

Wildcat Mountain State Park Events

Friday, July 22nd – Summer Stargazing from Scorpius to Cygnus

Time: 9:30 p.m.

Location: Amphitheater parking lot

Join Jeff Moorhouse, from the La Crosse Area Astronomical Society, as we review the celestial objects in the night sky with the aid of a free phone app as a guide. There will be a brief talk about the Milky Way. Telescopes will be available to get an “up close” view of the night sky. A park admission sticker is required for vehicles entering the park.

Friday, August 5th – Shakespeare in the State Parks – “Much Ado About Nothing”

Time: Workshop at 5:30PM; Show at 7PM

Location: Amphitheater

In this fast-paced adaptation of Shakespeare’s classic comedy, two couples find their romance interrupted by revenge plotting, mistaken identities and merry madness. The workshop at 5:30 p.m. is recommended for ages 8 and up. Show at 7 p.m. Meet at the Amphitheater. The Summit Players are a traveling theatre company who present free, accessible Shakespeare workshops and performances to audiences at Wisconsin State Parks. A park admission sticker is required for vehicles entering the park.

Saturday, August 6th – iNaturalist

Time: 10AM – 11AM

Location: Upper Picnic Shelter

If you wish you could identify plants, fungi, bugs or birds but want a helping hand this is what you need. Bring your smartphone if you have one. If you can download the free iNaturalist app ahead of time that's a plus, otherwise we'll start by loading the app. We'll explain the basics and then head out to see what we can find. For ages 13 and above without parental consent but all ages are welcome. Those without a phone are welcome to come along to look and learn too. A park admission sticker is required for vehicles entering the park.

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Saturday, August 6th – Wolves

Time: 7PM

Location: Amphitheater

There is likely no wildlife species that engenders more emotion or controversy among humans than the gray wolf. Scott Walter, Executive Director at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve and former Large Carnivore Specialist with the Wisconsin DNR, will lead attendees through some basic wolf ecology, outline the population dynamics of wolves in Wisconsin, and engage in a discussion of the numerous issues related to wolf management in the state. Like so many issues in our society today, Scott will suggest that the current polarization regarding wolf management is counter-productive, and discuss with attendees how introspection, trust, and respect can move wolf management toward the middle and allow science to point both humans and wolves toward a future of less turbulent coexistence. A park admission sticker is required for vehicles entering the park.

Saturday, August 13th – Spiritual Currents-World Sound Explorations Show with Ryan Meisel

Time: 7PM

Location: Amphitheater

Blending his background in jazz with the sounds of indigenous music from around the globe, Ryan Meisel's "Spiritual Currents" is a presentation of music that blurs the lines between performance, meditation, and soulful exploration. Ryan's music honors his deep spiritual connection to the earth and nature while providing a context for his personal expression through organic sound. Ryan performs live saxophones, Native flutes, indigenous woodwinds, whistles, and electronic wind instruments, to his pre-recorded accompaniment of drums, shakers, bells, rattles, world percussion and electronics. Ryan's musical performance will be followed by an interactive drum circle. A park admission sticker is required for vehicles entering the park.

Saturday, August 20th – Astronomy Program and Stargazing

Time: 8 – 11 PM

Location: Amphitheater

Northwest Suburban Astronomers will present an astronomy program. Become a "backyard astronomer" with help from the Northwest Suburban Astronomers. Observe deep sky objects through telescopes. Learn to use constellations and other "landmarks" to find space objects. A park admission sticker is required for vehicles entering the park.

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Saturday, August 27th – Conserving a Flagship Insect

Time: 6PM

Location: Meet at the Upper Picnic Shelter

Join Karen Oberhauser for a short prairie hike in search of pollinators, followed by a presentation about Monarch butterflies. Monarch butterfly populations have been declining over the last 25 years—essentially the entire time that we've been monitoring them. It is important to move beyond documenting this decline, and toward responding to the challenge posed by monarch conservation and insect conservation in general. Karen will describe the amazing biology of migratory monarchs, how we can use data collected by scientists and public to understand what is driving monarch numbers, and what we can do with that information. Karen Oberhauser is the Director of the UW-Madison Arboretum. A park admission sticker is required for vehicles entering the park.