

Jay C. Hormel Nature Center News

Spring & Summer 2022

Volume 41 Issue 1

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Director's Desk: Luke Reese

For the past year, we have looked backwards at the first 50 years of the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center. It was wonderful looking backward and figuring out how we arrived at this place. But I am ready and excited to look forward to the future.

While we looked backwards in 2021, we celebrated as best as we could during a pandemic. We shared stories of people for whom the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center has played or continues to play an important role. We celebrated with small events like free movies at the Paramount Theater, the Dammen Family Fun Day, and a Coloring and Photography contest. The culminating large event was our 18th Thanksgiving Feast Fundraiser. While we collected and shared stories, we also worked to make the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center a better place. We:

- Planted 50 trees for 50 years.
- Cleaned graffiti off of the tower, rebuilt the sugar shack, and fixed and painted trail shelters.
- Designed and installed information kiosks.
- Purchased 3 trackchairs to allow mobility challenged people the opportunity to explore the entire property.

Moving forward, we are going to continue to grow. Not in size, but in scope. Leveraging our regional significance designation from the Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Commission, we will begin improving infrastructure. We will pave trails; replace bridges; and develop a picnic area, outdoor restrooms, and nature play areas. We will develop and install informational signs to educate people out on trails.

We will use our regional significance designation to raise the profile of the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center as a tourist destination. Due to our proximity to I-90, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center is one of the most easily accessible natural areas in the state. We hope to leverage our location to introduce more people to nature.

Our environmental education programs will grow to meet the needs of more regional schools. A successful grant from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources is providing funding from the state's Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The grant allows us to have a 2nd naturalist and continue to have a 2nd intern for three years. The additional staffing adds capacity to reach out to schools outside of Austin. Over three years, we will demonstrate to the State of MN that the need for additional environmental education in Southern MN exists and the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center is up to the task of meeting those needs.

In 2022 and beyond, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center will continue to grow past this pandemic to the new normal where we are a regional center to experience and learn from nature. In the first 50 years, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center got going, but we have only scratched the surface of the potential that exists here. Help us reach that potential by visiting and telling your friends about us, participating in programs, volunteering, or becoming a Friend of the Hormel Nature Center.



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 with a contribution of \$30 or higher.



Individual & Family Membership Benefits

- \$5.00 off each fee for Summer Adventure Programs
- Free Friends members only classes throughout the year
- An invitation to the annual members only bus day trip
- An invitation to the Friends Annual Meeting and Appreciation Event
- 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

New in 2022, choose to continue your membership with monthly, semi-annual, or annual donations.



2022 Intern Zone: Kara Page

When I was three years old my family took me on a three mile hike to Titus Lake in Idaho. Their logic was something like: “She’s three years old, one mile for each year ought to be fine.” While I do remember the lake nestled by sunshine and sweeping mountains, I don’t remember the hike back to the car. I’m told it was quite the chore to get me to leave the water (and subsequent minnows) behind. While I don’t live in Idaho anymore, Titus Lake was where my love of nature awakened and locked itself in.

I’ve lived in Austin for the last eight years, but I hadn’t ever really seen the Minnesota landscape outside of this area. I decided to spend 2020 exploring, and I fell in love. From hoarfrost to waterfalls, from prairie grass to sun dogs in frosty mornings, Minnesota is one of the most marvelous places I have ever experienced. After 2020, I knew I wanted a career in conservation even though I felt like I was late in the game. I spent 2021 getting to know the trails at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center better. I found the second stepping stone bridge, beds of soft pine needles, and roosting wild turkeys on my early morning walks. I found peace of mind and a kind of spirituality that connected me to the earth, to others, and to myself.

In the summer of 2021 I decided to take all four of my children back to Titus Lake. They were all born in the Midwest, and had never seen the mountains. I thought a love of nature could be birthed there for them, too. As we went up and down the trail, their seasoned hiking legs stomping on roots and dust, I realized that their love of nature was already alive and thriving, in part because of the many classes and adventures we had already had at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center.

It is an honor to be an intern this year, and I hope that I can help foster a love of nature in those of you who decide to come explore our spaces and take our classes!



President’s Letter: Tim Ruzek

President of the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center

I spent a ton of time in 2021 at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center ... *indoors*. Sure, this time spent in the center’s outstanding facilities involved great projects, ideas and people all working to make this gem of Austin even better for all ages, abilities and backgrounds. But the outdoors is what always has been the nature center’s main attraction for me. No kidding, right?

