

Volume 36, Number 3 Fall 2017

Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

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"The mission of Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center is fostering a lifelong appreciation of the natural world through environmental education, habitat conservation and outdoor experiences."

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Color sponsored by



Field Notes

By Jen Vieth

As we came over the ridge, a patchwork quilt landscape unfolded in front of us. Rolling hills, verdant farm fields, towering tree stands and marshes edged in cattails stretched towards the horizon. Yet the focus wasn't the palette of greens, or the impressive 600 acres of protected wildlife habitat. The focus was two large white birds partially hidden in the reeds. For the first time in decades, Whooping Cranes (right) were attempting to nest in our region*.



These enormous birds were nearly eradicated from the landscape in the 1940s due to habitat loss and over-hunting. Just 15 birds remained in North America. Through the combined efforts of citizens, philanthropists, conservation non-profits, state DNRs, the International Whopping Crane Recovery Team, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Canadian Wildlife Service, the cranes have gained a foothold in Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada, where 300 birds now nest annually. Whooping Cranes, the largest North American land bird, migrate to Aransas National Wildlife refuge in Texas every winter. Three hundred birds is a far cry from the 1,400 cranes that used to inhabit our continent, but this summer we were privileged to see nature take another step towards recovery.

What struck me that afternoon wasn't just the pair of rare nesting cranes. It was that while standing on the hill, admiring a small step in a long conservation story, a pair of Trumpeter Swans (below) calmly tended to their nest in the same wetland. A pair of Bald Eagles flew overhead from their nearby nest tree. In one moment, in one view, we were watching three pairs of birds, species that we nearly lost. As a child, I had almost no hope of seeing any of these species on a nature hike. Now, here they were, back in our region, attempting to parent the next generation.



In order for this moment to take place, not only did people band together across real and imagined barriers, but children and adults had to learn to really see, appreciate and value biodiversity. The awareness to appreciate these moments is taught every day at Carpenter Nature Center. From valuing the tiniest endangered prairie jumping spider and its role in the ecosystem, to admiring a Red-tailed Hawk hunting mice, naturalists are sharing the wonders of nature with visitors of all ages every day.

As the dog days of summer turn crisper and shorter, the smell of autumn begins to waft through the air. Soon Carpenter Nature Center's apples will be ready for picking, the pumpkins will be ripe, and thousands of school children will be learning science standards at Carpenter Nature Center.

Please make time this fall to attend our many exciting programs and events, highlights of which are the Autumn in the Valley gala, the Raptor Release and new programs such as the Hawk Migration Count and Introductory Archery. Details and dates can be found on pages 2-3. I look forward to seeing you on the trails and in the orchard this autumn.

*The state and location of the nest site is purposefully kept vague to ensure the safety of the cranes, which will hopefully return to the site in subsequent seasons.

Upcoming Programs

Reservations are required

For more information, to RSVP or to schedule a group program, please call the office:

651-437-4359



Bird Hikes Minnesota Campus

Sept 2 & Oct 7 • 8:00 – 10:00 am Nov 11 & Dec 2 • 9:00 – 11:00 am Wisconsin Campus

300 East Cove Road, Hudson Hikes led by the St.Croix Valley Bird Club.

Sept 9 & Oct 14 • 8:00—10:00 am Nov 18 & Dec 9 • 9:00—11:00 am

Learn to identify birds with local

experts. Binoculars and field guides will be available to use or you may bring your own. Come to one or all of the hikes. Program Fee: \$6 or FREE for 'Friends of CNC,' SCVBC members and Hasting HS students.

Songbird Banding

Fourth Fridays • 8:30 am-Noon

Sept 22 • Oct 27 • Nov 24 • Dec 22

See songbirds up close and watch the experts band birds at CNC. Banding runs continuously and visitors may come and go as they please. Donations of birdseed appreciated in lieu of a program fee.



Preschool Story Time

Fridays 10:00—11:00 am

Sept 15 • Orchard Fun

Oct 27 • Costumes & Critters

Nov 10 • Pigeons
Dec 1 • Who Hibernates?

Preschool Story Times are designed to introduce children, ages 2 through 5 (with a parent or guardian), to nature in a fun and safe environment. Listen to stories, spend time outdoors, make a craft project

and meet live animals. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Reservations are required. Please call 651-437-4359 to RSVP early, as this program often fills. Program Fee: \$5 per child or \$3 per child for "Friends of CNC"; no charge for accompanying adult.

