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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.
Director’s Desk: Luke Reese

For 50 years, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center has been uncommon. The origin, composition, and 50-year community commitment to this special place make it unique among Nature Centers. Yet there have been challenges. While this past year will likely rank among the most challenging, the year has been a reminder of nature’s importance to us all.

Over 90 years ago, Jay C. Hormel looked to expand the floodplain forest that ran through his property by planting trees and creating an arboretum. Over 40 years after Jay began planting trees and over a decade following his passing, a debate began to discuss what should be done with the remnants of the arboretum. Should it be developed or preserved?

Had that question been posed 10 years earlier or later and a different response might have been found, but during the middle of the environmental movement the City of Austin decided it should be preserved. The City worked with local citizens, conservation groups, The Hormel Foundation, the State of Minnesota, and the federal government to acquire and protect the original 123-acres of property. From 1971 to 2021, the property has grown from 123-acres to over 530. With each acquisition, restoration effort, or infrastructure improvement, the City of Austin reaffirmed its commitment to providing a natural space for its visitors and citizens.

For 50 years, this natural space has been an uncommon asset for a community the size of Austin to support. Most of southern Minnesota is ag land. Landscape scale opportunities for nature conservation are rare. They generally focus on wetlands that were not easily cultivated, forests that were never harvested, or other habitats that remained unscathed by agriculture. Minus about 25 acres of remnant prairie near the tower and streamside forest along Dobbins Creek, most of the natural areas at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center have been returned to a natural state. That makes the story of the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center an example that nature can be brought back.

Once nature is restored, people can return to it for learning, relaxation, and enjoyment. From the Nature Center’s inception, the Austin Public School District planned to use the center to develop an environmental education curriculum as one of twelve school districts involved in the Minnesota Environmental Education Project. Larry Dolphin worked with the school district in 1988 to align lessons to science standards. In 2019, 3,744 Austin Public School students from Kindergarten through 7th grade participated in the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center’s environmental education curriculum. Most school-aged kids do not get a dedicated environmental education like this.

The number of kids visiting the Jay C. Hormel Nature in 2020 fell dramatically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While all of our public, summer, and school programming suffered, the Nature Center has served as a refuge for more than the wildlife this past year. When people needed to escape their homes, computers, and Zoom meetings, they visited the Nature Center. More people than in recent memory witnessed the transitions from winter to spring to fall and back to winter. While the world seemed to be tumultuous as ever, the trees still offered shade, the marsh marigolds and shooting stars bloomed, and the sandhill cranes sounded like dinosaurs over our prairies. I’m sure the Blanding’s turtle that I encountered near the remnant prairie in June had no idea that a pandemic was wreaking havoc. But the deer might have known something was up, there were just so many people.

For 50 years, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center has been uncommon and has become increasingly important to the people of Austin, southeast MN, and northeast IA. It took foresight, passion, and constant care to grow to this state. Just like every other birthday and anniversary that occurred during the pandemic, the celebration of the 50 year old Jay C. Hormel Nature Center will be different. Right now, we are focusing on the history of 50 years and individual connections made here. We hope to have larger celebrations that bring people together later in the summer. If you want to wish this special place well, please come out for a walk this spring or summer, find a quiet spot, and tell the plants, trees, creek, and animals, “Happy Birthday” or “Happy Anniversary”.

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 with a full year for a contribution of $30 or higher.

Individual & Family Membership Benefits

• $5.00 off each fee for children’s Summer Adventure Programs (parent must be a member)
• An invitation to the Friends Annual Meeting
• 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!
President’s Letter

Tim Ruzek  President of the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center

About every time I’m leaving the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center, I tell myself that I need to get out there more often. Most people probably think similarly after walking, skiing or running through the nature center’s over 530 acres of woods, wetlands and prairie or after taking in the beautiful, education-filled $7 million interpretive center opened four years ago. My hope in 2021 as the president of the Friends of the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center is to help support that feeling for nature center users of all ages.

This year, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center is 50 years old. Back on March 11, 1971, the City of Austin purchased the original nature center property from Geordie Hormel, one of the late Jay Hormel’s three sons. This protected the land from being developed into a gas station and strip mall along the interstate.

