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Fall 2018

Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

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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."

IN THIS ISSUE:

Field Notes	1
Programs & Events	2-3
Phenology Calendar	4-5
People Profile	6
Volunteer Corner and Memorials & Honorariums ..	7

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Field Notes By Jen Vieth

As a youngster, I was enthralled by *"All Creatures Great and Small"*, a British series based on the real-life adventures of a veterinary surgeon. James Herriot traveled the countryside helping animals in distress. His days were never dull, usually challenging, and often hilarious in hindsight. Gazing at the above lady beetle image brought the title to mind. It's not just the charismatic mega-fauna, such as Bison and Elk, that inspire us. It's also the minute Ladybugs, Tiger Beetles and Jumping Spiders that connect us to nature.

This summer, I observed how the smallest creatures connect kids to the natural world. Nathan Grosse, CNC's Natural Resources Intern, is a self-taught insect expert and his capstone project was to survey insects at CNC. As there are estimated to be between two and thirty million insect species worldwide, he narrowed his survey to Bees, Beetles, Moths and Butterflies. Youth of all ages were mesmerized. They followed Nathan and his insect net like he was the Pied Piper. Adults started snapping photos of insects for Nathan to identify. A butterfly from the grill of the car was carefully retrieved for Nathan. Enlisting the interpretive skills of CNC's environmental education interns, Abbey Holden and Rachel Roberts, the team also set up a wild Monarch raising enclosure in the Visitor Center. Visitors were drawn to it, like bees to honey. The faces of visitors who released the freshly emerged butterflies were filled with awe and emotion.

Questions abounded.

*Are the monarch eggs really that small?
How long do the caterpillars live? What
do they eat? How long until the butterflies
emerge from the Chrysalis?*

And best of all:

What can I do to help monarchs?

One of the most valuable roles of environmental educators, like Abbey, Rachel and Nathan, is to inspire people *to see*. After listening to an intern introduce CNC's Red-tailed Hawk, you might notice a wild hawk perched along your commute for the first time. As the hawk becomes a familiar highlight on your commute, you might start to look for ways to help, such as no longer using rodent poisons.

Nathan, Abbey and Rachel have taught guests to see, and appreciate, not just the raptors, but also the smaller creatures. Through their interpretation, *we see the complex beauty of the tiniest creatures and understand the essential roles they play in our ecosystems*. Unlike bears and whales, the tiny creatures are accessible. CNC's interns opened a window to this world of Bumblebees and predatory bee-mimicking Robber Flies. For these amazing interns, and those that have gone before them, CNC gave them opportunities, but they give us inspiration and hope for the future.

As we wrap up 2018 I want to thank you. None of these experiences would be possible without our visitors, our donors, and our volunteers. Your attendance, your donations and your volunteer time enable CNC to teach interns, host events, create programs, and train Master Naturalist volunteers. On behalf of all of us, thank you.



Abbey Holden (left), Rachel Roberts (middle), and Nathan Grosse (right) pose with their favorite CNC Animal Ambassadors. Turn to the "People Profiles" page to learn more about these intelligent, charismatic, hard-working interns.

Upcoming Programs

Reservations are required

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

651-437-4359

Preschool Story Time Fridays 10:00—11:00 am



September 14
Orchard Fun
October 26
Costumes & Critters
November 9
Turkey Time
December 14
A Winter Walk

Preschool Story Times are designed to introduce children, ages 2 through 5 (with a parent or guardian),

to nature in a fun and safe environment. Listen to stories, spend time outdoors, make a craft project and meet live animals. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Reservations are required. Please call 651-437-4359 to RSVP early, as this program often fills. Program Fee: \$5 per child or \$3 per child for 'Friends of CNC,' no charge for accompanying adult.

Home School: Outdoor Survival Skills

November 14 • 1:00—2:30 pm

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. In this program, students will learn the basics of outdoor survival including how to build a shelter, fire, and rescue signal. Additionally, students will learn about prioritizing survival needs and the basics of cold-weather first-aid. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Program Fee: \$6 per student or \$4 for 'Friends of CNC.'

