

St. Croix Current

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Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

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www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org

Wisconsin Campus: 300 E. Cove Rd. Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

"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

I often have trouble sitting at my desk trying to conjure up thoughts that people will read in several months and be appropriate to that time of year. This year's incredibly warm spring will be an exception. For the first time in CNC's 30 years of existence we did not cook any maple syrup. The trees simply gave us nothing to work with as the sugar likely went up the tree during the warm days of February. This year our Apple trees bloomed in mid April - a full month ahead of schedule! The Turkey vultures returned on time around St. Patrick's Day but the bluebirds arrived about 10 days early. Ice-out was a month early on many Midwestern lakes.

How does this early spring affect the wildlife? Some love it. Some come back early from their southern vacations, while others that winter in South America have no way of knowing

what the weather is like in the St. Croix Valley. They depend on day length and celestial navigation to determine when it's time to move

north. They may like what they find on the way north because flowers will be blooming and insects are out in droves already.





Birds such as the Palm Warbler (top) use photoperiod to time their migration to the spring insect hatches. The Tree Swallow (bottom) is more flexible with its arrival date as it will eat berries if there is a late freeze and insects are not available.

So what does all this mean? Is this a sign of global warming? One thing is for certain-this is an odd weather year in the Midwest and one year does not make a trend. A trend, or an average increase, takes decades- if not centuries- to measure. When we compare what we have seen so far to last year we are on the opposite ends of the spectrum. In 2011 we did not see Carpenter Nature Center's beach all summer due to high water levels on the St. Croix River. This year we are already way short on the snowfall and there was little, if any, spring runoff. Some have blamed this weird year on the fact that the northern jet stream remained flat from west to east not letting any major storm patterns come through the Midwest. If that does not change I suspect our summer and early fall seasons will be dry and warm. But never fear-life goes on at CNC with Summer Camps galore, a full schedule of school programs and fun family events. Our apple trees may bloom before the Apple Blossom Races but we will have a terrific race day anyway.

If you take a hike along our Oak Savanna Trail ool, the St. Croix in! We have spent

you may notice something cool, the St. Croix River has become visible again! We have spent thousands of hours cutting down European buckthorn and honeysuckle. Now you can see the river in many places where once it was hidden by decades of buckthorn growth. All of that wood was converted into firewood and wood chips which we use to mulch our non-paved trails. Be sure to hike through the area this year to see which native plants return now that the invasive species have been removed. Please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor or family member before recycling it.



Where at CNC?

One of Thomas Carpenter's hobbies, besides growing tasty apples, was growing beautiful flowers. He received awards from both the Gladiolus and Dahlia Societies. To see some of his truly amazing floral displays all you need to do is watch his peonies bloom in the late spring. The Peony Garden was planted by Mr. Carpenter in the 50's and is located near the Herb Garden across from the Visitor Center.



Upcoming Programs

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

MAY & JUNE

Raptor-ous Drawing

June 22

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy the natural world and be inspired to draw without limitation! Explore the relationship between nature and art in a fabulous setting, overlooking the St. Croix River. During the lunch break you can take a hike on the trails or explore some of the nearby gardens. This workshop is appropriate for first time creators as well as those with previous experience. Bring a picnic lunch, camera and a sense of adventure. Supplies are included in the fee. Program fee: \$125.00 per person or \$115.00 for "Friends of CNC".

Artist Monica Fogg will guide your creativity through demonstrations, exploratory exercises and individual attention. A CNC naturalist will present live birds of prey and mounted wildlife specimens for you to draw. Monica teaches at the UMN College of Design and at St. Catherine University. She



lives in Afton with her artist husband, Paul Benson.

JULY & AUGUST

Pt. Douglas Cemetery Hike

July 15 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Join a CNC naturalist as we hike to the Pt. Douglas Cemetery (across the road from the Nature Center entrance), and listen to stories about some of the early settlers that came to this area. Point Douglas was once a booming town where the St. Croix River empties into the Mississippi. The village was home to almost 200



people, and included two hotels, a sawmill, a boarding house and a public school. Find out what happened over the years that caused the town to disappear from the map. Program fee: \$6.00 per person or \$4.00 for "Friends of CNC".

