



The St. Croix Current

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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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Field Notes

By Jen Vieth

What is **beauty**? Oxford defines beauty as *"a combination of qualities, such as shape, color, or form that pleases the aesthetic senses, especially the sight."* Each one of us has our own internal ruler with which we measure the beauty of an object, place or creature. I often find myself at friendly odds with a friend when I speak about the beauty of a Turkey Vulture nestling. He thinks these feathered recyclers are essential, but a little disgusting.

From the original gardens of Versailles to today our notion of beauty in the landscape has changed. Today many believe the epitome of a beautiful yard consists of a few dwarf conifers, some well-placed hostas and a vast, manicured, solid green lawn. "The American Lawn" has surpassed food crops as the primary crop in North America, while at the same time we are faced with declines in native bee species, monarchs and a myriad of other pollinators. Without pollinators there is a collapse of our system of growing everything from Almonds-to-Zucchini.



Bumblebees are just some of the 400 native bee species in Minnesota, which are facing major declines.

One by one you and I can change the perception of a beautiful yard from green lawns to a yard that supports a sustainable ecosystem. A great way to start is by planning home gardens to include more blooming native plants throughout the growing season. Include a winter palette that leaves standing plant stalks and bunch grass for over-wintering pollinators. Practice yard management with minimal use of chemicals. By bringing these practices home and sharing them with our friends, neighbors and family we each become an agent of change.

The educational landscape has also changed over time. Teachers are faced with more constraints on teaching time combined with less funding for off-site field trips. Many local K-12 schools are fortunate to visit Carpenter Nature Center to learn state required science standards through a fun and inspiring outdoor experience. Yet there are schools, senior groups and community groups that can no longer physically visit CNC. To reach these groups we've hired a temporary outreach program coordinator, our former intern Jessie Eckroad. Jessie has been awarded a grant to teach the Hastings community about the Vermillion River watershed. She will also be teaching a series of wildlife programs at Angel's Pet World in Hudson. To bring programs to your site schedule an outreach with Jessie at 651-437-4359.

As you read about CNC's upcoming programs and events you will see that both campuses are buzzing with activity thanks to our Friends of CNC, staff, volunteers and community partners. Take note of the new partnership program with St. Croix Valley Bird Club who will co-host a year-long "Learn your Birds" series on the Wisconsin Campus (page 2). If you haven't visited the Wisconsin Campus yet, be sure to put our first bird hike in October on your "TO DO" list. After exploring the Wisconsin campus visit the CNC website to share your thoughts about it, through our online community survey. Please share this newsletter and your enthusiasm for nature with a friend, neighbor or community member. You never know when your actions can change a viewpoint, a landscape and ultimately the world.



*CNC's Apple Shack opens
September 1, 2015.*

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 at **651-437-4359**.

Bird Hikes with the St. Croix Valley Bird Club

October 10, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

November 7 & December 5, 9:00 a.m.

The St. Croix Valley Bird Club will help you learn to identify the birds. Field guides and binoculars 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. Meet at the WI Campus – 300 E. Cove Road, Hudson.

Night Hike on the Wisconsin Campus

December 11, 7:00-8:30 pm

Join a naturalist for an evening hike. We'll hike along the trails, check out the night sky for planets and constellations, learn about night vision, and listen for nocturnal critters. If there is enough snow, we'll use snowshoes. Program Fee: \$6 or \$4 for "Friends of CNC." Meet at 300 E. Cove Road, Hudson.

Amazing Animals Program Series

At Angel's Pet World in Hudson, WI

September 20– 1:00 pm • Reptiles & Amphibians

October 11 - 1:00 pm • Mammals

November 15 - 1:00 pm • Birds

December 5 - 12:00 - 3:00 pm • Raptor Meet & Greet

This program series will educate people about stewardship of nature and responsible pet ownership. Learn about various kinds of wild animal groups, discover what kinds of animals make appropriate pets, and receive valuable information about proper care for domestic animals. Program Fee: FREE

Saw-whet Owl Banding

October 8, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Learn about the migration patterns of Saw-whet Owls. Space is limited so RSVP early. This program is weather dependent. Program Fee: \$6 or \$4 for "Friends of CNC." *This program was made possible through a grant from the Minnesota Ornithologist Union.*



Pollinator Primer – What's the buzz?

