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For Immediate Release:

American Woodcock Walk Features “Sky Dance”

Unique mating habits of migratory bird

Franklin, WI (March 19, 2015) – The iconic mating dance and other habits of the American Woodcock will be the focus of the birding program, “Woodcock Walk,” at Wehr Nature Center, Saturday, April 11, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The Nature Center is located in Whitnall Park, at 9701 W. College Ave.

Males of the species establish territory by making squeaky “peent” calls and then spiraling upward in flight before acrobatically tumbling down and making a sound that Wisconsin conservationist Aldo Leopold described as “a soft liquid warble that a March bluebird might envy.”

Wehr’s savanna offers one of the Milwaukee area’s best viewing spots for the “sky dance.”

The program begins with an indoor presentation on these unique shorebirds of the woods. At sunset, attendees will go on an evening stroll to witness the springtime ritual of the American Woodcock.

Registration is required by Friday, April 10. The fee per person is \$10; Milwaukee County Residents, \$7; Friends of Wehr Members, \$5. The regular \$3 parking fee is in effect.

Other birding programs at Wehr include workshops for beginners, expert-led walks, and citizen-science bird counts. The next workshop, “Birding Beyond the Feeder: Bird Identification,” will be offered Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m.-noon. Registration is required by Friday, April 17. The fee per person is \$15; Milwaukee County Residents, \$12; and Friends of Wehr Members, \$10. Sunday-morning’s “Birding with Paul,” led by expert Paul Boyer, will be offered for free, May 3, 10, and 17, from 7:30-10 a.m..

Additional information is available by calling Wehr at (414) 425-8550.

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