

THE TEACH TABLET

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FIRST FISHING DERBY AT WOODSMOKE RANCH

On June 17, 2017, TEACH OUTDOORS was invited to host a fishing derby and duck calling seminar at Woodsmoke Ranch to help teach the skills of fishing to kids and *adults* who would like to fish but have never been fishing before. It's a great site because the kids catch lots of fish and have buckets of fun. More photos on p. 3.



A springtime fawn bedded down.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

TEACH Outdoors has a summer planned with lots of opportunities to get kids outdoors and into nature! See our calendar on the back page of this issue or you can always find the latest event information on our website at www.TeachOutdoors.org. All our events are FREE but some locations require pre-registration. Get questions? Email us: info@TeachOutdoors.org.

Keep checking our calendar throughout the summer if you are interested in taking a Hunter's Safety course. Our fall class schedule will be posted soon!

"...we are a family that is working towards the same mission." More on page 2

A FAWN IN THE FOREST BY MELISSA CAVENAILE

Just outside of Devil's Lake State Park lies a beautiful State Natural Area called Parfrey's Glen in Merrimac, WI. The glen is a deep gorge cut through the sandstone of the south flank of the Baraboo Hills. It's beautiful hiking for the calming sound of a babbling stream alongside the first portion of the trail. The terrain becomes more challenging as some hikers navigate to stay dry while others plan on getting wet and muddy. The mid-point of this out and back hike is the waterfall, the view is the reward for all the effort and squishy socks. With wild flowers in bloom and a gentle breeze, this hike was enjoyable to say the least. While we stopped to take a closer look at another smaller waterfall, a young woman caught my attention. She was either carrying her a dauberman puppy or a fawn. Did I mention I am in need of new contact lenses? I decided to ask her what she was holding. She revealed

to us a fawn that she had wrapped in her hooded sweatshirt. I asked her where she found it and she said, "About a five minute hike that way (indicating up stream)." I knew I had to do something to help the fawn. *Continued on page 4.*

Amanda is helping a girl who went fishing the first time in May get her fish off the hook and back into the water.



Want to share your love of the outdoors with kids like Amanda?

COME JOIN US!

For volunteer sign up, visit www.TeachOutdoors.org or call Smitty, our President at 815-341-4001.

It's tons of fun & rewarding too. You don't have to be an expert to help, just willing and available.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: AMANDA RINGNESS

In an interview Amanda Ringness, board member and Director of Scholarships and Education of TEACH Outdoors.

I grew up in Evanston, IL. I became involved with TEACH Outdoors in 2014 because I love being outside. I also like to help kids realize how fun it is too! I graduated from college in 2015 and became a nurse. I chose nursing because I wanted to help people.

My favorite thing about volunteering with TEACH Outdoors Inc. NFP is that we are a family that is all working towards the same mission. We want to get kids outside and show them a love and appreciation for nature. It's amazing the things that we can accomplish because we are all so close and so dedicated. I'm proud to be a part of the team.

In my free time in the summer, I like to fish and practice archery. During the winter, I like to hunt. I have a new fire pit in my backyard that I plan on enjoying with friends.

Right: Amanda kayaking/fishing with her "baby" large mouth bass.



TRADITION
EDUCATION
ADVENTURE
CONSERVATION &
HABITAT

OUR MISSION IS TO GET KIDS OUTDOORS AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN TO FISH, CAMP, HUNT & PROTECT NATURE BY OFFERING FREE PROGRAMS TO ALL CHILDREN.

FOR THE LATEST LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT US AT WWW.TEACHOUTDOORS.ORG

2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 29, 2017
Saturday

Fishing Derby, Conservation Day & Camp Out
Woodsmoke Ranch in Seneca-Registration required*
Hot Dog Lunch, Duck Calling Lessons & Contest

August 5, 2017
Saturday
Seminar

Neighborhood Fest at First Baptist Church in Morris
Minnow Racing, William Tell Archery, Wood Duck

Aug. 23-27, 2017

Will County Fair in Peotone (open to close daily)
Membership Drive, Information Booth, Minnow
Racing, Wood Duck Seminars, and Raffles

