



The St. Croix Current

Volume 33, Number 2
Summer 2014

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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315 Second Street E., Hastings, MN
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Field Notes

By Jen Vieth



A student gets a close up view of CNC's American Toad in a reptiles and amphibians class.

The Great Blue Herons arrived on schedule, a few days before St. Patrick's Day. The Turkey Vultures arrived a week later, delayed by our long winter. By late April the Spring Peepers were singing. In mid-May the Northern Orioles, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and warblers will be back. It's a wonderful time to get outdoors and tune in to the natural world.

This year biologists and citizen scientists are watching and listening for the sights and sounds of spring. Herpetologists are surveying frog choruses. Apiarists are counting the surviving honey bee hives. Across North America, more eyes are on the lookout for returning Monarch Butterflies. Bat roosts are being monitored. The added attention is because globally each of these groups is experiencing significant population losses.

What can we do about this? It is hard to imagine that one of us will go home tonight

and cook up a cure to stop Chytrid, a fungus which can wipe out a frog community in weeks (check out page 6 to learn about Chytrid.) Yet there are tangible, simple **and enjoyable** activities we can all undertake that make a difference.

Worldwide as many as half of all frog species are vulnerable, threatened or endangered. While we can't all travel to Australia to save the Southern Corroboree Frog from extinction, locally we can remove buckthorn. Buckthorn emits a toxin that inhibits tadpole development. In recent years CNC's volunteers and staff have cleared buckthorn from over 100 acres of our property.

As you begin your spring cleaning don't forget to dispose of your unused pharmaceuticals in a designated drop box. Most communities have one. Pharmaceuticals are increasingly finding their way into our water systems and are causing birth defects in amphibians across the country. Properly disposing of pharmaceuticals is one more way to keep our planet safer, cleaner and healthier.

As for the creative mind who will someday find a cure to the Chytrid Fungus...why can't it be your child, grandchild, niece, nephew or neighbor? Encouraging our youth to be creative, inquisitive and self-confident holds the key to the future. There is a wealth of evidence about the detriments of too little time in nature and too little unstructured creative playtime. At CNC we encourage visitors of all ages to learn more about the natural world. We have fun educational programs on both sides of the river. Why not invite a friend to attend bird banding, volunteer at an event or bring your whole family to the fall Raptor Release? Or you can simply enjoy the trails and explore the wonder of the natural world. As is often the case, the best ways to solve big problems is by taking it one step at a time. In this case-think globally and act locally. Take a nature walk with a favorite young person. It's a great way to enjoy the summer.



Monarchs are a pollinator with severely declining populations. You can help them by planting milkweed and other native plants.

Upcoming Programs

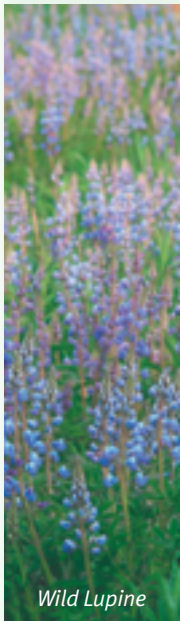
Reservations are required

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

NEW!! NATURAL CHALLENGES

Yoga and Nordic Walking

CNC is partnering with the Hastings YMCA to bring yoga and Nordic walking classes to both the Minnesota and Wisconsin campuses during the summer months. Please check our website for more information. If you would like to receive monthly emails with up to date program information send an email to Clare@CarpenterNatureCenter.org.



Wild Lupine



Pasque Flower

WISCONSIN CAMPUS PROGRAMS

Meet at 300 East Cove Road. Program Fees: \$6.00 per person or \$4.00 for "Friends of CNC."

Wildflower Hike

May 10 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Join native plant expert Jyneen Thatcher on a spring wildflower hike through the prairie and woodlands. We'll look for early prairie forbs like prairie smoke and pasque flower as well as the woodland ephemerals.

Story Time in the Prairie: Bugs, Beetles and Butterflies

June 21 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

After reading a story about insects we'll explore the insect life in the prairie, catching bugs, beetles and butterflies using nets and magnifying lenses. This program is designed for young children with an adult and will include a butterfly craft to take home. No charge for accompanying adults.