As president for another year of the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center, I will continue to encourage everyone to enjoy all there is to take in on the center’s 530-plus acres. I also need to encourage myself to do the same – outdoors. For 2022, I pledge to spend at least 2,022 minutes – nearly 34 hours – enjoying the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center outside. Sure, I’ll be logging plenty of hours in 2022 in the interpretive center and Ruby Rupner Auditorium, but these 2,022 pledged minutes all will happen outdoors. I respond well to these types of goals, and I hope others will make the same pledge.

Starting this in February (as I write this), I will need to average a little more than three hours outdoors per month through 2022. It seems like a very reasonable goal. I want to do this for my health, both physical and mental. I also want to do this for fun on my own and with my wife and two daughters, whether we’re exploring on our own or while taking part in a class/event like the Dammen Adventure Race. I’m looking forward to using the center’s trails on snowshoes or cross country skis in the winter and via walking or jogging in the warmer months.

Please consider joining me in this 2,022-minute 2022 pledge to enjoy the nature center’s great outdoors.

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

Special Events

All of these events are free and sponsored by the Friends of the Nature Center. Your membership to the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center helps continue these programs into the future!

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



* **Audubon Presentation: The Birds That Shaped My Life**

Tuesday, April 19; 7:00-8:00 p.m. • Interpretive Center Classroom

Join Hormel Nature Center's Intern, Greta Wilkening, as she discusses her journey into environmental education and how it was shaped by a fascination with birds. Explore how looking for birds can connect us more deeply to the places we live in and the people we know in unexpected ways.

* **Friends & Volunteer Appreciation Event: Live Eagle Program by National Eagle Center**

Thursday, April 21; 6:30-7:30 p.m. • Ruby Rupner Auditorium • Friends members and current volunteers only

Enjoy a free presentation by The National Eagle Center. They will bring one of their many eagles with them and talk about the importance of eagle conservation and the work they do. The Nature Center will also be recognizing the fantastic work of our volunteers this year and will be announcing our Volunteer of the Year award winners.

* **Earth Day Craft: Earth Moss Balls**

Friday, April 22; 3:30-5:00 p.m. • Open House • Interpretive Center Multipurpose Room

Celebrate our wonderful life-giving planet by creating your very own living Earth ball out of moss.



* **Austin Audubon Bird Hikes**

May 10; 6:30 p.m., May 12; 6:30 a.m., May 17; 6:30 p.m., May 19; 6:30 a.m. • Meet in parking lot

Open to everyone, come hike the trails with master birders from Austin Audubon. They will be your birding guides and educators on an hour walk in the best places to find birds on our trails. Binoculars are provided.

* **Evening Special: David Stokes**

Tuesday, June 21; 6:30 p.m. • Interpretive Center Classroom

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.

* **Eco-Blitz Event: Inside the Hive Class**

Wednesday, July 6; 5:45-7:45 p.m. • Interpretive Center Classroom

Erin Rupp from Pollinate Minnesota will be going inside our Nature Center hives with you right by her side suited up in bee suits. Learn about the fascinating ins and outs of everyday honeybee life. *Space is limited, RSVP early



* **Eco-Blitz Event: Cost Share Programs for Prairie Restoration**

Thursday, July 7; 6:30 p.m. • Interpretive Center Classroom

Steve Lawler from Mower SWCD will be discussing program options available for homeowners and farmers to turn part of their property into a pollinator haven.

* **Eco-Blitz Event: How to Make Your Own Pollinator Garden**

Friday, July 8; 10:00-11:30 a.m. and a shorter presentation at 6:30-7:30 p.m. • Interpretive Center Classroom

The Nature Center staff have been creating and updating their own pollinator gardens for the past 5 years. A naturalist will share their knowledge on the best plants to attract pollinators to your yard. They will then lead participants on a walk to look for pollinators on some of the plants they talked about.

* **Eco-Blitz Event: River Clean-Up**

Saturday, July 9; 9:00-11:00 a.m. • Interpretive Center

Keep our waterways clean for all people and critters by helping us clean up the Cedar River or Dobbins Creek. Join us and earn a free kayak/canoe rental!



Special Events

* Dammen Adventure Family Fun Day

Saturday, July 23; 9:30 a.m.–3:30 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.*



* 2nd Annual Duck Race Down Dobbins Creek Fundraiser

Saturday, July 23; 1:00 p.m.

Sponsor 1 duck, 5 ducks, or as many as you want as they race their way down Dobbins Creek. We will start at the stepping stone bridge and end at the culvert bridge. Prizes will be awarded to places 1st–5th! All proceeds raised will go towards our Dammen Mentorship program!



