

Jefferson County sets nature event at Waterloo

WATERLOO — The Friends of the Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) is hosting its third annual Winter Fair Feb. 13 at the Waterloo Regional Trailhead Facility, 760 McKay Road, from 1-4 p.m. and all are welcome.

This year's fair features a talk at 1 p.m. about Waterloo's Native American mounds at Garman Nature Preserve by former state archaeologist Robert Birmingham, followed by a talk at 1:30 p.m. about creating plant biodiversity through invasive plant removal by Jefferson County Parks Operations Supervisor Kevin Wiesmann.

At 2 p.m., those interested may join a nature hike through Garman Nature Preserve led by both speakers as well as local educator Joni Crave. The hike will focus on the history of the preserve, including its conical mounds and invasive plants within Garman woods.

At 3 p.m. people are invited to a bat house workshop led by Portland Boosters 4-H. This demonstration will outline proper design, needed materials and bat-specific features necessary to encourage these insect-eating creatures to a homemade

bat house.

In addition, local Rock River Coalition volunteers Sue and Bob Volenec will be on hand to display stream monitoring equipment used around Waterloo. Jeanne Scherer of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will also be present to provide take-home information about identifying and removing invasive plants, as well as reporting invasive plants seen throughout the area.

Homemade treats will be provided by Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese and the Friends of GHA. The event is free however donations are welcome in support of volunteer projects throughout the GHA.

For more information, contact Clare at friendsofgha@gmail.com or visit www.glacialheritagearea.org to see the event flier.

The Friends of GHA is a local nonprofit organization in support of county parks, state trails and state wildlife areas in Greater Jefferson County. The friends work to connect citizens and communities to these natural resources through stewardship, education and recreation.