Evening Prairie Hike

July 14 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Join prairie plant specialist from the Wisconsin DNR, Missy Sparrow and CNC's Director, Jen Vieth, for an evening hike through the prairie. We'll be looking for blooming forbs and grasses as well as listening and looking for birds. Field guides and binoculars will be available to use or you may bring your own if you have them.

NATURALISTS AT ST. CROIX BLUFFS

This summer CNC will present campfire programs at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park at 7:15 p.m. on the following dates:

May 24 – Reptiles & Amphibians

June 28 – Animals of the St. Croix

August 9 – Raptors

The programs feature live animals and will be held in the campground area. Programs are free for park visitors but you do need a pass to get into the county park. St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park is three miles north of CNC. For more information about booking a CNC outreach program please contact Mayme@CarpenterNatureCenter.org

2014 DATES TO PUT ON THE CALENDAR

Apple Shack Opens around Labor Day

Raptor Release September 27

Apple Fest October 11&12

Apple Shack Closes Thanksgiving

Attracting & Identifying Backyard Birds

June 29

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Do you ever wonder what it would be like to have your yard teaming with birds? Join avid bird watcher Judith Sparrow for a multi-media presentation on attracting and identifying backyard birds—including learning some of their unique songs and calls. There will be handouts and a display of different types of bird food and feeders, and various reference books. Judith has been birding for 35 years and she has acquired a backyard bird list of 90 species. Open to all ages. \$6.00 per person or \$4.00 for "Friends of CNC" and children under 10.

Preschool Story Time

Fridays

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

May 9 Noses to Toes

June 20

June Jumpers

July 18 Flying Turtles

August 8

Itsy Bitsy Spider

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. Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather. 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

Bird Banding

Fourth Fridays

8:30 a.m. – Noon

May 23 • June 27 • July 25 • August 22

This is your chance to see songbirds up close and to watch the experts band birds at Carpenter Nature Center. Bird banding records can help us learn how long the birds live, where they travel, when and where they migrate and many other facts. CNC has been banding birds for over 30 years and meets weekly to band and release songbirds. Donations of bird seed or suet will be greatly appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

SUMMER DAY CAMPS AT CNC

It's time for summer fun at CNC. The week-long Nestlings Day Camp (for ages 5 – 7) and the Fledglings Day Camp (for ages 8 – 11) are already full for this summer, but there are still openings in the Fishing Fun.

Fishing Fun (ages 6 – 11)

July 16 & August 6

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Come to CNC for a half day of fishing fun. Bring your own rod and reel, 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. Program fee: \$30 per child or \$20 for "Friends of CNC."



Upcoming Events

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

Apple Blossom Races

Sunday, May 18

For 29 years, runners of all abilities have flocked to the St. Croix Valley to support CNC. This family friendly race has a distance and speed for everyone. Marathoners enjoy the challenging and hilly 1/2 marathon course while families and youngsters love the trails in the shorter runs. All proceeds support Carpenter Nature Center's K-12 environmental education programs and habitat protection. Visit our website to see the course map. Registration will be online via active.com, frontrunner.com, midwestevents.com, the CNC website or by calling the office for a registration brochure.



The 2K is perfect for the younger members of your family, and it is free!

6th Annual St. Croix Valley Scramble

Monday, July 21

Enjoy a day of golf at the Afton Alps Golf Course and support Carpenter Nature Center! All proceeds from this event support K-12 environmental education programming at CNC. It will be a fun 18-hole best ball tournament with a 1:00 p.m. shot gun start. Fees 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.



Last years tournament was a great success, raising over \$10,000 for environmental education at CNC. Consider putting together a team for this fun event in 2014.



Autumn in the Valley Gala

Sunday, September 7

Join Carpenter Nature Center's Board of Directors for a wonderful evening along the bluffs of the St. Croix River. Each year friends and community partners spend an evening raising funds to support K-12 environmental education in the St. Croix Valley. The event will be held at Carpenter Nature Center in the River Bluff Pavilion which has a spectacular view of the St. Croix Valley. This event is a fun way to support a great cause.

Guests enjoy tours of the trails, mingling near the water gardens, a silent auction a live auction and dinner catered by Lake Elmo Inn. Sponsorships at all levels are available. Auction donations are welcomed.

To become a sponsor, volunteer, or arrange to donate an auction item, please contact Clare at 651-437-4359. Tickets are \$90 and the event begins at 4:00.

WHERE AT CNC?

