



Volume 34, Number 2
Summer 2015

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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*Thank you to Graphic Design, Inc.
for sponsoring the cost to upgrade
our newsletter to full color!*



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Field Notes

By Jen Vieth



This morning the vigorous song of an amorous male American Robin bursts through the open window, awakening the household long before the blare of the alarm clock. The smell of spring is in the air. From the organic scent of mud flats, to the earthy smell of spring rains, it's a chance to reconnect with our senses. Soon the complex aroma of fruit tree blossoms will be wafting through the breeze signaling summer's arrival.

Carpenter Nature Center is awash in new life and bursting with activity. Delicate Shooting Stars and Prairie Smoke are emerging from the ground. Brilliantly-colored Blackburnian Warblers and Scarlet Tanagers are returning from their wintering grounds. We eagerly await our geo-tagged Wood Thrushes' return (see fall 2014 issue for full story). School children

are scampering through the prairies, scrambling up the ravines and exploring the trails. Winter Birds and Winter Weather classes have given way to Insects, Plants & Pollination, Geology and Soils. Each excursion to CNC brings new discoveries. Why not take some time this year to try something new? Book a CNC outreach program for your class, Scout Troop or seniors group. Get together with friends for a weekend trail hike. Try a yoga class on the bluffs of the St. Croix. Sign your favorite teenager up for the new St. Croix River Canoe Adventure.

There are many benefits to spending time in nature, including better mental and physical health. Yet there is a reason even bigger than our own health. The Journal of Wildlife Management reports that birdwatchers and hunters were 3.5 and 3.0 times, respectively, more likely than non-recreationists to actively participate in conservation. Even the baseline news was exciting. Researchers found that recycling, energy conservation and green product purchasing are becoming the norm. The areas in which hunters and birdwatchers excel is in habitat restoration, support for conservation groups and enhancing habitat on private and/or public lands. Those individuals that self-identify as BOTH hunters and birdwatchers are 4.7 times more likely to participate in land stewardship activities.

Researchers theorize that hunters and birdwatchers become attached to nature because of the time they spend in nature. Then they work to protect it. That is part of the theory of everything we do at Carpenter Nature Center. We all enjoy the time we spend in nature. Our naturalists enjoy teaching others about the amazing natural world. Each one of us is then inspired to make sure these opportunities and natural areas exist far into the future, for our grandchildren and their children. In that vein CNC's Board of Directors partnered with Washington County to protect 85 acres of the Minnesota Campus in perpetuity by placing it under a conservation easement. This legal arrangement will help provide stability for the Nature Center's programming and ensure that no future Board of Directors could ever develop the land.

The Smithsonian review of the Hunter & Birdwatcher Study ends with a quote that is fitting for all us experiencing this beautiful Midwestern spring season.

"Every day, I am torn between the desire to save the world and the desire to savour the world. This makes it very hard to plan the day." - E.B. White



Upcoming Programs

Reservations are required

SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Get registration forms and information at carpenternaturecenter.org.

Nature Nuts (Ages 5 & 6)
Pioneers (Ages 7 & 8)

June 22-26

July 13-17

9:00 a.m. – Noon

We will make crafts, play games, and explore CNC's trails as we learn about the many plants and animals that make their home at CNC. Program Fee: \$95 per participant or \$80 for "Friends of CNC."



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. Program Fee (per session): \$30 per participant or \$20 for "Friends of CNC."

Explorers (Ages 9 - 11)

July 27-31 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. & 9:00 a.m. Thursday – Noon Friday

Explore nature as we hike create projects, meet friends and visit the beach. Thursday we will pack up for

a canoe adventure and camp out at CNC over night. Program Fee: \$165 per participant or \$145 for "Friends Of CNC."

Canoe Trip (Ages 12 & up)

August 11 - 13 9:00 a.m. Tues. – 4:30 p.m. Thurs.

Join experienced naturalists for a three-day/two-night canoe trip on the Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers. We'll canoe about 17 miles and spend 2 nights camping along the shores of these scenic rivers. Program Fee: \$225 per participant or \$200 for "Friends of CNC."



