.
- The number of program registrants will determine in which building the program will be held (please look for signs the day of to determine if the program is in the new classrooms or in the Ruby Rupner auditorium).

*Please remember you are never too young or too old to change the world for the better! –Julie Champlin*



## President's Letter

February 27, 2017

### Peter Mattson, President of the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center

We had our nice annual meeting on the beautiful Saturday afternoon of February 18. In addition to getting our business taken care of, we were able to enjoy a chili lunch with entertainment and get a look at the almost-finished new Interpretive Center. You will like it.

It was the last business meeting for board members Ron Walth and Chris Anderson. Ron was treasurer for seven years and improved our financial and budgeting procedures during that time. Chris was president for three years and has volunteered for all kinds of work, such as loading the new member/volunteer software and recapturing Guka the barred owl with the aid of a super soaker squirt gun. Thanks to Ron and Chris.

We elected two new board members. Rhonda Alberts teaches Spanish at the high school (Luke Reese was her student and still speaks Spanish, although I can't say I've heard him speak any). Lee Bjorndal is an attorney with a long-time interest in the Nature Center.

As I write this, the contractors are arriving to start our ecological restoration project on the north end. Last year we applied for a Conservation Partners Legacy grant through the DNR, and in November we learned that we got it. (The money comes from the state sales tax.) A state government group called the Lessard Sams Commission selects the projects, and the DNR administers the grants. The total for the three-year project is \$162,000. Friends will pay for the work, and the state will reimburse 90% of the cost. It's a great way to leverage the funds you've given us for restoration and land management.

We will plant 50 acres of native prairie. Friends bought this land and turned it over to the city some years ago. It has been rented out as cropland, and that rental period has now ended. We'll remove buckthorn, honeysuckle, and other invasives from

about 20 wooded acres north and east of the tower and along the north edge of the big bluestem loop. We'll start work to convert the former home site in the northwest to a more natural savannah environment. The project includes three years of follow-up and maintenance. Longer term, we'd like to continue this approach and each year take more of the land back to its pre-buckthorn state.

With all the big things happening at the Nature Center this spring, I'm sure you're wondering how you can be a part of it. Well, it's easy. That new Interpretive Center will be busy, and the staff will be happy to have help. Think of how much fun the kids will have in there. Call the office at (507)437-7519. Tell them you'd like to volunteer. —Pete



Shredded Buckthorn Stems

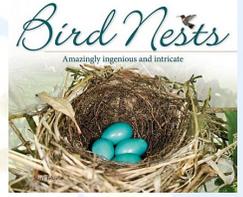
# Spring Special Events

Please RVSP by phone (507-437-7519), email ([info@hormelnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@hormelnaturecenter.org)), or in person at the Nature Center.

## Stan Tekiela: "Bird Nests: Amazingly Ingenious and Intricate"

Tuesday, April 18; 7:00 p.m.

From holes drilled into trees to intricately woven cups, birds build magnificent homes worthy of our admiration. This talk is full of fun details told with Stan's great sense of humor. RSVP by Monday, April 17.



## Earth Day Celebration: Dedication of the New Interpretive Center

Saturday, April 22; 1:00 p.m.

Come and watch the ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony before going on a self-guided tour of the new building! *Building closed prior to 1:00 p.m.*

## Spring Bird Watching

Thursday evenings, May 4, 11, & 18; 6:30-8:00 p.m. • Tuesday mornings, May 9 & 16; 6:30-8:00 a.m. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot on a Thursday evening or Tuesday morning and join fellow birders for a hike on the Nature Center trails. Binoculars will be provided upon request. *Cosponsored with Austin Audubon.*



## Summer Senior Specials

Patrons age 55 and older are invited to join us for FREE coffee or tea and a cookie, a nature program, and an optional opportunity to take a 45-60 minute guided tour of the Nature Center trails on one of our two access vehicles.

**Preregistration is REQUIRED for all of the programs, with a separate access vehicle signup. Call 507-437-7519 or email [info@hormelnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@hormelnaturecenter.org) to reserve your seats for the programs and/or trail tours.**

**Thursday, June 15; 10:00 a.m.:** Photographer **John Duren** will take you through his winter travels at Yellowstone National Park and explain the story behind the photographs.