Home School: Rocks & Minerals

November 15 • 1:00—2:30 pm

CNC's Home School Programs are created to offer students in home schools an opportunity to meet other children, take part in environmental education programs, and enjoy the outdoors. In this program, students will learn about the difference between a mineral and a rock, study a variety of earth materials, and discover the geological forces that have shaped the history of the St. Croix River Valley. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Program Fee: \$6 per student or \$4 for "Friends of CNC."

Raptor Count & Hawk Watch

Sept 30 • 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Each fall, thousands of raptors and other migrating birds follow the St. Croix/Mississippi River Flyway south to their wintering grounds in the southern U.S. and beyond. Our team of friendly spotters will set up behind the Administration Building to count raptors as well as songbirds, gulls, and other southbound birds. Come ask questions, check in on the count totals, or participate in the count. Binoculars will be available upon request. Program Fee: FREE.

Saw-whet Owl Banding

Minnesota Campus
Oct 5 & 19 • 8:00—10:00 pm
Wisconsin Campus
Oct 12 & 26 • 8:00—10:00 pm

Learn about the migration patterns of Saw-whet Owls. Join our naturalists as they venture out

to band some of our native owls. Space is limited for this FREE program, so please call 651-437-4359 early to reserve your spot. Program is weather dependent.

Archery

Oct 28 • 1:00—4:00 pm

Attention all youth archers.
Come out to Lower Spring Lake
Park Reserve Archery Trail to get
pointers from archery experts
on the practice range, and then
test your skills on the course.
Shoot targets from both ground
and tower stations at a variety
of distances on diverse terrain.
Program made possible by
a grant from the MNDNR, a
partnership with Kruger Farms
krugerfarms.com, and facility use
courtesy of Dakota County Parks.



Recommended for ages 12+. **BRING YOUR OWN BOW.** Space is limited, and reservations are required, so call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot. The Spring Lake Archery Trail is located at 13690 Pine Bend Trail, Rosemount. Program Fee: FREE.

Peanut Line Hike

Nov 18 • 9:00—10:30 am

Meet at CNC to carpool and hike the new Point Douglas Regional Trail. We'll look for signs of the old ferry crossing and other historical features as we walk on the old railway bed for the Peanut Line. Reservations are required, so call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot. Program Fee: FREE.

Upcoming Events

More details available at www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org or by calling 651-437-4359



Enjoy a wonderful evening along the bluffs of the St. Croix River to benefit Carpenter Nature Center.

Guests enjoy tours of the trails, mingling near the gardens, silent and live auctions, beer tasting courtesy of Rush River, and dinner and open bar provided by Lake Elmo Inn.

Tickets: \$100 per person Sponsorships available

To purchase tickets, become a sponsor, volunteer, or arrange to donate an auction item, contact Glen at 651-437-4359 or email him at glen@carpenternaturecenter.org.

Raptor Release

Saturday, September 23 10:00 am—3:00 pm

Join Carpenter Nature Center and The Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota as they release rehabilitated raptors at CNC. After months of rehabilitation from injuries in the wild, these birds are now ready to be released. Event includes hay wagon tours, kids activities, raptors on display, and a variety of education booths from area environmental organizations. This free event is enjoyed by all ages. Dogs not allowed.

Apple Fest October 14 & 15 10:00 am—5:00 pm

Carpenter Nature Center grows some of the most delicious, healthy, and eco-friendly apples in the St. Croix River Valley. Come visit CNC to celebrate the harvest with hay rides, music, live animal programs, apple brats, pumpkin decorating, bake sale, cidermaking demonstrations, and

more. Purchase jams, jellies, squash, honey, and more at our Apple Shack too. This FREE event is fun for the whole family.



Ice Fishing

CNC is excited to partner with local angling experts to offer a variety of family ice fishing opportunities this winter.

Programs are made possible by a grant from the Minnesota DNR.

Preschool Story Time

Jan 12 • 10:00—11:00 am Children ages 2 to 5 years are invited to CNC to begin exploring the world of ice

fishing through storytelling, games, and hiking to CNC pond where cameras will reveal life under the ice. Reservations are required and space is limited, so call 651-437-4359 to RSVP. Program Fee: \$5 per child or \$3 per child for "Friends of CNC"; no charge for adults.

