

'Round the Reserve



2419 NORTH POINT DRIVE, STEVENS POINT, WI 54481 • 715-346-4992 • WWW.UWSP.EDU/SCHMEECKLE

At the annual member meeting, Director Ron Zimmerman gave Friends members a tour of a new seating area being constructed along the Trail of Reflections.



Friends gather for member meeting

The Friends held its second annual member meeting on Sept. 29, with 30 attendees participating in a tour of the Trail of Reflections renovation project, the business meeting, and social time.

Friends members got a preview of a seating area under construction as part of a renovation of the half-mile Trail of Reflections. The seating area is ringed with boulders and will feature four oversized wooden, decorative chairs and a large round table, all handcrafted by Schmeckle student employees.

At the business meeting, board President Bill Berry reviewed the past year's accomplishments, including receiving 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, events such

as research talks, the arts contest, social events, and volunteer efforts.

The executive committee served as the nominating committee for open board and officer positions. Four board members with expiring one-year terms agreed to serve new three-year terms. They are: Alan Engebretson, Rick Rothman, Alex Thomas, and John Jury. Their appointments passed unanimously.

Alan Haney, who also had a one-year term, stepped down from the board.

The executive committee also nominated Jerry Lineberger as president, Barbara Dixon to continue in her officer position as secretary, and Rick Rothman to serve as treasurer. The slate passed unanimously.

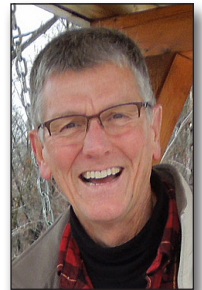
From the Friends Board President

By **Jerry Lineberger**
Friends Board President

I am honored and humbled to serve as president of the Friends of Schmeckle Reserve.

My thanks to Bill Berry, who served as the first president of the Friends group, and to all of the students and staff who make the Reserve a great place every day. Each of the Friends board members is committed to our mission and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

We spent the first year of the organization's life inventing the wheel: setting up our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization status with the guiding hand of board member John Buzza; establishing our goals and



**Jerry
Lineberger**

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President, From Page 1

mission; building a financial base for future work; defining our board membership; and inviting community residents to become members.

Our second year was spent building a bicycle. We sponsored many events, an arts contest, Schmeeckle work days, and excellent educational sessions, and developed a membership base of 120 members.

As we begin our third year, we will be riding our bike and enjoying ourselves even more! The Friends sponsorship of work on the Trail of Reflections is indicative of our promise to support the work of Schmeeckle, and to make the Reserve an even more inviting and welcoming place for our community.

We invite you to continue your membership in support of the Reserve, and to invite others to also become members. You can always enjoy the Reserve for free, but the feeling you get from knowing that

your support helps make the Reserve continue to be a special place is priceless!

I also want to take a moment to mention that at the end of this year, Schmeeckle's first director, Ron Zimmerman, will be retiring. Under his management and vision, the Reserve has grown from general ideas conceived by a planning committee to a well-designed and managed natural space. The students and staff who have had the honor of working with Ron over the years have each gained insight into how to live life to the fullest, and how to get things done. Ron's energy and spirit in creating the Reserve and his persistence in moving seemingly impossible bureaucratic processes forward have helped add conservancy space to the Reserve. Ron may be retiring from UWSP, but I am sure he will continue to be a force and a voice of support for Schmeeckle Reserve for years to come. Join me in wishing Ron a fulfilling retirement!

**FRIENDS OF
Schmeeckle Reserve**

How to Join

Online:

www.uwsp.edu/schmeeckle
Click on "Friends of Schmeeckle"
and then "Join the Friends"

**Mail this form and a check
made payable to Friends of
Schmeeckle Reserve to:**

Friends of Schmeeckle Reserve
UW-Stevens Point
2419 North Point Drive
Stevens Point WI 54481

Walk-in: Sign up at the visitor
center

Call: Schmeeckle Reserve,
715-346-4992

Join the Friends of Schmeeckle Reserve

Member Names: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Newsletter delivery preference: Email Mail

Annual Membership Level

- Student — \$10 (Any grade level)
- Seeker — \$25 (Individual)
- Trekker — \$50 (Family/Household)
- Adventurer — \$100
- Trailblazer — \$250
- Explorer — \$500
- Other amount: \$ _____

This is a gift membership.

