



Volume 39, Number 1
Winter 2020

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:

Steve Betchkal, Kendahl Chergosky,
Abbey Holden, Erika Jensen, Mayme
Johnson, Alan Maloney, Tonya Schmitt,
Jennifer Vieth

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Field Notes By Jen Vieth

Outside the frosted window, whirling snow-snakes weave across the landscape in a chaotic dance. They intertwine, dissolving and reforming in a complex network, much as daily life shifts and transforms in an instant. Today, we live at such a high speed, it feels as if an entire year can pass in the blink of an eye. At every angle, we are bombarded by electronic messages, busy schedules, and angst-filled news stories. Yet, in our youth, the winter months seemed magically endless as we waited for our next grand adventure.

The New Year provides a perfect moment to contemplate what the passage of time means to Carpenter Nature Center. It is often said that Nature Centers are in the business of forever. Perpetuity. Planting an oak tree and educating a child, are acts that will not see their full potential for many years, yet the impact of one child, or one tree, can last for decades. A White Oak, *Quercus alba*, can live to be 450 years old and will support 534 native species of caterpillar, which metamorphose into moths and butterflies. The diversity of insects that are supported by an oak, feed a much wider web of life. In fact, 96 percent of our terrestrial birds feed their young insects. Ultimately, an oak planted in the St. Croix Valley provides sustenance for hundreds of species, including Ruby-throated Hummingbird chicks that will migrate to Costa Rica for the winter, connecting countries thousands of miles apart.

Carpenter Nature Center's influence has as broad a reach as the mighty oak. Throughout the U.S., north into Canada, south to Costa Rica, and across the ocean to Ireland, former interns, students, and volunteers are making the world a better place for humans and wildlife. The lessons they learned at CNC have inspired them to protect land, pursue an environmental career, volunteer in new communities, and teach youth about the wonderful world of nature.

Extended timetables mean that patience and persistence are key. Looking back after nearly 40 years of serving the community, we see those early efforts at CNC paid off. Today Carpenter Nature Center has protected 425 ADDITIONAL acres of diverse habitat in Minnesota AND Wisconsin. We have taught hundreds of thousands of youth about the complex world of nature. Each child, each lesson, each meeting with potential land donors were moments in time that ultimately coalesced into great accomplishments.

The grand passage of time provides us with the ability to look back with pride at what we accomplished, and to look forward with anticipation to what we might accomplish tomorrow. Thank you for sharing this journey with us. We wish you a wonderful New Year of adventures, achievement, and time to spend in nature.



Environmental education is a year-round effort at CNC. We offer a variety of winter classes, including Maple Syruping in March (top). Even dormant and leafless, oak trees support wildlife in winter (bottom). Birds roost in their branches, insects hibernate under bark, and squirrels scramble looking for caches of hidden acorns.

Upcoming Programs & Events

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

Mindfulness in Nature

Jan 5, 12, 19 & 26

11:00 am - Noon

Take time to connect with the power and fragility of nature. Join instructor Tonya Schmitt, MEd and RYT-500 yoga teacher, and engage in sensory-focused mindfulness by breathing deeply, performing simple movements, being in nature, and hearing stories of environmental awareness. Please dress for the weather. Program Fee: \$15 per session or \$10 per session for 'Friends of CNC.'



Snowshoe Hikes Adult Moonlight Snowshoe

Jan 10 & Feb 7 • 7:00 - 9:00 pm

\$12 or \$10 for 'Friends of CNC'

Family Snowshoe

Jan 18 • 10:00 am - Noon

\$8 or \$5 for 'Friends of CNC'

Enjoy the winter weather with a guided snowshoe hike at CNC. Snowshoes provided or bring your own; dress for the weather. Registration is required, so please call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot.



Curt Mages

Preschool Storytime

Fridays • 10:00 - 11:00 am

Jan 10 • Feb 14 • Mar 20 • Apr 10

Listen to stories, spend time outdoors, make a craft, and meet live animals. Designed for children ages 2-5. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required, so please call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot. Program Fee: \$5 per child or \$3 for 'Friends of CNC.' No charge for accompanying adult.

