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Summer 2021

Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

12805 St. Croix Trail S.
Hastings, Minnesota 55033
Phone: 651-437-4359
www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org
Wisconsin Campus:
300 E. Cove Road
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

*"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

Across the Midwest, spring is a wonderful time to experience nature, from the waves of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, to the emergence of wildflowers and the warming effect of the sun's angle and longer days. Spring makes the world feel new again. Re-energized and full of life. After our long COVID-Winter, a spring bird hike, wildflower walk or family field trip does much to refresh the body, soul, and mind.

As I left home on a birding jaunt, I received a report of a hillside covered in Pasque Flowers; a short-blooming, purple wildflower that's been featured in quotes by renowned naturalists, including Wisconsin's Aldo Leopold. There are a couple of Pasque Flowers in CNC's MN Campus display gardens, and a couple of Pasque Flowers in the WI Campus remnant prairie. However, the deer enjoy munching on these delicate plants and I often miss their jubilant spring display.

A friend and I climbed a small dirt trail, rising 190 feet above the nearby shores of Lake Christina. Finding ourselves on the highest point for miles, the view was breath-taking. We looked out across a brilliant blue lake, surrounded by the prairie pothole habitat of the Alexandria Moraine. The spring breeze was fresh and invigorating. The rattling song of Sandhill Cranes floated across the hills. A silent Red-tailed Hawk soared on the thermals. The hillside was absolutely awash with Pasque Flowers—more than I have ever seen in my life.

This special site, the Seven Sisters Prairie, had been visited by botanists since 1893, but only gained official protection in 1978. Upon returning home, I was informed that this gravel prairie was at one point on a list of sites that might lose its protections. But one day, someone with the ability to impact the future, sat on that same hillside and experienced that incredible, magical feeling of awe. With the stroke of a pen, or the click of a keyboard, this site could have disappeared, but the conservation actions taken decades ago have become a legacy we can all freely enjoy today.

In August 2021, Carpenter Nature Center will celebrate 40 years of protecting wild spaces and inspiring youth. Were it not for Tom and Edna Carpenter's dreams, the commitment of the first volunteer Board of Directors, and the actions of The Heins, neighbors, partners, and thousands of other Friends of CNC, all 725 acres that CNC protects might have become suburbs, parking lots, or row crops. Once again, the collaborative actions of many people, created a legacy we all enjoy today.

This April, CNC marked the official ground-breaking of the Hein Visitor Center on our Wisconsin Campus—a dream thirty years in the making. The work to get to this point has been challenging. It has required teamwork and perseverance. Some of the toughest days are still ahead of us as we begin construction during the tail end of a pandemic, and work to raise the final \$500,000 needed to build the facility, restore the surrounding habitat, and upgrade the trail system. My experience with the Seven Sisters Prairie re-emphasized to me the importance of our actions today. From environmental education, to habitat protection and habitat restoration, our actions today will be remembered for decades to come, and there is no better time to make a difference than to take action today.

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."



American Pasque Flower
(*Anemone patens*)



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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE MOST CURRENT PROGRAMMING INFORMATION AND DETAILS.

At Carpenter Nature Center, the safety of our visitors is of the utmost importance. We are continuing to monitor pandemic conditions, and are making decisions about operations and programming based on state and federal guidance.

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



Bird Hikes

May 1 • June 5 • July 3 • Aug 7
8:00—10:00 am

Program Fee: \$5 or FREE for 'Friends of CNC,' SCVBC members, and high school students.

Guided Wildlife Walk

May 6 • 6:30—8:00 pm

Program Fee: \$5 or FREE for 'Friends of CNC.'

Live Animal Meet & Greet

May 7 • 10:00—11:00 am

Visitors can stop by anytime during the hour to meet some of CNC's animal ambassadors and ask questions. Free to attend, but donations are appreciated.

