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Winter 2017

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

January signals a time to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, recalibrate goals and emerge revitalized and ready for new adventures. Reflecting on 2016, it is difficult to choose a favorite moment. Was it the 1,800 K-2nd grade students in orchard class, bubbling with excitement as they picked apples from the trees? Or was it the moment when Hastings became the first Bird City in Minnesota? Perhaps it was the summer visit of a McAuliffe Elementary student named Charlie.

Charlie competed with other fourth graders for the privilege of being CNC's Director-for-the-Day. The challenge, which was funded by the Edward Jones Office of Abra Hovgaard, was to write an essay answering three questions:

What change in the environment would you like to happen to make the world a better place for humans and/or animals?

What steps would you have to take to achieve that change?

What would the impact of the change be on the environment?

Each essay was terrific and the students put a lot of thought into their answers. Although it was Charlie's essay that won him a fun-filled day at CNC, the real winner was the community. These elementary students are the leaders of tomorrow. Their experiences in nature today impact their future views and actions. The ten year olds took big, scary concepts, such as water pollution, species extinction, and habitat loss, and distilled them down to tangible actions. They weren't pessimistic about the problems being too large to tackle. They just got to work with creative solutions that started right in their own back yards and in their schools. If we continue to guide our students in critical thinking and provide them with high-quality natural science education, it is exciting to imagine what they will be capable of achieving in their lifetimes. These moments are what CNC strives for in all our programs, events and conservation work: To foster a lifelong connection between people and nature.



The Apple Blossom Races are a fun activity for adults and children alike.



Agate hunting was one of the many activities Charlie enjoyed while visiting CNC.

Looking ahead, the CNC team has a full schedule of programs and events for 2017 ranging from beloved favorites such as Making Maple Syrup and the Apples Blossom Races to new programs such as a Woodcock Walk and a fall Hawk Migration Count. You can see our entire calendar by visiting CNC's freshly-renovated website. Stay up to date with the latest news by signing up for our free monthly e-newsletter, or visiting our Facebook page. Of special note is a brand new series of K-12 programs for District 833 students and new Archery & Angling programs which will both start in the second half of 2017.

Please recycle this newsletter by sharing it with someone you know who would enjoy some quality time in nature at Carpenter Nature Center on the banks of the St. Croix River. See you on the trails.

Upcoming Programs

Reservations are required

Bird Hikes

Minnesota Campus
January 7 & February 4 • 9:00 a.m.
March 4 & April 1 • 8:00 a.m.

Wisconsin Campus
300 E. Cove Road, Hudson
January 14 & February 18 • 9:00 a.m.
March 18 & April 8 • 8:00 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.



Owl Prowls
Minnesota Campus
January 6 & January 17

Wisconsin Campus
300 E. Cove Road, Hudson
February 13 & March 13
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

This time of the year, many of the Midwest’s 12 owl species are vocalizing to attract mates. Explore CNC on a guided night hike to look and listen for these owls. If there is enough snow cover, snowshoes will be provided or you may bring your own. Program Fee: \$6 per person or \$4 for ‘Friends of CNC.’

Public Bird Banding

January 27 • February 24 • March 24 • April 28
8:30 a.m. – Noon
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 much appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

Minnesota Starwatch with Mike Lynch

February 17 • 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Join WCCO Radio Meteorologist Mike Lynch to watch the great celestial show in the skies. Get to know the constellations and some of the stories behind them. Use telescopes to view planets, star clusters, nebulae, galaxies and other wonders. Even if it’s cloudy you’ll learn a lot, have a great time and get a Mike Lynch “Cloud Check” for a future Starwatch Class. Dress for the weather and bring a lawn chair. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Program Fee: \$15 per person or \$12 for ‘Friends of CNC.’



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

651-437-4359

Adult Moonlight Snowshoe Hikes

January 13 & February 10 • 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Enjoy a winter night under the moonlight with a relaxing snowshoe hike at CNC. After the hike, warm up by the fire and enjoy fresh popcorn and hot apple cider. Snowshoes provided or bring your own; dress for the weather. Program Fee: \$10 per person or \$7 for ‘Friends of CNC.’

Scout Fun Day: Winter Survival

January 21 • 10:00 a.m. – Noon
Have fun outdoors and make new friends while working to earn badges. Cub and Girl Scouts, ages 8-11, are welcome to participate in this outdoor experience. Space is limited so call 651-437-4359 to pre-register and ask about how this program meets badge requirements. Program Fee: \$6 per scout; no charge for group leaders.



Making Maple Syrup Public Programs

March 12 • 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
March 25 • 10:00 a.m. – Noon
Home School Program
March 17 • 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Scout Program
March 18 • 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Welcome spring by joining the CNC staff in making maple syrup. Hike to the “sugarbush” to tap maple trees, watch the process of turning sap into syrup and sample the final product. The program starts indoors, but be ready to hike in the spring snow and mud. Program Fee: \$6 per person or \$4 for ‘Friends of CNC.’

