

Jay C. Hormel Nature Center News

Spring & Summer 2019

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Andie Harveaux

Director's Desk

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

The City of Austin's history has been tied to its relationship with water from the beginning. A meat packing company found success here in part because it used ice from a mill pond on the Cedar River to help ship its meat products. From early on, residents bragged about drinking water piped into town from local springs. With no natural lakes, residents dammed up Dobbins Creek to create a place for water recreation.

At times though, the water story has not always been so positive. In the 1920s, the Centers for Disease Control got involved in Austin when the water quality in the Cedar River got so bad that sewage floated freely and algal blooms covered portions of the river. This problem led to the opening of the Austin Sewage Treatment Plant. At one point in its history, East Side Lake had a swimming beach. It had to be closed because of the poor water quality. Flooding has challenged the city for generations.

Over time, water quality has improved and flood impacts have been reduced, yet challenges still exist. Fishing, boating (the Cedar River running through Austin is now a state water trail), and wading in streams are safe with the basic precautions of washing with soap following exposure to the water. We still have work to do to improve water quality to swimming standards. The Izaak Walton League is working in conjunction with Mower County to speed up the process of cleaning our surface water.

If you would like to know more about the history of water in Austin and its current status, then you are in luck. This spring and early summer, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center will have the privilege of hosting the We Are Water MN traveling exhibit. Thanks to a grant written by Tim Ruzek of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District, one of our classrooms will host this exhibit, which explains the importance of water to the people of Minnesota from as many different perspectives as possible. Tim gathered a team from Hormel Foods Corp., Discover Austin, Mower County Historical Society, and Austin Utilities to plan a series of events related to the We Are Water MN exhibit, held throughout the community. This exhibit offers locals the opportunity to tell their water stories. To learn more about people's relationship to water both statewide and locally, please visit the exhibit at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center from April 27-June 16. For more information about other water events occurring in conjunction with the exhibit, please follow the link from our website: www.hormelnaturecenter.org.



Julie Bahl

2019 Intern Zone

Kelly Bahl, Naturalist Intern

Iowa native, Florida transplant, temporary Minnesotan. I grew up in the southeastern most corner of Iowa in the town of Keokuk. I had a childhood full of opportunities to adventure out into the woods, fields, and creek, climbing every tree I could find, and getting lost just long enough to be home by the time the street lights came on. I always had a love of animals, trees, being outside in general, but I never knew it would be such a large part of my life into adulthood. After high school my family moved to the town of Epworth, Iowa, just west of Dubuque, and I went off to college at the University of Northern Iowa.

It took me a whole year to even be remotely close to finding a major but with a gentle nudge from my loving mother I got put on a path that I love (thanks mom!). I majored in Biology: Ecology & Systematics and worked for three years at the Botanical Center on campus while at school. I have also gotten the opportunity to work for the Dubuque County Conservation Board, the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, and then Walt Disney World Agricultural Sciences Department in Florida for 3 years. Eventually, I figured out that I did not want to work in greenhouse crop production and be that far away from my family for the rest of forever. So, I made a decision to come back to the Midwest and figure out what I really wanted to be when I grew up.

As the dreaded job search began I was lucky enough to stumble upon a job opening for a full year internship that was in a town called Austin, Minnesota. I had heard of that place before as my family and I made it a point to visit the Spam Museum once upon a time. I am very fortunate, grateful, and thankful for the opportunity to join the team at the nature center as the first second year-long intern. Even though I have only lived in Austin a short time, I can already tell how important and special of a place the nature center is to this town and surrounding communities. I am beyond excited to help be a part of this fantastic resource for getting children and adults out into nature and learning while they're having fun outside. It was hard to pass up the opportunity to share my passion for discovering how awe-inspiring the world around us is! Already I have been involved in so much and I know this year is going to be crazy busy, but filled with learning and fun adventures. Come by and introduce yourself if you already haven't. Hope to see you real soon!

President's Letter

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

The Nature Center is presently working on a "Master Plan" to receive a Regionally Significant Park Designation from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. You may help by taking a short survey about the nature center. Follow the link on our website, www.hormelnaturecenter.org. Thank you in advance for your participation. You may have heard the news that the Friends are working on a new amphitheater. The design is complete and we are working to fund the project. The cost estimates came in higher than anticipated, but we believe with contributions and matching grants that we can start building it in the spring of 2020. It will be a place to present nature classes and programs in an outdoor setting. The community, local theaters, musicians, artists, and others will have the opportunity to use the amphitheater as an outdoor venue. It may also become a popular place to get married. The amphitheater will be located north of the Interpretive Center.