Bird Hikes

Minnesota Campus

Sept 1 & Oct 6 • 8:00—10:00 am
Nov 3 • 9:00—11:00 am

Wisconsin Campus

300 East Cove Road, Hudson
Sept 8 & Oct 13 • 8:00—10:00 am
Nov 17 & Dec 8 • 9:00—11:00 am



Lizzie Danich

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.

Migratory Bird Count & Hawkwatch



Jen Vieth

Sept 29 • 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Each fall, thousands of raptors and other bird migrants follow the St. Croix/Mississippi River Flyway south to their wintering grounds in the southern U.S. and beyond. Our team of spotters and greeters will set up behind the Administration Building to count migrants including raptors, songbirds, gulls, and other southbound birds. Come ask questions, check in on the count totals, or participate in the count. Binoculars will be available upon request. Program Fee: FREE.

Songbird Banding

Fourth Fridays • 8:30 am—Noon
Sept 28 • Oct 26 • Nov 23 • Dec 28

See songbirds up close and watch the experts band birds at CNC. Banding runs continuously and visitors may come and go as they please. Donations of birdseed are appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

Saw-whet Owl Banding

Minnesota Campus
Oct 1 & 15 • 8:00—10:00 pm
Wisconsin Campus
Oct 11 & 25 • 8:00—10:00 pm

Learn about the migration patterns of Saw-whet Owls. Join our researchers as they venture out to band some of our native owls. Space is limited for this FREE program, so please call 651-437-4359 early to reserve your spot. Program is weather dependent.



Haizhan Zheng

Upcoming Events

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



Autumn in the Valley Gala

Sunday, September 9, 2018
4:00—9:00 pm

Enjoy a wonderful evening along the bluffs of the St. Croix River to benefit Carpenter Nature Center.

Guests enjoy tours of the trails, mingling near the gardens, silent and live auctions, beer tasting courtesy of Rush River, and dinner and open bar provided by Lake Elmo Inn.

Tickets: \$100 per person

To purchase tickets, become a sponsor, volunteer, or arrange to donate an auction item, contact Erika at 651-437-4359 or email her at erika@carpenternaturecenter.org.



Raptor Release

Saturday, September 22 • 10:00 am—3:00 pm

Join Carpenter Nature Center and The Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota as they release rehabilitated raptors at CNC. After months of rehab from injuries in the wild, these birds are now ready to be released. Event includes hay wagon tours, kids activities, raptors on display, and a variety of education booths from area environmental organizations. This FREE event is enjoyed by all ages. Dogs not allowed.

Apple Festival


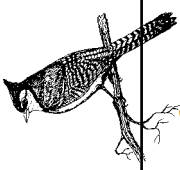










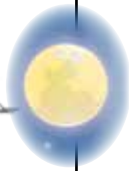



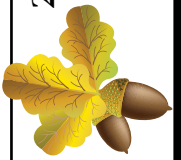


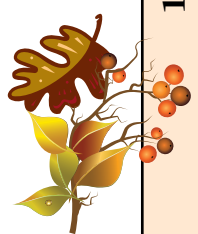




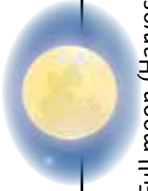








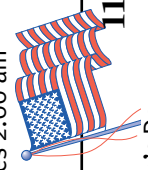

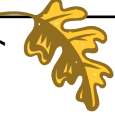

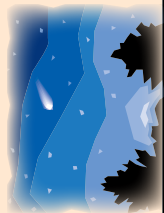


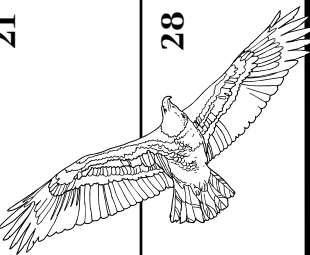
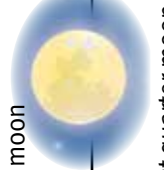


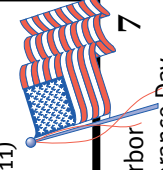
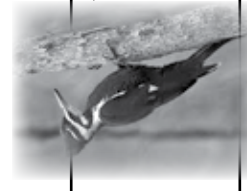

