Field Notes
By Jen Vieth

Children learn about the world through touching, tasting, and whole-heartedly interacting with the environment. This full-bodied exuberance often leads exasperated adults to ask “Why?” As in “Why did you put the green bean up your nose?”, “Why did you think it was a good idea to eat sidewalk salt?”, or “Why did you flip over every patio stone in the neighbor’s yard?”...

**Curiosity**

noun cu·ri·os·i·ty 
, kyür-è-'ä-s(  -)té

Desire to know. Interest leading to inquiry

In the children’s Magic Tree House series, Curiosity is said to be one of the four secrets of happiness. While studies about happiness do not unanimously purport this claim, curiosity does have many benefits. Curiosity has been proven to increase one’s ability to learn and retain information. Great teachers spark curiosity to improve student performance. Curiosity also influences personal growth including interpersonal relationships. Additionally, curiosity increases bipartisanship. A timely study from Yale reports that “Science-curious individuals are more willing to engage with surprising information that runs counter to their political predispositions.....As their science curiosity goes up...people move the same direction on contentious policies...”

Working with an entire team of people who exercise curiosity leads to an enriching work environment. CNC staff and interns are encouraged to be curious about the species that find refuge on our 725-acres of diverse, protected habitat. A few of the recent discoveries include Six-lined Racerunners, a new patch of Kittentails and threatened Tway Blades. As a land steward, CNC strives to make the best land management decisions to benefit the diverse life that abounds at Carpenter Nature Center. It is a great responsibility. Yet, how can we make wise decisions without a full picture of all the creatures that occur at CNC? Today we have a fairly thorough picture of the 200+ bird species that use the site. We have a snapshot of the plant species. Our records of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians are thin. Our lists of spiders, tiger beetles and other invertebrates are non-existent. On May 13, join our volunteer experts to help uncover the diverse species that call our Wisconsin Campus home. Maybe you will find a rare jumping spider? An endangered sedge? Or a threatened moth? If you can’t attend the bio-blitz, spark your curiosity with a hike at CNC. Please share your sightings with Ron or Philip in the Visitor Center, write your findings on our phenology board or share your photos on our Facebook page.

The kids who up-ended the neighbor’s carefully leveled patio decades ago were indulging their curiosity. They were discovering the vast world of nature beneath the stones. Junior scientists engaged in unsanctioned patio rearranging can find worms, centipedes, beetles, woodlouse, millipedes, salamanders and even a diminutive Ring-necked Snake if you are lucky! By discovering the wealth of life below the stones, we learn more about the complex eco-systems around us, we are better equipped to protect the diverse life around us and we continue to unravel the amazing interconnections of the natural world.

“I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.” - Albert Einstein

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

Bureau of Land Management,
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Alan Maloney, Clare Neenan,
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*One of the most beloved classes here at Carpenter is the Insects program. Children have the opportunity to explore the prairie with their classmates and identify insects they catch in sweep nets. CNC has been sparking curiosity in our visitors since the first day of programs in August 1981. A great naturalist doesn’t simply regurgitate facts to students; they help the students make their own discoveries.*
Upcoming Programs

Reservations are required

For more information, to RSVP or to schedule a group program, please call the office: 651-437-4359

Summer Day Camps
More information and registration form is on our website.

Fishing Fun (Ages 6-12)
July 6 & July 19 • 1:00–4:00 p.m.
The majority of time is spent at the river. Supplies provided if needed. Fee (per session): $30 per participant or $20 for 'Friends of CNC'.

Nature Nuts (Ages 4-5)
June 19-23 • 9:00 a.m.—June Pioneers (Ages 7 & 8)
July 17-21 • 9:00 a.m.—June We will make crafts, play games, and explore the trails at CNC. Fee: $99 per participant or $109 for ‘Friends of CNC’.

Bath, Bee House, and a Toad Abode.
Meet live animals and create “gifts for wildlife” including a bird Garden Gifts (adult + child 4-7) • Aug 2-4 • 6:00—8:00 p.m.
and paint in a variety of mediums.

Study live birds of prey in detail and use your observations to draw Raptor Studies (ages 13+) • July 26-28 • 1:00—4:00 p.m.
and paint in a variety of mediums.