More importantly, the citizen-led effort 50 years ago ensured that tens of thousands of students from Austin, greater Mower County and beyond would have an incredible outdoor classroom to learn about and grow an appreciation for nature. Today, the City of Austin continues to own and staff the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center. The Friends of the Nature Center, formed in 1988, continues to raise donations to invest back in the nature center in ways that enhance it through education, research and the overall enjoyment of the outdoors.

This is your nature center. It doesn’t matter if you’re a Friends member. Please consider, though, becoming a Friends member to help show your appreciation for the nature center and your commitment to work with us on protecting and improving this crown jewel of the community and region.

Our 50th anniversary plans are greatly hampered by the ongoing pandemic. The Friends, however, will continue to look for safe ways to celebrate this year with the community. One thing you all can do on your own in celebration of this milestone is commit to visiting the nature center more than ever. Come out for the exercise, fresh air, environmental education, public programs, scenic views, wildlife, stream crossings and calming atmosphere. I hope to see you on the trails!

2021 Intern Zone: Meredith Maloney

Growing up on the New Hampshire coast, I fell in love with the natural world at a very young age. In high school I had no idea that I would find myself pursuing a career in environmental education. Straying from a desire to study creative writing and knowing little of my passions, I decided upon Environmental Science as a college major - it sounded like the kind of career that would allow me to be outside, far away from a cubicle, and maybe even make a difference. It turned out to be the best decision I’ve ever made.

At the University of Vermont I studied Environmental Science and Water Resources. Throughout my college career, I had the great pleasure of working at three science and nature centers as an educator; one by the ocean, one by the estuary, and one by Lake Champlain in Vermont. In college I studied abroad in Costa Rica, Panama, and New Zealand, learning about ecosystems and critters far and wide. I have been very lucky to have held a variety of educational positions, from a Teacher’s Assistanship for a field based natural resources college course, to a sustainability tour guide and wastewater operator for an island off of the coast of New Hampshire, to an 8th grade literature teacher for a supplementary middle school program. My luck seems to continue; now, I am an intern here!

All of these positions solidified a few things for me; I want to spend the rest of my life working in and protecting natural spaces, and I want to do this by educating future generations, providing the kinds of hands-on experiences that allowed me to fall in love with and want to protect the outdoors.

Now, I am endlessly grateful to be a part of this community, and to be a part of the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center. As a native New Englander I am thrilled to not only be travelling to Minnesota for the first time, but to also call Minnesota home for 2021. Come say hi to me at the center; stay safe, and I can’t wait to meet you!
Summer Senior Specials

Nature lovers 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, email info@hormelnaturecenter.org, or stop in to reserve your seats for the programs and/or trail tours. Sign up starts April 15th.

- **Thursday, June 24; 10:00 a.m.** Explore the realm of bluebirds with local bird expert and citizen scientist, Terry Taylor. Terry will teach about the nation wide project of bluebird nest monitoring and his own observations here in Austin.
- **Thursday, July 8; 10:00 a.m.** Terra Loam, Spirit of the Earth, will share the stage with Steve Lawler, soil scientist extraordinaire. There will be song, dance, humor, and theatre that will bring soil to life right before your eyes. Be ready to participate and have some fun with dirt.
- **Thursday, July 22; 10:00 a.m.** Join former JCHNC intern Will Bjorndal for a morning of traditional and original music! With his humorous-yet-genuine attitude, Will’s performance will surely captivate as well as teach about the natural world along the way.
- **Thursday, August 19; 10:00 a.m.** Enjoy a variety of great music for people of all ages with Twin Cities musician, Bill Cagley. Bill’s skillful guitar flatpicking and infectious wit are sure to entertain!
- **Thursday, August 26; 10:00 a.m.** It wouldn’t be summer at the JCHNC without a visit from our friend, David Stokes! Audiences of all ages will enjoy David’s amazing energy, live critters, songs, and stories about the natural world.
- **Thursday, September 9; 10:00 a.m.** Join Master Naturalist, Jerry Ibberson, as he dives into a portion of Aldo Leopold’s essay “The Good Oak” and discover what messages can be learned from it in modern day.
- **Thursday, September 16; 10:00 a.m.** Come enjoy music from Tom Pease! He creates concerts that leave audiences laughing and singing with movement, sign language, humor, and joy. Tom Pease loves to explore the role of music in shaping our lives and the world we live in.

