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Fall 2014

Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

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"The mission of Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center is to foster appreciation and inspire stewardship of the natural world. We accomplish our mission by acquiring and preserving land and wildlife habitat, providing quality environmental education, conservation practices and enjoyable outdoor experiences for visitors of all ages and capabilities."

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our newsletter to full color!*



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Field Notes

By Jen Vieth

The lazy, warm summer days are giving way to crisp, dry, early fall afternoons. The Dog Day Cicadas are serenading us with their buzzing, electrical calls. The Monarchs are preparing for their monumental 4th generation journey to Mexico. Anecdotal reports from backyard Monarch enthusiasts are that they've seen more Monarchs in the St. Croix Valley than last year.

Also winging their way south will be 25 special Wood Thrushes. In a cooperative research project with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Carpenter Nature Center is helping pinpoint the primary reasons for the Wood Thrushes' decline. For more information on the Wood Thrush research project check out page six.

Another new development this summer was a Natural Resources Internship at CNC funded by a generous surprise donation. Through partnerships with Twin Cities researchers, this student participated in Peregrine Falcon and Osprey Banding, Turtle Monitoring, Habitat Restoration, Sustainable Agriculture Management, the Wood Thrush Study and much more.

The students of today will be the researchers of tomorrow. They must learn to combine their understanding of technology and science, with sound communication skills, to help find solutions. Judging by the professionalism exhibited by this season's six CNC interns, I have hope for tomorrow. These college students have learned to integrate technology into their lives and work without letting it run their lives. This year's interns shared lunch hours without electronics and took time to enjoy the CNC trails in their free time.



Photo courtesy of Calandra Stanley

*A Wood Thrush waits to be released
after being fitted with a small
geolocator.*

Internships are just one of many learning opportunities provided by Carpenter Nature Center. Seven thousand student visitors learn the basics of environmental science annually at CNC and over 20,000 visitors enjoy our trails, public programs and events. We couldn't accomplish any of this without our 600 "Friends of CNC" who cumulatively donated more than \$50,000 this year or our 188 volunteers who donated over 12,000 hours of service, or our sponsors, dedicated Board of Directors and hard-working staff. For all of you we are truly grateful.

As we embark on the busiest season in our year, I encourage you to enjoy all that CNC has to offer, from new "Fitness in Nature" classes provided in partnership with the Hastings YMCA to the "Drawn to Raptors" sessions with Vera Wang at the Fall Raptor Release sponsored by The Phipps Center for the Arts. There is always something happening at CNC. This fall look for much-needed upgrades to the facilities including the entrance and interpretive amphitheater. Enjoy volunteering alongside corporate volunteers from Vail Resorts and 3M in September.

Every season has a unique palette of colors, yet Autumn in the St. Croix Valley is by far one of the richest. The orchards are flush with the warm hues of ripening apples and the rosy cheeks of school children. The forests are awash with vibrant greens, yellows and burgundies. The golden prairie grasses and brilliant purple asters offset broad, azure Midwestern skies. Take time this fall to refresh your spirits with a hike through CNC's trails and immerse yourself in the wonders of the season. Be sure to visit the Apple Shack for a quick, healthy chemical-free snack before you leave.

Upcoming Programs

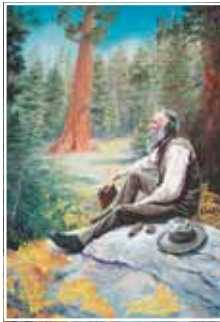
Reservations are required

Carpenter Nature Center offers a wide variety of public programs. **Reservations are required.** For more information, to RSVP, or to schedule a group program please call the office: **651-437-4359**

John Muir Concert

September 14 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

John Muir was one of the world's most influential naturalists, often referred to as the "father of our National Park system." In remembrance of him and in commemoration of this 100th anniversary year, enjoy the production "John Muir - University of the Wilderness," featuring dramatic readings of his writings intertwined with the music of the cutting edge music ensemble, "Chance." Actor Thomas Clyde Mitchell will take you on a journey from Muir's childhood in Scotland to his young life in Wisconsin and finally to his profound and influential experiences in the great Sierra Nevada mountains. During this program Muir's writings are celebrated, reflected upon, and reinforced by an accompanying score of nature-forged new music. All seats \$15. Please call to RSVP and pre-pay 651-437-4359.