**Gift donor's name, phone,
and email:**

Makes a great gift!

*Contributions to the Friends of
Schmeeckle Reserve, Inc. are tax-exempt.*

FRIENDS OF Schmeckle Reserve ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

ABOUT THE FRIENDS

The **mission** of the Friends is to support the work of and advocate for Schmeckle Reserve through engaging our local and wider communities.

The Friends support the Reserve through programs and outreach; land management and acquisition; and funding and resources.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: ORGANIZATIONAL

- ▶ Total number of individual and family memberships: **120** (85 in September 2014)
- ▶ 2015-16 membership renewal rate: **64 percent**
- ▶ **Board committees** formed in November 2014 (Executive; Marketing/Promotion; Program/Events; Finance/Fundraising; and Lands)
- ▶ IRS **501(c)(3)** tax-exempt organization status granted in March 2015
- ▶ **Friends newsletter** distributed three times annually

LAND MANAGEMENT

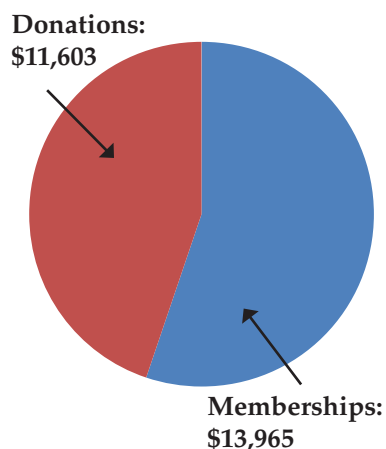
- ▶ Launched the **Trail of Reflections renovation project**, which will include a new sculptural seating area, a new Treehouse, invasive species control, new boardwalks, and improved trail surfacing
- ▶ Hosted the **Friends of Schmeckle Volunteer Day** in September 2014, with 150 volunteer hours donated
- ▶ Hosted the **Friends Volunteer Day** on Oct. 3 to work on the Trail of Reflections and other projects

OUTREACH

- ▶ Sponsored the **Candlelight Hike Festival** in fall 2014, attended by a record 2,200 people; and sponsored the spring 2015 Candlelight Hike, attended by more than 1,200 people
- ▶ Hosted the **Research Sampler Series**, a series of three talks in winter 2015

- ▶ Hosted the inaugural **Schmeckle Reserve Writing, Art, and Photography Contest**, which received 27 entries in three categories (Nov. 1 deadline for 2015 contest)
- ▶ Served as guest speakers at **community civic organization meetings** (Rotary, Kiwanis, and Stevens Point Area Retired Teachers Association)
- ▶ Hosted a **Summer Potluck** for Friends members

FUNDING AND RESOURCES



- ▶ Total **revenue**: \$25,568 (includes \$10,025 in 2014)
- ▶ Total **expenses**: \$2,720 (includes \$770 in 2014)
- ▶ **Balance**: \$22,848

Schmeeckle's first director retiring at end of year

Ron Zimmerman, hired as the first director of Schmeeckle Reserve in 1979, will retire at the end of this year.

During his career, Zimmerman has developed a world-class outdoor environmental teaching laboratory and community nature reserve. Over that time, Schmeeckle Reserve has grown from 127 to more than 280 acres, and welcomes 200,000 visitors annually.

Zimmerman, a native of Nebraska, received his B.S. in Wildlife Management in 1975 and his M.S. in Environmental Interpretation in 1977, both from UW-Stevens Point. Zimmerman was one of three people who helped develop the university's Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES) in Amherst Junction after it was established in 1975.

In 1976, Schmeeckle Reserve was formed as a natural area adjacent to the campus, managed

by the College of Natural Resources. Zimmerman became the first director in 1979, and has held the position since.

In 1979, Zimmerman successfully submitted a grant that added 20 acres to the Reserve, which also included a ranch house. Over the next three years, Zimmerman and a team of student employees converted the house into a public visitor center.

