



The St. Croix Current

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Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

Minnesota Campus
12805 St. Croix Trail South
Hastings, Minnesota 55033

Wisconsin Campus
279 South Cove Road
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

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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


As CNC starts a new chapter with two dynamic visitors' centers in two states, this week has, coincidentally, also been the end of an era. The large Cottonwood that supported the massive eagle nest on CNC's flood plain finally gave way. Fortunately for the feathered family, by the time the nest fell, the eaglets had fledged. It's not abnormal for trees to break under the weight of bird nests. Bald Eagles add sticks to their nests annually, making them larger and heavier. The world-record eagle nests in Florida and Ohio were 10 feet wide, 20 feet tall, and weighed more than two tons! Wonder what other objects weigh two tons? An adult White Rhino, or two male Bison, or a Dodge Charger.

The same week the eagle nest was lost, CNC hosted an international teacher's workshop, which was coordinated by the University of Minnesota and the US Forest Service. Educators from throughout the hemisphere spent three days in the Twin Cities learning about birds and bird education. CNC was selected as a site because we are home to two Motus Towers, one in Minnesota and the newest one in Wisconsin. The towers both have dual listening capabilities (166.38 MHz Lotek Nano Tags and CTT 434.0 MHz LifeTags) and have been successfully "listening" for tag signals since 2020. The first year, our MN tower picked up three Swainson's Thrushes tagged near Whistler, British Columbia, Canada and also one Least Flycatcher tagged by the National Resources Research Institute in NE Minnesota. In 2021, the tower picked up a Virginia Rail on spring migration from a Forbes Biological Station tagging project in Chad, Illinois, and another Virginia Rail from that project was picked up in May 2022. The tower also picked up a few American Kestrels during 2020 and 2021 that were tagged at Arden Hills (AHATS), Sax Zim Bog, and one female that was tagged at CNC. We are honored to be part of this international research.

This new technology allows us to learn more about a bird's full life cycle. Sharing information about bird banding, satellite telemetry, GPS geo-locators and nano-tags all which help with global bird conservation. As many bird species are declining, it's increasingly important to pinpoint and protect the key habitats each species needs to survive, including nesting grounds, migratory stop-overs, and wintering grounds. The results the Motus project yields help researchers around the continent. Our birds cross national and international borders. When it comes to birds, we really are one world. Our birds connect us. And they depend on us. There's still much to learn and much to do to protect our feathered friends. From conserving habitat to planting native species to turning lights out during fall migration, there are large and small things each of us can do to help.



Top left: Wildlife tracking tags vary in appearance and size, many of which are smaller than a human fingernail (Photo credit: Lotek). Top right: The Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) is one of bird species whose tag signal was picked up by a CNC Motus tower (Photo credit: Minette Layne-Worthey). Bottom: Another species tracked by the CNC MN Motus is the Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) (Photo credit: Adam Jackson).



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.

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

APPLE SHACK OPENS FOR THE SEASON WEDNESDAY, SEPTMEBER 7th

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

15 varieties of apples! Visit our website or call 651-437-4359 before your visit for variety availability.



CNC-grown squash available while supplies last.

Apple Sauce, spiced peaches, pies, jams and jellies, syrup, honey, mustard, salsa, salad dressing, and more!

Preschool Story Time

Sept 16 Orchard Fun • Oct 28 Costumes & Critters
Nov 11 Rock Star Raven • Dec 2 Christmas Owl
10:00 - 11:00 am

Program Fee: \$6 per child or \$4 for 'Friends of CNC.'

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

Home School Program: Apple Orchard

Sept 16 • 1:00—2:30 pm

CNC's Home School Programs are created to offer students in home schools an opportunity to meet other children and enjoy the outdoors. Program Fee: \$5 per person participating in apple picking.

Bird Banding

Sept 23 • Oct 28 • Oct 25 • Dec 23 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 in partnership with the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union



Sept 25 • 8:00 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.

MN Campus Bird Hikes

Oct 1 • 8:00—10:00 am
Nov 5 & Dec 3 • 9:00—11:00 am

Learn to identify birds with local experts. Binoculars and field guides available. Program Fee: \$5 per person or FREE for 'Friends of CNC,' SCVBC members and students.

Owl Banding

Oct 6 • 8:00—10:00 pm

Learn about the migration patterns of Saw-whet Owls. Join our naturalists as they venture out to band these mysterious birds. Program is weather-dependent. Program fee: FREE. SPACE IS VERY LIMITED. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.

Apple Fest

Oct 8 & 9 • 10:00 am—5:00 pm

Visit CNC to celebrate the harvest with hay rides, live music, live animal programs, apple brats, pumpkin decorating, bake sale, cider-making demonstrations, pick-your-own apples and more. This FREE event is fun for the whole family!



