

April 2021 Blackhawk Ski Club Newsletter

May 8, 7:45 at the Pond: Birding Walk

Join Ben Lizdas, nordic skier and professional birder, on a walk to explore the birds at Blackhawk in Spring! Bring your enthusiasm (and binoculars if you have them). All ages/abilities welcome!

"Millions of birds will be passing through Wisconsin in May, coming from as far away as Argentina and going as far as Alaska and the Arctic Ocean," said Craig Thompson, who leads bird conservation efforts for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "It's nothing short of a miracle, and a great opportunity for people to get out to their local parks, state parks or natural areas to enjoy the spectacle."

Note: Some trails may be wet-appropriate footwear is suggested....in the event of strong storms, cancellation info. will be posted on Blackhawk website. Questions? Contact Jill Stevenson at jill.stevenson@blackhawkskiclub.org

Volunteer Opportunity: Youth Mountain Bike Instructors

Do you enjoy being outside, biking, and working with kids? Looking for an opportunity to volunteer in a safe, outdoor, and socially distant manner? We are looking for youth mountain biking instructors to help teach lessons throughout the week. Previous instruction experience is not required, training is included.

Join us for an informational Zoom meeting on Thursday, May 13th at 7:30pm. We will go over plans for the season, what to expect as an instructor, review our COVID safety precautions, and go over any questions you may have. [Click here](#) to join the Zoom meeting. [Link](#) to Facebook event.

Questions? Contact [Kelley Linnan](#).

Member Survey for Winter: It's not too late! It takes only 5 minutes and is very helpful for us to hear from you. Here's the link:

https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3ZOIUNMGLUfx6dw

Calling all nature enthusiasts! Looking for adults, teens and kids who are interested in helping with **Hiking and Nature exploration** at Blackhawk. A lot of exciting plans, join the fun! We are especially in need of basic carpentry work as well. Interested? Contact Jill.stevenson@blackhawkskiclub.org

Vehicle tags: Vehicle tags will be required to park on Blackhawk property beginning Summer 2021. Members may pick up their tags at Blackhawk (watch your email for date/times) or they may be mailed to you by sending us a self-addressed stamped envelope to PO Box 628094, Middleton, WI 53562.

Masks and the Great Outdoors

Best practices regarding mask wearing have evolved over the past year and while not much has changed, these 3 guidelines are a helpful tool to when to wear masks outdoors. As always, if you do not feel well, please stay home!

Outdoors + No Distance = mask needed

Outdoors + Distance = mask not needed

Not outdoors + Distance = mask needed

Playground and Picnic Tables Refreshed!

Thank you to our crew (Jeff Hoerning, VOY-2020; Mike Dobrient, VOY-2021, Pat Remington and his brother-in-law Jim L'Heureux) for fixing the picnic tables and ensuring our playground structure is safe for the summer. It's never too late to earn a Boy Scout badge for carpentry!



Wood chips for under the play structure coming soon!

Mountain bike trail maps are available at our kiosks at the East and West Trailhead, and [here](#) on our website. A map of the property can be found [here](#) on our website.

Hiking trail maps are forth-coming (look for new hiking opportunities coming soon!). Hikers are encouraged to use the wide, grassy cross-country ski trails, roads, and biking trails that are designated for multi-use. Hiking/running on designated mountain bike trails can be dangerous for hikers and bikers alike. Bikers must avoid grass hiking trails including descending hill#6.

Biking/Hiking/Running Etiquette: Whether biking, hiking or running, please be courteous to each other. The trails are shared among beginners and experts, new and seasoned members of the club, young people and those with years of wisdom.

1.Ride Safely. You're responsible for avoiding objects and people. Ride within your ability. Start small and work your way up.

2.Protect Yourself. Use an appropriate bike, helmet, and protective equipment.

3.Know the Trails. Conditions change constantly; plan and adjust your riding accordingly.

4.Stay on Designated Trails. Stay on trails and ride in the direction indicated. Avoid riding on the roads. Bikers must avoid grass hiking trails including descending hill#6.

5.Respect our Trails. Do not ride when trails are wet or closed for maintenance.

6.Be Visible. Do not stop where you obstruct a trail, feature, landing, or are not visible.

7.Look and Yield to Others. Stop when crossing roads and yield to riders coming up a trail. When overtaking, use caution and say, "passing on your left."

8.Communicate. Tell us if you see unsafe conditions or riders, or are involved in or witness to an accident.

Dogs must be controlled at all times and on leashes near parking areas and chalets and whenever encountering other club members using the facility.

Gates are locked from sundown to sunrise. If you see activities unrelated to biking, hiking and ski jumping, or unsafe behavior of any kind, please say something – either directly to the people or contact our Trails Director (pat.remington@blackhawkskiclub.org) or the Board (Board@blackhawkskiclub.org). If you have concerns about illegal activity, please call the county sheriff non-emergency line (608) 266-4948 or dial 911 for an emergency.