



Wendy Hill

The St. Croix Current

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Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

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"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

"Wow! The birds have just been singing like crazy. Are there more of them this year? Or am I just noticing them now?" Mo, KDWA's radio show host, and I typically spend an hour in the studio monthly, belly-laughing at all sorts of interesting nature stories from trees communicating with one another through mycelium (fungal threads), to advice on what to do if you find a baby bird in your back yard. In these days of covid-19, our interview was by phone, but the distance did not quell the laughter, excitement and wonder at the amazing world of nature.

Days later, I was still thinking of her question, and *how this spring is different in so many ways.* Beside the obvious global crisis, this year people are suddenly noticing the changing of the season. The arrival of White-throated Sparrows en route to the Boreal Forest, or the first Baltimore Oriole at the feeder are moments that are noticed and celebrated. Moments we usually miss in our phrenetic lives. *The act of noticing seasonal changes connects us to the ebb and flow of nature.* Numerous studies have shown time in nature is strengthening to us, emotionally, physically and mentally. *It is especially helpful during this time of change and uncertainty.* The benefit goes both ways, as the more we connect, the more we appreciate and understand nature. Our native wildlife and natural habitat needs our admiration and protection now more than ever.

In this year, the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day, it is an understatement to say we still have a lot of work to do. From microplastics in our local waters, to overwhelming habitat destruction locally and globally, the negative stories can feel like a tidal wave. Yet there are also wonderful stories of success, involving passionate people recruiting help "across the aisles" and making positive change happen. Stories such as the restoration of Peregrine Falcons in the Midwest, and the return of the awe-inspiring, enormous California Condor.

It just takes one person to start the forward motion. One person, like MaryLu, who insisted that her friend collect litter on the roadside before collecting rocks for her garden. Or Gale, the well-read diesel mechanic, known throughout Newport for his avid recycling. He even recycled the Hershey's Kiss wrappers during family holiday cookie baking! When standing alongside humble, hard-working people like Gale and MaryLu, one can't help but feel inspired to roll up your sleeves and make a difference. MaryLu and Gale are no longer with us, but at CNC we meet thousands of youth every year who may be our next Aldo Leopold. Our next Gale. Our next MaryLu.

Just because the world is in turmoil, does not mean Carpenter Nature Center has stopped working to connect our community to nature. From keeping our trails open throughout the crisis, to modifying our most popular spring programs to be taught via distance learning, we are getting creative, adapting and planning for the future. If we each do our part, nature will still be here, providing us with strength and wonder, when today's youth celebrate the 100th anniversary of Earth Day.

"When the sun of compassion arises, darkness evaporates, and the singing birds come from nowhere."