We have many new classes and programs this year so take a good look in this newsletter and sign up early for a class or two. Popular classes fill quickly. Additionally, we have a second fulltime intern, Kelly Bahl, thanks to a donation from Jim Hormel's The Small Change Foundation. We are very grateful to every donor that makes the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center a great family friendly setting to learn about the natural world.

Thank you volunteers for donating your time at the center. We always need more volunteers. If you, a friend, and/or a family member can donate some time this spring and or summer, please call 507-437-7519. Ask to speak with Andie and we will get you set-up. If you are an amateur astronomer, we also need volunteers to help out at the Sola Fide Observatory.

The Friends Annual meeting was held on January 19th. On a cold winter day, we once again had a wonderful chili luncheon! Thank you to our outgoing board members for their past six years of service - Alice Tylutki and Jerry Ibberson. Our newly elected board members are Dr. Jeff Anderson and Mike Skiba. Welcome Mike and Jeff!

Be sure to get out this spring to get some of our delicious maple syrup as it sells out fast. In the fall, get your honey for the winter, last year the honey was sold out by November 1st. Luke will be the "King Bee" in charge of the bee hives this year! If you have an interest in beekeeping and would like to volunteer to help, talk to Luke.



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 \$30 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!

Climate Storytelling Workshop

Saturday, April 6; 1:00-3:00 p.m. • Interpretive Center Classrooms

Climate Generation's work is deeply connected to the power of story. For over 50 years, founder Will Steger has inspired thousands of people through his chronicles of Arctic adventures and his remarkable eyewitness account of climate change impacts on our polar regions and the world. Join us for a workshop facilitated by two staff members of Climate Generation to take a deep dive into the issue of climate change, discover your own personal climate story, and learn how to use it as a tool to inspire solutions. **Cookies and refreshments will be served! FREE event, but please RSVP by April 5.**

Friends and Volunteer Appreciation Event Jami Lynn Concert

Saturday, April 13; 2:00-4:00 p.m. • Ruby Rupner Auditorium

Come help us thank our fabulous volunteers and Friends with pie, ice cream, and a concert by Midwest folksinger/songwriter Jami Lynn! Hailing from the Great Plains of eastern South Dakota, Jami began performing folk and bluegrass music at the age of thirteen, thanks to her grandfather's coaxing. Jamie's songs illustrate her deep connection to the landscape and culture of the Upper Midwest. Listen to Jami's music at www.jamilynnmusic.com.

Pie and ice cream will be served! FREE event, but please RSVP by April 10.

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 appreciated* for all of the programs or access vehicle tours.

Call 507-437-7519 or email info@hormelnaturecenter.org to reserve your seats for the programs and/or trail tours.

Thursday, June 13; 10:00 a.m.: In conjunction with Water Festival Week, come enjoy a new play from the **Ikidowin Acting Ensemble**—"We Do It for the Water," written by Sharon Day and directed by Sir Curtis Kirby III.

Thursday, June 20; 10:00 a.m.: Discover the joys of nature with **entertainer and naturalist David Stokes!** Audiences of all ages will enjoy David's amazing energy, live critters, songs, and stories about the natural world.

Thursday, July 18; 10:00 a.m.: "Bird Tales"—Join **naturalist and award-winning author, Jennifer Ward**, who will share how birds have influenced her work as an author and enlightened her day-to-day living. Discover the birds she's come to know daily and seasonally, and explore the many easy ways we may allow birds to lift our hearts and brighten each day.

Thursday, July 25; 10:00 a.m.: "Bumbling About Bees!" Where do bees go in the winter? How do they make honey? Get your questions answered by **Will Bjorndal**, former Nature Center intern, beekeeper, and citizen scientist. Will will discuss both Minnesota's native bees and honey bees; he'll also have live bees in an observation hive and honey to taste!

Saturday, August 3; 10:00 a.m.: Midwest folk musicians **Fendrick & Peck** call themselves "budding naturalists." With guitar and mandolin in hand, they look forward to sharing heartfelt lyrics and fresh harmonies with fellow nature lovers!

Thursday, August 15; 10:00 a.m.: "Bear with me! Learning about Black Bears"—**2019 Naturalist Intern Andie Harveaux** will share her experiences from three summers working with black bears in Northern Minnesota! Her presentation is filled with facts, sprinkled with stories, and littered with pictures.

Thursday, August 22; 10:00 a.m.: Austin favorites **Lee & Judy Bjorndal** perform a variety of **songs of bygone days**. They draw on their diverse musical backgrounds to play a wide range of music, from familiar tunes to a few surprises!