**Thursday, June 22; 10:00 a.m.:** Discover the joys of nature with naturalist and entertainer, **David Stokes**. Audiences of all ages will enjoy David's amazing energy, live critters, and songs & stories about the natural world around us. He's back by popular demand!

**Thursday, July 13; 10:00 a.m.:** As part of the Nature Center's annual Water Festival, **Bill Thompson** will explain water quality using a hands-on stream model activity.

**Thursday, July 27; 10:00 a.m.:** Come learn about some fascinating critters from the **Minnesota Zoomobile**.

**Thursday, August 3; 10:00 a.m.:** We will introduce you to the Nature Center's two newest staff members—Red-tailed hawks, **Sha and Wiyaka**.

**Thursday, August 24; 10:00 a.m.:** Come and meet the **U of M Raptor Center's** winged ambassador birds which will give you a close-up educational experience you'll never forget.



## Trail Access Tours

We want everyone to be able to enjoy our beautiful trails! Trail access tours are designed for patrons who need some assistance getting out on the trails. In addition to the themed tours, lasting about 45 to 60 minutes, following each scheduled Senior Special program, private tours on our trail access vehicles can be scheduled with advance notice (a minimum of four days), seven days a week, spring through fall (based on trail conditions and the availability of volunteer drivers). **Please call 507-437-7519 for more information or to schedule a tour.** This is a free service funded and provided by the Friends of the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center. *The Interpretive Center also has two wheelchairs for use on the trails at no charge.*

*Are you interested in joining our team of volunteer trail drivers? We provide training for the vehicles and tours!*

# Water Festival Week—July 10-15



Enjoy activities and guest presenters throughout the week and have fun learning about—and playing in—water!

**Monday, July 10 through Wednesday, July 12:** Water, Water Everywhere! class (ages 8-9)—*details on page 7*

**Monday, July 10; 7:00 p.m.:** Steve Lawler, Mower SWCD—*Farmers: Cover Crop Champions*

**Thursday, July 13; 10:00 a.m.:** Bill Thompson—Model Stream Senior Special

**Thursday, July 13; 1:00 p.m.:** Bill Thompson—Model Stream Nature Play Program

Clean Water ~



**Thursday, July 13; 1:00-4:00 p.m.:** Water-themed Nature Play—kayaking, pond scooping, water quality testing, water survival game, crayfish hunting

**Friday, July 14; 1:00 p.m.:** Take a tour through the Austin Sewage Treatment Plant to see where your waste water goes. *Sign up at the Nature Center.*

**Saturday, July 15:** Clean Water Service Day—river cleanup, water quality testing, and storm drain labeling. Earn a free kayak or canoe rental for your participation! Contact the Nature Center for details on how to get involved (507-437-7519, [info@hormelnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@hormelnaturecenter.org)).

## Summer & Fall Special Events

*Please RSVP by phone (507-437-7519), email ([info@hormelnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@hormelnaturecenter.org)), or in person at the Nature Center.*

### All About Bees—Friends Members Only

Thursday, August 17; 7:00 p.m.

Come learn about the Nature Center's new resident bees and the hive-to-bottle program from keeper Paul Hanson. RSVP by August 16. You must be a 2017 Friends Member to register for this FREE event. If you aren't a member, now is the time to join!

### Nature Art Show

Saturday, August 19; 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Stop in to see nature inspired artwork by artists of all ages in the community. Each room of the Interpretive Center will have a different theme. Interested in submitting a piece? Visit the website to learn more!

### Natural Community Talent Show

Saturday, August 19; 7:00 p.m.

Local acts will get the chance to share their talent in a one-night-only show outside at the Nature Center. Interested in being one of those lucky few acts? Visit the website to learn more. Limited to the first 12 replies!

### Laura Merten—Quality Homes for Wildlife

Monday, September 11; 7:00 p.m.

Every creature needs a place to live. Join us as Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Laura Merten talks about the relationship between quality habitat and its importance to wildlife populations!

### Fall Bus Trip—Friends Members Only

Saturday, September 16; 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Take a trip to the Minnesota Zoo with other Friends of the Hormel Nature Center Members and tour leader Savanna Dahl. Space is limited to 50 people. Friends Members will receive a direct mailing closer to the date.

# Summer Nature Play Afternoons

Six *select* Thursdays from 1:00-4:00 p.m., starting June 15.

