

Jay C. Hormel Nature Center News

Spring & Summer 2018

Volume 37, Issue 1



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Director's Desk

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

"What a Waste"

Wouldn't it be great to be a kid again and have the entire summer off to roam around, play, and explore? I worry that many kids throw away this opportunity, sitting inside watching TV or playing video games. What a waste! If you have children, family, or neighbors who do not have the opportunity to explore the outdoors, give them a lift to the Nature Center. Get them out on the trails. Attend our Senior Specials or Nature Play afternoons for free programs, archery, pond scooping, monarch tagging, and more. Sign a kid up for a class like Bear Essentials, Radical Raptors, or Nature Photography. Win a prize at Eco-Blitz: Waste Week!

Have you ever considered what happens to your trash after the dump truck drives away? Similarly, what happens to your recycling after it rolls away from your house? Do you know where your waste goes when you flush the toilet? How long does that banana peel take to decompose if you throw it away in the woods? Why can't I drink the water in the Nature Center's stream?

Many human-caused environmental problems are simply the result of people burying their waste or sending it downstream. "Out of sight, out of mind" is the philosophy. The problem is, as Barry Commoner taught us and Annie Leonard reiterates, "There is no such thing as away . . . it must go somewhere."

We have rebranded our Water Festival and are now calling it Eco-Blitz week. This summer, we are going to take a close look at waste. Where does it go? What problems does it cause? What can we do to reduce our waste and correct the problems that our waste creates? Don't waste this opportunity to join us for free classes, presentations, entertainment, and field trips during Eco-Blitz: Waste Week! You will also have the opportunity to do your part to help us clean up during our Service Day on Saturday, July 14.

For more information about Eco-Blitz: Waste Week or any of our programs, call or check out our website.

New this year, registration for Summer Adventure programs is online. In fact, if you come in to sign up, we will just show you how to use our registration website and help you sign up online. Class registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. on April 2, but you can be prepared by setting up your account in advance. Go to our website and click on the "Online Registration" button.

One year ago, we completed our new Interpretive Center. In the short time that this building has been open, it has become an asset to the community. However, many community members have not yet stopped in to check us out. If you need an excuse to come visit the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center, then let our new building be that excuse. Bring a friend, family member, or neighbor. After visiting us inside, take a stroll outside on our beautiful trails. Don't waste your summer, come and explore nature in Austin's backyard, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center.



2018 Intern Zone

Will Bjorndal, Naturalist Intern

March 2018

Whoa! What a heckuva time it's been already in my first two months as the Naturalist Intern here at the JCHNC! Between taking students skiing and snowshoeing, maple syruping, and exercising our Blanding's Turtle, I've managed to stay busy. I began the internship in mid-January, but I'm not exactly new around here—I've been involved at the Nature Center in one way or another since I was a wee tyke. In fact, I grew up only a couple blocks away from the Center and spent a significant chunk of my free time here, catching grasshoppers and dredging golf balls out of Dobbins Creek. Beyond that, I participated in Summer Adventure Classes, took part in the Dammen Mentorship Program, worked as a ski renter, and volunteered regularly all the way through high school. I continued volunteering after graduating from the University of Minnesota in 2016 with a degree in Sociology of Law, Criminology, & Deviance. Throughout my years around the Nature Center, I've gotten to know many past interns who've been remarkable teachers, role models, and friends. It's an honor and a thrill to be stepping into this position!

We've got quite the year planned, with an especially jam-packed summer. Eco-Blitz: Waste Week, the Dammen Adventure Race, and the Honey Harvest Open House are especially not to be missed. I'm also thrilled to be designing a curriculum around the fascinating world of bees as well as a nature-themed music class (see page 6)! I'll also be helping a family performance by our new puppet brigade, The Nature Puppet Players, and a Senior Special presentation about the six months I spent living in Chile back in 2017.

I'd like to extend a HUGE thanks to Julie, Maria, and Luke for giving me the opportunity to take on this internship. It's a blast and a blessing to get to work with such kind, skilled, and pleasantly wacky coworkers. I'd also like to give a shout-out to all of our fabulous volunteers that keep this place running smoothly. Thanks for sharing your time with us!

If we haven't met yet, come say hi—my desk is behind the window above the snake cage. Just don't tap on the glass!

President's Letter

Darlene Walth, President of the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center

February 2018

Greetings and welcome to the spring edition of the newsletter. The Nature Center continues to see record visitors, so if you haven't been out to see the exhibits and creatures, get on out here!

