

May 26, 2010

Prairies, Wildflowers and Raptors of South-eastern Wisconsin

Join us as we explore the natural and cultural history of several natural areas located within the Southern Unit of Kettle Moraine State Forest and learn about our native raptors.

A chartered motor coach will depart at 8 a.m. from the Arboretum Visitor Center and take us to Forest Headquarters near Eagle to view the natural history museum and enjoy an orientation presentation from Ron Kurowski, DNR Park Naturalist for the area.

With more than 22,000 acres of glacial hills, kettles, lakes, prairie restoration sites, pine woods, and hardwood forests, the Southern Unit is a popular area for a wide variety of visitors.

We then travel to the Scuppernong River Habitat Area, under restoration and soon to be the largest native wet prairie east of the Mississippi River. This area includes glacial features, wetlands, native prairie remnants and oak savannas.

More than 230 species of birds have been seen here and more than 45 plant, animal and insect species found here are designated as state endangered, threatened or of special concern.

Other stops during the tour could include restored pioneer cabins, Kettle Moraine Low Prairie State Natural Area, and Paradise Springs, where a short nature trail leads to a 5,000 gallon per minute stone springhouse.

We've timed this trip to (hopefully) coincide with peak bloom of early spring wildflowers and bird migration, so bring your binoculars.

We will have a hearty ethnic lunch at Clausing Barn in Old World Wisconsin, one of the few surviving octagonal barns built in 1897 by German barn builder Ernst Clausing.



After lunch, we will visit Hoo's Woods Raptor Center. Dianne Moller, founder of Hoo's Woods and a licensed educator, falconer, rehabilitator and eagle handler, will give us a tour of the facility followed by a presentation about raptors in the Great Lakes Region.

Enjoy an up-close experience with live raptors and learn more about these fascinating birds.

Our trip will be led by FOA member, Chuck Pils, retired chief of the DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources and Mark Martin, DNR Natural Areas Specialist.

We'll go rain or shine. Sturdy shoes, warm and waterproof clothing, sunscreen, insect repellent, a morning snack, field guides and binoculars are recommended.

Trip details

Registration deadline: May 14, 2010

Capacity: Trip is limited to 50 people

Schedule:

- Leave from Arboretum Visitor Center at 8 a.m.
- Return to Arboretum Visitor Center at 5 p.m.

Cost: Adults: \$70 members, \$75 non-members (includes coach transportation, all guide fees, admissions, and lunch)

Prairies, Wildflowers and Raptors of Southeastern Wisconsin

Please make checks payable to: FOA

Mail to: Friends of the Arboretum
1207 Seminole Highway
Madison, WI 53711-3726

Please check appropriate box

- Member Non-Member
 Special Dietary Requirements

• _____ Number participating @ \$70 each (members)
 • _____ Number participating @ \$75 each (non-members)
 • \$_____ Total payment enclosed

• Your Name _____
 • Guests' names _____
 • _____
 • Your Address _____
 • _____ Zip _____
 • Your phone (days) _____ (nights) _____
 • Your e-mail _____