Get outside and discover nature with your child! Enjoy FREE canoe or kayak rentals, pond scooping for aquatic critters, archery, netting dragonflies & butterflies, crayfish hunting, survival games, and/or self-guided nature trail activities. Canoe and kayak availability is first-come, first-served, for an adult (18 & over) and child (adults must accompany children) with a signed liability waiver. Please call 507-437-7519 or email [info@hormelnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@hormelnaturecenter.org) for more information and a detailed schedule of activities, or visit the website: [www.hormelnaturecenter.org](http://www.hormelnaturecenter.org).



## **FREE FAMILY Nature Programs during Nature Play Afternoons—Please RVSP no later than 24 hours before**

**Thursday, June 15; 1:00 p.m.:** Photographer **John Duren** will take you through his winter travels at Yellowstone National Park and explain the story behind the photographs.

**Thursday, June 22; 1:00 p.m.:** Discover the joys of nature with naturalist and entertainer, **David Stokes**. Audiences of all ages will enjoy David's amazing energy, live critters, and songs & stories about the natural world around us. He's back by popular demand!

**Thursday, July 13; 1:00 p.m.:** As part of the Nature Center's Water Festival, **Bill Thompson** will explain water quality using a hands-on stream model activity.

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## Summer Adventure Scholarships

Full scholarships are available for the two-day Nature Photography classes, the Youth River Canoe Trip, and Monarch Tagging classes. Half scholarships are available for the Water, Water Everywhere! class, Radical Raptors, Survival Week, and the Exploring the Blufflands/Root River Canoe Trip. To receive a scholarship, students must write three to five complete sentences about why they want to attend a specific summer adventure class, and thank the donors who provide funds for the scholarships.

Please submit your request and paragraph at the Interpretive Center **at time of registration**. Include name, address, phone number, and age. Scholarships will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis (**one scholarship per child**). If you have any questions, please call 507-437-7519 or email [info@hormelnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@hormelnaturecenter.org).



## Scholarship Donors

Izaak Walton League Chapter 10  
Austin Audubon  
Friends of the Nature Center  
Mable Hjelman  
and other individual donors

*In Honor of George Hartson*

*Memorials from the Family & Friends of:*

Betty Oelkers  
Donald Cerny  
Dorothy Knorr  
Maureen Momsen  
Hannah Lees  
Harriet DeBoer  
Gene Sammon  
Beverly Smith

## 2017 Youth Photography Contest

*Sponsored by Friends of the Hormel Nature Center and Walgreens of Austin*

The 2017 Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Nature Photography Contest is open to any participant who was 14 years of age or younger when they took one of the 2017 Nature Photography classes.

**To Enter:** Upon completion of any of the 2017 Nature Photography classes, students may choose **ONE** image to enter into the contest. *Only images taken during the 2017 classes are eligible.*

**Judging:** Judging will take place at the Nature Center's 2017 Thanksgiving Feast in November, where the photo entries will be displayed in a gallery. All patrons in attendance at the Thanksgiving Feast are eligible to vote. We will offer first, second, and third place prizes. For more information, contact the JCHNC staff.

**Deadline:** The deadline for submission is August 4, 2017.

# Summer Adventure Classes for Youth & Families

**Registration for all summer programs begins at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 24, 2017**

**Parents: if you are a 2017 member of the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center, you get \$5.00 off each summer class!**

## 6 months-2 years (with adult)

Nature's Color Walk with Billie Jo Wicks \$8.00 (\$3.00 for Friends Members)

*Tuesday, June 27; 6:00-7:15 p.m.*

Join us as we create active and playful ways to make learning colors a lot of fun at the Nature Center. Bring strollers to enjoy this special color walk on the trails. Space is limited to 10 children and accompanying adult.

In Our Big, Big Pond with Billie Jo Wicks \$8.00 (\$3.00 for Friends Members)

*Thursday, July 27; 6:00-7:15 p.m.*

Explore the big pond at the Nature Center as we learn about the aquatic critters that inhabit it. Space is limited to 10 children and accompanying adult.



## 3-4 years (with adult)

Nature's Color Walk with Billie Jo Wicks \$8.00 (\$3.00 for Friends Members)

*Wednesday, June 28; 6:00-7:30 p.m.*

Join us as we create active and playful ways to make learning colors of a lot of fun at the Nature Center. Bring strollers to enjoy this special color walk on the trails. Space is limited to 10 children and accompanying adult.