Preschool Storytime

Fridays • 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
January 20 • Winter Fun
February 1 • Squirrels
March 17 • Syrup Season
April 21 • Earth Day Celebration
May 5 • Flowers
These programs are designed to introduce children ages 2-5 to nature in a fun and safe environment. Listen to stories, spend time outdoors, make a craft and meet live animals. Be sure to call ahead and reserve your spot, because programs sell out fast. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Program Fee: \$5 per child or \$3 for ‘Friends of CNC.’ No charge for accompanying adult.



Upcoming Events

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



Masters of the Sky
Presented by the World Bird Sanctuary
February 25 & February 26
11:00 a.m. • 1:00 p.m. • 3:00 p.m.

The World Bird Sanctuary staff from St. Louis, Missouri, will be coming to CNC to present a captivating program about birds of prey. Visitors will learn about raptors from around the world. Experience live hawks, eagles, owls, falcons and vultures up close and in free-flight. The presenters will introduce methods to help protect raptors and their habitats. Event Fee: \$10 or \$7 for ‘Friends of CNC.’ RSVP and non-refundable payment required.

Hastings Area Birding Festival
April 22 • 8:00 a.m.

Celebrate birds and conservation at the Hastings Area Earth Day Birding Festival. This is the fifth year the Hastings Environmental Protectors has teamed up with CNC for the Birding Festival. Participate in the Youth Birding Competition. Attend classes and demonstrations that introduce you to raptors, birding, and bird banding. Go on guided bird trips throughout the Hastings area. Event Fee: \$5 or \$15 with a box lunch. RSVPs Required.



DATES TO REMEMBER IN 2017

St. Croix Valley Scramble July 24
Carpenter Art Festival August 26
Apple Shack Opens Around Labor Day
Autumn in the Valley Gala September 10
Raptor Release September 23
Apple Fest October 14 & 15

32nd Annual Apple Blossom Races

May 21 • 8:00 a.m.

Get ready for the 32nd running of the Apple Blossom Races. The routes are family friendly for beginning and expert runners alike! We offer four different races:

- 5K Run/Walk is a straight route down St. Croix Trail
- 10K is partially on the road and then weaves through the CNC’s woodlands and savannahs
- Half marathon challenges runners as they witness the beauty of the St. Croix Valley orchards along the hilly countryside
- FREE 2K Fun Run following other races at 11:00 a.m.

Event fee: \$32 for the 5K & 10K, \$42 for the 1/2 marathon. Fees will be \$8 more to register on race day. You can register on our website, at active.com, or come to the nature center to pick up a registration form.

Sponsorships make this event possible. If you are interested in donating food, awards or funding, please contact 651-437-4359 or Andrew@carpenternaturecenter.org.



Apple Blossom Races Practice Run

May 13 • 9:00 a.m.

Want to check out the Apple Blossom 10K race route before race day? Car pool 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.

Summer Camps

Save the date for CNC’s fun and educational summer camps. More information can be found on our website.



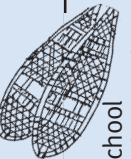











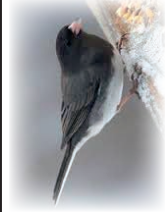
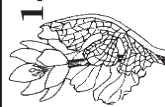

- Nature Nuts (ages 5 & 6) • June 19-23
- Canoe Trip (ages 11 & up) • June 27-29
- Raptor Camp (ages 11 & up) • July 6 & 7
- Pathfinders (ages 11-15) • July 10-14
- Pioneers (ages 7 & 8) • July 17-21
- Explorers (ages 9-11) • July 24-28
- Fishing Fun (ages 6-11) • July 6 & 19

Art & Nature Camps at the Phipps Center for the Arts
Located in Hudson, Wisconsin • Dates and times TBD

- Garden Gifts (ages 4-7 with an accompanying adult)
- Critter Crafting (ages 8-12)
- Raptor Studies (ages 12-18)