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 at least four days advance notice, seven days a week, spring through fall (based on trail conditions and the availability of volunteer drivers). **Please call or email for more information**

or to schedule a tour. This free service is made possible with support from volunteers and the Friends of the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center. *Are you interested in joining our team of volunteer trail drivers? We provide training for the vehicles and tours!*





Water Festival Week: June 10-15

Monday, June 10 through Wednesday, June 12: “Water, Water Everywhere!” Class (ages 7-8)—*details on page 6*

Monday, June 10; 7:00 p.m.: “Making Meaning of Our Relationship to Water” workshop with Emily Jarrett Hughes

Tuesday, June 11; 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: CRWD Tour—Reviving Dobbins: Field tour of upland storage & streambank restoration (*meet at the JCHNC*).

Wednesday, June 12; 12:00-1:00 p.m.: FREE Lunch Presentation—“Checking the Health of Our Waters: Monitoring in the Cedar River Watershed” with James Fett, CRWD watershed technician (*Please RSVP for a lunch provided by CRWD*)

Thursday, June 13; two programs: 10:00 a.m. Senior Special and 1:00 p.m. Nature Play family program: “We Do It for the Water”—an original play by Sharon Day, performed by the Ikidowin Acting Ensemble

Thursday, June 13; 1:00-4:00 p.m.: Water Nature Play—canoeing, pond scooping, crayfish hunting, water tables, water survival game, art activity-making “sunprints” and more!

Friday, June 14; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (tours every half hour): Belair Water Tower & Well Tours *The tours will be held at 206 14th St NW by Wescott Field.*

Friday, June 14, 1:30 p.m.: Take a tour through the Austin Wastewater Treatment Plant to see where your wastewater goes (*meet at the JCHNC*).

Saturday, June 15: Clean Our Waters Service Day—river cleanup, water quality testing, storm drain labeling. Join us and earn a free kayak/canoe rental! Contact 507-437-7519 or info@hormelnaturecenter.org for details.

Don't miss the “We Are Water Minnesota” traveling exhibit (April 27-June 16) located in the classroom in the Nature Center.

Summer Nature Play Afternoons

Five select Thursdays and one Saturday (see dates below) from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Get outside and discover nature with your child! Enjoy FREE canoe & kayak rentals, scooping for pond critters, archery*, butterfly netting, crayfish hunting, survival games, art activities, and self-guided nature trail activities.

Canoe/kayak availability is first-come, first-served, for an adult (18 & over) and child (adults must accompany children).

FREE Family Programs during Nature Play Afternoons

Please RVSP no later than 24 hours before

Thursday, June 13; 1:00 p.m.: In conjunction with Water Festival Week, come enjoy a new play from the Ikidowin Acting Ensemble—“We Do It for the Water,” written by Sharon Day and directed by Sir Curtis Kirby III.

Thursday, June 20; 1:00 p.m.: Discover the joys of nature with entertainer and naturalist David Stokes! Audiences of all ages will enjoy David’s amazing energy, live critters, songs, and stories about the natural world. **Archery available!*

Thursday, July 18; 1:00 p.m.: “Budding Birders!” Meet award-winning author and naturalist Jennifer Ward, who will read her book “Mama Built a Little Nest,” followed by tips for enjoying birding with kids and a make-&-take bird craft.

Thursday, July 25; 1:00 p.m.: The Nature Puppet Players are back! Laugh along with original songs & whimsical characters in a brand new nature-themed show. The unique humor and storytelling of Will Bjorndal and chief comedic collaborator Chris Anderson are sure to captivate. *Audience members will have a chance to meet a live puppet after the performance!*

Saturday, August 3; 1:00 p.m.: Midwest folk musicians Fendrick & Peck call themselves “budding naturalists.” With guitar and mandolin in hand, they share heartfelt lyrics and fresh harmonies with fellow nature lovers! **Archery available!*

Thursday, August 15; 1:00 p.m.: Discover how everything connects in the Web of Life with Naturalist Intern Kelly Bahl. Learn about the importance of every piece to the puzzle of ecosystems and the web of life through fun crafts and games!



Summer Adventure Classes for Youth & Families

Registration opens **Monday, April 1 at 9:00 a.m.** Classes fill quickly! **Register online**—visit homelnaturecenter.org for more details. **FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE**, but please **call to cancel** if you are unable to attend a class—we often have waiting lists!

REMINDERS: Full or half scholarships are available to youth for all Nature Center summer adventure classes—see details on page 8. **Friends of the Nature Center members receive \$5.00 off** every summer adventure class (parent must be a current Friends member).

