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Summer 2017

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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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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 \, kyūr-ē-'ä-s(ə-)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 cadre of 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



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

Summer Day Camps

More information and registration form is on our website.



Fishing Fun (Ages 6 - 11)

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 5 & 6)

June 19—23 • 9:00 a.m.—Noon

Pioneers (Ages 7 & 8)

July 17—21 • 9:00 a.m.—Noon

We will make crafts, play games, and explore the trails at CNC. Fee: \$99 per participant or \$89 for 'Friends of CNC.'

Explorers (Ages 9 - 11) FILLED FOR 2017

Raptor Camp (Ages 11 & up)

July 6 - 7 • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Spend a day at CNC and then a day at the Raptor Center at the U of MN learning about amazing birds of prey. Transportation to the Raptor Center is provided. Fee: \$125 per participant or \$115 for 'Friends of CNC.'

Canoe Trip (Ages 12 & up)

June 27 - 29 • 9:00 a.m. Tuesday - 4:30 p.m. Thursday

Join CNC naturalists for a trip on the Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers. We'll canoe about 17 miles and camp along the shores of these scenic rivers. Fee: \$225 per participant or \$215 for 'Friends of CNC.'

Pathfinders (Ages 11-15)

July 10- 14, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Get hands-on learning about urban and rural ecosystems using 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.

Phipps Summer Art Camps

CNC is now teaching summer camps at the Phipps! Please visit thephipps.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, string, and stones.

Raptor Studies (ages 13+) • 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.

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

651-437-4359

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 Missy 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.



Wendy Hill



Journey Photography

Preschool Storytime

Fridays • 10:00 - 11:00 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 Perseids 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.



Bureau of Land Management

Upcoming Events

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



Tammy Johnson

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 family 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 2K 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.

Bird Migration Celebration

May 13 • 8:00 a.m. - Noon

Morning Bird Walk • 8:00 a.m.

Bird Banding • 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Habitat Hike • 11:00 a.m.

Come to our WI Campus for a morning full of birding. There will be a welcome tent with refreshments and information on birds and habitat, kids activities, and hikes through the prairie. This event is part of the Tropical Wings St. Croix River Flyway Bird Migration Celebration which takes place May 12-14. Program fee: FREE

NEW THIS YEAR

Wisconsin Campus Bioblitz

Learn from bird, insect, reptile, amphibian, and plant experts in a fun day of citizen science as we try to discover how many species are found on the WI campus. Join inventory teams in the restored prairie and through wooded bluffs to discover, count, and document different types of plants and animal species. No experience necessary, and all ages are welcome! The BioBlitz is hosted in conjunction with the Bird Migration Celebration event, and takes place from 8:00 a.m.—Noon.



Beekeeping 101

June 10 • 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Curious about what it takes to start your own honeybee hive? Join Tom Kieffer to learn the basics of beekeeping, from the startup equipment needed and managing the hive, to ways we can help honeybees and other pollinators in our environment. Get a close look at CNC's honeybee hives. Please RSVP at 651-437-4359. Program Fee: FREE.

Apple Blossom Races Practice Run

May 13 • 9:00 a.m.

Want to check out the Apple Blossom 10K race route before race day? Carpool from CNC to the start at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park, and run the 10K race route. The course is on paved roads and CNC's trail system—including paved, wood chipped and grass trails. There is no admission fee but space is limited so please RSVP at 651-437-4359.

Natural Challenges: Yoga

June 19 & 26 • July 10, 17, 24 & 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 Colossal Café. Fees include box lunches, green fees, carts, dinner, and a donation to CNC. Hole sponsorships are available. Visit the CNC website or call the office to request a registration form. Fee: \$95 per golfer or \$380 per foursome.