The snow this past winter has been light, so cross country skiing was very limited this year, causing the Dammen Ski Race to be canceled again. To take its place, the Dammen Adventure Race is scheduled for Saturday, July 28. Check out the details on page 5 and sign up early!

We sold out of honey in November last year. Mmm, it was so good! We are adding more bee hives this spring, so more honey is on the way, people! Also, attention bird watchers: we have purchased new binoculars for use during birding hikes and classes!

The Friends' annual meeting was held on January 20. We had a wonderful chili & cornbread lunch and a brief business meeting. Outgoing board members were Pete Mattson, Darrell Ingvaldson, and Jill Merten. We thank them for all their contributions and hard work over the past six years. New board members are Kurt Mueller, Diane Petrik, and Michelle Meiergerd. Paul Bockenstedt of Stantec Consulting gave an informative presentation about the conservation efforts at the Nature Center and explained how unique our savannah environment is.

We received another grant from the State of Minnesota for our land management Phase II project. The Friends pay 10% of the cost and the State pays 90%, which is a huge savings. We are making progress on our restoration efforts around the north trails. Stantec continues to do a superb job at buckthorn removal and renewing the land to natural oak savannah condition. Luke is working hard at getting the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center designated as a regional park, which all starts with a plan. This will open up more opportunities for us to apply for state grant monies.

We have received three generous bequests this year and now look forward to improving the outside trails and adding new outdoor exhibits. The survey you completed at the annual meeting showed your interest in all areas. The three highest-ranking areas were forest restoration, trail improvement, and nature play stations. We also received good ideas for annual bus tour destinations. We appreciate your ideas and comments! The board will be looking at these areas and deciding which ones to proceed with. Thank you all for participating in the survey and supporting the Nature Center with monetary donations, volunteering, and general support in all our efforts.

Be sure to check out the programs and class offerings at the Nature Center and sign up in advance. Luke and his team provide great opportunities for us to get informed about nature and enjoy the outdoors around us. Be sure to say "hi" to our new intern, Will Bjordal.

Come on out to the trails this spring, breathe in the fresh air, listen to the birds, and see the flowers emerge. Renew yourself in nature. Become a member, volunteer. Call 507-437-7519 for more information about these opportunities.

Thank you for making the Nature Center a destination in Austin. We will continue to improve with your help.

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 discount** at 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!



Join or renew online at www.hormelnaturecenter.org!

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.

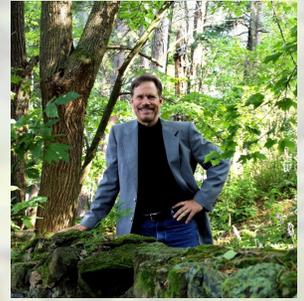
Spring Special Events

Please RVSP for these FREE events by phone (507-437-7519), email (info@hormelnaturecenter.org), or in person!

Douglas Wood: Friends & Volunteer Appreciation Night

Tuesday, April 17; 6:30 p.m. • *Ruby Rupner Auditorium*

Our new Interpretive Center opened a year ago on Earth Day, and we couldn't keep it running without you! Come help us thank our fabulous volunteers and Friends with pie, ice cream, and a concert by award-winning musician, author, and JCHNC favorite Douglas Wood!



Douglas Wood: Spring Senior Special

Wednesday, April 18; 10:00 a.m. • *Ruby Rupner Auditorium*

Douglas Wood returns with a special concert for patrons age 55 and older! Includes coffee or tea and a cookie.

Spring Bird Watching

Thursday mornings, May 3, 10, & 17; 6:30-8:00 a.m. • Tuesday evenings, May 8 & 15; 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Meet in the Nature Center parking lot 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 program or concert, 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 to reserve your seats for the programs and/or trail tours.**

Thursday, June 21; 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, songs, and short stories about the natural world around us. He's back by popular demand!

Thursday, June 28; 10:00 a.m.: Join naturalist intern **Will Bjorndal** for a presentation on the culture and natural world of Chile, where Will spent six months teaching English in 2017.

Thursday, July 12; 10:00 a.m.: Enjoy music of all ages for people of all ages with Twin Cities musician **Bill Cagley**. Bill's skillful guitar flatpicking and infectious wit are sure to entertain! *Plus a special presentation by Water Quality Specialist Nels Rasmussen!*

Thursday, July 26; 10:00 a.m.: **Karla Bloem** of the International Owl Center will give us the scoop on *A Real Life Owl Soap Opera*, featuring Alice or Ruby the Great Horned Owl.

Thursday, August 23; 10:00 a.m.: **Amber Dolphin & the Pecatonica String Quartet** will deliver the soothing sounds of strings in a variety of styles, from Bach to classic rock.

