

# Nature Fest

## TYPE OF ACTIVITIES

- Drop-in** Show up anytime within the timeframe
- Guided** Show up at the start time to participate

## FRIDAY, MAY 12

### FAMILY ACTIVITIES: open to all ages

**7 - 9 P.M.** **CANOES & CAMPFIRES** **Drop-in** **Farmstead**  
Canoe with a partner on Kesling Wetland and then relax by the campfire while making s'mores. All equipment is provided, including s'mores fixings (while supplies last), canoes, life jackets and paddles.

### BIOBLITZ ACTIVITIES: science investigations: check events for recommended ages

**9 - 10 P.M.** **INSECT LIGHT - LURING** **Drop-in** **Farmstead**  
It's amazing how many insects come out at night! Use "light lures" (blacklights) to draw in various insects & learn all about these critters with the help of Goshen College students.

## SATURDAY, MAY 13

**8:30 A.M.** **EVENT CHECK-IN BEGINS (REQUIRED)** **Farmstead Lawn**

**7:30 - 9 A.M.** \*Weather Permitting  
**BIRD BANDING BONANZA** **Drop-in** **Farmstead Lawn**  
Stop by several mist nets on the perimeter of Kesling Prairie to see how these tools are used to safely catch-and-release songbirds to allow a closer study of their health! Please check-in to receive directions!

**9 - 10:30 A.M.** **NATURE'S DYES** **Drop-in** **Farmstead Pavilion**  
Nature provides us vibrant dyes to decorate eggs, color fabrics and for creating paints. Come create your own watercolor masterpiece as a family with the colors from Mother Nature!

**TURTLE TREK** **Guided** **Wetland Garage**  
Come check out live traps in Kesling Wetland for various types of turtles! Turtles that are captured will be identified & released. Participants may get to help remove smaller turtles from traps and collect data, and get to see a variety of turtle species up close!

**BIRDING BASICS FOR BEGINNERS** **Guided** **Bell**  
Join us to learn about the basics of birding, sharpen your ID skills, and explore the beautiful world of birds. Learn how to identify birds by sound, shape, and so much more! All ages are welcome.

**BIOBLITZ TABLE** **Drop-in** **Farmstead Lawn**  
Come to the table for event info and BioBlitz-related games/activities that are going on.

**SCOOP, SNATCH, AND PECK** **Drop-in** **Fire Ring**  
Which beak is best? Find out for yourself as you try out specialized 'beaks' to discover all about bird adaptations in this family-friendly feeding stimulation!

**SELF-GUIDED OPTIONS** **Drop-in** **Farmstead Lawn**  
Explore the outdoors on your own. We will have trail bags, scavenger hunts, and hiking trails ready to go!

**AQUATIC CRITTER ID & DIPPING** **Drop-in** **Kesling Wetland**  
Stop by our identification table and see what our experts have found living in Kesling Wetland. Try dipping yourself and see what you can find!

**AQUATIC CRITTER ID** **Drop-in** **Wetland Garage**  
Are you interested in identifying aquatic invertebrates? Families can drop-in to use microscopes to observe critters, ask questions about ID, engage with various experts and dip for critters on your own!

**10:30 A.M. - 12 P.M.** **NATURE PREK CLASSROOM OPEN HOUSE** **Drop-in** **Outdoor Classroom**  
Walk out to our outdoor classroom to explore how we spend time each afternoon that we are in session. Climb logs, cook in our mud kitchen, and more!

**MAKE & TAKE BIRD FEEDERS** **Guided** **Farmstead Pavilion**  
This is an opportunity for families to create a one-of-a-kind bird feeder to take home. All the materials and tools are provided! \*While supplies last.

**BIOBLITZ TABLE** **Drop-in** **Farmstead Lawn**  
Come to the table for event info and BioBlitz-related games/activities that are going on.

**SELF-GUIDED OPTIONS** **Drop-in** **Farmstead Lawn**  
Explore the outdoors on your own. We will have trail bags, scavenger hunts, and hiking trails ready to go!