NATURAL CHALLENGES: YOGA

dates to be determined

CNC is partnering with the Hastings YMCA to bring yoga to CNC. Please check our website for more information or send an email to Clare@CarpenterNatureCenter.org to receive monthly emails with up to date program information.

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

651-437-4359

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

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

May 1 – Rabbits

June 12 – Amazing Amphibians

July 10 – Rockin' Rock Doves

August 7 – Caterpillars & Butterflies

CNC's Preschool Story Times are designed to introduce children, ages 2 - 5 (with a parent or guardian), to nature in a fun and safe environment. We'll listen to stories, spend time outdoors, make a craft project and meet live animals. Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather. Program fee: \$5 per child or \$3 for "Friends of CNC". *CNC Story Time has been partially funded through support from Target.



Lizzie Danich



Lizzie Danich

BIRD BANDING

Fourth Fridays 8:30 a.m. – Noon

May 22

June 26

July 24

August 28

See songbirds up close and watch the experts band birds at CNC. Bird banding records can help us learn how long the birds live, where they travel, when and where they migrate and many other facts. Donations of bird seed or suet are appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

WISCONSIN CAMPUS PROGRAMS

For these programs meet at 300 East Cove Road, Hudson, WI .

Bird Migration Celebration

Saturday, May 9

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m.

Morning Bird Walk

8:00-11:00 a.m.

Bird Banding

11:00 a.m.

Habitat Hike

Activities will be ongoing throughout the morning. There will be a welcome tent with refreshments and information on birds and habitat, children's activities, and informal hikes through the prairie. This event is part of the Tropical Wings St. Croix River Flyway Bird Migration Celebration. Program fee: FREE



Lizzie Danich

Let's Go Foraging

Saturday, June 6

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Join local experts for a hike into the woods to find interesting and useful plants. We'll look for edible plants, herbs, and even mushrooms if the conditions are right. Please dress for the weather and being off-trail. Program fee: \$6 or \$4 for "Friends of CNC."

Evening Prairie Hike

Wednesday, July 22

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. Program fee: \$6 or \$4 for "Friends of CNC."

2015 DATES TO PUT ON THE CALENDAR

Apple Shack Opens around Labor Day

Raptor Release September 26

Apple Fest October 10 & 11

Apple Shack Closes Thanksgiving

Upcoming Events

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

Apple Blossom Races

Sunday, May 17

For 30 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. Beginning at 8:00 a.m. the 1/2 marathon is a challenging and hilly route past many of the St. Croix Valley apple orchards. The 10K follows CNC's savannah trails. There is a 5K run/walk straight down St. Croix Trail. Bring your kids for the FREE 2K Fun Run following the other races at approximately 11 a.m. All proceeds support Carpenter Nature Center's K-12 environmental education programs and habitat protection. Visit our website to see the course map. Registration is online via the CNC website.



This family friendly race has a distance and speed for everyone.

Autumn in the Valley Gala

Sunday, September 13

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. The event will be held at Carpenter Nature Center in the River Bluff Pavilion which has a spectacular view of the St. Croix River. 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 p.m.



Put a team together and join CNC out at Afton Alps Golf Course for a day of fun. This event raises vital funds for the nature centers K-12 environmental education programs.

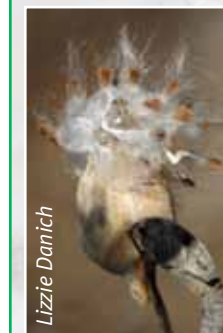


Above and to the left are two teams from the 2014 tournament (Girl Power and Provincial). Some teams like Girl Power have made it a tradition to come out and play in the tournament each year.

St. Croix Valley Scramble

Monday, July 20

Enjoy a day of golf at the Afton Alps Golf Course and support Carpenter Nature Center! All proceeds from this event help fund 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 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.



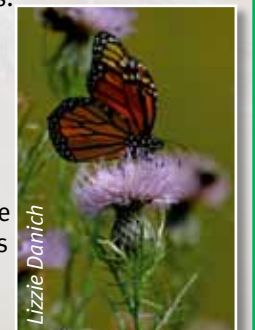
Lizzie Danich

WHERE AT CNC?

Milkweed can be found in the prairies at Carpenter Nature Center. It is present at both the Minnesota and Wisconsin Campuses. It can also be found scattered along the trailside, agricultural margins, roadsides, wetland areas, sandy areas, and gardens.