FREE Ice Fishing at Lake Rebecca

Jan 11 & Feb 8

9:00 - 11:30 am

Learn about ice safety, fish species and habitat, ice fishing gear and techniques, and more. Instruction provided in part by the National Park Service, the world-renowned experts from In-Depth Outdoors®, and local high school ice angling teams. For more information, contact Paige Marschall of Hastings Parks & Rec at 651-480-6182.



Jessie Eckroad

Owl Prowls

Jan 24 & Feb 21

6:00 - 8:00 pm

This time of the year, many of the Midwest's 12 owl species are vocalizing to attract mates. Explore CNC on a guided night-hike to look and listen for these owls. Registration is required, and space is limited, so please call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot. Program Fee: \$6 per person or \$4 for 'Friends of CNC.'

Public Bird Banding

Fridays • 8:30 am - Noon

Jan 24 • Feb 28 • Mar 27 • Apr 24

Watch CNC's expert bird banders as they catch, band, and release songbirds. Banding runs continuously, so visitors may come and go any time. Program Fee: FREE.

Hiking the Superior Trail

Feb 1 • 10:00 am

Join hiking enthusiast Abbey Holden as she discusses the many facets of preparing for a thru-hike of the Superior Hiking Trail. Get a glimpse into the planning process including the best time of year to hike, transportation considerations, what to eat and how to pack it, organizing resupplies, and even bringing your dog along on your trip. This program is FREE, so if you've ever considered long-distance hiking, come to CNC to learn from an expert.



Masters of the Sky

Presented by the
World Bird Sanctuary

February 29 & March 1

11:00 am • 1:00 pm • 3:00 pm

The World Bird Sanctuary staff from St. Louis, Missouri, will be coming to CNC to present a captivating program about birds of prey. Visitors will learn about raptors from around the world and have the chance to experience live hawks, eagles, owls, falcons,



Mike Mann

and vultures up close and in free-flight. The presenters will introduce methods to help protect raptors and their habitats. RSVP and non-refundable payment are required, so call 651-437-4359 to reserve your seats. Event Fee: \$10 or \$7 for 'Friends of CNC.'

Upcoming Programs & Events

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

Making Maple Syrup



Scout Program

Mar 7 • 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Public Programs

Mar 22 • 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Mar 29 • 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Welcome spring by joining the CNC staff in making maple syrup. Hike to the "sugarbush" to learn about the structure and function of trees, tap maple trees, watch the process of turning sap into syrup, and sample the final product. The program starts indoors, but be ready to hike in the spring snow and mud. Registration is required, and space is limited, so please call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot. Program Fee: \$6 per person or \$4 for 'Friends of CNC.'

Home School: Making Maple Syrup

Mar 13 • 1:00 - 3:00 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. Dress appropriately for the weather. Registration is required, and space is limited, so please call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot. Program Fee: \$6 per student or \$4 for 'Friends of CNC.'

Migration Talk

Mar 26 • 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Feathers set birds apart from other living things, and wings make birds mobile. How birds move across Earth is a magnificently-evolved and precisely-tuned story of one of life's most fascinating and mysterious systems. Ornithologist Steve Betchkal discusses the hows, whys, whens, and wheres of migration. Registration is required, so call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot. Program Fee: \$6 per person or \$4 for 'Friends of CNC.'



Spring Bird Hike

Apr 4 • 8:00 am

Learn to identify birds with local experts. Binoculars and field guides will be available to use, or you may bring your own. Registration is recommended, so please call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot. Program Fee: \$6 or FREE for 'Friends of CNC,' SCVBC members, and high school students.

Hastings Area Birding Festival

In partnership with the Hastings Environmental Protectors

April 18 • 8:00 am

Celebrate birds and conservation while attending classes and demonstrations, and go on guided bird trips around Hastings.

