Field Notes

By Jen Vieth

In the early morning light, I walked groggily into the Hastings High School to assist with Joe Beattie’s zero-hour Field Biology Class. Glancing up I observed three Common Loons flying overhead. As I paused to cherish the moment, I was struck with great appreciation that my life path has resulted in the ability to identify wildlife. I was also filled with awe and gratitude for how much we now know about loons and their conservation. We know that loons arrive on their territories within days of ice out, which likely meant those three birds were heading further north than Hastings. We also know young loons migrate to the ocean and typically only return to breed around seven years of age. We know these icons of the northland face many challenges, from oil spills to lead poisoning, and habitat loss. We know all this because we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us and their dedication to researching, sharing, and conserving our natural world.

At CNC I am reminded daily of the foresight, dedication and generosity exhibited by our predecessors and by today’s friends, patrons, and volunteers. From Tom and Edna Carpenter’s legacy in leaving their scenic estate for future generations to enjoy, to the volunteer who rushes in to clean the turtle tanks at the end of a long day grading college papers, I am constantly in awe of all you do to help CNC serve our communities. We accomplish more as a team than any one of us could alone.

CNC’s magical Wisconsin Campus is a perfect example of shared vision and collaboration. In an abbreviated history: Al and Laurie Hein wished to protect their property into perpetuity, and Dan and Jean Greenwald helped accomplish the vision by collaborating with CNC and founding the Wisconsin Campus. Through the years the entire community has helped by donating time, treasure, and talent. Neighbors, the Wisconsin DNR, the Town of Troy, and others helped buy and protect additional land. Today, the 300-acre site is easily accessible, nestled just miles south of I-94. To fully appreciate the magic of this place, close your eyes and visualize driving along I-94 with the semis and commuter traffic whizzing past your vehicle. Turn south onto Carmichael Road and you are in the middle of traffic lights and strip malls. Barely a mile south on Carmichael, the road transforms into bucolic County Road F, bordered by trees and farms. Turn west onto East Cove Road, and you can physically feel the weight of the day lift away. On either side of the road, golden prairie grasses wave in the spring breeze. Northern Harriers swoop low in graceful arcs quartering the land hunting for voles. In the distance, aged oak trees spread broad branches providing shelter. Neighbors walk the prairie trails, stopping on a rise to contemplate the many feet that have traversed the vast prairie in centuries past.

The amazing things the CNC team accomplishes today is due to the many heroes that have gone before us, and those champions that share the journey with us today.
Preschool Storytime
Fridays • 10:00—11:00 am
May 17 • Endangered Animals
June 28 • Toads
July 5 • Amazing Ants
Aug 9 • Wacky Worms

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.

Looking for additional program offerings for children? Go to page 6 for information about SUMMER CAMPS!

Public Bird Banding
May 24 • June 28 • July 26 • Aug 23
8:30 am—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.

Spring Wildflower Walk
May 18 • 9:00—10:30 am

Join retired Washington Conservation District ecologist lynne Thatcher for a hike on CNC’s scenic trails in search of woodland spring ephemeral flowers. Spaces are 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.’

St. Croix Valley Scramble
July 22 • 1:00 p.m.

Enjoy a day of golf at the Afton Alps Golf Course in support of Carpenter Nature Center! All proceeds fund 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 $180 for a team of four.

Yoga
June 17 & 24 • July 1, 8, 15 & 22
6:30—7:30 pm

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 $3 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.

River Clean-up
July 14 • 9:00 am—Noon

Join Clean Shores and the Natural Heritage Project as they are hosted by CNC for a volunteer shoreline cleanup event. This event is for artists active in the 2019 Natural Heritage Project and volunteers of CNC. To register, please visit https://www.colewilliams.com/carpenter-clean-up.

Bird Migration Celebration
May 11 • 8:00—11:00 am

8:00 am • Guided Bird Walk
8:00—11:00 am • Bird Banding Demo
9:00—11:00 am • Hikes, children’s activities, and welcome tent with information on birds and habitat.

Come to our WI Campus for a morning of birding. This event is part of the St. Croix River Flyway Bird Migration Celebration sponsored by Tropical Wings, which takes place May 10-12. Program fee: FREE.