To strengthen ties between Schmeeckle Reserve and the university academic program, Zimmerman and professor Michael Gross co-founded what has become a nationally recognized environmental interpretation program in the College of Natural Resources.

To create signs for the Reserve



**Ron
Zimmerman**

and to help fund the natural area, Zimmerman developed a cedar sign business. Zimmerman and Gross also developed a nationally known interpretive consulting business to help support the Reserve.

Zimmerman, Gross, and Assistant Director Jim Buchholz also authored "The Interpreter's Handbook Series," training manuals that are used worldwide by universities, parks, nature centers, and zoos.

He has collaborated with community members and state organizations, including the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, housed at the Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center; the Green Circle Trail, headquartered at the Reserve; and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, which completed a restoration of the Moses Creek Wetland in 2010.

Students have always been at the core of Schmeeckle Reserve. Zimmerman believed that students should be involved with all aspects of the Reserve's operations. Under Zimmerman's guidance, students continue to play a significant role at Schmeeckle Reserve. Nearly 50 students are hired each semester.

In 2014, Zimmerman received the University of Wisconsin System's highest honor for academic staff, the Academic Staff Award for Excellence.

In retirement, Zimmerman plans to do more woodworking, travel, and spend time outdoors at his rural property with his wife, Donna.



Ron Zimmerman leads an Elderhostel group on a nature walk through Schmeeckle Reserve in the early 1980s.

What is the meaning of Schmeeckle Reserve?

By Ron Zimmerman
Schmeeckle Reserve Director

Schmeeckle is a nature reserve, a physical place.

Schmeeckle is also an ideal shared by those who love it. It is an evolving concept without concrete parameters. It symbolizes different things to nearly everyone. It is powerful because it is personal.

“The essence is to travel gracefully rather than to arrive,” said Enos Mills, the father of nature interpretation, more than 100 years ago.

Schmeeckle Reserve is always in the process of evolving in the hearts and minds of its users. To some it is simply a good location to jog; to others it takes on the status of a sacred place.

I am honored to have served as the principle caretaker of the Reserve since its inception. It has been challenging and a surprisingly rewarding job. I began my duties with the mindset of a land manager and I realize that I leave my job with far more philosophical musings than facts concerning the Reserve.

Over the last 40 years, I have witnessed emotional testimonials from people who have shared what Schmeeckle means to them. People have become engaged and married here, celebrated memorial services at the lake and visitor center, and even asked that their ashes be spread lightly along the trails.



Ron Zimmerman, left, accompanied Gaylord Nelson, a Wisconsin governor and U.S. senator and founder of Earth Day, who was the honored guest at the opening of the Trail of Reflections in 1988.

Some alumni have told me that their fondest college memories are the smell of bark trails on a warm autumn day or glimpsing fawns emerge on a spring morning.

Faculty members have confided that the Reserve “sold” them on accepting a position at UW-Stevens Point.

I’ve seen countless former student employees return with their children to proudly share with them what they helped create.

Schmeeckle gives us a sense of place—a local connection with the earth and its infinite changeability through the seasons. It grounds us and reminds us that some of our most valuable assets are elemental.

Synergy is the creation of a whole that is greater than the simple sum of its parts. The term synergy originates from a Greek word meaning “working together.” Schmeeckle has been both a catalyst and a product of symbiotic relationships between

students, faculty, government, and concerned citizens.

There is little money budgeted to Schmeeckle Reserve and no inherent political power, but its strength comes from a tremendous investment of passion and love that wells up from people in the community.

The recent state budget cuts to education and the environment are disheartening and present challenges, but they are temporal. The people who find value in “wild places” like Schmeeckle will find ways to keep it vibrant.

The Friends of Schmeeckle Reserve is an increasingly important support group that can act quickly in the best interests of the Schmeeckle Reserve and its users.

Ron Zimmerman has served as the first and only director of Schmeeckle Reserve since its beginnings in 1979. He is retiring at the end of December 2015.



Above:
Volunteers arranged granite slabs for a new seating area on the Trail of Reflections.

