



The 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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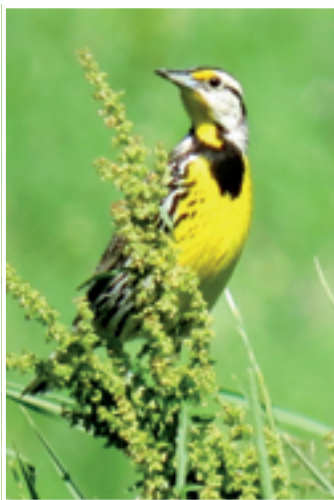
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Eastern Meadowlark

Field Notes

By Jen Vieth

Wait! What is that? Who is that? I know that voice. The notes burst into my consciousness, but the singer's name dances on the outskirts of memory. It's tantalizingly familiar, yet obscured. The song brings such feelings of joy, summer and hope. The first clear, rich notes of a Baltimore Orioles' song, after it returns from a winter in the neo-tropics, are like hearing a familiar melody. Think of the smile you get when you hear the song your mom used to sing when you were younger. It is more than just sound waves crashing into your tympanum. Bird song is a connection to the past, to the present, to nature and to our self.

Spring is refreshing. Amazing. Exciting. Yet occasionally, spring is frustrating as we tax our memories, trying to recall which warbler sings "pleased-pleased-pleased-pleased-to-meetcha"

and which sings "please; please; please squeeEEEEEEEE." Unlike canaries, whose brain volume expands each spring as it updates its female-wooing repertoire; my human brain has yet to emerge from its long winter days. Repetition and mnemonics help. For example, the Chestnut-sided Warbler is pleased to meet you, while the Black-throated Blue Warbler must need a squeeze.

Eastern Meadowlarks, who sing "Spring-of-the-year," nest in grasslands. Yet, when these vibrant birds return this spring there will be fewer grasslands to call home. The Midwest has lost more than 500,000 acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land in the past decade. In Minnesota alone there was a 26% loss of CRP land between 2014-and 2015, while development and urban sprawl claim thousands more acres every year. CNC's Wisconsin site still boasts multiple pairs of nesting meadowlarks, but the Minnesota Campus meadowlarks have mostly disappeared. Around Hastings it is the same story as both the Eastern Meadowlarks, and Western Meadowlarks that nested within the city limits have declined or disappeared.

What is the reason for the Meadowlark decline? There are a myriad of contributing factors, but primarily it is habitat loss on breeding grounds. A big reason for the enormous loss of habitat is food production. As the human population grows, so does our demand for food. There is a collision between human health, animal health and environmental health. As all of nature is forced into smaller and smaller parcels of land they come into more frequent contact, and often conflict, with humans. It all ultimately affects human health.

How can we solve this problem? We must all work together to create solutions and give future generations the tools needed to meet these and other challenges. Carpenter Nature Center is partnering with the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and the Science Museum of Minnesota, to bring together youth from 6th-8th grade who are interested in careers in natural resources and sustainable agriculture. As part of a USDA grant the students will learn about the latest in agriculture science, wildlife surveys, and urban farming in a fun, hands-on, week-long summer camp based on CNC's Wisconsin Campus.

The Chinese philosopher Laozi said, *"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."*

Upcoming Programs

Reservations are required

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

651-437-4359



SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Fishing Fun (Ages 6 - 11)

July 28 & August 10 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
The majority of time is spent at the river. Supplies provided if needed. Fee (per session): \$30 per participant or \$20 for “Friends of CNC.”

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

Nature Nuts: June 27-July 1 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Pioneers: July 25-29 9:00 a.m. – Noon
We will make crafts, play games, and explore the trails at CNC. Fee: \$99 per participant or \$89 for “Friends of CNC.”

Explorers (Ages 9 - 11)

July 11-15
This camp is full.

Raptor Camp (Ages 12 & up)

August 1 - 2 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Spend a day at CNC and then a day at the Raptor Center of the U of MN learning about amazing birds of prey. Transportation to the Raptor Center is provided. Fee: \$125 per participant or \$115 for “Friends of CNC.”

Namekagon Canoe Trip (Ages 12 & up)

August 3 - 5 9:00 a.m. Wednesday - 4:30 p.m. Friday
Join CNC naturalists for a trip on the Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers. We’ll canoe about 17 miles and camp along the shores of these scenic rivers. Fee: \$225 per participant or \$215 for “Friends of CNC.”

