

GROUP PROGRAMS & FEES

Interpretive Naturalists have developed engaging, hands-on programs for schools, homeschools, childcare centers, scout groups, seniors, adults with disabilities, and other groups. Cost is \$5 per participant (\$60 minimum). For a program list, visit www.woodlakenaturecenter.org. Call 612-861-9365 for availability.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

To request the cancellation of a program registration, contact Richfield Recreation Services at 612-861-9385 or richfieldrecreation@richfieldmn.gov

- No refunds are granted for registrations cancelled by the participant within 13 days or less of the first day of the program.
- Full refunds are granted for cancellations made 14 days or more before the first day of the program (less a \$5 processing fee per program cancelled)
- Full refunds are granted for program cancellations made by the Recreation Services Department.

Exceptions include injury or death in the immediate family (a doctor's note or other proof of medical condition may be required). Special events such as Half-Haunted Halloween and Candlelight & Ice are non-refundable. Birthday parties are non-refundable, but a party may be rescheduled within six months.

TRANSFERS/SUBSTITUTIONS

A \$5 processing fee per transferred program will apply. No participant substitution will be allowed for any program. All transfers must be made two weeks or more before the start of the program from which you're transferring.

Fireplace Room Rental

The nature center offers a wonderful setting and central location in the metro area for meetings, parties, memorials, anniversaries, and receptions. Auditorium rental includes seating for 60-80, tables and chairs, use of the fireplace, and a beautiful view of the marsh. Homemade and/or catered food is allowed. Non-alcoholic beverages only; no helium balloons. Renters are responsible for setup and take-down of tables and chairs. Rental hours must include any set-up and take-down time. Additional information can be found at www.woodlakenaturecenter.org. Call **612-861-9365** for availability.

Private Party Room Rentals	\$65/hour
Non-Profit Room Rentals	\$45/hour

Come for a visit... sign up for a class!

Online registration begins on March 4 at 9:00 am.

The City of Richfield's Wood Lake Nature Center is a 150-acre natural area dedicated to environmental education, wildlife observation, and outdoor recreation. Three miles of trails and boardwalks wind through the park. The trails are either blacktop or crushed limestone and most are wheelchair accessible during summer months. To preserve the natural habitat, pets, bikes, and smoking are not allowed.

The Interpretive Center offers visitors a chance to learn more about plants, animals, and the environment through live animal displays and interactive exhibits. Naturalists are available to answer questions during building hours. For more information about nature center classes, programs, or facilities, please visit www.woodlakenaturecenter.org or call **612-861-9365**.

All activities are held at Wood Lake Nature Center (6710 Lake Shore Drive), unless otherwise noted.

BUILDING HOURS

Monday-Saturday: 8:30 am-5:00 pm
Sunday: 12:00-5:00 pm

Building is closed on legal holidays. Trails remain open.

