



Volume 40, Number 3
Autumn 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



People of all ages visit CNC. Whether you are participating in a program, observing the animal ambassadors in the visitor center, or exploring the trails, there is inspiration everywhere.

"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

We've all been asked this question at least once in our lives, and it isn't just relevant to the school-aged crowd. One of my favorite memories was after a dynamic, young paleontologist finished giving an educational enrichment presentation to my volunteer team. My 80 year-old volunteer, Mr. Stanley, walked up to me and said "I want to be just like her when I grow up." While he was partially joking, there was real depth to his statement. She had inspired him to keep learning. We've all met those people who inspire us to be a better version of the people we are today.

As the saying goes, "We're never too old to become the person we were meant to be."

This got me wondering, in addition to meeting inspiring people, are there other catalysts that help us grow into the best versions of ourselves? Or perhaps to be the best environmental steward, or student that we can be? It turns out that disruption is a big catalyst for personal growth and change. Disruption can be minor, or it can be a major life change. This disruption can spur us into action, and ultimately lead us into finding our own sense of purpose. To see this phenomenon in action, look no further than the massive pandemic disruption we've all experienced, and the number of people leaving their jobs to pursue a new career path.

Disruption is also essential to prairie ecology. Prairies are dynamic ecosystems which change annually due to a multitude of factors including the amount of rainfall, nutrient levels, and disruption. A prairie disruption might be a herd of hungry bison, a grass fire, haying, or even an enthusiastic grounds manager on a mower. These disruptions result in changes we can observe. One year, the Lupine bloom may be vast and vibrant, and the next year, the Big Bluestem may tower taller and denser than ever before. This autumn, as you look out over CNC's beautiful, golden, waving prairie grasses pay attention to which species are thriving as next year the scene may look different.



Prairie trails at the CNC WI Campus are a great location for observing plants and animals and watching clouds drift across the sky.

Prairie researchers have found that not only are disruptions important, but it is also important to vary the type of disruption. Burning a prairie on a three year cycle will primarily favor those plants which thrive after burning, and you'll risk losing a large number of invertebrates that can't escape the flames. In keeping with the evolving science, CNC's team uses many tools, from mowing, to weed whipping, to burning, to spot-treating invasive species to manage our prairies.

Just as we adapt our prairie management strategies to best steward our prairies, CNC's team works hard to inspire environmental stewardship in our visitors. As we manage through disruptions, CNC continues to create interactive, safe and fun opportunities to connect with nature. We help people of all ages see nature through a new lens and ultimately see their role in the natural world in a new way.



Upcoming Programs & Events

Minnesota Campus — 12805 St. Croix Trail South, Hastings, MN 55033
Wisconsin Campus—300 East Cove Road, Hudson, WI 54016



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.

MN Campus Bird Hikes

Oct 2 • 8:00—10:00 am

Nov 6 & Dec 4 • 9:00—11:00 am

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

Preschool Story Time

Fridays • 10:00 - 11:00 am

Sept 17 • Orchard Fun

Oct 29 • Costumes & Critters

Nov 12 • Turkey Time

Dec 17 • Who Hibernates?

Program Fee: \$5 per child or \$3 for 'Friends of CNC.'

Children must be accompanied by an adult. No charge for adults.



After Hours Fun

Autumnal Equinox • Sept 22

Winter Solstice • Dec 21

Open until 8:00 pm

Come explore the trails and enjoy the beauty and fun of the seasons. The Apple Shack will be open until 8:00 pm on September 22. We will have a campfire with hot cocoa available for visitors on December 21.

Basics of Bird Migration

Sept 23 • 7:00—8:00 pm

Presented by international travel and bird expert Steve Betchkal. Program Fee: \$5 or FREE for 'Friends of CNC.'

Bird Banding

Sept 24 • Oct 22 • Nov 26

8:30 am — Noon

Donations of bird seed and suet are appreciated in lieu of a program fee. Programs outdoors and weather dependent.