Thursday, August 30; 10:00 a.m.: Discover a diversity of tropical rainforest animals with the **Minnesota Zoomobile**.

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 following each Summer 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!

Eco-Blitz: Waste Week—July 9-14

Everything has to go somewhere; there is no such place as away.



Enjoy activities and guest presenters throughout the week and have fun learning about what happens to our waste! **Participate in multiple activities to earn prizes and a chance to win a composter or rain barrel!**

Monday, July 9; 7:00 p.m.: Citizen Scientists Working to Clean Mower County Rivers—Join Larry Dolphin, Bill Buckley, and Don Arnosti for a special report on their recent work. *Cosponsored with the Izaak Walton League.*

Tuesday, July 10; 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.: “Composting! Nature’s Recycler” free family programs (*more details on page 8*). Space is limited to six families per session. *Signup required.*

Wednesday, July 11: Waste facility tours! Meet to carpool from the JCHNC at the times listed below. *Signup required.*
9:00 a.m.: Lansing Landfill • **1:00 p.m.:** Wastewater Treatment Plant

Thursday, July 12: Bill Cagley—Music of All Ages for All Ages
Three programs: **10:00 a.m.** (Senior Special), **1:00 p.m.** (Nature Play family concert), & **7:00 p.m.** (evening concert). *Plus a special presentation by Water Quality Specialist Nels Rasmussen at the daytime programs!*

Thursday, July 12; 1:00-4:00 p.m.: Waste-Themed Nature Play—Decomposition walk, water survival game, water quality testing, Nature Center cleanup, plus all the usual Nature Play favorites like canoeing, kayaking, and pond scooping.

Friday, July 13: Waste facility tours! Meet to carpool from the JCHNC at the times listed below. *Signup required.*
9:15 a.m.: Solid Waste Transfer Station • **2:15 p.m.:** Recycling Center

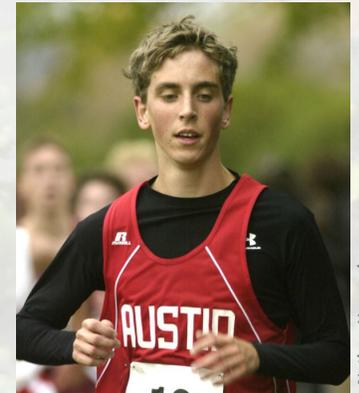
Saturday, July 14: Clean Our Waters Service Day—River cleanup, water quality testing, storm drain labeling. Earn a free kayak or canoe rental for your participation! Contact the Nature Center for details on how to get involved (507-437-7519, info@hormelnaturecenter.org). **Visit www.hormelnaturecenter.org for more details!**

Dammen Adventure Race—Saturday, July 28

Kevin Dammen loved the great outdoors and was an avid athlete—he enjoyed running, skiing, unicycling, slacklining, hiking, and camping. In 2011, Kevin passed away while kayaking on Lake Superior. Honor his legacy in the first-ever Dammen Adventure Race. Teams of two will race to complete a variety of surprise nature-themed tasks throughout the Nature Center. All proceeds will be donated to the Kevin Dammen Mentorship Program. **Same-day registration starts at 8:00 a.m.; race starts at 9:00 a.m.**

\$15.00 per pair with preregistration (\$20.00 per pair day-of)

Age categories: Age 6-9 & Adult
Age 10-13 & Adult
Age 14-17 & Adult
Two (2) Adults



Nathan Howard

Summer Special Events • *More details: www.hormelnaturecenter.org*

Nature Art Show

Saturday, August 18; 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Stop in to see nature-inspired artwork by artists of all ages in the community. Interested in submitting a piece? Visit our website to learn more!

Natural Community Talent Show

Saturday, August 18; 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 few lucky acts? Visit our website to learn more. *Limited to the first 12 replies!*

Honey Harvest & Processing Open House

Saturday, August 25; 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Pop by to witness the unique process of the honey harvest—from the Nature Center’s own beehives! *Free to the public.*

Summer Adventure Classes for Youth & Families

Registration begins Monday, April 2 at 9:00 a.m. • **NEW THIS YEAR, online registration is available!**
Save time and create your account now—visit www.hormelnaturecenter.org for more details.

Parents: If you are a 2018 member of the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center, you get \$5.00 off each summer class!