November 22, 1:00 p.m.

Join Ian Lane from the UMN Bee Lab to learn about native bees. After the presentation you will have a chance to get hands-on by building stem nests which provide homes for bees.

Holiday Recycling Crafts

December 12, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

'Tis the season to turn trash into treasure. Enjoy holiday refreshments while making ornaments and discover how to creatively gift wrap using paper from old phonebooks, newspapers, and magazines. Decorate your own home, or give these projects as gifts. Program Fee: \$6 or \$4 for "Friends of CNC."

Bird Banding

Fourth Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-Noon

September 25 • October 23 • November 27 • December 18

Join CNC's expert bird banders every month as they catch, band and release songbirds on our Minnesota campus. Banding runs continuously and visitors may come and go at any time. Donations of birdseed or suet are greatly appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

Preschool Story Time

Fridays, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

September 18 • Orchard Fun

October 30 • Costumes & Critters

November 13 • Fall Leaves

December 11 • Animal Tracks & Scat



These programs are designed to introduce children ages 2-5 (with a parent or guardian) to nature in a fun and safe environment. Listen to stories, spend time outdoors, make a craft and meet live animals. The program fee is \$5 per child or \$3 for "Friends of CNC." These programs sell out nearly every month, so please be sure to RSVP ahead of time. *(CNC story times have been partially funded through support from Target.)*

Vermillion River Water Quality Programs

Come out for an educational series on the health of Hastings Area rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Learn about the unique problems facing the Vermillion River Watershed and discover what you can do to help improve the well-being of our community's waters. The series has been made possible by a grant from the Vermillion River Watershed Organization and partnerships with Dakota County Libraries, Hastings Community Education, Blue Thumb and Metro Blooms.

Invasive Species

September 2 - 7:00 pm , Pleasant Hill Library

September 17 - 10:00 am, Tilden Community Center

Erosion and Turbidity

October 7 - 7:00 pm, Pleasant Hill Library

October 15 - 10:00 am, Tilden Community Center

Rain Gardens

November 4 - 7:00 pm, Pleasant Hill Library

November 19 -10:00 am, Tilden Community Center

Outreach, Birthday & Scout Programs

To schedule a program for your school, church, community center, corporate gathering or other event, contact Jessie Eckroad at 651-437-4359 or Jessie@carpenternaturecenter.org

Upcoming Events

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



Sunday, September 13, 5:00 p.m.

Join the friends and family of Carpenter Nature Center for a memorable dinner, "wall of wine" raffle, beer tasting, silent and live auctions. CNC's major fundraising event, this wonderful evening supports our work with K-12 environmental education in the St. Croix Valley. Held in the River Bluff Pavilion and displaying its incredible view of the St. Croix River, the event is a fun way to support a great cause. Tickets are \$85. To receive an invitation, become a sponsor, volunteer, or to donate an auction item, please contact Clare at 651-437-4359.



Fall Raptor Release

Saturday, September 26

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

Join Carpenter Nature Center and the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center as we release rehabilitated raptors at CNC. After sustaining injuries in the wild, these beautiful birds are now ready to be released.

This fun-filled day includes hay ride tours, children's activities, raptors on display and much more. An inspiring and educational event open for free to the general public, CNC's raptor release is enjoyed by visitors of all age groups each year. Dogs are not allowed at this event.



Cove Art Festival

hosted by CNC's Wisconsin Campus neighbors

Saturday, September 19

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

CNC's Cove neighbors welcome you to the Wisconsin Campus to celebrate art and nature. Enjoy music, fine arts and crafts, and beautiful scenery. Some of CNC's live education animals will be on display. The event will take place rain or shine. Please note that vendors will accept cash or checks only, and that a portion of all profits will support Carpenter Nature Center. Contact Steve King at artistscove333@gmail.com for more information. The Wisconsin Campus is located at 300 East Cove Rd. in Hudson, WI.