Trail Access Tours

Trail access tours are designed for visitors who need some assistance getting out on the trails. Private tours on our trail access vehicles can be scheduled seven days a week, with at least four days advance notice, spring through fall. Tours contingent upon appropriate trail conditions and volunteer driver availability. **Interested in becoming a volunteer driver? Contact us!**

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.

Volunteer Work Parties

Join volunteers and staff to help make your nature center a better place. Activities TBD. They will take place outside, so dress for the weather and wear clothes that can get dirty. Please RSVP to help us prepare. Details and other volunteer opportunities can be found at: hormelnaturecenter.org!

### Summer Senior Specials

- **August 19th**—Bill Cagley
- **August 24th**—David Stokes
- **September 9th**—Dariel Bustad
- **September 16th**—Tom Pease

### 50th Anniversary Special Programming

Join us at the nature center a few evenings this summer to enjoy some special programming. Whether it is learning about nature, or listening to some great music, you’ll be in good company! All programs will start at 6:30 p.m.

- **August 19th**—Bill Cagley
- **August 24th**—David Stokes
- **September 9th**—Dariel Bustad
- **September 16th**—Tom Pease

### Trail Access Tours

Trail access tours are designed for visitors who need some assistance getting out on the trails. Private tours on our trail access vehicles can be scheduled seven days a week, with at least four days advance notice, spring through fall. Tours contingent upon appropriate trail conditions and volunteer driver availability. **Interested in becoming a volunteer driver? Contact us!**

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### Volunteer Work Parties

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Eco-Blitz Week July 6-10

Monday, July 5; City Holiday—No program.

Tuesday, July 6; 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; Rain Garden Preservation Work Party: Help us with routine maintenance in our rain gardens around the property to assist with water and soil health. Please RSVP by July 3rd.

6:00 p.m.; Free Program: Steve Lawler with Soil and Water Conservation District; Cover Crops: Come and discover what an important role cover crops play in diminishing erosion and keeping local soil and ecosystems healthy! Please RSVP by July 5th.

Wednesday, July 7; 10:00-11:30 a.m.; Free Program: Field Day: Join CRWD and Nature Center staff in viewing a large embankment that serves multipurpose benefits: flood reduction, water quality improvement and protected wildlife habitat to name a few. Come learn about Dobbins Creek history of flash flooding over the last 150 years and why these projects will leave a lasting image of improvement on Dobbins Creek. Meeting location TBA. Please RSVP by July 6th.

Thursday, July 8; Two Programs: 10:00 a.m. Senior Special & 1:00-4:00 p.m. Nature Play: Led by crowd favorite Terra Loam and Soil Scientist, Steve Lawler, “Spirit of the Earth” will explore the wonderful world of soil through song, dance, and humor! *Archery available! Please RSVP by July 7th.

Friday, July 9; 2:00 p.m.; Free Program: Incredible Compost: Come and learn about the ins and outs of how to compost! What is the magic behind turning organic materials into rich soil? Find out how to start your own small compost operation with your kitchen scraps, as well as the do’s and don’ts to be successful. Please RSVP by July 8th.

Saturday, July 10; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; Service Day: Keep our waterways clean for all people and critters by helping us clean up the Cedar River. Join us and earn a free kayak/canoe rental! Contact 507-437-7519 or info@hormelnaturecenter.org for details. Meet at the Interpretive Center. Please RSVP by July 9th.

Attendance to our events during Eco-Blitz Week makes you eligible to enter a drawing for prizes at the end of the week.

Summer Nature Play Afternoons

Seven 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 on select days, butterfly netting, crayfish hunting, survival games, art activities, and self-guided nature trail activities.

FREE Family Programs during Nature Play Afternoons
Please RSVP for the programs no later than 24 hours in advance.

