

JUNE EVENTS continued from previous page**1-3-LITTLE CHUTE**

Great Wisconsin Cheese Festival: Live music, food, amusement rides, kids entertainment, animal petting zoo, parade, walk/run, cheese tasting, cheese carving demo, cheese curd eating contest, cheese breakfast and cheesecake contest. Friday 5 p.m. to midnight, Saturday 10:30 a.m.-midnight, Sunday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Doyle Park, 100 Van Buren St. 920-423-3869, www.littlechutewi.org/cheesefest

2-4-FITCHBURG

Festa Italia: Hosted by the Italian Workmen's Club, this annual event features Italian food, Italian culture, live entertainment, a bocce tournament, a spaghetti-eating contest and a carnival. Friday 4:30-10 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (10 a.m. Mass). 608-258-1880, www.festaitaliamadison.com

2-DeFOREST

Dragon Art Fair: 14th annual event offers hand-crafted works from more than 100 artists. Held rain or shine. Music, food and children's activities. Plus Windsor Garden Club Plant Sale, Ice Cream Social and Fire/EMS activity day. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Market Street. 608-846-8891, www.dragonartsgroup.org

2-MADISON

Cows on the Concourse: A free family-friendly event that kicks off June Dairy Month in Dane County. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kids and adults meet and greet cows and baby calves from local farms. Located downtown in a location TBA. Enjoy the live music, food, games and cows. 608-250-4257, www.cowsontheconcourse.org

2-STATEWIDE

National Trails Day: Meander through the Aldo Leopold Legacy Trail System holding Wisconsin's 42 state trails offering a variety of surfaces, open to a wide-variety of activities throughout all seasons. National Trails Day has grown to inspire nearly a million trail enthusiasts to flock to their favorite trails to discover, learn about and celebrate trails while participating in educational exhibits, trail dedications, gear demonstrations, instructional workshops and trail work projects. 800-972-8608, nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org

2-3-STATEWIDE

Free Fishing Weekend: Fish without a license in Wisconsin. All waters of the state are open, including state waters of the Great Lakes and rivers bordering Wisconsin. Residents and nonresidents of all ages can fish over these two days. All other regulations (length limits, bag limits, etc.) apply. 608-266-2272, dnr.wi.org

2-3-KENOSHA

Outta Sight Kite Flight: Grand launch of more than 300 kites at noon both days. Flying demonstrations of giant show kites (100+ feet) and stunt kite demonstrations by professional flyers from around the Midwest. Food and refreshments or bring a picnic, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Kennedy Park on Kenosha's lakefront. 414-305-3145, www.giftofwings.com

2-3-STATEWIDE

Wisconsin State Parks Open House Day: No charge for admission to state parks, forests, recreation areas and trails. Special activities at most locations. Camping fees are not waived. Parks open 6 a.m.-11 p.m. 608-266-2621, dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/

3-FORT ATKINSON

Wings & Wheels Fly-In Breakfast: Municipal airport on Highway K, 8 a.m. to noon. Featuring a traditional all-you-can-eat country breakfast prepared by Jones Dairy Farm, 50/50 cash raffle, raffle baskets, airplane and helicopter rides for purchase and car show. www.bgcfort-atkinson.org/wingswheels

7-10-DARLINGTON

Darlington Canoe Festival: With 50 years of tradition, this is one of the premier summer events in Southwest Wisconsin, welcoming residents from all over the nation to an annual community celebration. Come celebrate community, family and friends in Darlington's historic downtown business district along the banks of the Pecatonica River. Activities for people of all ages, including Little League and softball tournaments, stock car races, 2- and 5-mile road runs, dances, volleyball tournaments, gymnastics and martial arts demonstrations, duck races, kids shows, steak feed, Beowulf motorcycle summer party, talent show, fireworks and the canoe race from Calamine to Darlington on the Pecatonica River. It also includes an arts & crafts fair, chicken bbq, carnival, parade and more. Darlington Festival Grounds, Main Street. 608-776-4229, www.darlingtoncanoefest.com