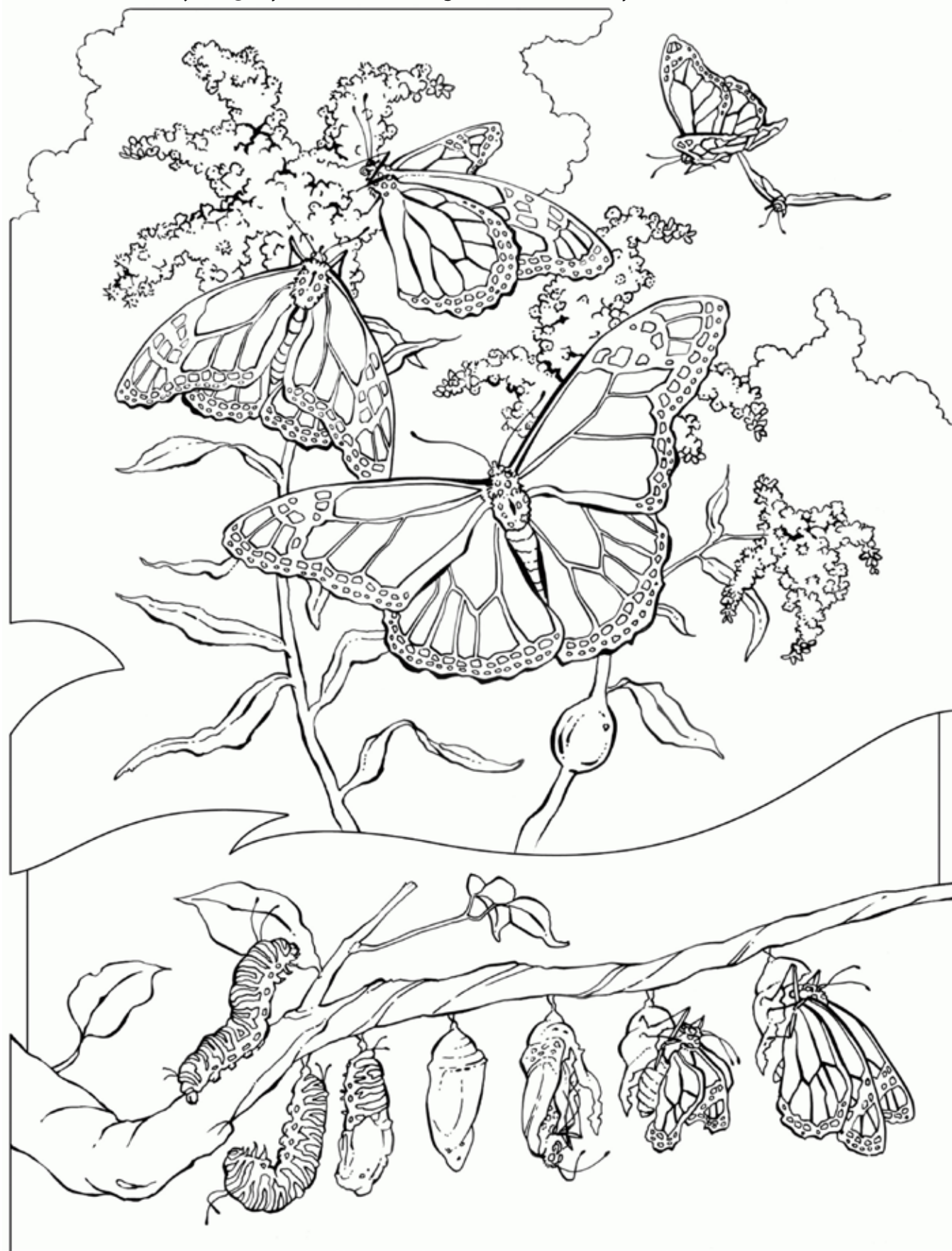
Amit Ray - Author and spiritual leader



The Safe-at-Home Youth Birding Competition is one way CNC is continuing to facilitate quality outdoor experiences for families despite these trying times. In this photo, team Junco Johnsons proudly display their participation prizes. It is inspiring to know that the Johnsons, and other children like them, are our future environmental leaders.

Color With Your Community

For children and adults alike, engaging in artistic activities is a great way to relieve stress.
Color this page and send a picture of your creation to
jessie@carpenternaturecenter.org for a chance to win a pollinator house!



Programs & Events

At Carpenter Nature Center, the safety of our visitors is of the utmost importance.
We are continuing to monitor the spread of COVID-19, and are making decisions about operations and programming based on recommendations from the CDC and MN and WI Departments of Health.
The programming below is currently scheduled, but may need to be postponed or canceled based on the ever-changing circumstances related to COVID-19.
Please visit our website www.carpenternaturecenter.org for the most current programming information.