Right:
Volunteers installed a new entrance sign along North Point Drive.



Volunteers pitch in at fall work day

More than 30 students and community members pitched in at a Friends of Schmeckle Volunteer Day on Oct. 3.

Volunteers installed most of the stone patio for the new seating area on the Trail of Reflections. Another group installed a new entrance sign on North Point Drive. The sign will help visitors traveling from the east know

where to turn for the visitor center.

Two groups worked in opposite directions to spread woodchips on the Lake Loop Trail, while another group resurfaced the Sedge Meadow Trail with mulch. Others worked to remove invasive buckthorn.

All told, the volunteers contributed 90 hours of service. Thank you!

Welcome Your New and Renewing Friends!

New Members: Thank you to the following members who have joined the Friends since Aug. 1, 2015. The Friends is now made up of 120 member-households. Thank you for your support!

Janis Borski
Donovan Fox
Janet Westover

Renewing Members: Thank you to the following members who have renewed their Friends membership for 2015-16.

Bob and Paula Bell and
Katie and Marshall
Bruce and Carla Bertelsen
Joseph R. Clark
Matt Clucas
Michael and Patricia Doherty
Ken and Meg Eler
Bill and Kim Fisher
Becca Franzen and
Edith and Aloysius
Barbara Friedrich
Spring and Vern Gardner
Lora Hagen
Jim and Madeleine Haine
Jack Hurrish and Joan Karlen
Karin Hyler
Jackie Meyers and Steve Faber
Bob and Mary Mosier
Wendell Nelson
Mike and Linda Orella
Kimatha Phillips
Cynny and Jack Porter
Ralph and Sharon Reniewicki
Rick and Sharon Rothman
Brenda Ryther
Katie and Vern Schroth
Jane Maya Shippy
Ron and Donna Zimmerman

Upcoming Natural and Cultural Programs at Schmeckle Reserve

About The Programs...

Each semester, UW-Stevens Point students enrolled in an environmental interpretation capstone course at the Reserve present programs about the natural and cultural history of central Wisconsin. Programs are intended for all ages. Programs are free, and registration is not required. * Unless noted with an asterisk, programs meet at the Visitor Center.

 = Dress for the weather!

Good-night Schmeckle

Thursday, Oct. 15, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

During this hike we will say good night to many of Schmeckle's residents. We'll also catch a glimpse of which animals are just getting up to enjoy the night life.

Jordan Park: A Stroll Through Time*

Saturday, Oct. 17, 1-2 p.m.

Join us for a trip back in time for a historic look at Jordan Park and the people who once lived in this booming logging community. Meet at the Jordan Park Nature Center, 8500 Jordan Road, Stevens Point.

'Bearly' Different

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 5:15-6:15 p.m.

Join an adventurous hike through Schmeckle to discover how central Wisconsin's black bears take care of their young and use the resources around them, and discover their similarities to us.

Skulls: A Historic Bone-Chilling Review

Sunday, Oct. 25, 5-6 p.m.

From Shakespeare to Native Americans, animal skulls have been a part of human culture for centuries and are iconic symbols that still have significance today.

Schmeckle Goes Nuts for Squirrels

Monday, Nov. 16, 6-7 p.m.

What kinds of squirrels call Schmeckle Reserve home? Discover their nutty mammal adaptations and how they adjust their living and eating routines to Wisconsin's wacky weather.



A Walk in a Woodpecker's Workshop

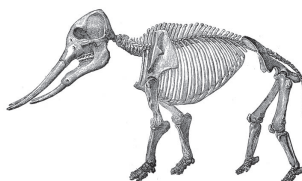
Saturday, Nov. 21, 2-3 p.m.

Discover the evolutionary tools that woodpeckers use to carve out their niche in our own backyards. Find out which species you are most likely to see in central Wisconsin.

Fragile and Ferocious Fossils

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Take a trip through central Wisconsin's past to discover the critters and creatures that are preserved as fossils today. See some of the world's first land animals, ice age giants, and the life of an ancient sea.



Being a Bee

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Everyone knows what a bee is, but not all bees are the same. Find out how diverse they can be, what we can do to help them out, and take home a simple handmade bee house.