Thursday, June 10; 1:00 p.m.: No program. All other of our outdoor activities are still available. Art: Make and color “Critter Headbands”

Thursday, June 24; 1:00 p.m.: No program. All other of our outdoor activities are still available. Art: Tree cookie painting

Thursday, July 8; 1:00 p.m.: Terra Loam, “Spirit of the Earth” will share the stage with Steve Lawler, soil scientist. There will be song, dance, humor, and theatre that will bring soil to life right before your eyes. Be ready to participate and have some fun with spirit. Archery available! Art: Rainbow Art

Thursday, July 22; 1:00 p.m.: Sing and laugh along with musician, naturalist, and true-blue Minnesotan goofball Will Bjorndal as he brings a wagonload of original and traditional songs to our Thursday Nature Play! Driven by audience participation, this captivating yet laid-back performance is engaging for children of all ages. Remember, you're always as young as you feel! Art: “Make a Bee” refrigerator magnet

Saturday, August 7; No program. Archery available in addition to our other outdoor activities. Art: Rock Painting

Thursday, August 19; 1:00 p.m.: Enjoy a variety of great music for people of all ages with Twin Cities musician Bill Cagley. Bill’s skillful guitar flatpicking and infectious wit are sure to entertain! Archery available! Art: Create a “Nature Critter” on Quart-sized Paint Sticks

Thursday, August 26; 1:00 p.m.: It wouldn’t be summer at the JCHNC without a visit from our friend, David Stokes! Audiences of all ages will enjoy David’s amazing energy, live critters, songs, and stories about the natural world. Art: “Make a Leaf Critter” - Butterflies, Dragonflies, and more
Summer Adventure Classes for Youth & Families

Registration opens Thursday, April 15 at 9:00 a.m. Register online. Visit hormelnaturecenter.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. Class sizes will expand if conditions allow so be sure to utilize waiting lists if the class appears full. We will be following all up-to-date guidelines in regards to masks, gathering sizes, and all other ordinances concerning COVID-19.

REMINDEERS: 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).

Busy Bees with Julie Hecimovich • $10.00
Monday, Aug 16; 6:00-7:00 p.m.
“Bee” ready to have fun making “bee”utiful projects and sing about our amazing pollinators. Please dress for outside as we will be observing the Nature Center’s busy bees. Get ready for smiles as participants will dress up in buggy costumes.
Class requires an accompanying adult.

Wonderful Water: Streams to Seas with Julie Hecimovich • $15.00
Monday & Tuesday, June 7 & 8; 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Take a hike to discover interesting plants and animals living in our local waterways on day one. Day two we’ll learn about sea creatures and play in the water tables. Class requires an accompanying adult.

Spectacular Spiders with Julie Hecimovich • $10.00
Monday, August 16; 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Itsy bitsy spiders can climb up water spouts and do other amazing activities like building intricate webs. You will be creating your own amazing spiders and webs. Dress for a walk outside as we try to find spiders and their hidden webs. Class requires an accompanying adult.

Little Explorers: Hand in Hand in Nature with David Stokes • $35.00
Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, August 23, 24, & 25; 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! Class requires an accompanying adult.

Weather Watchers and Terrific Trackers with Julie Hecimovich • $15.00
Monday & Tuesday, June 7 & 8; 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Toss some snowballs and spin in a tornado as we experience a variety of weather. Together we will observe and record the weather outside. We’ll also be looking for signs of animals and trying to track them. Class requires an accompanying adult.

Nature Detectives with David Stokes • $35.00
Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, August 23, 24, & 25; 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. (registered participants only) Parents are welcome, but not required.

Junior Rangers: Can You Blend In? with Meredith Maloney • $20.00
Session 1: Thursday & Friday, July 15 & 16; 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Session 2: Thursday & Friday, July 15 & 16; 1:30-3:30 p.m. (Select one of the two sessions.)

Learn all about the many creatures of the Hormel Nature Center and how they’ve adapted to blend in with their environment. All of our Junior Rangers will also use the resources provided to them in order to dress up and try to blend in with our environments.

Monarch Magic • $10.00
Session 1: Wednesday, July 21; 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Session 2: Tuesday, July 27; 1:30-3:30 p.m. (Select one of the two sessions.)

Delve into the amazing life of the Monarch butterfly and search for Monarch eggs and caterpillars around the Nature Center to take home and raise yourself!

Junior Naturalists: Plants and Their Super Powers with Meredith Maloney • $20.00
Session 1: Tuesday & Wednesday, June 29 & 30; 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Session 2: Tuesday & Wednesday, June 29 & 30; 1:30-3:30 p.m. (Select one of the two sessions.)