Pathfinders (Ages 11-15)

August 8- 12 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Get hands-on experience learning about urban and rural ecosystems using field research techniques such as bird banding, prairie restoration, sustainable agriculture, and wildlife monitoring. Take field trips to see bison in the prairie, catch invertebrates in the Kinnickinnic River, and visit the Science Museum of MN and urban gardens. This new summer camp experience is made possible through a USDA-NIFA funded grant and partnerships with the U of WI- River Falls and the Science Museum of MN. Fee: \$179 or \$169 for “Friends of CNC.”

Find more information about our summer camps and registration forms at carpenternaturecenter.org/programs/summer-camps/

Preschool Story Time Fridays, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

May 6-Flowers June 17-Frogs & Toads
July 8- Who’s coming to the Picnic? August 19–Diggin’ in the Dirt
Story Times are designed to introduce young children, ages 2 - 5 (with a parent or guardian), to nature in a fun environment. We’ll listen to stories, spend time outdoors, make a craft project and meet live animals. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Fee: \$5.00 per child or \$3.00 for “Friends of CNC.”
Can’t make it to CNC story time? CNC’s naturalists’ will be hosting story time at the Pleasant Hill Library in Hastings at 10:30 a.m. on June 17, July 8 and August 12. Call CNC or the Pleasant Hill Library for more information.

Bird Banding Fourth Fridays, 8:30 A.M. – Noon

May 27 • June 24 • July 22 • August 26
See songbirds up close and watch the experts band birds at CNC. Donations of bird seed or suet are appreciated in lieu of a program fee.
Natural Challenges: Yoga
Thursdays, June 23 & 30, July 7, 21 & 28 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Experience the beauty of the St. Croix River while moving through a combination of yoga sequences designed to align the body and mind. Bring your own mat and be prepared to be outside. Class will be held indoors in case of rain. Free for Hastings YMCA members and “Friends of CNC”, others \$6.00 per session.

WISCONSIN CAMPUS PROGRAMS

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

Bird Hikes with the SCVBC

May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
The St. Croix Valley Bird Club will help you learn to identify birds. Field guides and binoculars will be available to use or you may bring your own. Fee: \$6 or FREE for “Friends of CNC” and SCVBC members.

Evening Prairie Hike

July 20 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Join Missy Sparrow, a prairie plant specialist from the Wisconsin DNR, and Jen Vieth, CNC’s director, for a hike through the prairie. We’ll be looking for blooming forbs and grasses as well as listening for birds. Binoculars will be available to use or bring your own. Fee: \$6 or \$4 for “Friends of CNC.”

Bird Migration Celebration

Saturday, May 14 8:00 a.m. - Noon
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 which takes place May 11-15 . Fee: FREE



Upcoming Events

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

Apple Blossom Races

Sunday, May 15

For over 30 years, runners of all abilities have flocked to the St. Croix Valley to support CNC. What better way to celebrate spring than a day at CNC running, walking and supporting environmental education. This family friendly race has a distance and speed for everyone. Beginning at 8:00 a.m. the half 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. Registration is online via the CNC website. Fees: \$32 for the 5K & 10 K, \$42 for half marathon. Prices increase after May 9.



Practice Run

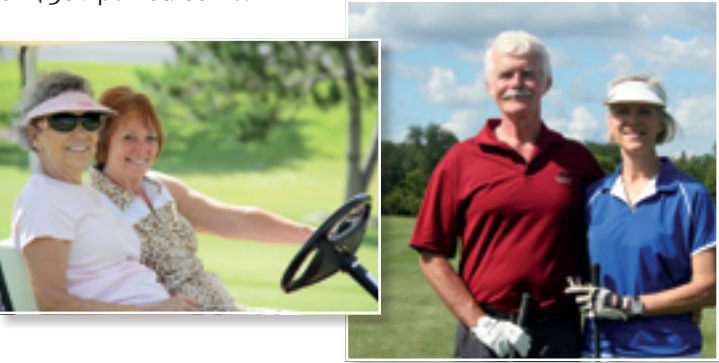
May 7, 9:00 a.m.

