

Volume 37, Number 2 Summer 2018

Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

12805 St. Croix Trail S. Hastings, Minnesota 55033

Wisconsin Campus: 300 E. Cove Rd. Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

Phone: 651-437-4359

www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org

"The mission of Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center is fostering a lifelong appreciation of the natural world through environmental education, habitat conservation and outdoor experiences."

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CONTRIBUTORS: Jessie Eckroad, Erika Jensen, Mayme Johnson, Alan Maloney, Conor Rose, Jennifer Vieth

Color sponsored by



Field Notes

By Jen Vieth

One could argue that the study of nature began between 384-322 B.C. with the great philosopher Aristotle, also known as "The First Scientist." In reality, our ancestors were making observations, and developing hypotheses about natural phenomena, long before Aristotle. Our ancestors' survival depended on these hypotheses. Waiting to plant a crop until after the first song of the Whippoorwill is based on observations of the co-occurrence of the birds' breeding season and optimal climatic planting conditions.







European species of redstarts (top left) and robins (top right) may look similar, but one species does not change into the other, as Aristotle once thought. Scientists today use more sophisticated methods for migration observations, such as satellite telemetry. Data has shown that, after nesting season, Osprey (bottom) from Minnesota migrate to wintering grounds in South America.

However, not all hypotheses end up being correct. A hypothesis is simply a "best guess" based on the facts to date. Even Aristotle developed some hypotheses that seem absurd today. Aristotle believed that **redstarts**. a bird species that nests in Greece, transmutated into **robins** in winter. Todav we know the seasonal disappearance of redstarts is due to migration, not transmutation. Recently technology proved that godwits (a shorebird species) migrate more than 7,000 miles, nonstop—a feat that is nearly as unbelievable as transmutation. We now know "our" birds survival relies both on environmental decisions made in our communities, as well as those made in countries thousands of miles away.

As a philosopher, Aristotle used reason and logic to analyze the ways in which humans experience the world. This spring, a philosophy professor who volunteers at CNC, introduced me to the "Perfectionist Fallacy" as we talked about Green Birding. Green Birding can

be summed up as decreasing fossil fuel consumption to zero when observing birds. Some would say if you can't get to a bird by foot or by bicycle, it is not "true" Green Birding. The fallacy is that there are not just two options available; to be a perfect green birder, or not to be. There are many intermediate options that have a positive impact AND are more attainable, such as car-pooling and using refillable water bottles. As we enter the time of year when we gather to celebrate at a wedding, a reunion or a barbeque, take a moment to consider the Perfectionist Fallacy. If we don't believe that our guests will recycle ALL beverage cans, shouldn't we still offer recycling as an option? I believe it is better to do something, than nothing.

As Voltaire wrote in 1772, "Le mieux est l'ennemi du bien." Perfection is the enemy of good. This summer, enjoy being good enough. Every small action does make a difference.

Upcoming Events

Reservations are required

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

651-437-4359



May 20 • 8:00 a.m. • 5K, 10K & 2K Fun Run

For over 30 years, runners of all abilities have flocked to the St. Croix Valley to support CNC. This family friendly race has a speed and distance for everyone.

- 5K Run/Walk is a straight route down St. Croix Trail
- 10K is partially on the road and then weaves through the woodlands and savannahs at CNC
- FREE 2K Fun Run following other races at 9:30 am
 Event fee: \$32 for the 5K & 10K. Fee will be \$8 more to register
 on race day. Register online at active.com or you can register
 by paper form through CNC. For more information, visit



www.carpenternaturecenter.org.

2018 marks CNC's second annual participation in the Into the Wild Running Series. As part of the series, runners register for local races, and for an additional \$25.

can show their support for preserving and promoting green spaces. Proceeds support CNC, Wood Lake Nature Center, and Fort Snelling State Park. Participants receive an Into the Wild insulated tumbler. Not a runner, but want to show your support? Receive the Into the Wild tumbler by paying the \$25 series fee with no obligation to run.

Sponsorships make this event possible. If you are interested in donating food, awards, or funds, call Erika at 651-437-4359 or Erika@carpenternaturecenter.org.