Colleen Mitchell Vayna

Birding with Judith Sparrow

November 8 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Join avid bird watcher Judith for a presentation on identifying common birds—including learning some of their unique songs and calls. After the presentation head to the river to identify waterfowl. Judith has been birding for over 35 years and has a wealth of knowledge to share. Program fee: FREE

Bird Banding Fourth Fridays 8:30 a.m. – Noon

**September 28 October 24
November 28 December 26**

Have you wondered what bird banding is all about? Banding records help us learn how long birds live, where they travel, when they migrate and many other interesting facts. CNC has been banding birds for 30 years. Our experts welcome you to see songbirds up close and learn about the birds who share our ecosystem. Banding runs continuously for the full 3 1/2 hours but visitors may come and go at any time. Donations of bird seed or suet are greatly appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

Preschool Story Time Fridays 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**September 19 Orchard Fun
October 31 Costumes & Critters
November 14 Turkey Time
December 5 Get Ready For Winter**

CNC's Preschool Story Times are designed to introduce young children, ages 2 through 5 (with a parent or guardian), to nature in a fun and safe environment. We'll listen to stories, spend some time outdoors, make an art or craft project and meet live animals. Please be sure to dress appropriately for the weather. Program fee: \$5.00 per child per program or \$3.00 per preschooler for "Friends of CNC". CNC Story Times have been partially funded through support from Target.

*Come and enjoy the quiet,
serene world of nature.*

WISCONSIN CAMPUS PROGRAMS

Bird Banding

September 13 9:00 – 12:00 a.m.

Join our expert bird banders as they catch, band, and release songbirds on the Wisconsin Campus. Learn about the birds that visit the various habitats and the importance of the banding research. Feel free to come and go anytime during the 3 hour program. Program fee: FREE

Fall Colors Hike

October 4 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a morning hike where we will listen to bird songs and enjoy the changing colors in the woodland and prairie of the Wisconsin Campus. Program fee: \$6.00 per person per program or \$4.00 for "Friends of CNC" and children under 10.

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAMS

September 12

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Carpenter Nature Center'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. Two programs will be held, one for ages 5 – 9 and a similar topic for ages 10 and older. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Program fee: \$6.00 per student or \$4.00 for "Friends of CNC".



Food Chains (ages 5 – 9): Students will study the energy flow in food chains by finding clues in nature to create their own food chains.

Ecosystems (ages 10 & up) Students will investigate ecosystems through population sampling, food web simulation and a game on limiting factors.

NATURAL CHALLENGES

Nordic Walking

September 20 & 27, October 4 & 11 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Nordic walking uses two specially designed poles to work the upper body while walking (like cross country skiing). Nordic walking is a great cardio workout. It is made even better by taking place on the beautiful CNC trails. We would love for you to come give it a try. Program fee: \$20 for all 4 dates or \$6 per program. FREE for 'Friends of CNC' and Hastings YMCA members. Space is limited so call to pre-register.

Upcoming Events

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

Apple Fest

October 11 & 12

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Stop out and enjoy Apple Fest here at CNC! You can pick your own apples, enjoy free hay rides, educational programs, music, pumpkin decorating, apple brats and more. Carpenter Nature Center offers some of the most delicious and healthiest apples around the St. Croix Valley using eco-friendly techniques with minimal use of sprays. You can purchase pies and other homemade baked goods made with CNC apples from our volunteers. Be a part of the family here at Carpenter Nature Center.