Milkweed is essential to the Monarch Butterfly's life cycle. They can not survive without it. The caterpillars need the milkweed to grow and develop, and adult female Monarchs will only lay their eggs on milkweed plants.





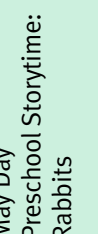







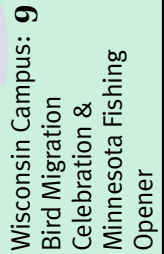
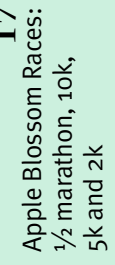

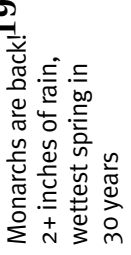

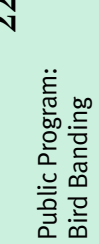
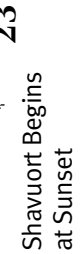
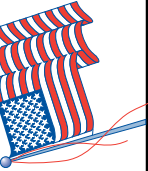
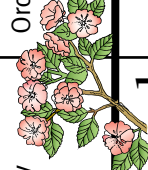


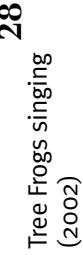
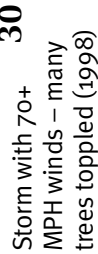



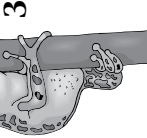
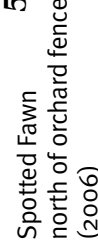
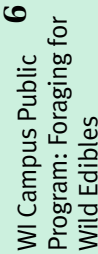


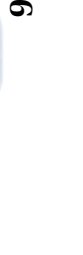




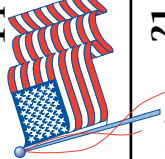





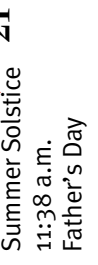

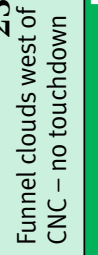
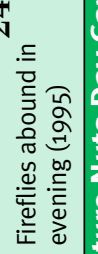





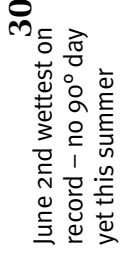
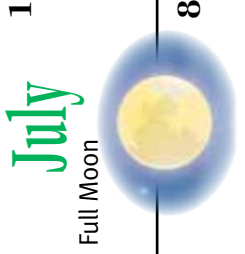


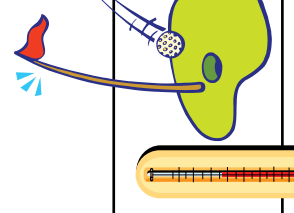
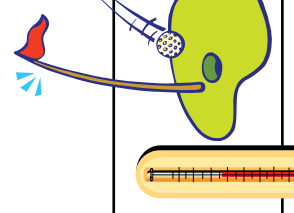
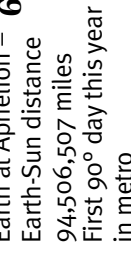




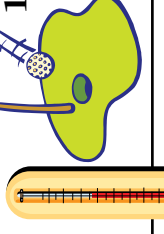
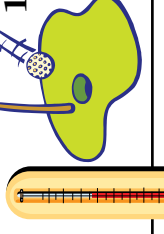




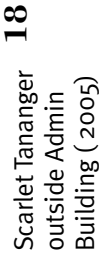


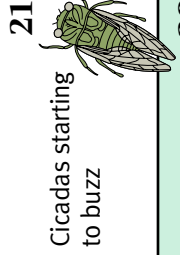
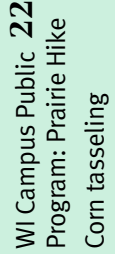
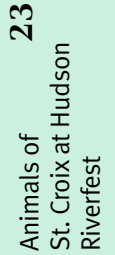




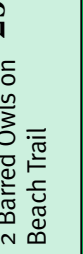



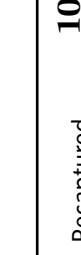

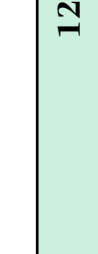
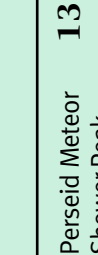