Beastly Bodies

May 8 • 2:00—3:30 pm

This presentation introduces visitors to live animals from various groups including invertebrates, herptiles, mammals, and birds. Program Fee: \$5 or FREE for 'Friends of CNC.'

Preschool Story Time

Fridays • 10:00 - 11:30 am

May 21 • Spring's Sprung

June 11 • Summer Fun

July 9 • Turtles

Aug 13 • Bugs

Program Fee: \$5 per child or \$3 for 'Friends of CNC.' Children must be accompanied by an adult. No charge for adults.



Abbey Holden

Evening Exploration

Open until 9:00 pm

May 26 • June 23 • July 28 • Aug 25

For those interested in meeting new people, arrive at 7:00 pm to be paired with new friends! Free to attend, but donations are appreciated.

Yoga

June 14, 21 & 28 • July 5 & 12
6:00—7:00 pm

Bring your own mat. Program Fee: \$5 per person per session.

Butterfly Hike

June 26 • 10:00 am—Noon

Program Fee: \$5 per person or FREE for 'Friends of CNC.'

Geocaching

June 27 • 1:00—2:30 pm

Program Fee: \$5 per person

St. Croix Valley Scramble

July 19 • 1:00 p.m.

Enjoy a day at the Hastings Golf Club benefitting habitat conservation and education at CNC. 18-hole best ball tournament with shot gun start. Fees include box lunch, green fees, carts, dinner, and a donation to CNC. Sponsorships are available. Visit our website or call to request a registration form. Fee: \$95 per golfer or \$380 for a team of four.



Jessie Eckroad

Family Fishing with Trout Unlimited

July 31 • 10:00 am—Noon

Poles, tackle, and bait provided. Program Fee: \$5 or FREE for 'Friends of CNC.'

Meteor Madness

Aug 11 • Open until 11:00 pm

Bring your camp chair or picnic blanket and watch the Perseids Meteor Shower. Free to attend, but donations are appreciated.

Prairie Plant Hike

Aug 28 • 10:00—11:30 am

Program Fee: \$5 per person or FREE 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, plans have been set in motion 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 Hikes

May 8 • June 12 • July 10 • Aug 14

8:00—10:00 am

Program Fee: \$5 or FREE for 'Friends of CNC,' SCVBC members and high school students.



Marissa Escobedo

Prairie Plant Hike

June 12 • 2:00—3:30 pm

Program Fee: \$5 per person or FREE for 'Friends of CNC.'

Carpenter Art Festival

Aug 21 • 10:00 am—5:00 pm



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. A portion of all proceeds benefit CNC.

"Forest Resident"
By Kat Corrigan



On April 22, after decades of research and planning, CNC officially broke ground on the Hein Visitor Center on our Wisconsin Campus. Initial site preparations began this past autumn, and final design decisions are now being made including building siding, bird-safe windows, fixtures, landscaping, and more. During the design process, we wanted to ensure that the building is as eco-friendly as possible, including making the building energy efficient, using sustainable building materials when possible, and ensuring the structure and placement of the building won't be a detriment to wildlife. Consultation on interpretive exhibits has begun, and the CNC education team is discussing which animal ambassadors will be on display. The grand opening of the new building is projected to be in Spring of 2022.

Thanks to the support of generous community members, we have raised \$3.2 million dollars of our \$3.5 million goal. While we have made great strides toward our fundraising goal, our capital campaign is in no way slowing down. Your gift to the CNC Expansion Project is an opportunity to help shape the future of the St. Croix Valley.

For information about how you can become involved with the Expansion Project, read more on page 7 and visit our website tinyurl.com/cncexpansion.



