



Office of Child Care and Family Resources Monthly Newsletter

# BADGERBUZZ

Discover events, resources, and activities for UW families

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## August Badger Buzz

August is here, and with it, a plethora of family-friendly events and warm weather to close out the summer! In this month's newsletter, find an insect-themed craft, read-aloud book and snack; a family-friendly event for bird enthusiasts at the UW Arboretum, and registration for UW Extension's annual Fathers in Focus conference.

### Dates & Reminders

- August 3: Fall **KidsKare** application open
- August 11: **Wisconsin Primary Election**
- August 31: Fall **CCTAP** term begins



The McPherson Eye  
Research Institute  
*presents:*

## VISION *at the* ARBORETUM

Saturday,  
**August 8th**

10:00 am - 1:30 pm

Arboretum Visitor Center  
2880 Longenecker Dr



### Bird Vision at the Arboretum!

Join us **Saturday, August 8th** for Vision at the Arboretum, a free, family-friendly event exploring bird vision! Learn how birds see, how vision affects their survival, and the story behind a mysterious eye disease affecting songbirds. Then meet a Great Horned Owl, Peregrine Falcon, and Broad-Winged Hawk up close.

Suggested ages 7 and up.

#### Additional activities:

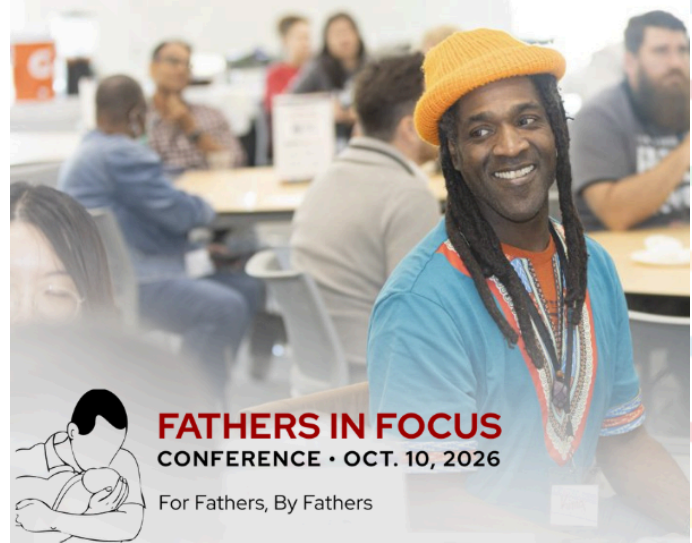
- Guided bird walk with expert birder
- Raptor rehab and conservation talk from Wings Raptor Center
- Complimentary breakfast at 9:45 am

**RSVP here!**

## Register now: Fathers in Focus

Calling all dads, father figures, mentors and coaches — and those who work with them: you can find community at this **FREE** fatherhood event on **Saturday, October 10 from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm** at the Madison College Truax Campus. Hear from keynote speaker Mike de la Rocha and 20 presenters covering co-parenting, mental health, custody and more. **Register by Sept. 14.** Breakfast, lunch and snacks are included.

[Learn more and register!](#)

