

IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
GOING BEYOND THE KICK START
NATURE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR
EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS



DODGE
NATURE CENTER

the Nature of *things*

SPRING/SUMMER | 2019

CALL OR VISIT US: 651.455.4531
DODGENATURECENTER.ORG

A WONDERFUL PLACE TO BRING KIDS

Maxi learned about Dodge Nature Center through the information desk at her local library when her niece Kimberly was a preschooler. She learned also that Dodge had scholarships available for Dodge Nature Preschool and camps—it was easy to apply and it made Dodge Nature Center's quality nature-based programming affordable. This began her family's connection to Dodge Nature Center, and it remains a year-round destination for the family, including her niece, and children Braulio, Camila, Mariana, and Caroline. Braulio, 9 and Camila, 7 are avid camp goers. Maxi explained that "it is very important for us to be able to attend camps." The kids look forward to fall, spring break, and summer camps. Spring camps are their favorite, because they enjoy seeing signs of spring and maple syruping. The family also enjoys eating the Dodge maple syrup at the March pancake breakfast.

Maxi feels that it is a "blessing to have Dodge open to everybody." The scholarship program makes camps and preschool available for her family. She is grateful for those who volunteer and donate to make this possible. She and the kids feel that Dodge is so important that they want to give back too. They give back by helping on Earth Day to do spring cleaning on the property, bake for the Rock the Barn bake sale (which supports preschool scholarships), and volunteer at the pancake breakfast. She wants others in the community to know there are no special requirements to come to Dodge and everyone can enjoy the trails and view the animals. She brings it up often to other parents—"it's a wonderful place to bring kids to get exercise and enjoy nature any time of year." She enjoys the nature center with her children and niece year-round.

With the help of the scholarship fund and all donations, Dodge Nature Center is a community resource available to all. Thank you to all of the donors who make this possible. To donate or learn more about applying for a scholarship, visit DodgeNatureCenter.org or call 651-455-4531.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Founder

Olivia I. Dodge
1918-2009

Board President

Allan Klein

Board of Directors

Dave Adams
Kari Anderson
Kim Austrian
Sara Beckstrand
Amy Bloomquist
Chad Dayton
Thomas I. Dodge
Adam Ehrmantraut
Litton E.S. Field Jr.
Andy Freeman
Peter Garretson
Jason Howard
Alan R. Johnston
Jennifer Kellogg
Peggy Novak
Erin Olson
Bill Owens
Sue Powell
James Putman
Ann Schwichtenberg
Linda Silrum
Shehla Tauscher
Trey Titcomb
Brian Van Abel
Rachel Wand
Ann Winsor

Board Emeritus

Si Ford
Vicki Ford

Directors

Jason Sanders

Executive Director

Peter Cleary
Environmental Education

Rachel Hughes
Development

Sean Gokey
Buildings and Grounds

Don Oberdorfer
Farm

Beverly Sargent
Finance

Marty Watson
Preschool



DONATIONS AT WORK - DONALD WEESNER CHARITABLE TRUST

When visiting Dodge Nature Center, you may not consider the contributions that play such a big role in keeping Dodge the safe and inviting place it is for your nature adventures. One such partner, is the Donald Weesner Charitable Trust, which has been making donations to Dodge since 2004. Their two most recent gifts improve the quality experience for everyone visiting Dodge—by repairing the barn roof and re-paving walking pathways that endure heavy use.



Thanks to the Donald Weesner Charitable Trust, the barn roof that was in great need of repair, was re-shingled with cedar. Not an often-used technique on roofs in 2018, it took us a while to find the right vendor. The roof was repaired to its original style, keeping with Olivia Irvine Dodge's vision for the farm at Dodge Nature Center. You can enjoy this nostalgic look whenever you visit the Dodge farm. In addition to looking great, the new shingles provide a safe, dry place for the hay and the animals. Dodge sees thousands of children each year during field trips and farm tours, and the barn is a key feature in their education.

Additionally, watch for new and improved paved pathways near our Marie Avenue parking lot this spring. This will make it easier to walk around near the office, school house, and museum. This area of Dodge sees thousands of footsteps each year with school groups, birthday parties, and hikers enjoying the trails. We are thankful to the Donald Weesner Charitable Trust for this investment to provide safer and walkable pathways to move from building to building.

Both of these projects are great examples of what donations help support at Dodge Nature Center. Thank you to the Donald Weesner Charitable Trust and all of the donors who invest in keeping Dodge Nature Center working day-to-day.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2018 SHAN KNOX VOLUNTEER AWARD: JERRY WILLHARBER

Jerry has volunteered at Dodge Nature Center for 10+ years. He is enthusiastic, warm, and has a true dedication to Dodge' mission. Jerry comes every day until a project is done (e.g. shutters for the raptors in below zero conditions). He helped construct shutters for the raptor mews, an enclosure for the resident flying squirrel, and hive stands for the bee program. He built more stands for waterers in the chicken coop, and feed boxes for the sheep. He installed lighting in the farm shop, created plans for redoing the lighting in the barn, and secured a safety light so staff can see behind the raptor mews. He also has a plan for cabinets to house the animal mounts. This list is long, and it is only a mere sample that showcases the impact Jerry is making at Dodge as the seasons change. Thank you, Jerry, for being a superhero in the Dodge community.