6 Months-2 Years

Water is Wonderful with Billie Jo Wicks • \$8.00

Monday, July 16; 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Children can discover the joys of scooping, pouring, and splashing as we play in the NEW Nature Center mini water park. We will also use water for creating art and a snack! Strollers or wagons welcome for the short trail walk. *Space is limited to 10 children with accompanying adult.*

Bear Hunt with Billie Jo Wicks • \$8.00

Monday, August 20; 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite teddy bear and join us for a bear hunt! We will hit the trails and take our teddies on an adventure, including a teddy bear picnic! Strollers or wagons welcome. *Space is limited to 10 children with accompanying adult.*



3-4 Years

Water is Wonderful with Billie Jo Wicks • \$8.00

Tuesday, July 17; 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Children can discover the joys of scooping, pouring, and splashing as we play in the NEW Nature Center mini water park. We will also use water for creating art and a snack! Strollers or wagons welcome for the short trail walk. *Space is limited to 10 children with accompanying adult.*

Bear Hunt with Billie Jo Wicks • \$8.00

Tuesday, August 21; 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Bring your favorite teddy bear and join us for a bear hunt! We will hit the trails and take our teddies on an adventure, including a teddy bear picnic! Strollers or wagons welcome. *Space is limited to 10 children with accompanying adult.*



4-5 Yrs

Little Explorers: Hand in Hand in Nature with David Stokes • \$20.00

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, June 18, 19, & 20; 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 with accompanying adult.*

5-6 Yrs

Bear Essentials with Billie Jo Wicks • \$10.00

Wednesday & Thursday, June 27 & 28; 6:00-7:30 p.m.

We all know what bears do when the weather turns cool and the snow starts to fall, but what do they do in the summertime? Bring your favorite teddy bear, and let's go on a bear hunt and learn together! *Space is limited to 10 children with accompanying adult.*



6-7 Years

Nature Detectives with David Stokes • \$20.00

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, June 18, 19, & 20; 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 Rangers: The Sounds of Nature with Will Bjorndal • \$15.00

Session 1: Thursday & Friday, July 19 & 20; 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Session 2: Thursday & Friday, July 19 & 20; 1:30-3:30 p.m. **(Select one of the two sessions.)**

Explore the natural world through music! Children will discover native music-making animals and build their own musical instrument. *Space is limited to 10 children.*



7-8 Yrs

Fishing Ecology with Luke Reese • \$12.00

Tuesday & Wednesday, June 12 & 13; 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Learn casting and knot-tying techniques as we explore the ecosystem of our ponds and streams! On Wednesday, we will go fishing at East Side Lake! *Space is limited to 10 children.*

7-9 Years

Monarch Magic with Maria Anderson • \$8.00

Session 1: Monday, July 30; 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Session 2: Tuesday, July 31; 1:30-3:30 p.m. **(Select one of the two sessions.)**

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: Bees, Our Pollinator Pals with Will Bjorndal • \$20.00

Session 1: Tuesday & Wednesday, August 28 & 29; 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Session 2: Tuesday & Wednesday, August 28 & 29; 1:30-4:00 p.m. **(Select one of the two sessions.)**

Buzz into the busy world of bees! We'll take a peek inside the Nature Center's honeybee hives, construct native bee houses, and more! *Space is limited to 10 children.*



8-10 Years

Bison Class: Give Me a Home Where the Buffalo Roam • \$25.00 (half scholarships available)

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, August 20, 21, & 22; 9:00-11:30 a.m.

We'll examine bison body parts and find out how they were used; explore the Nature Center's tallgrass prairie; and discover how the bison, the prairie, and the Dakota people were interconnected. On Wednesday, family members are invited to join us for a field trip to a nearby restored prairie and wetland! *Space is limited to 10 children.*



9-11 Years

Nature Photography with John Duren • \$25.00 (full scholarships available)

Session 1: Monday & Tuesday, June 25 & 26; 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Session 2: Monday & Tuesday, July 23 & 24; 8:00-11:00 a.m. (Select one of the two sessions or register for both.)

Come learn the basics of nature photography! Gain camera knowledge and learn techniques for taking an awesome picture. You may use one of the JCHNC's new cameras (bring a flash drive to take photos home) or bring your own. *Space is limited to 10 children.* Photos from this class can be entered into our photography contest! More details at: hormelnaturecenter.org/youth-photography-contest.