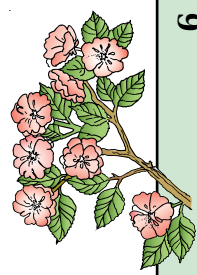




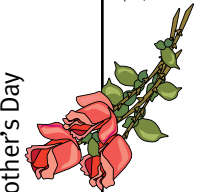


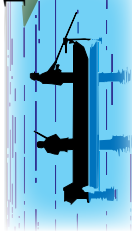









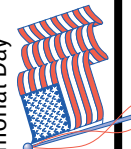




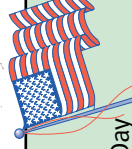
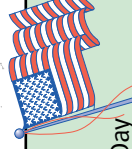



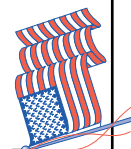

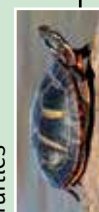
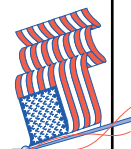









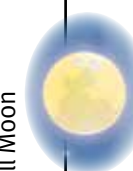


Intern Sierra Hietala at the Hein Visitor Center Groundbreaking with special guest—CNC's ambassador Barred Owl. CNC Board President Paul Gerbec addresses the small group of CNC staff, board members, and major foundation donors. Due to the pandemic, the Groundbreaking event was very modest. We look forward to hosting a large celebration for the Grand Opening in Spring 2022.



2021 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

Phenology from 2020 (with additional entries from CNC's past phenology notes)

May						1 WI Fishing Opener MN Campus Bird Hike
2 Ruby-throated Hummingbird seen (2001)	3 Race Runner on WI Campus 	4  MN Statehood, 1858	5 Baltimore Orioles Returned (2011) 	6 Wildlife Walk	7 Meet and Greet Live Animals	8 WI Campus Bird Hike Beastly Bodies – Public Program
9 Mother's Day 	10 	11 MN Statehood, 1858	12 	13 	14 Banded three Indigo Buntings (2004)	15 MN Fishing Opener Killing frost in Orchard (2016) 
16 	17 	18 Pileated Woodpecker at suet feeder (2016) 	19 Lilacs blooming near Orchard	20	21 Preschool Storytime: Spring's Sprung	22  WI Statehood, 1848
23 Red Pines shedding pollen (1994)	24 Gray Fox outside front porch (1991)	25 	26 Evening Exploration Total Lunar Eclipse First 80°F+ of the year	27 	28 Gray Tree Frogs singing (2002) 	29
30 	31 Memorial Day 	1 June Oyster & Morel mushrooms found (2019)	2 Fox Snake sunning (1995)	3 Hawthorn Tree blooming in pergola garden 	4	5 Spotted fawn north of orchard fence MN Campus Bird Hike
6 50 maple trees planted by sugarbush (1996) 	7 	8 Loon north of floodplain (1998)	9 Baltimore Oriole at feeder	10 	11 Preschool Story Time: Summer Fun	12 WI Campus Bird Hike WI Campus Prairie Plant Hike
13 Bull Thistle blooming (1998) 	14 Yoga Flag Day 	15 	16 Fishing Fun	17 	18	19 Toadlets emerging from pond
20 Father's Day Summer Solstice	21 Yoga Baby Painted Turtle by beach (2000)	22	23 Evening Exploration	24 Full Moon	25 Water Lilies blooming on large pond (2014)	26 Butterfly Hike 
27 Geocaching Wild Strawberries ripe (2003)	28 Yoga	29	30 Fishing Fun	1 July Striped Skunk in parking lot (2019)	2	3 MN Campus Bird Hike
4 Independence Day – CNC Open 	5 Yoga Cicadas buzzing	6 Wild Raspberries ripe (2006) 	7 Fishing Fun	8 Fishing Fun Mink near buildings (2018)	9 Preschool Story Time: Turtles 	10 WI Campus Bird Hike Woodchuck by Beach Trailhead (1998)
11 Garter Snake by Gazebo (1998) 	12 Yoga	13 Dragonfly nymphs emerging (2001)	14 Albino American Robin by pond (2017)	15	16 Eastern Bluebirds fledging (1996)	17
18 Tornado north of Hastings, Power out	19 St. Croix Golf Scramble 	20 Purple Prairie Clover blooming (2002)	21 Corn starting to tassel (2003)	22	23 Full Moon 	24
25 Peregrine Falcon flyover (2008)	26 Goldenrod starting to bloom (2001)	27 	28 Evening Exploration Milkweed pods forming (2009)	29 Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower peak 	30 Yellow Warbler in Circle Garden (2007)	31 Family Fishing with Trout Unlimited
1 August Northern Lights visible from CNC (2020)	2 Praying Mantis on rabbit enclosure (2007) 	3	4 Dragonflies emerging from Wetland (2014)	5	6 Cardinal Flowers blooming on floodplain (2009)	7 MN Campus Bird Hike
8 Swallowtails in rainwater garden	9 	10 Duchess & Melba Apples ripe (1999)	11 Fishing Fun Meteor Madness	12 	13 Preschool Story Time: Bugs Perseids Meteor Shower peak	14 WI Campus Bird Hike Sumac changing color (1997)
15 Goldenrod starting to bloom (2003)	16 Red-eyed Vireo seen on hike 	17	18 Harvesting Zestar! apples (2010)	19 American River Otter by Dock (2019) 	20	21 Carpenter Art Festival – WI Campus Monarchs on Blazing Star plants (2003)
22 Full Moon 	23	24 Walking Stick insect sighted (2001)	25 Evening Exploration Acorns dropping (2005)	26 MN State Fair begins	27 Picking Zestar! apples (2008)	28 Ruby-throated Hummingbird drinking at Cup Plant (2006)
29	30 Soybeans turning yellow near CNC (1995)	31 Blue Racer in Circle Garden (2009)				