* Honey Harvest & Processing Open House

Saturday, September 10; 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. • Interpretive Center Multipurpose Room

Stop in to witness the honey harvesting process from the Nature Center's own beehives! You will also have an opportunity to buy freshly spun honey. \$12 for 1 lb bottle and \$20 for 2 lb bottle.

Friends Members Only Classes and Events

Participants must RSVP by phone: 507-437-7519, email: info@hormelnaturecenter.org, or in person at least 2 days prior

* Cedar River Canoe Trip

Saturday, July 16; 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. • Free

Explore the beautiful Cedar River and parts of Mower County you may have never seen before, with a naturalist guided canoe trip. All ages are welcome. More details will be provided when you sign up.



* Monarch Tagging Class

Saturday, September 10; 1:00-3:00 p.m. • Free

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!

* Bus Trip

Saturday, September 17; 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. **\$10.00 per person, cash or check only.**



Volunteer Outdoor Work Days

If you are looking for volunteer hours or a way to impact your community in a positive way, look into our summer volunteer options. Activity possibilities are planting pollinator gardens, pulling invasive plants, or prairie/forest restoration. They will take place outside, so dress for the weather and wear clothes that can get dirty. Snacks will be provided! **Please RSVP to help us prepare.**

Details and other volunteer opportunities can be found at: hormelnaturecenter.org

June 15

July 13

August 17

All events will be from 3:30–5:00 pm

Preregistration is appreciated for all free 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 4th.

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.



Thursday, June 9; 10:00 a.m.: “Nature Paint-Along” Slow down and observe nature more closely through this guided painting class with naturalist Greta Wilkening. There are many mental and physical health benefits to art, such as improved mood, coordination, memory, motor skills, and more. Come join us for a relaxing session of nature art, where you’ll leave with a masterpiece of your own.



Thursday, June 23; 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, July 7; 10:00 a.m.: Erin Rupp from Pollinate Minnesota will be in town discussing the wonderful world of honey bees! She will have an insert of a hive with live bees with her, don’t worry, the bees are behind glass. Erin will answer everything you have wanted to know about how and why those bees make honey.

Thursday, July 21; 10:00 a.m.: Join Austin native Will Bjorndal for a morning of traditional and original music! From familiar folk favorites to brand new tunes, Will’s performance will surely captivate as he performs songs that celebrate the wild, wonderful world around us.

Thursday, August 4; 10:00 a.m.: Jackie Fallon is a naturalist and falconer from Rochester who will be bringing her peregrine falcon and American kestrel for a live bird show! She will share her 30+ years of experience in peregrine restoration and recovery management experiences.

Thursday, August 18; 10:00 a.m.: Ever wonder what that singing is in the early morning outside your window? How about that flash of yellow flying by in the afternoon sky? Terry Dorsey will try to help answer those questions with photos, whistles and a purposeful field trip with a senior special program at the Nature Center.



Trail Access Tours and Track Chairs

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. Please call or email to schedule a tour.



Track chairs are also available for free use for patrons who need mobility assistance on the trails. We have 3 track chairs available. To reserve one, please go to our website under “What We Offer” and follow the link or call Nature Center staff.



Summer Nature Play Afternoons

— Six select Thursdays and one Saturday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. —

Get outside and discover nature with your child! Enjoy free activities such as 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

Thursday, June 9; 1:00 p.m.: “Wonderful Wetlands” by naturalist Greta Wilkening. Join us in learning about the importance of mucky, magical wetlands. We will look at what makes up a wetland, why they are such important ecosystems, and learn about some of the wonderful creatures that call wetlands their home! **Art:** Make paw prints in modeling clay and stampers

Saturday, June 18; No program. Archery available. Art: Rainbow paper art

Thursday, June 23; 1:00 p.m.: Archery available. 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:** Painting and decorating a journey stick



Thursday, July 7; 1:00 p.m.: Erin Rupp from Pollinate Minnesota will be in town fascinating her younger audience with live honey bees (behind glass) and fun facts about their daily life. **Art:** Bee and butterfly art



Thursday, July 21; 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. **Art:** Pine cone critters

Thursday, August 4; 1:00 p.m.: Jackie Fallon is a naturalist and falconer from Rochester who will be bringing her peregrine falcon and American kestrel for a live bird show! **Art:** Eagle and owl paper bag puppets

Thursday, August 18; 1:00 p.m.: Fun with bird adaptations! Naturalists will help you get into the mind of a bird by understanding why their beaks are shaped the way they are. Enjoy a hands-on activity that will help you understand what each bird eats and why. **Art:** Fun with feathers

Canoe & Kayak Rentals



Rent a canoe or kayak for use on Dobbins Creek to East Side Lake or the pond.