If you look to the west side of the wetland, (nearest to the road), you will see a stack of white boxes with a buzz of activity around it. These are beehives, which are cared for by volunteer Tom Kieffer.

The buzz of activity you are seeing is the worker bees. They spend their days making wax, gathering food, and regulating the temperature in the hive through the beating of their wings. The solitary queen bee has the job of laying eggs. The drones' (males') job is to fertilize the eggs before being kicked out of the hive for the winter. To survive, the colony must work together in a complex and fascinating system.

Globally, pollinators are in trouble. That is especially true in North America where mono-cultures (large tracts of land all planted with the same species) are a problem. You can help the bees by sprucing up your yard, community garden or window box with attractive, native flowering plants. Even better, invite your child, grandchild or a group of your friends to help. Make it a spring celebration. The CNC volunteers will be busy planting, weeding and pruning this spring. If you have a spare hour or two a week they always appreciate an extra hand.


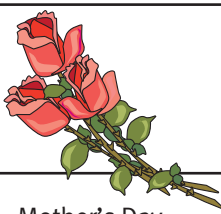




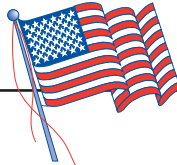



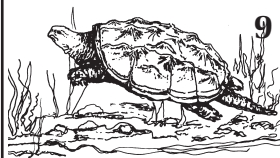

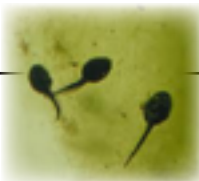




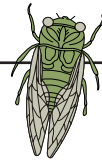








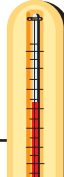





Photo by Laurie Schneider

The buzzing noise the bees make is the sound of their wings beating 200 times per second.

2014 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

Phenology from 2013 (with additional entries from 1996, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2008)

			May	May Day	1	2	3
						14 hours and 18 minutes of daylight, 6+ inches of snow	Wisconsin Fishing Opener
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Prescribed prairie burns started	Birch Catkins blooming	Chimney Swifts are back		Pre-School Story Time: Noses to Toes	Wisconsin Campus: Wildflower Hike Minnesota Fishing Opener
Mother's Day	11	12		13	14	15	16
Minnesota Statehood - 1858				Indigo Bunting by feeders	New Record high temp of 98° F		
Apple Blossom Races: 2k, 5k, 10k, and ½ Marathon	18	19		20	21	22	23
			Orchard: Most varieties in full bloom	Otters along ravine		Public Program: Bird Banding	CNC Reptiles and Amphibians @ St Croix Bluffs Park
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Memorial Day		Shooting Stars blooming	Wisconsin Statehood – 1848	Strawberry New Moon		
June	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		Fox Snakes basking near rain garden	Lupine blooming in prairie	Fawn spotted by bird feeders			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Cottonwood seeds falling			Goatsbeard blooming			Flag Day	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
Father's Day	8"+ Snapping turtle in lower water garden (2008)		Volunteer & Member Picnic Pileated Woodpecker on S. Loop (1994)		Pre-School Story Time: June Jumpers	CNC Raptors at Afton Strawberry Fest Wisconsin Campus Storytime: Waiting for Wings	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
CNC Raptors at Afton Strawberry Fest	Nestlings Day Camp	Nestlings Day Camp	Nestlings Day Camp	Nestlings Day Camp Tadpoles beginning to grow legs	Nestlings Day Camp Public Program: Bird Banding Midsummer New Moon	CNC Program on Animals of the St. Croix at St. Croix Bluffs Park	
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	
Attracting & Identifying Backyard Birds	F. Mallard and 11 ducklings in pond (2004)	July		Earth at Aphelion: Earth-Sun Distance 94,506,459 miles		Corn tasseling (2005)	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
	Wild Bergamot blooming in prairie (1994)		First Toadlets seen	First cicadas heard	Black Raspberries ripening		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
2 Hen turkeys and 15+ chicks at feeders (1998)	Wisconsin Campus: Evening Bird Hike	Beach ½ underwater (2002)	Fishing Fun Day Camp		Pre-School Story Time: Flying Turtles		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament Fledgling Day Camp	Fledgling Day Camp	Fledgling Day Camp	Fledgling Day Camp	Public Program: Bird Banding Fledgling Day Camp	Harvest New Moon	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
New England Aster starting to bloom (2007)	Coyote howl heard by farmhouse (2003)		Dewpoint 81° F: New State Record (1999)	2012 2nd warmest July on Record		Northern Lights visible from CNC (2002)	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Cottonwood Leaves falling (1994)	Picked Oriole Apples (2003)	August	Fishing Fun Day Camp		Pre-School Story Time: Itsy Bitsy Spider	CNC Raptors at St Croix Bluffs Park	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
3 Otters playing by dock (2009)		Goldenrod and Ragweed blooming (2002)		Bullsnake near Interpretive Center (2006)		Cardinal Flowers blooming by beach (2001)	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Red Fox seen by Old Northern Orchard (1996)	Harvesting Zestar Apples (2010)		Flock of Pelicans at Point Douglas Beach (2005)		Public Program: Bird Banding	Hundreds of Night Hawks migrating over CNC	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Record High Temp 97° F	Record High Temp 98° F	Acorns Dropping (2007)			First apple of season sold - 1996	
13 hours and 18 minutes of daylight	31						