Want to check out the Apple Blossom 10K race route before race day? Car pool from CNC to the start at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park, and run the 10K race route. There is no admission fee but space is limited so please RSVP.

St. Croix Valley Scramble

Monday, July 18

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, and a donation to CNC. Hole sponsorships are available. Don’t miss out on your chance to spend the day golfing with other CNC supporters. Please visit the CNC website or call the office to request a golfer or sponsor registration form. Fee: \$95 per golfer or \$380 per foursome.



Autumn in the Valley Gala

Sunday, September 11

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 at CNC. 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 \$100, or \$85 if you register by August 19th, and the event begins at 4:00 p.m.

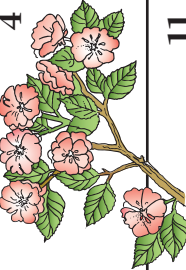




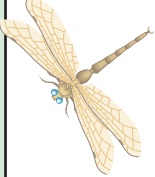

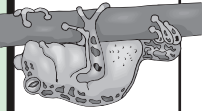


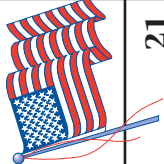
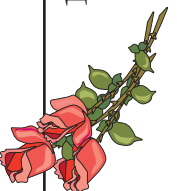
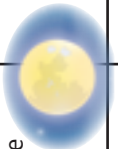




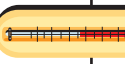
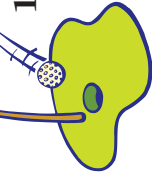


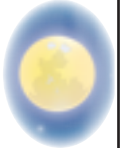




2016 DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

Apple Shack Opens around Labor Day
Raptor Release September 24
Apple Fest October 8 & 9
Apple Shack Closes Around Thanksgiving

2016 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

Phenology from 2015 (with additional entries from CNC's past phenology notes)

1 May	2 14 hours and 17 minutes of daylight	3 Bobolink singing in prairie	4  Minnesota Statehood - 1858	5 Orchard in full bloom	Preschool Storytime: Flowers New Moon (Budding Plants-Ojibwe)	7 Apple Blossom Races Practice Run Wisconsin Fishing Opener
8 Mother's Day	9 Indigo Bunting at feeders (2007)	10  Bluebird nestlings in nest boxes (1997)	11  Minnesota Statehood - 1858	12 	13 Tiger Swallowtail Butterflies Flying (1998)	14 WI Campus Bird Hike Minnesota Fishing Opener
15 Apple Blossom Races: 1/2 marathon, 10k, 5k and 2k	16 	17 Bluebird nestlings in nest boxes (1997)	18 Green Heron in wetland (2009)	19 Mallards have ducklings	20 Banded 2 baby eagles at 7-5 weeks old (2010)	21 Lilacs beginning to open (1995)
22 	23 Red Pines shedding pollen (1994)	24	25 Luna Moth on farm house door	26 Mayfly adults at river	27 Public Bird Banding Peony blossoms opening (2009)	28 Tree Frogs singing (2002)
29 Wisconsin Statehood - 1848	30 Memorial Day	31 	1 Doe with fawn in orchard (1994)	2 Fireflies in River Falls (2010)	3 	4 New Moon (Strawberry – Ojibwe)
5 Ramadan begins at sunset	6	7 Strawberries ripe on railroad bed (1999)	8 Roses blooming (2009)	9 	10 Sunflowers blooming in prairie (1994)	11 WI Campus Bird Hike Shavuot Beings at sunset
12 	13 Fishing Fun campers caught 13 fish (2012)	14  Flag Day	15 	16 8" diameter Snapping Turtle in water garden (2008)	17 Preschool Storytime: Frogs & Toads	18 Very large raccoon at feeders in AM (1995)
19 Record Rainfall – over 4 inches (2014) Father's Day	20 Full Moon Summer Solstice 5:34 pm	21 	22 Black Raspberries ripe! (2007)	23 Natural Challenges: Yoga	24 Public Bird Banding	25 Milkweed flowering
26	27	28	29	30 Natural Challenges: Yoga	1 July	2
Nature Nuts Day Camp						
3 Cicadas buzzing	4 New Moon (Midsummer – Ojibwe) Earth at Aphelion: Earth-Sun distance 94,512,891 miles	5 	6 2 Hen Turkeys and ~19 chicks at feeders (1998)	7 Natural Challenges: Yoga	8 Preschool Storytime: Who's coming to the picnic?	9 WI Campus Bird Hike
10  	11	12	13 	14	15	16 Heat index in metro 106 °F 
17 	18 St Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament	19 Full Moon Dewpoint 82, Heat Index 130° F. New State Record (2001)	20 WI Campus: Birding in the Prairie	21 Natural Challenges: Yoga	22 Public Bird Banding	23 Monarchs mating and laying eggs 
24	25	26	27	28 Natural Challenges: Yoga Fishing Fun Day Camp	29	30
Pioneers Day Camp						
Black Bear at CNC – 31 pulled down feeders, scat in oak savanna (2014)	1 August	2 New Moon (Harvest-Ojibwe)	3	4	5	6 Goldenrod starting to bloom
7 Red Oaks dropping acorns (2009)	8 Raptor Camp	9	10 Fishing Fun Day Camp	Youth Canoe Trip		
14	15 Starting to pick apples (1995) 	16 Cardinal flowers blooming on beach (2001)	17 Young Red Fox by old N. orchard (1996)	18 Full Moon 	19 Preschool Storytime: Diggin' in the Dirt	20 Mice invading Admin Building
21 Sumac changing color (2000)	22	23 Peregrine buzzed feeders by kitchen (2009)	24 	25 Minnesota State Fair begins 	26 Public Bird Banding	27 WI Campus: Carpenter Art Festival
28	29 Cormorants flocking at Hastings Lock & Dam (1998)	30 1st apple of season sold! (1996)	31 13 hours and 16 minutes of daylight			