In Our Big, Big Pond with Billie Jo Wicks \$8.00 (\$3.00 for Friends Members)

*Wednesday, July 26; 6:00-7:30 p.m.*

Explore the big pond at the Nature Center as we learn about the aquatic critters that inhabit it. Space is limited to 10 children and accompanying adult.

## 4-5 years (with adult)

Little Explorers: Hand in Hand in Nature with David Stokes \$20.00 (\$15.00 for Friends Members)

*Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, June 19, 20, & 21; 9:30-11:30 a.m.*

As an educator and entertainer, David will keep you laughing and learning about nature. Please dress for the weather. Space is limited to 12 children and their accompanying adult.



## 5-6 years (with adult)

The Zoo in My Backyard with Billie Jo Wicks \$10.00 (\$5.00 for Friends Members)

*Tuesday & Wednesday, July 18 & 19; 6:00-7:30 p.m.*

Come and explore the amazing creatures that can be found at the Nature Center and in your backyard. Please join us dressed in outdoor play clothes as we explore with stories, crafts, songs and fun! Space is limited to 10 children and accompanying adult.

## 6-7 years

Nature Detectives with David Stokes \$20.00 (\$15.00 for Friends Members)

*Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, June 19, 20, & 21; 1:30-3:30 p.m.*

As an educator and entertainer, David will keep you laughing and learning about nature. Please dress for the weather. Space is limited to 12 children. Parents are welcome.

Junior Ranger Rick: Plant Friends and Foes with Savanna Dahl \$15.00 (\$10.00 for Friends Members)

Session 1: *Tuesday & Wednesday, July 18 & 19; 9:30-11:30 a.m.* • Session 2: *Tuesday & Wednesday, July 18 & 19; 1:30-3:30 p.m.*

Through games, art, and other outdoor adventures, learn what plants belong at the Nature Center and which ones are invading our ecosystem! Space is limited to 10 children.

## 7-9 years

Monarch Magic \$8.00 (\$3.00 for Friends Members)

Session 1: *Friday, July 21; 1:30-3:30 p.m.* • Session 2: *Friday, July 28; 1:30-3:30 p.m.*

Come learn about the amazing life of the Monarch butterfly and search for Monarch eggs and caterpillars around the Nature Center! Space is limited to 10 children.



## 8-9 years

Junior Naturalists: Plant Friends and Foes with Savanna Dahl \$15.00 (\$10.00 for Friends Members)

Session 1: *Tuesday & Wednesday, June 27 & 28; 9:00-11:30 a.m.* • Session 2: *Tuesday & Wednesday, June 27 & 28; 1:30-4:00 p.m.*

Through games, art, and other outdoor adventures, learn what plants belong at the Nature Center and which ones are invading our ecosystem! Space is limited to 10 children.

Water, Water Everywhere! with Maria Anderson \$25.00 (\$20.00 for Members), half scholarships available

*Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, July 10, 11, & 12; 9:00-11:30 a.m.*

Through activities, experiments, and exploration, we'll discover the who, what, why, when, and how of water and water preservation. Space is limited to 10 children.



## Summer Adventure Classes (continued)

### 9-11 years

**Radical Raptors** \$40.00 (\$35.00 for Friends Members), half scholarships available

*Tuesday, August 15; 8:30-9:30 p.m.:* Owl talk and calling class for participant and family

*Wednesday, August 16; 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.:* Day trip to Whitewater State Park and the National Eagle Center

Discover the raptors of Minnesota here at the Nature Center and at the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minnesota! Please bring a lunch on August 16. Space is limited to 10 children.

**Nature Photography** with John Duren \$20.00 (\$15.00 for Friends Members), full scholarships available

Session 1: *Tuesday & Wednesday, June 13 & 14; 8:00-11:00 a.m.* • Session 2: *Monday & Tuesday, July 24 & 25; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon*

Come learn the basics of nature photography! Gain knowledge about cameras and the techniques for an awesome picture. Cameras will be provided (bring a disc or flash drive to take photos home) or bring your own. Space is limited to 10 children.

### 10-11 years

**Nature Bicycling** with Jacob Burkhardt \$15.00 (\$10.00 for Friends Members)

*Wednesday, July 19; 1:30-4:30 p.m.*

Exercise, explore, and study nature on Austin's bike trails. Children must provide a bike and helmet and be prepared to bike 5-10 miles. Space is limited to 8 children.