Trails & Ales

Oct 13 • Apples & Ales 6:00—8:00 pm
Nov 10 & Dec 8 • Owls & Ales 6:00—8:00 pm

Enjoy a guided hike at CNC followed by a tour and tasting at Spiral Brewery. This experience includes a beer flight for each participant. Must be 21+ to participate. Program Fee: \$30 per person.

Food Adventure Day Camp


Oct 20 & 21 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Explore the connection between the environment and food production through a variety of hands-on field trips to local farms and orchards. Open to middle school students. This camp is made possible by a CHS Backyard Giving Grant. Program Fee: \$50 per student. Scholarships available.

Solstice Celebration

Dec 21 • CNC MN Campus open until 8:00 pm

Come explore the candle-lit trails and enjoy the beauty and fun of the season. A campfire and hot cocoa will be available to warm your body and spirit. Program Fee: \$5 per person.



Wisconsin Campus Programs & Events

Wildlife abounds in the prairie and wooded bluffs on our 300-acre Wisconsin Campus located at 279 South Cove Road, Hudson, WI 54016. Some programming will continue to take place on the north end of the property at 300 East Cove Road, so check the meeting address for your program.

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

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

Al & Laurie Hein Visitor Center Now Open!

Visitor center, paved parking, and front gates at 279 South Cove Road open daily from 8:00 am—4:30 pm.

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

Trails open year-round from sunrise to sunset.

Leashed pets are welcome!

We are excited to have finished many pieces of our Wisconsin Campus Expansion Project, and more facets will be completed in the following months including:

- Watershed map and trail signage featuring First Nations place names ·
- Indigo Prairie pavilion sponsored by Gary & Mickie Griswold ·
- Art Bench sponsored by Jim & Judy Freund ·
- Council rings sponsored by the 2018 Autumn in the Valley Gala Donors · and Paul Gerbec & Kelly Brenna
- Weather station sponsored by Don & Jean Muetting ·

Help us raise the remaining \$250,000 to finish our capital campaign!

Available sponsorship opportunities include:

Trails · Benches · Exhibits · Outdoor Gathering Areas · Dedicated Trees

Electric Car Charging Station(s) · Accessible Trail Loop · And more!

For a detailed list of sponsorship opportunities and information about ways you can donate, visit our website carpenternaturecenter.org/wisconsin-campus/

As we continue to improve our facilities, we welcome your feedback!

Share your thoughts in our guest book or send us a message at carpenternaturecenter.org/contact-us/

WI Campus Bird Hikes

Sept 10 • 8:00—10:00 am Meet at 279 South Cove Road
Oct 8 • 8:00—10:00 am Meet at 300 East Cove Road
Nov 12 • 9:00—11:00 am Meet at 279 South Cove Road
Dec 10 • 9:00—11:00 am Meet at 300 East Cove Road



Learn to identify birds with local experts. Binoculars and field guides available or bring your own. Program Fee: \$5 per person or FREE for 'Friends of CNC,' SCVBC members and students.

Owl Banding

Nov 3 • 8:00 —10:00 pm

Learn about the migration patterns of Saw-whet Owls. Join our naturalists as they venture out to band these mysterious birds. Program is weather-dependent. Program fee: FREE. SPACE IS VERY LIMITED. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.

Owl Prowl

Dec 2 • 6:30 —8:00 pm













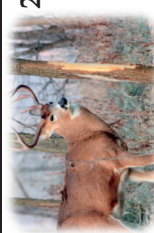











Explore CNC's Wisconsin Campus on a guided night hike to look and listen for owls. Program Fee: \$5 per person or FREE for 'Friends of CNC.'





2022 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

Phenology from 2021 (with additional entries from CNC's past phenology notes)