People Profiles

Board Member Bio Paul Rosso

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Rosso, Ph.D. to our Board of Directors. Paul first became interested in Carpenter Nature Center when he and his wife, Sandi, moved to the St. Croix Cove in 2008. As a new neighbor of our Wisconsin campus, Paul saw the excellent work that is being done to conserve the beautiful natural surroundings and heard the future plans to build an educational facility in Wisconsin that will have a positive impact on youth and families. Paul now serves on the Wisconsin Committee that is working to bring these plans to fruition.



Paul and Sandi were on a tour of Panama this past February when they discovered that it is a very “small world” among nature lovers. In a remote hotel in the rain forest, they ran into Jim Fitzpatrick (retired Executive Director of CNC), Wendy Hill (loyal CNC volunteer), and the St. Croix Valley Bird Club.

Paul retired after 34 years at 3M. With twenty years in 3M Health Care and fourteen in 3M International, Paul and Sandi lived in Korea, Singapore, Japan, and Belgium and they have a real passion for travel. Paul’s last assignment was Vice President of 3M Europe.

Paul and Sandi have three children and six granddaughters -- the oldest is 8 and the youngest was born this April in Auckland, New Zealand. One of their favorite experiences with the local granddaughters has been Story Time and discoveries at CNC.



Here a summer camper gets up close with a warbler. Board members, donors and volunteers choose to support CNC because they are passionate about teaching children the value of nature from a young age. Summer camps at CNC give students the opportunity to connect with nature and begin to understand their relationship with the world around them, from the bugs to the birch trees.

Volunteer Spotlight Wendy Hill

In this issue we cheerily shine the spotlight on Wendy Hill. Wendy has been recording volunteer hours since October of 2014, logging well over 300 hours since. She is a steadfast part of our bird banding group that meets every Friday morning and a vital member of the saw-whet owl banding crew. She has also led some of our owl prowls hikes both on the Minnesota and Wisconsin campuses. Thanks, Wendy, for giving us your time and talent, your unruffled demeanor, and sharing your love of birds with us.



Get to know our “Friends of CNC” John & Gladi Sippel

John and Gladi first stumbled upon CNC while driving by about 15 years ago. They stopped in the Visitor Center and immediately a volunteer convinced them to attend a volunteer meeting. From there they were hooked. Since then they have donated to CNC, volunteered at events, worked in the gardens and currently Gladi is spearheading buckthorn removal efforts on the Wisconsin Campus.

When asked why they choose to support CNC they responded with enthusiasm. They have been able to eavesdrop on some school classes with Al and Mayme and were impressed with the outstanding quality of the programs. They understand the importance of inspiring a connection with nature at a young age so our future generations will put a value on conservation.

