



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Contact: Debra McRae
Director, Wehr Nature Center
(414) 425-8550
Debra.McRae@milwaukeecountywi.gov

For immediate release

Summer Solstice Social to Raise Funds for Nature Center Accessibility Improvements June 25

Franklin, WI (June 17, 2016) – Celebrating the longest day of the year, visitors to the Summer Solstice Social will enjoy an evening of small-plate dining and desserts, a silent auction, and the traditional lighting of the bonfire, Saturday, June 25 from 7-9 p.m. at Wehr Nature Center. The Nature Center is located in Whitnall Park at 9701 W. College Ave.

New to the fundraising event are a mead tasting and sharing in the Northwoods tradition of making booyah, a bouillon or broth with added meats, vegetables, and herbs. About four different meads, or honey-based wines, will be sampled. Meads range from still to sparkling and from semi-sweet to sweet. Event-goers will also be invited to add their choice of chopped summer vegetables to the community kettle of booyah cooking over the fire.

“We have a real neighborly feel to this event,” Nature Center Director Debra McRae said. “It’s only fitting. Our goal is to make Wehr more inclusive through accessibility improvements so that people of all abilities can reap the benefits of being immersed in nature.”

Event-goers may also help the Nature Center raise funds by bidding on items in the summer-themed silent auction. Garden art and picnic items are among the donations. Bid winners will be announced at the end of the evening.

At sunset, guests will experience a tradition of the Summer Solstice. Visitors will cast herbs into the bonfire to ensure a future of good fortune or a prosperous harvest.

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ADDRESS
9480 Watertown Plank Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3560

PHONE/FAX
ph: **414 / 257 PARK** (7275)
fax: 414 / 257 6466



EMAIL
parks@milwaukeecountywi.gov

WEBSITE
countyparks.com

Admission, which includes a glass of wine, beer or soda, is \$20 per person. Additional beverage tickets may be purchased for \$5 each. Parking is included in the admission fee. Registration guarantees a spot. Walk-ins will be welcomed on a space-available basis.

Previous accessibility improvements to the Nature Center, funded in part through the Friends of Wehr's Accessibility Capital Project, include renovation of walkways, amphitheater, and stage. Accessibility improvements continue with updates in the Visitor Center. More information on the project is available at friendsofwehr.org/accessibility-2/

To register for the Summer Solstice Social, call Wehr Nature Center at (414) 425-8550.

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