A special feature of the 2020 Festival is the **50 for 50 Youth Birding Competition**. The recruitment of 50 teams for our annual youth competition is a special effort in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Join us in this celebration by registering as a youth participant, or support young birders by sponsoring a team. Youth need no prior birding experience to participate in this competition. They can learn everything they need to be successful in the competition by attending our **50 for 50 Youth Birding Competition Preparation Course on April 11 from 9:00 - 11:00 am at CNC.**



For more information about the Festival, and to view a schedule for the event, visit our website. RSVPs required. Call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot. Event Fee: \$5 or \$15 with a box lunch.

Wisconsin Campus Programs

300 East Cove Road • Hudson

Bird Hikes

Jan 11 & Feb 8 • 9:00 am

Mar 14 & Apr 11 • 8:00 am

Learn to identify birds with local experts. Binoculars and field guides will be available to use, or you may bring your own. Program Fee: \$6 or FREE for 'Friends of CNC,' SCVBC members, and high school students.

Owl Prowl











































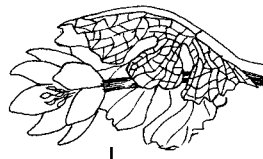
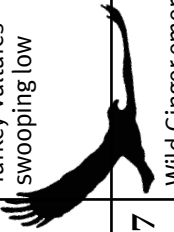


Mar 6 • 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Explore CNC on a guided night-hike to look and listen for owls. Call 651-437-4359 to register. Program Fee: \$6 per person or \$4 for 'Friends of CNC.'

Woodcock Walk

Apr 24 • 8:00 - 9:00 pm
Learn fascinating details about the lifestyle and conservation outlook of the American Woodcock. The program will begin indoors, followed by a walk through the darkening prairie. Registration is required, so call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot. Program Fee: \$6 per person or \$4 for 'Friends of CNC.'

2020 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

Phenology from 2019 (with additional entries from CNC's past phenology notes)

