

Homeschool Nature Journaling at the Kaukauna Public Library

Class description: A science, drawing and writing class! Students must bring a sketchbook to class. Class is intended for the entire family, but at least one child in the family must be school-aged to participate. The class meets at the Library and at 1,000 Islands Nature Center. This class builds upon itself, so weekly participation in class is mandatory. Families that miss more than four classes in the first semester will be dropped from the class. Class meets in Conference Room ABC at the Library for the first session. Registration required.

Themes: Past semester themes have been Wisconsin animals, insects and plants. The 2016-2017 class focused heavily on Wisconsin birds and flowers.

Class meets: Thursdays from 1:30-2:30p from the third week in September to the third week in December and again from the third week in January to the last week in April.

Hike Days: On hike days, participants begin with writing the date, the temperature, what they notice about the weather, what they notice about how they are feeling that day. In sketch books they also write about the things they see and include sketches of those things as well. They write notes about the things they are going to research during class times at the Library or questions they have.

Homeschool Showcase: When the class is nearly over (or over sometimes), we hold our Homeschool Showcase on an evening from 6:30-8p. Relatives, family and friends are invited to the showcase. Families bring refreshments and browse the display of work created over the year.

Books Used in Curriculum:

- *The Nature Connection: An Outdoor Workbook* by Clare Walker Leslie (This book is an accredited homeschool book.)
- *Wildflowers of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region: A Comprehensive Field Guide* by Black & Judziewicz
- *Flowers & Botanicals* by Cardaci (Drawing Made Easy series)
- *Trees of Wisconsin: Field Guide* by Tekiela

Equipment Used in Class:

- Sketchbooks (provided by families)
- Drawing pencils (graphite)
- Colored pencils
- Pastel pencils
- Acrylics
- Bug Nets
- Jars
- Magnifying glasses
- Tape measures
- Binoculars

- Camera

Mock Syllabus

September 22: Library: Sketching birds (handouts are given including pictures of bird skeletal systems and introductory step-by-step drawing directions for birds)

September 29: Nature Center (Sketching/writing/hiking/observing)

October 6: Library: Painting sketches of birds

October 13: Nature Center (Sketching/writing/hiking)

October 20: Library: Sketching local flora and fauna (pictures of choices are given out for inspiration)

October 27: Nature Center (Sketching/writing/hiking)

November 3: Library: Painting sketches of local flora and fauna

November 10: Nature Center (Sketching/writing/hiking)

November 17: Library: Researching geese and how to draw them

December 1: Nature Center (Sketching/writing/hiking)

December 8: Library: Painting sketches of geese

December 15: Nature Center (Sketching/writing/hiking)

December 22: Researching birds of choice

January 26: Library: Beginning work on 3-D goose sculpture; sketching out the design

February 2: Nature Center (Sketching/writing/hiking)

February 9: Library: Creating the body shape of the goose (each family works on one goose together; our geese were made from newspaper and plaster)

February 16: Nature Center (Sketching/writing/hiking)

February 23: Library: Applying plaster to the outside of the goose sculpture

March 2: Nature Center (Sketching/writing/hiking)

March 9: Library: Painting the geese

March 16: Nature Center (Sketching/writing/hiking)

March 23: Choosing a bird to research, draw and begin canvas sketches

March 30: Nature Center (Sketching/writing/hiking)

April 6: Painting canvas sketches

April 13: Nature Center (Sketching/writing/hiking)

April 20: Writing a poem about the bird of choice to go with the canvas print

April 27: Nature Center (Sketching/writing/hiking)