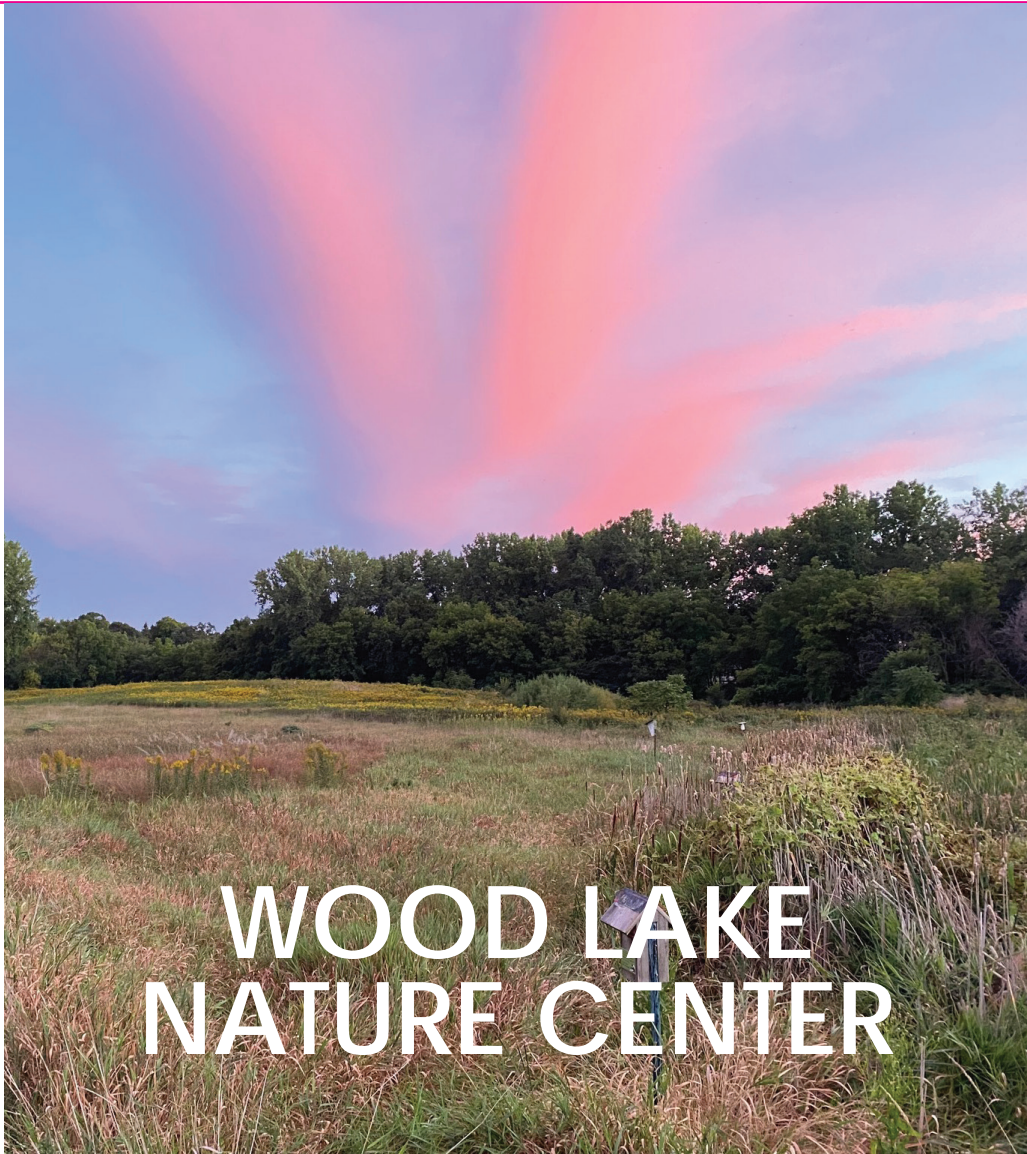
PARK HOURS

Daily: 5:00 am-11:00 pm

ACCESSIBILITY

- 7 accessible parking spaces
- Parking lot bordered by sidewalk with 3 curb cutouts close to ramp entrance and 2 gate entrances
- Automatic door opener at main entrance
- ADA-compliant drinking fountain
- Boardwalk trail is combination of paved and crushed limestone
- 2 accessible amphitheatres on property
- Accessible dock near nature center building
- Accessible picnic tables available in picnic shelter, near parking lot, and near pollinator garden
- For specific accommodations, please contact 612-861-9366 with advanced notice.
- All-terrain wheelchairs (Grit Freedom Chairs) are available for trail use. These manual wheelchairs have a chain drive system the visitor can operate on their own, or a companion can assist with handlebars. Adult and youth-sized chairs are available. Visitors can check out the wheelchairs at the front desk for use on site or call ahead to reserve at 612-861-9365.

SCAN TO REGISTER ONLINE



WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER



6710 Lake Shore Drive
Richfield, Minnesota 55423
www.woodlakenaturecenter.org
612-861-9365

2024 Spring & Summer Programs and Events
Registration begins March 4!

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BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Wood Lake Nature Center offers a variety of birthday parties that are fun, educational, and the mess stays with us! Wood Lake provides a naturalist-led activity and use of the party room with tables, chairs, and tablecloths. Payment is due when the party is booked; birthday parties start promptly at the scheduled time. In general, parties are offered on Saturdays from 9:30-11:30 am, 12:00-2:00 pm, and 2:30-4:30 pm. Sunday afternoons are also sometimes available. Please call 612-861-9365 to check availability and book a party.

Time: 2 hours (1st hour with naturalist, 2nd hour in party room without naturalist)
Fees: \$135 for up to ten children
\$5 per additional child, 15 children maximum

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS:

Treat Bags: \$4 per bag (Includes WLNC pencil, magnifying bug box, plastic insect, dinosaur eraser, scratch art animal, and toy snake. (Items in the bag are subject to change.)
Green Party: \$10 (Includes reusable plates, bowls, drinking cups, silverware, tablecloth, and recycled paper napkins.)