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

Jaber Alsiddiqui
Dan Baasen
Caroline Bailey
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Jim Freund (Treasurer)
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Gary Griswold
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Jessie Eckroad
Michelle Gallo
Abbey Holden
Erika Jensen
Mayme Johnson
Marty Lynch
Alan Maloney
Sverre Sundgaard



Donor Spotlight *Jim & Judy Freund*

Jim and Judy grew up in neighboring, rural communities in Eastern Wisconsin. They married shortly after graduating from college in 1971. They both attended the University of WI-Madison, where Jim earned a degree in Accounting, and Judy earned a degree in Social Studies Education. They have two sons, David and Michael, and two grandchildren in Washington D.C.

Judy worked for the River Falls School District while earning her Masters and PhD in Education. As part of her doctoral work, Judy helped to create the Russian American Wilderness Experience program, and she assisted in the formation of the International Teaching Program through the University of WI-River Falls and the University of St. Thomas. She joined the Rotary in 2000, and served as the District Governor in 2011-2012. The majority of her time with the Rotary is spent working with the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) Operation Pollination. Through her work with the Rotary, Judy established connections with the National Park Service, where she helped to facilitate the formation of the Sister Parks Agreement between the U.S. and Costa Rica, as well as the organization Tropical Wings, where she serves on the Board of Directors.

Jim began working for 3M in 1972, and over the course of his 35 year career there, held several finance-related positions. Jim's role as European Financial Manager provided the Freunds the opportunity to live in Belgium from 1984-1987. Jim and Judy became involved with CNC as volunteers in the 80s, and Jim made it his goal to serve on the Board of Directors. His goal was realized when he joined the Board in 2008, and has served as the Treasurer since 2009. Jim has played an integral role in the CNC WI Campus Expansion Project, serving as a co-chair on the Capital Campaign Committee, as well as being involved with the Communications and Building Committees. In addition to his service with CNC, Jim also serves on the Town of Troy Parks Board.

Environmental education and stewardship have been a lifelong passion for the Freunds. They have been Friends of CNC for decades, and have donated countless hours of their time and talent to helping shape the future of the Nature Center. They have made a significant financial contribution to the CNC Expansion Project and have been tirelessly encouraging other community members to do so as well. Like the Carpenters and the Heins, the Freunds are creating a legacy that will benefit generations to come. We are incredibly grateful for their dedication to our mission and look forward to continuing to have them as part of our CNC family.