One of the ways John & Gladi like to support CNC is by purchasing apple sponsorships for Christmas gifts. CNC solved their search for appropriate Christmas gifts. Nothing says “I love you” and “to your health” like the sponsor gift certificate under the tree giving eco-friendly apples from CNC, to be picked up fresh the following fall.

John and Gladi show their enthusiasm for CNC by bringing friends and relatives out whenever possible. They bring them for a walk, knowing that once you have visited CNC it is hard to not get hooked.

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Honor of

Ryan Armbruster from Health Partners
Bob Garber from Richard & Rebecca Strash
Bob & Kathy Setzer from Bruce & Betsy Olson
Sam & Pete Simpson from Sharon & Tom Simpson
Jen Vieth from Ron & Audrey Kintzi

In Memory of

Pauline Bottemiller from Robert Eide
Craig Colley from Tracey Colley
Sally Ferguson from Charles & Mary Grote
Audrey Duellmen from Tricia Emilyn Hilger
Holly Grubb from Daryl & Jan Standafer
Lloyd L. Hanson from Darleen Hanson
Dick & Jean Janssen from Kathy Janssen
Mary Marzolf from Thomas Marzolf
Don & Muggs McQuade from Bruce & Shelly McQuade
Gladys Schulte from Carol & Bob Jager
Jay Heggerness from Dale & Elizabeth Fretland,
Tom & Betty Kieffer, Janet Rude



WHERE AT CNC?

All over! European Buckthorn was first brought to North America in the late 1800’s and was used in hedgerow plantings. Throughout much of the Midwest

buckthorn has invaded forests, displaced native plant understory and degraded habitat.

We are pleased to announce that CNC was awarded a grant through the Outdoor Heritage Fund. This grant will enable Carpenter Nature Center to undertake habitat restoration of 48 acres of rare oak savanna and bluff side woodland at the Nature Center. This restoration will include the removal of the invasive species common buckthorn through hand cutting, chemical treatment, prescribed burns and supplemental planting.

Next time you are walking along the Savannah trail take note of your surroundings. Over the next few years you will see a big change in the understory. As we eradicate the invasive species we hope to see an increase in native plants such as Kitten-tails and Ginseng, and threatened bird species such as Red-Headed Woodpecker, Woodthrush and a variety of warblers.



Volunteers removed buckthorn from CNC’s Wisconsin Campus during a recent work day.

Volunteer Corner

While the next Volunteer Information Meeting won’t be held until September 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Visitor Center, you can still start your CNC Volunteer career during the summer months. Just call Volunteer Coordinator, Alan, and he’ll get you started on the right track. Below are just some of the things you can do as a volunteer over the summer.

Squash and pumpkins and gourds, Oh My! Whether you have a green thumb, orange thumb, or even a butternut thumb, we could use your help in our orchard garden. We grow hundreds (maybe thousands) of pumpkins, most of which are given away to school kids coming out for our orchard program. They don’t grow by themselves, it takes lots of work. If we could get five people to come out for two hours a week during the summer, it would be of great help to John and Pumpkin Paul. Come on – it’s only two hours a week. The smile on the kids when they see the pumpkin patch is well worth it.

“Hi, and welcome to Carpenter Nature Center.” Come on out and be the friendly **Visitor Center Greeter** that guests will remember when they stop in. Summer weekends are busy and it is important to have someone in the Visitor Center to answer questions or point out a favorite trail. This is a fun and important “first impression” job that is great for those who want to engage like-minded, outdoor loving guests.

Save the dates

Raptor Release on Sept. 24 & Apple Fest on Oct. 8 & 9
Lots of volunteers are needed to make these events a success. Please mark your calendars and call to get on the “Yes, I’d love to help” list.

FRIENDS OF CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

Name _____
Address _____
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Check appropriate level:

<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL	\$25 to \$49
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	\$50 to \$99
<input type="checkbox"/> DONOR	\$100 to \$249
<input type="checkbox"/> PATRON	\$250 to \$499
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☐ **Check** (payable to Carpenter Nature Center)
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(Check one) (Visa or Master Card are accepted)
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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
Jessie Eckroad	Outreach Program Coordinator

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

CNC Wish List

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

Bird Seed	Youth Fishing Poles
Forever Stamps	White or Green Cardstock

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.



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.