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For immediate release

Moth Night at Wehr Nature Center, July 29, 30

Franklin, WI (July 21, 2016) – Like moths to a flame, families and citizen-scientists alike will be drawn to Moth Night at Wehr Nature Center. The program for adults is July 29 from 8-10 p.m., and the program for families with children age 6 and up is July 30 from 7-9 p.m. Wehr is located at 9701 W. College Ave. in Whitnall Park.

Pat Fojut, retired director of Nature in the Parks and an expert on insects, will lead the program, which includes an indoor informational segment as well as an outdoor sampling survey to document moths in the area. The program is being held during National Moth Week.

Since the first Moth Night in 2013, the number of moth species sighted and confirmed in Milwaukee County has grown from 12 to 20, according to scientists of the Butterfly and Moth Information Network.

“In a short time, we’ve nearly doubled our knowledge base,” said Fojut. “Citizen science can have a real impact on our understanding of the world around us.”

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.

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.

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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

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 is \$7 per person; Non-Milwaukee County Residents, \$10 per person; Members of Friends of Wehr, \$5 per person. Parking is \$3 per car.

Registration for the program is required by Thursday, July 28. Wehr Nature Center will take registrations in person or by phone at (414) 425-8550.

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