Carpenter Art Festival

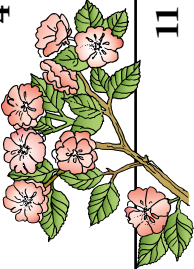





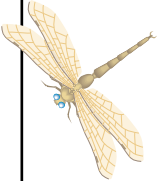






















Aug 26 • 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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 or 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	1	Sharp-lobed Hepatica and violets in bloom	2	Crab apples in full bloom	3	Apple orchards in full bloom	4		5	Preschool Story Time: Flowers	6	Bird Hike (MN) WI fishing opener
7	8		9	Hummingbirds in gardens	10		11		12	Lupine and Spiderwort blooming	13	Bird Hike (WI) Migration Celebration (WI) ABR Practice Run MN fishing opener
14	15	Two Gray Catbirds Hard killing frost in the orchard- Low of 25°	16	First peony in bloom	17		18		19	Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Indigo Bunting, Catbird, House Wren, and Common Yellowthroat sighted	20	Highbush Cranberry in bloom
21	22		23		24	Scarlet Tanager at bird bath Phlox bloom in native gardens	25	Compass Flower blooming	26	Public Bird Banding 	27	Prairie Rose, American Vetch, and Penstemon blooming in Native Gardens
28	29	Memorial Day (CNC Open)	30		31	Rue in bloom Monarch Butterfly in prairie	1	June	2		3	Monthly Bird Hike (MN)
4	5	Polyphemus Moth emerged from cocoon (2012)	6		7		8		9		10	Bird Hike (WI) Beekeeping (MN) Eyed Click Beetle caught in banding net
11	12		13	Meadow Rue blooming Henslow's Sparrow and Bobolink on West Prairie	14	Milkweed and Butterfly Weed blooming Flag Day	15	Volunteer & Member Picnic	16	Preschool Story Time: Toads 	17	
18	19	Yoga (MN)	20	Lilies blooming Summer Solstice	21		22	Coreopsis blooming	23	Public Bird Banding	24	Red Fox and Coyote caught on game camera
25	26	Yoga (MN)	27	Lead Plant blooming in prairie 	28		29		30		1	July Bird Hike (MN) Bobolink pair carrying food
2	3	Heard cicadas buzzing	4	Independence Day (CNC Open)	5	Monarda (bee balm) in bloom 	6	Fishing Fun Day Camp	7	Preschool Story Time: Spiders	8	Bird Hike (WI) Full moon 
9	10	Yoga (MN)	11	White Sweet Clover blooming	12		13		14		15	Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel in prairie 
16	17	Yoga (MN)	18		19	Fishing Fun Day Camp Birding in the Prairie (WI)	20	Temps at 92°, heat index between 101° and 105°	21	Temps at 93°, heat index between 106° and 110°	22	
23	24	St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tour. Yoga (MN)	25		26		27	Cedar waxwings by river	28	Public Bird Banding	29	Goldenrod bloom in prairie
30	31	Yoga (MN)	1	August Juvenile Harrier spotted on prairie (2008)	2		3	Sumac begins to show red color	4	Preschool Story Time: Caterpillars & Butterflies	5	Bird Hike (MN)
6	7		8		9		10	3" rain on this date in 2016	11	Meteor Madness (MN)	12	Bird Hike (WI) Perseid Meteor Shower Peak
13	14	Black bear visits CNC overnight (2014) 	15	Goldenrod beginning to bloom (2015) 	16	Blazing Star, Purple Coneflower, and New England Aster blooming (2004)	17		18		19	
20	21	Cottonwood leaves turning yellow	22		23		24	Flocks of Common Nighthawks migrating	25	Public Bird Banding	26	Carpenter Art Festival (WI)
27	28	Basswood leaves dropping	29		30.	Isabella Tiger Moth "woolly bear" caterpillar on the sidewalk	31	Blue Racer in circle garden (2009) 				

People Profiles

Meet our Visitor Center Greeters

Thanks to a program with the Minnesota State Veterans Home and Experience Works, CNC has been very fortunate to host two front desk staff for the Visitor Center, Ron O'Brien and Philip Johnson. Ron and Philip are responsible for greeting incoming visitors, answering questions, and familiarizing visitors with all that CNC has to offer. We are very grateful to have them with us, and we appreciate their enthusiasm and dedication to their job. They have become an integral part of the CNC team.



Philip Johnson

Philip grew up on the North Shore of Lake Superior, in Silver Bay, Minnesota. Upon graduation from high school he entered the Navy, where he served for 10 years. Through his time in the military and on his own he has traveled to many countries including Portugal, Spain, England, Scotland, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Bahamas, US Virgin Islands, and Jamaica. He has spent much of his career working in the field of Information Technology, doing data entry, computer operations, technical support, application programming, and more. He lived in Southern California for 22 years, before moving to the Twin Cities Metro area in 2006. Philip currently resides at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Hastings.