Explore the many ways in which plants can clean and protect our waterways from pollution. We will put in some Plant Superheroes near our streams to protect them for years to come.

Page 6
Nocturnal Nature • $20.00  
Tuesday, June 8; 8:30-10:30 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, and more. Come explore the hustle and bustle of the nature center after dark!

Survival Week with Derek Barkeim & Dan Block • $75.00  
Monday through Friday, June 14-18; 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! 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 flint knapping, making ashcakes, and practice with the atlatl.

Nature Photography with Nature Center Staff • $30.00  
Session 1: Monday & Tuesday, June 21 & 22; 8:00-11:00 a.m.  
Session 2: Monday & Tuesday, July 12 & 13; 8:00-11:00 a.m. (Select one of the two sessions)  
Interested in photography, nature, and exploring? This class is for you! Gain vital knowledge on 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! Photos from this class can be entered into our photography contest! More details at: hormelnaturecenter.org/photocontest.

Radical Raptors • $48.00  
Monday, July 19; 9:30-11:00 a.m.: Hawk talk & games  
Monday, July 19; 8:30-10:00 p.m.: Owl talk & calling class for participant & family  
Tuesday, July 20; 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.: Day trip to the National Eagle Center (Backup day: Friday, July 23)  
Discover the raptors of Minnesota here at the Nature Center and at the National Eagle Center in Wabasha! Please bring a lunch on July 20.

Monarch Tagging • $10.00  
Tuesday, August 24; 11:30-3:30 p.m.  
Become a citizen scientist and help Monarch Watch’s research by learning to catch, tag, record, and release monarchs before they start their amazing 2,000-mile journey to spend the winter in Mexico!

Canoeing the Root River & Exploring the Blufflands • $100.00  
Wednesday, July 28; 9:00-10:30 a.m.: Canoe practice at the Nature Center  
Thursday, July 29; 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 July 29.  
Friday, July 30: 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 July 29, breakfast and lunch July 30). Full Scholarships available for this class.

Astronomy with Kelly Bahl • $20.00  
Thursday, July 1; 8:30-10:30 p.m.  
Become a space explorer with naturalist Kelly at the Sola Fide Observatory. Get a chance to spend time with the stars, read a night sky map, identify constellations, and use our big telescope to see objects in deep space that our naked eyes can’t see!

Orienteering with Sydney Weisinger • $10.00  
Session 1: Wednesday, June 23; 9:00-11:30 a.m.  
Session 2: Wednesday, June 30; 9:00-11:30 a.m. (Select one of the two sessions)  
Navigate your way through the woods and prairie without following a trail. This class will focus on learning how to use a compass, read a map, and orient yourself with your surroundings. Even if you have done an orienteering course before, all courses are different and bring their own challenges! Remember: practice makes perfect! Please wear closed-toed shoes and long pants for walking in the woods and prairies.

Survival Week with Derek Barkeim & Dan Block • $75.00  
Monday through Friday, June 14-18; 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 flint knapping, making ashcakes, and practice with the atlatl.

More classes listed on the next page.
Summer Adventure Classes (continued)

**Nature Photography** with Nature Center Staff • $30.00  
*Monday & Tuesday, June 21 & 22; 5:30-8:30 p.m.*  
Interested in photography, nature, and exploring? This class is for you! Gain vital knowledge on 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! Photos from this class can be entered into our photography contest! More details at: hormelnaturecenter.org/photocountest.

**Shell Rock River Canoe & Fossil Hunting Trip** • $35.00  
*Monday, August 16; 8:30-11:30 a.m.*: Canoe practice at the Nature Center and fossil class with Gordy Kuene  
*Tuesday, August 17; 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*: Canoe trip (Backup day: Wednesday, August 18)  
Enjoy canoeing the Shell Rock River, then visit the Fossil & Prairie Park Preserve to hunt for fossils (to keep)! We will be introduced to some of the fossils we may find on our trip with a short class the day before. *Weather and water levels may change the river destination and activities for this trip.* Please bring a lunch on August 17.