People Profile

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Maddy Stella

In this issue we are happy to shine the spotlight on one of our animal care volunteers – Maddy Stella. Maddy started volunteering in the animal care department in April of 2013 and she enjoys her time with the reptiles, especially the snakes. Maddy is a senior at Trinity School at River Ridge and she plans to attend Benedictine College in Kansas next year (and yes, we are going to miss her.)

Thank you Maddy for the time and talent you have given to CNC; for your reliability, calm demeanor and ready smile. You are a great asset in our bank of volunteers. – A. Maloney



Maddy and the Bull Snake, a favorite of the animal care volunteers.

Bob Setzer gives out a medal at the Apple Blossom Races while Patti Morris, EMT is ready to help at a moment's notice. Last year approximately 180 volunteers put in over 12,300 hours assisting with programming, maintenance, clerical work, horticulture, and special events.



GET TO KNOW OUR “FRIENDS OF CNC”: Jim & Loretta Richman

Just as relationships with people change and evolve, so do relationships with places. As a young family, Jim and Loretta Richman brought their six children to Carpenter. They enjoy the nature center's focus on families and the programs geared toward children.

Jim retired from 3M in the early nineties and in no time at all he and Loretta became active volunteers. Help was needed and they had time. Jim especially enjoyed helping with snowshoe hikes and running the evaporator during maple syruping classes. Loretta volunteered in the education department and was given the “Lifesaver Award” more than once because she could come help at a moments notice.

These days Jim and Loretta use their time at the nature center mainly to walk the trails. The beauty of CNC is that it welcomes all ages and finds a place for them to help, belong and experience things like a quiet walk, a snowshoe hike, or the chance to learn something new. We also know from numerous studies that time in nature results in increased critical thinking, imagination and enthusiasm. As ‘St. Croix Society’ members they help financially support the programs that CNC offers ensuring the cycle continues.

The Richmans are well loved at CNC, however, as the newest staff member, I just met them for the first time this past week. Jim and Loretta are avid travelers, gardeners and bird watchers. Their yard is declared a bird sanctuary and they love the days when the Pileated Woodpecker makes a visit. It was a delight to meet a couple that has given so much to the nature center over the years. Thank you Jim and Loretta, for all of your help. – C. Neenan



Jim and Loretta were volunteers of the year in 2005.

Chytrid fungus and the Minnesota Frog & Toad Calling Survey

The chytrid fungus is one of the oldest species of fungus. It is only recently, in 1999, that a new species of chytrid started infecting frogs. Frogs absorb water and oxygen through their skin like sponges. This fungus increases the amount of keratin in their skin, making them impermeable and eventually causing dehydration and death. It has the ability to impact the majority of the world's approximately 6,000 amphibian species. Scientists have found that more than a third of all amphibians, mostly frogs and toads, have been lost already.

Amphibians may seem small and insignificant but they are extremely important. Scientists have found chemical compounds in frog's skin potentially capable of treating HIV. Frogs control populations of insects and invertebrates. Frogs are an indicator species, meaning they are the first to show signs of environmental degradation that will eventually affect all of us.