Public Programs

Bird Hikes

Minnesota Campus

June 6 • July 11 • Aug 1
8:00—10:00 am

Wisconsin Campus

June 13 • July 11 • Aug 8
8:00—10:00 am

Public Bird Banding—Minnesota Campus

June 26 • July 24 • Aug 28 • 8:30 am—Noon

Preschool Storytime—Minnesota Campus

June 19 • July 17 • Aug 7 10:00—11:00 am

Phipps Art Camp

Critter Crafting (ages 8-12) June 29—July 1 • 1:00—4:00 pm

Evening Hike on the Prairie—Wisconsin Campus

July 23 • 7:00—8:00 pm

Family Spin Fishing—Minnesota Campus

July 25 • 10:00 am—Noon

BioBlitz—Minnesota Campus

Aug 8 • 8:00 am—2:00 pm

Youth Archery—Minnesota Campus

Aug 20 • 5:00—7:00 pm

Summer Camps

Spaces are currently available in the following camps:

Fishing Fun (ages 6-11) June 24 • 1:00 pm—4:00 pm

Nature Nuts (ages 5 & 6) June 22—26 • 9:00 am—Noon

Outdoor Skills (ages 10+)

June 29—July 1 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm

R.A.M.B.O. (ages 10+) July 13—15 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Camps **FILLED FOR 2020** but available again in 2021:

Pioneers (ages 7 & 8)

Explorers (ages 9-11)

Canoe Trip (ages 12+)

Annual Events

St. Croix Valley Scramble July 20 • 1:00 pm

Carpenter Art Festival Aug 22 • 10:00 am—5:00 pm

Other Dates to Remember

Apple Shack Opens Around Labor Day

Autumn in the Valley Gala Sept 13

Raptor Release Sept 26

Apple Festival Oct 10 & 11

Volunteer Corner

Carpenter Nature Center is fortunate to have 200+ volunteers who dedicated their time to assisting with our mission.

However, we have temporarily suspended volunteer presence on our sites

and are operating with minimal staff in order to protect the health of the community.

When public health officials deem it safe, we will welcome our volunteer team back with great enthusiasm.

In the meantime, mark your calendars for these tentatively scheduled volunteer opportunities.

Please visit our website www.carpenternaturecenter.org for the most current volunteer information.

Volunteer Information Meetings will be held on Tuesday, June 9 and Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00 pm for those interested in becoming volunteers at CNC. Please call ahead at 651-437-4359 to let us know you are coming. If you can't make a scheduled meeting, please email the Volunteer Coordinator at alan@carpenternaturecenter.org to set up a one-on-one meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities this Season

Gardeners Wanted

St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament—July 20

Carpenter Art Festival— August 22 on the CNC Wisconsin Campus


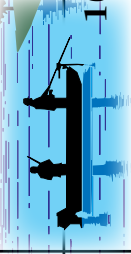



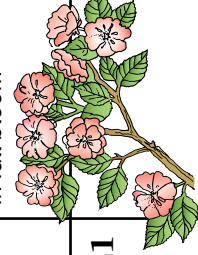




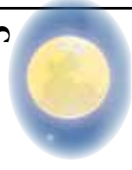

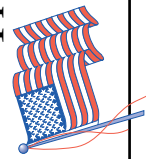




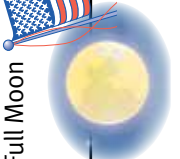









Save the Dates—Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Raptor Release—September 26