- Available Monday—Saturday: 9:00 am—3:30 pm, Sunday: 1:00—3:30 pm; May 28-September 24, 2022 (no rentals on city holidays).
- \$10 for up to three hours. Cash or check only.
- 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! Purchase in person.

Thank you to the Austin Area Foundation for all new life jackets this year!

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, children must write three to five sentences about why they want to attend a particular class and thank the donors.

You must submit your paragraph at the Interpretive Center **before you register** (by April 1st if you plan to register on April 4th). Include name, age, address, and phone number. We will place your child in the class at the adjusted price. When registration opens on April 4th, 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.

Summer Adventure Classes

Registration opens Monday, April 4 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.

Reminder: Current Friends of the Nature Center members receive \$5.00 off every summer adventure class with coupon code.

Birth-2 Yrs

Busy Bees with Julie Hecimovich • \$10.00

Saturday, June 4; 10:00-11:00 a.m. • Class requires an accompanying adult.

"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.

Birth-5

Earth Day: Terrific Trees with Julie Hecimovich • \$10.00

Friday, April 22; 3:30-4:30 p.m. • Class requires an accompanying adult.

Special Earth Day class! Make your own pine needle paint brush. Build with tree branches. Listen to "tree-mendous" stories and hug a tree.

2-3 Years

Groovy Grasslands with Julie Hecimovich • \$15.00

Monday & Tuesday, June 6 & 7; 10:00-11:00 a.m. • Class requires an accompanying adult.

Safari time together to discover grasslands near and far! We will identify cool creatures lurking in grasses from around the world.

Bear Hunt Adventure with Julie Champlin • \$10.00

Thursday, July 14; 10:00-11:15 a.m. • Class requires an accompanying adult.

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 adventure and learn together! This includes a picnic with your teddy bear.

3-4 Years

Incredible Insects with Greta Wilkening • \$10.00

Wednesday, June 8; 9:00-10:30 a.m. • Class requires an accompanying adult.

What makes an insect an insect? The more you know about how insects interact with the world around them, the less scary they become! We will learn about honey bees and monarch butterflies and why they are so important. The class will explore what a pollinator does and why our food is so dependent on these teeny tiny, amazing insects!

4-5 Years

Little Explorers: Hand in Hand in Nature with David Stokes • \$35.00

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, June 20, 21, & 22; 9:30-11:30 a.m. • Class requires an accompanying adult.

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! **Registered participants only.**

Exploring the Garden with Kara Page • \$10.00

Friday, August 19; 9:00-10:30 a.m. • Class requires an accompanying adult.

It's harvest time at the Nature Center gardens! Learn with your senses with hands-on experience in our Nature Center garden. We will explore all the wonderful things that a garden gives nature and humans. We will even be able to taste some of the veggies when we harvest them!



Summer Adventure Classes

4-6 Years

Weather Watchers and Terrific Trackers with Julie Hecimovich • \$15.00
Monday & Tuesday, May 23 & 24; 6:00-7:00 p.m. • Class requires an accompanying adult.

Let's learn about the wonders of weather with puppets, snack time, and crafts. Identify and make animal tracks at the center and beyond!

Groovy Grasslands with Julie Hecimovich • \$15.00
Monday & Tuesday, June 6 & 7; 6:00-7:00 p.m. • Class requires an accompanying adult.

Safari time together to discover grasslands near and far! We will identify cool creatures lurking in grasses from around the world.



6-7 Years

Nature Detectives with David Stokes • \$35.00
Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, June 20, 21, & 22; 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: The Secret World of Birds with Greta Wilkening • \$20.00

Session 1: Wednesday & Thursday, June 15 & 16; 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Session 2: Wednesday & Thursday, June 15 & 16; 1:30-3:30 p.m. (Select one of the two sessions.) Birds are all around us, even if we don't always see or hear them. Join us in learning more about the secret world of birds: how they fly, eat, make nests, hide from predators, and more adaptive behaviors!



7-8 Years

Monarch Magic • \$10.00

Session 1: Tuesday, July 26; 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Session 2: Tuesday, August 2; 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!

8-9 Years

Junior Naturalists: Wonderful Wasps with Kara Page • \$20.00

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

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

Wasps are one of the most diverse groups of insects, but they are also one of the most disliked and misunderstood. We can think of wasps as good neighbors: pollinating our plants, eating insect pests, and being a food source for other wildlife. Rather than killing the wasps we find in our backyard, we can learn what these wonderful insects do, and how to co-exist peacefully.

