



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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Headwater Riffles

by J. Fitzpatrick

As I write this our first major spring rain is falling, changing the fields of patchy snow and grass to a more prominent green color. We have just come through the hugely successful Owls of the World event (over 800 people in two days and six programs) and our second eco-tourism/birding trip to southern Mexico. Each of these has provided an international flavor to the CNC program docket.

Even though we try to keep our programs and animal ambassadors about the local native wildlife, many of our wild birds are only borrowed for the summer, then they leave for their wintering grounds in a somewhat warmer climate. Some of our winter birds are borrowed as well. Even some of our mammals, insects and fish migrate, so it is no wonder that occasionally we take our programs on the road or bring in someone else with some international expertise. All of these creatures remind us just how inter-regional, inter-state and international our "native" wildlife really is.

Our spring/summer season is full of exciting programs and projects. Late April/May is our busiest portion of the year with flowers and birds high on the list of student activities. Summer day camps are always very popular with the students, many returning for several years before graduating to the next level of "older kids" that get to do even cooler stuff.

This is preparation time in the horticulture department as they gear up for the big fall push which begins with the raspberries in August. Pruning, spraying, putting out chemical mating disruptors and sticky traps, cultivating, mowing and planting the pumpkins and squash are all part of the summer rituals as another cycle and season commences.



The Apple Blossom Races have something for everyone, including the popular 2K Fun Run for kids.



Teri Schroer from the World Bird Sanctuary handles Mia, a Spectacled Owl, during an All About Owls Program.



Alex shows off his catch (a Blue Gill) at CNC's Fishing Fun summer day camp.

In terms of fund-raising and events this season will serve as a big measure of our success in our new fiscal year setting. Many of our largest gifts and grants are due this season. Two of our larger events, the Apple Blossom Races and the St. Croix Scramble Golf event happen this season and both are key. It is the Apple blossom's 25th Anniversary run and we hope to get the largest crowd ever for this important event. Our Golf Tourney is in its second year and we hope to double it in size while making it even more fun.

When we think about the schedule of things that make the nature center run smoothly people describe it as complex. However when we compare it to the complexities of the natural world and all of those cycles that must intertwine at just the correct moments, I think we are getting off easy. Indeed, it is these amazingly complex cycles of nature that Carpenter Nature Center hopes to interpret to the world as well as their importance in our daily lives. I hope you will bring a friend or relative to hike the trails, enjoy the sun,

hear and learn at our programs, soak your toes in the river and revel in another warm season outdoors in the St. Croix valley.

Please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor before you recycle it.

Upcoming Programs

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

JUNE

Thursday, June 10

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Got Mosquitoes?

Come to CNC to learn everything you always wanted to know about mosquitoes, but didn't know who to ask. Learn about the life cycle, habitats, and different species of mosquitoes in your area from Brian Feldhake, of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District. Instructions on how to build your own bat house will also be available. Program fee: \$3.00 per person; Free for "Friends of CNC"

Sunday, June 13

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Intro to Geocaching

Come to CNC for an afternoon of geocaching fun! We will start with a presentation covering the basics of GPS units and the world of geocaching. Then you will get a chance to practice your skills while searching for geocaches on the Nature Center grounds. All ages and experience levels are welcome. Bring your GPS if you have one. Space is limited so please call to reserve your spot. Program fee: \$5.00 per person or \$3.00 for "Friends of CNC"

JULY

Saturday, July 24

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Morning Birding

Join CNC's Executive Director and Master Bird Bander, Jim Fitzpatrick, for a bird outing at Carpenter Nature Center. See CNC's live birds of prey up close, and then venture outside to look and listen for birds and their calls. Binoculars and field guides will be available for use, or bring your own along if you have them. Please call to register. Program fee: \$5.00 per person or \$3.00 for "Friends of CNC"



Bird banding volunteer Bob Garber holds a White-throated Sparrow for visitors to see.

Bird Banding

Fourth Fridays

8:30 a.m. – Noon

May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27

See songbirds up close and watch the experts band birds. Bird banding records help us learn how long the birds live, where they travel, when and where they migrate and many other interesting facts. The general public is welcome to watch the bird banding. There is no admission fee, but please call ahead so we know you are coming.