				1 New Year's Day – CNC Closed	2 Four male Ring-necked Pheasants crossing into prairie	3 8 hours and 52 minutes of daylight	4 
5 Mindfulness in Nature	6 American Robin in birdbath ('12)	7 	8 	9 Black-capped Chickadees singing spring "FeeBee"	10 Preschool Story Time: Snowflake Season	11 Ice Fishing at Lake Rebecca Bird Hike - WI	11 Ice Fishing at Lake Rebecca Bird Hike - WI
12 Mindfulness in Nature	13 Peregrine Falcon buzzed CNC staff ('05)	14 	15 First St. Paul Winter Carnival Ice Castle (1886) 	16 Blue Jays singing "pump handle" song ('05) 	17 	18 Family Snowshoe Hike	18 Family Snowshoe Hike
19 Mindfulness in Nature	20 Martin Luther King Jr Day	21 Northern Flicker sighted	22 	23 Schools closed three days due to Polar Vortex	24 Public Bird Banding Owl Prowl - MN	25	25
26 Mindfulness in Nature	27	28 Northern Harrier flying over prairie ('91)	29 	30 	31 	February 1 Hiking the Superior Trail	February 1 Hiking the Superior Trail
2 Fox crossed driveway ('97)	3 	4 50+ Wild Turkeys crossing road by Lodge	5 	6	7 Adult Moonlight Snowshoe Hike	8 Ice Fishing at Lake Rebecca Bird Hike - WI	8 Ice Fishing at Lake Rebecca Bird Hike - WI
9 Full Moon	10 Rapid water in ravine from snowmelt ('09)	11 	12 	13 Bald Eagles incubating eggs ('15) 	14 Preschool Story Time: Beary Special Valentines Valentine's Day	15 	15 
16 	17 Presidents' Day	18 Snowy Owl at Fischer's Orchard ('04)	19 	20	21 Owl Prowl - MN	22 Bald Eagle on snow covered nest	22 Bald Eagle on snow covered nest
23 Juvenile Opossum in shrubs by IC	24 	25 Aspen buds opening ('98)	26 Striped Skunk at Farmhouse ('99) 	27 	28 Public Bird Banding 	29 Masters of the Sky	29 Masters of the Sky
1 March Masters of the Sky	2 	3 Daffodils in Circle Garden up 3-4 inches	4 	5 Rough-legged Hawk hunting over prairie	6 Owl Prowl - WI	7 Scout Day: Making Maple Syrup	7 Scout Day: Making Maple Syrup
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 	9 Full Moon	10 	11 North American River Otter swimming at dock ('17)	12 Common Loons on St. Croix River ('98)	13 Home School: Making Maple Syrup	14 Bird Hike - WI Sandhill Cranes overhead	14 Bird Hike - WI Sandhill Cranes overhead
15 Sap is running	16 12+ Bald Eagles riding currents Juncos still here	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Red-winged Blackbird by Admin building	19 First day of Spring	20 Preschool Story Time: Syrup Season	21 Redheaded Woodpeckers chatting 	21 Redheaded Woodpeckers chatting 
22 Making Maple Syrup UN Water – World Water Day	23 Eastern Bluebirds in prairie 	24 	25 Ice out on upper pond	26 Migration Talk	27 Public Bird Banding Eagles feeding chicks	28	28
29 Making Maple Syrup Great Blue Herons flying over	30 	31 	April 1	2 North American Beaver swimming by sandbar	3 Preschool Story Time: Earth Day Celebration	4 Bird Hike - MN	4 Bird Hike - MN
5 Silver Maple buds opening	6 Full Moon 	7 Flock of American White Pelicans overhead	8 Eurasian Collared-Dove singing by Admin building	9 American Woodcock on nests	10 First Field Sparrow singing	11 Bird Hike - WI Thunderstorm	11 Bird Hike - WI Thunderstorm
12 Easter – CNC Closed 	13 Floodplain underwater ('05 and '99)	14 Two Pine Siskins at feeders ('96)	15 	16 American Woodcock on nests	17 Arbor Day Public Bird Banding Woodcock Walk - WI	18 Hastings Area Birding Festival	18 Hastings Area Birding Festival
19	20 	21 Turkey Vultures swooping low 	22 Earth Day Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up	23 Dragonfly by pond	24 Prairie Smoke and Lupine emerging	25 	25 
26 Bloodroot blooming	27	28 Wild Ginger emerging	29 14 hours and 12 minutes of daylight	30			

People Profiles

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sverre Sundgaard



Volunteer Spotlight

Jeff Olson

This winter we are pleased to shine the Volunteer Spotlight on Jeff Olson. Jeff started volunteering in 2017 and has since logged over 350 hours. Jeff is a mainstay of our beloved “Mew Crew” who come in every Wednesday and clean the raptor pens, helping us maintain happy and healthy raptor ambassadors. Jeff has relayed how rewarding it is to volunteer here at CNC and we want to make sure he knows how grateful we are to have him on our volunteer team. Thanks Jeff, we are humbled by your generous sharing of time and talent and graciously hold our glasses high in your honor.

Volunteer Corner

Volunteer Information Meetings for those interested in joining the CNC Volunteer team, will take place in the Visitor Center at 7pm on the following days: January 22, February 19, March 12, and April 14. These meetings last about ½ hour and are a great way to get started on your volunteering path. Please call ahead at 651-437-4359 to let us know you are coming.

Volunteer Opportunities

Public Programs – Check out the upcoming program/event calendar and mark the dates for the Moonlight Snowshoe Hikes and Masters of the Sky. We appreciate volunteer help with these programs and more info will be emailed as those dates get closer.

Collect Maple Sap – During March we will be tapping maple trees and making delicious maple syrup. If the sap runs a lot, we will need help with this process – you’ll be hauling sap and helping to boil it down to syrup. Look for an email in March for this task.