FREE Family Ice Fishing Days at Lake Rebecca

in partnership with Hastings Parks & Recreation Department

Jan 27 & Feb 10 • 9:00 am—Noon

Learn about ice safety, fish species and habitat, ice fishing gear and techniques, and more. Instruction provided in part by the world-renowned experts from In-Depth Outdoors® and the guides and outfitters from Kruger Farms. Try your hand at catching fish, and if you become "hooked" on fishing, you can purchase the equipment from Kruger Farms that you will need for your own family fishing fun. **REGISTRATIONS STRONGLY**

ENCOURAGED in order to ensure there is enough equipment for all participants. Please call 651-437-4359 to register and schedule your arrival time.

FREE Advanced Ice Fishing

Children ages10+ with a strong interest in fishing can register for this two-part program that explores the advanced art and science of ice fishing. Must register by December 30. Please call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot.

Part 1 Classroom | Jan 6 • 10:00 am—Noon

Get the tips and tricks for successful ice-fishing from the experts. Learn about ice safety, fish species and habitats, ice fishing gear and techniques, and much more. This classroom session at CNC is a pre-requisite for the off-site field trips to North Lake.

Part 2 Field Trip Jan 20 • 8:00 am—11:30 am or Noon—3:30 pm

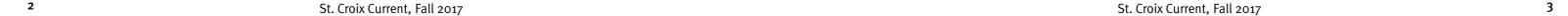
Meet at North Lake to explore this local fishing hot spot. Learn how to select a location, drill a hole, and land top quality fish.
Instructors are local ice fishing guides and fisheries experts.
Students must attend the classroom session to register for one of the field sessions.



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!



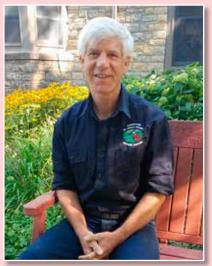




2017 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center Phenology from 2016 (with additional entries from CNC's past phenology notes)

				September	1 13 hours 14 minutes of daylight	Common Garter Snake by Admin. building (2015) MN Campus Bird Hike
8	4 Labor Day	r.	6 Full Moon	Sonaparte's Gulls and Common Nighthawks migrating overhead	First day picking Cortland apples (1999)	9 WI Campus Bird Hike
Grandparent's Day 10 Autumn in the Valley Gala	11 Patriot's Day	12	13 Blue Jays migrating through	14	Preschool Storytime: Orchard Fun Buckeye leaves dropping	16 Puffball Mushroom in ravine (2013)
17	18 Cicada's still buzzing (2004)	19	20 New Moon	21	22 Autumnal Equinox: Fall begins Bird Banding	23 Raptor Release
24	25 Dark-eyed Juncos have arrived (2006)	26 Red Fox in oak savanna (2000)	27	28 Super-moon with solar eclipse (2015)	29	Raptor Count/ 30 Hawk Watch Yom Kippur
October 1 Bull Snake out sunning	2 90° F in Hastings (1997)	3 Bald Eagle arranging nest	4	5 Full Moon MN Campus Saw-whet Owl Banding	6 Male Kestrel hunting on WI Campus (2014)	7 MN Campus Bird Hike
8 First frost of season at CNC	9 7 sparrow species banded (2015)	10	Full fall color (2008)	12 WI Campus Saw-whet Owl Banding	13	14 Apple Fest WI Campus Bird Hike
Apple Fest	16 Pileated Woodpecker by bell (2000)	17	18 American Robins flocking for migration (2004)	New Moon 19 MN Campus Saw-whet Owl Banding	20	21 Orionid Meteor Shower peak 5:54 am
22	23 Birch Trees are bare (2014)	24 Large flock of Common Grackles (2002)	25	26 WI Campus Saw-whet Owl Banding	Bird Banding 27 Preschool Storytime: Costumes & Critters	Purple Finches at 28 feeders Archery Program
29	30 12+ Cedar Waxwings by Admin. building	Halloween	November	Lilies blooming in circle garden (204th day of growing season)	3	Full Moon
5 Daylight Savings Time ends – Return to Central Standard Time at 2:00 am	9	7 Total lunar eclipse (2003)	8	9 Still no freeze in metro area	10 Preschool Storytime: Pigeons	Veteran's Day MN Campus Bird Hike
12 North Taurid Meteor Shower peak: 4:39 am	13	Canada Geese migrating (2015)	Home School Program: Rocks & Minerals	4 Ring-necked 16 Pheasants flying into prairie (2013)	17 Sundogs in the morning (2014)	New Moon 18 WI Campus Bird Hike MN Campus Peanut Line Hike
19	20 Deer tracks in circle garden (2012)	Ice on pond	22	23 Thanksgiving Day (CNC Closed)	24 Bird Banding	25
Hundreds of 26 Eastern Bluebirds in orchard (2008)	27 14 Trumpeter Swans at Pt. Douglas (2010)	28 60+ American Crows by back patio eating crab apples (2007)	29	30 2001 – driest fall on record	December 1 Preschool Storytime: Who Hibernates?	Great Horned Owl 2 north of intern house MN Campus Bird Hike
Full Moon	4 2" of snow overnight	5 Nightcrawlers out after rain (2001)	9	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	17 Mourning Doves 9 at feeders (2009) WI Campus Bird Hike
10	20+ inches of snow in last 2 days (2011)	12 Summer Tanager at Prescott feeder (1997)	13 Hanukkah begins	14 Geminid Meteor Shower peak 12:07 am	15 Ice anglers on St. Croix River (1995)	16
17	18 New Moon	19 No ice yet on St. Croix River (2001)	20	December Solstice: Winter begins in Northern Hemisphere 10:28 am	22 Bird Banding	23
13 Gray Squirrels 24 at feeders New Year's Eve 8 hours and 51 minutes of daylight	25 Christmas Day (CNC Closed)	26 50+ Wild Turkeys in Admin. yard	27 Flock of 20+ American Robins passing through		29 Flock of 110+ European Starlings SE of Admin. building	30 Gray Fox by overlook