Bird Hikes
May 18 • June 8 • July 13 • Aug 10
8:00—10:00 am

Learn to identify birds from the local experts of the St. Croix Valley Bird Club (SCVBC). Binoculars and field guides will be available to use or you may bring your own. Come to one or all of the hikes. Meet at 300 East Cove Road. Program Fee: $6 or FREE for ‘Friends of CNC’ and SCVBC members.

BioBlitz
July 15 • 8:00 am—2:00 pm

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. We are currently looking for survey leaders and event volunteers. Contact Jennifer@carpeternaturecenter.org or call 651-437-4359 to get involved.

Evening Hike on the Wisconsin Prairie
July 18 • 7:00—8:00 pm

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.’

Phipp's Summer Art Camps
CNC is now teaching summer camps at the Phipps Center for the Arts located at 109 Locust Street in Hudson, Wisconsin. Please visit thephipp.org to register.

Critic Craftng (ages 8-12)
July 8—10 • 1:00—4:00 pm

Meet live animals and use them as inspiration for multi-media craft projects using paint, beads, paper, string, and stones. Fee: $8 per participant.

Raptor Studies (ages 13+)
Aug 5—7 • 1:00—4:00 pm

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

Wisconsin Campus Programs & Events
Wildlife abounds in the prairie and wooded bluffs on our 300-acre Wisconsin Campus located at 300 East Cove Road, Hudson, WI 54016. While this campus is currently without amenities, our hope is to build a facility to meet the education and recreation needs of the community.

ALL PROGRAMS REQUIRE RESERVATIONS—Please call 651-437-4359 to register

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### 2019 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

#### May
- **1st**: Ramadhan Begins
- **13th**: Mother's Day
- **19th**: Memorial Day
- **26th**: Father's Day

#### June
- **2nd**: First Baltimore Oriole sighted
- **5th**: First Ruby-throated Hummingbird sighted
- **9th**: First Baltimore Oriole sighted
- **13th**: Father's Day
- **16th**: Outdoor Skills Camp
- **20th**: Ornithologists Day Camp
- **22nd**: Nature Nuts Day Camp
- **28th**: Outdoor Skills Camp

#### July
- **2nd**: First Monarch Butterfly tagged on WI Campus
- **8th**: Great Crested Flycatcher family sighted
- **14th**: Fallow Deer
- **20th**: First Monarch Butterfly tagged on WI Campus
- **24th**: American Mink seen near Interpretive Center
- **30th**: Outdoor Skills Camp

#### August
- **1st**: First Monarch Butterfly tagged on WI Campus
- **8th**: First Monarch Butterfly tagged on WI Campus
- **16th**: Carpenter Art Festival - WI Campus
- **23rd**: American White Pelican flock at Point Douglas

#### Phenology from 2018 (with additional entries from CNC's past phenology notes)

- **May 1st**: 1st May 19 min daylight
- **June 1**: Hand killing frost (2016)
- **June 2**: First peonies blooming (2004)
- **June 13**: First Baltimore Oriole sighted
- **June 15**: First peonies blooming (2004)
- **June 21**: First peonies blooming (2004)
- **June 27**: First Monarch Butterfly tagged on WI Campus
- **July 20th**: 1st July 13 hrs 18 min daylight
Minnesota Campus Programs & Events

Carpenter Nature Center offers a variety of summer camp experiences for children of many ages. There are still spaces available in the following camp programs:

**Fishing Fun (ages 6-12)**
June 26—28 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Fish on the St. Croix River. Supplies provided if needed. Fee: $35 per child or $25 per ‘Friends of CNC.’

**Nature Nuts (ages 5 & 6)**
June 17—21 • 9:00 am—Noon
Fee: $50 per participant or $55 for ‘Friends of CNC.’

**Pathfinders (ages 11+)**
June 17—21 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Learn about bird biology, identification, and conservation while exploring the environment around the grounds at CNC. Fee: $110 per child or $125 for ‘Friends of CNC.’

**Explorers (ages 11+)**
June 24—25 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Learn about bird biology, identification, and conservation while exploring the environment and food production through a variety of hands-on field trip experiences. Program Fee: $189 or $179 for ‘Friends of CNC.’

**Anton Burn Explorers (ages 11+)**
June 10—14 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Explore the connection between the environment and food production through a variety of hands-on field trip experiences. Program Fee: $189 or $179 for ‘Friends of CNC.’