Preschool Story Time

Fridays

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

May 7 – Spring Blossoms

June 18 – Pond Life

July 9 – Butterflies

August 20 – Animal Sounds

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. The fun-filled hour of activities includes a nature story, an art or craft project, exploring the outdoors, and observing or meeting real live animals. Please be sure to dress appropriately for the weather. Call to register. Program fee: \$5.00 per child or \$3.00 for "Friends of CNC"; no charge for accompanying adult

* CNC Story Time programs have been partially funded through support from Target

Summer Day Camps

Summer Camps offer unique experiences for children to laugh, play, and learn in nature. Staff will guide children through interactive, age appropriate, inspiring activities including games, crafts, and nature hikes.



Fishing Fun Summer Campers take a break to relax along the St. Croix.

Registration: Payment and a completed registration form are required for all camp programs. Registrations will be accepted up to 1 week prior to camp. *CNC camps fill quickly – please register early!* Upon receipt of registration and payment, CNC will mail a checklist of items to bring, health forms, and any applicable permission forms (if off-site activities are a part of your chosen camp) prior to camp. Forms are due on or before the first day of camp. Full refund will be given if CNC is notified of cancellation at least 2 weeks prior to camp. No refund will be given after that date. Please call the CNC office at 651-437-4359 to request a registration form or print out the form from our website at www.carpenternaturecenter.org.

Fishing Fun

Single half-day adventures for children 6-11 yrs old

July 7 & August 18

9:00 a.m. – noon

Program fee: \$30 per participant (\$20 for "Friends of CNC") per session. Come to CNC for a 1/2 day of fishing fun. Bring your own rod and reel if you have one, or use one provided. The majority of the time will be at the river so bring a water bottle, sunscreen and dress to be outside.

Polliwogs

Week long adventure for children 5 -7 yrs old

June 28 – July 2

9:00 a.m. – noon

Program Fee: \$90 per participant (\$75 for "Friends of CNC") We will make crafts, play games, have a snack, and explore as we learn to be comfortable in nature, with other kids, and in a camp setting. Snacks provided. Families are invited to a picnic on Friday at noon.

Frogs

Week long adventure for children 8 -11 yrs old

July 26 – 30

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mon. – Wed.

9:00 a.m. Thurs. – noon Fri.

Program Fee: \$160 per participant (\$140 for "Friends of CNC") Explore nature with us as we hike, create projects, meet friends, and visit the beach nearly every day. Snacks provided but participants should bring their own bag lunches and a water bottle. After a fun-filled week, campers will pack up for a canoeing adventure at a nearby lake on Thursday during the day and camp out at CNC Thursday night through Friday morning. Families are invited to a picnic at noon.



Weeklong summer camps include time spent at the CNC beach.

Upcoming Events

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

Sunday, May 16th

25th Apple Blossom Races



The 1/2 marathon runners take off from the starting line at 8 a.m.

1/2 marathon all start at 8:00 a.m. with the 2K Fun Run following the timed races, approximately at 11:30 a.m. The 2K is free and is a great race for the family to run together. Proceeds from the races will benefit the environmental education programs and habitat preservation at Carpenter Nature Center. Please call for a registration form or check our website to register online.

8:00 a.m.

Come to CNC for the 25th running of the Apple Blossom Races! Choose your race (2K Fun Run, 5K Run/Walk, 10K or 1/2 marathon) or just come to watch and cheer for the runners. The 5K, 10K and

Sunday, September 12th

Autumn in the Valley Gala

Hosted by Carpenter Nature Center's Board of Directors this wonderful, fun event raises almost 5% of our annual operating income. The evening includes a fabulous dinner catered by Tinucci's, a brief program, a live auction, a silent auction and the increasingly popular 'Director's Choice Wall of Wine Raffle'. Tickets are \$80 per person and go on sale in July. Sponsorships are available and include guest tickets. To be added to the mailing list, to inquire about sponsorships, or to donate an auction item or wine, please contact Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org or by phone: 651-437-4359

5:00 p.m.



CNC intern, Katie-Lynn Puffer, poses with a handmade canoe, which was featured on last year's Autumn in the Valley live auction.

Monday, July 19th

2nd annual St. Croix Valley Scramble

Join us on the links! The 2nd Annual CNC golf tournament will take place at the scenic Afton Alps Golf Course. Check-in is 12:00 p.m. with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. The format is an 18 Hole Best Ball Scramble. All proceeds from this event support the environmental education program at Carpenter Nature Center. Golf fees are \$80 person/\$320 foursome and include: green fees, \$5 skins, carts, box lunch, dinner, prize and a donation to CNC. For more information, to sponsor the event, or to register your team, please visit our website or call our main office.