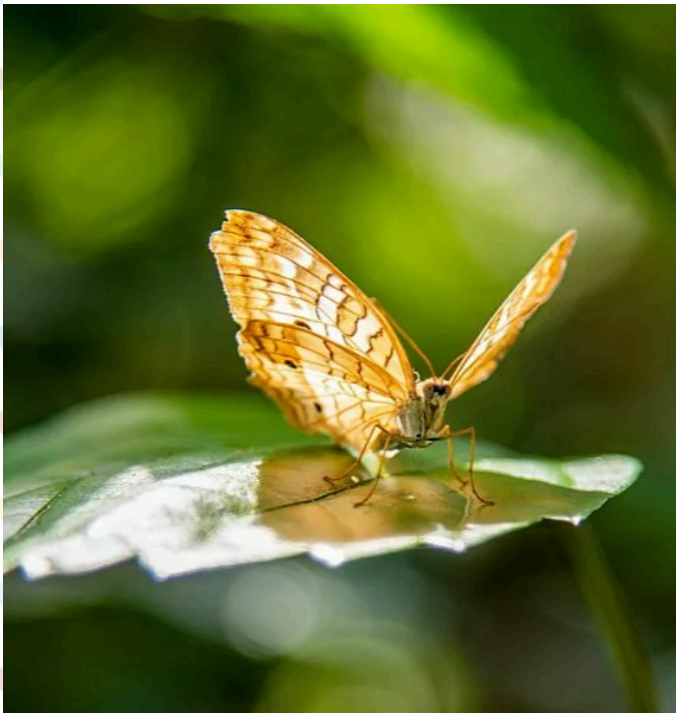


## Blooming Butterflies at Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Now **through August 9th**, step into the tropical Bolz Conservatory, where up to 19 species of butterflies flutter freely among lush greenery. Blooming Butterflies offers a chance to observe these colorful creatures up close and learn about their fascinating life cycle. Don't miss the chrysalis cases—if you're lucky, you might catch the moment a butterfly spreads its wings for the very first time!

\$10 - Adults (ages 13 & up)  
\$6 - Children (ages 6 - 12)  
Free - ages 5 & under

[Learn more](#)



## Child Care Openings

The following openings within the [UW–Madison Child Care and Education System](#) are current as of **7/30/26**.

### Eagle's Wing Child Care

- Spots for ages 2-4 in Fall half-day program from 7:30 am – 12:00 pm

### Waisman Early Childhood Program

- (2) spots for age 2
- (1) spot for age 3

### Bernie's Place

- (1) spot for age 2, M-F mornings
- (3) spots for age 3, M-F mornings

### Creative Learning Preschool

- Spots for age 3

### Isthmus Montessori Academy

- (3) spots in 4K program

### Meeting House Nursery School

- Spots for age 2, mornings
- Spots for age 3, mornings/afternoons
- Spots for 4K, mornings/afternoons
- Spots for 4K, full-day

### Preschool of the Arts

All spots open as of September 8, 2026

- (3) spots for 4K
- (4) spots for age 3
- (3) spots for age 2
- (1) spot for age 2, born Sept-Dec 2024

### The Playing Field East

- (3) spots for infants
- (1) spot for toddlers, full-time
- (1) spot for toddlers, part-time

### Little Chicks Learning Academy

- (4) spots, born in 2026
- (1) spot, born May-Dec 2025
- (3) spots, born Sept 2024-April 2025
- (2) spots, born Jan-Aug 2024
- (2) spots, born 2023
- (5) spots, born 2022

- (3) spots for age 2
- (3) spots for age 3-4 (Get Kids Ready program; must be age 4 by 9/1/26)

### The Playing Field Midtown

- (1) spot for 4K starting in September

## August Family-Friendly Events

### Special Events

#### **Chocolate Chip Cookie Day**

Tuesday, August 4, 3:00 - 4:00 pm  
Middleton Public Library

#### **Nature Everywhere Madison**

Thursday, August 6, 10:30 - 11:30 am  
Lakeview Library

#### **Ride the Drive**

Sunday, August 9, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Various Locations

#### **Kids on the Prairie: Pollinators Everywhere**

Sunday, August 9, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Holy Wisdom Monastery

#### **Move & Groove**

Monday, August 10, 10:00 - 11:00 am  
Fitchburg Public Library

#### **Kids Concerts in the Park: Ometochtli Mexican Folk Dance**

Thursday, August 13, 6:00 - 7:00 pm  
Grand Crossing Park (Monona)

#### **Police Station Storytime**

Saturday, August 15, 10:00 - 11:00 am  
Middleton Police Station, 7341 Donna Dr.