NATURE ACTIVITIES MARCH 2019 - AUGUST 2019

For activity details and registration, visit DodgeNatureCenter.org or call 651.455.4531

MARCH

4	Nature Painting: Backyard Owl	Adults
5	Zero Waste (O.W.L.S.)	Seniors
9	Pancake Breakfast	All
15	Nature Playdate: Syrup Season	Pre-K
16	Scout Maple Syrup Time	All Scouts (Grades K-5)
16	Maple Syruping	Families
19	Simple Seed Starting	Adults
21	Nature After Dinner: Maple Syrup Time	Families
23	Maple Syruping	Families
25-28	Spring Break Camp	K-8th Grade
30	Maple Syruping	Families

APRIL

2	Brazil-The Pantanal Region (O.W.L.S.)	Seniors
8	Nature Painting: Art to Fawn Over	Adults
12	Nature Playdate: Baa, Cluck, Oink	Pre-K
16	Women in the Woods: Spring Arrives	Women 21+
17	Women in the Woods: Spring Arrives	Women 21+
18	Nature After Dinner: Frogs and Toads	Families
27	Scout Farm Fun	All Scouts (Grades K-5)

MAY

4	Signs of Spring Hike	Families
6	Nature Painting: May Flowers	Adults
7	Otterly Wonderful Otters (O.W.L.S.)	Seniors
10	Nature Playdate: Slithering Snakes	Pre-K
16	Nature After Dinner: Chickens, Chickens Everywhere	Families
18	Rock the Barn	Families

JUNE

1	Morning on the Farm	Families
4	Springtime Stroll and Picnic (O.W.L.S.)	Seniors
7	Nature Playdate: Campfire Cooking	Pre-K
13	Nature After Dinner: Hunters of the Skies	Families
June 17-Aug 8	Summer Camp (registration opens Feb. 4)	1st-8th Grade
21	Outdoor Summer Concert: Averil Bach	Families
24	Summer Campfire	

JULY

11	Nature After Dinner: Turtle Time	Families
12	Nature Playdate: Puddles and Ponds	Pre-K
13	Farm Tour	Families
19	Outdoor Summer Concert: Fabulous Fairlanes	Families
22	Campfire Songs and Stories	Families
26	Outdoor Summer Concert: Font 16	Families

AUGUST

8	Nature After Dinner: Flight of the Butterfly	Seniors
9	Nature Playdate: Prairie Playtime	Pre-k
13	Women in the Woods: Gimme Shelter	Women 21+
14	Women in the Woods: Gimme Shelter	Women 21+
15	Outdoor Summer Concert: Picnic Operetta	Families

Nature After Dinner

O.W.L.S. - Outwardly, Wiser, Livelier, Seniors

Nature Playdate

GOING BEYOND THE KICK START

"The experience of getting our two boys into Dodge goes beyond the kick start of their love of school, nature adventures and friendships. Attending preschool was the bridge between attachment-parenting of "my babies" to starting their journey into the world as their own people. We are eternally grateful for scholarship contributions we were allocated, because it alleviated some of the stress in our budgeting gymnastics. Dodge generated a connection with nature and gave our boys the foundation to introduce school as a fun, positive environment. The impact is lifelong - my second grader reminisces about Dodge with a twinkle in his eye when his lucky little brother tells him about his day on the farm, at the pond, in the orchards, with the bee keeper, seeing the "raptors-zoo", playing in the sand box, sliding down Challenge-Hill, or just freely playing in the classroom with his activities of choice." - Tamara and Family

Nature provides a foundation for children to learn and grow in an environment that shapes their individual strengths, and sense of self. You can give a child this scholarship opportunity by donating online (DodgeNatureCenter.org), or by attending Dodge's Rock the Barn event on May 18, 2019. Proceeds from this event support the preschool scholarship fund.

COMING EVENTS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

8 -10:30 AM SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Location: Garlough Environmental
Magnet School in West St. Paul

Enjoy pancakes and pure maple syrup with friends from the community. Explore this Minnesota tradition with a naturalist-led hike to learn about the process of maple sap collection and syrup production. This is a free event, walk-ins are welcome, and donations are appreciated.

SPRING BREAK CAMPS FOR GRADES K-8TH

8:30 AM - 3:15 PM

MARCH 25 THROUGH MARCH 28

Location: Main Office Entrance 1,
365 Marie Avenue West in West St. Paul

Spend your spring break outdoors at one or all of the Dodge day camps. The weather might be unpredictable, but the forecast shows a 100% chance of fun. Featured Camps: Puddle Stomp, Farm Fun, In the Maple Woods, Welcome Back Wildlife, Rock On, Lumberjack Camp, and Axes and Arrows. The deadline to register is Friday, March 15, 2019. Scholarships available. Camp details and application can be found on DodgeNatureCenter.org

ROCK THE BARN

3 - 7 PM SATURDAY, MAY 18

Location: Farm Education Entrance 3 -
1701 Charlton Street in West St. Paul

Round up the entire family for Dodge's annual farm and music festival. Visit the barn where you will meet live animals up close. Your child will have the chance to experience a 'day in the life' by taking part in farm chores and old fashioned games. Everyone will enjoy the atmosphere's live music. Proceeds support Dodge Nature Preschool scholarships.



DODGE

NATURE CENTER

Thomas Irvine Dodge Nature Center
365 Marie Avenue West
West St. Paul, MN 55118

DODGE NATURE CENTER IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, OFFERINGS ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY DONATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COMPANIES. YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE AT DODGENATURECENTER.ORG TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES SUMMER EVENINGS 7-8:30 PM

Come for an evening blend of nature and music. Bring your family, a friend, or a date. Concerts are free and donations are appreciated.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 21
AVERIL BACH**

Music Mix: Jazz, Blues, Country, and Rock

**FRIDAY, JULY 19
THE FABULOUS FAIRLANES**

50's Music to Today

**FRIDAY, JULY 26
FONT 16**

60's and 70's Music Duet

**THURSDAY, AUG. 15
MIXED PRECIPITATION**

Picnic Operetta