8-10 Years

Astronomy • \$20.00

Wednesday, August 17; 8:30-10:30 p.m.

Become a space explorer **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!

Nocturnal Nature • \$20.00

Session 1: Wednesday, June 8; 8:30-10:30 p.m.

Session 2: Wednesday, June 22; 8:30-10:30 p.m. (Select one of the two sessions.)

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!



Fishing Class with Luke Reese • \$20.00

Wednesday, June 15; 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 16; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Learn about the basics of fishing: how to string a pole, tie lures on, and casting on Wednesday. On Thursday you will get a chance to put your skills to the test on East Side Lake. All fish caught will be catch and release.

In order to register you must go to our website under "Programs and Events" and click on [Register] for the class you want. It will take you to the Park & Rec. website where you will have to create an account.

Summer Adventure Classes



9-11 Yrs

Nature Photography with Morgan Converse • \$30.00

Tuesday & Wednesday, July 12 & 13; 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Interested in photography, nature, and exploring? This class is for you! Join local photographer Morgan Converse and 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 or use your own and bring a flash drive to take photos home.

Radical Raptors • \$48.00

Tuesday, July 19; 9:30-11:00 a.m.: Hawk talk & games

Tuesday, July 19; 8:30-10:00 p.m.: Owl Prowl for participant & family

Wednesday, July 20; 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.: Day trip to Wabasha (**bring a lunch**)

Discover the raptors of Minnesota here at the Nature Center and at the National Eagle Center in Wabasha! We will also be going on a hike in Wabasha, so wear comfortable clothes and closed-toe shoes.

9-12 Years

Survival Week with Derek Barkeim • \$75.00

Session 1: Monday through Friday, June 27-July 1; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Session 2: Monday through Friday, June 27-July 1; 1:30-4:30 p.m. (Select one of the two sessions.)

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, get lost in the woods with Nature Center naturalists while you learn orienteering by mastering how to use a compass and completing a compass course.

10-11 Years

Cedar River Canoe Trip • \$15.00

Friday, June 17; 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Explore the beautiful Cedar River and parts of Mower County you may have never seen before, with a naturalist guided canoe trip. You do not need to know how to canoe to go on this trip!

Nature Bicycling with Jacob Burkhart and Steve Kime • \$15.00

Monday, July 18; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Exercise, fresh air, adventure! Ride on Austin's bike trails to explore local waterways and other natural areas, stopping to study animals and plants along the way. Participants must provide a bike and helmet and be prepared to ride 5-10 miles during the class.



10-12 Yrs

Monarch Tagging • \$10.00

Thursday, August 25; 1:30-3:30 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!

11-12 Years

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

Wednesday, July 27; 9:00-10:30 a.m.: Canoe practice at the Nature Center

Thursday, July 28; 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 28.**

Friday, July 29: 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 28, breakfast and lunch July 29). **Full Scholarships available for this class.**

Overnight at the Nature Center • \$45.00

Friday-Saturday, July 15-16; 8:00 p.m.-9:00 a.m.

Spend the night at the Nature Center with our interns as we explore nature after dark. Investigate fascinating ways that animals come alive at night through nature walks, crafts, and activities. Enjoy an evening snack and breakfast in the morning.



Astronomy • \$20.00

Wednesday, August 3; 8:30-10:30 p.m.

Become a space explorer **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!

Summer Adventure Classes

Nature Photography with Morgan Converse • \$30.00

Tuesday & Wednesday, June 28 & 29; 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Interested in photography, nature, and exploring? This class is for you! Join local photographer Morgan Converse and gain vital knowledge on composition, lighting, angles, and more as we visit remote areas of the Nature Center. Cameras will be provided or use your own and bring a flash drive to take photos home.



12-14 Years

Shell Rock River Canoe & Fossil Hunting Trip • \$35.00

Monday, August 15; 9:00-10:30 a.m.: Canoe practice at the Nature Center

Tuesday, August 16; 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.: Canoe trip—**Bring Lunch**

Enjoy canoeing the Shell Rock River, then visit the Fossil & Prairie Park Preserve to hunt for fossils to keep! *Weather & water levels may change the river destination & activities for this trip.*

Camping Class • \$60.00

Friday-Saturday, June 24-25; 5:00 p.m.-9:00 a.m.