Banding

Fourth Fridays

8:30 a.m. – Noon August 24

May 25 June 22 July 27 August 24 Have you wondered what bird banding is all about? Banding records help us learn how long birds live, where they travel, when they migrate and many other interesting facts. CNC has been banding birds for 30 years. Our experts welcome you to see songbirds up close and learn about the birds who share our ecosystem. Banding runs continuously for the full 3 ½ hours but visitors may come and go at any time. Please call ahead so we know you are coming. Donations of bird seed or suet are greatly appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

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

Summer Camp

Pre-registration required; forms are available on CNC website.

Fishing Fun: 1/2 day adventures for 6 – 11 year olds June 13 and/or July 11 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Come to CNC for a half 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 please come prepared with a water bottle, sunscreen and appropriate clothing. Sign up for one or both days. Program fee: \$30 per child or \$20 per child for "Friends of CNC"

Nature Explorers: Week long adventures

Moths Day Camp (ages 5-7)

June 25 – 29 9:00 a.m. – Noon We will make crafts, play games, have a snack, and explore CNC's trails every day as we learn about the many plants and animals that make their home at CNC. Snacks provided. Families are invited to a family picnic on Friday at noon. Program Fee: \$95 per participant or \$80 for "Friends of CNC".



Jack & Dustin rinse off under the CNC waterfall during a 2011 Summer Camp hike.

Butterflies Day Camp (ages 8 -11)

July 16 - 20

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Mon. - Wed. and 9:00 a.m. Thurs. — 12:00 p.m. Friday

Explore nature with us as we hike, make snacks, 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 canoe adventure at a nearby lake on Thursday, and a campout at CNC Thursday night through Friday morning. Families are invited to a family picnic on Friday at noon. Program Fee: \$165 per participant or \$145 for "Friends of CNC".

Preschool Story Time

Fridays 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

May 4 Hop Into Spring June 15 Diggin' in the Dirt

July 13 Creepy Crawlers August 3 Caterpillars & Butterflies

CNC's Preschool Story Times are designed to introduce young children, ages 2 through 5 (with a parent or guardian), to nature in a fun and safe environment. We'll listen to stories, spend some time outdoors, make an art or craft project and meet live animals. Please be sure to dress appropriately for the weather. Program fee: \$5.00 per child per program or \$3.00 for "Friends of CNC"; no charge for accompanying adult. *CNC Story Time programs have been partially funded through support from Target.

Upcoming Events

More details available at www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org or by calling 651-437-4359 Please call early to RSVP.





27th Apple Blossom Races: 5K, 10K, ½ Marathon, 2K Fun Run

May 20th 8:00 a.m.

Become part of the tradition! Known for the scenic hills and blooming apple orchards, the Apple Blossom Races have something for everyone. It's a great excuse to get outdoors with friends and family. All proceeds help to keep Carpenter Nature Center's K-12 curriculum affordable and available to local school children. Sponsors and volunteers are welcomed to this fun event. To register online please visit: www. midwestevents.com; www.carpenternaturecenter.org, or call 651-437-4359 to have a registration form mailed to you.

The sweltering weather during the 2011 St. Croix Valley Scramble didn't dampen anv spirits! Over 100 golfers enjoyed the event including many CNC Board Members.





The winning team was from Vino in the Valley.

Gary & Mickie Griswold golfed with Ralph & Linda Larson.

Valley Scramble Monday, July 23rd

4th annual St. Croix

1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start Check-in starts at 11:30 a.m.

Enjoy the hills and scenic views of the St. Croix Valley and support a great cause. All proceeds from this event support K-12 environmental education programming at Carpenter Nature Center. The Afton Alps Golf Course is the host of this fun 18-hole best ball tournament. Fees are \$80 per person or \$320 per foursome and include box lunches, greens fees, carts, dinner, door prize and a donation to CNC. Hole sponsorships are available. Please visit the CNC website or call the office to request a golfer or sponsor registration form.