Give Your Garden a Face-lift: Using Native Plants to Revamp Your Landscaping

Monday, Dec. 7, 6-7 p.m.

It's not too early to start planning for spring! Explore how you can create a landscape that requires less maintenance and will bring more wildlife to your yard.






2015 Fall Candlelight Hike Festival

Friday, Oct. 30, 6-9 p.m.

Walk half-mile or one-mile paths lit by torches and jack-o'-lanterns. Arrive and leave when you like. Free event! (Suggested donation of \$2/person or \$5/family)

Program: "City Critters: Urban Wildlife at Schmeckle" Presented at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the campfire ring. Hear squirrels, skunks, raccoons, and other "city critters" share what it's like to coexist with humans in tight quarters. An interactive program for the entire family!

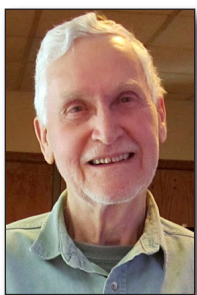
Other events all evening:

-  Interactive Discovery Stations
-  Free craft and snack stations
-  Sign up for free door prizes

Why I Love the Reserve: Schmeeckle's importance

By Alan Haney

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts," is a quote from *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson's 1962 book that initiated the environmental movement. It was this book, more than any other, that led me to



Alan Haney

focus my career on teaching others about the complex beauty and fragility of nature. Carson—like Aldo Leopold, John Muir, and Sigurd Olson—had an ability to capture

the essential role nature plays in all our lives, and how human ignorance and avarice can lead to spoiling that which is so essential for us to be emotionally and physically healthy.

The subconscious need we all have for nature is reflected in our desire for pets, houseplants, gardens, trees and shrubbery, flower arrangements, and even the relaxation we feel at the sound of rain or running water. Those who live and work in artificial environments often must resort to vicarious exposure to nature through film, books, or music. It is not surprising that the beauty, ease of access, and naturalness of Schmeeckle Reserve draws people to the well-maintained trails and convenient benches where

one can relax within a natural environment. On the other hand, the growing distance between people and nature is alarming. Are we becoming conditioned to accept only a vicarious exposure to nature? Perhaps it is this unhealthy trend that leads many to dismiss global climate change, or to ignore the destruction of 80,000 acres of rainforest daily.

Professor Fred Schmeeckle shared the sentiments of Rachel Carson, successfully arguing that the Stevens Point campus should initiate courses in conservation, years before other universities. Schmeeckle also had the foresight to recognize that then undeveloped land north of campus would be more valuable if kept as an outdoor laboratory rather than being cleared for dormitories and athletic fields. I am proud to have been part of a university that was the first to offer formal instruction in conservation, which became an internationally renowned environmental education and natural resources curriculum. I am also proud to have been affiliated with a campus and a town that had the foresight to recognize the importance of a natural area that complements the focus on natural resources and environmental education for which Stevens Point is now famous.

It was nearly 20 years after Professor Schmeeckle suggested that the natural area should be preserved that a campus

"Why I Love the Reserve" appears regularly in the Friends newsletter. If you would like to be interviewed for this feature, or if you want to write a first-person account, please contact Megan Espe at mespe@uwsp.edu or 715-346-4992.

committee formally proposed it. It was entirely appropriate that it be called "Schmeeckle Reserve," a cross-section of relatively intact nature, readily available to those who are drawn to it. We are extremely fortunate to have this uncommonly easy access to nature embedded in the city and adjacent to campus, thanks to the wise and forward thinking of Schmeeckle, faculty, and university staff, and many local citizens who supported it. It is also appropriate that the trails protect and preserve the natural beauty of the outdoors, and pay homage to Muir, Olson, Carson, Leopold and others who plead through their legacies for humans to respect and protect our natural world. You are cordially invited to participate. Come experience nature firsthand, and share the benefit of the wisdom of those who preceded us.

Alan Haney recently completed a two-year term on the Friends of Schmeeckle board of directors. He is a retired dean and forestry and ecology professor in the College of Natural Resources.