Get hands-on learning about urban and rural ecosystems using the Kinnickinnic River, Belwin Conservancy, and visit the Science Museum of MN. This summer camp experience
field research techniques such as bird banding, prairie restoration, sustainable agriculture, and wildlife monitoring. Take field trips to the Kinnickinnic River, Belwin Conservancy, and visit the Science Museum of MN and urban gardens. This summer camp experience is made possible by a USDA-NIFA funded grant and partnerships with the U of WI-River Falls and the Science Museum of MN.

The Phipps Summer Art Camps
CNC is now teaching summer camps at The Phipps! Please visit thephips.pims.org for pricing and to register.

Critter Crafting (ages 8-12) • June 21-23 • 1:00–4:00 p.m.
Meet live animals and use them as inspiration for multi-media craft projects using paint, beads, paper, stone, and string.

Raptor Studies (ages 53+) • July 26-28 • 1:00–4:00 p.m.
Study live birds of prey in detail and use your observations to draw and paint in a variety of mediums.

Garden Gifts (adult + child 4-7) • Aug 2-4 • 6:00—8:00 p.m.
Meet live animals and create “gifts for wildlife” including a bird bath, bee house, and a toad abode.

Bird Hikes
Minnesota Campus
May 6 • June 3 • July 1 • Aug 5
Wisconsin Campus
300 E. Cove Road, Hudson
May 13 • June 10 • July 8 • Aug 12
8:00–10:00 a.m.
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.

Public Bird Banding
May 26 • June 23 • July 28 • Aug 25
8:30 a.m.—Noon
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 are appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

Birding in the Wisconsin Prairie
July 19 • 7:00–8:00 p.m.
Join Missey Sparrow, a prairie plant specialist from the Wisconsin DNR, and Jen Vieth, CNC’s director, for a hike through the prairie. We’ll be looking for blooming forbs and grasses as well as listening for birds. Binoculars will be available to use or bring your own. Program Fee: FREE.

Preschool Storytime
Fridays • 10:00–12:00 a.m.
May 5 • June 16 • July 7 • Aug 4
These programs introduce children ages 2-5 to nature in a fun and safe environment. Listen to stories, spend time outdoors, make a craft and meet CNC’s live animals. Programs sell out fast. Call ahead to register. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Program Fee: $5 per child or $3 for ‘Friends of CNC’.

No charge for adults.

Meteor Madness
August 11
Escape the city lights and spend a relaxing evening watching the Perseid meteor shower at CNC. We’ll be open until midnight, so bring your blanket or lawn chair, and come enjoy the beautiful night sky at your leisure. There is no fee, but please call ahead to 651-437-4359 to let us know you are coming.

32nd Annual Apple Blossom Races
May 21 • 8:00 a.m.
For over 30 years, runners of all abilities have flocked to the St. Croix Valley to support CNC. This friendly race has a distance and speed for everyone. Beginning at 8:00 a.m. the half marathon is a challenging and hilly route past many of the St. Croix Valley apple orchards. The 10K follows CNC’s savannah trails. There is a 5k run/walk straight down St. Croix Trail. Bring your kids for the FREE ‘K’ Fun Run following the other races at approximately 11 a.m. Pre-register online at active.com prior to May 15. Registration available day of race at increased price. Fees: $32 5K & 10K, $42 for half marathon.

Apple Blossom Races Practice Run
May 13 • 9:00 a.m.
Want to check out the Apple Blossom 10K route before race day? Carpools from CNC to the start at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park, and run the 10K route. The course is on paved roads and CNC’s trail system—including paved, wood chipped and grass trails. Transportation to the finish line is free but space is limited so please RSVP at 651-437-4359.

Natural Challenges: Yoga
June 19 & 25 • July 10, 22 & 31
6:30–7:30 p.m.
Experience the beauty of the St. Croix River while moving through a combination of yoga sequences designed to align the body and mind. Bring your own mat. Please RSVP at 651-437-4359. Program Fee: $6 per participant for single session or $30 per participant for all six sessions. FREE for Hastings YMCA and CNC members, however a donation to help cover the cost of instruction is appreciated.