Ron O'Brien

Ron was born in St. Paul, but grew up in Le Sueur Minnesota. For those that are not familiar with the town, Ron says it's the home of the "Jolly Ho Ho Ho, Green Giant". Ron joined the United States Army in 1975 after graduating high school and spent the next 12 years keeping up a family tradition started by his grandfather in WWI, and his father and uncle in WWII. During Ron's time in the Army he was able to travel to Europe twice, and see all 48 continental states. He is currently living at the Veterans Home in Hastings. His hobbies include gardening, using his computer, and watching movies.

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 when 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 with the local radio station, and writing the monthly e-newsletter. Thank you for all your hard work, Erika!



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 and challenging it is to direct cars for the Raptor Release. Thank you, Jas and Jonna, for your very 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.



Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Honor of

Bob Garber from Rick & Rebecca Strash
Lorri Balder from Health Partners
Lyla Davies from Todd, Julie, Megan, Greta & Violet Sieben
Mary Mackey from Margaret Volz & Samuel Edwards

In Memory of

Bette Montgomery from Gordon & Jo Bailey
Dick & Jean Janssen from Kathy Janssen
Donna J. Buck from Donald Buck
Gloria Hansen from Mark Hansen
Her Brother & Parents from Susan Dorner
Alfred "Cuffy" Nelson from Craig & Susie Huxtable
Jim Nielsen from Kathryn Levenick
Muggs McQuade from Bruce & Michelle McQuade
Patricia Freutel Prince from Phil & Marlene Kachelmyer
Scott Pengelly from Lifeworks
Tom & Joni Stanton from Bob & Carol Jager
Walter Suchy from Marilyn Suchy



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our Bald Eagle.

At Carpenter Nature Center, we deeply value the lives of all our animal ambassadors and strive to give them all a life of quality and dignity. Caring for the eagle and treating his chronic health issues has been challenging, but despite the difficulties we were able to give him a long, spirited life full of enrichment. Unfortunately, as predicted, his condition deteriorated recently, and it became clear that the most humane course of action was euthanasia. He was given a gentle end on the morning of March 29, and is now flying free. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the staff at The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota who helped us from the day he arrived, and to the volunteers and visitors who shared in his journey with us. He has been a wonderful ambassador for his species, inspiring thousands of visitors, and helping teach about the diversity of wildlife found in our region. If you have any special memories of the Eagle, we encourage you to share them on the memorial display in our Visitor Center.

Volunteer Corner

A Volunteer Information Meeting will be held on Wednesday June 7 at 7:00 p.m. for those interested in volunteering at Carpenter Nature Center. Please call ahead at 651-437-4359 to let us know you are coming.

Volunteer Opportunities This Season

Call CNC if you are able to help with any of the following:

Green thumbs wanted: If you have a green thumb or just like to play in the dirt, we could use your help with planting, weeding, and watering the pumpkins grown near the orchard. We give pumpkins to each school kid that comes out for Orchard class so please consider helping for a couple hours a week over the summer to ensure we have a good crop for them and visitors in the fall. Of course the flower gardens and herb garden need caretakers too. Please call if you think weeding is therapeutic and would like to help. Fore! Volunteers will be needed for a variety of duties at the **St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament** on July 24. Mark your calendars, call us if you are available, and ready your favorite golf joke. And remember – golf got its name because all the other four letter words were taken.

SAVE THE DATES

Upcoming volunteer opportunities include:

Apple Blossom Races on May 21
Raptor Release on September 23
Apple Fest on October 14 and 15
We'll need lots of volunteer help with these three events; no special training needed – just lots of enthusiasm.

FRIENDS OF CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____
Email _____
Gift membership given by: _____

Check appropriate level:
☐ INDIVIDUAL \$25 to \$49
☐ FAMILY \$50 to \$99
☐ DONOR \$100 to \$249
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☐ THE ST. CROIX SOCIETY \$1,000 to \$2,999
☐ THE EAGLE SOCIETY \$3,000 to \$4,999
☐ THE DIRECTOR'S COUNCIL \$5,000 & Beyond
☐ SUSTAINING FRIEND OF CNC

Form of Payment: ☐ **Cash** (accepted in person only)
☐ **Check** (payable to Carpenter Nature Center)
☐ **Credit Card** Amount \$ _____
(Visa or Master Card are accepted)
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☐ I'm interested in learning more about the Tom & Edna Carpenter Society



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Clare Neenan.....	Natural Resources Specialist

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

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:

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



giveMN.org
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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.