Autumn in the Valley Gala

Sunday September 9th, 2012

4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Join us for an enchanting evening along the St. Croix. Each year CNC's closest friends and community partners spend an evening raising funds to support K-12 environmental education in the St. Croix Valley. Guests enjoy tours of the trails, mingling near the water gardens, a silent auction, a live auction, great friends and terrific food. Sponsorships are available. Auction donations are welcomed. To become a sponsor, volunteer, or arrange to donate an auction item, please contact

Jennifer at 651-437-4359.





Volunteer Donna Kramer shows off the selection in the popular "Wall of Wine".

2012 DATES TO PUT ON THE CALENDAR

Fall Raspberry Season late August **Apple Shack Opens** around Labor Day Autumn in the Valley Gala September 9th Raptor Release September 22nd Apple Fest October 13th & 14th Apple Shack Closes Thanksgiving Costa Rica Ecotour Feb 2013 RSVP by Nov. 30th

For more details please call 651-437-4359

2012 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center Phenology from 2011 (with additional entries from 1989 - 2010)

Phenology from 2011 (with additional entries from 1989 - 2010)						
	May	White Throated Sparrows arrived "en masse"	2 14 hrs and 20 min daylight	3	4 Preschool Story Time: Hop Into Spring	4 deer in oak savanna 5
6	7	8 Toads trilling	9	Wild asparagus shoots found	Hummingbird by Interpretive Center	Morel mushrooms found in the area
Mother's Day	14	15	16	0rchard apple trees starting to bloom	18 Columbine blooming	19
Apple Blossom Races 20 Fawn in long grass NW of gazebo New Moon – Budding Plants Moon	21	22	23	24	25 Public Bird Banding Program	26 Tadpoles in water garden
27	28 Memorial Day	29 Wisconsin Statehood – 1848	30	Monarch at CNC	June	2 Green frog croaking at water garden
3	Full Moon 4	5	D-Day Anniversary	High temperature of 104°F at 4:55 pm	8	9
10	11	12	13 Fishing Fun Day Camp	Flag Day	Preschool Story Time: Diggin' in the Dirt	16
Father's Day	18	New Moon Strawberry Moon Ojibwe)	20 Summer Solstice – 6:09 pm	Blanket of tiny toads on the driveway	Public Bird 22 Banding Program Raptor-ous Drawing Workshop	23
24 Bobolink singing in MN Prairie	Nature Explorers Day Camp: Moths	26 Nature Explorers Day Camp: Moths	27 Nature Explorers Day Camp: Moths	Nature Explorers 28 Day Camp: Moths Tadpoles in VC pond have back legs	Nature Explorers 29 Day Camp: Moths Milkweed blooming	30 15 hrs and 33 min of daylight
Skunk in parking lot	July	3	Independence Day 4 Earth at aphelion @ 10:33 pm - 94,505,854 miles Earth-Sun Distance	5 Warmest day on record	6	7 Cicadas buzzing
8	9	10	11 Fishing Fun Day Camp	12	Preschool Story Time: Creepy Crawlers	14
Pt. Douglas Cemetery Hike	Nature Explorers Day Camp: Butterflies	17 Nature Explorers Day Camp: Butterflies	Nature Explorers 18 Day Camp: Butterflies New Moon - Midsummer Moon (Ojibwe)	Nature Explorers 19 Day Camp: Butterflies Dewpoint 82-new state record, heat index of 130	20 Nature Explorers Day Camp: Butterflies	21
22	St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament	24	25	26	27 Public Bird Banding Program	28
29	30 80 80	31	Full Moon 1	August	Preschool Story Time: Caterpillars & Butterflies	4 2003 – Picked Oriole Apples
5 2006 – Beacon and Paula Red Apples Ripe	6	7	8	9 1997 – Bur Oak acorns dropping	10	11
12	13 1989 - Black Billed Cuckoo in prairie		15	16	New Moon – Harvest Moon (Ojibwe)	2010 - Harvesting Zestar apples
19	20	21	22	23 MN State Fair Begins	24 Public Bird Banding Program	Garden Spider by Gazebo
26	27 1997 – Beekeepers extracting honey	28	29 13 hrs and 27 min daylight	30 1996 – 1st apple of the season sold	Full Moon (Blue Moon)	