#### **Camp Aldo Evenings: Rocket Launch Fun**

Sunday, August 16, 5:00 - 8:00 pm  
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

#### **Family Nature Program: Pollinator Party**

Sunday, August 16, 1:30 - 3:30 pm  
UW Arboretum

#### **Preschool Patterns**

Tuesday, August 18, 10:00 - 11:00 am  
Fitchburg Public Library

#### **Kids in the Rotunda: Season Announcement Party**

Thursday, August 20, 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
Overture Center

### Recurring Events

#### **Wiggles and Words: Multi-Age Storytime**

August 3, 10, 17  
11:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Goodman South Madison Library

#### **Toddler Time**

August 3, 10, 17  
10:30 - 11:15 am  
Alicia Ashman Library

#### **Children's African Story Hour**

August 4, 11, 18, 25  
5:30 - 6:30 pm  
University Apartments Community Center  
Room 135

#### **Little Sprouts**

August 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21  
9:00 - 10:00 am  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens

#### **Baby Storytime (birth to 17 mos.)**

August 5, 12  
11:15 - 11:45 am  
Pinney Library

#### **MCM Free Thursday Evenings**

August 6, 13, 20, 27  
4:00 - 8:00 pm  
Madison Children's Museum

#### **Parks Alive**

Various Dates in August  
5:00 - 7:00 pm  
Various Madison Parks

### **Bird & Nature Adventures**

Saturday, August 22, 10:00 - 11:30 am  
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

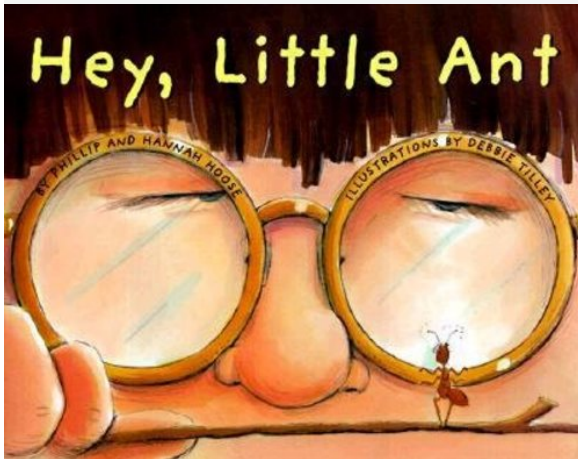
### **Stories & Songs with Junebug**

Saturday, August 22, 10:30 - 11:00 am  
Pinney Library

### **Curious Critters Storytime**

Monday, August 24, 10:00 - 10:45 am  
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

#### **Book of the Month**



#### **Hey, Little Ant**

What would you do if the ant you were about to step on looked up and started talking? Would you stop and listen? That's what happens in this funny, thought-provoking book. First composed as a song by a father-daughter team, this surprising conversation between a tiny ant and a little girl is sure to inspire discussions about caring, kindness, and respect for both animals and humans.

[Read Aloud Storytime](#)

#### **Craft of the Month**



#### **Bug Hotel**

A bug hotel is a human-made structure placed outdoors, usually in a garden or near where insects like to live. It is ideally made using natural material. Bug hotels are a great way to protect local bug and insect life as well as promote biodiversity right in your own garden! They are great during colder evenings when bugs need shelter. They are also a fantastic way to explore and talk about nature with kids!

[Learn More](#)

## Chef's Corner: Ants on a Log (+ variations)

Have some fun with this classic after-school snack. Peanut butter and raisins aren't the only ingredients to get kids to eat celery!

### Ingredients:

- Celery stalks
- Peanut butter
- Raisins

### Instructions:

- Use a butter knife or spoon to spread peanut butter into the celery stalk.
- Place several raisins in the peanut butter.
- Enjoy!

### Variations:

- Ants on a Ranch: Use a mixture of ranch dressing and cream cheese with peas instead of raisins.
- Berries on a Branch: Use cookie butter instead of peanut butter and top with blueberries.
- Ladybugs on a Log: Use strawberry cream cheese with dried cranberries.
- Beans on a Stalk: Use guacamole and black beans.
- Fish in a Stream: Use hummus and pretzel goldfish.
- Pigs in a Pen: Use pimento cheese and bacon bits.

Recipe from [foodnetwork.com](https://www.foodnetwork.com)



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