While this fungus is a major concern for amphibians, their greatest threat is habitat loss. The DNR's Non-game Wildlife Program is sponsoring an ongoing statewide study of Minnesota's frogs and toads. Data is collected by volunteers identifying local amphibian species by their breeding and vocalization calls. By monitoring frog and toad populations we are able to find where the major environmental issues are and work to fix them.

To participate in the survey visit <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/naamp/>, or do an internet search for the Minnesota Frog and Toad Calling Survey.





More ways to make an impact...

Nature Center Volunteers - Did you know that many companies will match your volunteer hours with a donation to the Nature Center? Ask your company if they participate in **Volunteer Matching**, or contact Clare at 651-437-4359 or clare@carpenternaturecenter.org with questions.

Planned Giving - If you cannot imagine a future without access to quality environmental education and healthy wild spaces for youth to explore; please consider leaving a legacy gift to Carpenter Nature Center. Making a legacy gift is simple and will help ensure Carpenter Nature Center exists for many generations to come. **The Carpenter Society** recognizes "Friends of CNC" who have chosen to leave a legacy gift.

We would like to give a huge **thank you** and **welcome** to the Tom and Edna Carpenter Society to our most recent members, Jim and Judy Freund.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

A Volunteer Information Meeting will be held on Wednesday June 4 at 7:00 pm for those interested in becoming volunteers at Carpenter Nature Center. Please call ahead to let us know you are coming.

Opportunities this Season

Are you out of your gourd? If so, we could use your help with planting, weeding, and watering the pumpkins and squash grown near the orchard; please consider helping for a couple hours a week over the summer to ensure we have a good crop for visitors and school students in the fall.

Like to smile? Come and be that friendly face that greets visitors on weekends. Staff the Visitor Center, chat with guests, and brag up the sights at CNC. We usually run a four-hour shift 8:30 am – 12:30 pm and 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm but are flexible. Any weekend will do; just call and let us know so we can arrange training.

Fore! Volunteers will be needed for a variety of duties at the St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament on July 21. Mark your calendars and ready your favorite golf joke.

Save the Dates

Raptor Release on Sept. 27 & Apple Fest on Oct. 11 & 12
We'll need lots of volunteer help with both these events; no special training needed, just enthusiasm.

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

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Memory of

Rosalind Berg from Joe & Holly Duerre
Sandy Griswold from Buzz & Mary Marzolf
Bertha Hall from Michael & Julie Thron
Lloyd Hanson from Darleen Hanson
Mike Hovgaard from Holly Hanson & Abra Hovgaard
Jean Janssen from Dick Janssen, Kathy Janssen and Arolyne & Leo Hackett
George Lindeberg from Buzz & Mary Marzolf
George & Ella Marzolf from Buzz & Mary Marzolf
Don & Muggs McQuade from Bruce & Michelle McQuade
Bill Moore from Gordie & Jo Bailey
Pete Rodewald from Jim & Dorothy Beix
Mary Skinner from Kathleen Fritz
Willard Swanson from Carmen Swanson
Matthew Wenisch from Jason & Anne Wenisch

In Honor of

Jo & Gordie Bailey from Malcolm & Patricia McDonald
Paul & Lisa Bourget and Family from Jeanne Bourget
Donald Buck from Brenda Johnson
Celebrating the career of Jim Fitzpatrick as a champion of all things living during his dedicated stewardship of the Carpenter's home and vision from Wendy Wustenberg
Gator from Ken & Mary Tibesar
Michelle Harstad from Leonard Evanoff, Jr.
Jim & Patricia J. Keller from Marianne Pink
Bob & Kathy Setzer from Bruce Olson & Betsy Setzer Olson
Jen Vieth from John & Angela Ferguson
Bob & Mavis Voigt from Jim & Jean Reissner
On Behalf of the Employees of 3M Environmental, Health and Safety

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| <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING FRIEND OF CNC | |

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Signature: _____
- ☐ I'm interested in learning more about the Tom & Edna Carpenter Society



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John McPherson	Horticulturist
Linda Polglase	Administrative Assistant
Clare Neenan.....	Development Coordinator

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

CNC Wish List

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

8 1/2 x 11 white card stock	Staple Gun & Staples
Compostable Garbage Bags	Shop Vac for Pavilion
Reptomin (turtle food)	Plotter (for oversized printing)

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.



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.



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Give Minnesota a Hand

[twitter](https://twitter.com/CNCMN)



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.