

Volume 35, Number 1 Winter 2016

# Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

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www. Carpenter Nature Center. org

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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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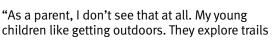


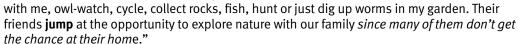
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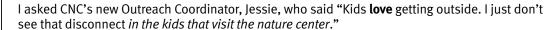
# Field Notes

By Jen Vieth

As the long-lasting fall colors blended into browns, and the crisp morning turned frosty, I had the pleasure of spending time with an inspiring friend—whose career involves protecting exquisite natural areas. That day he had questions for me: *Had I observed a change in our youth? Are children really more difficult to get out into nature these days?* 







I asked our Program Director, Mayme, who has taught environmental education for more than 30 years, "the kids are just as **fascinated** with nature today as they were when I started teaching. Their eyes light up and they have loads of questions. Just the other day, I was teaching a group of youngsters. The kids were having a great time. They wanted to keep exploring, but it started misting. *The adults asked me to cut the program short and move it all inside.*"



Putting these experiences together, I had a theory: *maybe kids haven't changed*. Children are still innately enthralled with nature. Maybe it is us, the adults, who have changed. We're busier. Streets seem busier. Dangerous strangers seem more abundant. Youth activities require more time. Schools have less time and money for experiential field trips. There just seems to be far less time. Less family time. Less time learning together. Less time to spend in nature.

The "disconnect from nature" has the potential of multiplying with each generation. Every child who does not spend time in nature, may be less comfortable in nature and therefore less likely to make a priority of spending time outside with their own children. There are abundant studies that document the mental and physical benefits of time in nature. On a personal level, I can vividly picture

the rosy cheeks and smiles on children's faces after a hike along CNC's snow-covered trails, or the awe in adult's faces when an unseen owl silently launches off a branch above their heads.

After the busy holiday season, why not take a moment to reflect on what really matters to you and what you hope for in the New Year. We definitely do not need more stress or "time-in-nature-quotas." However, each of us could make a realistic goal to set aside five minutes here, an hour there, maybe even a full day, to spend time in nature with those we care about. Time to slow down. Time to explore. Time to learn together. Time to reconnect.

Reservations are required

Upcoming Programs

Carpenter Nature Center offers a wide variety of public programs.

Reservations are required. For more information, to RSVP or to **Reservations are required.** For more information, to RSVP or to schedule a group program, please call the office at 651-437-4359.

# WI Campus Bird Hikes with the SCVBC

January 16 & February 13 • 9:00 a.m.

March 12 & April 16 • 8:00 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. Come to one or all of the hikes. Program Fee: \$6 or FREE for "Friends of CNC" and SCVBC members.

WI Campus — 300 E. Cove Road, Hudson

## Owl Prowls

January 8 & February 12 • Minnesota campus January 29 & March 4 • Wisconsin campus

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Explore Carpenter Nature Center** on a guided night hike while looking and listening for owls. At this time of the year many of the Midwest's 12 native owl species are hooting, tooting and whinnying to attract mates. If there is adequate snow cover, snowshoes will be provided or bring your own. Program fee is \$6 per person or \$4 for "Friends



of CNC." WI Campus - 300 E. Cove Road, Hudson

# Public Bird Banding

January 22 • February 26 • March 25 • April 22 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Join CNC's expert bird banders every month as they catch, band and release songbirds on our Minnesota campus. Banding runs continuously and visitors may come and go at any time. Donations of birdseed or suet are greatly appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

# Outreach, Birthday & Scout Programs

To schedule a program for your school, church, community center, corporate gathering or other event, contact Jessie Eckroad at 651-437-4359 or Jessie@CarpenterNatureCenter.org

# Home School Programs

February 12 • 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. • Winter Survival April 15 • 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. • Invertebrates

CNC's Home School Programs are created to offer students (ages 5 and up) an opportunity to meet other children and take part in outdoor environmental education. Winter Survival students will learn important outdoor survival skills. The Invertebrates program focuses on invertebrates' characteristics and searching for live examples. The majority of time is spent outdoors. Program fee: \$6 per student or \$4 for "Friends of CNC."



