

Winter Nature Programs

Saturday, Dec. 9

Winter Greenery – Porch Pots & Gnomes

Session 3 – Porch Pots: 8:30 - 10 a.m.

Session 4 – Gnomes: 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Use natural greenery from the park to create beautiful door decorations! This class will have a class fee in addition to park entrance fees. Porch Pots and Gnomes will be \$30 each. Please email emily.jacobson@wisconsin.gov to determine availability. If there is space available in the class, you will receive a return call with more information and requesting payment.

Saturday, Dec. 16

Live Snake Encounter **2 p.m.**

Learn all about snakes and how they eat! Then watch as our education fox snake Mickey is fed a mouse! You will even get the chance to touch or hold our education snakes. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium,

Monday, Jan. 1

First Day Hike **1-3 p.m.**

Kick off the new year with our annual First Day Hike! Trail TBD based on the weather and trail conditions. Please dress for the weather! (Likely the Green or Blue Trail) We will have a campfire going so you can warm up before and after the hike! Meet at Shelter 1.

Saturday, Jan. 6

Owl Prowl & Encounter **3:30 – 5 p.m.**

Learn all about owls and what makes them special birds of prey! Encounter two special owl ambassadors, who are cared for by Ed Foster. Get a close look at these majestic creatures and engage in a question-and-answer session with Ed about the owls. Afterwards, head outside with our Natural Resources Educator to listen for owl calls and maybe even spot on owl!

Thursday, Jan. 11

Knee High Naturalist **10-11:30 a.m.**

A Snowy Day: Bring your 3 to 5-year-old and learn about the special substance that falls from the sky in the winter! How and why does snow fall? How do animals use the snow to help them? Explore together with your children! Siblings are welcome, but please let us know to expect them! Please pre-register before Tuesday, January 9th by calling 262-878-5613 and leaving the number and ages of the children that will be attending.

Saturday, Jan. 13

Live Snake Encounter **2 p.m.**

Learn all about snakes and how they eat! Then watch as our education fox snake Mickey is fed a mouse! You will even get the chance to touch or hold our education snakes. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

Needle Felted Owl **11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.**

Bring a bag lunch (if you would like) and enjoy a fun craft at the park! Winter is the season when owls are nesting, so in honor of this season, we will needle felt cute owls out of wool. Learn the needing felting technique using wool roving. This class is designed for adults or youth 12 years and older accompanied by a helpful adult. Please pre-register for this class by calling 262-878-5613.

Saturday, Jan. 27

Live Snake Encounter **2 p.m.**

Learn all about snakes and how they eat! Then watch as our education fox snake Mickey is fed a mouse! You will even get the chance to touch or hold our education snakes. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Saturday, Feb. 3

Live Snake Encounter **2 p.m.**

Learn all about snakes and how they eat! Then watch as our education fox snake Mickey is fed a mouse! You will even get the chance to touch or hold our education snakes. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Thursday, Feb 8

Knee High Naturalist **10-11:30 a.m.**

Owl Babies: Bring your 3 to 5-year-old and learn about these unique birds of prey! Explore together with your children! Siblings are welcome, but please let us know to expect them! Please pre-register before Tuesday, February 6th by calling 262-878-5613 and leaving the number and ages of the children that will be attending.

Saturday, Feb. 10

Return to Romance **6-8 p.m.**

Celebrate love with Richard Bong State Recreation Area! Bring a special someone who makes you feel loved and enjoy a winter hike, campfire, music, and some tasty goodies! This event will have both indoor and outdoor components, so please dress for the weather! Meet in the Visitor Center. There is an event fee of \$8 per person, or \$15 per couple. Registration required: 262-878-5613

Saturday, Feb. 17

Winter Tracks Hike **11 a.m.**

Dress for the weather and head out into the winter wonderland that is Richard Bong State Recreation Area this month! Observe the unique seasonal changes and watch for animal tracks! Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, Feb. 17

Live Snake Encounter **2 p.m.**

Learn all about snakes and how they eat! Then watch as our education fox snake Mickey is fed a mouse! You will even get the chance to touch or hold our education snakes. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Saturday, Feb. 24

Full Moon Hike **4:30-6 p.m.**

Join us at Richard Bong SRA for an evening full moon hike! Hike details TBD.

Updated Program Registration Procedure

We recognize we need to improve our Program Registration Procedure. This has changed several times over the course of 2023 as our entrance station hours and staffing availability has changed. Our plan for 2024 is the following:

This excludes December 2023 Winter Greenery Classes

Best Option – Phone Call or In Person

1. Call or visit Richard Bong State Recreation Area Entrance Station between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.
Phone Number: 262-878-5613
2. Give the name and date of the program.
3. Give the names of all participants you are registering. If relevant give the ages of participants. (Knee High Naturalist)
4. If applicable, provide payment information.

Alternative Option

1. Email: emily.jacobson@wisconsin.gov with the name of the program, the names of the interested participants, and a good call back phone number and time.
2. Expect a phone call or email back over the next 7 days confirming your registration and requesting payment if applicable.

Thank You!

Bong Naturalist Association (BNA) extends our most sincere thanks to our partner organizations for their tremendous support. With these generous grant awards, and in many cases, BNA's match, we continue to assist RBSRA in enhancing the variety of accessible educational and recreational activities at the park. And thank you to our dedicated volunteers and BNA members. These projects can only be completed because of their creativity, hard work, time, and skills!

Friends of Wisconsin State Parks – Incentive Grant award funds purchased:

- Snapping Turtle Eco-System & Turtles at RBSRA interpretive posters and hand-crafted wood frames for the upcoming new Snapping Turtle exhibit;
- Wireless Microphone System for Visitor Center and park presentations;
- Microscopes! Compound indoor and Indoor/Outdoor Student scopes and supplies;
- Fun & educational visual tools for events: snapping turtle skull, non-venomous snake skull and skeleton as well as a plankton tow for our Pond Peeking events; and
- Amphitheater Benches – replaced 15 full benches.

Kenosha Community Foundation – CBK Small Grant award funds purchased:

- Sponsored Ryan Meisel's Spiritual Currents Program;
- Three children's picnic table magnifying stations;
- NEC - additional playground mulch; and
- Amphitheater Benches – replaced five full benches.

Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin – C.D. Besadny Conservation Fund purchased:

- A portion of the restoration of the ADA path from Lot G to a new (to-be-installed) waterfowl hide.

Wild Ones – Root River Area Chapter funds purchased:

- Native plants – prairie and savanna native plants for the NEC and Butterfly Garden.

December
January
February

Nature Education Programs



Richard Bong
State Recreation
Area 2023-2024

**All programs require a Wisconsin
State Park entrance sticker or
daily entrance fee.**