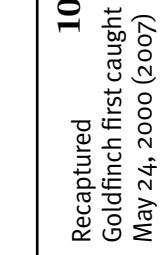

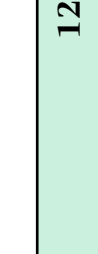
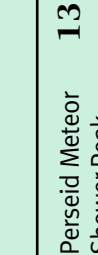
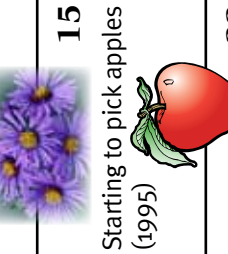




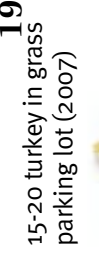








All of the milkweed plants found at CNC are native to our region. There is a tropical variety of milkweed (asclepias curassavica) that is contributing to the spread of OE in Monarch butterflies. OE is a debilitating parasite that can impair reproduction and even kill adult monarchs. It is important to plant only native species of milkweed, especially for those living in the southern U.S. In our region Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca), Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnate), Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa), Whorled Milkweed (Asclepias verticillata), and Poke Milkweed (Asclepias exaltata) are listed as native milkweed species by the Monarch Joint Venture.



Lizzie Danich

2015 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

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

 Full Moon	 5 Hummingbirds have arrived	 14 hours and 30 minutes of sunlight	 7 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at feeders	 1 May Day Preschool Storytime: Rabbits	 2 Wisconsin Fishing Opener
 Mother's Day	 4 Minnesota Statehood - 1858	 12 Wood Ducks in the pond	 13 Indigo Bunting at feeder	 8 	 9 Wisconsin Campus: 9 Bird Migration Celebration & Minnesota Fishing Opener
 Apple Blossom Races: 1/2 marathon, 10k, 5k and 2k	 18 Green Heron in wetland (2009)	 19 Monarchs are back! 2+ inches of rain, wettest spring in 30 years	 20 Banded 2 baby eagles at 7.5 weeks old (2010)	 22 Public Program: Bird Banding	 23 Shavuot Begins at Sunset
 Flag Day	 25 Memorial Day	 26 Orchard in full bloom	 27 Peony blossoms opening (2009)	 28 Tree Frogs singing (2002)	 30 Storm with 70+ MPH winds – many trees toppled (1998)
 Strawberries ripe on railroad bed (1999)	 1 June Lupine in bloom	 2 Full Moon	 3 Cottonwood seeds falling	 5 Spotted Fawn north of orchard fence (2006)	 6 WI Campus Public Program: Foraging for Wild Edibles
 Strawberries ripe on railroad bed (1999)	 8 Roses blooming (2009)	 9 Sunflowers blooming in Prairie (1994)	 10 Sunflowers blooming in Prairie (1994)	 11 Pea sized Hail (2008)	 13 
 Flag Day	 15 Strawberry New Moon (Ojibwe)	 16 Strawberry New Moon (Ojibwe)	 17 Ramadan begins at Sunset	 18 Record Rainfall – over 4 inches	 20 Record Rainfall – over 4 inches
 Summer Solstice 11:38 a.m. Father's Day	 22 Funnel clouds west of CNC – no touchdown	 23 Funnel clouds west of CNC – no touchdown	 24 Fireflies abound in evening (1995)	 25 Public Program: Bird Banding	 27 Black-capped Raspberries starting to ripen (2006)
 28 	 29 5 Cedar Waxwings banded today (1994)	 30 June 2nd wettest on record – no 90° day yet this summer	 1 July Full Moon	 2 Butterfly weed in bloom	 4 Independence Day
 5 	 6 Earth at Aphelion – Earth-Sun distance 94,506,507 miles First 90° day this year in metro	 7 Juvenile eagle over CNC	 8 First Toadlets seen (2013)	 9 First Toadlets seen (2013)	 11 Garter Snake by Gazebo (1998)
 12 	 13 St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament	 14 Cicadas starting to buzz	 15 Midsummer New Moon (Ojibwe)	 16 Fishing Fun Day Camp	 18 Scarlet Tanager outside Admin Building (2005)
 19 Dewpoint 82, Heat Index 130° F. New State Record (2001)	 20 St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament	 21 Cicadas starting to buzz	 22 WI Campus Public Program: Prairie Hike Corn tasseling	 23 Animals of St. Croix at Hudson Riverfest	 25 Public Program: Bird Banding
 26 Sunfish have nests in pond (2006)	 27 Recaptured Goldfinch first caught May 24, 2000 (2007)	 28 Lots of dragonflies emerging from wetland	 29 2 Barred Owls on Beach Trail	 30 Perseid Meteor Shower Peak – 1:00 a.m.	 1 August Ripe Red Raspberries (2013)
 2 4-7 in rain in orchard gauge (2002)	 3 Young Red Fox by old N. Orchard (1996)	 4 Lots of dragonflies emerging from wetland	 5 Black Bear sighting at 110th and St Croix Trail	 6 Fishing Fun Day Camp	 8 New England Asters Blooming (2003)
 9 	 10 Recaptured Goldfinch first caught May 24, 2000 (2007)	 11 Lots of dragonflies emerging from wetland	 12 Perseid Meteor Shower Peak – 1:00 a.m.	 13 Perseid Meteor Shower Peak – 1:00 a.m.	 15 Starting to pick apples (1995)
 16 	 17 Young Red Fox by old N. Orchard (1996)	 18 Goldenrod in full bloom	 19 15-20 turkey in grass parking lot (2007)	 20 Sumac turning red	 22 Cottonwood leaves turning and dropping
 23 Peregrine buzzed feeders by kitchen (2009)	 24 13 hours 31 minutes of Daylight	 25 Goldenrod in full bloom	 26 Minnesota State Fair Begins	 28 Public Program: Bird Banding	 29 Full Moon