Apple Fest

October 10 and 11

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

Come out and enjoy Apple Fest at CNC! You can pick your own apples, enjoy hay rides, educational programs, music, pumpkin decorating, apple brats and more. By using eco-friendly growing techniques, Carpenter Nature Center offers some of the most delicious and healthy apples in the St. Croix Valley. You can purchase pies and other baked goods made with CNC's apples by our volunteers. Come celebrate fall with us.



Our orchard began as a passion of Tom and Edna Carpenter in the early 1940's.

We grow apples in an ecologically friendly and sustainable manner.


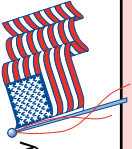
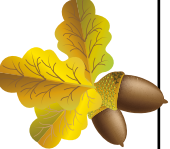


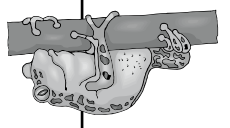

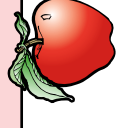












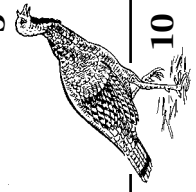

Stop in to the Apple Shack to sample and purchase these delicious apples.

Open daily from 9:00 - 5:00.



2015 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

Phenology from 2014 (with additional entries from CNC's past phenology notes)

	September	1 13 hours and 14 minutes of daylight	2 Invasive Species Program 3 offers by education dock	3	4 45 crows over shop - 2009	5 119 lbs of honey harvest at CNC - 2000
6 Autumn In The Valley Gala New Moon – Wild Rice (Ojibwe)	7 100-200+ monarchs roosting in parking lot trees Labor Day	8 Bald Eagle flying low over orchard	9 Large puffball mushrooms by pumpkin patch	10	11  Patriot Day	12
13 Autumn In The Valley Gala New Moon – Wild Rice (Ojibwe)	14 	15 Woolly Bear Caterpillars seen on sidewalk	16 Volunteer Info Meeting	17 Invasive Species Program Oaks changing color - 2012	18 Preschool Story Time: Orchard Fun Harvesting Fireside and Connell Red - 1998	19 Cove Art Festival – Wisconsin Campus
20 Reptiles & Amphibians at Angel's Pet World Warmest Sept on record - 2005	21 	22 Ruffed Grouse at the prairie Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup	23 Autumnal Equinox 3:21 AM – Fall Begins	24	25 Bird Banding Red-Tailed Hawk on North Loop Trail	26 Raptor Release
27 Full Moon – Total Lunar Eclipse 8:07 PM – 11:07 PM	28 	29 New England Aster blooming - 2008	30 First frost of the season - 2009	1 October Bird baths frozen solid - 2003	2  Tree Frog at shop - 2000	3 
4 1st snow flurries of season	5	6 Male Kestrel hunting on WI campus	7 Erosion & Turbidity Program Record Warmest Overnight - 72° F - 2007	8 Saw-whet Owl Banding Record High - 87° F - 2010	9	10 Apple Fest Wisconsin Campus Bird Hike
11 Apple Fest Mammals at Angel's Pet World	12 New Moon – Falling Leaves (Ojibwe)	13 Islamic New Year begins at sunset	14 Peak Color in the Valley	15 Erosion & Turbidity Program Banded first owls at CNC – 5 saw-whet	16 Southern Flying Squirrel caught	17 
18 30+ Bluebirds at front gate - 1998	19 Pileated Woodpecker by Admin building - 2004	20 	21 Robins flocking Orionid Meteor Shower Peak - 6:00 pm	22	23 Bird Banding Birch trees bare	24 
25	26 Memorial White Pine lost top overnight - 2010	27  Full Moon	28	29 	30 Preschool Story Time: Costumes and Critters	31  Halloween
1 November Central Standard Time resumes 2:00 AM	2 	3 Big flock of Robins passing through	4 Rain Garden Program	5 Taurid Meteor Show peak 5:00 PM	6 Swans Migrating - 2003	7 Wisconsin Campus Bird Hike Total Lunar Eclipse - 2003
8 Record High of 77° F - 1999	9 	10 First snow accumulation of the season	11 Veterans Day New Moon – Freezing (Ojibwe)	12 	13 Preschool Story Time: Fall Leaves 100-200 snow bunting along CR 76 - 1999	14 Summer Tanager in Gardens
15 Birds at Angel's Pet World Up to 6" snow in meteor storm - 1997	16 	17 Leonid Meteor Shower peak – 10:00 PM	18 Sundogs in the AM	19 Rain Garden Program	20  Deer Tracks in Circle Garden - 2012	21 Banders caught 7 year old junco - 2003
22 31 Bald Eagles seen migrating - 1993 Pollinator Primer - What's the buzz?	23 Coyote at noon near raptor release stage area - 2012	24 	25 Full Moon	26 Thanksgiving (CNC Closed)	27 Bird Banding	28
29 	30 Driest Fall on Record - 2011	1 December Red-Winged Blackbird at feeder - 1995	2 Bald Eagles starting new nest in floodplain - 2012	3 	4 15+ turkeys around Administrative Building - 2007	5 Wisconsin Campus Bird Hike Raptors at Angel's Pet World
6 Hanukkah begins at sunset	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 	9 17 Mourning Doves in feeders at the same time	10	11 Wisconsin Campus Night Hike Preschool Story Time: Animal Tracks & Scat	12 Holiday Recycling Crafts
13	14 Geminid Meteor Shower peak – 12:00 PM	15 Record High 51° F	16 Well for new Visitor Center Completed - 2005	17	18 Bird Banding	19 Northern Flicker at bird bath - 1995
20	21 December Solstice 10:48 PM - Winter Begins	22	23 Water for pond turned off - 2003	24 1st fish house on St Croix River - 1992	25 Christmas Day (CNC Closed) Full Moon	26 Kwanzaa Begins
27 First sunny day in three weeks	28	29 100+ Starlings in trees near Administrative Building	30 8 hours and 50 minutes of daylight	31 New Year's Eve		

