

Entire Schedule at a Glance

Friday, June 2nd

University of Wisconsin – Stout – Memorial Student Center, Ballroom A and B

6:30 – 7:30 pm Social Hour and Silent Auction (cash bar)

7:30 pm Keynote Speaker: Beverly Paulan – A Brief History of Time (Trying to bring back the Whooping Crane in 4 not-so-easy steps)

Beverly was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago and escaped to Wisconsin at every opportunity. She developed a love of all things nature related, followed closely by a passion for photography and flying. After obtaining a degree in Biology, Beverly embarked on a very circuitous route to her current position as Conservation Pilot with WI DNR. Along the way, the most interesting stop was as the official crane mama, otherwise known as Supervisor of Field Operations, for Operation Migration. (See more information on the “Keynote Speakers” tab.)

Saturday, June 3rd

Presentations at University of Wisconsin – Stout

Memorial Student Center – Ballroom A or B

All sessions will be 45 minutes with question and answer time following the presentations

Coffee provided all day

9:00 am Making an Eastern Bluebird House Workshop – David Uher and Friends

If you are interested in attracting Eastern Bluebirds to your yard and under 18 years old, this workshop is for you. Find out about Bluebirds and make your own Bluebird house for your backyard. FREE, but please pre-register by emailing naturefest@outlook.com and writing “bluebird houses” in the subject line. We will contact you. Space is limited to 20.

10:00 am Stream and Lake Monitoring – Ted and Lisa Ludwig

Are you concerned about water quality issues in your local area? Have you ever considered becoming a Citizen Scientist stream or lake monitor? Ted Ludwig, Red Cedar Basin Monitoring Group president, will speak about how you or your family can get involved in a statewide monitoring program. As a volunteer stream/lake monitor, you gather data once a month from May until October and enter the data into an online program. Ludwig will also speak about a statewide bat monitoring program that he has been involved in for six years. As a volunteer bat monitor, you will have the opportunity to monitor bats by a car, boat, or walking route. Find out more information by attending this session. Questions are encouraged.

11:00 am Birding By Ear – Brian Collins

Join Brian Collins, contract ornithologist, nature author/photographer, and high school biology teacher for a multimedia exploration of the sounds birds make and how we may use those sounds to identify a bird by species and decipher clues about its life! Brian has been birding by ear since 1983 and has been conducting point count bird surveys for most of his adult life, contributing to projects for the University of Minnesota, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin DNR, numerous private wildlife and nature organizations, and the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II. Learn some quick tips, fun facts, and some less-known secrets about the sounds birds make!

1:00 pm Early Detection, Delayed Reaction Repercussions of Amur Cork Tree and Wild Chervil -Chris Gaetzke

An illustration of what happens when early detection of prohibited species are not reported. Amur Cork Tree and Wild Chervil are both found in Chippewa Valley. Both plants have unique ways of becoming established and then completely altering the surrounding ecosystems. First, we will converse the distribution of known populations throughout the US and WI and then talk about how to inventory a community effectively. Now after one growing season, the results from multiple treatment trials will discover how effective chemical applications compare to one another.

2:00 pm Monarch of the Butterflies – Ken Parejko

There are about 5,000 species of mammals on earth, 10,000 species of birds, but almost a million kinds of insects. As children we observe and learn about ants, fireflies, honeybees, ladybugs, and butterflies, and of these probably the best known, the monarch. It's beauty, drawn in lines of black and orange; its incredible transformation from creepy-crawly caterpillar to delicate adult bravely winging its way across a summer afternoon; and especially the amazing two-thousand mile migration of this little hero, weighing in at about the same as an eighth teaspoon of sugar, makes the monarch a natural marvel. While using monarch caterpillars teaching biology at UW-Stout, I learned to admire the single-minded way they chewed their way through milkweed leaves, only to wrap themselves in a delicate shroud, undergo a mysterious transformation, then emerge ready to fly and take on in their own way the same hard world we all live in. My talk will summarize monarch biology (including how to raise them at home), then turn to their migration and issues of conservation. For a more detailed look at this topic, see Monarch of the Butterflies by this author, available on Amazon.com

3:00 pm Night Sky – Heidi Conde

Increase your enjoyment of the night sky by understanding the apparent motion of celestial bodies. Learn to use a planisphere to navigate the constellations. This program is participatory and hands-on.