1:00 p.m.



The 2009 Scramble winning foursome of Dave Augustine, Bill Casturella, John Reents and Hank Tressel.

Saturday, September 25th

Fall Raptor Release

Presented in partnership with The Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota, this popular event will be held at Carpenter Nature Center again this fall. Rehabilitated birds of prey will be released at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.. Visitors can learn about and photograph eagles, falcons, hawks, and owls. As always there will be many activities for children and you may bring empty printer cartridges to recycle for the raptors.

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



One of CNC's longest serving Board Members, Jay Griggs, releases a Red-tailed Hawk at the Fall Raptor Release which almost 3,000 people attended in 2009.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

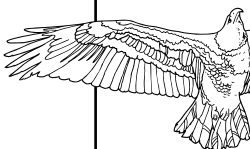

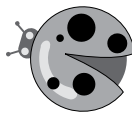



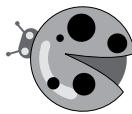

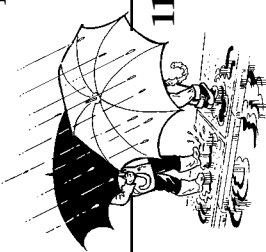

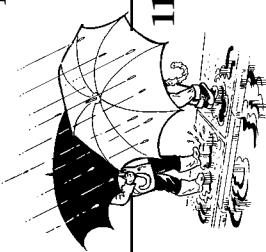

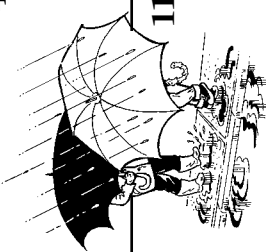

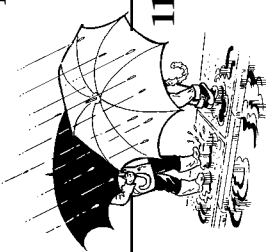

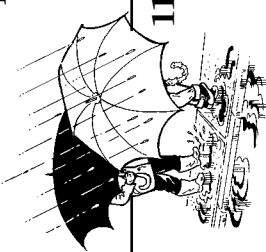

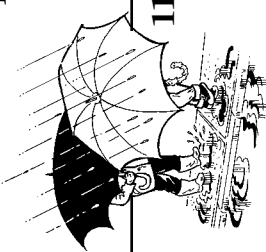

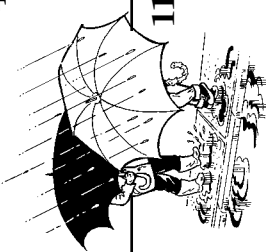

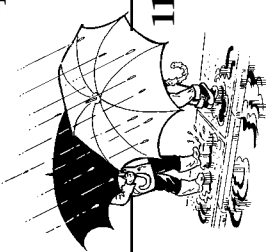

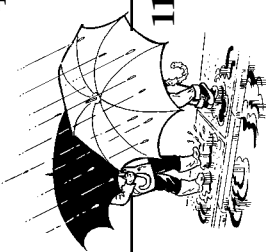

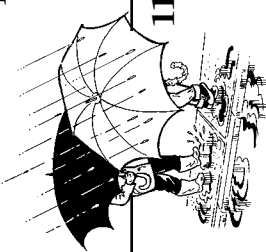

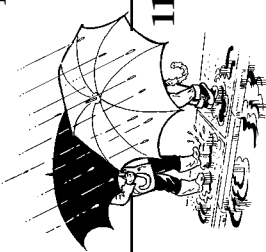

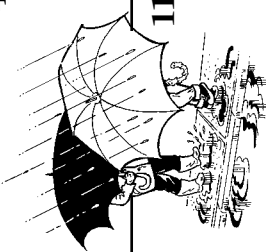

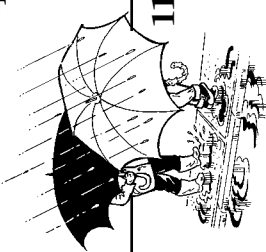
Pick-your-own Raspberry Season begins late August
Apple Shack Opens shortly after Labor Day
Apple Fest October 9th & 10th
For more details please call 651-437-4359



CNC News & Events

To receive important updates and program notices please contact Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org to be added to our email list.