People Profiles

Meet our 2015 Summer Interns



From left to right: Abby, Nicole, Brittany, Sammy, Livi & Wren

Wren Haynes joined our crew as a summer communications intern. She is from Black Forest, Colorado, and attends Taylor University in Indiana as a professional writing major. In her free time, she enjoys birdwatching, drawing, and creative writing.

Nicole Jolly was CNC’s second ever natural resources intern. She attends the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and is from White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Nicole completed a reptile and amphibian survey for our Minnesota and Wisconsin campuses this summer.

Livi Martin is from Burnsville, Minnesota. She spent the summer sharing her enthusiasm for nature with CNC’s summer campers. She attends the University of Minnesota-Crookston and is majoring in natural resource management. Some of her hobbies include writing, photography, and being outdoors.

Brittany Rootes worked with John in the orchard and the gardens at CNC. She is from Blaine, Minnesota and attends the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where she studies horticulture.

Sammy Russell also spent the summer as an environmental education intern. She is from Litchfield, Minnesota, and graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, this spring as a biology major. Sammy enjoys reading, the outdoors, and being around animals.

Abby Smith was our communications intern this summer, and attends the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks as a communications major. She is from Woodbury, Minnesota, and in her spare time she enjoys hiking, being outdoors, and listening to music.

Volunteer Spotlight – JoAnn Kern.

This quarter we proudly shine the spotlight on our Volunteer of the Year – JoAnn Kern. JoAnn started volunteering in 2012 and has accumulated over 200 hours in various areas from gardens to Visitor Center greeter to special events. JoAnn got her chance to shine when Jessie was looking for help revamping the Interpretive Center. JoAnn helped tremendously with that project and didn’t stop there – she also repainted several rooms in the Administration Building and the Lodge. Often times we ran out of paint before JoAnn ran out of energy. Thank you, JoAnn, for your “Get ‘er Done” mentality, your high energy, and your dedication to CNC. You’re definitely a “Top Shelf” volunteer and we are happy to have you on our team.