Choose from the following themes:

- **Critter Hunt (ages 4-5)**
Become nature detectives and go outside to look for clues from hidden animals that live at Wood Lake. Available year-round.
- **Creatures from the Marsh (ages 5-12)**
Head out with nets and buckets to discover what creatures lurk in Wood Lake's marsh. Available May 15-Sept. 15 only.
- **Treasure Hunt (ages 5-9)**
Lead the group in a hunt for hidden treasure. Solve riddles along the trail to receive puzzle-piece clues. Once the puzzle is put together, the treasure can be found! Available year-round.
- **Scaly Tales (ages 5-12)**
Meet a live snake, turtle, and salamander, and learn all about these amazing creatures! Then, time permitting, hike outside with a naturalist to look for reptiles and amphibians in their natural habitat. Available year-round.
- **Tracks and Trails (ages 5-12)**
Make a plaster track to take home, then hike the trails to look for real animal tracks outside. Available year-round.
- **Survival (ages 8-12)**
Learn basic survival tips and build an outdoor shelter. Work together and see if your group can survive! Available year-round.
- **Geocache Party (ages 8-12)**
Learn the basics of using a GPS unit and go on a high-tech trek through Wood Lake. Available year-round.

Emily Day Picnic Shelter Rental

Hold your next gathering under Wood Lake's Emily Day Picnic Shelter, located in the fenced picnic area in the northwest corner of the park. Reserve any four-hour block between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm, from May 1 through October 15, for just \$82 (electricity included, grills allowed). Portable toilets are located near the shelter or during Wood Lake building hours, use the indoor bathrooms. The shelter accommodates about 50 people.

Make your reservation online at www.richfieldmn.gov/parkshelters or by calling Richfield Recreation at 612-861-9385 (the online system accepts all major credit cards and is accessible 24 hours a day). Bring a copy of your shelter rental permit with you to your event, so you can show it to drop-in users and let them know that you have it reserved. A copy of your permit is available online when you are logged into your account (under Transaction History).

FRIENDS OF WOOD LAKE (FOWL) MEMBERSHIPS

Friends of Wood Lake Nature Center (FOWL) memberships help protect vital wildlife habitat, support educational programs and interpretive displays, and come with great benefits for you to enjoy. Memberships are good for one year and include these benefits:

- 50% admission to Saturday and Sunday Specials
- Free admission to Half-Haunted Halloween, Candlelight & Ice, and Adult Book Club (members must still register)
- Free onsite cross-country ski and snowshoe rental and a 10% discount on select programs and merchandise

Membership levels and additional benefits:

Individual	\$30	Basic membership benefits (listed above) for one person
Family	\$50	Basic membership benefits for a maximum of two named adults residing at the same address and their dependent children or grandchildren under age 18
Sustaining	\$100	Family benefits plus four Wood Lake mugs
Corporate	\$250	Family benefits plus one family plus engraved plaque
Life	\$1,000	Family benefits plus framed Wood Lake photo



Registration begins
Monday, March 4, 9:00 am.

SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Online registration at
www.woodlakenaturecenter.org.

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN GRADUATES (AGES 4-6)

ALL CAMPS: TUESDAY-THURSDAY

FEE: \$80

Terrific Turtles and Toads

Through games, demonstrations, crafts and live animals, learn how these reptiles and amphibians live. Enjoy three days of inspired fun as you meet and feed Wood Lake's resident turtles, toads, and salamanders, too.

June 11-13

9:00-11:30 am

Dino-Mite!

Experience the world of paleontology in this dinosaur camp where imaginations are welcome! Dig for and discover bones, then put them together to help solve the mystery of who the bones may have once belonged to. Each day, enjoy dinosaur related activity stations, outdoor exploration, and hands-on fun, like making volcanoes explode!

June 25-27

9:00-11:30 am

June 25-27

1:00-3:30 pm

Nature Forest Play

Explore the forest to experience the sights, sounds, colors and textures of the leafy forest understory. Discover small creatures that you've never seen before and play with the natural materials the forest has to offer in this low-structure, guided-discovery exploration camp!

July 9-11

9:00-11:30 am

Adventures in the Marsh

Adventure around Wood Lake's marsh with nets and cups to discover what calls the wetland home. Learn about the different plants and mud that make up the base of the wetland habitat and the different animals that live there. Plants, insects, birds, and mammals, oh my!

July 16-18

9:00-11:30 am

Insects All Around

Insects are nature's superheroes tackling the biggest jobs of making soil, pollinating plants and recycling nutrients! Catch and observe these impressive, tiny creatures, then dress up and role play your favorite mini-heroes!