Apple Fest—October 10 and 11

2020 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

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

May							1	2
		What natural phenomena are you observing in your community? Watch the plants and animals near you and record what you see on this calendar!						Wisconsin Fishing Opener
3			4	5	6	7	8	9
					Garter Snake basking near Orchard	Full "Super" Moon Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower peak	Orioles have arrived	Minnesota Fishing Opener 
10	Mother's Day 	Eastern Bluebirds laying eggs Minnesota Statehood - 1858	11	12	13	14	15	16
					American Toads trilling in CNC Pond	Hummingbirds have arrived 	Zestar! and crabapples in full bloom 	
17			18	19	20	21	22	23
				Morel Mushrooms found	Red-bellied Woodpecker seen			
24		Memorial Day 	25	26	27	28	29	30
				Wood Ticks are active			Pair of Sandhill Cranes in burned section of prairie Wisconsin Statehood - 1848	Petal fall in Orchard
31		June Dragonflies around CNC Pond	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Juvenile Bald Eagle on the nest			Full Moon 	
7		Two White-tailed Deer fawns in parking lot by North Prairie	8	9	10	11	12	13
				Peonies in full bloom	Black Swallowtail Butterfly on Beach Trail			
14	Flag Day 	Great Crested Flycatcher near Bald Eagle nest	15	16	17	18	19	20
				Indigo Bunting at bird feeder 		Spittlebug bubbles on vegetation 		Vole ran across sidewalk by CNC Pond First Day of Summer
21	Father's Day	Fireflies sighted	22	23	24	25	26	27
								Banded seven American Kestrel chicks
28			29	30	1	2	3	4
					July Hundreds of juvenile American Toads in parking lot		Three River Otters on Railroad Bed Trail	Independence Day Full Moon 
5			6	7	8	9	10	11
				Wild Blackcap Raspberries are ripe			Cicadas Buzzing 	
12	Pair of Scarlet Tanagers near floodplain (1993)	13	13	14	15	16	17	18
				Albino American Robin by CNC Pond (2017)		Eastern Bluebirds fledgling from nest boxes (2016)	Three juvenile Gray Tree Frogs on milkweed	
19	Heat index of 116°F at 5:30pm	20	20	21	22	23	24	25
					Corn tasseling (2014)		St. Croix River high water – no beach at CNC	
26	Sunfish nest in CNC Pond (2006)	27	27	28	29	30	31	1
					Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower peak		Black Bear at CNC pulled down bird feeders (2014)	August
2	Praying Mantis on rabbit pen (2007)	3	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Full Moon 			St Croix River low enough for a beach	Cardinal Flowers blooming on floodplain (2009)		
9		10	10	11	12	13	14	15
				First Aster blooming on CNC restored prairie (2005)		Perseids Meteor Shower peak		
16	First FirstKiss Apple of the season	17	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Ohio Buckeye leaves turning fall colors (1995)						 Four River Otters playing by dock
Fox scent-marking by IC Amphitheater (2002)	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29
Nighthawk perched in Boxelder on Savanna Trail	30	Blue Racer Snake in Circle Garden (2009)	31					

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
Grace Johnston

This summer we are happy to spotlight Grace Johnston. Grace started volunteering in the fall of 2018 in our Animal Care department. Soon, she branched out to help with many other areas including evening snowshoe hikes, Apple Fest, Raptor Release, and in the apple orchard. She is one of the best traffic control car directors for the Raptor Release and even recruited her sister to come out and help with this task. Grace is a fantastic addition to our Volunteer Corps, she goes the extra mile in her efforts to help out, and we greatly appreciate that she gives her time and talent to CNC . Thanks Grace, you’re an inspiration to us all.

Meet Our New Board Members



Caroline Bailey
Caroline joined our Board in 2019 and is looking forward to contributing to the mission and vision of CNC. She is a communications manager at 3M with 33 years of 3M experience in marketing and customer account management. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing Management. Caroline lives in Newport with her husband John and has two grown sons. Caroline and her family enjoy

nature and outdoor activities such as skiing, hiking, biking and snowshoeing. She is an active volunteer through 3M and in the community.



Jaber Alsiddiqui
A native of Kuwait, Jaber came to the U.S. to pursue his MBA after receiving a degree in Accounting from Kuwait University. He became a Chief Budget Analyst for Saint Paul Public Schools, and later a Controller for Lakeville Public Schools, the position from which he retired in 2017. He joined the CNC Board because of his life-long passion to protect the environment through stewardship and education. Jaber lives in

Apple Valley with his two dogs, Amira and Max, and his African Gray Parrot, Lakota. His hobbies include traveling overseas, golfing, hiking, gardening, and rock and mineral collecting.