(Phenology from 2009)

				May			
	2	14 hours and 18 minutes of daylight	3	New Volunteer Information Meeting	5	Male & female mallards in water garden	
	9	Mother's Day	10	2 eaglets in nest along North River Bluff trail	12	Lilacs starting to bloom	
	16	25th Apple Blossom Races (5K, 10K, 1/2 Marathon, 2K Fun Run)	17	Wild Lupine blooming in prairie	19	June Beetle spotted	
	23		24	Highbush Cranberries blooming	26		
	30		31	Memorial Day	2	15 hours and 24 minutes of daylight	
	6	52°F High – Record for lowest high	7		9		
	13	Intro to Geocaching	14		16	Peregrine buzzed Setzer bench	
	20		21	June Solstice – 6:28 am – summer begins in	23	Tadpoles are tiny frogs with tails	
				June			
					1	15 hours and 24 minutes of daylight	
					25	Highbush Cranberries blooming	
					26		
					28	Bird Banding	
					29	Tadpoles in wetland	
					22		
					21	Fox Snake out from under front porch	
					20	Record High of 93°F	
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People Profile

Board Member Bio



Sven Sundgaard's first visit to the Carpenter Nature Center was on a second grade field trip! In July 2009, Sven was welcomed to our Board of Directors.

Sven joined the KARE 11 weather team in March 2006 after interning there in 2002 while he was pursuing his meteorology degree at St. Cloud State University. Sven holds the American Meteorological Society's Seal of Approval.

While weather is his passion

and career, he's always had an intense interest in all things nature & science. Sven was born in St. Paul and raised in (then mostly rural) Cottage Grove, where his father's love of nature influenced his own interests.

When he's not working, Sven enjoys camping and running. He also enjoys traveling, especially his regular trips to Norway and Sweden to visit relatives. He recently returned from a trip to South America (Brazil & Peru). He visited the Amazon Jungle where he saw some of our birds that over-winter there, along with macaws, parrots, and toucans and many other fascinating species of wildlife.

Meet Our Intern

Emily Wartman arrived at the beginning of February for an Environmental Education internship here at Carpenter Nature Center and will be staying until the end of May. Emily is finishing her degree this spring in Environmental Studies at Hamline University in St. Paul and will be working as a naturalist at Tettegouche State Park this summer. She worked for two summers at Yosemite National Park and also spent a summer doing research on exotic earthworms in Minnesota. Emily has been a great addition to our education staff and has helped teach classes, cared for our program animals and completed several projects during her internship. We wish her well in her next adventure!



NEW THIS ISSUE:

It takes many hands to make Carpenter Nature Center's programs, habitat protection and events successful. We hope to shine the light on some of our Friends of CNC who are working behind the scenes to make nature and quality environmental education programming accessible to everyone.

Volunteer Spotlight

For this issue we proudly shine our spotlight on the fantastic ladies who handle animal care on Fridays – **Linda Whyte and Laura Coble**. Linda started volunteering in 2008 at our Adopt-a-Highway cleanup and then became an animal care person in the summer of 2009. Soon after taking on animal care duties, Linda recruited her friend Laura who joined her on Friday mornings for the cleaning and feeding of the critters. We especially appreciate Linda and Laura for cleaning the raptor mews, making them look good for the weekends. Thanks to you both, Linda and Laura; you have our deepest gratitude for your dedication and hard work. You're both awesome!



Get to know our Friends

Jim & Lesley Beaudoin got involved with CNC in the 80's through an invitation from Tom Bell and a fascination with our wildlife rehabilitation program. Over the years, they have continued visiting CNC for the wonderful scenery and diverse wildlife, much of which Jim recreated in his award-winning wildlife paintings. If you see his Bradford Exchange Screech

Owl plate you will recognize the background as the view from CNC's administration building. Lesley is a retired first grade teacher from the area. In fact,

Lesley remembers when our newest board member, Sven Sundgaard, was a student at her school.

Jim and Lesley have many bird feeders at their home and love to watch birds, although they've noticed as the area has become more built up, there are fewer birds around. "Early on I visited CNC regularly to photograph the birds being rehabilitated. Then I went through a phase when I painted mammals and didn't visit as much. Recently I got



A sample of Jim's artwork.

involved again, and when the economy took a tough turn, I got concerned about CNC. It's a great place...a jewel." Jim and Lesley are founding SUSTAINING Friends of CNC. Thank you both for being such great friends of CNC, and helping teach people about nature.

