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For Immediate Release:

### **In Celebration of Earth Day** *Wehr Nature Center Offers Family-Friendly Event*

Franklin, WI (April 7, 2014) – “In Celebration of Earth Day,” an afternoon filled with Earth- and family-friendly activities, is coming to Wehr Nature Center, Sunday, April 27, from 1-4 p.m. Located in Whitnall Park at 9701 W. College Ave., Wehr is the primary environmental education center of the Milwaukee County Parks.

“This is the perfect opportunity to welcome spring, get active, and connect with nature,” said John Dargle, Jr., Director of the Milwaukee County Parks.

Special features in this year’s celebration are an interactive presentation by Kohl’s Wild Theater and book signings by authors of family outdoor adventure guides. Rounding out the event are a manual typewriter “Type-In,” naturalist-led walks focused on signs of spring, papermaking, “recycled” crafts, sustainability displays, and activities in the early-childhood nature playspace.

At 2 p.m., Kohl’s Wild Theater will present the “KWT Jamboree,” a 30-minute interactive performance of short skits about animals and conservation—a show perfect for children of all ages. Kids learn about easy actions they can take to help animals and their habitats. Turtle puppets, songs sung by an otter and salamander, the “trashmonster” and more bring concepts to life.

At 3 p.m., Stacy Tornio and Ken Keffer, authors of *The Kids’ Outdoor Adventure Book: 448 Great Things to Do in Nature Before You Grow Up*, will sign copies of their book. The book won an honorable mention in the 2013 National Outdoor Book Awards in the Children’s Book category. Keffer is a naturalist at Wehr, and Stacy Tornio is an editor at *Birds & Blooms* magazine.

Also at the book signing is Barbara Ali, author of *101 Things to Do in Milwaukee Parks*. Rather than focusing on mainstays of park activity—such as picnicking and playing at the tot lots—Ali touts lesser-known activities such as geocaching, birding, and enjoying *gemütlichkeit* (good times with family and friends) at a beer garden.

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Ali, an Illinois native who spent much of her adult life traveling the world, settled in Milwaukee with her husband, who is a Somali prince, and their children. Her book was born out of her need as a non-Milwaukee native to discover the recreational opportunities available to share with her son.

Copies of the books are available for purchased in the Friends of Wehr Nature Store. Profits support the programs of the Nature Center. Personal copies of books may also be brought to the signings.

“In Celebration of Earth Day” commemorates the 44th anniversary of Earth Day, founded by Wisconsin’s Senator Gaylord Nelson in 1970.

General Admission per person is \$3; Friend of Wehr, \$2; and Children Age 2 and Under are free. The regular \$3 parking fee is in effect.

To reduce their carbon footprint in getting to the event, visitors are encouraged to ride their bicycles. There is no parking fee for bicycles.

For more information call Wehr at (414) 425-8550 or visit [countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com).

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