

Naturalist Report: Events  
October 2019

**Educational Programs (School Groups):**

Stocker Elementary “Animal & Plant Defenses” field trip (October 15)—51 students from grade 1 participated in the first “Animal & Plant Defenses” program offered. Students observed fur and bone specimens, played a game simulating plant-herbivore interactions, went on a “bingo” defenses scavenger hunt, and spotted colors on the camouflage trail.

Grewenow Elementary “Habitats” field trip (October 16)—54 students from grade 1 participated in this field trip. Students started by naming plant survival needs with the Green Box, then explored the forest, pond, and prairie habitats for organisms and their needs.

Harvey Elementary “Animal & Plant Defenses” field trip (October 23)—51 students from grade 2 participated in this field trip. Students observed fur and bone specimens, played a game simulating plant-herbivore interactions, went on a “bingo” defenses scavenger hunt, and spotted colors on the camouflage trail.

Frank Elementary “Invasive Species” field trip (October 24)—43 students from grade 2 participated in this field trip/service day. Students took part in the web of life activity and played invasive species tag before competing to cut the most invasive brush behind the nature center. This trip was rescheduled from October 2 due to unusually intense mosquitoes.

Tosa Rec “Habitats” field trip (October 25)—41 students from grades 2-5 participated in this field trip. Students started by naming plant survival needs with the Green Box, then explored the forest, pond, and prairie habitats for organisms and their needs. Students had visited Boundless Adventures prior to the field trip.

Country Meadows Montessori “Habitats” field trip (October 29)—27 students from grade 2 participated in this field trip. Students started by naming plant survival needs with the Green Box, then explored the forest, pond, and prairie habitats for organisms and their needs.

**Educational Programs (Youth Groups):**

Brownies “Hiker” badge program (October 8)—13 Brownies participated in this afternoon “Hiker” program. Brownies planned their hiking route through the woods, spotted plants and animals along the trail, and were particularly enthused about dressing their volunteer “prepared” and “unprepared” hikers.

Brownies “Bugs” badge program (October 10)—12 Brownies participated in an evening “Bugs” program led by Tracy. Brownies learned about the unique characteristics of insects, sorted toy

bugs into insects and other bugs, searched for bugs briefly in the prairie before a rainstorm, and made butterfly life cycle crafts.

Bear Scouts “Fur, Feathers, & Ferns” badge program (October 12)—8 Scouts participated in this program, attempting leaf chromatography, planting seeds in an egg carton “vegetable garden,” and searching for signs of animals on a scavenger hunt hike, and doing the web of life activity. Scouts especially enjoyed the hike, spotting a garter snake. Time did not allow for a compost discussion.

Girl Scouts “Geocacher” badge program (October 19)—5 Scouts participated in this program, learning about coordinates and GPS, practicing receiver use, and locating geocaches in the park. The group located 4 caches and brought items to exchange.

Girl Scouts “Geocacher” badge program (October 22)—7 Scouts participated in this program, learning about coordinates and GPS, practicing receiver use, and locating geocaches in the park. The group located 4 caches and brought handmade items to exchange.

Girl Scouts “Geocacher” badge program (October 26)—5 Scouts participated in this program, learning about coordinates and GPS, practicing receiver use, and locating geocaches in the park. The group located 3 caches and brought items to exchange.

### **Educational Programs (Home School):**

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Home School Science (October 10)—10 students attended the “Mammals” class. Students completed their monthly phenology study, discussed the unique characteristics of mammals, examined specimens in the nature center, and designed (by drawing or crafting) new mammals in small groups.

K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade Home School Science (October 11)—11 and 12 students attended the morning and afternoon sessions, respectively, of the “Signs of Fall” class. Students completed their monthly phenology study, performed a fall leaves dance, attempted leaf chromatography, and made leaf study sheets.

### **Educational Programs (Camps):**

None during fall

### **Activities (Naturalist Led):**

Nature Hike (October 5)—0 participants attended the second monthly Nature Hike, despite advertisements and nice fall weather. The theme for this hike was fall colors.

Nature Story Time (October 17)—15 participants (7 parents and 8 children) attended the “Fall Leaves”—themed event. Tracy led families in a story about fall leaves, crafts (including fingerprint trees), and searching outside for different colors.

Candlelight Halloween Hikes (October 25 & 26)—48 participants (most pre-registered) attended Friday night’s hike, following the candlelit trail and visiting the nature center. Tracy, Barry, and Warren signed participants in, distributed popcorn and other refreshments, and supervised pumpkin painting. Rick Broz engaged and directed visitors. Saturday night’s hike was rained out and eventually cancelled due to lack of interest, though Liz and Barry prepared indoor nature- and science-themed activities.

### **Fundraising:**

none

### **Misc.:**

Building Rental: FMC Global (October 4)—10 participants held their monthly meeting in the building before going to Boundless Adventures. Liz supervised the rental.

1<sup>st</sup> Friday @ the Kenosha Visitors Center (October 4)—Barb Meyocks and Dennis Flath hosted Pringle’s information table.

Teacher Naturalist training session (October 9)—6 staff and volunteers attended a 2-hour review of the highlighted fall field trip programs: “Animal & Plant Defenses” and “Habitats.” Liz and Tracy led Teacher Naturalists in a walk-through of the programs’ activities.

Teacher Appreciation Day @ Boundless Adventures (October 12)—Liz and Barry were on call to advertise PNC’s programs to any teachers in attendance, but were not called.

Fire Pit Rental: Cub Scouts 385 (October 19)—40 participants attended this den’s meeting and hike, held at the fire pit.

Board of Directors Meeting (October 23)—rescheduled to November 2 due to lack of quorum.

Invasive Species Workday (October 26)—1 Boy Scout attended this workday and helped Richard clear brush behind the nature center.