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For Immediate Release

## “Moth Night” at Wehr Nature Center

Franklin, WI (June 23, 2015) – Relatives of butterflies will be attracted, like a moth to a flame, to Moth Night, a citizen-science event, July 24 and 25, at Wehr Nature Center. Wehr is located at 9701 W. College Ave. in Whitnall Park.

Since the first Moth Night in 2013, the number of moth species sighted and confirmed in Milwaukee County has grown from 12 to 97, according to scientists of the Butterfly and Moth Information Network.

“This is amazing growth of our knowledge base,” said Parks Naturalist Howard Aprill. “These numbers show the impact of citizen science on our understanding of the world around us.”

Celebrating National Moth Week, the program encourages participants to learn about and document the moths in the area. Aprill will be leading both nights of the program. The Friday night program, for adults, runs from 8–10 p.m.; Saturday’s program for families runs from 7–9 p.m.

An indoor informational segment as well as an outdoor sampling survey comprise Moth Night.

Participants will learn the differences between moths and butterflies, what moths do to foil their predators, and how to attract these natural pollinators. The latest news on gypsy moths, moth adaptation, and moth communications will also be presented.

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To attract moths for sampling, the group will use a bait station with “moth mush,” a blacklight, and sheeting. Digital photography will be used as a non-lethal means to capture images to document the moths found. Participants will learn how to gather and record relevant information for citizen-science monitoring.

Data and images collected during the program will be sent for positive identification by the scientists of the Butterfly and Moth Information Network. After verification, the information will be shared on the Butterflies and Moths of North America (BAMONA) website at [www.butterfliesandmoths.org](http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org)

The program is recommended for adults and children age 7 and up.

Participants are reminded to “cover up.” Wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats and using insect repellent are recommended.

Admission for Milwaukee County Residents, age 13 and up, is \$7 per person; Non-Milwaukee County Residents, age 13 and up, \$10 per person; Members of Friends of Wehr and children age 12 and under, \$5 per person. Parking is \$3 per car.

Registration for the program is required by Wed., July 22. For more information go to [countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com) or call Wehr Nature Center at (414) 425-8550

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