Take your backyard “camping” to the next level and sleep in the wilderness at the Nature Center. Learn how to put up your own tent (provided by us), cook supper, and start a fire. We will also go on a 3 mile hike at the Nature Center, so bring your hiking shoes. Don’t worry, a camping trip isn’t a camping trip without roasting marshmallows. Please bring your own sleeping bag. Supper and breakfast are provided.

Climbing Red Wing • \$100.00

Monday & Tuesday, July 11 & 12; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Indoor climbing practice

Wednesday, July 13; 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.: Outdoor climbing in Red Wing

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 13.

Adventure Bicycling with Jacob Burkhart and Steve Kime • \$15.00

Saturday, July 30; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Explore the “wilder” side of Austin by bicycle! We’ll ride on Austin’s bike trails through natural areas and along waterways, stopping to study animals and plants along the way. Participants must provide a bike and helmet and be prepared to ride 10 miles or more during the class.



12-18 Years

Family Nature Photography with Morgan Converse • \$45.00 per family

Saturday, June 11; 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 will be provided or use your own and bring a flash drive to take photos home.

Family Monarch Tagging • \$15.00

Saturday, August 27; 1:00-3:00 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!



Family/Adult

Adult Cedar River Kayaking Trip • \$15.00

Saturday, August 6; 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Explore the beautiful Cedar River and parts of Mower County you may have never seen before, with a naturalist guided kayak trip. You do not need to know how to kayak to go on this trip!

In order to register you must go to our website under “Programs and Events” and click on [Register] for the class you want. It will take you to the Park & Rec. website where you will have to create an account.



Summer & Fall Event Schedule 2022

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

April

- 02 (Sat)**
9 am-4 pm **Friends Rummage Sale in Ruby Auditorium: Open to Public**
- 04 (Mon)**
9 am **Summer Class Registration Begins Online**
- 06 (Wed)**
4 pm **Live Bird Program • Classroom**
- 09 (Sat)**
7-10:30 pm **Statewide Star Party at Sola Fide Observatory (pg. 15)**
- 17 (Sun)** — **Interpretive Center Closed** —
- 19 (Tue)**
12-6 pm **Red Cross Blood Drive • Auditorium**
7 pm **"The Birds That Shaped My Life": Audubon Program (pg. 4)**
- 21 (Thurs)**
6:30 pm **Friends and Volunteer Appreciation Event: Live Eagle Show (pg. 4)**
- 22 (Fri)**
3:30 pm **Earth Day Moss Ball Craft: Open House (pg. 4)**
3:30 pm **Terrific Trees (Birth-5 yrs)**
- 23 (Sat)**
8-10 pm **Sola Fide Observatory (pg. 15)**

May

- 07 (Sat)**
8-10 pm **Sola Fide Observatory (pg. 15)**
- 10 (Tue)**
6:30 pm **Evening Bird Hike with Austin Audubon**
- 11 (Wed)**
4 pm **Live Bird Program • Classroom**
- 12 (Thurs)**
6:30 am **Morning Bird Hike with Austin Audubon**

May

- 17 (Tue)**
6:30 pm **Evening Bird Hike with Austin Audubon**
- 19 (Thurs)**
6:30 am **Morning Bird Hike with Austin Audubon**
- 21 (Sat)**
9-11 pm **Sola Fide Observatory (pg. 15)**
- 23-24 (Mon-Tue)**
6 pm **Weather Watchers & Terrific Trackers (4-6 yrs)**
- 28 (Sat)**
9:00 am **Canoe & Kayak Rental Begins (pg. 7)**
- 30 (Mon)** — **Interpretive Center Closed** —
No canoe/kayak rentals

June

- 04 (Sat)**
10 am **Busy Bees (Birth-2 yrs)**
- 06-07 (Mon-Tue)**
10 am **Groovy Grasslands (2-3 yrs)**
6 pm **Groovy Grasslands (4-6 yrs)**
- 08 (Wed)**
9 am **Incredible Insects (3-4 yrs)**
4 pm **Live Bird Program • Classroom**
8:30 pm **Nocturnal Nature: Session 1 (8-10 yrs)**
- 09 (Thur)**
10 am **Senior Special: Greta Wilkening (pg. 6)**
1 pm **Nature Play: Wonderful Wetlands (pg. 7)**
- 11 (Sat)**
5:30 pm **Family Nature Photography**
9-11 pm **Sola Fide Observatory (pg. 15)**
- 15-16 (Wed-Thurs)**
9 am **Fishing Class (8-10 yrs)**
9:30 am **Junior Rangers: Session 1 (6-7 yrs)**
1:30 pm **Junior Rangers: Session 2 (6-7 yrs)**
- 15 (Wed)**
3:30pm **Volunteer Outdoor Work Day (pg. 5)**