People Profile

Meet our 2015 Winter Intern Lizzie Danich

Lizzie completed a Communications internship from January to the end of March 2015. She graduated from the University of St. Thomas last year where she majored in Communications and Journalism. Her passion is photography and she hopes to incorporate it into her career. This past fall one of her photographs placed in the Minnesota Zoo photography contest, which was an incredible experience for her. At CNC she helped prepare for upcoming events including the Apple Blossom Races, Masters of the Sky and the Birding Festival. She also worked on the annual report and this newsletter. Lizzie is very interested in wildlife, and had fun looking at the different tracks in the snow last winter. She enjoyed photographing



Lizzie Danich and Jessie Eckroad
(Environmental Education Intern)
boil sap to make maple syrup.

all the birds that make their homes at CNC, but her dream is to someday photograph wolves in the wild. She is from South St. Paul, MN and enjoys spending time there with her family. After completing her internship at CNC Lizzie joined the marketing team at Gertens Greenhouse in Inver Grove Heights.



There are hidden wonders all around Carpenter Nature Center. All you have to do is find them.
Here are a few that I encountered.
- Lizzie Danich



If you have not met him yet, the newest addition to our education ambassadors is a Western Hognose Snake. These snakes are listed as a species of special concern in Minnesota. They have been declining due to the loss of habitat. Western Hognose snakes prefer habitats with well-drained soils and little vegetation. That means they live in prairies and oak savannahs, but these habitats have been rapidly disappearing. Appearance-wise this snake looks a bit unusual. This is due to its upturned nose, which is used in the wild for digging up toads. If threatened, this species will flatten its head and rear back like a cobra about to strike. If that fails to scare off the threat the Western Hognose Snake will then play dead by rolling onto its back. Come visit our new snake in the Visitor Center. You might be surprised at how adorable he is.

Get to know our "Friends of CNC" Donald Buck

Donald Buck grew up on a farm in Red Wing, MN. He remembers going to the creek that flowed through their land with his siblings and catching fish to eat for supper.

Throughout the years he has watched more and more undeveloped land disappear. He supports Carpenter Nature Center because he believes that the land should be preserved from development. CNC currently protects 725 acres of natural habitat. The grounds include over 350 acres of restored tall grass prairie, 50 year old pine stands, wooded ravines, one mile of the wild and scenic St. Croix River and 2,000 year old Native American burial mounds.