7-10-MOUNT HOREB

Summer Frolic: A weekend of music, entertainment, food, midway rides, arcade games, bingo, prizes, and fireworks. The festival will also host the Stihl Lumberjack Competition (Saturday and Sunday). The competition will feature the country's top Midwestern professional lumberjack athletes vying for an opportunity to advance to the U.S. Pro Championship. Grun-dahl Park, 401 Blue Mounds St. 608-437-5914, www.mthorebsummerfrolic.com

8-10-MILWAUKEE

Bead and Button Show: The largest jewelry and bead show in the world. More than 370 vendors will be selling one-of-a-kind finished jewelry plus precious gems, pearls, art beads, gold and silver, beading supplies and books. The show will also feature a juried exhibit of



Colorful, breathtaking sights are in store once again at the Monroe Balloon and Blues Festival, which will be held June 15-16. (Photo courtesy of Green County Tourism)

bead art and more than 600 bead and jewelry classes. Wisconsin Center, 400 W. Wisconsin Ave. 800-554-0197, www.beadandbuttonshow.com

8-10-MILWAUKEE

PrideFest: The largest gay/lesbian, bisexual and transgender festival in Wisconsin. A celebration of diversity. Enjoy the festivities and partake in the food, entertainment and marketplace. Henry Maier Festival Park, Friday 3:30 p.m.-midnight, Saturday noon-midnight, Sunday noon-10 p.m. 414-272-3378, www.pridefest.com

8-9-NEW GLARUS

Roger Bright Polka Festival: Pays tribute to the late Roger Bright, local musician and band leader who was well-loved in the polka world. Polka bands from Wisconsin and the Midwest in the big tent downtown. Free admission. Sponsored by New Glarus Hotel. Music, dancing, food and refreshments. Additional bands at Puempel's Olde Tavern. 608-527-2095, swisstown.com

9-MONROE

Old Time Cheesemaking at Imobersteg Factory: Watch as Green County cheesemakers create a wheel of Swiss cheese the old-fashioned way. Enjoy music, food and beverages, featuring signature cream puffs and "Masters" grilled cheese sandwiches. National Historic Cheesemaking Center, 2108 6th Ave. 9:30 a.m.-noon. 608-325-4636, www.nationalhistoriccheesemakingcenter.org

9-SUN PRAIRIE

Taste of the Arts Fair: Art and craft vendors from around the state. Wine and cheese tasting, central shelter, free parking, food vendor booths, entertainment, children's playground and more. Sheehan Park, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 608-837-4547, www.sunprairiechamber.com

9-NEW GLARUS

BBC-Beer, Bacon & Cheese Festival: The BBC Festival presents beer, bacon, sausage and cheeses that are made in Green County and the surrounding area. Booths will be set up around town featuring local products for sampling. You'll find lots of good music, food, beverages. 608-527-2095, www.swisstown.com

9-10-LAKE GENEVA

Geneva Lake Art Association Annual Paint-In: Artists from Wisconsin and Illinois paint on the streets of Lake Geneva. Downtown sidewalks of Lake Geneva. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 262-249-7988, www.genevalakeartsfoundation.org

13-JANESVILLE

Rock County Porkfest: 4-7 p.m. (drive-through opens at 4 p.m.), Rock County Fairgrounds, 1301 Craig Ave., 608-757-5696. Drive up serving begins at 4 p.m. Pork chop dinner served with potato salad, applesauce, rolls and beverage. Fresh, uncooked seasoned pork chops for sale as well. Live music, kids activities, dessert sales and the annual Pork Fest Car Show. www.wppa.org

14-17-FORT ATKINSON

Fort Atkinson Generals Baseball Festival: A Home Talent League tournament is the highlight of this event hosted by the Fort Atkinson Generals. Festival also includes a carnival and concessions. Jones Park, Janesville Avenue. 920-563-7811, www.fortgenerals.com

14-17-COTTAGE GROVE

Cottage Grove Firemen's Festival: Raises funds for the Cottage Grove Volunteer Fire Department. Includes live music, carnival games and rides, a Kansas City Barbeque Society sanctioned BBQ contest, a craft and vendor fair, the Hot2Trot Cottage Grove 5K and 10K, and fireworks. 608-839-4343, www.cottagegrovefire.org

