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For immediate release

## **American Woodcock's Mating "Sky Dance" at Wehr April 9**

Franklin, WI (March 28, 2016) – The iconic mating dance and other habits of the American Woodcock will be the highlight of the program, Woodcocks and Wood Frogs, at Wehr Nature Center, Saturday, April 9, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The Nature Center is located in Whitnall Park, at 9701 W. College Ave.

Male Woodcocks 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 is one of the few places in Milwaukee County to view the "sky dance."

After a short presentation on these unique shorebirds of the woods, participants will take a sunset stroll to Wehr's oak savanna to witness the springtime ritual of the American Woodcock. While waiting for the scene to unfold, participants will listen for wood frogs and other inhabitants of Wehr's ephemeral ponds.

Registration is required by Friday, April 8. The fee per person is \$10; Milwaukee County Residents, \$7; Friends of Wehr Members, \$5. The regular \$3 parking fee is in effect.

### **Upcoming Birding Programs**

Birding programs at Wehr include workshops for beginners and expert-led walks. Birding Beyond the Feeder: Bird Identification will be offered Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m.-noon. Registration is required by Friday, April 22. 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 1, 8, and 15, from 7:30-10 a.m.

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

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