People Profiles



Meet our Development Director Glen Hill

Growing up in Illinois and Wisconsin, Glen developed an early love for being outdoors, fishing and bowhunting. Glen graduated from the U of Montana (BS Wildlife Biology / MS Applied Conservation), working on cattle ranches in the summers. Glen then spent the next 21 years living and working in Thailand and Burma. Through the Peace Corps he worked in aquaculture and integrated agriculture and later as the Coastal Programs field coordinator for Wildlife Fund Thailand conducting village-level research on dugongs and sea turtles. He went on to help establish two wildlife sanctuaries in the jungles of southern Burma while conducting pioneering research into the wildlife trade from Burma to Thailand. For the next 12 years, he led SWISSAID's Burma Program as Country Director, focusing on building civil society. In 2006, Glen, his wife and two children moved to Stillwater, MN, where he continued working with nonprofits such as MN Food Association and Urban Roots, as well as consulting in nonprofit fundraising. Glen believes one common thread through all the different experiences has been fundraising, and common to good fundraising is building relationships and partnerships with those who want to give because it aligns with their values and they trust the process. Favorite quote: "It's not how many fish you catch, but how much 'boat time' you got."

Meet our 2017 Summer Interns

Annabelle Barr was one of CNC's Environmental Education interns for the summer. She is currently attending the University of Georgia where she is studying ecology and biology. In her free time she enjoys cooking and hiking.

Theresa Wagner was a summer Environmental Education intern. She is currently attending Vermillion Community College in Ely, MN where she is studying to be a Natural Resources Technician. She is an avid outdoorswoman, and enjoys camping, kayaking, hunting and fishing.

Caroline Reges completed an Environmental Education internship this summer. She is currently a student at University of South Florida in Tampa, but has lived in Seattle, Baltimore, and Europe throughout her life. She enjoys running and playing the saxophone in her free time.

Mary Fitzgerald worked with our horticulturist John in the orchard and the gardens at CNC this summer. She is a student at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, where she is pursuing a degree in environmental science. In her free time she enjoys hiking and traveling.



From left: Annabelle Barr, Theresa Wagner, Caroline Reges, and Mary Fitzgerald

Volunteer Spotlight Dwight Smith- Volunteer of the Year 2017



Dwight has been a volunteer at CNC since 2011, and has worked tirelessly to help our team in a variety of ways. He has helped with data entry, buckthorn busting, special events, bird hikes, and owl prowls to name a few. Besides volunteering at CNC, Dwight is an active member of many other community organizations. He is a member of the Hastings **Environmental Protectors**

(HEP), assists with conducting wetland health surveys as a member of the Dakota County Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP), and helps educate the next generation through volunteering in Hastings High School biology classrooms. In every way, Dwight exemplifies the values of CNC, especially when it comes to creating partnerships to protect the environment. No single person or organization can protect nature on its own. We all need to work together, and Dwight is a shining example of this type of collaboration. He is an incredible asset to CNC, and we are extremely grateful for all his hard work and dedication. Thanks Dwight! Our hats are off to you.

