

St. Croix Current

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Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

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www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org

Wisconsin Campus: 300 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

As I write this I am looking out the window at the golden leaves of river birch and bright blue sky. It is 55 degrees and I am thinking of the blowing wind and biting cold of January and February, wondering why people live in this icy latitude. Then I see the Juncos and Pine Siskins at our bird feeding station and remember that they come here to overwinter. Those little creatures are amazing.

We have successfully completed our hectic fall program schedule and events season, which was kicked off by the Grand Opening of the new 3M River Bluff Pavilion at our

Autumn in the Valley Gala. What a great night that was! We raised a lot of money for the CNC school programs. Thank you all for attending. If you missed it, be thinking about the second Sunday in September 2012 and get us on your schedule.

Dark-eyed Juncos breed from Alaska

to Newfoundland in hardwood and

coniferous forests. This sparrow species' habit of wintering in the

continental U.S. has earned them

recorded lunco was 11 years & 4

months old. Photo by Ben Wilson.

the nickname "snowbird". The oldest

The Mages Family knows that once there are six inches of snow on the ground, its time to head out on CNC's trails to enjoy some snowshoeing. "Friends of CNC" receive FREE snowshoe rentals and for everyone else it's a very affordable \$5 for two hours. Photo by Curt Mages.

For the next few months, if Mother Nature gives us some snow, we will once again offer snowshoe rentals and provide maps of our snowshoe trails. There will be a few Moonlight Snowshoe Hikes and some public Maple Syrup Making programs as well.

Our 4th ecotour will find our group traveling to Ecuador to experience the fabulous Tandayapa Lodge in the Andes Mountains, nicknamed "Hummingbird Heaven". We hope to see all the local bird species alongside the neotropical migrants that spend summers with us in Minnesota and Wisconsin. As I write this there are only two openings left. If you are interested in learning about our winter birding and travel experiences, contact me and I will put your name on

our list of "travelers" who get the first emails once the next trip destination and logistics are lined up.

Speaking of birds, we will again host the exciting folks from the World Bird Sanctuary during the first weekend of March. Their "Masters of the Sky" programs sell out every time they visit with their trained birds from all over the world. Each year they bring different birds so you will not know what to

expect until you see it in person.



A Barn Owl demonstrates its magnificent silent flight as it flies over a mesmerized audience at CNC in 2011. Photo by Chris Mueller.

Consider visiting us during the winter to see how the nature center looks during the changing seasons. I hope you have a happy holiday season and celebrate the

great new year with a bigger, better bird feeder. As always please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor before recycling it. Thank you and Happy New Year.



Where at CNC?

Pictured L-R Jessie Haas, Brooke Flanders-Johnson, Piper Dutton, Brianna Albertson, Emalie Marion (not pictured Audrey Fredricksen).

Near the herb garden is a new spot to take a rest and enjoy nature. Hudson Scout Troop 53021 created a bench as part of the St. Croix Valley Bench Project, which reflects Carpenter Nature Center, the St. Croix Valley and their personal design styles. The girls were assisted by artist Estela de Paola de Lerma, and received their bronze awards after the bench's unveiling at the 2011 Raptor Release. Photo by Kirsten Dutton.

Upcoming Programs

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

a group program please call the office: **651-437-4359**

For more information, to RSVP, or to schedule

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Moonlight Snowshoe Hikes

January 6 & February 3 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

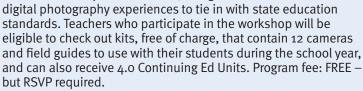
Enjoy a winter night under the moonlight with a relaxing snowshoe hike at Carpenter Nature Center. Warm up by the fire after the hike and enjoy some fresh popcorn and hot apple cider. Snowshoes provided or bring your own; no experience necessary.

Dress appropriately for the weather and wear warm boots; recommended for ages 10 and up. Choose whichever date works for you. Program fee: \$8.00 per person or \$6.00 for "Friends of CNC".

Digital Photography Teacher Workshop

January 14 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. 'Bridge to Nature' is a Minnesota DNR initiative, which offers **FREE** workshops to teachers of grades 3 – 9, including home school teachers. Facilitators will show you

how to enhance your curriculum, using





Amy Field grows all her vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers for her catering business, Sunny Day Catering in River Falls, WI.