**Climbing Red Wing** • $100.00  
*Monday & Tuesday, July 12 & 13; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.*: Indoor climbing practice  
*Wednesday, July 14; 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.*: Outdoor climbing at Red Wing (Backup day: Friday, July 16)  
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! Please bring a lunch and water on July 14.

**Family Nature Photography** with Nature Center Staff • $45.00 per family  
*Saturday, June 19; 5:30-8:30 p.m.*  
In this class, designed specifically for families, you’ll learn the basics of nature photography while exploring the Nature Center. Cameras provided (bring a flash drive to take photos home) or use your own. Wear shoes that can get muddy! Photos from this class can be entered into our photography contest. More details at: hormelnaturecenter.org/photocountest.

**Family Monarch Tagging** • $15.00  
*Wednesday, August 25; 4:00-6:00 p.m.*  
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!  
*Friends Members* Outdoor Fun for the “Not Outdoors-y” Families • Free  
*This class is for current Friends members only.*  
*Thursday, July 15; 3:00-5:00 p.m.*  
Have you wanted inspiration on how to spend your time outside? Maybe even out here at the Nature Center, but don’t know what to do? Come to this class and have some fun with us! We will be playing trail games, discovering ways to find fun wherever you are, and get a little dirty as we explore the Nature Center trails. Please RSVP for the class by calling (507) 437-7519 or emailing info@hormelnaturecenter.org.

**Mindful Walking** with Chris Anderson • Ages 16 to adult • $10.00  
*Session 1: Saturday, July 24; 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m — Seeing Nature*  
*Session 2: Saturday, August 7; 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m — Hearing Nature*  
*Session 3: Saturday, August 21; 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m — Signs of Life*  
Select any or all of the sessions to participate in.  
Find a new connection to nature by mindfully walking and noticing the beauty around you. Chris will help you develop mindfulness practices, which will connect your mind and body to nature while enjoying Nature Center trails.  
*Family/Adult classes are not eligible for the $5 Friends discount.*

**Summer Adventure Scholarships**  
Full scholarships are available for all children’s classes under $50; half scholarships for classes $50 and above. To receive a scholarship, students must write three to five sentences about why they want to attend a particular class and thank the donors.