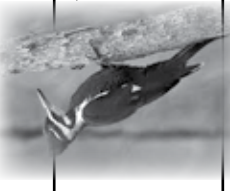

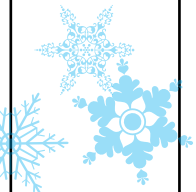

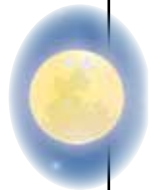
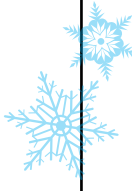

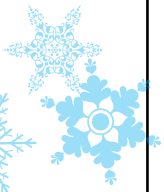


October 13 & 14 • 10:00 am—5:00 pm

Carpenter Nature Center grows some of the most delicious, healthy, and eco-friendly apples in the St. Croix River Valley. Come visit CNC to celebrate the harvest with hay rides, music, live animal programs, apple brats, pumpkin decorating, bake sale, cider-making demonstrations, and more. Purchase jams, jellies, squash, honey, and more at our Apple Shack too. This FREE event is fun for the whole family.



2018 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

Phenology from 2017 (with additional entries from CNC's past phenology notes)

		 		September		1 Bird Hike - MN Campus
2 13 Hours and 12 minutes of daylight	3 Labor Day (CNC Open)	4 	5 119 lbs of honey collected from CNC hives ('00)	6 	7 100+ Monarchs roosting in parking lot trees ('14)	8 Bird Hike - WI Campus
9 Autumn in the Valley Gala New moon	10 New England Asters blooming ('05) 	11 Patriot's Day 	12 Albino American Robin by Visitor Center pond	13 	14 Preschool Storytime: Orchard Fun 	15 Ash trees dropping leaves 
16 First quarter moon	17 	18 Harvesting Fireside and Connell Red apples ('98) 	19 	20 Large flocks of American White Pelicans migrating	21 1st frost ('99)	22 Raptor Release Autumnal Equinox
23 High temp 90° (tied record) 2 Otters in St. Croix River by dock	24 Full moon	25 	26 Red Fox in Oak Savanna ('00)	27 	28 Public Bird Banding	29 Migratory Bird Count & Hawkwatch
30 	October 1 Owl Banding – MN Campus Red Oak starting to change color ('04)	2 Last quarter moon	3 	4	5 Poison Ivy turned yellow ('98)	6 Bird Hike - MN Campus
7 	8 Indigenous People's Day New moon	9 	10 Fall color peak ('99) 	11 Owl Banding – WI Campus Meadow Vole in pumpkin patch ('13)	12 6+ Milbert's Tortiseshell butterflies in circle garden	13 Bird Hike - WI Campus Apple Fest
14 Apple Fest 	15 Owl Banding – MN Campus 30+ Eastern Bluebirds at front gate ('98) 	16	17 First quarter moon 	18	19 Green Frog sunning in water garden ('11)	20  
21 Orion's Meteor Shower peak 6:07 am	22 	23 Birch Trees bare of leaves ('14)	24 Full moon (Harvest)	25 Owl Banding – WI Campus	26 Public Bird Banding Preschool Storytime: Costumes & Critters	27 First snowfall – 1-2" accumulation 
28 Ruby-crowned Kinglet sighted	29 	30 12+ Cedar Waxwings by Admin. Building	31 Halloween 	November 1 Many Eastern Bluebirds by wetland ('01) 	2 	3 Bird Hike - MN Campus
4 Central Standard Time resumes 2:00 am 	5 Pine Siskins at feeder 100+ Tundra Swans flying overhead	6 Election Day 	7  New moon	8 	9 Preschool Storytime: Turkey Time Wind chills in single digits	10 
11 Veteran's Day	12 Veteran's Day (Observed) Barred Owl seen near beach	13 	14 Summer Tanager in Admin. garden ('11) Homeschool Program	15 First quarter moon	16 Leonids Meteor Shower peak 10:27 am	17 Bird Hike - WI Campus
18 Great Horned Owl heard near Farmhouse	19  23 Wild Turkeys at feeder ('03)	20 Deer tracks in circle garden ('12)	21 	22 Thanksgiving Day Full moon 	23 Public Bird Banding	24 Dandelions still blooming ('98)
25 	26 Large White-tailed Deer buck spotted	27 Sharp-shinned Hawk at feeders	28 	29 Last quarter moon	30 Driest Fall on record ('11) 	December 1 Last barge of season through Lock & Dam #2 ('97)
2 Observed Northern Shrike, Red Winged Blackbird, Coopers Hawk, Cedar Waxwing	3 Hanukkah begins 	4 High Temp 57°F (new record)	5 Nightcrawlers out after rain ('01) 	6 St Croix River frozen across ('05)	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day New moon	8 Bird Hike - WI Campus
9 17 Mourning Doves at feeders ('96)	10 	11 Pileated Woodpecker at feeders ('13) 	12 Trumpeter Swans at Prescott Park 	13 	14 Preschool Storytime: A Winter Walk Geminids Meteor Shower peak 12:20 am	15  Full moon
16 1" snow overnight 	17 Northern Flicker and American Kestrel near overlook	18 	19 	20 8 American Goldfinches on thistle feeder ('05)	21 Winter Solstice 	22 Full moon
23	24 Christmas Eve (CNC Open) 1st fish house on St. Croix River ('92)	25 Christmas Day (CNC Closed)	26 	27 Opossum by Admin. Building ('05)	28 Public Bird Banding	29 Last quarter moon
8 hours and 48 minutes of daylight	30 New Year's Eve	31				