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

*Bill & Betty Berg in memory of Mark Berg
Bob Garber in memory of Lorraine Garber
Nan Lopatka in memory of Daniel J. Greenwald
James & Judy Freund in memory of Rolf Hennig
Jim & Judy Freund in memory of Winifred (McIntire) Kaercher
Carmen & Willard Swanson in memory of Agnes Larson
Daryl & Jan Standafer in memory of Lee Milligan
Bonnie St. James in memory of Orwin Rustad
James & Judy Freund in memory of Judi Schmitt
Daryl & Jan Standafer in memory of Mary Patricia Szyman*

*Lu Stoffel in honor of Richard & Jane Darsow's 50th wedding anniversary
J.D. & Ann Donath in honor of Dennis & Daryl Donath
Leroy & Donna Kuta in honor of Alex & Maddy Kuta
Wayne & Donna Pitmon in honor of Blake & Erin Pitmon*



Painted turtle.

LEAVING A LEGACY OF ENVIRONMENTALLY LITERATE YOUTH AND HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS



The average age at which we create our first will has dropped from the mid-60's to 44 years old. If you cannot imagine a future without access to quality environmental education and healthy wild spaces for youth to explore, please consider naming Carpenter Nature Center in your will. The Thomas E. and Edna D. Carpenter Foundation can accept bequests, annuities, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, living trusts, and gifts of non-cash assets (real estate, life insurance policies, securities). In speaking with your financial advisor we hope you will examine which option best supports your lifestyle and dreams.

Sample bequest language: I (your full name), give, devise and bequeath to the "Thomas E. and Edna D. Carpenter Foundation", a Minnesota charitable corporation located in Hastings, MN, the sum of \$_____ (or: _____ percent of the residue of my estate and/or personal property

appropriately described) to be used for _____ (or: to be used as its Board of Directors shall deem advisable to best promote the Thomas E. and Edna D. Carpenter Foundation's objectives).

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer Information Meetings for new volunteers will take place on the following days: May 4th, July 1st, and September 15th. If you would like to volunteer but can't make a meeting, just call the volunteer coordinator and other arrangements can be made.

Volunteer Opportunities for the Summer at CNC

Staff the Visitor Center – warm weather will bring people out to enjoy the outdoors and they will appreciate a friendly face to greet them, answer questions, and suggest hiking routes.

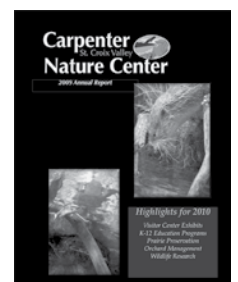
Garden help – like to play in the dirt? We are always looking for people to weed and water the flower gardens and even help grow pumpkins and squash by the apple shack.

Animal Care – the reptiles, amphibians, and Razzle the rabbit love it when new people come to care for them; duties involve cleaning, feeding, and exercising on sunny days.

Local 4H club members have fun helping out with water stops at the annual Apple Blossom Races. Carpenter Nature Center's many annual events include thousands of hours of volunteer help. Please contact Alan@CarpenterNatureCenter.org or 651-437-4359 to get involved.



In order to improve communications with our key stakeholders, and potential grantors we have produced an Annual Report for the short fiscal 2009 year. If you are interested in receiving a paper or email copy of the report please contact Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org or 651-437-4359.





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John McPherson	Horticulturist
Phil Gruis	Orchardist

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

CNC Wish List

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

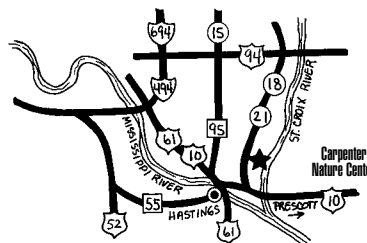
Canopy style tents	Lemonade powder (white/yellow)
Black Oil Sunflower Seed & Suet	Dish towels & sponges
Children & youth fishing rods	Mop & bucket
#10 envelopes and 8 1/2 x 11 white paper	Microwave
Motion activated trail camera	Baking sheets/cake pan
Lysol septic safe toilet bowl cleaner	GPS unit

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. Remember that donated items are tax deductible!

Follow us online: www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org, Facebook, Twitter, or www.givemn.org.



[givemn.org](http://www.givemn.org)
Green. Give. Grow. Change. Your World.



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.