Carpenter Art Festival Aug 25 • 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CNC welcomes you to celebrate art and nature on our Wisconsin Campus. Enjoy music, fine arts and crafts, and food from local artisans. Take in the beautiful scenery of this outdoor event, and visit the CNC tent to meet some of our live animal ambassadors. This event will take place rain or shine, so come prepared for the weather. A portion of all proceeds support environmental education and habitat conservation at Carpenter Nature Center. Painting: "Flicker" by 2018 featured artist Abbi Allan.

Minnesota Campus BioBlitz

June 2 • 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



Learn from bird, invertebrate, reptile, amphibian, and plant experts in a fun day of citizen science. Join inventory teams in restored prairies, riparian habitats, and wooded bluff lands to discover and document plant and animal species. All ages are welcome. Meet at the CNC Trailside Lodge: 12355 St. Croix

Trail S., Hastings. We are currently looking for survey leaders and event volunteers. To get involved, contact Jennifer@carpenternaturecenter.org or call 651-437-4359.

St. Croix Valley Scramble

July 23 • 1:00 p.m.

Enjoy a day of golf at the Afton Alps Golf Course in support of Carpenter Nature Center! All proceeds fund environmental education and habitat conservation at CNC. Whether you're an experienced or beginning golfer, you'll have fun at this 18-hole best ball tournament with shot gun start. Meals are catered by Colossal Café. Fees include box lunches, green fees, carts, dinner, and a donation to CNC. Hole



sponsorships are available. Visit the CNC website or call the office to request a registration form. Fee: \$95 per golfer or \$380 for a team of four.

Autumn in the Valley Gala

September 9 • 4:00-9:00 p.m.

Join CNC's Board of Directors for a wonderful evening along the bluffs of the St. Croix River. Guests enjoy tours of the trails, mingling near the 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 Erika at 651-437-4359. Tickets are \$100, or \$85 if you register by August 19.



Go to page 7 for information about SUMMER CAMPS

Upcoming Programs

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

Bird Hikes Minnesota Campus

May 5 • June 2 • July 7 • Aug 4 Wisconsin Campus

300 E. Cove Road, Hudson

May 12 • June 9 • July 14 • Aug 11 8:00—10:00 a.m.

Learn to identify birds with local experts. Binoculars and field guides

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,' SCVBC members and Hasting HS students.

Public Bird Banding

May 25 • June 22 • July 27 • Aug 24

8:30 a.m.—Noon

See birds up-close and watch the experts band birds at CNC. Banding runs continuously, so come and go as you please. Donations of birdseed appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

Bird Migration Celebration

May 12 • 8:00 a.m.—Noon • 300 E. Cove Road, Hudson

Morning Bird Walk • 8:00 a.m. Bird Banding • 8:00—11:00 a.m. Habitat Hike • 11:00 a.m.

Come to our WI Campus for a morning of birding. Welcome tent with refreshments and information on birds and habitat, kids activities, and hikes through the prairie. This event is part of the Tropical Wings St. Croix River Flyway Bird Migration Celebration, which takes place May 11-13. Program fee: FREE.

Birding in the Wisconsin Prairie

July 18 • 7:00—8:00 p.m. • 300 E. Cove Road, Hudson

Join Missy Sparrow of the Wisconsin DNR and CNC Director Jen Vieth for a hike through the prairie. Look for blooming forbs and grasses and listen for birds. Binoculars available or bring your own. Space is limited and registration is required, so call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot.

Program Fee: \$6 per participant or \$4 for 'Friends of CNC.'

2

Natural Challenges: Outdoor Fitness

Yoga June 20 & 27 • July 11, 18 & 25 • August 1 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. Please RSVP by
calling 651-437-4359. Program Fee:
\$6 per person for one session or \$30
per person for all six sessions. FREE
for Hastings YMCA and CNC members,
although a donation to help cover the
cost of instruction is greatly appreciated.



Youth Archery

June 26 & July 12 • 5:00—7:00 p.m.

Children ages 6—12 years are invited to visit CNC to learn the basics of archery from local experts. Start with learning about archery technique and safety, and then try your hand at shooting a bow and arrow. No experience necessary, and all equipment is provided. This program is being offered for free thanks to a generous grant from the MN DNR and our expert volunteer team. Please call 651-437-4359 to register.