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

Summer & Fall Event Schedule 2022



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

June

- 17 (Fri)**
9 am Cedar River Canoe Trip (10-12 yrs)
- 18 (Sat)**
1 pm Nature Play Afternoon with Archery
- 20-22 (Mon-Wed)**
9:30 am David Stokes: Little Explorers (4-5 yrs)
1:30 pm David Stokes: Nature Detectives (6-7 yrs)
- 21 (Tue)**
6:30 pm David Stokes Evening Program (pg. 4)
- 22 (Wed)**
8:30 pm Nocturnal Nature: Session 2 (8-10 yrs)
- 23 (Thurs)**
10 am Senior Special: David Stokes (pg. 6)
1 pm Nature Play: David Stokes (pg. 7)
- 24-25 (Fri-Sat)**
5 pm Camping Class (12-14 yrs)
- 25 (Sat)**
9-11 pm Sola Fide Observatory (pg. 15)
- 27-1 (Mon-Fri)**
9 am Survival Week (9-12 yrs)
1:30 pm Survival Week (9-12 yrs)
- 28-29 (Tue-Wed)**
5:30 pm Nature Photography (12-14 yrs)

July

- 04 (Mon)** — Interpretive Center Closed —
No canoe/kayak rentals
- 06 (Wed)**
5:45 pm Eco Blitz: Into The Hive Class (pg. 4)
- 07 (Thurs)**
10 am Senior Special: Erin Rupp (pg. 6)
1 pm Nature Play: All About Bees (pg. 7)
6:30 pm Eco Blitz: Cost Sharing Programs for Planting Pollinator Plants (pg. 4)

July

- 08 (Fri)**
10 am Eco Blitz: Garden & Pollinator Program (pg. 4)
6:30 pm Eco Blitz: Garden & Pollinator Program (pg. 4)
- 09 (Sat)**
9 am Eco Blitz: Service Day: Clean our Rivers (pg. 4)
9-11 pm Sola Fide Observatory (pg. 15)
- 11-12 (Mon-Tue)**
9 am Climbing Class (12-18 yrs)
- 12-13 (Tue-Wed)**
9:30 am Nature Photography (9-11 yrs)
- 13 (Wed)**
8:30 am Climbing Red Wing Day Trip (12-18 yrs)
3:30 pm Volunteer Outdoor Work Day (pg. 5)
- 14 (Thurs)**
10 am Bear Hunt Adventure (2-3 yrs)
- 15-16 (Fri-Sat)**
8 pm Overnight at the Nature Center (11-13 yrs)
- 16 (Sat)**
9:30 am Friends Members Canoe Trip (pg. 5)
9-11 pm Sola Fide Observatory (pg. 15)
- 18 (Mon)**
9 am Nature Bicycling (10-11 yrs)
- 19 (Tue)**
9:30 am Radical Raptors Hawk Talk (9-11 yrs)
8:30 pm Radical Raptors Owl Prowl (9-11 yrs)
- 20 (Wed)**
8 am Radical Raptors Day Trip (9-11 yrs)
4 pm Live Bird Program • Classroom
- 21 (Thurs)**
10:00 am Senior Special: Will Bjorndal (pg. 6)
1:00 pm Nature Play: Will Bjorndal (pg. 7)

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Summer & Fall Event Schedule 2022

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

July

23 (Sat)

- 9:30 am- Dammen Adventure Family
- 3:30 pm Fun Day (pg. 5)
- 1 pm Duck Race Down Dobbins (pg. 5)

26 (Tue)

- 1:30 pm Monarch Magic Class: Session 1 (7-8 yrs)

27 (Wed)

- 9 am Canoe practice for Eagle Bluff/Root River Trip (11-12 yrs)

28-29 (Thurs-Fri)

- 8 am Eagle Bluff/Root River Trip (11-12 yrs)

30 (Sat)

- 9 am Adventure Bicycling (12-18 yrs)

August

02 (Tue)

- 1:30 pm Monarch Magic Class: Session 2 (7-8 yrs)

03 (Wed)

- 8:30 pm Astronomy Class (11-13 yrs)

04 (Thurs)

- 10 am Senior Special: Live Bird Program (pg. 6)
- 1 pm Nature Play: Live Bird Program (pg. 7)

06 (Sat)