APRIL

Organic Gardening presented by Amy Field

April 22 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Spend some time on Earth Day learning how to build a sustainable future through organic gardening, mindful eating, and helping ourselves and others get connected to our food sources. Instructor Amy Field will show how you can make fast and easy

container gardens and a simple raised bed. Heirloom seeds and biodegradable pots will be furnished to get you started on your own garden. If you don't have space for a large garden, learn how you can get involved with Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) and reap the benefits of locally grown, healthy fruits and vegetables. Amy worked as a chef for two of Hawaii's top spas and has been a private chef for celebrities Bette Midler, Ellen DeGeneres, Jane Fonda and others. This program will be a special treat you won't want to miss. Program fee: \$15.00 per person or \$10.00 for "Friends of CNC".

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Daytime Snowshoe Hike

January 29

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Join a naturalist on an afternoon snowshoe hike to look for animal tracks and other clues of animal activity. Snowshoes provided or bring your own; no experience necessary. Dress appropriately for the weather and wear warm boots; recommended for ages 10 and up. Program fee: \$7.00 per person or \$5.00 for "Friends of CNC".

MARCH

Making Maple Syrup

March 11 & 18

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Welcome the coming of spring by joining the CNC staff in the tradition of making maple syrup. We'll hike to the "sugarbush" to tap Maple trees, witness the process of turning sap into syrup and sample the finished product. This program will start indoors, but be prepared to hike in the spring snow and mud. These programs usually fill quickly. Choose whichever date works for you. Program fee: \$6.00 per person or \$4.00 for "Friends of CNC" and children under 10.

Scout Day - Making Maple Syrup

March 25

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Join other Scouts (boys and girls) as we hike to the "sugarbush" to tap maple trees and collect the sap. See how the sap is turned into maple syrup and sample the finished product. This program will start indoors, but be prepared to hike in the spring snow and mud. Program fee: \$6.00 per person or \$4.00 for "Friends of CNC".

Home School: Wetlands & Water Quality

April 27

CNC's Home School Programs are created to offer students in home schools an opportunity to meet other children, take part in environmental education programs, and enjoy the outdoors. Students ages 5 – 9 yrs will explore the diversity of life in the wetland and learn about the important role that wetlands play

wetland and learn about the important role that wetlands play in our environment. Older students (ages 10 yrs & up) will use monitoring equipment to measure abiotic and biotic factors in a wetland to determine the water quality. Please dress appropriately for the weather and to get wet feet. Program fee: \$6.00 per student or \$4.00 for "Friends of CNC".

Bird Banding

Fourth Fridays 8:30 a.m. - Noon January 27 April 27 February 24 March 23 **May 25** 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.

Preschool Story Time

Fridays 10:00 – 11:00 am

January 13 What Happened to the Mitten?

February 10 Winter Fun March 9 Feathered Friends
April 20 Earth Day Celebration May 4 Hop Into Spring

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 per preschooler 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.

Be part of the tradition! For twenty-seven years runners have flocked to the St. Croix Valley to experience one of Minnesota's most challenging half-marathons. Even more runners have participated in the less difficult 10K, 5K and the 2 K Fun Run. Known for the scenic hills and blooming apple orchards, the Apple Blossom Races have something for everyone. It's a great excuse to get outside with friends and family to get some exercise and to support a fabulous cause. All proceeds help to keep Carpenter Nature Center's K-12 curriculum affordable and available to local school children. Visit www.carpenternaturecenter.org to print out a registration form.

Ecuador Ecotour

February 25 – March 4

Travel to Ecuador for the adventure of a lifetime. The tour departs



The Black-mantled Goldeneve is just one of over 300 moth and butterfly species observed at the Tandayapa Lodge.

from Quito, Ecuador, with five nights in the Cloud Forest at the Tandavapa BirdLodge.com and two nights in Hotel Sebastian in Ouito. The cost is \$1675 per person (single occupancy is \$1829), including meals, ground transportation, and entrance fees to the reserves. There are

only two spots left and reservations will be accepted on a first come-first served basis. For more information contact: lim@ CarpenterNatureCenter.org.

2012 DATES TO PUT ON THE CALENDAR

Ecuador ecotour February 25 - March 4 Masters of the Sky March 3 & 4 Apple Blossom Races May 20th Summer Camp July: dates to be determined St. Croix Valley Scramble July 23rd 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 Ecotour 2013 location tbd RSVP deadline Nov. 30th

For more details please call 651-437-4359



Masters of the Sky Presented by the World Bird Sanctuary of St. Louis, Missouri

Saturday, March 3rd & Sunday, March 4th 1-hour programs at 11:00, 1:00 & 3:00

Are you intrigued by owls? In awe of eagles? Fascinated by falcons?