You may submit your paragraph at the Interpretive Center before you register (by April 12th if you plan to register on April 15th). Include name, age, address, and phone number. We will place your child in the class at the adjusted price. When registration opens on April 15th, 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.
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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>10 (Sat)</td>
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<td>15 (Thurs)</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td>Summer class registration begins online</td>
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<td>17 (Sat)</td>
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<td>20 (Tue)</td>
<td>7-8 pm</td>
<td>&quot;A Bird-Bander's Digest: Lessons from the Birds&quot;—Audubon Program</td>
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<td>21 (Wed)</td>
<td>3:30-5 pm</td>
<td>Volunteer Work Party (more info page 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>01 (Sat)</td>
<td>8-10 pm</td>
<td>Sola Fide Observatory (more info page 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 (Thur)</td>
<td>6:30-8 am</td>
<td>Morning Bird Hike with Austin Audubon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 (Sat)</td>
<td>6:30-8 pm</td>
<td>Bird-A-Thon with Austin Audubon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 (Tue)</td>
<td>6:30-8 pm</td>
<td>Evening Bird Hike with Austin Audubon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 (Thur)</td>
<td>6:30-8 am</td>
<td>Morning Bird Hike with Austin Audubon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 (Sat)</td>
<td>9-11 pm</td>
<td>Sola Fide Observatory (more info page 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 (Tue)</td>
<td>10 am-12 pm</td>
<td>Citizen Science: Invasive Species ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 (Wed)</td>
<td>3:30-5 pm</td>
<td>Volunteer Work Party (more info page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 ( Thur)</td>
<td>6:30-8 am</td>
<td>Morning Bird Hike with Austin Audubon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 (Sat)</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Canoe &amp; kayak rental begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 (Sat)</td>
<td>9-11 pm</td>
<td>Sola Fide Observatory (more info page 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07-08 (Mon-Tues)</td>
<td>10-11 am</td>
<td>Wonderful Water (2-3 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 (Tue)</td>
<td>6-7 pm</td>
<td>Weather Watchers (4-6 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 (Wed)</td>
<td>8:30-10:30 pm</td>
<td>Nocturnal Nature (8-10 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 (Wed)</td>
<td>3:30-5 pm</td>
<td>Volunteer Work Party (more info page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 (Thur)</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Nature Play—No Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-18 (Mon-Fri)</td>
<td>9 am-12 pm</td>
<td>Survival Week (9-11 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14 pm (Mon-Tues)</td>
<td>9 am-12 pm</td>
<td>Survival Week (12-14 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 (Tue)</td>
<td>10 am-12 pm</td>
<td>Citizen Science: Bluebird Monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 (Sat)</td>
<td>5:30-8:30 pm</td>
<td>Family Nature Photography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-22 (Mon-Tue)</td>
<td>9-11 pm</td>
<td>Sola Fide Observatory (more info page 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 (Wed)</td>
<td>8-11 am</td>
<td>Nature Photography: Session 1 (9-11 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 (Wed)</td>
<td>5:30-8:30 pm</td>
<td>Nature Photography: Session 1 (12-14 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-30 (Tue-Wed)</td>
<td>9:30-11:30 am</td>
<td>Junior Naturalists: Session 1 (8-9 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 (Wed)</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Orienteering Class (12-14 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 (Thurs)</td>
<td>8:30-10:30 pm</td>
<td>Astronomy Class (11-12 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 (Tue)</td>
<td>10 am-12 pm</td>
<td>Rain Garden Work Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 (Wed)</td>
<td>4-6 pm</td>
<td>Cover Crops with Steve Lawler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 (Fri)</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>Incredible Compost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 (Sat)</td>
<td>9-11 am</td>
<td>Service Day: Clean our Rivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13 (Mon-Tue)</td>
<td>8-11 am</td>
<td>Nature Photography: Session 2 (9-11 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 (Wed)</td>
<td>9 am-12 pm</td>
<td>Climbing Red Wing practice (12-18 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-16 (Thurs-Fri)</td>
<td>8:30 am-6:30 pm</td>
<td>Climbing Red Wing day trip (12-18 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-22 (Mon-Tue)</td>
<td>9:30-11:30 am</td>
<td>Junior Rangers: Session 1 (6-7 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 (Wed)</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Orienteering Class (12-14 yrs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 (Thur)</td>
<td>Friends Free “Outdoor Fun” class (family)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 (Sat)</td>
<td>Sola Fide Observatory [(more info page 12)]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 (Mon)</td>
<td>Radical Raptors Hawk Talk/Games (9-11 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 (Tues)</td>
<td>Radical Raptors Owl Calling (9-11 yrs &amp; family)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 (Wed)</td>
<td>8am-4:30 pm Radical Raptors day trip (9-11 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 am-12 pm Citizen Science: Bumble Bee Surveying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 (Wed)</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 pm Monarch Magic Class: Session 1 (7-8 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 (Thur)</td>
<td>3:30-5 pm Volunteer Work Party [(more info page 4)]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 (Sat)</td>
<td>10:00 am Senior Special— Will Bjorndal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 (Sat)</td>
<td>1:00 pm Nature Play— Will Bjorndal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 (Wed)</td>
<td>9 am-12 pm Dammen Adventure Family Fun Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 (Tue)</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 pm Monarch Magic Class: Session 2 (7-8 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 (Wed)</td>
<td>9-11 am Canoe practice for Eagle Bluff/Root River trip (11-12 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-30 (Thur-Fri)</td>
<td>Eagle Bluff/Root River trip (11-12 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 (Sat)</td>
<td>Sola Fide Observatory [(more info page 12)]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**August**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04 (Wed)</td>
<td>3:30-5 pm Volunteer Work Party [(more info page 4)]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 (Sat)</td>
<td>1-4 pm Nature Play—No Program-Archery Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-13 (Wed-Fri)</td>
<td>Mower County Fair Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 (Sat)</td>
<td>9-11 pm Sola Fide Observatory [(more info page 12)]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-18 (Mon-Wed)</td>
<td>Spectacular Spiders (3-4 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 (Mon)</td>
<td>9 am-5 pm Art Show &amp; Photo Contest Drop off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 (Mon)</td>
<td>8:30-11:30 am Shell Rock Canoe practice &amp; Fossil Class (12-14 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10-11 am Busy Bees (Birth-2 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 (Tue)</td>
<td>8am-4:30 pm Shell Rock Trip (12-14 yrs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**September**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 (Thur)</td>
<td>10:00 am Senior Special— Bill Cagley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Nature Play— Bill Cagley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>50th Special— Bill Cagley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 (Sat)</td>
<td>9 am-5 pm Art Show &amp; Photo Contest Open House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 (Sun)</td>
<td>1-5 pm Art Show &amp; Photo Contest Open House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-25 (Mon-Wed)</td>
<td>David Stokes: Little Explorers (4-5 yrs + adult)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 (Tue)</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 pm Monarch Tagging (10-12 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 (Wed)</td>
<td>6:30 pm 50th Special—David Stokes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 (Thu)</td>
<td>Family Monarch Tagging Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 (Thu)</td>
<td>10:00 am Senior Special— David Stokes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 (Sat)</td>
<td>1:00 pm Nature Play— David Stokes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 (Sat)</td>
<td>Sola Fide Observatory [(more info page 12)]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 (Sun)</td>
<td>10 am-12 pm Citizen Science: Monarch Tagging</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The Jay C. Hormel Nature Center takes in ONLY injured or orphaned raptors. If you find an injured hawk, owl, falcon, or eagle in Mower County, call Nature Center staff at 507-437-7519 for assistance.

