

## Owls, castle ruins, and kids art at the State Forest



Naturalist programming continues at the Black River State Forest with three fun filled programs lined up. Each of these events is made possible due to a partnership with Beaver Creek Reserve, an outdoor education center in Fall Creek Wisconsin that has been in existence since 1961. All events are free other than the requirement of a state park and forest permit for all vehicles entering the site.

On July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM join a naturalist at the historic Castle Mound shelter for a program on owls. Learn about the adaptations and behaviors that make owls successful nocturnal hunters. If you have never seen an owl up close this is your chance. In addition to the live owl, mounts of most owl species native to Wisconsin will be on hand. You will also learn to identify owls by their various calls.

July 19<sup>th</sup> will feature an interpretive walk around Castle Mound's nature trail, a truly unique geologic feature that is close to town. Many visitors, including people who have lived in town for years, are surprised when they discover these hidden massive rock formations that resemble castle ruins. In addition to the interesting geology of the area it is also a state natural area with two very different communities on each side of the mound. The walk is a gentle 2 mile walk and begins at 10 AM at the shelter.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> we will host a nature craft for kids event. Children will be able to make their own artwork out of materials taken straight from nature. This program begins at 10 AM at the Castle Mound shelter and is for children between the ages of 5 to 12.

To learn more about these and additional upcoming programs please access our website at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/StateForests/SF-BlackRiver/> and click on our summer programming link. If you have any questions about this article or the state forest please call us at (715) 284-4103.