Join experts from the World Bird Sanctuary to learn about birds from all around the world. See live raptors from North America, Eurasia and Africa. These avian ambassadors travel throughout the United States helping teach students about raptors, the environment and what we can do to protect raptors and their habitats worldwide. The birds will mesmerize you with their beauty. Visitors will also enjoy seeing many of these incredible raptors in flight over the audience.

Each year the World Bird Sanctuary brings different birds for you to learn about. This year we will meet an Australian Wedge-tailed Eagle and an Egyptian Vulture along with other new raptors.



The Eurasian Eagle Owl is the largest owl species in the

Returning from last year will be the ghostly Barn Owl which glides over the audience without making a sound and the enormous, magnificent Eurasian Eagle Owl with its glowing orange

Program fees are \$10 per person or \$7 for 'Friends of CNC', children 2 years & younger are free.

Please call early to RSVP as these world. Photo by Chris Mueller. programs as they WILL sell out.

2012 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center *Phenology from 2011 (with additional entries from 1990 - 2009)*

	80					
New Year's Day CNC Closed	8 hours and 52 minutes daylight	January	4 Chickadees singing spring "fee-bee"	Barred Owl by honey bee hives (1990)	Public Program: Moonlight Snowshoe Hike	7 2 Bald Eagles at Pt Douglas open water
8	Full Moon 9	10	11 Pileated Woodpecker on suet feeder	12	Preschool Story Time: What Happened to the Mitten?	St Croix River 14 frozen across (1997) Digital Photography Workshop
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr's birthday observed	Moon at perigee 229,843 miles	18	19 12 Mourning Doves under feeders (1995)	St. Croix River iced over (2011)	21 -24 degrees F at 7:22 am
22	Deep Snow Moon 23 Chinese New Year (Dragon)	24 9 Northern Cardinals at feeders at once	25	26 St Paul Winter Carnival begins	27 Public Bird Banding	28 Northern Flicker at bird bath
Public Program: Snowshoe Hike	30	31 Bird feeders really busy	9 hours and 48 minutes daylight	2 Groundhog Day	Public Program: Moonlight Snowshoe Hike	February 4
5 Super Bowl Sunday	6	Full Moon 7	Saturn: Retrograde motion begins	9	Preschool Story Time: Winter Fun	11
12	High temp of 48° F!	14 Valentine's Day	15	Pair of Pileated Woodpeckers near Admin Bldg. (2009)	17	18 Snowy Owl at Fisher Orchard (2004)
19	President's Day; 20 Snowfall records broken across the metro	21 Snow total for Hastings 2/20– 2/21 = 12.4"	22	Snow Buntings on 122nd	24 Public Bird Banding Program	Ecuador Ecotour 25 Aspen buds opening (1998)
26 Ecuador Ecotour	Ecuador Ecotour 27 Moon at Apogee	28 Ecuador Ecotour	Ecuador Ecotour	Ecuador Ecotour	2 Ecuador Ecotour	Masters of the Sky (Presented by the World Bird Sanctuary)

	251,576		Leap Day	Chipmunk Signted		Ecuador Ecotour
Masters of the Sky (Presented by the World Bird Sanctuary) Ecuador Ecotour	5 Jim had a biting deer tick!	March	7 Purim begins at sunset	Full Moon 8 Maple sap is running	9 Preschool Story Time: Feathered Friends	10
Public Program: 11 Making Maple Syrup Daylight Savings Time begins	12 Robins are back (1996)	13	14 Sap Running (2001)	15	16 1st Red-winged Blackbird and Robin	St Patrick's Day 17 Barred Owl watching orchard
18 Public Program: Making Maple Syrup	1 0 1 19	1st thunder of the 20 season Vernal equinox	21 Bluebirds in orchard	New Moon 22 Snowshoe Breaking Moon	23 Public Bird Banding Program	24 Woolly bear caterpillar on IC sidewalk
25 Scout Day - Making Maple Syrup	26 First Bluebirds at CNC (1997)	27 First windsurfer on St Croix (2000)	28	Tornado strikes St. Peter (1998)	30 1st Eastern Phoebe	31 45 gallons of sap collected
1 Hermit Thrush over- wintered at WI campus	April	Northern Shrike singing at entrance	4 Loons on St. Croix	5	Full Moon 6 Catkins on aspen tree	7 1st 13-lined ground squirrel
8 Mourning cloak butterfly (1st of year)	9 Cowbirds arrived mosquitoes, too	lce out on St Croix 1st garter snake	11 1st dragonfly	Pasque flower blooming	13 Daffodils opening	14 Snow flurries at noon
15 130 Pelicans	Tax returns due	17	18	Woodcock in oak savanna	20 Preschool Story Time: Earth Day Celebration	New Moon 21 Maple Sap Moon
Earth Day 22 Public Program: Organic Gardening	23 Blue-winged Teal in wetland	24	25 Hepatica blooming	26 Wild ginger blooming	Home School: 27 Wetlands & Water Quality Public Bird Banding	28 Astronomy Day
29 14 hours and 12 minutes of daylight	Green Heron on wetland		Heratica			*