Preschool Storytime

Fridays • 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

May 4 • Awesome Aliens
June 15 • Fabulous Frogs
July 6 • Secrets Under Stones
Aug 10 • Bountiful Bugs

These programs introduce children ages 2-5 to nature in a

fun and safe environment. Listen to stories, spend time outdoors, make a craft and meet CNC's live animals. Programs sell out fast. Call ahead to register. **Children must be accompanied by an adult.** Program Fee: \$5 per child or \$3 for 'Friends of CNC.' No charge for adults.

■ Night Life at CNC

May 11 • 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Explore the sights and sounds of the forest, prairie, and wetland at dusk. Learn about night-active plants and animals and go for a hike to search for them. Registration is required, so call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot. Program Fee: \$6 per participant or \$4 for 'Friends of CNC.'

Meteor Madness

August 10

Escape the city lights and spend a relaxing night watching the Perseids meteor shower at CNC. We'll be open until midnight, so bring your blanket or lawn chair, and come enjoy the stars at your leisure. There is no fee, but please call 651-437-4359 to let us know you are coming.

Mars Watch Party with Mike Lynch

August 30 • 8:00—10:00 p.m.

Learn about our Martian neighbor and view the planet through a gigantic telescope. Observe constellations, the Moon, Jupiter,

and Saturn. Program is led by WCCO Meteorologist Mike Lynch, who has been teaching astronomy classes for 45 years. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Registration is required. Call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot. Program Fee: \$15 per participant or \$12 for 'Friends of CNC.'



St. Croix Current, Summer 2018

2018 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center Phenology from 2017 (with additional entries from CNC's past phenology notes)

LIICIIOI	nenoigy from 201	2017 (with additional	2211112	nd s owo more	pust pricriougy	(621011
May		1 14 Hours and 13 minutes of daylight	2	3	4 Preschool Storytime: Awesome Aliens	MN Campus Bird Hike WI Fishing Opener
Aquarids Meteor Shower peak – 2:53 am	7	8 American Toad eggs in pond	9 Baltimore Orioles singing	10 Full bloom in Orchard	Night Life at CNC Minnesota Statehood - 1858	Bird Hike and Topical Wings Celebration – WI Campus MN Fishing Opener
Mother's Day	14 3 Bald Eagles in nest	New Moon	16	17 Indigo Bunting at thistle feeder (1999)	18 Common Loon on St. Croix River (1996)	Fawn found on prairie
20 Apple Blossom Races (5K,10K, 2K Fun Run)	21	Wild Geranium in bloom (1996)	23 First Monarch sighted (2010)	24	Public Bird Banding Hummingbirds at Columbine plant	Wild Turkey hen on 6 eggs
27 Peony blossoms opening (2009)	28 Memorial Day	Wisconsin Statehood – 1848 Full Moon	30	31	June 1	2 MN Campus Bird Hike MN Bioblitz
3 Fireflies out	4 Chimney Swift at farmhouse	5 Deer by path	9	7 Painted turtle eggs near wetland	88	9 WI Campus Bird Hike
10 Limber Pine releasing clouds of pollen (1990)	11 Pea-sized hail (2008)	Winter Wrens in ravine (1998)	13 New Moon	Flag Day	Preschool Storytime – Fabulous Frogs	Wild Turkey dust bathing at feeders
17 Father's Day	18 Nature Nuts Day Camp (5-6 yrs)	19	Fishing Fun 20 Camp (6-11 yrs) Natural Challenge: Yoga ature Nuts Day Cam	Summer Solstice	22 Public Bird Banding	23 15 hours and 36 minutes of daylight
24 (f)	Raptor Camp 25 (11 yrs & up) Milkweed blooming	Youth Archery 26 Raptor Camp	Natural Challenge: 27 Yoga Full Moon	Basswood trees blooming (2019)	Crow chicks outside admin building (2011)	Mallard with 11 30 ducklings in pond (2004)
$\bigcup_{\text{Wild Turkey}} \bigcup_{\text{hen with 3 chicks}} 1$	2	Gray Fox in tall grass 3 behind bird feeders (1994)	Independence Day 4	2	Preschool Storytime: 6 Secrets Under Stones Earth at aphelion: Earth-Sun distance = 94,507,803 miles	7 MN Campus Bird Hike
Male pheasant on entrance pillar this AM (1998)	9 Pioneers Day Camp (7-8 yrs)	Mudpuppy larva, 10 mussels, and crayfish found in river	Fishing Fun 11 Camp (6-11 yrs) Natural Challenges: Yoga	Youth Archery New Moon	13	WI Campus 14 Bird Hike Albino American Robin at road/trail by pond
Osprey on 15 peninsula overlooking river (1993)	Pathfinders Day Camp (11 yrs & up)	Youth Archery 17	Natural Challenges: Yoga Birding in the Prairie – WI Campus	19	20	High water at river 21 reaches beach steps (2002)
22 Corn tasseling (2004)	St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament	(12 yrs & up)	hall	26 Tadpoles in pond	Public Bird 27 Banding Full Moon	Coyotes vocalizing 28 on farmhouse prairie (2003)
Mexican Hats 29 blooming on prairie (2005)	30 Explorers Day Camp (9-11 yrs)	31	August 1 Natural Challenges: Yoga Explorers Day Camp	2	3	$^{f 4}$ MN Campus Bird Hike
5 Lots of Japanese Beetles!	9	7 Red Oaks dropping acorns (2009)	n Spider ing web in grap (2002)	6	Preschool Storytime:10 Bountiful Bugs Meteor Madness	WI Campus 11 Bird Hike New Moon
12 Perseids Meteor Shower peak 1:46am	13 Black-billed Cuckoo on prairie (1989)	14 Black Bear visited CNC overnight (2014)	15	16 50+ honeybees at birdbath (2001)	Cardinal Flowers 17 blooming at river bottom	18 Harvesting Zestar! apples (2010)
19	20 Flock of pelicans at Point Douglas (2005)	21 Sumac starting to change color (2000)	HINNESOTA STATE FAIR	23 MN State Fair Begins	24 Public Bird Banding	Carpenter 25 Art Festival – Wl Campus
2 6 Full Moon	Red Squirrels 27 gathering Buckeye nuts (1992)	Buckeye tree beginning to drop leaves	Flocks of 29 cormorants at Lock and Dam 2 (1998)	Mars Watch with Mike Lynch	31 13 hours and 16 minutes of daylight	The state of the s

