

RICHARD BONG STATE RECREATION AREA MAY 2026 EVENTS

Friday
May
8

SPRING FLOWER HIKE
9:30–11:30 a.m.

Here for a moment, spring brings beautiful flowers of great beauty. Join our educator for this special hike focused on spring ephemerals! Bring a camera or a nature journal to record your observations! Hiking shoes are recommended. Meet near Shelter 4, at the beach.

Saturday
May
9

Mosaic Birdbath Craft
9 a.m.— noon

Create a mosaic birdbath using a terracotta saucer. Display your unique design in your yard or garden. All materials are included. This class is recommended for ages 12 and up. There is a class materials fee of \$15. Limited spots are available so please pre-register by calling John at (608) 217-0989. Meet at the volunteer shop on the service road "Rhodes Road". (North of the park entrance)

Wednesday
May
13

ADOPT - A - HIGHWAY
Volunteering Event
9:30–11 a.m.

Join the Bong Volunteer Crew in a spring Adopt a Highway. This is a great chance to give back to the property and meet the volunteers that help make this park special. Be prepared to work along Highway 142. Supplies and reflective vests will be provided. Meet in the Visitor Center Parking Lot.

Thursday
May
14

KNEE HIGH NATURALIST
A Time to Grow
10 - 11:30 a.m.

Cranes & Egrets! Bring your 3 to 5 year old and enjoy a morning of child-centered nature exploration! Meet at Shelter 1.

Saturday
May
16

BUBBLES & BREEZES
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Fly a kite! Wave a bubble wand! Make sand sculptures! Spend time by the lake "catching the breeze". Bring your own kite or purchase one from our Friend's Group! Meet at Shelter 3.

Sunday
May
17

BUTTERFLY MONITOR
TRAINING
1 - 3:30 p.m.

This program will cover the types of common butterflies found in Southeast Wisconsin, the Pollard protocols for monitoring butterflies, the forms used, and where to submit the data that is collected. There will be a general overview of host plants and trees. Plenty of resources for more information will be provided, including handouts, websites and YouTube recommendations. This program is recommended for adults and children 10 or older with an adult. Meet at the Visitor Center. Please sign up using this link:

<https://forms.gle/kh9VZr8VBDEBEfrH7>



Saturday
May
9

BNA BUCKTHORN REMOVAL
1 p.m.

Join our friends group the Bong Naturalist Association (BNA) on volunteer buckthorn removal effort! Please wear long pants, long-sleeve shirts and sturdy shoes. Bring work gloves and safety glasses. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Wednesday
May
20

ADOPT - A - HIGHWAY
Volunteering Event
9:30–11 a.m.

Join the Bong Volunteer Crew in a spring Adopt a Highway. Be prepared to work along Highway 142. Supplies and reflective vests will be provided. Meet in the Visitor Center Parking Lot.

Saturday
May
23

ARE THERE BATS AT BONG?
8:26 - 9:26 p.m.

Are there Bats at Bong? Find out with a local Bat Ambassador and Master Naturalist, John Davies. Learn about acoustic monitoring techniques and discover these special flying mammals in action! Meet at Happ Playground in Sunrise campground.

Saturday
May
23

ASTRONOMY AT BONG
9 - 11 p.m.

Meet at Parking Lot F to uncover the mysteries that light our natural sky each evening, with local astronomy enthusiast – Tom Harper! Bring your own telescope or binoculars and/or take a peek through Tom's scope!

Friday
May
29

SPRING MEDITATION HIKE
3 - 4:30 p.m.

Take this opportunity to slow down, unwind and enjoy the season. Nature is proven to restore your mind and improve cognition. Utilize the power of nature to relax and unwind. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

STAY UP TO DATE

FIND THE CALENDER OF EVENTS ONLINE AT:

**BONG
NATURALIST
ASSOCIATION**



SCAN ME



<https://bongnaturalistassociation.org/>

PARK INFORMATION

Richard Bong State Recreation Area

26313 Burlington Road
Kansasville, WI 53139

Program Information & Accommodations:

Natural Resources Educator: Emily Cole

Emily.Cole@wisconsin.gov

Bong Naturalist Association: Friend's Group

BongNaturalistAssociation@gmail.com

Field Trips and Group Programming!

Philosophy

We offer a variety of programming and often work with the requesting organization to create a program that best suits their needs and participants. Our lessons are based on nature exploration, inquiry led science and child centered learning.

Available Topics

Topics are not limited to the following, please reach out to: Emily.Cole@wisconsin.gov

- **Wetland Ecosystems:** Pond peeking, invertebrate life cycles and amphibian life cycles.
- **How To Stay Found:** Beginner compass skills, camping, hiking and outdoor education
- **Reptile Life and Habits:** Pond peeking, reptile identification and characteristics
- **Prairie Plants:** Prairie ecosystems, plant identification, biodiversity and pollinators
- **Early Wisconsin Land and Life:** Land succession and observation, early Wisconsin pioneers and land use, guided visit the Rhodes family foundation and Champion Tree Trail

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May 2026



NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Vehicle admission pass or daily entrance fee required unless otherwise noted.