During Winter Survival class students discuss human survival needs and learn to make a signal, make a fire, and construct a shelter.

# Adult Moonlight Snowshoe Hikes

January 22 & February 19 • 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Enjoy a winter night under the moonlight with a relaxing snowshoe hike at CNC. After the hike, warm up by the fire and enjoy some fresh popcorn and hot apple cider. Snowshoes provided or bring your own; dress appropriately for the weather. Program Fee: \$10 per person or \$7 for "Friends of CNC."

## Making Maple Syrup

March 6 & 20 • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. • Public Program March 19 • 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. • Scout Program

Welcome spring by joining the CNC staff in 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. Program fee: \$6 per person or \$4 for "Friends of CNC" and children under 10.

## Prairie Pollinators

April 16 • 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Enjoy a morning hike through the prairie. Explore the many facets of the prairie ecosystem and discover how CNC uses prescribed prairie burns to maintain a healthy balance in the environment. Learn about the role pollinators play in the prairie ecosystem. Collect plant stems and create homes for native bees for your backyard. Program fee: \$6 per person or \$4 for "Friends of CNC."



# Geocaching - WI Campus

April 30 • 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Join Carpenter Nature Center staff on a high tech treasure hunt. Using Carpenter's GPS units or your own device, we will search for hidden containers called caches. Learn a little bit about geocaching before heading out in groups to explore the Nature Center. Program fee: \$6 per person or \$4 for "Friends of CNC." WI Campus — 300 E. Cove Road, Hudson

# Scout Fun Day: Wilderness Survival Skills

lanuary 23 • 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Learn winter survival skills and make friends while visiting CNC for our Scout Fun Day. Cub and Girl Scouts, ages 8-11, are welcome to participate in our winter survival course where they will learn the essentials including how to build a fire, shelter, and rescue signal, as well as basic first aid for the cold. Space is limited so call 651-437-4359 to pay and pre-register. Program fee: \$6 per scout; no charge for accompanying scout leaders.

# **Upcoming Events**

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

## Masters of the Sky Presented by the World Bird Sanctuary

February 27 & February 28 11:00 a.m. • 1:00 p.m. • 3:00 p.m.

The World Bird Sanctuary staff from St. Louis, Missouri, will be coming to Carpenter Nature Center to present a captivating educational program about birds of prey. Visitors will learn about raptors from around the world. Experience live hawks, eagles, owls, falcons and vultures up close and in free-flight. The presenters will introduce methods to help protect raptors and their habitats. Event Fee: \$10 or \$7 for "Friends of CNC." RSVP and non-refundable prepayment required.





# 31st Apple Blossom Races

May 15 • 8:00 a.m.

Get ready for the 31st running of the Apple Blossom Races. The routes are family friendly for avid walkers and runners alike! We offer four different races:

- 5K is a fast straight route down St. Croix Trail
- 10K is partially through the CNC's woodlands and savannahs
- Half marathon challenges runners as they witness the beauty of St. Croix Valley orchards along the hilly countryside
- FREE 2K Fun Run following the other races at 11:00 a.m.

The event fee is \$32 for the 5K & 10K and \$42 for the 1/2 marathon. Fees will be \$8 more to register on race day. You can register online at our website or call 651-437-4359 for a brochure.

Sponsorships make this event possible. If you are interested in donating food, awards or funding, please contact 651-437-4359 or Clare@CarpenterNatureCenter.org.

# Apple Blossom Races 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. The course is on paved roads and CNC's trail system—including paved, wood chipped and grass trails. There is no admission fee but space is limited so please RSVP at 651-437-4359.



# Earth Day Birding Festival

April 23 • 8:00 a.m.

Celebrate birds and conservation at the Hastings Area Earth Day Birding Festival. This is the fourth year the Hastings Environmental Protectors has teamed up with CNC for the Birding Festival. Classes and demonstrations are being offered to introduce you to raptors, birding, and bird banding. Guided bird trips will be available in the Hastings area. Event Fee: \$5 or \$15 with a box lunch. RSVPs Required.