July 30-August 1

9:00-11:30 am

Let's Go Camping!

Campers will learn to set up a tent, discover camping equipment, enjoy food cooked over a fire, sing camp songs, listen to camp stories, and explore in the woods!

August 6-8

9:00-11:30 am

Fairies and Gnomes

Explore the different homes of Wood Lake in search of some magical creatures-such as fairies, gnomes, pixies, and sprites! Search for these creatures in the forest, marsh, and prairie and see what they are up to at Wood Lake. Build abodes for these magical creatures and learn about their animal friends.

August 13-15

9:00-11:30 am

Magical Messy Mud!

Time to get messy! Learn about the different critters that call mud and soil home and how they survive. Play and dig in the mud, build a muskrat lodge, and go searching for turtles and insects.

August 20-22

9:00-11:30 am

ADULT/CHILD PRESCHOOL CLASSES

Nature Adventurers

Young explorers (ages 3-5) accompanied by an adult will have an exciting time exploring a different nature topic each visit. Enjoy stories, puppet shows, crafts, hands-on activities, snack, and outdoor discovery time. Dress for the weather as the majority of class will be outdoors. Online registration required at www.woodlakenaturecenter.org.

Wednesdays 10:00-11:15 am

March 20

April 3

April 17

May 1

May 15

Topic

Maple Syrup

Read a Story Theater

Kites and Flight

Going on a Hike

Bees and Honey + Picnic

\$10/child and adult + \$5/additional child

22ND ANNUAL URBAN WILDLAND HALF-MARATHON & 5K

Registration is now open for the 22nd annual Wood Lake fundraising event on July 27. 100% of the proceeds benefit Wood Lake Nature Center and environmental education for Richfield students, a relationship that has lasted over 50 years! The Half Marathon features a beautiful circular course that runs through Richfield's urban neighborhoods and six city parks, featuring Wood Lake with its woody trails around the water's edge. The Half Marathon course is certified and is a great midsummer training option for a fall marathon. The Urban Wildland Youth 5K Fund has limited available scholarships for youth runners 18 and younger. Use discount code UW5KYOUTH for a free 5K entrance for youth! Both in-person and virtual options are available. To register, volunteer, or donate to the cause, please visit urbanwildland.com. The in-person races begin at the Richfield Ice Arena in Richfield, MN.



FIRST-SECOND GRADE GRADUATES

ALL CAMPS: MONDAY-FRIDAY

FEE: \$120

Fantastic Forts

Work in groups to build forts from fallen sticks, logs, and tarps. These unique hideouts will serve as home base for nature exploration, games, and activities in the forest, marsh, and prairie! Parents can visit our fun forts on Friday!

June 10-14

9:00-11:30 am

Marsh Menagerie

Enjoy an immersive experience as you explore the marsh with a net and bucket, discovering the amazing diversity of aquatic animal life! Create craft replicas of your favorite finds to put in a shoebox diorama and take home cherished memories of this unique summer adventure.

July 8-12

9:00-11:30 am

The Perfect Stick

One stick can reveal a world of possibilities! In this camp, we will explore important sticks through history: fire making sticks, sticks for building shelters, hiking sticks, arrows/atlatls, and wands. We'll also learn how other animals use sticks, like beavers, birds, and chimpanzees. At the end, campers get to come up with their own stick creation. *Can you discover the magic in a stick?*

July 29-August 2

9:00-11:30 am

Wood Lake NatureQuest

Immerse yourself in real world live action nature quests akin to popular block building and survival video games. Learn more about Wood Lake and its diverse nature through gamification, quests, and meeting real life NPCs (non-playable characters). Let the games begin!

August 12-16

9:00-11:30 am

FIRST-SIXTH GRADE GRADUATE

TWO DAY CAMPS

CAMPS: \$125 per session

Best Of Wood Lake

Discover the wonders of Wood Lake in our exciting two-day nature camp, "Best Of Wood Lake." You'll have the unique opportunity to explore all three diverse habitats of the park - the marsh, forest, and prairie. Engage in hands-on exploration using binoculars, dip nets, and various tools to connect with the natural world around you. Delve into the beauty and excitement of Wood Lake as you spend quality time exploring each habitat, gaining a deeper understanding of what makes them so captivating. Don't miss this chance to truly get to know the best that Wood Lake has to offer!