People Profile

Volunteer Spotlight

In this issue we tip our hats to one of our fantastic Saturday animal care crew – **Doreen Deutsch**. Doreen has been helping with animal care since February of 2010. However, she actually started volunteering back in 1984 with the wildlife rehabilitation department. In addition, she has put in hours at many of



our special events, even staying much later than she anticipated helping with the live animal program for the Raptor Release in 2010. Thanks Doreen for your "can do" attitude and willingness to pitch in when we really need it. We deeply appreciate your dedication and support of CNC – you're one of the best!

Meet Our Interns



Brian Strandberg came to CNC with the hope and expectation for learning environmentally friendly methods of agriculture. He made the most of his 7-week horticulture internship by bringing high energy and an enormous curiosity. Brian helped with the fall apple harvest and had the chance to learn about the agricultural methods of Integrated Pest Management. He

also had many opportunities to learn additional skills including beekeeping, setting up irrigation systems, using a chainsaw and other heavy equipment. He hopes to utilize these skills in the future as a volunteer with the U.S. Peace Corps. After his internship, Brian plans to join an AmeriCorps program dealing with conservation projects in Arizona and Colorado. Brian graduated from the University of North Dakota with a B.A. in International Studies and Anthropology. He plans to keep in touch with Carpenter Nature Center and will be contacting CNC staff when he needs advice on agricultural and environmental projects.

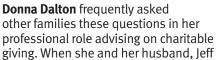
Danielle Holt began her environmental education internship at CNC in September, coming with a passion for learning about the natural world and a desire to teach others. She started out teaching several apple orchard classes along with a wide range of preschool storytime programs



and various other school programs. Besides teaching classes, she has been helping with animal care and is working on handling the raptors for programs. During the special events she jumped right in to help out and coordinated the children's activity tent during Apple Festival. We are fortunate that Danielle will be with us through the entire school year, leading snowshoe hikes, helping with the maple syrup production and teaching the thousands of school children that will be visiting for winter and spring classes. Besides gaining hands-on teaching experience at CNC, Danielle is also currently taking classes at Hamline University towards her master's degree in natural science and environmental education.

Advisory Board Member Bio

How do you want to make a difference for others? What things are most critical to a person's well-being? What are your core values?





Brower, discussed these same questions, it became clear that ensuring the community, now and into the future, has access to and understands how to steward the environment was of great importance.

To put their values into action, Donna, Jeff and their 5 year old daughter, Amelia, financially contribute to Carpenter. "As a family, we 'adopted' the owl. I'm not sure who is more excited - Amelia or Jeff - to have their support help an animal that is so awesome and ensure Carpenter visitors have a great learning experience, "Donna said. In addition to their family's financial support, Donna serves on the Carpenter Nature Center's Development Committee, where she best can use her nonprofit experience. She has held a variety of staff and volunteer roles at foundations and nonprofits and is the executive director of The Mortenson Family Foundation.

Their family lives in Afton, where Donna grew up and Jeff's family homesteaded. Donna shared, "The St. Croix Valley is very special to our family. When we connect our values to a community for which we care deeply, it makes sense to support Carpenter with both our money and time."

Get to know our Friends of CNC

This issue we are proud to highlight a new family of "Friends of CNC". **Amy, Matt** & **Michael Freyberger** are longtime volunteers in CNC's animal care department. If you have visited CNC during the warmer weather you may have met them while they were exercising the turtles in the water garden or on the lawn. Just as exercise is beneficial for humans, it is equally good for the turtles' health.