2016 DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR St. Croix Valley Scramble......July 18 Cove Art Festival . . . . . . . . . . August 27 Apple Shack Opens ..... Around Labor Day Autumn in the Valley Gala ..... September 11 Raptor Release.....September 24 Apple Fest ......October 8 & 9

# Upcoming Programs continued...

# Pre-School Story Time

January 15 • Winter Mittens February 12 • I ♥ Furry Animals March 18 • Syrup Season **April 22** • Earth Day Celebration May 6 • Flowers 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

These programs are designed to introduce children ages 2-5 to nature in a fun and safe environment. Listen to stories, spend time outdoors, make a



craft and meet live animals. Be sure to RSVP, programs sell out. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Program fee: \$5 per child or \$3 for "Friends of CNC." No charge for accompanying adult.

# Summer Camps

Save the date for CNC's fun and educational summer camps. More information can be found on our website.

Nature Nuts (ages 5-6) • June 27-July 1 Explorers (ages 9-11) • July 11-16 Pioneers (ages 7-8) • July 25-29 Raptor Camp (ages 12 & up) • August 1-2 Canoe Trip (ages 12 & up) • August 3-5 Fishing Fun (ages 6-11) • July 28 & August 10

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# 2016 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center Phenology from 2015 (with additional entries from CNC's past phenology notes)

Phen	Phenology from 2015 (with additional entries from CNC's past phenology notes)					
3	January  Eastern Bluebird in	5	Windsurfer on	7	New Year's Day – CNC Closed  Owl Prowl: MN Campus	20 Gray Squirrels at feeders (1992)  Mink on
	small tractor shed (2011)		St. Croix River (2007)		Mississippi River open at Hastings (1998)	Administration Building Porch (1996)
10	11	Honey bees on cleansing flights (2005)	Eagles on Warner Road nest	Red-tailed Hawks on Hwy 10 & 61 nest	Preschool Story Time: Winter Mittens	Bird Hike with St. 16 Croix Valley Bird Club (Wisconsin Campus)
Cars driving on river ice (1999)	18  Martin Luther King Day	19 12 Mourning Doves under feeders (1994)	20	21 2 Bobwhite Quail (2013)	Adult Moonlight 22 Snowshoe Hike Public Bird Banding	Scout Day: 23 Wilderness Survival Skills Full Moon
24	25 5 deer in Ravine (1995)	26	27	8+ Common Redpolls at feeder	Owl Prowl (WI Campus)	30
31	February  American Tree Sparrows at feeders	2 Sundogs	Boreal Owl near I.C. Building (1996)	5 shrew sighted in basement (1995)	5	European Starling's beaks mostly yellow (2003)
7	1st Maple tree tapped (1999)	Coyote spotted in north ravine (2003)	10	Horned Larks are back	Preschool Story Time: 12  I ♥ Furry Animals  Home School: Winter Survival Owl Prowl (MN Campus)	Bird Hike with 13 the St. Croix Valley Bird Club (Wisconsin Campus)
14 Valentine's Day	President's Day	Pair of Pileated Woodpeckers at feeders (2009)	17	Northern Cardinals singing spring song	Adult Moonlight Snowshoe Hike	20
"Snow-ma-geddon 2.0" – 12.4 inches for Hastings (2011)	Full Moon	23	24	Pansies starting to bloom (1998)	26 Public Bird Banding	27 Masters of the Sky Programs
28 Masters of the Sky Programs	29	March 6 Bald Eagles on ice near Prescott bridge (2009)	2	3	Owl Prowl 4 (WI Campus) Rough-legged Hawk on prairie	5
6 Making Maple Syrup	1st Red-winged Blackbird (2012)	8	Turkeys displaying south of Fischer's Orchard	10	11 Tree Frogs heard from CNC farmhouse	Bird Hike with the St. Croix Valley Bird Club (WI Campus)
Daylight Savings Time Begins	14 Moths in sap buckets	Great Blue Heron over river	16 Silver Maples in bloom	St. Patrick's Day	Preschool Story Time: Syrup Season	Scout Day: Making Maple Syrup
Making Maple Syrup Vernal Equinox: Spring Begins!	21 Ice out on wetland	22	Full Moon	24	25 Public Bird Banding	26
27 Easter – CNC Closed	28 Prescribed burn on Oak Savannah (2012)	29	30 100+ Tundra Swans flying over	31	April 1 1st Brown-headed Cowbird	Eastern Phoebes are back
Common Loons on St. Croix (2011)	4	5 St. Croix Ice Out (2006)	6	Earthworms everywhere!! (2001)	8 Bud Break on Zestar Apples (2004)	9
10 1st Pasque flowers blooming	Garter Snake by CNC farmhouse (2010)	New Record High 83°F (2006)	13	14	Home School 15 Program: Invertebrates Prairie Smoke blooming	Prairie Pollinators 16 Bird Hike with the St. Croix Valley Bird Club (Wisconsin Campus)
17	18 Wind Gust: 65 MPH at 7:57 pm (2004)	19	Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up	21	Earth Day 22 Full Moon Public Bird Banding Preschool Story Time: Earth Day Celebration	Earth Day Birding Festival
24	25 2 Eastern Bluebird nests with eggs	26	Pear Tree Flowering (2009)	28 Juncos have left (1998)	29	Geocaching 30 (WI Campus) Pear, Plum and Cherry trees in full bloom