Fall Raptor Release

Saturday, September 27

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Join Carpenter Nature Center as the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center releases rehabilitated raptors at CNC. These birds have sustained injuries in the wild and are now ready to be released by The Raptor Center. The fun-filled day includes hay wagon tours, childrens activities, raptors on display and much more. This is an inspiring and educational event that is enjoyed by visitors of every age each and every year. Free event.

Photo by Laurie Schneider



Photo by John Grimm

WHERE AT CNC?

If you have been coming to the Nature Center for a long time you may remember classes or events being held here. This amphitheater area is located behind the Interpretive Center. It has been unusable for many years due to deterioration. We are excited that thanks to the generous folks at Gertens Greenhouse and long time supporter Karl Willson we will be able to reconstruct it. Check out the project next time you are at the Nature Center, and spend a few minutes taking in the river view from this great spot.



*There are many things to explore and discover on
Carpenter Nature Center's 725+ acres of land.*






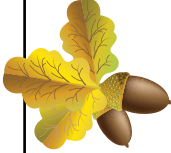


























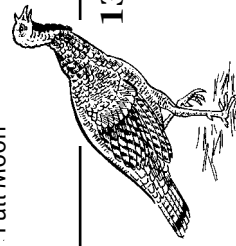



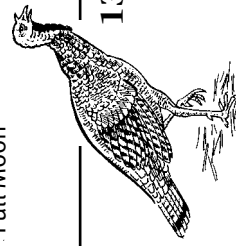























Sunday, September 7

Join the friends and family of Carpenter Nature Center for a wonderful evening. It's a memorable dinner, raffle, silent and live auction, 'wall of wine raffle' and is Carpenter's major fundraising event, that supports K-12 environmental education in the St. Croix Valley. The event will be held in CNC's River Bluff Pavilion which has an incredible view of the St. Croix Valley. It is a fun way to support a great cause. A few popular items from recent years include: hand-crafted furniture, framed paintings, photographs, guided nature experiences, travel packages, etc. To become a sponsor, volunteer, or arrange to donate an auction item, please contact Clare at 651-437-4359.

2014 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

Phenology from 2013 (with additional entries from CNC's past phenology notes)