**Hiking Trails**
Hiking trails wind throughout the tall pines, oak savanna, restored prairies, wooded ravines, around the apple orchard, and along the river. The trails, mingling near the gardens, a silent auction, a live raffle and dinner catered by Lake Elmo Inn. To become a sponsor, volunteer, or arrange to donate an auction item, please contact Erika at 651-437-4359.

**Save the Dates**

**APPLE SHACK OPEN AROUND LABOR DAY**
9:00 am—3:00 pm daily through 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.

**Autumn in the Valley Gala**
Sunday, September 8, 2019
5:00—9:00 pm
Tickets: Early registration—$95
After August 18—$110

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. To become a sponsor, volunteer, or arrange to donate an auction item, please contact Erika at 651-437-4359.

**Volunteer Spotlight**
**Jerry Winter**
In this issue we are pleased to shine the spotlight on Jerry Winter. Jerry started volunteering in 2017 as part of the “New Crew” that comes out once a week to clean the raptor mews and has become a valuable part of this team. Since then he has also branched out and can often be seen as a weekend visitor Greeter helping guests get to know CNC. Thanks, Jerry, for your great dedication and fantastic, can-do attitude. You are surely one top-notch volunteer. Salud!

**Meet our Interns**
**Tess Zahradka**
Tess Zahradka joined the CNC team as an Environmental Education and Communications Intern in January 2019. She is a recent graduate from Winona State University with a Bachelor’s of Science in Ecology. Her time at CNC has made her a ‘Tess of all trades’ by developing numerous skills from her everyday tasks. Never in a million years did she think she would have the opportunity to handle raptors and love it. The internship has brought new light on a career in environmental teaching. She hopes to continue working with raptors and giving kids their “ah ha!” moment in nature.

**Memorials & Honorariums**
We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

**In Memory of** —from Dee Thompson, Dick Thompson, Don & Muggs McQuade, Mary Lu Brown from Bill & Betty Berg, Donna Buck from Char Anderson & Kim Hoffman, Robert & Carol Chapman, George & Phyllis Colaizy, Harry & Deborah Hodges, Ray & Bernice Hoffman, Lauren & Marianne Howard, John & Kim Lundeen, Oscar & Deborah Mathison, Harris & Wilma Richards, Linda & Dolph Richardson, Thomas & Karen Wenner, Tennis Manufacturing Company, New Hope Community Church in Cottage Grove, Mark Berg from Bill & Betty Berg, Mary Lu Brown from Bill & Winkie Coyne, Donna Buck from Donald Buck, Craig Colley from Tracey Colley, Harriet Davidson from Bruce & Jean Anderson, Lydia Davies from Todd & Julie Sieben, Daryl Donath from Anton & Sharon Luxemondais, Gloria Hansen from Mark Hansen, Lloyd L. Hansen from Darleen Hansen, George O. Hoel from Thomas & Susan Hoel, Peg Holmes from Bob & Kathy Seizer, Dick Johnson from Kathy Jeffries, John Kern from Dave & Audrey Kern, Richard Kron from Tracey Colley, Julie Maloskovski from Jim & Nancy Maloskovski, Bart McEamy from Gordon & Josephine Bailey, Don & Maggie McQuade from Bruce & Michelle McQuade, Virginia Murray from Phil & Marlene Kachelmyer, Karen Schulte from Lew Schulte, Bart Simonson from David Gilbrath, Willard Swenson from Carolyn Swenson, Dick Thompson from Dee Thompson

**In Honor of** —from John McPherson from the Bees, Mike Murphy from Mary Murphy, Bob & Kathy Seizer from Bruce & Betty Olson, Jennifer Vieth from the Minnesota Bird Club

**People Profiles**

**Holiday in the Valley Gala**
Saturday & Sunday, October 12 & 13
We’ll need lots of volunteer help with both these events; no special training needed – just lots of enthusiasm.

St. Croix Current, Summer 2019 • www.carpenternaturecenter.org
12805 St. Croix Trail S.
Hastings, Minnesota 55033
(651) 437-4359
www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org

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

- Dump Truck — Contact Maintenance Foreman Marty Lynch for details
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Flash Drives
- Children’s yard games (kick balls, hula hoops, etc.)

CNC News & Events
If you are not receiving monthly e-mail updates please contact: Erika@CarpenterNatureCenter.org to join our e-mail list.
Follow us online:

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.