People Profile



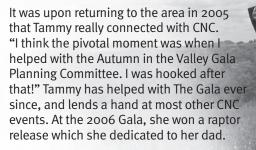
Volunteer Spotlight

In this issue we proudly shine the Volunteer Spotlight on a fascinating volunteer – **Jeff Fischer**. Jeff has been volunteering with Carpenter Nature Center since 2009 and has helped out in a

variety of ways. He has used his expert skills to take photos at the Apple Blossom Race, Autumn in the Valley, Masters of the Sky, and the Raptor Release. Jeff has also given programs on dragonflies to the staff and to our summer campers. He has many passions from birds to dragonflies, to butterflies, to nature in general, and he volunteers to support those interests here at CNC as well as The Raptor Center and the Minnesota Odonata Society. Check out Jeff's blog at ecobirder.blogspot.com. Thanks Jeff for your enthusiasm and dedication! We are very pleased you include CNC in your volunteer efforts.

Get to know our Friends of CNC

Tammy Johnson grew up in Hastings with two older sisters and a younger brother. Her father was a 'backyard naturalist' and her mother taught her how to garden, can and cook. Her dad fed the birds and loved sitting in the yard to enjoy the peace and quiet of the natural world. Tammy finds that same peacefulness at CNC. "I can hike to the river observation platform, and even on busy days, I have this incredible river valley view all to myself."



What makes her so passionate about CNC? She says, "It's the Carpenters' Story. Their legacy.

They didn't have any children and wanted to set this aside for kids to learn about nature". Today she finds herself talking about CNC everywhere she goes. "You fall in love as soon as you are here and I can't help sharing it with people I meet". When asked what is next, Tammy says "I'd like to join the Thomas & Edna Carpenter Society and name CNC in my will. You don't have to be a millionaire to do it and it would mean I could leave something for the kids who also find CNC special. This place just needs to stay here." Thank you Tammy, for all you do for CNC and for giving back to future generations of children!

Board Member Bio

We are pleased to announce the addition of **Colleen Moran** to our Board of Directors. Her first connection to Carpenter Nature Center was about 15 years ago during an outing to Apple Fest with her husband, Michael. Subsequently they have returned every year with friends and family to share the great outdoor activities, beautiful St. Croix Valley views, and delicious apples.



Colleen is employed by Southview Design and is a degreed Landscape

Designer and Horticulturalist. She has practiced her art within the residential and commercial markets for more than 20 years and strives to personalize every landscape while providing exceptional service and value to every client. Colleen created the natural landscape plan for the new CNC River Bluff pavilion using her eye for color, sense of scale and space, feel for form and texture, and unique understanding of materials and construction.

Colleen is a Montana native and a long-time Minnesota transplant. Her passion for anything outdoors leads her career, plays a big role in her recreational activities, supplies inspiration for her home and gardens in Lake Elmo, and continues to be a part of her affiliation with Carpenter Nature Center.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

A Volunteer Information Meeting will be held on Wednesday June 6th at 7p.m. If you are interested in volunteering at CNC please call 651-437-4359 and let us know you are coming. Can't make the meeting? Call for a one-on-one meeting at your convenience.

Volunteer Opportunities for the Summer at CNC

Weeding and watering the flower gardens, and don't forget the gourds in the orchard – take responsibility for a couple hours one day a week and we'll have the best gardens in the county.

St. Croix Valley Scramble on July 23rd. One of our fundraisers where we could use volunteers for various tasks.