Writing, Art, and Photo Contest entries due Nov. 1

Have your visits to Schmeckle Reserve inspired you to take photographs, create art, or write about the natural area? You are invited to submit your work in the second annual Writing, Art, and Photo Contest.

The Friends of Schmeckle Reserve hosts the contest to raise awareness of the Reserve and the Friends group. Entries are due Nov. 1.

Contest submissions will be posted on the Friends of Schmeckle Reserve website. First- and second-place winners in each category will be honored

in a ceremony at a Friends board meeting in February 2016. First-place winners also will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the Browse Shop, a gift shop in the visitor center that features natural and cultural gifts.

Submissions must be accompanied by a 75-100 word statement describing how the entry was inspired by time spent in the Reserve. All ages are welcome to participate. To download the entry guidelines and submission form, visit <http://bit.ly/1xqVPdQ> or call Megan Espe at Schmeckle Reserve at 715-346-4992.

Are you **INSPIRED** by Schmeckle Reserve?



Photo courtesy of Bob Messer (first place photography winner, 2014)

FRIENDS OF Schmeckle Reserve

WRITING, ART & PHOTO CONTEST

Entries due Nov. 1, 2015.
For guidelines, visit www.uwsp.edu/schmeckle or call 715-346-4992.



A fall burn

The UW-Stevens Point Fire Crew, a student organization, completed a prescribed burn in the Berard Oaks savanna in Schmeckle Reserve in early October. The Fire Crew burned a different section of the Berard Oaks last spring. Schmeckle Reserve is dependent on the Fire Crew to help restore and manage its prairies and savannas.



Hi, Friends! It's me, Walden, your Schmeckle kids' ambassador.

I'm excited to tell you about all the sounds I've been hearing at Schmeckle now that it's fall. When you are walking on the Moses Creek boardwalk, stop and listen for the "shhhhh" sound. No, it's not coming from your Mom or Dad (well, it might be). It comes from the sedges and cattail leaves moving against one another when the wind blows.

Around Lake Joanis and the visitor center, you can find lots of quaking aspen trees with smooth, gray bark. Their leaves make "rat-ta-tat" sounds when the wind blows.

You can also hear the "honk" of Canada geese this time of year. They've been landing in big groups called flocks on Lake Joanis. They are getting ready to migrate, which means they fly south for the winter to find a warmer place to live.

Another loud bird in the woods right now is the crow. They sound like "caw-caw-caw." When you hear one, look up because they are big birds and you can usually spot them easily. Also lis-



Schmeckle kids ambassador Walden Buchholz enjoys taking snack breaks on the back deck of the visitor center.

Make a Sound Map

Find a spot in nature where you can sit for a moment and relax. Close your eyes and listen. What sounds do you hear? Imagine your ears can hear in a giant circle around them.

On a piece of paper or 5x7 index card, mark an X in the center. Using colored pencils or crayons, write a symbol or a description of the sound of a bird or the wind, in the direction you hear it. You'll be amazed at what you can hear when you truly listen!

ten for the "tap-tap-tap" of woodpeckers getting ready for winter.

My favorite sound right now is the "swish-swish" my feet make when I'm walking through leaves. I love to scoop up handfuls of brown, crunchy leaves and throw them in the air. They are like rain falling on me, but I don't get wet.