Radical Raptors • \$40.00 (half scholarships available)

Tuesday, July 24; 8:30 p.m.: Owl talk and calling class for participant and family

Wednesday, July 25; 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.: Day trip to the National Eagle Center

Discover the raptors of Minnesota here at the Nature Center and at the National Eagle Center in Wabasha! **Please bring a lunch on July 25.** *Space is limited to 10 children.*



Nature Songwriting Workshop with Ann Zimmerman • \$15.00 (full scholarships available)

Thursday, August 16; 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Let nature inspire your creativity. Ann's songwriting workshop focuses on lyric writing and applying active and descriptive language to a tune to paint a picture for the listener. *Space is limited to 15 children.*

9-18 Yrs

Nature Storytelling Workshop with Kevin Strauss • \$20.00 (full scholarships available)

Tuesday, August 14; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Learn how to find, craft, and tell stories with award-winning author and storyteller Kevin Strauss. This two-part class will begin with an introduction to storytelling in the morning and will continue with advanced storytelling after the lunch break. **Please bring a lunch or eat at home and return at 1:00 p.m.** *Space is limited to 15 participants.*

10-12 Years

Survival Week with Derek Barkeim & Dan Block • \$75.00 (half scholarships available)

Monday through Friday, June 11-15; 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 (full scholarships available)

Session 1: Monday, August 27; 1:30-4:00 p.m.

Session 3: Wednesday, August 29; 1:30-4:00 p.m.

Session 2: Tuesday, August 28; 1:30-4:00 p.m. (Select one or more of the three sessions.)

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 (half scholarships available)

Wednesday, August 1: 9:00-11:00 a.m.: Canoe practice at the Nature Center

Thursday, August 2; 8:00 a.m.: Depart the Nature Center to explore Mystery Cave and Forestville State Park; then travel to Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center for group challenges, a high ropes course, dinner, and a hike. **Please bring a lunch on August 2.**

Friday, August 3: Breakfast at Eagle Bluff before canoeing part of the Root River; return to the JCHNC by 4:30 p.m.

Fee includes lodging, admission, canoe equipment, high ropes course, and three meals (dinner August 2, breakfast and lunch August 3). *Space is limited to 9 children.*

12-14 Years

Nature Photography with John Duren • \$25.00 (full scholarships available)

Session 1: Monday & Tuesday, June 25 & 26; 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Session 2: Monday & Tuesday, July 23 & 24; 5:30-8:30 p.m. (Select one of the two sessions or register for both.)

Come learn the basics of nature photography! Gain camera knowledge and learn techniques for taking an awesome picture. You may use one of the JCHNC's new cameras (bring a flash drive to take photos home) or bring your own. *Space is limited to 10 participants.* Photos from this class can be entered into our photography contest! More details at: hormelnaturecenter.org/youth-photography-contest.

Nature Songwriting Workshop with Ann Zimmerman • \$25.00 (full scholarships available)

Wednesday & Thursday, August 15 & 16; 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Let nature inspire your creativity. Ann's songwriting workshop focuses on lyric writing and applying active and descriptive language to a tune to paint a picture for the listener. *Space is limited to 15 participants.*



More classes listed on the next page.

Summer Adventure Classes (continued)

Parents: If you are a 2018 member of the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center, you get \$5.00 off each summer class!

12-14 Yrs

Youth River Canoe Trip • \$25.00 (full scholarships available)

Monday, August 20; 9:00-11:00 a.m.: Canoe practice at the Nature Center

Tuesday, August 21; 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. • Backup Day: Friday, August 24; 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 additional activities. **Please bring a lunch on August 21.** Space is limited to 9 participants.



13-16 Yrs

Survival Week with Derek Barkeim & Dan Block • \$75.00 (half scholarships available)

Monday through Friday, June 11-15; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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

Family

Composting! Nature's Recycler with Luke Reese & Maria Anderson • Free

Session 1: Tues., July 10; 1:30-3:00 p.m. • **Session 2:** Tues., July 10; 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Select one of the two sessions.)

As part of "Eco-Blitz: Waste Week," come learn how nature recycles organic materials into nutritious soil for plants to grow in, and how you can do the same at home! Space is limited to 6 families. Signup required.

Family Nature Photography with John Duren • \$15.00 per family

Sunday, July 22; 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Come learn the basics of nature photography! Gain camera knowledge and learn techniques for taking an awesome picture. You may use one of JCHNC's new cameras (bring a flash drive to take photos home) or bring your own.

Space is limited to 6 families. Photos from this class can be entered into our photography contest! More details at: hormelnaturecenter.org/youth-photography-contest.

Summer Adventure Scholarships

Full and half scholarships are available for specified classes—see class descriptions on preceding pages. To receive a scholarship (**one scholarship per child**), students must write three to five complete sentences about why they want to attend a particular summer adventure class, and thank the donors who provide funds for the scholarships (*donors listed on page 11*). Include student's name and age.