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.

Special Events

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

* Citizen Science Series
  One Tuesday a month; 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; • May 18: Invasive Species ID
  • June 15: Bluebird Monitoring • July 20: Bumble Bee Survey • August 31: Monarch Tagging
  • September 21: Stream & Weather Monitoring • October 19: Invasive Species ID
Join Nature Center Staff one Tuesday a month as we partake in various citizen science projects! All of the projects we do get sent off to databases where other scientists can gather our data and use for research.

* Dammen Adventure Family Fun Day
  Saturday, July 24; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
  Come walk the trails with your family and try out a variety of survival-themed games and challenges like archery, throwing an atlatl, mini-games, and more in this enjoyable family fun day event! Suggested donation of $20 per family. All proceeds will benefit the Dammen mentorship program.

* Nature Art Show & Photography Contest
  Saturday, August 21; 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 22; 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
  View nature-inspired pieces by artists of all ages in the community. This year the Nature Art Show will feature all entries from the Nature Photography contest. Interested in submitting a piece? Visit our website to learn more.

* David Stokes—Evening Special
  Tuesday, August 24; 6:30 p.m.
  Join us for a special evening program from JCHNC favorite, David Stokes! Audiences of all ages will enjoy David’s amazing energy, live critters, songs, and stories about the natural world.

* Honey Harvest & Processing Open House
  Saturday, September 11; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
  Stop in to witness the honey harvesting process from the Nature Center’s own beehives!

* Friends Members Only Monarch Butterfly Tagging
  Saturday, September 4; 1:30-4:00 p.m.
  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!

* Friends Members Only Bus Trip
  Saturday, September 18; 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; University of Minnesota; Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
  Friends members! Join Nature Center Staff as we take a journey to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, Minnesota. Rochester Lines will be taking up to 40 people to enjoy a day at this beautiful facility. Enjoy lunch at the Café, no outside food or drink is allowed. Space is limited to 40 people. Please register in person at the Interpretive Center ($10.00 per person, cash or check only).

More details at hormelnaturecenter.org

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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 Sun. afternoon-Sat. (no rentals on city holidays); May 29-Sept. 25, 2021
- $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! (Option to purchase your punch card online and pick up at the Nature Center)

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 507-437-7519.

Astronomical Viewing: Sola Fide Observatory
Discover the night sky during our free observatory events! Sola Fide Observatory is open to the public by reservation only on specified Saturdays throughout the year (see event schedule on pages 9 & 10). On these select evenings, Nature Center staff and volunteers are available to assist the public in viewing the night sky (dependent on clear skies).
Address: 53680 180th St., Austin, MN 55912
(GPS Coordinates: N43° 37.000', W092° 58.550')
For more info or to reserve your spot, call the Nature Center at 507-437-7519 or visit: hormelnaturecenter.org/sola-fide-observatory.