Birth-2 Yrs **Busy Bees** with Julie Hecimovich • \$10.00

Monday, June 3; 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Explore the interesting lives of bees. Create “bee”utiful projects and sing about our amazing pollinators. Bee ready to have fun! Strollers are welcome on the trails. Please dress for outside fun and the weather! *Space is limited to 9 children with accompanying adult.*



2-3 Years **Wonderful Water: Streams to Oceans** with Julie Hecimovich • \$10.00

Monday & Tuesday, July 1 & 2; 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Learn why water is so WONDERFUL! Discover cool creatures living in our waterways. Paint with water, and play in our water tables! Please dress for outside fun and the weather. Strollers or wagons welcome. *Space is limited to 11 children with accompanying adult.*



3-4 Years **Weather Watchers** with Julie Hecimovich • \$10.00

Friday, June 7; 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Rain, rainbows, snow, and wind are common weather for Minnesota. Use these types of weather to put on a puppet show! Build a model boat and set sail using your own wind. Let’s use our senses as we explore weather together! Please dress for outside fun and the weather. Strollers or wagons welcome. *Space is limited to 11 children with accompanying adult.*

4-5 Years **Little Explorers: Hand in Hand in Nature** with David Stokes • \$30.00

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, June 17, 18, & 19; 9:30-11:30 a.m.

David Stokes is a father, educator, naturalist, entertainer, and Nature Center favorite! This class is especially designed for a parent/grandparent to spend one-on-one “quality time” in nature with their 4- or 5-year-old child. Please dress for the weather and bring a camera! *Space is limited to 12 children (registered participants only) with at least one accompanying adult per child.*



5-6 Years **Pond Scum** with Julie Hecimovich • \$10.00

Monday & Tuesday, August 5 & 6; 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Find creatures big and small living in a pond. Scoop some “pond scum” and discover life within the green slime. Feel textures hidden in a tub of homemade slime. We will create a pond project together! Please dress for outside fun and the weather. *Space is limited to 11 children with accompanying adult.*



6-7 Years **Nature Detectives** with David Stokes • \$30.00

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, June 17, 18, & 19; 1:30-3:30 p.m.

As an educator and entertainer, David will keep you laughing and learning about nature. This class is specially designed for 6- or 7-year-old children to spend “quality time” in nature, with the option of bringing a parent/grandparent. Please dress for the weather. *Space is limited to 12 children (registered participants only). Parents are welcome, but not required.*

Junior Rangers: Sensory Overload! with Kelly Bahl • \$20.00

Session 1: Tuesday & Wednesday, July 23 & 24; 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Session 2: Tuesday & Wednesday, July 23 & 24; 1:30-3:30 p.m. (Select one of the two sessions.)

Get a “sense” of just how many animals have super powers when it comes to their senses. Come learn how we compare to the animal kingdom! Kids will use their own senses to explore nature around them through hands-on learning, crafts and activities. *Space is limited to 12 children.*



7-8 Years **Water, Water Everywhere!** • \$25.00

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, June 10, 11, & 12; 1:30-4:00 p.m.

Water connects all living things, from a tiny tadpole to a beautiful prairie flower. Water even connects us to the dinosaurs! Through activities, experiments, and exploration, we’ll discover how water works, what lives in it, how much we all need it, and how we can take care of it. **On Wednesday, June 12, family members are invited to join the water fun with an off-site field trip to explore a nearby restored wetland!** *Space is limited to 10 children.*

Monarch Magic • \$10.00

Session 1: Monday, July 22; 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Session 2: Friday, July 26; 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 12 children.*



8-9 Years

Junior Naturalists: Indoor Rock Climbing with Andie Harveaux • \$35.00

Session 1: Wednesday & Thursday, June 26 & 27; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Session 2: Wednesday & Thursday, June 26 & 27; 1:00-4:00 p.m. **(Select one of the two sessions.)**

Take a trip over to the Albert Lea Rock Gym to explore the world of indoor rock climbing! This class will offer an introduction to climbing and will focus on how to climb safely at an indoor gym, how to use the equipment, and how to tie the knots used in climbing. *Space is limited to 10 children.*



8-10 Years

Nocturnal Nature with Kelly Bahl • \$15.00

Wednesday, August 28; 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Delve into what nature does while we sleep. This class offers a variety of fun activities that let us discover the magic of nature at night. Learn which animals are out and about, go on a night hike, listen to tall tales about the stars, and more. Come have fun with us in the dark! *Space is limited to 12 children. Parents are welcome, but not required.*

9-11 Years

Survival Week with Derek Barkeim & Dan Block • \$75.00

Monday through Friday, June 24-28; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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

Nature Photography with John Duren • \$30.00

Session 1: Monday & Tuesday, July 8 & 9; 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Session 2: Monday & Tuesday, July 29 & 30; 8:00-11:00 a.m. **(Select one of the two sessions or register for both.)**

If you have an interest in photography, nature, and exploring, this class is for you! Learn about composition, lighting, angles, and more as we visit some of the more remote areas of the Nature Center. Cameras will be provided (bring a flash drive to take photos home) or use your own. Wear shoes that can get muddy, since we're often photographing near the edges of water! *Space is limited to 12 participants.* Photos from this class can be entered into our photography contest! More details at: hormelnaturecenter.org/youth-photography-contest.