- 9:30 am Cedar River Kayak Trip (16+)
- 9-11 pm Sola Fide Observatory (pg. 15)

11-13 (Thurs-Sat)

- 4-7 pm Mower County Fair Programs

15 (Mon)

- 9 am Shell Rock River Canoe Practice (12-14 yrs)

16 (Tue)

- 8 am Shell Rock River Day Trip (12-14 yrs)

17 (Wed)

- 3:30 pm Volunteer Outdoor Work Day (pg. 5)
- 4 pm Live Bird Program • Classroom
- 8:30 pm Astronomy Class (8-10 yrs)

August

18 (Thurs)

- 10 am Senior Special: Terry Dorsey (pg. 6)
- 1 pm Nature Play: Bird Adaptations (pg. 7)

19 (Fri)

- 9 am Exploring the Garden (4-5 yrs)

20 (Sat)

- 9-11 pm Sola Fide Observatory (pg. 15)

23-24 (Tue-Wed)

- 9:30 am Junior Naturalists: Session 1 (8-9 yrs)
- 1:30 pm Junior Naturalists: Session 2 (8-9 yrs)

25 (Thurs)

- 1:30 pm Monarch Tagging Class (10-12 yrs)

27 (Sat)

- 1 pm Family Monarch Tagging Class

September

03 (Sat)

Tickets on sale at Super Fresh Produce for Halloween Warm-Up (Oct. 14 & 15)

9-11 pm

Sola Fide Observatory (pg. 15)

05 (Mon)

— Interpretive Center Closed —

No canoe/kayak rentals

10 (Sat)

- 9 am-12 pm Honey Harvesting Open House (pg. 5)

1 pm

Friends Members Monarch Tagging (pg.5)

14 (Wed)

4 pm

Live Bird Program • Classroom

17 (Sat)

7:30 am

Friends Bus Trip to MN Arboretum (pg. 5)

20 (Tue)

7 pm

Audubon Program

24 (Sat)

5 pm

Canoe & Kayak Rental Ends

9-11 pm

Sola Fide Observatory (pg. 15)

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

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)

All rental availability is on our website. Interested parties must make all requests and payments in full through our website. All information can be found under our "Facility Rental" tab on the front page of our website.



Sola Fide Observatory

Discover the night sky during our **free** observatory events! Sola Fide Observatory is open to the public on specified Saturdays throughout the year (see event schedule on pages 12-14). On these select evenings, Nature Center staff and volunteers are available to assist the public in viewing the night sky.

* The observatory is weather dependent. If skies are not clear, the observatory will not be available. Check out our "Sola Fide Observatory" tab on our website for the full schedule and social media for closing/weather updates.

Address: 53680 180th St., Austin, MN 55912



Summer Dammen Mentorship Program

Join our summer team as a Dammen Mentor! This mentorship program allows us to offer exciting outdoor activities while providing youth with valuable work experience in outdoor education.

If you are 13-18 years of age and interested in applying for our summer Dammen mentorship program, check out our website for an application under the "Get Involved" tab or stop by in person to pick one up. Applications are due April 11th by 5 p.m.



Friends of the Nature Center Board Members

Tim Ruzek, *President*

Michelle Meiergerd, *VP*

Merrilyn Berg, *Treasurer*

Rhonda Alberts, *Secretary*

Lee Bjorndal

Diane Petrik

Mike Skiba

Terry Dorsey

John Wright

David Wagner

Jennifer Davis

Jon Burkhart



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.

Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Staff

Luke Reese, *Director/Naturalist*

Julie Champlin, *Office Manager*

Sydney Weisinger, *Naturalist/Teacher*

Kelly Bahl, *Outreach Naturalist/Teacher*

Greta Wilkening, *Naturalist/Intern*

Kara Page, *Naturalist/Intern*

Jill DeMoss, *Custodian & Event Staff*

Sue Crabtree, *Custodian & Event Staff*





Jay C. Hormel Nature Center
1304 21st St NE
Austin, MN 55912
507-437-7519
www.hormelnaturecenter.org

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The Hormel Nature Center Offers:

- * Interpretive center with live birds, snakes, salamanders, frogs, and a turtle
- * Over 500 acres and 9 miles of trail through woods, wetlands, and prairies
- * Summer adventure classes with full and partial scholarships
- * School programs, family classes, and free community programs
- * First time job experience as a Summer Mentee
- * Canoe/kayak and building rentals
- * Volunteer opportunities
- * Sola Fide Observatory
- * Free tracked power chair use
- * Trail access vehicle tours

Visit www.hormelnaturecenter.org for more information