2017 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

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

1 January New Year's Day – CNC Closed 8 hours and 52 minutes of daylight	2  Mink on Administration Building Porch (1996)	3 Brown Creepers on North Loop Trail	4 Earth at Perihelion: Earth-Sun distance 91,404,336 miles	5 	6 Owl Prowl – MN Campus	7 Monthly Bird Hike
8 Mississippi River open at Hastings (1998)	9 Mink on Administration Building Porch (1996)	10	11 Sundogs and Pillars this cold morning	12 Chickadee singing spring songs	13 Adult Moonlight Snowshoe Hike 	14 SCVBC Bird Hike – Wisconsin Campus
15	16 Martin Luther King Day	17 Owl Prowl – MN Campus 	18 Volunteer Information Meeting	19 12 Mourning Doves under feeders (1994)	20 Preschool Storytime – Winter Fun Inauguration Day	21 Scout Day: Winter Survival
22  Red Fox by south River Bluff Trail	23 Schools close due to wind chill -35°F	24	25 Swans and eagles on river's edge in Prescott	26	27 Public Bird Banding New Moon	28 Chinese New Year – Year of the Rooster
29 30+ Cedar Waxwings by feeders (1995)	30	31 	February 1	2 Groundhog Day 11-12" Snow falls throughout the southern metro	3	4 Monthly Bird Hike (MN)
5 Red Fox by south River Bluff Trail	6	7	8 1st Maple tree tapped (1999)	9 Sharp-shinned Hawk hunting at feeders	10 Preschool Storytime: Squirrels Moonlight Snowshoe Hike Full Moon–Penumbral Lunar Eclipse–max 6:43pm	11 
12	Northern Cardinal 13 singing spring song Owl Prowl- WI Campus	14 Valentine's Day	15 Volunteer Information Meeting	16 Pair of Pileated Woodpeckers at feeders (2009) 	17 MN Starwatch with Mike Lynch	18 SCVBC Bird Hike at Wisconsin Campus
19	20 President's Day	21	22 Skunk sighted during moonlight snowshoe hike (1997)	23	24 Public Bird Banding 	25 Masters of the Sky (World Bird Sanctuary)
26 Masters of the Sky (World Bird Sanctuary) New Moon	27 New Record High Temp - 58°F	28 Mardi Gras	March 1 Peregrine Falcons back on territory in Hastings	2	3	4 Monthly Bird Hike (MN) 1st male Red-Winged Blackbird back at CNC
5	6	7 Daffodils and iris sprouting in circle garden	8 Common Grackles back in Hastings	9	10	11 Pair of American Woodcocks sighted by orchard fence
12 Full Moon Daylight Saving Time begins 2:00am Making Maple Syrup 	13 Owl Prowl – WI Campus	14 Eastern Bluebird at WI campus	15 Ice out on wetland and lower St Croix	16	17 St Patrick's Day Preschool Storytime: Syrup Season Home School Program: Making Maple Syrup	18 SCVBC Bird Hike at Wisconsin Campus Scout Day: Making Maple Syrup
19 American Kestrel pair hunting near entrance sign	20 Vernal Equinox: Spring Begins in Northern Hemisphere	21	22	23 	24 Public Bird Banding	25 Making Maple Syrup
26 American Kestrel pair hunting near entrance sign	27 New Moon	28 Aspen catkins dropping	Hepatica starting to bloom along Savanna Trail Volunteer Information Meeting	30		April 1 Monthly Bird Hike (MN)
2 	3 Pasque Flower on WI campus	4	5 Daffodils blooming	6	7 Wood Anemone growing in Floodplain	8 SCVBC Bird Hike at Wisconsin Campus
9 Large owl pellet found under buckeye tree	10 	11 Full Moon	12 Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel sighted	13 	14 Meadowlark on WI campus	15 
16 Easter (CNC closed)	17 American Woodcock on nest on WI campus	18	19 Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up	20 Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows still here	21 Preschool Story Time: Earth Day Celebration	22 Hastings Area Birding Festival Earth Day
23	24	25 Wild strawberries blooming	26 Volunteer Information Meeting New Moon	27	28 Public Bird Banding 	29
30 14 hours and 14 minutes of daylight						

People Profiles

Meet our Development Coordinator Andrew Hilger



Andrew Hilger resides in St. Paul, Minnesota. He became the Development Coordinator for CNC in August of 2016. Prior to that he was an intern in the Education department, where he taught students outdoors and organized summer camps. He attended St. John's University for his Bachelor's degree and is currently pursuing his Master's degree at Hamline University. Andrew is an avid outdoorsman, and can often be found trout fishing, cross-country skiing and camping.

Meet Our Fall Interns

Cody Dalrymple Education Intern



Cody Dalrymple is a native to Berkeley, California, and moved to Minnesota to attend Macalester College. There she studied biology and geology, and spent a semester in Ecuador where she studied tropical ecology, conservation, and also researched frog diversity

in the cloud forest. Since beginning her internship at CNC in September, she has worked with school groups, helped prepare for special events, and taken care of our animal ambassadors, including the raptors. Cody enjoys rock climbing, backpacking, camping, and practically anything outdoors. She hopes to continue with a career where she will be able to play outside and learn more about nature.

Jenna Myers Horticulture Intern



Jenna is a Luther College graduate with a degree in environmental science. After graduation, she came to CNC and was an integral part of the team that worked in the apple orchard this harvest season. Besides spending time in the orchard, Jenna enjoyed exploring other areas on the nature center grounds and helping out with CNC events. Following her internship, she returned to her hometown of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she is employed at a physical therapy clinic.