Raptor Count/Hawk Watch

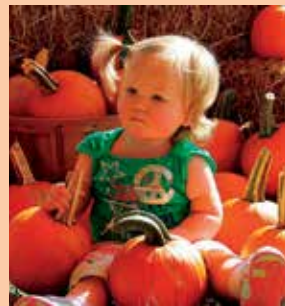
Sept 26 • 10:00 am—2:00 pm

Join our team of spotters to count migrants including raptors, songbirds, gulls, and other southbound birds. Come ask questions, check in on the count totals, or participate in the count. Binoculars will be available upon request. Program Fee: FREE.

Apple Fest

Oct 9 & 10 • 10:00 am—5:00 pm

Visit CNC to celebrate the harvest with hay rides, music, live animal programs, pumpkin decorating, cider-making demonstrations, and more. This FREE event is fun for the whole family.



Home School Program: Apple Orchard

Oct 22 • 10:00—11:30 am

Program Fee: \$5

Prairie Seed Collection

Oct 30 • 10:00—11:30 am

Program Fee: FREE

Beastly Bodies

Oct 30 • 1:00—2:00 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.'

Owl Banding

Nov 4 • 8:00—10:00 pm

Learn about Saw-whet Owls and observe banding. Program is weather dependent. Program fee: FREE.



Wisconsin Campus Programs

Located at 300 East Cove Road, Hudson



WI Campus Bird Hikes

Sept 11 & Oct 9 • 8:00—10:00 am

Nov 13 & Dec 11 • 9:00—11:00 am

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

Owl Banding FREE

Nov 11 • 8:00—10:00 pm

Owl Prowl

Dec 3 • 6:00—8:00 pm

Explore CNC's Wisconsin Campus on a guided night hike to look and listen for these owls. Program Fee: \$5 or FREE for 'Friends of CNC.'

Orchard Update

Our apple orchard began as the passion of Thomas and Edna Carpenter in the early 1940's, and today, CNC's apples are some of the tastiest and healthiest apples in the community. As a nature center, we are committed to growing and providing the highest quality fruit in a sustainable environment.

APPLE SHACK OPENS FOR THE SEASON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

Wednesdays – Sundays • 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

We proudly raise 15 varieties of high-quality apples. By purchasing apples from CNC, you are not only getting delicious, local, eco-friendly fruit, you are also supporting environmental education and habitat protection in the St. Croix Valley.

Early varieties—First Kiss, SweetTango, Zestar!, Chestnut Crabs
Early/mid-season varieties— Sweet 16, McIntosh, Haralson, Honeycrisp, Cortland
Late/mid-season varieties— Honeygold, Fireside, Connell Red, Regent
Late varieties—Snowsweet, Keepsake

CNC grown summer squash, zucchini, and cucumbers available while supplies last.

Apple Sauce • Apple Butter • Spiced Peaches • Pies
Jams • Jellies • Maple Syrup • Honey
BBQ Sauce • Mustard and Relish • Salad Dressing • Salsa

Curbside pick-up available

For more information about available varieties, please call 651-437-4359 and ask for the 'Apple Shack.' For further information on our orchard, contact Orchard Manager Sverre Sundgaard at sverre@carpenternaturecenter.org or 651-437-4359.



Science at CNC

In addition to providing environmental education, CNC also engages in habitat conservation, wildlife research, and implementation of eco-friendly administrative and operations practices.




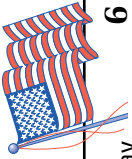








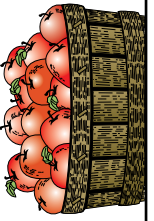


Birds are a major component of the environmental education, conservation practices, and wildlife research conducted at CNC. Whether it's miniscule hummingbirds or majestic raptors, we do whatever we can to help our feathered friends. While we protect birds year-round, we are particularly cognizant of their activities and needs during spring and fall migration. During these times, birds are expending a colossal amount of energy to travel great distances, and they encounter many hazards along their journey. Some of the dangers faced by birds are natural, including predation and inclement weather, but many threats to birds are human-caused.