Radical Raptors • \$45.00

Tuesday, July 23; 9:30-11:30 a.m.: Hawk talk & games

Tuesday, July 23; 8:30-10:00 p.m.: Owl talk & calling class for participant & family

Wednesday, July 24; 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 24.** *Space is limited to 10 participants.*



10-12 Years

Monarch Tagging • \$10.00

Session 1: Monday, August 26; 1:30-4:00 p.m.

Session 3: Wednesday, August 28; 1:30-4:00 p.m.

Session 2: Tuesday, August 27; 1:30-4:00 p.m.

(Select one or more of the three sessions.)

Help with Monarch Watch's research by learning to catch, tag, record, and release monarchs on their amazing 2,000-mile journey to spend the winter in Mexico! *Space is limited to 12 participants.*



11-12 Years

Canoeing the Root River & Exploring the Blufflands • \$100.00

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

Thursday, August 1; 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 1.

Friday, August 2: Breakfast at Eagle Bluff before canoeing part of the Root River; *return to the JCHNC by 3:00 p.m.*

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

12-13 Years

Climbing Red Wing with Andie Harveaux • \$100.00

Monday & Tuesday, July 15 & 16; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Indoor climbing practice

Wednesday, July 17; 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.: Outdoor climbing at Red Wing's Barn Bluff

Participants in this special three-day climbing class will spend the first two mornings at the Albert Lea Rock Gym for an introduction to climbing, learning how to climb safely, and prepping to climb outdoors. On the final day, participants will apply these skills to an outdoor climb at Barn Bluff in Red Wing! *Parents may attend the indoor days to assuage any concerns. Please bring a lunch and drink on July 17. Space is limited to 10 participants.*



12-14 Years

Survival Week with Derek Barkeim & Dan Block • \$75.00

Monday through Friday, June 24-28; 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Spend five days learning wilderness survival and awareness skills to equip you for your next outdoor adventure! Practice building shelters, using primitive traps, creating friction fires, identifying wild edibles and medicinal plants, and lots more with guest instructor Derek Barkeim. On Friday, guest instructor Dan Block returns with activities including flintknapping, making ashcakes, and practice with the atlatl. *Space is limited to 16 participants.*

— More classes listed on the next page. —

Summer Adventure Classes (continued)

12-14 Years (continued)

Nature Photography with John Duren • \$30.00

Session 1: Monday & Tuesday, July 8 & 9; 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Session 2: Monday & Tuesday, July 29 & 30; 5:30-8:30 p.m. (**Select one of the two sessions or register for both.**)

If you have an interest in photography, nature, and exploring, this class is for you! Learn about composition, lighting, angles, and more as we visit remote areas of the Nature Center. Cameras provided (bring a flash drive to take photos home) or use your own. Wear shoes that can get muddy! *Space is limited to 12 participants.* Photos from this class can be entered into our photography contest! More details at: hormelnaturecenter.org/youth-photography-contest.

Shell Rock River Canoe & Fossil Hunting Trip • \$30.00

Monday, August 19; 9:00-11:00 a.m.: Canoe practice at the Nature Center

Tuesday, August 20; 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.: Canoe trip (Backup day: Wed., August 21)

Enjoy canoeing the Shell Rock River, then visit the Fossil & Prairie Park Preserve to hunt for fossils (to keep)! *Weather and water levels may change the river destination and activities for this trip. Please bring a lunch on August 20. Space is limited to 9 participants.*



14-18 Years

Climbing Red Wing with Andie Harveaux • \$100.00

Monday & Tuesday, July 15 & 16; 1:00-4:00 p.m.: Indoor climbing practice

Friday, July 19; 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.: Outdoor climbing at Red Wing's Barn Bluff

Participants in this special three-day climbing class will spend the first two afternoons at the Albert Lea Rock Gym for an intro to climbing, learning how to climb safely, and prepping to climb outdoors. On the final day, participants will apply these skills to an outdoor climb at Barn Bluff in Red Wing! *Parents are encouraged to attend the indoor days to assuage any concerns they may have. Please bring a lunch and drink on July 19. Space is limited to 10 participants.*