People Profiles

Meet our New Board Member Paul Gerbec



Paul Gerbec is a resident of River Falls, WI, who travels across the country as an Environmental Engineer for 3M. From a young age, Paul enjoyed being outdoors fishing, camping, and backpacking, and that affinity for the environment has continued into his adulthood. As a student at Michigan State, and Miami of Ohio, he studied Chemical Engineering and Zoology. His education set the stage for his work at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Environmental Consulting in Michigan, and now, his career with 3M.

Paul and his wife Kelly have lived in River Falls for almost 20 years, and they are passionately involved in their community with fundraising for suicide awareness and prevention. Sadly, Paul and Kelly lost a family member to suicide, and they are now dedicated to providing mental health education and support so that other families do not have to face a similar tragedy. For Paul, an important part of enriching the mental health of young people is getting them connected with nature, so he is eager to collaborate with CNC as a member of the board.

On behalf of the board, staff, and volunteers at CNC, we are thrilled to be welcoming Paul to our team. Thank you, Paul, for dedicating your expertise, wisdom, passion, and friendship to helping mold the future at Carpenter Nature Center.

Meet our 2018 Summer Interns

Abbey Holden is a student at the University of Wisconsin- River Falls. She is studying Conservation and Restoration with a minor in Outdoor Education. Abbey hopes to engage people in our local community with the hands-on knowledge of restoration as well as the fun of recreation. She believes both aspects are important in fostering an appreciation for the natural world, especially in youth. Abbey loves to spend time backpacking, camping and canoeing with her dog Cali. She has also found a new love of birds, especially raptors, while interning at CNC and hopes to continue to develop this new hobby.

Rachel Roberts is a student at St. Olaf College studying Environmental Studies, with an emphasis on the social sciences. She is very passionate about teaching others the value of our planet, especially because it was a teacher that first inspired this value in her. In her free time, Rachel enjoys playing with her dog Ellie, spending time with friends and family, and exploring her newfound hobby in training with raptors.

Nathan Grosse is an undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin—River Falls studying Conservation and Environmental Planning. He is especially passionate about spreading a love of the nature to those around him, with a special focus on insects and other “creepy crawlies.” In addition to his work at Carpenter, Nathan bartends at a brewery in River Falls. In his free time, Nathan enjoys hiking, birding, collecting insects, playing music, cooking, and taking care of his turtles, Wallace and Olaf.