People Profiles



CNC Donor Profile Jyneen Thatcher

Jyneen grew up as a self-proclaimed "city girl" in Minneapolis, Minnesota. After a midlife career change, she began working at the South Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District (WCD) where she oversaw wetland projects and helped landowners restore natural habitat on their properties.

Jyneen first encountered Carpenter Nature Center while working with the WCD on a plant assessment of CNC's ravine. Through the years she continued to work on several other projects at CNC, including prairie restoration, the creation of the MN campus wetland, and the implementation of a buckthorn removal grant.

In 2013, Jyneen retired from the WCD, but her involvement at CNC didn't end. She continued to work at CNC as a volunteer, using her knowledge of native plants and habitats to monitor the progress of buckthorn removal, to help lead CNC's first Bioblitz, and worked with interns to coauthor the natural resource management plans for both MN and WI campuses.

This year, Jyneen and her family have generously gifted the Nature Center with a High Spy Double Viewer spotting scope to be placed at the River Overlook. This scope will enable visitors to get a close-up view of the many fantastic features of the St. Croix River landscape, including the nest of CNC's resident Bald Eagles. When asked what inspired her to make this gift, Jyneen replied that the scope was to honor the Council family, family friends of Jyneen and her husband Steve, who were appreciative of the natural world, and the knowledge that people could gain from it. Jyneen hopes this gift will enhance the experience of those who visit the Nature Center, and be accessible to all. Look for the spotting scope to be unveiled later this spring at the River Overlook.

Meet our Education Intern **Conor Rose**

Conor Rose has been with CNC since January serving in the role of Communication and Environmental Education Intern. He is studying marketing and outdoor education at the University of Wisconsin River Falls and will be graduating this spring. Conor plans to work as a kayak guide for his company, Minnesota Adventure Co., throughout the summer. Then he hopes to relocate to northern Minnesota this fall to pursue a



recreation and tourism industry. Some of the highlights for Conor at his position with CNC were studying and identifying bird species, gaining experience running educational programming, and giving the kids a ton of high-fives. He hopes to come back someday and help more with classes but is excited to travel and gain some work experience in the meantime.