Family/Adult

Family Nature Photography with John Duren • \$40.00 per family

Session 1: Sunday, July 14; 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Session 2: Sunday, July 28; 5:30-8:30 p.m. (**Select one of the two sessions or register for both.**)

In this class designed specifically for families, you'll learn the basics of nature photography while exploring the Nature Center with your family. Cameras provided (bring a flash drive to take photos home) or use your own. *Space is limited to 6 families.* Photos from this class can be entered into our youth photography contest (hormelnaturecenter.org/youth-photography-contest)!



Owl Nest Box Building Workshop • \$40.00 (*fee covers materials; scholarships not available; additional boxes \$30*)

Saturday, July 27; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; Nature Center maintenance garage

Are you interested in providing a nest for owls in your neighborhood? We will help you build nest boxes for barred, screech, or great horned owls and provide all the information needed to be able to place it properly and, hopefully, have a successful nest in your own backyard! Bring your own drill if you have one. *Space is limited to 8 families. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.*



Summer Adventure Scholarships

Full scholarships are available for all classes under \$50; half scholarships for classes \$50 and up. To receive a scholarship, students must write three to five sentences about why they want to attend a particular class and thank the donors.

Beginning March 25, you may submit your paragraph at the Interpretive Center **before you register** (by March 29 if you plan to register on April 1). Include name, age, address, and phone number. We will place your child in the class at the adjusted price. When registration opens on April 1, you will log into your account to pay the balance. Scholarships are offered on a first-come, first-served basis (**one scholarship per child**). Call 507-437-7519 or email info@hormelnaturecenter.org with questions.

Scholarship Donors

Austin Audubon
Friends of the Hormel
Nature Center
Mable Hjelman
Izaak Walton League Chapter 10
Janet Guttormson Memorial
In Honor of George Hartson

Dammen Adventure Race — Saturday, July 13 (rain or shine)

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 2nd annual 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.** More details at hormelnaturecenter.org/dammen-adventure-race.

- Preregistration **by 1:00 p.m. Friday, July 12:** \$25.00 per person
- Registration **after 1:00 p.m. Friday, July 12:** \$30.00 per person

Age Categories

Age 6-9 & Adult
Age 10-13 & Adult
Age 14-17 & Adult
Two Youth, Age 14-17
Two Adults





Spring & Summer Event Schedule 2019

Please RSVP for any event one day before the scheduled time.

April

- 01 (Mon)**
9:00 am Summer class registration begins
- 06 (Sat)**
1-3 pm Climate Storytelling Workshop
- 13 (Sat)**
2-4 pm Friends & Volunteer Appreciation event:
Jami Lynn concert (*free, open to the public*)
- 9-11 pm** Sola Fide Observatory (*more info page 12*)
- 27 (Sat)**
10 am-2 pm *We Are Water MN* exhibit kickoff event
- 9-11 pm** Sola Fide Observatory (*more info page 12*)

May

- 02 (Thur)**
6:30-8 am Morning Bird Hike with Austin Audubon
- 04 (Sat)**
9-11 pm Sola Fide Observatory (*more info page 12*)
- 07 (Tue)**
6:30-8 pm Evening Bird Hike with Austin Audubon
- 09 (Thur)**
6:30-8 am Morning Bird Hike with Austin Audubon
- 11 (Sat)**
9-11 pm Sola Fide Observatory (*more info page 12*)
- 14 (Tue)**
6:30-8 pm Evening Bird Hike with Austin Audubon
- 16 (Thur)**
6:30-8 am Morning Bird Hike with Austin Audubon

June

- 01 (Sat)**
9:00 am Canoe & kayak rental begins
- 9-11 pm** Sola Fide Observatory (*more info page 12*)
- 03 (Mon)**
6-7 pm Busy Bees (birth-2 yrs + adult)
- 07 (Fri)**
10-11:30 am Weather Watchers (3-4 yrs + adult)
- 08 (Sat)**
9-11 pm Sola Fide Observatory (*more info page 12*)
- 10-12 (Mon-Wed)**
1:30-4 pm Water, Water Everywhere! (7-8 yrs)
- 10 (Mon)**
7-8:30 pm Workshop—*Making Meaning of Our Relationship to Water*
- 11 (Tue)**
10 am-12 pm CRWD Field Tour—*Reviving Dobbins*

