



Volume 38, Number 2  
Summer 2019

## 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](http://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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## 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



*Although the Wisconsin property has been open to the public since the 1990s, few people are aware of its existence. To draw more attention to the property and programs offered there, our newsletter will now feature Minnesota and Wisconsin programs on separate pages. Program locations will be indicated by state icons, like the ones pictured above.*

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.



# Minnesota Campus Programs & Events



Hiking trails wind throughout the tall pines, oak savanna, restored prairies, wooded ravines, around the apple orchard, and along the river of our 425-acre Minnesota Campus located at 12805 St. Croix Trail South, Hastings, MN 55033.

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

## 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!**



## 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 \$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.

## 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-cleanup>.



## 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 \$380 for a team of four.

*Tammy Johnson*



*Paul Blanchard*

## 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 Jyreen Thatcher for a hike on CNC's scenic trails in search of woodland spring ephemeral flowers. 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.'

# 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**

## 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 11 • 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.



*Jen Vieth*

## BioBlitz

**July 13 • 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@carpenternaturecenter.org](mailto:Jennifer@carpenternaturecenter.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.'

## Carpenter Art Festival

**Aug 24 • 10:00 am—5:00 pm**



*"Shoreline Pearls" - by Erin Babcock White*

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.

## Phipps 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 [thephipps.org](http://thephipps.org) to register.

### Critter Crafting (ages 8-12)

**July 8—10 • 1:00—4:00 pm**  
**July 22—24 • 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: \$84 per participant.

### Raptor Studies (ages 13+)

**Aug 5—7 • 1:00—4:00 pm**


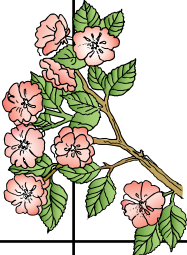


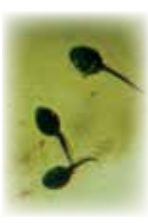

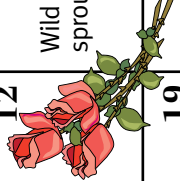




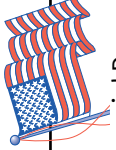













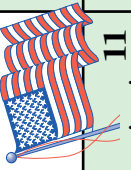










Study live raptors in detail and use your observations to draw and paint in a variety of mediums. Fee: \$87 per participant.