Scholarships cannot be applied to online registrations, so please bring your child's scholarship essay with you to register in person at the Interpretive Center. Call 507-437-7519 or email info@hormelnaturecenter.org with questions.

Summer Nature Play Afternoons

Six select Thursdays from 1:00-4:00 p.m., June 21 through August 30.

Get outside and discover nature with your child! Enjoy FREE canoe or kayak rentals, pond scooping for aquatic critters, archery, nature rock painting, netting dragonflies & butterflies, crayfish hunting, survival games, and/or self-guided nature trail activities. New this year—a "mini water park" featuring water tables for the wee ones! 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.



FREE Family Programs during Nature Play Afternoons—Please RVSP no later than 24 hours before

Thursday, June 21; 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, songs, and short stories about the natural world around us.

Thursday, June 28; 1:00 p.m.: Intern **Will Bjorndal** is joined by **The Nature Puppet Players** for a lively theater experience. PLUS "Nature Rocks" rock painting in our craft room during the Nature Play times.

Thursday, July 12; 1:00 p.m.: Enjoy energetic music of all ages for people of all ages with guitarist **Bill Cagley**! Plus a special presentation by Water Quality Specialist **Nels Rasmussen**!

Thursday, July 26; 1:00 p.m.: Learn about the world of owls through the **Owls & Us Game Show** featuring **Karla Bloem** of the International Owl Center! You'll get to meet a live owl too! PLUS free archery practice during Nature Play times.

Thursday, August 23; 1:00 p.m.: Austin native **Amber Dolphin** brings her **Pecatonica String Quartet** to the JCHNC, performing a variety of nature-themed music! Also enjoy free archery practice during the Nature Play times.

Thursday, August 30; 1:00 p.m.: Come learn about fascinating tropical rainforest critters from the **Minnesota Zoomobile**. Due to popular demand and limited seating, RSVP is REQUIRED for this event.



Spring & Summer Event Schedule 2018

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

April

- 2 (Mon)**
9:00 a.m. Summer class registration begins
- 7 (Sat)**
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 17 (Tue)**
6:30 p.m. **Friends & Volunteer Appreciation Night**
Featuring music from Douglas Wood
—Free and open to the public—
- 18 (Wed)**
10:00 a.m. Senior Special—Douglas Wood Concert
- 21 (Sat)**
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory

May

- 3 (Thur)**
6:30 a.m. Morning Bird Hike
- 8 (Tue)**
6:30 p.m. Evening Bird Hike
- 10 (Thur)**
6:30 a.m. Morning Bird Hike
- 12 (Sat)**
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 15 (Tue)**
6:30 p.m. Evening Bird Hike
- 17 (Thur)**
6:30 a.m. Morning Bird Hike
- 19 (Sat)**
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory

June

- 2 (Sat)**
9:00 a.m. Canoe & kayak rental begins
- 9 (Sat)**
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 11-15 (Mon-Fri)**
9:00 a.m. Survival Week (13-16+ yrs)
1:30 p.m. Survival Week (10-12 yrs)
- 12-13 (Tue-Wed)**
9:00 a.m. Fishing Ecology Class (7-8 yrs)
- 18-20 (Mon-Wed)**
9:30 a.m. David Stokes: Little Explorers (4-5 yrs)
1:30 p.m. David Stokes: Nature Detectives (6-7 yrs)

June (continued)

- 21 (Thur)**
10:00 a.m. Senior Special—David Stokes Program
1:00 p.m. Nature Play; David Stokes Program
- 23 (Sat)**
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 25-26 (Mon-Tue)**
8:00 a.m. Nature Photography Class (9-11 yrs)
6:00 p.m. Nature Photography Class (12-14 yrs)
- 27-28 (Wed-Thur)**
6:00 p.m. Billie Jo Wicks: Bear Essentials (5-6 yrs)
- 28 (Thur)**
10:00 a.m. Senior Special—Will Bjorndal Program
1:00 p.m. Nature Play—Will Bjorndal + Rock Painting