- 12 (Wed)**
12-1 pm CRWD lunch program—*Cedar River Health*
- 13 (Thur)**
10:00 am Senior Special—*We Do It for the Water* play
- 1:00 pm** Nature Play; *We Do It for the Water* play
- 14 (Fri)**
9 am-12 pm Belair Water Tower & Well Tours
- 1:30-3 pm** Water Treatment Plant Tour (*meet at JCHNC*)
- 15 (Sat)**
am & pm Clean Our Waters Service Day
- 16 (Sun)**
5:00 pm *We Are Water MN* traveling exhibit closes

- 17-19 (Mon-Wed)**
9:30-11:30 am David Stokes: Little Explorers (4-5 yrs + adult)
- 1:30-3:30 pm** David Stokes: Nature Detectives (6-7 yrs)

- 20 (Thur)**
10:00 am Senior Special—David Stokes program
- 1:00 pm** Nature Play—David Stokes + Archery

- 24-28 (Mon-Fri)**
9 am-12 pm Survival Week (9-11 yrs)
- 1:30-4:30 pm** Survival Week (12-14 yrs)

- 26-27 (Wed-Thur)**
9 am-12 pm Junior Naturalists: Indoor Rock Climbing—
Session 1 (8-9 yrs)
- 1-4 pm** Junior Naturalists: Indoor Rock Climbing—
Session 2 (8-9 yrs)

July

- 01-02 (Mon-Tue)**
10-11 am Wonderful Water (2-3 yrs + adult)
- 06 (Sat)**
9-11 pm Sola Fide Observatory (*more info page 12*)
- 08-09 (Mon-Tue)**
8-11 am Nature Photography—Session 1 (9-11 yrs)
- 5:30-8:30 pm** Nature Photography—Session 1 (12-14 yrs)
- 13 (Sat)**
9:00 am Dammen Adventure Race (*more info pg. 8*)
- 14 (Sun)**
5:30-8:30 pm Family Nature Photography—Session 1
- 15-16 (Mon-Tue)**
9 am-12 pm Climbing Red Wing practice (12-13 yrs)
- 1-4 pm** Climbing Red Wing practice (14-18 yrs)
- 17 (Wed)**
8:30 am-6:30 pm Climbing Red Wing day trip (12-13 yrs)

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



Summer & Fall Event Schedule 2019



July continued

- 18 (Thur)**
10:00 am Senior Special—Jennifer Ward: *Bird Tales*
1:00 pm Nature Play; Jennifer Ward: *Budding Birders!*
- 19 (Fri)**
8:30am-6:30pm
Climbing Red Wing day trip (14-18 yrs)
- 20 (Sat)**
9-11 pm Sola Fide Observatory (*more info page 12*)
- 22 (Mon)**
1:30-3:30 pm Monarch Magic Class—Session 1 (7-8 yrs)
- 23-24 (Tue-Wed)**
9:30-11:30 am Junior Rangers: Sensory Overload!—
Session 1 (6-7 yrs)
1:30-3:30 pm Junior Rangers: Sensory Overload!—
Session 2 (6-7 yrs)
- 23 (Tue)**
9:30-11:30 am Radical Raptors Hawk Talk/Games (9-11 yrs)
8:30-10 pm Radical Raptors Owl Calling (9-11 yrs & family)
- 24 (Wed)**
8am-4:30 pm Radical Raptors day trip (9-11 yrs)
- 25 (Thur)**
10:00 am Senior Special—Will Bjorndal: *Bees!*
1:00 pm Nature Play; Nature Puppet Players
- 26 (Fri)**
1:30-3:30 pm Monarch Magic Class—Session 2 (7-8 yrs)
- 27 (Sat)**
9 am-12 pm Family Owl Nest Box Building Workshop
- 28 (Sun)**
5:30-8:30 pm Family Nature Photography—Session 2
- 29-30 (Mon-Tue)**
8-11 am Nature Photography—Session 2 (9-11 yrs)
5:30-8:30 pm Nature Photography—Session 2 (12-14 yrs)
- 31 (Wed)**
9-11 am Canoe practice for Eagle Bluff/Root River
trip (11-12 yrs)

August

- 01-02 (Thur-Fri)**
All day Eagle Bluff/Root River trip (11-12 yrs)
- 03 (Sat)**
10:00 am Senior Special—Fendrick & Peck Concert
1:00 pm Nature Play—Fendrick & Peck + Archery
- 05-06 (Mon-Tue)**
6-7:30 pm Pond Scum (5-6 yrs + adult)