Presenter Bio: Heidi Conde is a longtime amateur astronomer and a retired Wisconsin DNR educator and naturalist. She has taught astronomy for over 15 years, including astronomy mini courses at UW-Madison, and astronomy programs for five State of Wisconsin properties, Hobbs Observatory at Beaver Creek Reserve, LE Phillips Memorial Public Library, Senior Americans Day at UW-Eau Claire, and Chippewa Valley Learning in Retirement.

5:30 pm Avian Pursuit – Steve Betchkal

LUCETTES BREWERY – 910 Hudson Road (Menomonie)

Did you enjoy the active field trips? By now, you've discovered that birds are fascinating — there's so much to learn and love about them! To round out your outdoor experiences, we are inviting you back indoors where Steve Betchkal will host a rousing game of Avian Pursuit (that would be Trivial Pursuit with all bird questions!). Categories include: Birds in Culture, ID Challenges, Bird Anatomy, and Bird Behavior. Participants are welcome to form teams, or go it alone in learning about birds...while playing! ...Oh! And there will be prizes! And enjoy wood-fire pizza and a beer while you play!

University of Wisconsin - Stout

Memorial Student Center - Ballrooms A and B

7:30 pm - Keynote Speaker: Dr. Craig Allen "Oconto County Woodlot to New Mexico Mountains, and the Fate of Earth's Ancient Original Forests"

Dr. Allen – raised in Wisconsin – is one of the world's most renowned ecologists. Few people on Earth know as much about the health of the planet's forests as he, and few have more insight into how those forests are faring.

Dr. Allen has worked tirelessly to bridge between the worlds of science and the public to foster high-quality societal conversations and achieve science-based conservation outcomes.

With the help of striking photos of wonderfully diverse forests and ancient trees from around the world, he traces his path from his family's woodlot and maple-syrup operations in Northeastern Wisconsin, and an adulthood based in New Mexico studying the ecology of mountain forests across the Southwest US and eventually on all six forested continents – leading to planetary perspectives on the history and status of forests around the globe, current trends in forest ecology and conservation, and the challenges of preserving the remaining primeval forests of Earth.

Field Trips

6:00 am

Early Birds (Dunnville Bottoms) 3 ½ hours – Limit 12 – **Full**

Early Birds 2 at Dunnville Botttoms, Downsville - Steve Betchkal - Limit 14

7:00 am

Canoeing while birding (Red Cedar and Chippewa Rivers) 4 hours – Limit 14

Birding for Beginners (Hoffman Hills, Meet at UW-Stout's Memorial Student Center, Menomonie) 2 hours – Limit 20

10:00 am

Exploration of Terrestrial Insects and Sampling Methods (Menomin Park, Menomonie) 4 Hours
– Limit 15

1:00 pm

Plant and Paddling Kayak Eco Tour (Braun's Bay on Half Moon Lake, Eau Claire) 2 hours –
Limit 12 (EXTRA FEE if renting a kayak \$20). You are welcome to bring your own boat!

Plants of the Prairie (Dunnville State Wildlife Area, Downsville) 1 ½ hours – Limit 30

3:30 pm

Nature Photography (Hoffman Hills, Meet at UW-Stout's Memorial Student Center, Menomonie
) 2 hours – Limit 20

9:00 pm

Astronomy Observation (Phelan Park, Menomonie) 2 Hours – Limit 20

Sunday, June 4th

7:00 am Tiffany Bottoms Bird and Plant Tour by Rail – (Durand) 4 Hours – Limit 60