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For immediate release

Bug Day Returns to Wehr Nature Center Sept. 18

Milwaukee, WI (Aug. 30, 2016) – From butterflies to tarantulas, Bug Day gives families the opportunity to learn about these invertebrate critters and their relatives, Sunday, Sept. 18, from 1–4 p.m. at Wehr Nature Center. The Nature Center is located at 9701 W. College Ave., in Whitnall Park.

“An invertebrate, simply put, has no backbone,” said Howard Aprill, Wehr Naturalist. “While some bugs may seem skittish when you approach them, you have to be amazed at the risks they take on a daily basis for the benefit of their communities and for our benefit as well.”

Throughout the day, families will learn about insects through show-and-tell-and-touch demonstrations and have a chance to don a costume to become a centipede, millipede, or butterfly. (Some costumes are large enough for adults.)

Featured at 1:30 p.m. will be an interactive presentation, “Who Wants to be an Entomologist?” Led by the Bug Whisperer, the presentation is a hands-on tour of the stranger-than-fiction world of insects and insect relatives.

“Invertebrates help us in so many ways,” said Aprill. “Consider their work in agriculture as earth-movers and pollinators, and don’t forget about their place in the food chain.”

Speaking of food. . . . Visitors will have the opportunity to sample Creepy Crawly Cuisine. This year’s menu includes meal-worm-and-cricket salsa on a cracker or tortilla chip.

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Included in Bug Day is the role of butterflies. Renowned Lepidopterist (butterfly specialist) Phil Holzbauer will present his exhibit featuring butterflies from around the world. Other local butterfly experts sharing their knowledge will be “Butterfly Barb” Agnew, founder of Friends of the Monarch Trail, and University of Wisconsin–Extension specialists. All will answer questions and offer tips on creating backyard gardens that attract butterflies and other native pollinators.

Other demonstration topics include tarantulas from around the world, bee hives, and bee keeping (weather permitting).

To be introduced to still more insects, such as hissing cockroaches and walking sticks, families are invited to visit the Amazing Insect Zoo, to dip for critters in Mallard Lake, and to go on an insect hike.

Children may also work on bug-themed crafts. The littlest family members are invited to Larva Land, an indoor area designed for young children to explore the insect world at their own pace.

Admission is \$3 per person. Friends of Wehr Members pay \$2 per person. Children 2 and under are admitted for free. Parking is \$3 per car.

For more information, call (414) 425-8550 or visit countyparks.com.

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