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Honor of

Wallace Wadd from Adam Wadd

In Memory of

Willetta Breault from Jim & Judy Freund
Tom Bump from Michelle Bump
Lloyd L. Hanson from Darleen Hanson
Troy Johnson from Jim & Judy Freund
Jack Kern from Don Kern
Mary Jo Lindeberg from Michael Brecke
Buzz Marzolf from Beth Stidham
Wally McCarthy from Jim & Judy Freund
Carolyn Miske from Phil & Marlene Kachelmyer
Matt Putzier from Jim & Judy Freund
John E. Stickler from the Jager and Froehlich Families
Loretta Richman from Colleen Horn Harris, Patricia Minar &
The Minar Family Trust, James Packard, James Richman,
Glen & Kathy Wallace, Janet & Debbie Wallace and
Dan & Julie Wennberg

Outreach Programs Amazing Animals Series

CNC and Angel's Pet World are proud to partner and bring the community a FREE program series that educates people about stewardship of nature and responsible pet ownership. Hosted at Angel's Pet World at 105 Second St. in Hudson, Wisconsin.

Reptiles & Amphibians Nov 5 • 1:00 pm

Raptor Meet & Greet

Dec 2 • 12:00—3:00 pm

Presented in partnership with

Reindeer in the Park

Cats

Jan 7 • 1:00 pm

Presented in partnership with Dunn County Human Society

Dogs

Feb 11 • 1:00 pm

Presented in partnership with Coco's Heart Dog Rescue



APPLE SHACK OPENS SOON

9:00 am-5:00pm daily

Labor Day thru Thanksgiving (Dependent on weather and supply—Please call ahead for specific dates)

By purchasing apples from CNC you are not only getting delicious, local, eco-friendly apples. You are supporting environmental education and habitat protection in the St. Croix Valley.

Volunteer Corner

A **Volunteer Information Meeting** will take place at 7pm on Wednesday, September 20 in the Visitor Center. This informal meeting is for those interested in becoming a CNC Volunteer; it is a time to see how your interests match with our needs. Please call ahead to let us know you will attend.

Volunteer Opportunities This Season

Our Adopt-a-Highway cleanup will be spread out over the week of September 11 – just let me, Alan, know what day and time you can make it and I'll have trash bags and safety vests available. This way we can work around the weather. So, if you are able to help during that week, bring your gloves and your favorite litter stabbing tool and contact me for further info.

The Raptor Release is on Saturday, September 23. We will need lots of volunteers to do various tasks like directing cars to parking areas, giving out information, helping in the Apple Shack, and directing people to the release site. Call if you are interested in helping with this event – it is a lot of fun, a lot of work, and you'll get to see lots of raptors.

Apple Fest is the weekend of October 14 and 15. You can volunteer for one or both days, bake something for the Volunteer Bake Sale, or you can do both (we really like that kind of help.) If you like apples, pumpkins, good music, and interesting people, this is the event for you - it's more fun than a bucket of frogs.

If you are interested in helping with any of these events, please call 651-437-4359 and ask for Alan, the Volunteer Coordinator; or email Alan@CarpenterNatureCenter.org

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	OF CARPENTI	
Address		
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Check appro INDIVID FAMILY DONOR PATRON BENEFA THE ST. THE EAG	ÜAL	\$25 to \$49 \$50 to \$99 \$100 to \$249 \$250 to \$499 \$500 to \$999 \$1,000 to \$2,999 \$3,000 to \$4,999 \$5,000 & Beyond
Form of Payment: (Check one) Copies of this form are acceptable	Cash (accepted in person only) Check (payable to Carpenter Nature Center) Credit Card Amount \$	
	☐ I'm interested in learning more about the Tom & Edna Carpenter Society	





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=	Development Director
Jessie Eckroad	Outreach Program Coordinator
Clare Neenan	Natural Resources Specialist

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

CNC Wish List

Our wish this autumn is for the pleasure of your company at our annual Autumn in the Valley Gala on September 10.

We wish for...

Smiling and spirited conversation at every table,
Laughter flooding the visitor center and gardens,
Excitement and friendly competition for the auctions,
Jubilation over the delicious food and drinks, and
Wonder in everyone's hearts as they survey the beauty of the valley.



CNC News & Events

If you are not receiving monthly e-mail updates please contact: Glen@CarpenterNatureCenter.org to join our e-mail list. Follow us online:

www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org, Facebook, Twitter, or www.givemn.org.



give **VNorg**





Trails and interpretive exhibits are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A trail map is available at the registration desk where we ask all visitors to check in. Admission is free but we encourage donations, which go to help the environmental education

programs at the Nature Center. To join our email list contact: Glen@CarpenterNatureCenter.org.