Be a visitor greeter – spend part of your Saturday or Sunday staffing the desk in the Visitor Center and share your knowledge and excitement about the sights of CNC.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates when we'll need lots of volunteer help: Apple Blossom Races on May 20th, Fall Raptor Release Sept 22nd and Apple Fest Oct 13th and 14th.

Please contact Alan@CarpenterNatureCenter.org or call 651-437-4359 to sign-up to help out.

This April Carpenter Nature Center lost a friend, a colleague and a member of our CNC family. Phil Gruis tended Carpenter Nature Center's orchard for more than twenty years, where he thrived in the behind-the-scenes duties required to bring a good product to market every fall. He knew first-hand the difficult work that is required to grow quality apples without relying on pesticides. Phil took great pride in CNC's apples and had an in-depth knowledge of apple varieties, their characteristics and their best uses. Phil enjoyed sharing his wisdom with CNC's customers. Visitors to the Apple Shack were fortunate to find him behind the counter as he could easily produce a smile or a chuckle with his wry sense of humor and good-natured teasing.

John McPherson, CNC's horticulturist, had the privilege of working closely with Phil for the last twelve years. "This orchard was his home away from home. Over the years I've spent countless hours with Phil, pruning and planting trees, hand-thinning and grading apples, and of course enjoying a little ping pong now and then. What I will miss most is our conversations. I may have been his mentor in the orchard, but in many ways he was my mentor in history, philosophy, music, sports, religion, politics and life in general. Yes-Phil could be ornery, but people who really got to know him and understand where he was coming from know what a good man he was. We will truly miss his presence among us."



Thank you, Phil, for sharing your wisdom, humor and passion for nature with us for so many years. We are all grateful for the time we spent with you and we will miss you.

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In honor of Bob & Kathy Setzer from Bruce & Betsy Olson In memory of Paul Augustine from the Rose Augustine Trust In memory of Steve Blohm from Craig & Susie Huxtable In memory of Craig Colley from Tracey Colley In memory of Evelyn E. Conrad from Joseph Conrad In memory of Dakota from Eric & Jeannie Sonstegard In memory of Amber Dufresne from Jeffrey & Jorga Dufresne In memory of Erwin Harsdorf from Daryl & Jan Standafer In memory of Patrick Hartnett from Robert & Roma Solberg In memory of Sara Ann Haynes from Charlotte Brown In memory of Mary Hoel from Daryl & Jan Standafer In memory of Ramona Karstetter from Daryl & Jan Standafer In memory of Charlotte Starr from Daryl & Jan Standafer In memory of Susan J. Southwick from David L. Southwick In memory of Ray Swanson from Howard Markus In memory of Matthew from Anne & Jason Wenisch

FRIENDS OF CARPENTER NATURE CENTER Address _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ Gift membership given by: _____ Check appropriate level: ☐ INDIVIDUAL \$25 to \$49 \$50 to \$99 ☐ FAMILY \$100 to \$249 ☐ DONOR \$250 to \$499 ☐ PATRON ☐ BENEFACTOR \$500 to \$999 ☐ THE ST. CROIX SOCIETY \$1,000 to \$2,999 ☐ THE EAGLE SOCIETY \$3,000 to \$4,999 ☐ THE DIRECTOR'S COUNCIL \$5,000 & Beyond ☐ SUSTAINING FRIEND OF CNC Cash (accepted in person only) Form of Check (payable to Carpenter Nature Center) **Payment:** Credit Card Amount \$_ (Check one) (Visa or Master Card are accepted) Card # Copies of this Exp. Date: _ form are acceptable Signature: _ I'm interested in learning more about the

LEAVING A LEGACY OF ENVIRONMENTALLY LITERATE YOUTH & HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

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, and 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).

Tom & Edna Carpenter Society



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PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

CNC Wish List

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

Laminator (8 1/2 x 11 or over-sized), fishing rods, AA & AAA batteries, ladder for the dock and size 10 envelopes.

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, contact: Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org to join our e-mail list.

Follow us online:

www. Carpenter Nature Center. 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 selfguided 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: Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org.