Sept. 	1 13 hours and 15 minutes of daylight	2 	3 North end Monarch Enclave gone - 2001	4 	5 119 lbs of honey harvested - 2000	6 
7 Autumn in the Valley Gala	8 Full (Harvest) Moon 	9 Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup High Temp 95° F (19th day in the 90's)	10 	11 	12 Home School Program: Food Chains & Ecosystems	13 Wisconsin Campus: Bird Banding 
14 John Muir Concert	15 	16 Large puff-ball mushroom in ravine	17 Volunteer Information Meeting	18 	19 Preschool Story Time: Orchard Fun	20 Natural Challenges: Nordic Walking
21 	22 	23 Large flocks of Blue jays passing through	24 New Moon (Falling Leaves)	25 	26 Public Bird Banding	27 Raptor Release with U of M Raptor Center Natural Challenges: Nordic Walking
28 Junco in Pine near Admin - 1998	29 	30 	1 Oct. 	2 	3 Yom Kippur and Eid al-Adha begin at sunset	4 Wisconsin Campus: Fall Colors Hike Natural Challenges: Nordic Walking
5 	6 	7 Box Elder bugs coating outside of VC	8 Full (Hunter's) Moon 	9 	10 	11 Apple Fest Natural Challenges: Nordic Walking
12 Apple Fest	13 First Frost	14 	15 50+ Bluebirds on east side of Orchard - 2006	16 Pileated Woodpecker by bell - 2000	17 	18 
19 Peak Color - 2009	20 	21 First snow flurries	22 Ice on the Bird Bath	23 New (Freezing) Moon	24 Public Bird Banding 	25 
26 Memorial White Pine lost top overnight - 2010	27 	28 First Freeze - 2007	29 	30 	31 Halloween Preschool Story Time: Costumes & Critters	1 Nov. Large Flock of Robins by Entrance Gate - 1998
2 Sunflowers still Blooming - 2004	3 Afton Alps Ski Area Opened for Season - 1995	4 	5 Snow on the ground!	6 Full Moon 	7 	8 Birding with Judith Sparrow
9 Chipmunk at River - 2009	10 	11 Honeybee on Dandelion - 2010	12 Coldest Day since March 	13 	14 Preschool Story Time: Turkey Time	15 4 Pheasants flying into prairie
16 	17 Red Admiral and Sulfur Butterflies sighted - 2001	18 Purple Finch sighted	19 	20 Deer Tracks in Circle Garden - 2012	21 	22 New Moon (Descending Cold)
23 Coyote at noon in Oak Savannah - 2012 	24 	25 8 year old Northern Cardinal recaptured by bird banders	26 	27 Thanksgiving	28 Public Bird Banding	29 
30 Driest Fall on Record -2011	1 Dec. Red-winged Blackbird at Feeder - 2005	2 Eagles starting new nest in floodplain - 2012	3 	4 	5 Preschool Story Time: Get Ready for Winter	6 Northern Shrike hunting by prairie
7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 Wild Turkeys eating Crab apples off trees	9 	10 	11 Pileated woodpecker at feeder	12 	13 8 swans near Prescott Bridge - 2007
14 1st Ice Shack on St Croix River - 2010	15 	16 Well for new Visitor Center Completed - 2005	17 	18 	19 	20 
21 New (Little Spirit) Moon December Solstice – 5:03 pm winter begins	22 	23 	24 Fox, Red and Gray squirrels at Feeder - 1991	25 Christmas Day (CNC Closed) 	26 Public Bird Banding Kwaanza begins	27 Flock of about 20 Robins passing through (CNC Closed)
28 	29 Flock of 100+ Starlings SE of Admin Building	30 8 hours and 50 minutes of daylight	31 New Year's Eve			

People Profile

Meet our 2014 Summer Interns



Marie Berndt joined our crew in May and completed an Environmental Education internship. She is from Arcata, California and attends Humboldt State University where she majors in Wildlife Biology. In her free time Marie enjoys birding, hiking, camping and fishing. Her favorite part of the internship at Carpenter Nature Center was working with the raptors and hearing the amusing things kids say and think about nature.



Taylor Goetzinger worked hard thinning apples and also made a great plan for the entrance garden as the horticulture intern. She attends Iowa State University majoring in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Studies with a minor in Horticulture. Taylor is from Mason City, Iowa, and a few of her hobbies include drawing, being outside, and traveling. She enjoyed being able to work with native plants of the Midwest this summer.

Kellie Jackson was an education intern at CNC. She is from Hastings, MN and attends Mankato State University where she majors in Environmental Science. Some of her hobbies include karate, movies, and watching television. Her favorite part of the internship at Carpenter Nature Center was working with all the animals.



Sarah Pronschinske is an Environmental Education intern at Carpenter Nature Center. She is from Arcadia, WI and recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse where she majored in Biology. Some of her hobbies include fishing, birding, and watching the Green Bay Packers. She enjoys listening to country music and photography. She appreciated the time she was able to spend hiking and observing nature while at CNC. This fall you will be able to find her at Dodge Nature Center, working as a naturalist fellow.



WOOD THRUSH PROJECT

Carpenter Nature Center was thrilled to be part of a Wood Thrush study this summer along with the Smithsonian researchers. The project involves catching the birds in mist nets, weighing them, taking blood samples and banding them before they are then released. Tiny geolocators are put on the backs of the 2nd year males with a small harness. The data gathered by the tiny computers will help us learn more about their migration routes, wintering grounds and breeding territories. Twenty five geolocators were put on Wood Thrush in Washington and Dakota county as part of a worldwide effort. Researchers hope to develop a plan to reverse the downward spiral of their populations.