JoAnn (right) with Jessie Eckroad at a Masters of the Sky program.

Wood Thrush Update:

Today we know more about one species, the Wood Thrush, thanks to the National Parks/Smithsonian Institute study, which Carpenter Nature Center played a role in completing. The project concluded in late July with seven of the original 25 wood thrush being recaptured, their data loggers removed, and the information downloaded. This species was also studied at a number of sites throughout eastern North America. One interesting finding from the Midwestern study was that unlike many of the eastern populations, our birds did not select wintering grounds in close proximity to their summer neighbors. St. Croix Valley birds wintered in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Vera Cruz, Mexico. Also of note, the satellite imagery was good enough that researchers could see that at least one of the birds spent the winter in a shade-grown coffee plantation. That’s yet one more reason to select a sustainably grown cup of coffee.



Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Honor of

*Alan Maloney & Sarah Pronschinski
from Jeffrey Budish*

In Memory of

*Dan Zuaraski from Jenny & Jason Brazzale
Dick Langlais from Bruce & Sherry Akins
Dr. Mark Bennett from Jeff & Sonja Maki
Eric, Michael & Matthew Larson from Jim & Judy Freund
Ian McConnell from Katharine Widin
Mike Givens from Daryl & Jan Standafer
Rich Osborne from Brenda Osborne*

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Kaiser, Mary Lou Kerstetter, Tom & Betty Kieffer, Joseph &
Rita Kriah, Jane Lighbourn, Paula Lind, Leila Meyer, Gary
Horejsi & Barbara McCauley, Ramona McCullough, Michael
& Maryann Roerig, Hubert & Helen Schneider, John & Jane
Smith, Dick & Pam Thorsen, Richard Manke & Julie Vogel,
Steven & Renee Whiteis, The CNC Board of Directors*



Where at CNC?

If you spend time at Carpenter Nature Center’s Wisconsin Campus you may come across a large, lush garden growing fruits, vegetables and flowers. This community garden was started by Marsha Mose and is now managed by board member Jim Freund. The benefits of community gardens are well documented. They play a significant role in enhancing the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of communities and are another way CNC is helping connect people with nature. To learn more about the garden contact clare@carpenternaturecenter.org.

2015 DATES TO PUT ON THE CALENDAR
Apple Shack Opens September 1
Autumn in the Valley Gala September 13
Cove Art Festival September 19
Raptor Release September 26
Apple Fest October 10 & 11
Apple Shack Closes Thanksgiving

Volunteer Corner

A Volunteer Information Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16 at 7 p.m. in the Visitor Center. This is an informal meeting for those interested in volunteering at CNC. Come and see if your interests can help meet our needs. If you can’t make the meeting on the 16th, call the Volunteer Coordinator to set up a one-on-one meeting at 651-437-4359.

Adopt-a-Highway cleanup will take place on Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite litter grabber and let’s show the litter bugs that we won’t take their garbage along the roadside any more. We’ll have nice clean roads for the Raptor Release.

The **Raptor Release** will take place on Saturday, September 26. We will need lots of volunteers to make sure this event runs smoothly. Tasks will include directing cars to parking areas, giving out information, helping in the Apple Shack, and much more. We will need volunteers from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. in two four-hour shifts. Come and help make this a success.

Speaking of apples – our annual **Apple Fest** will be on October 10 and 11. For this fun-filled family affair we, again, need lots of volunteers. You can help by volunteering your time on one or both days and by baking something for the Volunteer Bake Sale. We’ll even supply the apples if you make a pie, crisp, sauce, or butter. Please help us showcase our environmentally friendly orchard by volunteering your time.

FRIENDS OF CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

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☐ THE DIRECTOR’S COUNCIL \$5,000 & Beyond
☐ SUSTAINING FRIEND OF CNC

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Clare Neenan	Development Coordinator
Jessie Eckroad	Outreach Program Coordinator

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

CNC Wish List

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

Toilet Paper, Flashlights, Rock Tumbler,
Tablet, Forever Stamps

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 generally 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.