# People Profiles

# Meet Our Fall 2015 Interns







Katrinna Dodge Amy M

### Katrinna Dodge - Communication Intern UW-River Falls • Communication Studies

Katrinna Dodge relished interning at CNC this past fall. She aided with events, monitored social media pages, updated WI Campus kiosks, and wrote monthly e-blasts. Her favorite memory is mailing annual appeal letters with Clare and talking with Jen on KDWA. She graduated from UW-River Falls in December.

#### Amy Miller - Horticulture Intern University of Sheffield • Landscape Architecture

Amy Miller appreciated her time at Carpenter Nature Center. She spent most of her time working on a management plan for CNC's Wisconsin campus, which included researching the history, geology and vegetation of the area. Her favorite memory is conducting vegetation surveys on site with volunteers.

#### Kaila Vogt – Environmental Education Intern Luther College • Biology Major • Chemistry Minor Kaila Vogt has been enjoying her time at Carpenter Nature Center.

Some of her favorite things include working with the raptors and leading children on nature hikes. She feels privileged to be working on projects that will be making a difference here at Carpenter; specifically, she is focusing on curriculum content. Kaila cannot wait to continue her internship this winter and spring.



## Where at CNC?

# Visitors note that the most common way they find us is by our entrance sign.

You can find the new entrance sign across from our driveway on St. Croix Trail South. Board members Paul Jeske, Vickie Batroot, and Colleen Moran spearheaded the project to replace our previous sign. Donations from 3M, Xcel Energy, and Maple Crest Landscaping made creation of the entrance sign possible. Thank you to everyone for creating a sign that makes the Carpenter Nature Center more visible from the road.

# Volunteer Spotlight Jessica Cavis

In this issue we are delighted to shine our spotlight on Jessica Cavis. Jessica started volunteering in November of 2013 and has racked up over 400 hours. She is a valuable member of our Mew Cleaning Crew, a wonderful trio of volunteers who make sure our program raptors have clean and healthy display areas.



After cleaning the mews Jess also feeds the birds and often does impromptu mini-programs for visitors who happen to be in the Visitor Center when she is feeding the raptors. Jess has a wonderful, calm, cool, professional quality that makes her a great raptor handler. Thank you Jess; you are a Volunteer Extraordinaire and we are grateful for your commitment to CNC.

# Meet our Outreach Program Coordinator Jessie Eckroad

An avid lover of the outdoors, Jessie has spent her life working and playing in nature. She is a graduate of Southwest Minnesota State University with degrees in Environmental Science and



Sociology, and was our Education Intern during the 2014-2015 academic year. She became our Outreach Program Coordinator in June, and she now specializes in taking CNC's environmental classes out into the community. It would be her pleasure to come to your school, church, town festival, community center, library, corporate gathering, or other event to provide your group with entertaining and educational programming! In addition, she is providing on-site learning opportunities for scout groups and birthday parties.

# Did You Know?

Carpenter Nature Center provides many internship opportunities for college students and recent graduates. Under our internship program, you will have hands on experience and direct supervision. Internships available at CNC are: Environmental Education, Horticulture, Communication, and Natural Resources. We are currently accepting applications for interns for Spring and Summer 2016.