Donald has been coming to CNC for more than 25 years. He first started coming here with his wife to buy apples from Tom and Edna Carpenter's Orchard. There is not a variety of apple available here that he has not tried. Apples from Carpenter make good gifts and he enjoys sharing them with family and friends. After all these years the apple orchard continues to be his favorite place to spend time. He also likes to come to the events that take place at the nature center throughout the year. Masters of the Sky and the Apple Fest are a few of his favorites.

As a long time "Friend of CNC" Donald said, "I have supported Carpenter for a long time, and will continue to support it. It feels good that we have been able to save this land." Like the rest of us he worries that land is being viewed too much like a commodity and not being cherished the way that it should. By supporting Carpenter Nature Center he hopes to help change that view for future generations.

New Program Animal: Western Hognose Snake



Donald Buck pictured with one of the raptors from the World Bird Sanctuary at the Masters of the Sky event.



Lizzie Danich pictured with her winning photograph at the Minnesota Zoo

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Those interested in becoming a volunteer can attend a Volunteer Information Meeting on Wednesday June 3rd at 7 p.m. Please call ahead and let us know you're coming.

Opportunities this Season

Green thumbs wanted: Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of gardens, from the flower beds in the center island of the driveway and entrance gate to the herb garden to keeping the pumpkins and squash watered and weeded in the orchard. If we get several proactive volunteers who each put in a couple of hours a week, we'll have the best looking gardens in the county.

Visitor Center Greeters: The summer weekends will bring lots of guests to hike the trails of CNC and they'll need someone to smile and welcome them. Come staff the desk in the Visitor Center on the weekends and help people enjoy their visit.

Enjoy a day on the Greens: Help will be needed for the annual St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament on July 20th. Volunteers will be needed in a variety of ways so pencil in that day and practice your golf clap.

Looking Ahead

Please mark your calendars for these future events where we'll need lots of volunteers to share the fun of making them a success: **Raptor Release on Sept. 26 & Apple Fest on Oct. 10 & 11**

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 Honor of

Paul & Lisa Bourget from Jeanne Bourget
Kalley Denzer from Karoline Hall
Her Grandsons from Susan Dorner
Michaeline Ready from Todd & Mary Erickson
Sam & Theresa Hirte-Runtsch from Steven & Sharon Runtsch
Bob and Kathy Setzer from Bruce & Betsy Setzer Olson

In Memory of

Kristan Blake from Paul Brown
Rosemary Eisenmenger from John & Betty Wright
Thomas P. Fitzgibbon from Peter & Jeanne Engel
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Elnar Horne from Jim & Judy Freund
Dick Janssen from John & Rebecca Grindland
Rosemary Lynch from Bob & Kathy Setzer
Mary Marzolf from Jim & Judy Freund & Kathleen Caufield
Don & Muggs McQuade from Bruce & Michelle McQuade
Ralph & Bernadine Polglase from James Polglase
Dr. Richard Ritzinger from Jim & Judy Freund
Nancy Rooney from Cheryl Bonderson
Matthew Wenisch from Jason & Anne Wenisch

Volunteer Spotlight Art Luedtke

This quarter we proudly shine the spotlight on Art Luedtke. Art has been volunteering since 2013 and has put in hours in a variety of ways. He is a mainstay for our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup, has helped with both Apple Fest and the Apple Blossom Races, and has put in several hours helping our maple syrup production. Art has a very calm demeanor coupled with attention to detail that makes him a wonderful volunteer to work with. Art, you're definitely a top-shelf volunteer and we appreciate you dedicating your time, talent, and hard work to CNC.



There are many fun and exciting ways to get involved at Carpenter Nature Center. Pictured above are a few of the volunteers at the Apple Fest.
Photos by Sue Plankis

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☐ I'm interested in learning more about the 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:

Game cameras, Cardstock, Batteries, and Hula Hoops

A book list is available if you are interested in purchasing a book for use in programs or for the CNC library. Just give us a call at: 651-437-4359. And remember that donated items are generally tax deductible.



CNC News & Events

If you are not receiving monthly e-mail updates, please contact:
Clare@CarpenterNatureCenter.org to join our e-mail list.

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



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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.