One such threat is death as a result of window collisions. Each year, a BILLION birds are killed by window collisions in the United States alone. While this statistic is alarming, the good news is that there are several strategies that can be implemented at both commercial and residential properties to help reduce these fatalities. For new construction, consider choosing bird-safe glass for your windows. In designing our new WI Campus visitor center, we are working in partnership with Viracon and Andersen Windows & Doors to install glass that will alert birds to the presence of the window. For properties with pre-existing windows, there are several options for retrofitting the glass to protect birds. Products (left) include bird-safe tape, decals, UV markers, crayons or paint, screens, and more! You may even currently have materials in your home that can be used to create bird-safe glass at little to no cost.

If you have questions or want more information about how to make your home and yard bird-safe, contact CNC Executive Director Jennifer Vieth by calling (651) 437-4359 or emailing her at jennifer@carpenternaturecenter.org.

2021 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

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

							
5		Labor Day Rosh Hashana begins	6	7	8	9	10
12	Autumn in the Valley Gala- MN Campus	13		14	15	16	17
19	White Pelican flocks migrating ('12)	20	Full Moon	21	22	23	24
26	Raptor Count/ Hawk Watch - MN Campus	27		28	29	30	1
3	~100 Turkey Vultures over Hastings Bridge ('95)	4	Earliest frost in 17 years	5	6	7	8
10	Apple Fest - MN Campus Fisher on north side of MN Campus	11	Indigenous People's Day	12	13	14	15
17		18	Golden-crowned Kinglets on Beach Trail	19	20	21	22
24	Large Coyote on MN Campus prairie ('18)	25		26	27	28	29
31	Halloween	1	November	2	3	4	5
7	Daylight Savings Time ends	8	Ants active on fallen apples ('98)	9	10	11	12
14	Summer Tanager in Admin Garden ('11)	15		16	17	18	19
21	Squirrel eating pumpkins in yard ('04)	22	31 migrating Bald Eagles ('03)	23	24	25	26
28		29	Hanukkah begins	30	1	2	3
5	Opossum behind raptor enclosures ('18)	6		7	8	9	10
12	Sundogs ('03)	13	Geminids Meteor Shower peak	14	15	16	17
19	Northern Flicker at bird bath ('95)	20	Eight American Goldfinches on thistle feeder ('05)	21	22	23	24
26	Kwanzaa begins	27	St. Croix River frozen across ('12)	28	29	30	31

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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Meet our 2021 Summer Interns

CNC offers Internships for college students and recent graduates to gain hands-on experience in Environmental Education, Horticulture, Natural Resources or Communications. Interns work closely with professional staff in training, completing projects, and daily work experience. For more information about internships, visit our website www.carpenternaturecenter.org.

Cici McNair—Education Intern

Cici will be a senior at South Dakota State University where she is studying Wildlife and Fishery Science. She intends to pursue a career working with either birds of prey or waterfowl. She had a great experience working with all the CNC animal ambassadors, summer camps, and helping kids explore the great outdoors.

Carolyn Rowley—Education Intern

Carolyn is a junior at College of Saint Benedict near St. Cloud, Minnesota. She is currently studying Biology, with hopes to go into environmental education in the future. She enjoyed teaching summer camps and learning how to take care of and teach with all the animal ambassadors.



Cici McNair (left) and Carolyn Rowley (right)



Sophie Keith—Horticulture Intern

Sophie is a graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Biology. During her internship, she enjoyed learning about integrated pest management and orchard care. She is looking forward to applying this knowledge to the land she will one day own, as well as in her future career.



Josie Johnson—Horticulture Intern

Josie is a senior at the University of Wisconsin- River Falls majoring in Conservation and minoring in GIS. After graduating she hopes to gain a variety of different experiences, and to someday become a wildlife biologist. She had fun learning about and working towards Carpenter's mission during her internship.