### 10-12 years

**Survival Week** with Derek Barkeim & Dan Block \$70.00 (\$65.00 for Friends Members), half scholarships available

*Monday through Friday, June 12-16; 1:30-4:30 p.m.*

Spend five days learning wilderness survival and awareness skills to prepare you for your next adventure. Space is limited to 16 children.

**Monarch Tagging** \$8.00 (\$3.00 for Friends Members), full scholarships available

Session 1: *Tuesday, August 29; 1:30-4:00 p.m.*

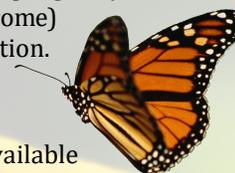
Session 3: *Tuesday, September 12; 4:00-6:00 p.m.* (after-school program)

Session 2: *Thursday, August 31; 1:30-4:00 p.m.*

Session 4: *Sunday, September 17; 1:30-4:00 p.m.* (families welcome)

Help with research and learn to catch, tag, record, and release monarchs before they start their 2,000-mile migration.

Space is limited to 10 children.



### 11-12 years

**Canoeing the Root River & Exploring the Blufflands** \$100.00 (\$95.00 for Friends Members), half scholarships available

*Monday, July 31; 9:00-11:00 a.m.:* Canoe practice at the Nature Center

*Tuesday, August 1; 8:00 a.m.:* Depart the Nature Center to explore Mystery Cave, Forestville State Park, and then travel to Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center for group challenges, high ropes courses, dinner, and a hike. Pack a lunch.

*Wednesday, August 2:* Breakfast at Eagle Bluff before canoeing part of the Root River; return to Nature Center by 4:30 p.m.

Fee includes lodging, admission fees, canoe equipment, high ropes course, and three meals (dinner August 1, breakfast and lunch August 2). Space is limited to 9 children.

### 12-14 years

**Adventure Bicycling** with Jacob Burkhardt \$15.00 (\$10.00 for Friends Members)

*Thursday, July 20; 1:30-4:30 p.m.*

Explore Austin by bicycle and study nature as you go! Participants must provide a bike and helmet and be prepared to bike 10 or more miles. Space is limited to 8 participants.

**Nature Photography** with John Duren \$20.00 (\$15.00 for Friends Members), full scholarships available

Session 1: *Tuesday & Wednesday, June 13 & 14; 6:00-9:00 p.m.* • Session 2: *Monday & Tuesday, July 24 & 25; 5:30-8:30 p.m.*

Come learn the basics of nature photography! Gain knowledge about cameras and the techniques for an awesome picture. Cameras will be provided (bring a disc or flash drive to take photos home) or bring your own. Space is limited to 10 participants.

**Youth River Canoe Trip** \$20.00 (\$15.00 for Friends Members), full scholarships available

*Monday, August 21; 9:00-11:00 a.m.:* Canoe practice at the Nature Center

*Tuesday, August 22; 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*

Note—Back-up Day: *Wednesday, August 23; 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*

Enjoy canoeing the Root, Shell Rock or Straight River—weather and water levels will decide the trip and activities. 9-participant limit.

### 13-16+ years

**Survival Week** with Derek Barkeim & Dan Block \$70.00 (\$65.00 for Members), half scholarships available

*Monday through Friday, June 12-June 16; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon*

Spend five days learning wilderness survival and awareness skills to prepare you for your next adventure. Space is limited to 16 participants.



### Family

**Family Nature Photography** with John Duren \$10.00 per family (\$5.00 for Friends Members)

*Sunday, July 23; 5:30-8:30 p.m.*

Come learn the basics of nature photography! Gain new skills about cameras and the techniques for an awesome picture. Cameras will be provided (bring a disc or flash drive to take your photos home) or bring your own. Space is limited to 6 families.



# Spring Event Schedule 2017



Please RSVP for any event at least one full day ahead of the scheduled time.