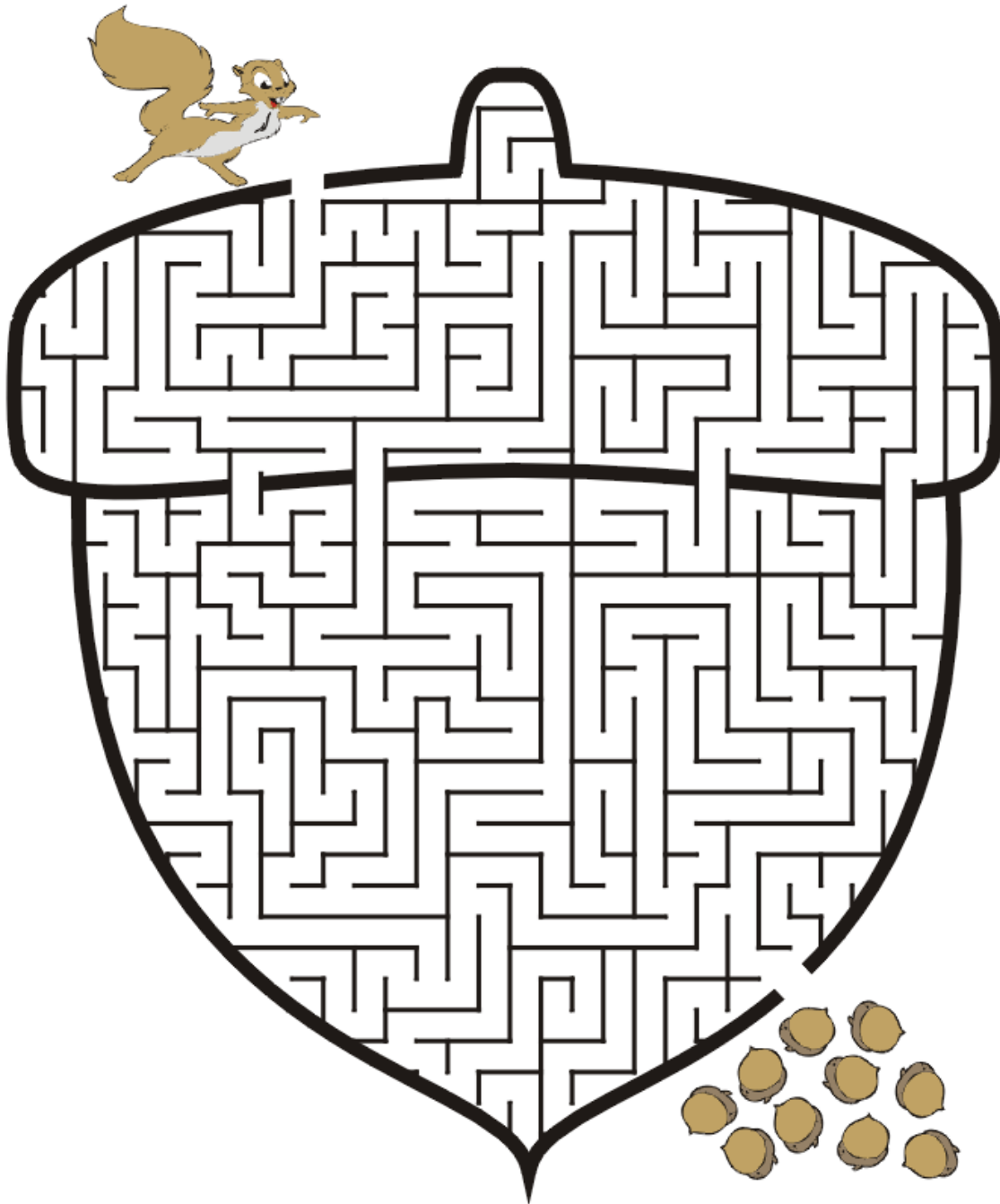
A great place to find lots of leaves is on the deck behind the visitor center (unless a big wind blows them all away). There are

also several wooden picnic tables back there, so it's the perfect place to eat a snack after a tiring walk in the woods. That's when you can hear "mmmm" sounds coming from your own mouth!

P.S. If you want to take a "pet" home, the Browse Shop sells different kinds of stuffed birds that make calls when you squeeze them. They are fun to play with, even if Mom and Dad don't let you keep them.

Kids' Activity Page

Help the squirrel through the maze to find its acorns





**Parting View:
Owl banding**

Friends of Schmeckle Reserve board member Nisha Fernando, left, and Friends member Donna Zimmerman participated in a Friends saw-whet owl banding event earlier this month with Dr. Bob Rosenfield, a UWSP Biology professor who traps saw-whet owls in Schmeckle Reserve. His nets caught one owl late in the night, and it was banded and released.

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2419 North Point Drive
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Schmeckle Reserve

FRIENDS OF