For more information to apply, please visit our website, or contact Mayme Johnson at 651-437-4359 or Mayme@ CarpenterNatureCenter.org.



# Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

#### In Honor of

Benny from William and Rush Estes Cathy from Tim & Kathy Mullaney Clare from Linda Polglase Colton & Owen by Michelle Etter Denis & Mary Clohisy from Kara Fall Liliana, Mariah, Sydney & Jackson from Pam & Ron Kukacka Gordie & Jo Bailey from Mark & Michelle Bailey Vickie Batroot from 3M Foundation Vickie & Gregg Batroot from Pam & Tim Kurtz Paul & Joyce Boettcher from Harriet Christianson Mary Clohisy from Deirdre Worrell and KC & Elizabeth Moore Walter C. Crawford from James Small Lyla Davies from Julie and Todd Sieben Donald Dawald & Angus Smetana from Martha & Gregory Smetana Martin Kellogg from Jeannie Kellogg Lois Kinsey from Marilyn Kinsey Tim Power from James & Elizabeth Moore Glenn Raffle from Eric Betthauser

# Flint Hills Resources from Carlson Commercial In Memory of

Their parents from Don and Jean Mueting Mike, Buzz & Marjorie from Abra Hovgaard & Holly Hanson Stan Allison from Leila Allison Donna & Larry Anderson from Pamela Regan Mark W. Berg from Bill and Betty Berg Walt Crawford, Jr. from Jim Fitzpatrick Timothy Gregory from Jeanne & Tom Gregory Gary Hall from Pam & Ron Kukacka Lynn Hayes from Steve Hayes George & Mary Hoel from Bob & Kathy Setzer Everett Johnson from Meg & Gary Johnson Leroy & Donna Johnson from Tammy Johnson Paul Johnson from Tricia Emilyn Hilger Philip Kacmarynski from Clem& JoAnn Kern Wimpy Kranz from Graphic Design, Inc., Tom Kranz Jennifer Mercado from Tricia Emilyn Hilger Bill Patterson from Stella Johnson Rob Runyon from Donna Fleming Runyon Kyle Sanders from Sandy Sanders Joni Stanton from Bob & Carol Jager Gene Starz from Elaine Starz Tonolli Richard & Lu Stoffel from Candance Dahl



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## Volunteer Corner

Volunteer Information Meetings for those interested will take place on the following Wednesday evenings: February 3, March 2, and April 27. These informal meetings will be held in the Visitor Center at 7:00 p.m. Please call **651-437-4359** to RSVP.

#### Winter Volunteer Opportunities

Help would be appreciated with the following:

**Classes** — Winter Birds, Snow and Ice, Winter Fest, Outdoor Survival, and Making Maple Syrup.

**Programs** — Moonlight Snowshoe Hikes, Masters of the Sky, and Making Maple Syrup. More info will be emailed to volunteers as these events draw closer.

**Events** — During March we could use help gathering sap and boiling it into syrup. Keep your eye on the weather and let us know if you want to help with this sweet endeavor.

Wednesday, April 20, we will do our **Spring Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup** starting at 6:30 p.m. Come out and help clean up the ditches and see what things people have left us. Past treasures include: a five dollar bill, working flashlight and an apologetic love letter that obviously didn't work.

Sunday, May 15, we will have our **Apple Blossom Races**. This is one of the many events where we shine, because of the tremendous help from volunteers. Come and be one of the photons that reflect our great CNC Volunteers.

We cannot say "Thank You" enough to our volunteers. If you do see a volunteer, be sure to express your appreciation especially during National Volunteer Week, April 10-16.

FRIENDS	OF CARPENTER	R NATURE CENTER	
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form are	Exp. Date:		
acceptable	Signature:		
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 in good condition:

Acrylic Paint Brushes (Assorted Sizes) 8 oz Bottles of Elmer's Glue White Cardstock White Poster Board Cardboard Wrapping Paper Tubes
Water Color Paint Sets
Clear Fishing Line
1-Gallon Bottles of Tempera Paint

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.





# twitter



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.