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Honor of

Mike & Mary Lynn Murphy from Mary Murphy, Kate Sophia from Phil & Marlene Kachelmyer, John & Gladi Sippel from Anonymous, Jennifer Vieth from Katherine & Martin Brown, Yvonne Szatkowski & Linda Whyte from Pam & Loren Albin, Sue Anchor, Jim Beix, Shelley Bowman, Abbey Holden, Paul & Susan Lavrakas, Karen Loveland, Kathy Mueller, Jeanne Nyman, Cathy Olyphant & Bart Hoekstra, Rick Schmid, Dwight & Diane Smith, Judy Taylor, Randy Thoreson, Judy Wedul, and Krystanza.

In Memory of

Mark Berg from Bill & Betty Berg, Donna Buck from Donald Buck, a council ring in memory of MaryLu Brown from Bill & Winkie Coyne, Tom Bump from Michelle Bump, Donald & Marie Dawald from Greg & Martha Smetana, Daryl Donath from Toni & Sharon Lewandowski, Jim Gesell from Tom & Kay Becken, Lloyd Hanson from Darleen Hanson, Dick & Jean Janssen from Kathy Janssen, George Kronschnabel from Jim & Judy Freund, a council ring in memory of Buzz & Mary Marzolf from Anne Groetsch, Chris & Marybeth Kissling, Mike Marzolf, and Tom Marzolf, Angus & Viola Smetana from Greg & Martha Smetana, “Hobie” Setzer, MD from Bob & Kathy Setzer, Loretta Sieben from Todd & Julie Sieben, Gale Libby from Kathy Libby, Bauer Built Tire & Service, “The Birthday Group”, Christian & Andrea Cheadeh, Donald & Cheryl DeMartino, Geoffery DeMartino, Patrick & Laura Eckert, Paul & Betty Frandsen, James & Julie Galkowski, Kent & Pamela Hoffman, Bruce & Ginny Johnson, Wayne & Joyce Klomp, Dean & Lorelei Libby, Helen & Larry Lind, David & Mary Meisner, Antoinette Merth, Moller & Barrett LLP, Tim & Linda Murphy, Rodney & Paula Olson, Richard & Rosalie Rayburn, Paul & Debbie Robbins, Darlene & Kaye Sabean, Conrad & Donna Sanders, C. Linda Siluk, Daniel Streeper, and Jennifer Vieth.

Flowers and Pollinators
Word Search

Both flowers and pollinators come in all shapes, sizes, and colors! Are you familiar with all the plants and animals listed in the word bank? Send your completed puzzle to jessie@carpenternaturecenter.org for a chance to win a pollinator house!

Word search grid containing letters for finding words related to flowers and pollinators.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| DAKOTA SKIPPER | PRAIRIE SMOKE | RUSTY-PATCHED bumblebee | YELLOW JACKET |
| LADY’S SLIPPER | SWALLOWTAIL butterfly | BLAZING STAR | HUMMINGBIRD |
| BOXELDER BUG | KARNER BLUE butterfly | CONEFLOWER | BUMBLEBEE |
| CARPENTER bee | PAPER WASP | CLEARWING moth | DANDELION |
| COLUMBINE | JEWELWEED | GOLDENROD | HEPATICA |
| BLOODROOT | HOVERFLY | PRIMROSE | CARDINAL flower |
| SOLDIER beetle | FLEABANE | MONARCH butterfly | THISTLE |
| INDIGO | SPHINX moth | SYRPHID fly | NECTAR |
| POLLEN | MASON bee | MONARDA | CLOVER |
| TIGER beetle | MIDGE | LUPINE | PHLOX moth |



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Locations 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: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm daily
Trails, buildings, parking lots, and front gates close daily at 4:30 pm
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day,
New Year's Day, and Easter.

Wisconsin Campus

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

Hours: Trails open year-round
from sunrise to sunset