- 07-09 (Wed-Fri)**
4-7 pm Mower County Fair Programs
- 10 (Sat)**
9-11 pm Sola Fide Observatory (*more info page 12*)
- 12-14 (Mon-Wed)**
9 am-5 pm Art Show drop-off
- 15 (Thur)**
10:00 am Senior Special—Andie Harveaux: *Bears*
1:00 pm Nature Play; Kelly Bahl: *Web of Life*
- 17 (Sat)**
9 am-5 pm Nature Art Show Open House
7-8 pm Natural Community Talent Show
- 18 (Sun)**
1-5 pm Nature Art Show Open House
- 19 (Mon)**
9-11 am Shell Rock Canoe Trip practice (12-14 yrs)
- 20 (Tue)**
8am-4:30 pm Shell Rock Trip (12-14 yrs) (*backup 8/21*)
- 22 (Thur)**
10:00 am Sr. Special—Lee & Judy Bjorndal Concert
- 23 (Fri)**
5:00 pm Photography contest deadline
- 24 (Sat)**
1-4 pm Honey Harvest & Processing Open House
9-11 pm Sola Fide Observatory (*more info page 12*)
- 26 (Mon)**
1:30-4 pm Monarch Tagging—Session 1 (10-12 yrs)
- 27 (Tue)**
1:30-4 pm Monarch Tagging—Session 2 (10-12 yrs)
- 28 (Wed)**
1:30-4 pm Monarch Tagging—Session 3 (10-12 yrs)
8-10 pm Nocturnal Nature w/Kelly Bahl (8-10 yrs)

September

- 07 (Sat)**
9-11 pm Tickets on sale at Super Fresh Produce for
Halloween Warm-Up (Oct. 11 & 12)
Sola Fide Observatory (*more info page 12*)
- 14 (Sat)**
8 am-5 pm Friends Bus Trip to Prairie Center (*pg. 11*)
- 21 (Sat)**
12-5 pm Drum Making Workshop (*page 11*)
- 28 (Sat)**
8-10 pm Sola Fide Observatory (*more info page 12*)
- 29 (Sun)**
5:00 pm Canoe & kayak rental ends

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

Summer and Fall Special Events

More details at www.hormelnaturecenter.org

Nature Art Show

Saturday, August 17; 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 18; 1:00 p.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. This year, we added one more day of viewing due to popular demand!

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 24; 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Stop in to witness the unique process of the honey harvest—from the Nature Center's own beehives! *Free to the public.*

Fall Bus Trip—Friends Members Only Bus Trip

University of Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center and the Rockford Fossil & Prairie Center

Saturday, September 14; 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Friends members! Venture down into Iowa to tour the University of Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center and the Rockford Fossil & Prairie Center in this fun day trip. Discover all the research being done to help prairies thrive right here in our part of the Midwest. Be ready to explore the ancient history of Iowa by fossil hunting! Bring a picnic lunch. *Space is limited to 50 people. Please register in person at the Interpretive Center (\$10.00 per person, cash or check only).*

Drum Making with Wayne Manthey — (online registration begins on April 1, 2019)

Saturday, September 21, 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Making your own drum is a journey that is individually and spiritually meaningful. The drum symbolizes the heartbeat of life, the heartbeat of community. It is not simply an art form, but a tool for cleansing, centering, and focusing one's intentions for health and happiness. Drum maker Wayne Manthey will take participants through the process of making their own frame drum from natural materials, one step at a time.

Cost for materials per participant: 13" drum-\$110.00 or 16" drum-\$135.00



Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Staff

Luke Reese, *Director/Naturalist*

Mike Goetz, *Land Manager*

Julie Champlin, *Office Manager*

Maria Anderson, *Naturalist/Teacher*

Andromakhe Harveaux, *Naturalist/Intern*

Kelly Bahl— *Naturalist/ 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*

Rhonda Alberts, *Secretary*

Dr. Jeff Anderson

Lee Bjorndal

Joe Dolan

Michelle Meiergerd

Kurt Mueller

Diane Petrik

Arlen Schamber

Mike Skiba



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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Canoe & Kayak Rentals

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

- Available Sunday afternoon-Saturday (no rentals on city holidays), June 1-Sept. 29, 2019.
- **\$10 for up to three hours.** Life jackets, paddles, and canoe/kayak rollers are provided.
- Purchase a punch card for \$25 and receive five canoe or kayak rentals for half the fee! **(New this year: purchase your punch card online and pick up at the Nature Center!)**
- 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).



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.



Astronomical Viewing: Sola Fide Observatory

Come out and explore the night sky during our observatory open house hours! Free and open to the public on specified Saturdays throughout the year (*see event schedule on pages 9 & 10*). On these select evenings (dependent on clear skies), Nature Center staff and volunteers are available to assist the public in viewing the night sky.

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.