June 17-18

9:00 am-3:00 pm

June 20-21

9:00 am-3:00 pm

WEEKEND SPECIALS

Online registration at www.woodlakenaturecenter.org; walk-in registrations are allowed as space permits.
All children and adults attending must register

Magical Maple Syrup

Hike into Wood Lake's sugar bush to help tap trees. Learn how syrup is made while watching sap boil in the evaporator. Discover the cultural significance and natural history of this amazing tree as we taste delicious maple treats!

\$5/person, 50% off for members

Saturday, March 9

3:00-4:30 pm

Sunday, March 10

1:00-2:30 & 3:00-4:30 pm

Sunday, March 17

1:00-2:30 & 3:00-4:30 pm

Saturday Live Animal Hour

Meet Wood Lake Nature Center's animal ambassadors up close! Come learn about some of the reptiles and amphibians native to Minnesota and make an animal craft to take home.

\$5/person, 50% off for members

Saturday, March 16

10:00-11:00 am

Maple Syrup Wrap Up

Hike into Wood Lake's sugar bush and help pull the taps and boil the last of the sap as the syrup season comes to an end. Discover the cultural significance and natural history of this amazing tree as we taste delicious maple treats!

\$5/person, 50% off for members

Sunday, March 24

1:00-2:30 & 3:00-4:30 pm

Urban Coyote Research

Find out about urban coyote research that is going on right here at Wood Lake. Coyotes are remarkably adapted to living in urban areas, but little is known about why they are so successful. University of MN PhD candidate, Geoff Miller, will share some of his research methods and findings. We will head outside on a short hike if the weather allows.

Free

Sunday, April 7

2:00-3:30 pm

Springtime Foraging 101

Learn springtime foraging tips and tricks from guest speaker Chick of the Woods. Discover how to spot 3 mushrooms (morels, oysters, pheasant back) and 3 plants (ramps, nettle, fiddleheads) you may encounter on your own while foraging this spring. This class is 100% indoors. Online registration at www.woodlakenaturecenter.org is required.

\$39/person (no member discount)

Saturday, April 13

2:00-4:30 pm

eBird and Bird Hike

Come explore Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird application - a way to keep track of the birds you see and share sightings with others. We will learn how to use the app and then hit the trail looking for birds to add to your list!

\$5/person, 50% off for members

Sunday, April 14

1:00-3:00 pm

Online registration at www.woodlakenaturecenter.org.

Registration begins Monday, March 4, 9:00 am.

THIRD-SIXTH GRADE GRADUATES

see individual camp for price

Adventure Camp

Each day campers will explore a new park in Richfield! Hike around Wood Lake Nature Center and explore in the woods. Fish, or bike at Taft Lake! Run, play, and jump at the award-winning Adventure Park in Augsburg. Play mini-golf and enjoy ice cream at Veterans Park. Each day, campers will be dropped off and picked up by their guardians at a different park location. All equipment provided.

June 24-28

9:00 am-12:30 pm

Fee: \$150

Junior Naturalists

Discover what it's like to be a naturalist by exploring the different habitats of Wood Lake and learning about the plants and animals that live here. Enhance habitats by planting native wildflowers or shrubs, picking up litter, and removing invasive species. Learn to handle and care for our exhibit reptiles and amphibians and learn exciting wildlife survey methods like bird banding and radio telemetry.

July 8-12

1:00-3:30 pm

Fee: \$120

Wilderness Skills

Explore the wonders of the great outdoors at our Nature Center Summer Camp! Acquire essential outdoor survival skills while fostering a deeper connection with the natural world. Dive into the art of navigation by mastering the use of a compass, reading maps, and navigating with GPS technology. Build practical outdoor skills like constructing shelters and fire building, and gain insights into wildlife tracking and plant identification. Uncover the Rule of 3, and discover the must-have tools for a well-equipped survival kit.

July 15-19

9:00-11:30 am

Fee: \$120

Birds of Wood Lake

Get to know the birds of Wood Lake. Learn how to use binoculars, spotting scopes, how to safely monitor nest boxes, and see bird banding up close. We will keep track of the species we see and explore all the different habitats the site has to offer.

August 5-9

9:00-11:30 am

Fee: \$120

Beginner Archery Camp

Learn the art of archery in this camp full of fun, games, and lots of shooting time on the archery range. Archers will make their own simple string bows to practice archery techniques at home. Learn proper shooting skills, follow range safety commands, and perfect awareness and accuracy during archery games. All equipment provided.

