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.

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.

Photo courtesy of Calandra Stanley

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

CONTRIBUTORS:
Cole Geiger, Mayme Johnson, Tammy Johnson, Alan Maloney, Clare Neenan, Jennifer Vieth, Lisa Hedin, Sue Plankis, John Grimm, Laurie Schneider

Thank you to Graphic Design, Inc. for sponsoring the cost to upgrade our newsletter to full color!
**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.**

Join the Nature Center in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of John Muir (1838-1914). Enjoy a performance by the cutting edge music ensemble, an Evening of Nature. Meet the performers, and enjoy handmade baked goods made with CNC apples from our orchard.

**WHERE AT CNC?**

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.

---

**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 healthy 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.

---

**Conditions of stay:**

- **Parking:** All vehicles must be parked in the designated parking area.
- **Picnicking:** Picnic areas are available for your enjoyment. Please help us keep our park clean and beautiful by cleaning up after yourselves.
- **Pets:** Pets are not allowed in the park.
- **Camping:** No camping is allowed in the park.
- **Fires:** No fires are allowed in the park.
- **Noise:** Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- **Alcohol:** Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the park.
- **Environmental Preservation:** Please help us preserve our environment by not littering and by following proper waste disposal procedures.

---

**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. Fee is free to come and go anytime during the 3 hour program. Program fee: FREE

**Fall Colors Hike**

**October 6**

**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**

**Ecosystems**

**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**

**September 12**

**1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

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: $2 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.

---

**Birding with Judith Sparrow**

**November 8**

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Join 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

---

**Preschool Story Time**

**October 31**

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Join us for stories and adventures as we celebrate the season of Halloween. Participants will create a spooky craft, listen to a spooky story, and learn about our Halloween traditions. Program fee: $5.00 per child or $3.00 per preschooler.

---

**Upcoming Events**

**Upcoming Programs**

Reservations are required for more information, to RSVP, or to schedule a group program please call the office: 651-437-4359

---

**Hastings, MN 55033**

www.carpenternaturecenter.org
### Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>First Frost - 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>Apple Fest - 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>North End Monarch Enclave gone - 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>Large flock of Blue Jays passing through - 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>Apple in Pine near Admin - 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>First snow flurries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td>Purple Finch sighted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td>8 year old Northern Cardinal recaptured by bird banders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td>Christmas Day (CNC Closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td>New Year’s Eve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td>Rows of fog at Ball - 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td>First snow flurries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td>8 swans near Prescott Bridge - 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td>819 lbs of honey harvested - 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td>15 hour and 55 minutes of daylight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td>Peak Color - 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td>Apple Fest - 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td>Full (Hunter’s) Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>19</strong></td>
<td>Snow on the ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td>8 swans near Prescott Bridge - 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td>1st Ice Shack on St Croix River - 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
<td>St Croix Valley Nature Center - 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td>8 hours and 50 minutes of daylight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
<td>Red-winged Blackbird at Feeder - 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td>Arctic Fox, Red and Gray squirrels at Feeder - 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
<td>Fall in the Valley Gala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
<td>Public Bird Banding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td><strong>29</strong></td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td>Hoots heard in Oak Savanna - 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td>2015 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Meet our 2014 Summer Interns

Marie Berndt joined our crew in May and completed an Environmental Education internship. She is from Arcada, 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 all the animals.

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.

People Profile

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.

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.

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.

Memorials & Honorary Gifts

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Memory of

Donald Messick from Jim and Judy Freund
Wilma Mansur from Jim and Judy Freund
Keith Kosek from Gardee and Jo Bailey
Skip Seidman from Bob and Maria Voigt
Anne DeFerre from Jeffrey and Joanne DeFerre
Don Eisenemenger from Jim Carter and Victoria Miller
Ralph & Bernardine Polglase from Linda Polglase
Charles B. Mautnell from Charles A. Mautnell

In Honor of

Lavelle from Tim and L impaira Lawrence
Bob & Kathy Setzer’s 60th wedding anniversary from Maupine & Steve Johnson

The marriage of Brenda & Paul Irwin from Donald Buck
Don & Jean Martin’s 45th wedding anniversary

W O O D  T H R U S H  P R O J E C T

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.


Form of Payment:

Cash (accepted in person only)
Check (payable to Carpenter Nature Center)
Credit Card
Amount $_______________
(Visa or MasterCard are accepted)
Card type:__________________________________________
Card number: ______________________________________
Exp. Date: __________________________________________
Signature: __________________________________________

I am interested in learning more about the Tom & Edna Carpenter Society

Apple Fest

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

2014 St. Croix Valley Scramble Champs

Let’s clean up the ditches so guests can enjoy the fall scenery. The Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 23 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.

Volunteer Opportunities

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.

2014 st. Croix Valley Scramble Champs
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.

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

Follow us online:

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.