St. Croix Valley Scramble
July 24 • 1:00 p.m.
Enjoy a day of golf at the Afton Alps Golf Course in support of Carpenter Nature Center! All proceeds fund CNC’s K-12 environmental education programming. Fun 18-hole best ball tournament with shot gun start. Meals catered by the award-winning Colosfial Cafe. Fees: $50 per person or $150 per foursome.

Carpenter Art Festival
Aug 26 • 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
CNC welcomes you to celebrate the art and nature on our Wisconsin Campus. Enjoy music, fine arts and crafts, and beautiful scenery. Event will take place rain or shine. Please note that the vendors prefer cash and checks, and that a portion of all proceeds will support Carpenter Nature Center. Painting: “Petunia Blues with Sweet Potato Vine” by 2017 featured artist Melissa Werpy.
### 2017 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

#### Phenology from 2016 (with additional entries from CNC’s past phenology notes)

**May**
- **11th** - Lupine and Spindletop blooming
- **16th** - Hummingbirds in gardens

**June**
- **1st** - First see snapping frog
- **6th** - Crab apples in full bloom
- **8th** - Sharp-lobed Hepatica and violets in bloom
- **15th** - First peony in bloom
- **16th** - Highbush Cranberry in bloom
- **21st** - Flock of Red Crossbills on WI Campus

**July**
- **3rd** - PRASC Nighttime Birding: July 4th Fireworks at Both Lake and Wilder Lake
- **6th** - Polyphemus Moth emerged from cocoon
- **7th** - Monarch Butterfly in prairie
- **22nd** - American Toads emerging from pond and wetland

**August**
- **1st** - Father’s Day Yoga (MN)
- **7th** - Twelve-lined Ground Squirrel in prairie
- **16th** - Goldenrod bloom in prairie
- **26th** - Ballswood leaves turning yellow

**September**
- **1st** - St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tourn.

**October**
- **9th** - Blazing Star, Purple Coneflower, and New England Aster blooming
- **14th** - Rowan leaves turning red
- **20th** - Perseid Meteor Shower Peak
- **24th** - Rocks of Common Evening-primrose
- **30th** - Maple leaves turning red

**November**
- **5th** - Chimney swifts have nestlings in Admin. Building chimney (2008)
- **6th** - Black bear visits CNC overnight (2014)
- **13th** - Goldenrod beginning to bloom (2015)

**December**
- **23rd** - Nolin Grove, a preserve with old-growth forest, is open to the public

**Note:** Events and phenological observations are subject to change based on weather and environmental conditions.
Meet our Spring Intern
Erika Jensen
Erika began interning at CNC in January and will stay through autumn as a Communications/Education intern. Erika grew up in Virginia, but moved to Minnesota where she was in high school. She then attended the School of Environmental Studies in Apple Valley, where she discovered her love of environmental science and the outdoors. She recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point where she studied Environmental Education and Forest Recreation Management. So far at CNC, she has had fun working with school groups, making social media posts, taking care of animals in the Visitor Center, doing interviews working with school groups, making social media posts, and helping teach about the diversity of wildlife found in our region.

Volunteer Spotlight
Jonna & Jas Burke
In this issue we are delighted to shine the spotlight on Jonna and Jas Burke. Jas first visited Carpenter as a homeschool student and expressed an interest in becoming an animal care volunteer. His mom, Jonna, agreed to supervise and encourage his interest by helping to volunteer with him. They have been volunteering with animal care since 2014 and have also branched out by helping with our special events – discovering how fun $25 is challenging it is to direct cars for the Raptor Release. Thank you, Jas and Jonna, for your generous commitment and giving CNC the gift of your time and talent. You are truly some top-notch volunteers and our hats are off to you both.

Meet our Visi...
12805 St. Croix Trail S.
Hastings, Minnesota 55033
(651) 437-4359
www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org

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**CNC Wish List**

Center is in need of the following items in good condition:

- **Weather System**– Contact Alan Maloney for more details
- Gift cards to Michaels and/or JoAnne Fabrics for craft supplies
- Youth Fishing Poles

Remember that donated items are generally tax deductible. Check out the wish list on our website for additional items.

**CNC News & Events**

Follow us online:

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.