Volunteering is an activity the Freybergers enjoy together and so is philanthropy. This year Michael saved up his allowance and donated it in a lump sum to Carpenter Nature Center. The funding was used to help feed and care for the education animals, as well as purchase a new outdoor bird feeder. "Carpenter Nature Center depends upon both volunteer support and



Amy Freyberger and her son Michael and CNC's Blanding's Turtle. Matt Freyberger was writing college exams at the time this photo was taken.

philanthropic donations to serve over 20,000 visitors each year. We are so very grateful for Michael's thoughtfulness and donation. It gives me hope for the future when I meet young families raising their children to value volunteer work and giving back to the community", said executive director, Jim Fitzpatrick. Thank you Amy, Michael and Matt for being terrific Friends of CNC!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer Information Meetings will be held January 18th, March 7th and April 25th at 7pm. This informal meeting will last about an hour and expand on the volunteer opportunities available at CNC. Please call 651-437-4359 to let the Alan know you are coming; if you can't make this meeting please call for a one-on-one time slot.

Volunteer Opportunities for the Winter at CNC

Public & School Programs: Volunteer help would be appreciated for the following **K-12 classes:** Winter Birds, Survival, Winter Fest, and Maple Syrup Making. These upcoming **public programs** are also good opportunities for volunteers to help out: Moonlight Snowshoe Hikes and Making Maple Syrup.

Masters of the Sky March 3rd & 4th: Volunteer help will be needed throughout this weekend preparing for over 800 visitors who visit CNC in just two days. Tasks will include cleaning, visitor check-in, food and drink sales, kids activities, parking & more.

Maple Syrup Making: Besides the maple syrup programs, help will also be needed gathering sap and running the evaporator.

April 15 Adopt-A-Highway spring cleanup: Let's make sure the roadsides are litter-free when visitors come to CNC this spring. Join us from 1-3 p.m. to pickup litter. Bring your favorite litter-poking stick; snacks will be provided for those who are food motivated.

Apple Blossom Races on May 20: Please mark your calendars for race day as we will need lots of help to make the races a success. Carpenter Nature Center hosts 500-700 runners plus their families from 6 a.m. - noon that day. Typically this event needs the help of 75 volunteers to run smoothly. It's a fun event to help out with as you will meet many of CNC's other smiling and fun volunteers.

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

RIVER BLUFF PAVILION RENTALS

We knew the pavilion was a beautiful addition to the Minnesota Campus and that it would be heavily used by school groups. We did not anticipate its

overnight popularity as a wedding reception location.



If you are interested in renting the pavilion for a private or corporate event, please understand that our visiting student groups and events take priority. We are currently

booking the venue 18 months out. For

more details, including rates, call 651-437-4359 or contact
Alan@CarpenterNatureCenter.org.



Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In memory of Mark Berg from Bill & Betty Berg
In memory of Donna J. Buck from Donald Buck
In memory of Ben Cavin from Ann Cavin
In memory of J.T. & P.W. Fitzpatrick from Charlie Fitzpatrick
In memory of W.W. Greenwood from Daryl & Dennis Donath
In memory of Ann Matz from Jay Griggs & Margaret Ontl
In memory Warren Rada from Jim & Judy Freund
In memory of Delia M. Setzer from Bob & Kathy Setzer
In memory of Ted Stromberg from Jim & Judy Freund
In memory of Kathy Zonne from Marie Davis, George Folt, Maxine
Halvorson, Joanna & Roger Haugen, Steve & Mayme Johnson, Gail
MacPherson, Thomas & Margaret McMahon, Roger & Julie Moberg,
Greg & Jen Vieth, Pat West

In memory of Charlotte Starr, Mary Hoel, Erwin Harsdorf & Ramona Karstetter from Daryl & Jan Standafer Memorial tree for Lad & Lill Wirka from Jo & Robert Horak In memory of Sara Ann Haynes from Charlotte Brown

In honor of their children John, Claire & Ben from Dean & Julie Jakubowicz

In honor of Enid Hogg from William & Ruth Estes
In honor of Tom & Mary Skinner from Kathleen Fritz
In honor of Emma Hills from Christine Hills
In honor of The Kern Family from Barbara Feig
In honor of Ardith Wacker's 88th birthday from Daughters &
Husbands: Judy & Larry Hilkemann, Jeanette & Bill Moser, Jean &
Don Mueting.

In honor of Kenneth Wacker from Grant Wacker In honor of Ellen Wang from Raymond Chiu & Stephanie Wang

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Form of Payment: (Check one) Copies of this form are acceptable	Cash (accepted in person only) Check (payable to Carpenter Nature Center) Credit Card Amount \$			
I'm interested in learning more about the				



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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:

Plastic 8-15 gallon storage containers with lids, child-sized snowshoes, "Swiss Miss" Hot Cocoa Mix, yellow lemonade powder mix, ring buoy, kick sleds, ladder for the dock

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.