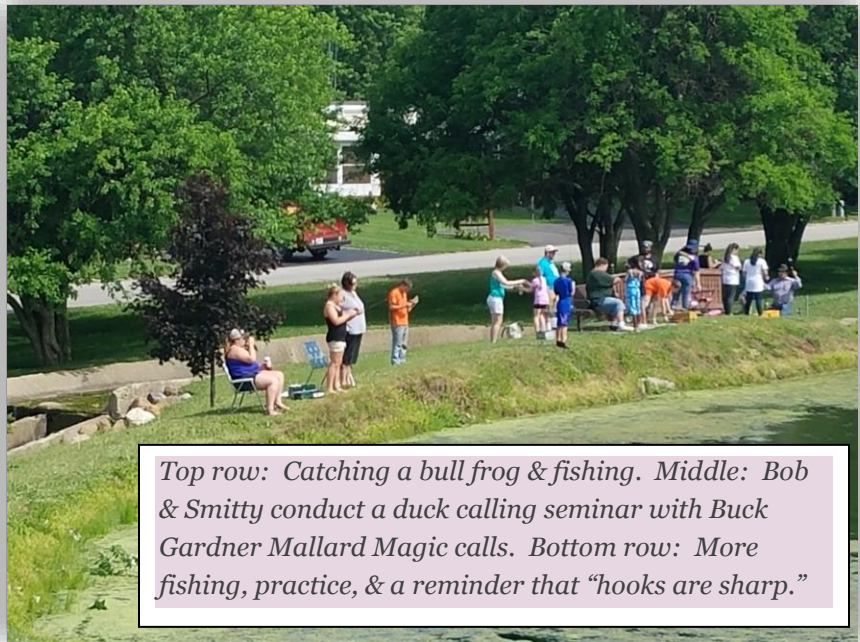
October 1, 2017
Sunday

Grundy County Corn Festival Parade at 2:00 in Morris

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR WOODSMOKE EVENTS at least one week in advance because you will need a gate pass to enter the ranch; it is still FREE TO PARTICIPATE. TO REGISTER VISIT www.TeachOutdoors.org. FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL: info@TeachOutdoors.org



Thank you to Riley's Cardinal Transport for your support. Events like the Woodsmoke Fishing Derby are possible because of your generosity. We at TEACH Outdoors appreciate you and wish you fun & successful summer.



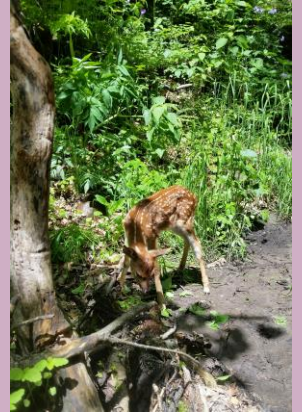
Top row: Catching a bull frog & fishing. Middle: Bob & Smitty conduct a duck calling seminar with Buck Gardner Mallard Magic calls. Bottom row: More fishing, practice, & a reminder that "hooks are sharp."



The fawn story (Continued)

It turns out she retrieved the fawn from an off limit area of the park. She explained that they waited for the mother for five minutes and they didn't see any deer. Then she said it could not stand and seemed to be injured. It looked to me like the fawn did have some superficial wounds to his or her head and leg, but they also appeared to me to have been freshly licked by mom. I was impressed by how long the fawn's eyelashes were and marveled at the chance to observe a fawn so closely. However, I subscribe to Wisconsin DNR magazine and I remembered an article about children "rescuing" a fawn from a meadow, believing they were doing a good deed only to learn what they had done caused great stress to the fawn. I explained to the couple that they didn't see the mother because she wouldn't come back to her fawn while they were present. I also shared how fawns are born without a scent and they use their spots to hide while mom must go away to eat or protect the fawn from danger. I also reminded them that we were in a natural area that prohibits moving flowers or animals. I empathized with her wanting to help the fawn but also strongly suggested that they return the fawn to the spot they found her. Then I encouraged them to use GPS to mark the location and report it at Devil's Lake State Park to a park ranger. Other than that, even if the fawn was injured, she needed to be a part of the circle of life and not disturbed. The young woman reluctantly decided to do the right thing and we accompanied the couple back to where they found the fawn. When she set her down, the fawn stood and we left her. It is our hope that the mother returned and the fawn thrived. It was a teaching moment for all of us. To help children know what to do when they spot a fawn, my favorite story is "Lost in the Woods," by Carl R. Sams II & Jean Stoick. You can also visit www.wi.dnr.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/orphan.html for more information on orphaned animals or ask a naturalist. **Enjoy nature & remember:**

- **Keep wildlife wild.** ■ **Take only memories and photos.**
- **Leave only footprints.** ■ **Respect park rules.**



Photos: Above is the fawn that caught my attention that day. The lower picture is how we left her after she was returned to her hiding spot. Below is the lush valley before the climbing section of the trail near the skull rock formation. Pure natural beauty!

