



Artist in Residence Program 2010 at Beaver Creek Valley State Park

Caledonia, Minnesota

INTRODUCTION

Nestled in the blufflands of southeastern Minnesota, Beaver Creek Valley State Park is known for its clear streams fed by the "Big Spring." Its streams are home to brown and native brook trout. In spring, wildflowers that blanket the woodland hills and valleys attract migratory songbirds like the rare Acadian flycatcher, Cerulean warbler, and Louisiana waterthrush which nest in the park. A hiking trail meanders along the stream and up into a maple-basswood and oak forest. Campers are lulled to sleep by the murmuring stream. The park is situated in one of the most interesting geologic areas in Minnesota, the "driftless area." The area covers 10,000 square miles in adjoining parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois, which were untouched by the most recent glacial advances. However, as the glaciers receded, torrents of meltwater poured into streams and rivers, carving deep rugged valleys. These rocky walls are made up of a layer of sandstone sandwiched between two layers of dolomite, which were deposited by inland seas between 450 and 500 million years ago.

Beaver Creek Valley State Park is in the Blufflands Landscape Region. It is a nature lover's paradise because of the diversity of natural communities. Bottomland hardwoods such as black ash, willow, box elder, cottonwood, and elm grow in the valley while a mix of maple, walnut, basswood and oak thrive above the valley. Small patches of native prairie and oak savanna occupy some of the south and west-facing slopes in the park.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Artists are an important part of the history of the Minnesota State Park system. Their writings, paintings, photographs, and public outreach have created permanent park records and have helped preserve state parks.

The Beaver Creek Valley State Park Artist in Residence (BCVAIR) program in its second year offers artists the opportunity to live and work in this unique environment for a period of up to two weeks. The works completed under this program will contribute to the public understanding and appreciation of Beaver Creek Valley State Park. It is hoped that these works will characterize this Blufflands park for present and future generations, giving park visitors and the general public an opportunity to see our heritage through the eyes and ears of contributing artists.

A State Park Residency is for serious professionals who wish to work alone and unfettered in the challenge and beauty of these woodland hills, valleys and meandering

streams. It is for those who deeply care about the environment and wish to contribute to it as well as benefit from it. The park can accommodate six residents per year.

EXPECTATIONS

In return, the park asks each artist to donate a piece of art, representative of their style and reflecting their residency, to the park for the park collection, granting the park the right to reproduce the work for its use. Donations will be completed within 30 days of the end of the residency and submitted to the park at this time. Similarly, the park would require one-time publication rights to a portion of a literary work produced during a residency. Each resident must be willing to volunteer 2-3 hours to host a workshop for interested park visitors and staff during the residency. These workshops may take the form of slide lectures, exhibitions or “art walks” armed with cameras or sketchbooks, or even workshops. An honorarium of \$250 will be awarded to each artist for hosting this workshop.

SELECTION PROCESS

A local panel drawn from varying fields of expertise along with park personnel, will review materials submitted. Selections will be made on the basis of merit and how a candidate’s work can advance the mission of Minnesota State Parks as well as enhance the growth of the artist’s work. Selections will be made without regard to race, religion, sex, disability, marital status, age or national origin.

ELIGIBILITY

This program will invite visual artists, composers and writers to seek both solitude and solidarity in the inspiring environment of Beaver Creek Valley State Park. Visual arts include painting, sculpture, photography, video arts, and mixed media. Writers will include poets and authors of both fiction and non-fiction. Work submitted should be of professional quality. Student work may be considered.

HOUSING

Artists will have a choice of either an electric or tent campsite for the length of the residency, usually one and up to two weeks from May 1 – Sept. 30. Accepted residents will need to bring personal gear, food and supplies. The artist is expected to leave the accommodations neat and clean and to comply with all park regulations and standards governing park employees and visitors. The artist should be self-sufficient and expect to work closely with park staff and the local community to achieve program goals. A locked storage area for supplies and a work area with lighting and electricity will be provided in a portion of the park shelter building for days not fit to work outside. This building is not heated, but a space heater can be made available.



For further information contact:
Beaver Creek Valley State Park at 507-724-2107

Application for Artist in Residence Program 2010 at Beaver Creek Valley State Park – Caledonia, Minnesota

Applications will be accepted until February 15, 2010.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evening _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Artistic Discipline _____

Dates of residency desired:

1st choice _____

2nd choice _____

3rd choice _____

Materials to be included:

Written recommendation from a professional in your field of discipline who is familiar with your work include: Name, Address, Telephone & e-mail. Recommendations can also be enclosed with application.

One copy each of:

- Artist's statement
- 1 - 2 page resume
- 1-page "statement of intent" from the applicant stating what he/she hopes to achieve from a residency at Beaver Creek Valley State Park

Appropriate examples of recent work, such as:

- One copy of a CD for visual artists, along with a printed copy of one of the images on the CD.
- One copy of a CD for video or performance artists.
- One copy of a brief (maximum 6 pages) manuscript excerpt, short story, article, poetry, etc. from writers and journalists.

Workshop

Please include a description of the workshop you would hold for park visitors for this program.

Written materials will not be returned.

Mail application and materials to:

BCVAIR Program
Beaver Creek Valley State Park
15954 County Road 1
Caledonia, MN 55921

For further information contact Beaver Creek Valley State Park at 507-724-2107.