Volunteer Spotlight Kristina Juenemann

In this issue we are happy to shine the spotlight on Kristina Juenemann. Kristina started volunteering in early 2017 with I the Animal Care department and has become a treasured asset in helping keep our turtles healthy. Having turtles of her own, she knows the importance of a clean tank, and she comes diligently every week to ensure our turtles enjoy a fresh scrubbing of their homes. In addition to tank cleaning, Kristina also allows the turtles time to scoot around in the Visitor Center to get their exercise. She keeps a careful watch on them, and happily interacts with visitors who show interest in the turtles. Kristina, we greatly appreciate your gentle and hardworking demeanor and your dedication

to CNC's reptilian ambassadors. You truly are priceless as a volunteer, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Summer Camps

Day Camps at CNC

Nature Nuts (Ages 5 & 6)

FILLED FOR 2018

Pioneers (Ages 7 & 8)

FILLED FOR 2018

Explorers (Ages 9 - 11)

July 30—August 3

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Explore nature, create projects, meet friends, and visit the beach. Canoe and camp-out at CNC Thursday night. Fee: \$174 per child or \$164 for 'Friends of

Raptor Camp (Ages 11 & up)

June 25-27 • 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Spend time at CNC and the U of M Raptor Center (TRC) learning about amazing birds of prey. Transportation to TRC is provided. Fee: \$125 per child or \$115 for 'Friends of CNC.'

Canoe Trip (Ages 12 & up) FILLED FOR 2018

Pathfinders (Ages 11 & up)

July 16-20 • 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

See bees at work in their hives, canoe the Kinnickinnic River, see bison up close in the prairie, pick berries and make your own pizza at an organic farm. Learn about outdoor careers. This camp made possible by a USDA-NIFA funded grant and partnerships with the University of Wisconsin River Falls and the Science Museum of Minnesota. Fee: \$179 per participant or \$169 for 'Friends of CNC.' Full scholarships available.

Fishing Fun (Ages 6 - 11)

June 20 & July 11

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Fish on the St. Croix River. Supplies provided if needed. Fee (per session): \$30 per child or \$20 for 'Friends of CNC.'

For more information, and to view our camp registration form, please visit our website at www.carpenternaturecenter.org.

Phipps Summer Art Camps

CNC is now teaching summer camps at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson. Please visit thephipps.org to register.

Critter Crafting (ages 8-12)

June 20-22 • 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Meet live animals and use them as inspiration for multi-media craft projects using paint, beads, paper, string, and stones. Fee: \$84 per participant.

Raptor Studies (ages 13+)

July 23-25 • 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Study live birds of prey in detail and use your observations to draw and paint in a variety of mediums. Fee: \$87 per participant

Volunteer Corner

Volunteer Opportunities this Season

A **Volunteer Information Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. for those interested in becoming volunteers at Carpenter Nature Center. Please call ahead to let us know you are coming 651-437-4359.

Call CNC if you are able to help with any of the following:

Gardeners Wanted: If you have a green thumb or find weeding to be therapeutic, we can use your help maintaining the many flower gardens around CNC. There is the herb garden, the peony bed, the front gate garden, the circle garden (okay, it's more of an oval), the rain garden, and the native plant garden between the IC and VC.

Fore! Volunteers will be needed for a variety of duties at the St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament on July 23. Mark your calendars, call us if you are available and have a guiet voice – sshhh – someone is about to sink a 12-foot putt.

Other upcoming volunteer opportunities include Raptor Release on September 22 and Apple Fest on October 13 & 14. We'll need lots of volunteer help with both these events; no special training needed – just lots of enthusiasm.

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Honor Of

Dennis & Daryl Donath from J.D. Donath Sydney, Quinn, & Elise from Mary & Jerry Fisk Wallace Wadd from Adam Wadd

In Memory Of

Donna J. Buck from Donald Buck Craig Colley from Tracey Colley Donna M. Friberg from Richard Friberg Jay Heggerness from Lu Heggerness Julie Kae Malkowski from Jim & Nancy Malkowski Gene Starz from Elaine Starz Tonolli Betty Lou Werner from Jeremy Schmidt

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Solberg, Leann Stein, Richard & Julie Venaglia, Todd & Melissa Wickard, G.C. & R.G. Winkelman



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PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

CNC Wish List

Carpenter Nature Center is in need of the following items:

Gift cards to Michaels and/or JoAnn Fabrics for craft supplies

Black oil sunflower seed

White Card Stock



CNC News & Events

If you are not receiving monthly e-mail updates please contact: Jennifer@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 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: Ericka@CarpenterNatureCenter.org.