July

- 9-14 (Mon-Sat)**
See pg. 5 Eco-Blitz: Waste Week (*activities below*)
- 9 (Mon)**
7:00 p.m. Izaak Walton League: Citizen Scientists Program
- 10 (Tues)**
1:30 p.m. Family Composting Program—Session 1
6:30 p.m. Family Composting Program—Session 2
- 11 (Wed)**
9:00 a.m. Landfill tour—Meet at the JCHNC
1:00 p.m. Treatment Plant tour—Meet at the JCHNC
- 12 (Thur)**
10:00 a.m. Senior Special—Bill Cagley Concert
1:00 p.m. Nature Play; Bill Cagley Concert
7:00 p.m. Bill Cagley Concert
- 13 (Fri)**
9:15 a.m. Transfer Station tour—Meet at the JCHNC
2:15 p.m. Recycling Center tour—Meet at the JCHNC
- 14 (Sat)**
a.m. & p.m. Waste Week Service Day
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 16 (Mon)**
6:00 p.m. Billie Jo Wicks: Water is Wonderful (6 mo-2 yrs)
- 17 (Tue)**
6:00 p.m. Billie Jo Wicks: Water is Wonderful (3-4 yrs)
- 19-20 (Thurs-Fri)**
9:30 a.m. Junior Rangers: The Sounds of Nature—
Session 1 (6-7 yrs)
1:30 p.m. Junior Rangers: The Sounds of Nature—
Session 2 (6-7 yrs)

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



Summer & Fall Event Schedule 2018



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

July (continued)

- 21 (Sat)**
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 22 (Sun)**
5:30 p.m. Family Nature Photography Class
- 23-24 (Mon-Tue)**
8:00 a.m. Nature Photography Class (9-11 yrs)
5:30 p.m. Nature Photography Class (12-14 yrs)
- 24-25 (Tue-Wed)**
See pg. 7 Radical Raptors Class (9-11 yrs)
- 26 (Thur)**
10:00 a.m. Senior Special—Karla Bloem: Owl Program
1:00 p.m. Nature Play—Karla Bloem + Archery
- 28 (Sat)**
9:00 a.m. Dammen Adventure Race (*Details on pg. 5*)
- 30 (Mon)**
1:30 p.m. Monarch Magic Class—Session 1 (7-9 yrs)
- 31 (Tues)**
1:30 p.m. Monarch Magic Class—Session 2 (7-9 yrs)

August

- 1 (Wed)**
9:00 a.m. Canoe practice for Eagle Bluff/Root River trip (11-12 yrs)
- 2-3 (Thur-Fri)**
All day Canoeing the Root River & Exploring the Blufflands (11-12 yrs)
- 3 (Fri)**
5:00 p.m. Photography contest deadline
- 4 (Sat)**
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 8-10 (Wed-Fri)**
4:00 p.m. Mower County Fair Programs
- 13-15 (Mon-Wed)**
All day Art Show Drop-off
- 14 (Tues)**
9:00 a.m. Kevin Strauss: Nature Storytelling Workshop (9-18 yrs)
- 15-16 (Wed-Thurs)**
2:00 p.m. Ann Zimmerman: Nature Songwriting Workshop (12-14 yrs)
- 16 (Thurs)**
10:00 a.m. Ann Zimmerman: Nature Songwriting Workshop (9-11 yrs)

August (continued)

- 18 (Sat)**
All day Nature Art Show Open House
7:00 p.m. Natural Community Talent Show
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 20-22 (Mon-Wed)**
9:00 a.m. Bison Class (8-10 yrs)
- 20 (Mon)**
9:00 a.m. Youth Canoe Trip practice (12-14 yrs)
6:00 p.m. Billie Jo Wicks: Bear Hunt (6 mo-2 yrs)
- 21 (Tues)**
8:00 a.m. Youth Canoe Trip (12-14 yrs) (*backup 8/24*)
6:00 p.m. Billie Jo Wicks: Bear Hunt (3-4 yrs)
- 23 (Thurs)**
10:00 a.m. Senior Special—Amber Dolphin & the Pecatonica String Quartet
1:00 p.m. Nature Play—Amber Dolphin & the Pecatonica String Quartet + Archery
- 25 (Sat)**
10:00 a.m. Honey Harvest Open House
- 27 (Mon)**
1:30 p.m. Monarch Tagging Class—Session 1 (10-12 yrs)
- 28-29 (Tues-Wed)**
9:00 a.m. Junior Naturalists: Bees, Our Pollinator Pals—Session 1 (8-9 yrs)
1:30 p.m. Junior Naturalists: Bees, Our Pollinator Pals—Session 2 (8-9 yrs)
- 28 (Tues)**
1:30 p.m. Monarch Tagging Class—Session 2 (10-12 yrs)
- 29 (Wed)**
1:30 p.m. Monarch Tagging Class—Session 3 (10-12 yrs)
- 30 (Thurs)**
10:00 a.m. Senior Special—MN Zoomobile Program
1:00 p.m. Nature Play; MN Zoomobile Program

September

- 1 (Sat)**
Tickets on sale at Super Fresh Produce for Halloween Warm-Up (Oct. 12 & 13)
- 8 (Sat)**
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 15 (Sat)**
8:00 a.m. Friends-Only Bus Trip to Winona (*See pg. 11*)
9:00 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory
- 22 (Sat)**
1:00 p.m. Friends-Only *free* Mushroom Class
5:00 p.m. Canoe & kayak rental ends for the season

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

Summer Adventure Scholarship Donors

Austin Audubon
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Phyllis Vandover Memorial
In Honor of George Hartson



Fall Special Events • *More details: www.hormelnaturecenter.org*

Fall Bus Trip—Friends Members Only

Saturday, September 15; 8:00 a.m.-5:30p.m.