## April

- 18 (Tue)**  
7:00 p.m. Stan Tekiela: Bird Nests program
- 22 (Sat)**  
1:00 p.m. Dedication of new Interpretive Center—*Building closed prior*  
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 24 (Mon)**  
9:00 a.m. Summer class registration begins

## May

- 4 (Thur)**  
6:30 p.m. Evening Birding Hike
- 6 (Sat)**  
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 9 (Tue)**  
6:30 a.m. Morning Bird Hike
- 11 (Thur)**  
6:30 p.m. Evening Birding Hike
- 16 (Tue)**  
6:30 a.m. Morning Bird Hike
- 18 (Thur)**  
6:30 p.m. Evening Birding Hike
- 27 (Sat)**  
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 29 (Mon)**  
All day Interpretive Center closed—  
Memorial Day

## June

- 3 (Sat)**  
9:00 a.m. Canoe & Kayak rental begins  
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 12-16 (Mon-Fri)**  
9:00 a.m. Survival Week (13-16+ yrs)  
1:30 p.m. Survival Week (10-12 yrs)
- 13-14 (Tue-Wed)**  
8:00 a.m. Photography Class (9-11 yrs)  
6:00 p.m. Photography Class (12-14 yrs)
- 15 (Thur)**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Special—Photography in  
Yellowstone by John Duren  
1:00 p.m. Nature Play; Program by John  
Duren—Photography in Yellowstone

## June (continued)

- 19-21 (Mon-Wed)**  
9:30 a.m. David Stokes: Little Explorers (4-5 yrs)  
1:30 p.m. David Stokes: Nature Detectives  
(6-7 yrs)
- 22 (Thur)**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Special—David Stokes Program  
1:00 p.m. Nature Play; David Stokes Program
- 24 (Sat)**  
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 27-28 (Tue-Wed)**  
9:00 a.m. Session 1—Junior Naturalists:  
Plant Friends and Foes (8-9 yrs)  
1:30 p.m. Session 2—Junior Naturalists:  
Plant Friends and Foes (8-9 yrs)
- 27 (Tue)**  
6:00 p.m. Nature's Color Walk (6 mo-2 yrs)
- 28 (Wed)**  
6:00 p.m. Nature's Color Walk (3-4 yrs)

## July

- 1 (Sat)**  
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 4 (Tue)**  
All day Interpretive Center closed—  
Independence Day
- 10-15 (Mon-Sat)**  
*See pg. 5* Water Festival Week (*activities below*)
- 10-12 (Mon-Wed)**  
9:00 a.m. Water, Water Everywhere! (8-9 yrs)
- 10 (Mon)**  
7:00 p.m. Cover Crop Champions Program
- 13 (Thur)**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Special—Model Stream  
1:00 p.m. Nature Play; Model Stream Program
- 14 (Fri)**  
1:00 p.m. Sewage Treatment Plant Tour
- 15 (Sat)**  
a.m. or p.m. Clean Water Service Day
- 18-19 (Tue-Wed)**  
9:30 a.m. Session 1—Junior Ranger Rick:  
Plant Friends and Foes (6-7 yrs)  
1:30 p.m. Session 2—Junior Ranger Rick:  
Plant Friends and Foes (6-7 yrs)  
6:00 p.m. The Zoo in My Backyard (5-6 yrs)

For more information, visit our website at [www.hormelnaturecenter.org](http://www.hormelnaturecenter.org), contact the Nature Center directly by phone (507-437-7519) or email ([info@hormelnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@hormelnaturecenter.org)), or stop by in person.



# Summer Event Schedule 2017



Please RSVP for any event at least one full day ahead of the scheduled time.

## July (continued)

- 19 (Wed)**  
1:30 p.m. Nature Bicycling Class (10-11 yrs)
- 20 (Thur)**  
1:30 p.m. Adventure Bicycling Class (12-14 yrs)
- 21 (Fri)**  
1:30 p.m. Monarch Magic Class (7-9 yrs)
- 23 (Sun)**  
5:30 p.m. Family Photography Class
- 24-25 (Mon-Tue)**  
9:00 a.m. Photography Class (9-11 yrs)  
5:30 p.m. Photography Class (12-14 yrs)
- 26 (Wed)**  
6:00 p.m. In Our Big, Big Pond (3-4 yrs)
- 27 (Thur)**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Special—Zoomobile Program  
1:00 p.m. Nature Play—Zoomobile and Archery  
6:00 p.m. In Our Big, Big Pond (6 mo-2 yrs)
- 28 (Fri)**  
1:30 p.m. Monarch Magic Class (7-9 yrs)
- 29 (Sat)**  
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 31 (Mon)**  
9:00 a.m. Canoe practice for Eagle Bluff/Root River trip (11-12 yrs)