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

Volunteer of the Year—Doreen Deutsch



In this issue, we are happy to shine the spotlight on our Volunteer of the Year, and this year the award goes to Doreen Deutsch. Doreen started volunteering for CNC in 1984 with the wildlife rehab department. She took a break for a while, and then came back in 2010 and has put in over 1,900 hours. Doreen accumulated most of her hours taking care of our animal ambassadors, but she is also an invaluable asset in helping with special events, especially the Apple Fest bake sale. She recently joined the bird banding crew as well. Thanks Doreen for your dedication to CNC. Your hard work, willingness to pitch-in, and can-do attitude are much appreciated by the staff and other volunteers. You are a rare and treasured person, and we are extremely pleased you are a member of the CNC family. Congratulations on your Volunteer of the Year award!

Volunteer Corner

Volunteer Opportunities this Season

AQUARIUM MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Having clean enclosures is essential to the health of our animal ambassadors. Our team does daily spot-cleaning for all the animals, but once a week, their homes need a good, deep-clean. Our primary need is for a volunteer that is able and willing to sanitize tanks and change water for our aquatic turtles.

Adopt-a-Highway on Thursday, September 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Trash bags and flashy safety vests will be available. Bring your gloves and favorite litter-grabbing tool. This usually takes about 1 ½ - 2 hours depending on the number of volunteers available.

Apple Fest on October 9 and 10:

This is a fun, family-oriented event and volunteers help ensure everyone enjoys their visit. Duties include pumpkin painting, kid's crafts, and everything that goes with a great time in the orchard. Call the number below to get on the email list for more info about how you can help with this event.

If you are interested in helping with any of these events, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator Alan Maloney at 651-437-4359 or alan@carpenternaturecenter.org.

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Honor of

Our Grandchildren from Dan & Nan McGuiness
Cynthia Huntley from Winkie & Bill Coyne
Liam Schroeder from Kathy Widin

In Memory of

John Atvars from Jenny & Steve Green, **Tom Bump** from Michelle Bump, **Ann W. Cavin** from Edward Cavin, **Judy Coccia** from Cora Wortman, **Greg Conrad** from Art & Kathy Luedtke, **Wayne Custer** from Kim Dresselhaus, **Donna M. Friberg** from Richard Friberg, **Gloria Hansen** from Mark Hansen, **Joanne Haroldson** from Richard Haroldson, **Clay Haunschild** from Winkie & Bill Coyne, **John Hense** from Paul & Sandra Rosso, **George Hoel** from Tom Hoel, **David Ihle** from Winkie & Bill Coyne, **Gene & Irene Lamont** from Loren & Pam Albin, **Toni Lewandowski** from Mike & Barb Bauer, Sharon Brick, Kathy & Randy Graham, Charlotte Green, Robert Mumm, and Frank & Carrie Tate, **Dudley Parkinson** from Tovah Flygare, **Nora Prom** from Jen, Greg, Vincent & Katie Vieth, **Tom Savidge** from Judith Klingsick, **Al Vento** from Gina Vento, **Judy Wedul** from Mark Wedul, Vicki Allen, Harriet Busdicker, Leo & Gail Dery, Bill & Sue Drehmel, Lyndie Fabian, Mark & Mary Fitzpatrick, Frederick Fuhrman, Joan & Bill Gacki, Philip & Georgianna Gernes, Cynthia Hames, Patricia Haskins, Bart Hoekstra & Cathy Olyphant, Judith Hoffman, Laurie Lucas, Mike & Laurie Newbauer, Jennifer Parker, Judith Pokorney, Janette Reinhardt, Rivertown Animal Hospital, Harold & Nancy Shaver, Erica Shearer, John & Yvonne Szatkowski, Jen, Greg, Vincent & Katie Vieth, Jeanne Watcher, Robert & Linda Whyte, Larry & Susan Winger, and Charlene Zeiberg



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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