# SATURDAY, MAY 14 (CONTINUED)

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

open to all ages

## BIOBLITZ ACTIVITIES:

science investigations for all ages

12 - 12:30 P.M.

(LUNCH TIME)

Grab your lunch and eat at a picnic table or on the grass. We also have a few activities to drop in on if you have time!

### STITCH N' STASH Drop-in Farmstead Pavilion

Do you wish you had a pouch for those fun treasures that you find while hiking? Come make a felt pouch to house your nifty hike finds!

### LOOSE PARTS PLAY Drop-in Farmstead Fire Ring

Sticks, blocks, leaves! Come play with nature's loose materials and display your creativity! How will you make use of the great outdoors?

### SELF-GUIDED OPTIONS Drop-in Farmstead Lawn

Explore the outdoors on your own. We will have trail bags, scavenger hunts, and play areas ready to go!

### BIOBLITZ TABLE Drop-in Farmstead Lawn

Come to the table for event info and BioBlitz-related games/activities that are going on.

12:30 - 2 P.M.

### STITCH N' STASH Drop-in Farmstead Pavilion

Do you wish you had a pouch for those fun treasures you find while hiking? Come make a felt pouch to house your nifty hike finds!

### LOOSE PARTS PLAY Drop-in Farmstead Fire Ring

Sticks, blocks, leaves! Come play with nature's loose materials and display your creativity! How will you make use of the great outdoors?

### FANTASTIC FARM FIZZIE SCAVENGER HUNT Guided Farmstead Pavilion

Embark on a hiking scavenger hunt as you explore Merry Lea Teaching Farm! At each location, search for tokens that you can exchange at the end for ingredients from the farm to make your own farm fizzie - a drink made by mixing carbonated water and fruit juice/syrup.

### CANOEING Drop-in Kesling Wetland

Grab a partner and canoe on Kesling Wetland! Canoes, paddles and life jackets are provided.

### SELF-GUIDED OPTIONS Drop-in Farmstead Lawn

Explore the outdoors on your own. We will have trail bags, scavenger hunts, and play areas ready to go!

### SALAMANDERS Guided Bell

This time of year is a great to find salamanders moving near the soil's surface, before they burrow down deeper in the dry summer. We'll be walking to check on some long-term monitoring plots, and participants will get a chance to see a few different species up close.

Register for this event at check in, limited to 12 participants, recommended for ages 5 and up.

### BIOBLITZ TABLE Drop-in Farmstead Lawn

Come to the table for event info and BioBlitz-related games/activities that are going on.

2 - 3:30 P.M.

### LEAF & FLOWER POUNDING PRINTS Drop-in Carpenter Shop

Flowers and leaves come in so many amazing shades! Capture these colors on paper by hammering leaves and flowers to make your own work of art to take home.

### EXPERIENCE NATURE'S MUSIC Guided Kesling Wetland

Engage with all the elements of a great campfire: learn fire building skills, enjoy fun and interactive storytelling and make some tasty s'mores!

### SOIL SQUAD Guided Farmstead Pavilion

Get your hands dirty as you examine composting critters, measure real soil layers and use microscopes to see what lives beneath our feet. Meet at the pavilion for a short hike over to the Teaching Farm.

### CANOEING Drop-in Kesling Wetland

Grab a partner and canoe on the wetland! Canoes, paddles and life jackets are provided.

### SELF-GUIDED OPTIONS Drop-in Farmstead Lawn

Explore the outdoors on your own. We will have trail bags, scavenger hunts, and play areas ready to go!

### PLANT PALOOZA Guided Bell

Join our biomonitors to help identify and learn about herbaceous plant species diversity in a Merry Lea forest. Some knowledge of local plants will be helpful, although not necessary!

Register for this event at check in, limited to 9 participants.

### BIOBLITZ TABLE Drop-in Farmstead Lawn

Come to the table for event info and BioBlitz-related games/activities that are going on.