Adopt-A-Highway spring cleanup will take place on Earth Day April 22 starting at 5:30pm. Please join us and show your love and respect for the earth as we pick up litter along the highway that runs past CNC.

Meet our Intern

Kendahl Chergosky

Kendahl Chergosky has been interning at Carpenter Nature Center since September of 2019. She is a recent graduate from St. Cloud State, with a Bachelor’s of Science in Biology: Biodiversity, Ecology, & Evolution, and a minor in Communication Studies. This is a mouthful, so she prefers to say she majored in “critters” and minored in “chit-chat”. Critters and chit-chat are what she enjoys doing at CNC, as she has a passion for science communication and environmental education. Aside from assisting with environmental education programming, she enjoys being an “all-purpose intern,” writing the monthly e-newsletter and helping care for CNC’s many critters. Thank you, Kendahl, for your enthusiasm and hard work. You are a great addition to the team at CNC.



Help Support CNC

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.

CNC Wish List

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, our wish is for you to participate in an Earth Day event in the community and practice conservation in your everyday life.

Here are some opportunities for celebrating Earth Day:

- Sponsor a team or donate prizes for the 50 for 50 Youth Birding Competition
- Volunteer for the CNC Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up
- To help improve local water quality, reduce your use of sidewalk salts this winter and use sand instead
- Reduce waste at home by recycling and composting.
- This spring, plant native flowers and grasses in your yard to help support pollinators

MAKE EVERYDAY
EARTH DAY

Memorials & Honorariums

In Honor Of

Laurie Bauer from Kathryn Mergens
Wayne Fahlstrom from Art & Kathy Luedtke
Judy Kennedy from Linda Polglase
Yvonne Szatkowski & Linda Whyte
from Pam & Loren Albin, Shelley & Lee Bowman, Abbey Holden, Paul & Susan Lavrakas, Jeanne Nymman, Cathy Olyphant & Bart Hoekstra, and Judy W.

In Memory Of

Sandy Bohlken from Jane & Steve Messick
Donna Buck from Donald Buck
Kevin Graves from Kathy Widin
Lloyd Hanson from Darleen Hanson
John Kinkead from Elizabeth Andrews, Jeannine Kellogg, and Bob & Kathy Setzer
Jean Poehler from William & Ruth Estes
Jim Richman from Alica Degross, Cliff Richman, Glenn & Kathy Wallace, & TSI Incorporated
Roxana Safipour from Leila Poullada
Loretta Sieben from Todd & Julie Sieben
Ruth Alice Shookman from Phil & Marlene Kachelmyer

Summer Camp Sneak Peek 2020

For more information, and to view our camp registration form, please visit our website.

Fishing Fun (ages 6-11)

June 24 & July 8 • 1:00 pm—4:00 pm

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

Nature Nuts (ages 5 & 6)

June 22—26 • 9:00am—Noon

Pioneers (ages 7 & 8)

July 6—10 • 9:00 am—Noon

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

Explorers (ages 9-11)

July 20—24 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Fee: \$189 per child or \$179 for ‘Friends of CNC.’

Outdoor Skills (ages 10+)

June 29—July 1 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Program Fee: \$119 or \$109 for ‘Friends of CNC.’

Canoe Trip (ages 12+)

July 28—30 • 9:00 am Tuesday—4:30 pm Thursday

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





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Location and Hours

Carpenter Nature Center is a 501(c)(3) private, non-profit organization with property on both the Minnesota and Wisconsin sides of the scenic St. Croix River.

For more information about our properties, please visit www.carpenternaturecenter.org.



Minnesota Campus

12805 St. Croix Trail S.
Hastings, MN 55033
(651) 437-4359

Hours: 8:00am – 4:30pm daily

**Trails, buildings, parking lots, and front gates
close daily at 4:30pm**

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day,
New Year's Day, and Easter.



Wisconsin Campus

300 East Cove Road
Hudson, WI 54016
(651) 437-4359

Hours: Open year-round from sunrise to sunset