15-16-MANITOWOC

Metro Jam: Annual free music event that always features 10 different national and regional acts, with a variety of music styles, and sure-to-please entertainment. Washington Park, 12th and Washington streets. 920-683-5980, www.metrojam.org

15-16-MONROE

Monroe Balloon and Blues Festival: Ballooning exhibition and events. Balloon launches and flights generally at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Friday evening "Balloon Glow." Saturday: food booths, live music (five blues bands), beer stand, car show, arts and crafts fair. Green County Fairgrounds, 2600 10th St. 608-214-3852, www.monroeballoonrally.com

15-17-MILWAUKEE

Polish Fest: America's largest Polish Festival with folk dancing, polka music, a cultural village, folk art demos, Polish rock bands, classical musicians, the Chopin Youth Piano Competition, marketplace, children's stage and Polish food. Henry Maier Festival Park. Friday and Saturday noon-midnight, Sunday noon-8 p.m. 414-529-2140, www.polishfest.org

15-17-MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee Lakefront Festival of the Arts: One of the country's finest juried art shows, the festival features more than 175 national artists who display and sell. Sculpture garden, children's art activities, entertainment, artist demonstrations and food/beverage vendors. Milwaukee Art Museum, Friday 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 414-224-3200, www.ifoa.mam.org

16-23-MADISON

GRABAAR (the Great Annual Bicycling Adventure Along the Wisconsin River): This seven-day, fully supported tour begins at the headwaters of the Wisconsin River. Cyclists follow much of the 427-mile length of the river as they pedal from the Northwoods to the Driftless area (average of 55-85 mi./day). Two Bicycles and a Map, Ltd. 888-BIKE-WI-1 (245-3941), 608-843-8412, www.bikewisconsin.com

16-WISCONSIN DELLS

Wisconsin Dells Waterslide-athon: Specific water parks designate one slide as the official "Waterslide-athon" slide. During the event, a donation is given by the water park to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison for every guest that goes down the slide. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. 800-223-3557, www.wisdells.com/waterslideathon

16-WAUPACA

Strawberry Fest: Celebrate the first taste of summer. Strawberry shortcake, fresh strawberries for sale, arts and crafts, live music, food, children's activities and more. Downtown. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 715-258-7343, www.waupacamemories.com

16-RACINE

Lighthouse Run: Choose from 4 and 10 mile competitive runs or a 2 mile run/walk. Kids race and mascot race. All routes follow Racine's beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline. Downtown. 262-898-4691, www.ymcaracine.org/LighthouseRun

16-SUN PRAIRIE

Annual Strawberry Fest and Craft Fair: Family friendly strawberry festival featuring craft fair, run/walk, breakfast/lunch, raffles, children's carnival, computer arcade, book sale, skateboard competition, lots of delicious strawberries and more. Colonial Club Senior Activity Center, 301 Blankenheim Lane, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 608-837-4611, www.colonialclub.org

19-23-OSHKOSH

Country USA: The premier country music and camping festival in the nation with some of today's hottest country music headliners. Country USA has featured such artists as Kenny Chesney, Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean, Tim McGraw, Taylor Swift, Florida Georgia Line and so many more in its 20-plus years. See website for this year's line-up. Ford Festival Park, 4125 Washburn St. 920-882-4949, www.countryusaoshkosh.com

21-24-OREGON

Summer Festival: Fireworks extravaganza, carnival midway, food, nightly music, beer tent, 5K classic, classic car show, huge parade, softball tournament. Kiser Firemen's Park, 245 Brook St., Oregon. 608-835-3697, www.oregonwissummerfest.com

21-24-LAKE MILLS

Town and Country Days: Carnival, parade, sidewalk sales, live entertainment, brat stand and lots of family fun all weekend long. Parade Saturday at 10 a.m. with more than 100 units that starts on Main Street by the Lake Mills High School and travels downtown to Prospect Street. Thursday and Friday 5-11 p.m., Saturday noon-midnight, Sunday noon-4 p.m. 920-648-3585, www.lakemills.org

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