

Beloit Daily News
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My extended family has a cottage on Lake Huron in Michigan. I've been to the cottage with my parents and my brother almost every single summer since I was about four years old. When I got married my husband started coming along and when my brother got married his family started coming as well. The cottage is right on the lake and is surrounded by dense woods on three sides. And those woods are chock full of bugs. Lots of bugs. So many bugs that the bug zapper has a hard time keeping up with the demand. The only way to get down to the beach from the cottage is to traverse these woods. Sometimes you walk through spider webs (creepy!) and sometimes you have to run from the biting horseflies (ouch!). But the bugs that we really have to watch out for are the dreaded ticks. In fact we are so stringent on our quest to steer clear of them that my dear sweet niece Kailyn (yes, I'm going to call her out on this) started walking down to the beach covered head to toe in what she affectionately called her "tick towel". Actually quite a brilliant idea now that I think about it. Some bugs are just so nasty, gross, yucky and downright destructive that you take extreme measures to keep them out of your life.

On the other hand, some bugs are beneficial. Beetles eat insect garden pests, bees pollinate plants and there are even bugs that recycle the waste of other bugs. But the best bugs in the world are the bugs that defend their colonies from predators even it means having to leave their homes to recruit other bug fighters to help out. Bugs defending their homes against the big bad destructive bugs? Wow, I bet Disney and Pixar could turn that into a magnificent movie for kids. Oh wait, they did that already.

On Saturday September 24th join us for buggy stories, buggy crafts and a showing of *A Bug's Life* at the library starting at 2:00 p.m. This event is for all ages and is part of the NEA Big Read-Stateline project which is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Midwest and the Stateline Community Foundation.

For more information on this event and other Big Read events visit www.beloitlibrary.org, "like" us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter. In the meantime, check out these buggy books available now at your Beloit Public Library.

Naturally Bug-Free: 75 Nontoxic Recipes for Repelling Mosquitoes, Ticks, Fleas, Ants, Moths and Others by Stephanie L. Tourles. Protect yourself, your children, your pets, and your home from bugs — without using harsh or toxic chemicals! ...Tourles offers 75 simple recipes for safe, effective bug repellents you can make at home from all-natural ingredients. (Book Description)

Superbug Encyclopedia: The Biggest, Fastest, Deadliest Creepy-Crawlies on the Planet by John Woodward. Find out which insect can snap a pencil in half, how a tiny moth can fly up to 70 miles an hour, and meet a dung beetle that can pull over 1,100 times its own body weight. Young readers will be wowed by what goes on inside the tiny world of ants, spiders, butterflies, moths, crickets, and other creepy crawlies. (Book Description)