# 2019 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

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

May			1 First Baltimore Oriole sighted	2 14 hrs 19 min daylight 	3 	4 Bird Hike - MN Campus WI Fishing Opener
5 	6 Ramadan Begins	7 	8 Pear and plum trees in full bloom	9 Indigo Bunting sighted	10 First Ruby-throated Hummingbird sighted (2005)	11 Bird Hike and Tropical Wings Migration Celebration – WI Campus MN Fishing Opener
12 Mother's Day 	13 Wild Asparagus sprouting (2003)	14 	15 Hard killing frost (2016)	16 Orchard in full bloom 	17 Preschool Storytime: Endangered Animals 	18 Spring Wildflower Walk Full Moon
19 	20 Two Bald Eagle chicks seen in nest 	21 	22 Large Fox Snake in parking lot (2010) 	23 	24 Public Bird Banding	25 Snapping Turtle by Buckeye Tree
26 First peonies blooming (2004)	27 Memorial Day CNC Open	28 Earliest record of 100° F	29	30 Coyotes heard near Farmhouse (2017)	31 	1 June Bird Hike – MN Campus
2 Common Milkweed blooming (2007) 	3 Gray Fox near North Loop Trail (1995)	4 Chimney Swift sighted at Farmhouse (2017)	5 Lupines blooming	6 50 maple trees planted (1996)	7 	8 Bird Hike – WI Campus Cottonwood seeds falling (2013) 
9 	10 Red-headed Woodpecker nesting near Farmhouse (1990)	11 	12 Hatchling American Toads by Water Garden	13 	14 Flag Day	15
16 Father's Day	17 Full Moon Outdoor Yoga	18 	19 Fishing Fun Day Camp	20 Luna Moth on Maintenance Building (1995)	21 Summer Solstice	22 Wild Strawberries ripe (1993) 
23 Red Fox and Coyote on game cam (2016)	24 Outdoor Yoga	25 Fireflies out (2008)	26	27	28 Public Bird Banding Toads	29 Five Cedar Waxwings banded (1994)
30 Cicadas heard 	1 Outdoor Yoga	2	3 Coneflower blooming (2003)	4 Independence Day CNC Open 	5 Preschool Storytime: Amazing Ants	6 Bird Hike – MN Campus
7 First Monarch Butterfly tagged on WI Campus	8 Outdoor Yoga American Mink seen near Interpretive Center	9 Great Crested Flycatcher family sighted	10 Fishing Fun Day Camp	11 Wild Raspberries ripe (2002)	12	13 Bird Hike – WI Campus Bioblitz - WI Campus
14 River Clean-up	15 Outdoor Yoga	16 Full Moon	17 Ring-necked Pheasant with six chicks by prairie (2012)	18 Evening Hike – WI Campus	19 Common Mullein blooming (1996)	20 Scarlet Tanagers by River Overlook
21 Corn starting to tassel (2003)	22 St Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tour. Outdoor Yoga	23 Juvenile Eastern Bluebirds at birdbath (1994)	24 Juvenile Woodchuck near Admin Building (1994)	25 Gooseberries ripening	26 Public Bird Banding	27 Four Hooded Merganser chicks on Wetland (2012)
28 	29 	30	31 Bird feeders pulled down by Black Bear (2014)	1 August Northern Lights visible (2013)	2 Praying Mantis on rabbit pen (2007)	3 Bird Hike – MN Campus
4 	5 Painted Turtle in Visitor Center pond	6 	7 Goldenrod beginning to bloom	8	9 Preschool Storytime: Wacky Worms 	10 Bird Hike – WI Campus Three North American River Otters by dock (2009)
11	12 Perseids Meteor Shower peak	13 Black-billed Cuckoo in prairie (1989)	14 	15 Full Moon 	16 50+ honeybees at birdbath (2003)	17 Juvenile Red Fox by old orchard (1996)
18 	19 Farmhouse Maple Tree changing color (1997)	20 American White Pelican flock at Point Douglas (2005)	21	22  MN State Fair Begins	23 Public Bird Banding	24 Carpenter Art Festival - WI Campus
25 Red-breasted Nuthatch sighted	26 Many acorns this year	27 	28 White-tailed Deer doe and fawn by Orchard gates (2001)	29	30 Buckeye leaves dropping	31 13 hrs 18 min daylight





# Minnesota Campus Programs & Events

Hiking trails wind throughout the tall pines, oak savanna, restored prairies, wooded ravines, around the apple orchard, and along the river of our 425-acre Minnesota Campus located at 12805 St. Croix Trail South, Hastings, MN 55033.

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

## Summer Camps

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 6-11)

June 19 & July 10

1:00 pm—4:00 pm

Fish on the St. Croix River.

Supplies provided if needed.

Fee (per session): \$35 per child or \$25 for 'Friends of CNC.'



### Nature Nuts (ages 5 & 6)

June 17—21 • 9:00am—Noon

Fee: \$105 per participant or \$95 for 'Friends of CNC.'

### Ornithologists (ages 10+)

June 26—28 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Learn about bird biology, identification, and conservation while hiking the grounds at CNC.

Fee: \$139 per child or \$129 for 'Friends of CNC.'

### Pathfinders (ages 11+) July 15—19 • 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.'

### Entomologists (ages 11+) July 1—3 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Come learn about the fascinating world of insects and start your own insect collection. Program Fee: \$139 or \$129 for 'Friends of CNC.'

**The following camps are FILLED FOR 2019 but will be available again during the summer of 2020:**

### Outdoor Skills (ages 10+) FILLED FOR 2019

June 24—25 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Program Fee: \$90 or \$80 for 'Friends of CNC.'

### Pioneers (ages 7 & 8) FILLED FOR 2019

July 8—12 • 9:00 am—Noon

Fee: \$105 per participant or \$95 for 'Friends of CNC.'