Meet our Intern

Sierra Hietala

CNC welcomed a new education intern, Sierra Hietala, to the team in January. Sierra is currently a senior at MSU Mankato where she is studying Recreation- Parks and Leisure Services. She worked with the Carpenter naturalists to plan and provide public programs, learned to work with and care for our animal ambassadors, created online educational content for social media, and much more. Her favorite parts of the internship were working with Korppi the Raven and CNC's new Barred Owl ambassador. She also has an affinity for the CNC snakes! In her free time, Sierra enjoys hiking, backpacking, photography, and baking.

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.



Volunteer Spotlight

Sonia Martinez

For the summer of 2021, we are pleased to shine the volunteer spotlight on Sonia Martinez. Sonia started volunteering in 2017 at the Apple Blossom Races. Since then she has joined the bird banding crew and has logged over 350 hours honing the fine art of identifying and carefully putting small bands on birds from Chickadees to Northern Saw-whet Owls. She also recruited several members of her family to come out and volunteer with our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup. Thank you Sonia for your time, talent, and selfless attitude. We are glad you are sharing your volunteering superpower with us.

Want to join our volunteer team? Here's how!

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator Alan Maloney at 651-437-4359 or alan@carpenternaturecenter.org.

Volunteer Opportunities this Season

Call CNC at 651-437-4359 if you are able to help with any of the following:

Green thumbs wanted: We'd love it if you come out and weed, water, and tend to any one of the gardens. Call ahead for training.

St. Croix Valley Golf Scramble on July 19: Do you know the difference between a slice and a hook? Even if you don't you can still volunteer to help with this event.

Carpenter Art Festival: This fun event will take place on our Wisconsin campus on Saturday, August 21, and we can use help with parking, set-up, staffing the CNC info booth, and clean-up.

Save the Dates

Raptor Release—September 25

Apple Fest—October 9 and 10

Ways to Become Part of the CNC Expansion Project



Grow. Share. Preserve.

DONATE TO THE EXPANSION PROJECT



MATCHING DOLLARS GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY
THE HUSS FAMILY FOUNDATION
AND JIM & JUDY FREUND!

ATTEND A PROGRAM AT OUR WI CAMPUS



SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PROJECT



For more information about ways that you can support the CNC Expansion Project, scan this code!

tinyurl.com/cncexpansion

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Honor Of—**Gordie & Jo Bailey** from Jim Basset, and Mark & Michelle Bailey, **John Bailey** from Rob & Heidi Hubbard, **Llye Bradley** from Bruce & Kathy Ause, **Jim Fitzpatrick** from Bill & Wendy Wustenberg, **Gwen Kachelmyer** from Phil & Marlene Kachelmyer, **Helen Kron** from John & Karen Neenan, **Payton** from John & Holly Bjorseth, **Bob & Kathy Setzer** from Bruce Olson & Kathy Setzer Olson, **Jennifer Vieth** from Martin & Katherine Brown, and Rolf Dittman & Jill Greenhalgh

In Memory Of—**Mark W. Berg** from Billy & Betty Berg, **Robert "Bob" Boetl** from Phil & Marlene Kachelmyer, **Donna Buck** from Donald Buck, **Donna M. Friberg** from Richard Friberg, **Phyllis Goldin** from Wanda Brown, **Dick Greckoff** from Jim & Judy Freund, **K.C. McMonigal** from John & Carol Fitzgerald, Peter Benner, Thomas & Gwendolyn Gmeinder, Jessica Gmeinder, Patrick Smith, David Tonneson, and Lisa Weiden, **Lois Running** from John Wold, **Lois "Pat" Wagner** from Larry Wagner, **George, beloved eagle neighbor** from Beth Jones



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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: 8:00am – 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: Trails open year-round from sunrise to sunset