## August

- 1-2 (Tue-Wed)**  
All day Canoeing the Root River & Exploring the Blufflands (11-12 yrs)
- 3 (Thur)**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Special—Red-tailed Hawks  
1:00 p.m. Nature Play—Red-tailed Hawks Program and Archery
- 4 (Fri)**  
5:00 p.m. Photography contest deadline
- 8-11 (Tue-Fri)**  
4:00 p.m. Mower County Fair Programs
- 12 (Sat)**  
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 14-16 (Mon-Wed)**  
All day Art Show Drop-off

## August (continued)

- 15-16 (Tue-Wed)**  
*See pg. 8* Radical Raptors Class (9-11 yrs)
- 17 (Thur)**  
7:00 p.m. Friends-Only Bee Program
- 19 (Sat)**  
All day Nature Art Show Open House  
7:00 p.m. Natural Community Talent Show
- 21 (Mon)**  
9:00 a.m. Youth Canoe Trip Practice (12-14 yrs)
- 22 (Tue)**  
8:00 a.m. Youth Canoe Trip (12-14 yrs) *(backup 8/23)*
- 24 (Thur)**  
10:00 p.m. Senior Special—U of M Raptor Center  
1:00 p.m. Nature Play; Program by U of M Raptor Center
- 26 (Sat)**  
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 29 (Tue)**  
1:30 p.m. Monarch Tagging (10-12 yrs)
- 31 (Thur)**  
1:30 p.m. Monarch Tagging (10-12 yrs)

## September

- 4 (Mon)**  
All day Interpretive Center closed—Labor Day
- 9 (Sat)**  
All day Tickets on sale for Halloween Warm-Up (Oct 13 & 14); \$8.00 at Super Fresh Produce & Bakery  
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 11 (Mon)**  
7:00 p.m. Laura Merten—Quality Homes for Wildlife Program
- 12 (Tue)**  
4:00 p.m. Monarch Tagging (10-12 yrs & family)
- 16 (Sat)**  
8:00 a.m. Friends-Only Bus Trip to MN Zoo
- 17 (Sun)**  
1:30 p.m. Monarch Tagging (10-12 yrs & family)
- 23 (Sat)**  
8:00 a.m. 8k Trail Run—More information, visit [www.hormelnaturecenter8k.org](http://www.hormelnaturecenter8k.org)  
5:00 p.m. Canoe & Kayak rental ends for season

For more information, visit our website at [www.hormelnaturecenter.org](http://www.hormelnaturecenter.org), contact the Nature Center directly by phone (507-437-7519) or email ([info@hormelnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@hormelnaturecenter.org)), or stop by in person.

## Become a Friends Member

If you love the Nature Center, help sustain all the programs you enjoy with a Friends of the Hormel Nature Center Membership! Becoming a Friends Member is a great way to support and promote environmental education programming in our community! Become a member for a full year for a contribution of \$25 or higher.

### Individual & Family Membership Benefits

- **\$5.00 off** each child's fee for all Summer Adventure Programs (*parent must be a member*)
- **\$5.00 off** tickets to the annual Thanksgiving Feast fundraiser
- **Access** to members-only events and programs for youth and families
- **An invitation** to the annual members-only bus day trip
- **An invitation** to the Friends Annual Meeting
- **An opportunity** to give a one-year gift membership to a non-member
- **A subscription** to *Nature Center News*, to stay up-to-date on all that's going on at the Nature Center, special events, nature facts and more!  
This publication will be delivered by post or email.

For more information:

visit [www.hormelnaturecenter.org](http://www.hormelnaturecenter.org) or call 507-437-7519.

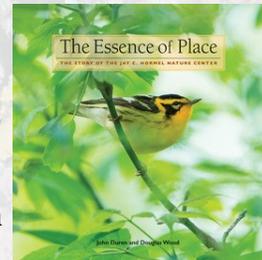


### *The Essence of Place: The Story of the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center*

Written by Douglas Wood,  
Photography by John Duren

**ALL** profits go to the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center, whose support preserves the Nature Center for the future.