Photo by Carrol Henderson



Tony Bauer (left) and Cole Geiger help with Peregrine banding.

Cole Geiger joined Carpenter Nature Center in May. Cole is the Communications intern and is studying Marketing Communications at the University of Wisconsin River Falls. He is from Prescott, Wisconsin and enjoys hunting, fishing and anything related to sports. Cole enjoys learning everything about nature, such as all the different plants and bird species. Cole gained many skills this summer as he helped coordinate the golf tournament and put together this newsletter.

Tony Bauer is from Inver Grove Heights and is majoring in Biology with a minor in Wetland Ecology at Bemidji State University. He is our first Natural Resources intern at CNC. He likes to fish, hunt and go birding. One of Tony's favorite things is enjoying the summer weather while working outside, which he was able to do a lot of this year.

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Memory of

Donald Messick from Jim and Judy Freund
Wilma Morast from Jim and Judy Freund
Keith Kostka from Gordie and Jo Bailey
Skip Soleim from Bob and Mavis Voigt
Amber Dufresne from Jeffrey and Jorja Dufresne
Don Eisenmenger from Jim Carter and Victoria Miller
Ralph & Bernadine Polglase from Linda Polglase
Charles B. Macdonell from Charlie A. Macdonell

In Honor of

Lorelei from Tim and Linnaea Lawrence
Bob & Kathy Setzer's 60th wedding anniversary
from Mayme & Steve Johnson
The marriage of Brenda & Paul Irvin from Donald Buck
Don & Jean Mueeting's 45th wedding anniversary



Apple Season is here!
Stop out to CNC
and taste the best
apples in the region.

Photo by Laurie Schneider

2014 St. Croix Valley Scramble Champs



Congratulations to the Prescott team of Phillip, Rick and Pat on winning the 2014 St. Croix Valley Golf Scramble. Their team shot an amazing 58 and were tied with two other teams, where they edged out the opponents on the first handicap hole to win the tournament. Thank you to everyone who sponsored and participated in the event.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

A Volunteer Information Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 7:00 pm for those interested in becoming volunteers at CNC. Please call to let us know you'll be attending or, if you can't make this meeting, set up a one-on-one meeting with the Volunteer Coordinator.

Volunteer Opportunities

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 6:30 pm. Bring gloves and litter grabber if you have one. Let's clean up the ditches so guests can enjoy the fall scenery when they visit.

On Saturday, Sept. 27 we will once again host the Fall **Raptor Release** and will need lots of volunteers to help make it a success. We will need help from 9 am – 3 pm with various duties such as directing cars, answering questions, and more. Please come spend the day volunteering and enjoying the raptors too.

Apple Fest will be on October 11 and 12 and is sure to be lots of fun. Help showcase the orchard and all the goods produced by the horticulture volunteers and staff. We will need help with everything from A to Z (apple sales to zucchini bread – make some for the bake sale); lots of family friendly activities in need of volunteer leadership. This is a two day event so please consider helping make it a success – tell your friends and family too.

FRIENDS OF CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

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Check appropriate level:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING FRIEND OF CNC | |

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☐ **Credit Card** Amount \$ _____
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☐ I'm interested in learning more about the Tom & Edna Carpenter Society



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PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

CNC Wish List

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

Carpentry levels, Flash drives, black-oil sunflower seed,
2 ft. fluorescent tubes

A book list is available if you are interested in purchasing a book for use in programs or for the CNC library. Just give us a call at: 651-437-4359. And remember that donated items are tax deductible.



CNC News & Events

If you are not receiving monthly e-mail updates, please contact:
Clare@CarpenterNatureCenter.org to join our e-mail list.

Follow us online:

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



Trails and interpretive exhibits are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A trail map (with a self-guided trail) 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: Clare@CarpenterNatureCenter.org.