

# Woodlawn Nature Council, Inc

Reconnecting People With Nature, Natural History, & The Environment

## Newsletter – Spring Is In The Air!



March 20, 2023

For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Spring is the arrival of the Vernal Equinox (otherwise known as the “First Point of Aries”). Mon, Mar 20, 2023 5:24 PM EDT is the point in time when the sun will shine directly over the Earth's equator as it continues northward. The resulting effect is of equal day and night (+/- few minutes). The length of daylight is actually longer than darkness.

This is so due to our atmosphere. If our planet did not have an atmosphere, then the length of day and night would be exactly even on the equinox days. However, our atmosphere acts like a lens and bends its light above the edge of the horizon. When you watch the Sun coming up above the horizon at sunrise, or going down below the horizon at sunset, it is an illusion. We are actually seeing the Sun for a few minutes both before its disc actually rises and after it has actually set. Thus the length of daylight on any given day is increased by approximately six or seven minutes.

Traditionally, we celebrate the first day of spring on March 21. However the equinox varies from year to year and may happen between March 19<sup>th</sup> (the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 124 years was in 2020) and March 21<sup>st</sup>. In the Southern Hemisphere the Autumnal Equinox, or 1<sup>st</sup> day of Fall, occurs at the same time.

Resources reviewed for this article:

<https://www.countryliving.com/life/a26845009/what-is-the-spring-equinox/>

What Exactly Is the Spring Equinox 2023? - Country Living Magazine

<https://www.farmersalmanac.com/spring-equinox-first-day-spring>

Spring Equinox 2023: When Is It, And What Is It? – Farmers' Almanac since 1818

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/equinox/>

National Geographic - Education

<https://www.britannica.com/science/vernal-equinox>

Britannica.com – Science - Astronomy



Virginia Blue-  
Bell Sprouting

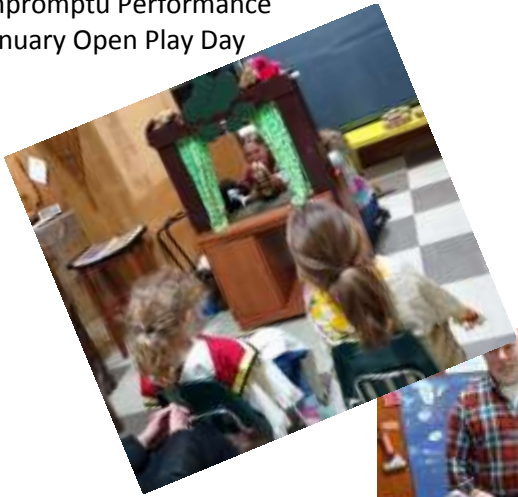
Spring is also known as the time for rebirth. In nature we see plants sprouting up and baby animals peeking out. Adult animals will be shedding winter coats and plumage. It's a good time to take a walk-on-the-wildside and explore the regeneration taking place. In the next few weeks spring wildflowers will begin sprouting up and blooming in the Woodlawn woods. Humans will be storing away heavy clothing and begin enjoying more outdoor time. Humans may also begin working on starting floral and food gardens. At Nature Center, we have supplies out for visitors to start some native wildflower or food plant seeds.

We also see changes in weather during nature's segue from Winter to Summer. Temps will begin to warm. Rain will fall more often. The air will feel and smell fresh. Nature will be filled with springtime renewing sights, sounds, and growth energies.

## What's been happening at WNC so far this year?

- 🌱 We have hosted an open play day each in January and February on days area schools were off
- 🌱 Our featured February program was about what to do when finding a wild animal. Thanks to Dennis and Andrea of Foxwood Raptor and Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for providing this important and interesting program.
- 🌱 Our featured March program was Let's Talk Dirt with live worms and soil experiments. Thank-You Jenna Wait (and Walden the Worm) with Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District for helping participants understand that dirt is “alive” and how different soil compositions are beneficial or not.
- 🌱 The Educational Activity Center provided supplies for making creatures using items from nature, nature focused dioramas, rock art, stick lashing, collages, and more as they explored their own creative energies.

Impromptu Performance  
January Open Play Day



Exploration & Creation  
February Open Play



Testing Soil Density  
& Composition



Nature Rocks  
Rock Art

## What's Coming Next at WNC?

- 🌿 Gather Around the Campfire 6:30-8:30 pm
  - Saturday March 25, 2023, Spring Equinox S'mores and More Campfire Conversations & Stories
  - Saturday April 22, 2023, Drumming for the Earth Hand Percussion Circle
  - Saturday May 27, 2023 Summer Breezin' In; evening Walk-on-the-Wildside and hotdog roast
- 🌿 Spring Break Open Play Day Tuesday April 4, 2023 10 am – 2 pm
- 🌿 Featured activity April 15<sup>th</sup> 2-4 pm – Everyday is Earthday – We will have supplies focused on reusing items to make and take home fun and/or useful things

Programs listed above are complimentary to Woodlawn Nature Center Members; General admission fees apply to non-members. More info can be found at <https://woodlawnnature.org/Event-Schedule/>

Self-Directed Focus for  
Learning Naturally

*Creative play, design,  
and production*

## Save the Dates

### WNC Summer Day Camp 2023

### June 26 - 30

Noon - 4 pm Daily

Lots of fresh air, energetic fun times, & learning experiences

Watch our Website, Facebook Page, and Future Communications for more info

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<https://woodlawnnature.org/>

Fun Interactive  
Educational Programs

*Nature Exploration to  
Discover, Experience,  
& Learn*