Volunteer Spotlight Greg Swanson



This season we are happy to shine our Volunteer Spotlight on Greg Swanson. Greg started with CNC in September of 2014 and has since amassed over 100 hours. His main volunteer area is serving as a Naturalist Assistant helping with the school groups. Greg has a calm personality that lends itself nicely to working with children and connecting them with the outdoors. Greg has also helped in a variety of capacities with many special events, whether it is cleaning before an event, directing cars to parking spaces, or staffing an info table and answering questions from the guests. Thank you, Greg, for your wonderful sense of humor with the school kids and staff, for your willingness to step-in and help with classes at short notice, and for your dedication to CNC. You're a top-shelf volunteer and we appreciate you very much!

Did You Know?

Carpenter Nature Center's dedicated crew of volunteers donate a total of 10,000—12,000 hours annually! It is because of their time and talent that we are able to achieve our goals. We cannot thank them enough, but please help us to express our gratitude especially during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, which takes place April 23-29, 2017. THANK YOU very much to all our wonderful volunteers!

For information about becoming a volunteer, please visit our website, or contact Alan Maloney at 651-437-4359 or alan@carpenternaturecenter.org.

WHERE AT CNC?

By Cody Dalrymple

Did you know that the first snowshoes were made around 5,000 years ago in Central Asia from just a piece of wood and a leather strap? As people crossed the land bridge to the Americas, the snowshoes came too. The traditional webbed snowshoe was designed by Native Americans, and snowshoeing continues to be enjoyed by many for travel and leisure. It's the perfect activity to get outdoors and stay active in the winter, so bundle up in warm clothes and come to CNC for a snowshoe hike adventure. **Rental snowshoes are available in the Visitor Center for ages 10 and up when there is adequate snow cover (> 6 inches).** Please call prior to your visit for information on snow condition, trails, and rentals. Rental Fee: \$5 or FREE for CNC Volunteers and 'Friends of CNC.'



Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Honor of

Ryan & Sara Armbruster from North Memorial Health Care
Art Hanson from Abra Hovgaard & Holly Hanson
George Hoel from Thomas and Susan Hoel
Martin Kellogg from Jeannine Kellogg
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Andrea Hayday & Troy Venning from Ann Cavin
Wallace Wadd from Adam Wadd
Jackie Weathers from Troy & Cindy Weathers

In Memory of

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Volunteer Corner

Volunteer Information Meetings will take place at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates: January 18, February 15, March 29, April 26, and June 7. Please call 651-437-4359 and let us know what meeting you'd like to attend.

Volunteer Opportunities

Public Programs – Moonlight Snowshoe Hikes, Masters of the Sky, and Making Maple Syrup are three programs where we could use volunteers to help things run smoothly. More info will be emailed to volunteers as the dates get closer.

Collect Maple Sap – In the month of March we will be tapping maple trees with school groups and for the public on scheduled dates. If the sap season is good, we will need help collecting the sap and boiling it down to syrup. This is a little tricky (and sticky) so we'll have to train you before you have a go on your own. An email request for help will be sent as the sap starts flowing.

Adopt-a-Highway Spring Roadside Cleanup will take place on Wednesday April 19th starting at 5:30 p.m. Bring your favorite litter stabber and let's make the place beautiful for Earth Day.

Apple Blossom Races on Sunday May 21st – For this event we will need a boatload of volunteers to help manage and direct over 500 runners. We can't do this one without volunteer help so please plan on giving us a hand.

2017 New Initiatives Announcements

CNC relies on donations, gifts and grants to offer engaging programming for all ages. Specified project funding, such as the two grants listed below, enables us to reach new audiences and test new programs.

South Washington County School District 833 Bailey School Forest Outreach Partnership

CNC's naturalists are adapting a wide array of our award-winning K-12 Environmental Education Curriculum to be delivered off-site at Bailey Forest. This is a significant advantage for District 833 schools as they are provided with FREE bussing to their school forest. This project would not have been possible without the start-up funding from the 3M Eco-Grant Program. For more information, contact Mayme@CarpenterNatureCenter.org.

DNR Angling and Archery Grant

The number of youth involved in hunting and fishing has been declining for years. This trend has a negative impact on overall conservation as studies show hunters and anglers are more likely to protect habitat and wildlife, and support conservation efforts at home and in their communities. CNC was awarded a grant from the MN DNR to design programs to teach ice-fishing and archery at CNC to area youth. Contact Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org if you would like more information, or want to donate gear.



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Jessie Eckroad	Outreach Program Coordinator
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:

Snowshoes in youth sizes
Laundry Detergent
Waxworms (feed to turtles)

White Cardstock
White Poster Board

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:

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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: Andrew@CarpenterNatureCenter.org.