Join us on a trip to Winona for a guided boat tour of the Mississippi River with Captain Aaron Repinski! Bring your picnic lunch to enjoy in Levee Park. After lunch, we will participate in an interactive guided tour of the Minnesota Marine Art Museum! *Space is limited to 50 people. Cost of bus paid by Friends; admission fees are \$15 per person (cash or check only). Please register in person at the Interpretive Center (online sign-up is not available for this event).*

Wild, Edible, & Delectable: Mushrooms with Sammie Peterson—Friends Members Only

Saturday, September 22, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Fall is the most delicious time of the year in Minnesota woodlands! Join Quarry Hill Nature Center Naturalist Sammie Peterson (our former 2014 intern) and become acquainted with the wide variety of gourmet edible mushrooms found in our region. Sammie is a certified edible mushroom identification expert and has 10+ years of mushroom-specific foraging experience. She will share mushroom biology, identification, and uses, followed by a guided foray. *You must be a current Friends member to register for this FREE event. Space is limited to 30 participants, and preregistration is required.*

Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Staff

Luke Reese, *Director/Naturalist*
Mike Goetz, *Land Manager*
Julie Champlin, *Office Manager*
Maria Anderson, *Naturalist/Teacher*
Will Bjorndal, *Naturalist Intern*
Andromakhe Harveaux, *Summer Intern*
Kendra Goetz, *Summer Land Intern*
Jill DeMoss, *Custodian & Event Staff*
Cristina Wradislavsky, *Custodian & Event Staff*

Friends of the Nature Center Board Members

Darlene Walth, *President*
Gary Zimmerman, *Vice President*
Greg Larson, *Treasurer*
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Lee Bjorndal
Joe Dolan
Jerry Ibberson
Michelle Meiergerd
Kurt Mueller
Diane Petrik
Arlen Schamber
Alice Tylutki

Injured or Orphaned Raptors (Birds of Prey)

The Jay C. Hormel Nature Center takes in ONLY raptors—hawks, eagles, falcons, and owls—found in Mower County. The JCHNC staff will triage the raptor. Next, with input from the University of Minnesota Raptor Center and veterinarian Dr. Mike Williams, we establish a care plan for the bird.

The Nature Center assists many birds of prey annually. **If you find an injured 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. 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).

If you find an injured mammal or bird *other than a raptor*, the closest free Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is in Roseville, Minnesota. You can transport the injured animal to 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
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Austin, MN 55912
507.437.7519
www.hormelnaturecenter.org

Follow, Like, Review



Canoe & Kayak Rentals

Rent a canoe or kayak for use on Dobbins Creek to East Side Lake, or on our pond!

- Rentals are available Monday-Saturday from June 2-Sept. 22, 2018.
- \$10.00 for up to three hours
- Purchase a punch card good for five rentals for \$25.00 (half the regular fee)!



Facility Rental

The Hormel Nature Center offers a number of spaces to rent for your next event!

- **Ruby Rupner Auditorium:** great for graduation parties, weddings, and other events
- **Gordon Lonning Resource Room:** perfect for small meetings and conferences
- **Interpretive Center Classrooms:** suitable for medium-sized events (limited availability)

For complete facility rental details, visit our website: hormelnaturecenter.org/facility-rental, or call Julie or Nature Center staff at 507-437-7519.



Sola Fide Observatory

Join us as we explore the night sky through the lens of our BIG telescope! Free and open to the community on specified Saturdays throughout the year (see event schedule on pages 9 & 10).

Directions: From I-90, take Highway 218 south for 2.5 miles. Turn right (west) onto County Road 28 and drive 1 mile until you reach a stop sign. Turn left (south) onto County Road 29 and drive 1.5 miles. Turn right (west) onto 180th Street and drive ¼ mile. The Observatory driveway will be on your right. (GPS Coordinates: N43° 37.000', W092° 58.550')

For more information, call the Nature Center at 507-437-7519 or visit hormelnaturecenter.org/sola-fide-observatory.