### Explorers (ages 9-11) FILLED FOR 2019

July 22—26 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Fee: \$184 per child or \$174 for 'Friends of CNC.'

### Canoe Trip (ages 12+) FILLED FOR 2019

July 30—Aug 1 • 9:00 am Tuesday—4:30 pm Thursday

Fee: \$235 per participant or \$225 for 'Friends of CNC.'

**For more information, and to view our camp registration form, please visit our website at [www.carpenternaturecenter.org](http://www.carpenternaturecenter.org).**

## Save the Dates

### APPLE SHACK OPEN AROUND LABOR DAY

9:00 am—5:00pm daily  
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.



## Raptor Release September 28, 2019

Presented in partnership with  
The Raptor Center at the  
University of Minnesota



# People Profiles

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Carpenter Nature Center heavily relies on the support of dedicated volunteers, hardworking interns, a passionate Board of Directors, and generous donors. On behalf of the staff at CNC, we would like to take time to express our gratitude for the contributions of just a few of the individuals who help us serve the communities on both sides of the beautiful St. Croix River.



## 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 "Mew 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!

*Want to join the CNC volunteer team? Here's how!*

A **Volunteer Information Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, June 4 at 7:00pm for those interested in becoming volunteers at Carpenter Nature Center. Please call ahead to let us know you are coming 651-437-4359.

### Volunteer Opportunities this Season

**Gardeners Wanted**—After the long winter, we could use your help maintaining the many gardens around CNC. There is the native plant garden, herb garden, peony bed, front gate garden, circle garden, and the rain garden!

**St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament**—Volunteers will be needed for a variety of duties at this event on July 22. Mark your calendars, and call us if you are available to assist.

### Save the Dates—Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

**Raptor Release** on September 28

**Apple Fest** on October 12 and 13

We'll need lots of volunteer help with both these events; no special training needed – just lots of enthusiasm.

## 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.



### Andrew Gudknecht

Andrew is a senior at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls majoring in Conservation & Environmental Planning. His internship focused mostly on natural resource conservation and horticulture. His main tasks were buckthorn removal and treatment on the Wisconsin campus, taking photographs inside the nest boxes around the Minnesota campus, pruning apple trees in the orchard, and installation of orchard signage. The signs denote the different varieties of apples, what year they were planted, and which rootstock was used.



# Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

**In Honor of** — John McPherson from the Bees, Mike Murphy from Mary Murphy, Bob & Kathy Setzer from Bruce & Betsy Olson, Jennifer Vieth from the Minnetonka Bird Club

**In Memory Of** — Wayne Anderson from Char Anderson & Kim Hoffman, Robert & Carol Chapman, George & Phyllis Colaizy, Harry & Deborah Hedges, Ray & Bernice Hoffman, Lauren & Marianne Howard, John & Kim Lundeen, Oscar & Deborah Mathison, Harris & Wilma Richardson, Julie Strom, Thomas & Karen Wenner, Bemis 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, Lyla Davies from Todd & Julie Sieben, Daryl Donath from Antoni & Sharon Lewandowski, Gloria Hansen from Mark Hansen, Lloyd L. Hanson from Darleen Hanson, George O. Hoel from Thomas & Susan Hoel, Peg Holmes from Bob & Kathy Setzer, Dick & Jean Janssen from Kathy Janssen, John Kern from Dave & Audrey Kern, Richard Kron from Tracey Colley, Julie Malkowski from Jim & Nancy Malkowski, Bert McKasy from Gordon & Josephine Bailey, Don & Muggs McQuade from Bruce & Michelle McQuade, Virginia Murray from Phil & Marlene Kachelmyer, Karen Schulte from Len Schulte, Bart Simpson from David Gilbraith, Willard Swanson from Carmen Swanson, Dick Thompson from Dee Thompson





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

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

### 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](mailto:Erika@CarpenterNatureCenter.org) to join our e-mail list.

Follow us online:

[www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org](http://www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org), Facebook, Twitter, or [www.givemn.org](http://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.