August 19-22

9:00 am-Noon

Fee: \$150

(Monday-Thursday)

August 19-22

1:00-4:00 pm

Fee: \$150

(Monday-Thursday)

WEEKEND SPECIALS

Online registration at www.woodlakenaturecenter.org; walk-in registrations are allowed as space permits.
All children and adults attending must register

Earth Day Celebration!

Help restore Wood Lake's native habitats, pick up litter, and assist with other site projects. The Midwest Peregrine Society will present live falcons in two fun, educational programs. The celebration includes an Earth Day fair with community and environmental group booths. This is a great program for individuals, families, and other community service organizations.

Free

Sunday, April 21

1:00-4:00 pm

Live Animal Hour

Meet the live animal ambassadors that are on exhibit in the nature center building. Learn about their habits and how we care for these amazing amphibians and reptiles. Learn the proper way to handle toads, turtles, and snakes.

\$5/person, 50% off for members

Sunday, April 28

3:00-4:00 pm

Birch Forest Acrylic Painting

Get ready to unleash your inner artist and create a beautiful masterpiece inspired by the enchanting beauty of birch trees. No prior painting experience is necessary. Our talented instructor Michelle from Phenomenal Lass Designs will guide you step-by-step, ensuring you have a fantastic time while learning new techniques. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced artist, this event is perfect for everyone! All painting supplies will be provided. Ages 12+. Online registration required at www.woodlakenaturecenter.org.

\$40/person (no member discount)

Sunday, May 5

12:30-2:30 pm

Wildflowers, Honey, & Ice Cream

Enjoy a leisurely wildflower hike and learn about the importance of the pollinators that visit them. Then help make homemade honey ice cream using honey produced by Wood Lake's honeybees. Kids will decorate and personalize a special card for their mother or other loved one!

\$5/person, 50% off for members

Sunday, May 12

1:00-3:00 pm

Family Beginner Archery

Learn the parts of the bow, shooting techniques, and range safety in this beginner class. Practice skills and play games! Equipment is provided or participants can bring their own bow. Online registration at www.woodlakenaturecenter.org is required. For ages 8+. Youth registrants must be accompanied by an adult, who must also register and pay.

\$15/person, \$10 for members

Sunday, May 19

1:00-2:30 pm

Adult Beginner Archery

Learn the parts of the bow, shooting techniques, and range safety in this beginner class. Practice skills and play games! Equipment is provided or participants may bring their own bow. Online registration at www.woodlakenaturecenter.org is required. For ages 16+.

\$15/person, \$10 for members

Sunday, May 19

3:00-4:30 pm

ADULT PROGRAMS

The building re-opens approximately 15 minutes before the program. Online registration at www.woodlakenaturecenter.org; walk-in registrations are allowed as space permits.

Wood Lake Book Club

Join other adults to discuss some wonderful environmental and outdoor recreation-based books. Refreshments will be provided. Books are available at local libraries or may be available for loan through the nature center.

Desert Solitaire by Ed Abbey

\$5/person, free for members

April 1

First Monday of the month,

6:30-8:00 pm

Spring Bird Hikes

Enjoy a spring hike through Wood Lake as we look for both migrating and resident birds. Discover how to identify species from sight and sound. Binoculars and field guides will be available for loan.

Thursday, May 9

6:00-7:30 pm, Wood Lake Nature Center

Tuesday, May 14

8:00-10:00 am, Veterans Park

(meet in front of Ice Arena: 636 E 66th St)

Wednesday, May 15

6:00-7:30 pm, Wood Lake Nature Center

Tuesday, May 21

8:00-10:00 am, Wood Lake Nature Center

\$5/hike, free for members

Wonderful World of Mothing:

Moths and other Nocturnal Gems

Come learn about our beautiful nocturnal pollinator friends: moths! Discover their importance to the natural world, their biology, how to set up a moth sheet, and more! Bring a headlamp or flashlight, hiking footwear, and dress for the weather. If you would like to participate in some evening citizen scientist fun, download the iNaturalist app ahead of time and help document the many nocturnal species of insects that call Wood Lake home. iNaturalist project name: Wood Lake Nature Center. Ages 10+.

Tuesday, May 7

7:30-9:30 pm

Tuesday, July 23

8:00-10:00 pm

\$5/person, 50% off for FOWL members

There are two options for participants to help alleviate the cost of programs and facility access. Information and applications for both the Richfield Fee Assistance Program and the Wood Lake Emily Day Scholarship Fund can be found at www.woodlakenaturecenter.org.