Orchard Welcome and Farewell

Tom and Edna Carpenter began growing apples on their land in the late 1940s, and although the varieties of apples have changed over the years, the Carpenter’s orchard legacy has been continued for the education and enjoyment of the community. John McPherson took-over caring for the orchard in 1999, and has been expertly planting, pruning, growing and harvesting CNC apples ever since. At the conclusion of the 2018 harvest season, John will be retiring and passing care of the orchard along to Sverre Sundgaard. Sverre began working in the orchard in 2014, and although he has been pursuing other opportunities for the past four years, he was eager to return to CNC. Sverre and John have been working together very closely for six months so that John can share all his knowledge about the trees and orchard operations with Sverre. John, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for all your years of dedicated service. We wish you the best of luck in your retirement endeavors.



John McPherson (left) and Sverre Sundgaard and family (right).



Volunteer Corner

Volunteer Spotlight

Lisa Hedin– Volunteer of the Year 2018

In this issue, we are pleased to feature Lisa Hedin. Lisa started volunteering for CNC in 2005 and has put in over 1000 hours. She has helped with special events, picked up litter for Adopt-A-Highway cleanup, taught nature education classes, and takes great pride in putting up the phenology calendar in the Interpretive Center. Lisa comes from an active 4H family and, for many years, has served as the liaison between CNC and the Riverside Routers 4H where she coordinates the water stops for the Apple Blossom Races as well as apple pie sales for the Raptor Release. Thanks Lisa for your dedication, sincerity, and integrity. You are an awesome volunteer and we are grateful for all you do.



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

A **Volunteer Information Meeting** will take place on Tuesday, September 18 at 7pm in the Visitor Center. This informal meeting is for those interested in becoming a CNC Volunteer; it is a time to see how your interests match with our needs. Please call ahead to let us know you will attend. Our **Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup** is on September 12 starting at 5:30pm. Trash bags and safety vests will be available. If you are able to help, bring your gloves and your favorite litter stabbing tool, and let’s get the ditch clean for the fall events.

The **Raptor Release** is on Saturday, September 22. We will need lots of volunteers for tasks like directing cars to parking areas, giving out information, helping in the Apple Shack, and directing people to the release site. Please call if you are able to help – we need lots of volunteer help with this event. Did I stress enough that we need lots of help on this day?

This fall, **Apple Fest** is on October 13 and 14. You can help out on one or both days, make something tasty for the Volunteer Bake Sale, or better yet, you can do both! Please come out and be part of the fun.

If you are interested in helping with any of these events, please call 651-437-4359 and ask for Alan, the Volunteer Coordinator; or email Alan@CarpenterNatureCenter.org.

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Honor Of

Joyce Boettcher from Ardyce Bray
Jennifer Vieth from Audrey & Ron Kintzi

In Memory Of

Nancy Shannon Allen from Ramona McCullough
Barb Breault from Jim & Judy Freund
Donna J. Buck from Donald Buck
Tom Bump from Michelle Bump
Lori Froehlich from Bob & Carol Jager
Lloyd Hanson from Darleen Hanson
Jack Kern from Don Kern
Richard & Mary Marzolf from Tom Marzolf
Norma Kirchner from Candyland
Linnea Sundgaard from the Kip Sundgaard family and friends

FRIENDS OF CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

Gift membership given by: _____

Check appropriate level:

<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL	\$25 to \$49
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	\$50 to \$99
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<input type="checkbox"/> THE ST. CROIX SOCIETY	\$1,000 to \$2,999
<input type="checkbox"/> THE EAGLE SOCIETY	\$3,000 to \$4,999
<input type="checkbox"/> THE DIRECTOR'S COUNCIL	\$5,000 & Beyond
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING FRIEND OF CNC	

Form of Payment: ☐ **Cash** (accepted in person only)
☐ **Check** (payable to Carpenter Nature Center)
☐ **Credit Card** Amount \$ _____
(Check one) (Visa or Master Card are accepted)

Copies of this form are acceptable ☐ Card # _____
Exp. Date: _____
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☐ I'm interested in learning more about the Tom & Edna Carpenter Society



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Linda Polglase	Administrative Assistant
Sverre Sundgaard	Natural Resources Manager
Jen Vieth	Executive Director

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

APPLE SHACK OPENS SOON

9:00 am—5:00pm daily

Labor Day thru Thanksgiving

By purchasing apples from CNC you are not only getting delicious, local, eco-friendly apples. You are supporting environmental education and habitat protection in the St. Croix Valley.



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.



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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.