The book is available in the Interpretive Center, as well as these Austin locations:



**Sweet Reads:**

407 North Main Street

**Super Fresh Produce:**

2101 4<sup>th</sup> St NW

### Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Staff:

Luke Reese, *Director/Naturalist*

Mike Goetz, *Land Manager*

Julie Champlin, *Office Manager*

Jill DeMoss, *Custodian & Event Staff*

Maria Anderson, *Naturalist/Teacher*

Savanna Dahl, *Naturalist Intern*

Jacob Burkhart, *Summer Intern*

### Friends of the Nature Center Board Members:

Peter Mattson, *President*

Gary Zimmerman, *Vice President*

Greg Larson, *Treasurer*

Jill Merten, *Secretary*

Alice Tylutki

Darrell Ingvaldson

Jerry Ibberson

Joe Dolan

Arlen Schamber

Darlene Walth

Rhonda Alberts

Lee Bjorndal



## Injured or Orphaned Raptors (Birds of Prey)

The Jay C. Hormel Nature Center **ONLY** takes in raptors—hawks, eagles, falcons, and owls—found in Mower County. (We do not have the facilities, extra staff, or expertise to provide care for mammals or other birds.) The JCHNC staff will provide primary care for the raptor and then make the best decision with our veterinarian, Dr. Mike Williams, regarding assessment and treatment for the raptor. Thank you to Dr. Mike and Jane for their many years of assistance.

The Nature Center assists 10-18 birds of prey on an annual basis. **If you find an injured or orphaned hawk, owl, or eagle in Mower County, call Nature Center staff at 507-437-7519 for assistance.** The raptors are often transported to the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota, Saint Paul

Campus. We are always looking for volunteer drivers who are willing to transport an injured bird of prey to the Raptor Center. Contact the Nature Center staff for more information (507-437-7519 or [info@hormelnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@hormelnaturecenter.org)).

If you find an injured mammal or bird *other than a raptor*, the closest free Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is in Roseville, Minnesota. This facility is an emergency hospital and clinic that provides free medical care for more than 200 different species of injured and orphaned wild animals. You can transport the injured animal to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at 2530 Dale Street North, Roseville, MN, or contact them at 651-486-9453.

*The Nature Center does not offer transportation to this facility.*



Jay C. Hormel Nature Center  
PO Box 673  
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Austin, MN 55912  
507.437.7519  
[www.hormelnaturecenter.org](http://www.hormelnaturecenter.org)

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## **Canoe & Kayak Rentals**

The Nature Center rents canoes and kayaks for use on Dobbins Creek to East Side Lake or on our pond, available Monday-Saturday (no rentals on Sundays or City of Austin holidays), June 3-Sept. 23, 2017. Life jackets, paddles, and canoe/kayak rollers are provided. Fee: \$10.00 for up to three hours. **Purchase a punch card for \$25.00 and receive five canoe or kayak rentals for half the fee!** Call 507-437-7519 for more information. A signed liability waiver must be on file at the Nature Center (children 17 and under must have waiver signed by an adult).

## **Ruby Rupner Auditorium Rental**

If you are looking for a place to rent for a special occasion (graduation, wedding, holiday or birthday party, conference, reunion, anniversary, prom dinner, or memorial), consider renting the Ruby Rupner Auditorium!

The rental fee is \$41.00 per hour between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., with a \$100.00 deposit. We schedule events one year in advance. Your rental includes free use of our sound system. There is a \$25.00 additional fee for the use of our projector system. Smoking and alcohol are not permitted. The log cabin is also available for your use with the auditorium rental.

For more information regarding rentals, please call Julie or Nature Center staff at 507-437-7519, Monday through Saturday, or visit our website at [www.hormelnaturecenter.org](http://www.hormelnaturecenter.org).

## **Sola Fide Observatory**

Open to the public on specified Saturdays throughout the year (see event schedule on pages 9 &10). Come out and discover fascinating facts about the night sky from our resident experts as they host free public programs for our community!

*Directions:* From Interstate 90, take Highway 218 south 2.5 miles to County Road 28. Turn right (west) one mile to the stop sign. Turn left (south) on County Road 29 for 1.5 miles to 180<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn right and go west for 1/4 mile. The driveway will be on your right. (*GPS Coordinates:* N43° 37.000', W092° 58.550')

For more information, call the Nature Center (507-437-7519) or volunteer Keith Snyder (507-440-1244).