					September 1 13 hrs 15 mins daylight		3 Bird Hike MN Campus
4	5 	6 Two Sandhill Cranes over oak savanna ('00)	7 Apple Shack Opens for 2022 Season	8 Apples & Ales MN Campus Puffball mushrooms near River Bluff Trail		9	10 Bird Hike WI Campus Full Moon
11 Patriot Day Autumn in the Valley Gala MN Campus	12 	13 Four False Map Turtles on log in St. Croix River	14 Common Milkweed pods opening	15 	16 Preschool Story Time MN Campus Home School Orchard Program MN Campus	17 	
18	19	20 Sumac leaves are bright red ('07)	21	22 First day of Fall	23 Bird Banding MN Campus	24	
25 Hawk Count MN Campus	26 	27	28 Birch and Locust trees changing color ('06)	29 Two Northern Saw-whet Owls sighted ('17)	30 Picking Honeygold Apples ('02)	1 October Bird Hike MN Campus	
2	3 Gray Tree Frog at Maintenance Building ('03)	4 100+ Turkey Vultures over Hastings bridge ('95)	5 	6 Owl Banding MN Campus	7 	8 Apple Fest MN Campus Bird Hike WI Campus Draconids meteor shower peak	
9 Apple Fest MN Campus Full Moon	10 	11	12	13 Apples & Ales MN Campus Large flock of Eastern Bluebirds in Orchard ('03)	14	15 Hundreds of Common Grackles in Orchard ('06)	
16	17 First frost of the season	18 Fall colors peaking	19 Basswood Trees are bare ('98)	20	21 Orionids meteor shower peak	22	
23	24 Very narrow rusty band on Woolly Bear Caterpillar ('03)	25 	26 Signs of deer rut on Red Cedar Trail	27	28 Preschool Story Time MN Campus Bird Banding MN Campus	29 Common Loon call heard on St. Croix River	
30	31 	1 First snowflakes		2 Owl Banding WI Campus	3	4 Bird Hike MN Campus	5 Bird Hike MN Campus
6  Daylight Savings Time ends	7	8 Election Day Full Moon Total Lunar Eclipse	9 Several American Robins and Cedar Waxwings on bird bath	10 Trails & Ales MN Campus	11 Preschool Story Time MN Campus 	12 Bird Hike WI Campus	
13 Barred Owl near beach ('17)	14 47 birds banded ('09)	15 Eastern Chipmunks active under bird feeders ('96)	16 	17 Leonids meteor shower peak	18	19 Thick fog ('19)	
20 	21	22 Dandelions blooming in yard ('06)	23	 CNC CLOSED	25 Bird Banding MN Campus Burning Buckthorn ('17)	26	
27 14 Trumpeter Swans at Point Douglas ('10)	28 St. Croix River frozen across ('18)	29	30 Some Twin Cities golf courses still open ('98)	1 December Two Ruffed Grouse by river overlook ('94)	2 Preschool Story Time MN Campus Owl Prowl WI Campus	3 Bird Hike MN Campus Great Horned Owl near Farmhouse ('16)	
4	5 Nightcrawlers out after rain ('01)	6	7 Full Moon	8 Trails & Ales MN Campus Seven male Ring-necked Pheasants near Orchard	9	10 Bird Hike WI Campus	
11 12" snow overnight	12 	13 Geminids meteor shower peak	14	15 Tornadoes in southern Minnesota (1st ever recorded in December)	16 Seven-year-old Blue Jay captured and released by bird banders ('05)	17 Rain in evening and overnight ('02)	
18	19	20 Northern Flicker at bird bath ('95)	21 Solstice Celebration MN Campus First day of Winter	22 Hoary Redpoll outside Visitor Center Ursids meteor shower peak	23 Bird Banding MN Campus Opossum crossing driveway ('19)	24	
25  CNC CLOSED	26 	27 Flock of 20+ American Robins passing through	28	29	30 8 hrs 49 mins daylight	31  NOTE: CNC CLOSED ON JANUARY 1	

People Profiles

On behalf of the staff at CNC, we would like to take time to express our gratitude for the contributions of 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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Alan Maloney
Sverre Sundgaard
Tess Zahradka

Meet our Board of Directors

Steve Klein joined the Board of Directors in 2020 and is actively involved with the Endowment Committee, Facilities Committee, and Autumn in the Valley Gala Planning Committee. A graduate of Indiana University, Steve holds a Bachelor's Degree in General Studies with concentration in Business, Speech Communications and Personnel Supervision. He is an accomplished business leader who has held operations management, sales and marketing, and leadership positions in a number of different business sectors including security services, facility and medical alarm monitoring, virtual surveillance, fire and life safety, armored car, transportation, cash management and banking. Just prior to joining the Board of Directors at CNC, Steve retired from his position as Chief Strategy Officer for Marsden Holding, L.L.C. Kentucky natives, Steve and his wife Elaine now live in Hudson, WI. They have two children and six grandchildren. Steve likes to golf, ride bike, and spend time with his family.



Meet our 2022 Summer Interns

Katie Nieuwlandt—Environmental Education

Katie grew up in Longmont, CO, and currently attends Colorado State University, pursuing a degree in Natural Resource Management with a focus on Environmental Communication and Conservation Biology. She is excited to share her love of nature with others and assist in ongoing efforts to conserve local species. Some of her hobbies include hiking/backpacking and reading. Her favorite thing about CNC is how well the staff care for their animal ambassadors.



Grace Savage—Environmental Education

Grace grew up in Crystal Lake, IL, and recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin River Falls with a degree in Field Biology. She is very passionate about making environmental education both interesting and accessible. In her spare time, Grace enjoys reading, hiking, drawing, and spending time with animals. Her favorite part of CNC is its mission and how passionate all of the staff is about spreading that message.



Emma Alexander—Orchard and Land Management

Emma is from Blaine, MN, and is attending the University of Minnesota Twin Cities pursuing a degree in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology. She values wildlife and the future of our planet and hopes that this internship will make a positive impact. In her free time, Emma enjoys hiking, being at the cabin, and spending time with friends. Her favorite part of CNC is all the welcoming people and the opportunity to learn.



Delaney Osmond—Avian Field Work & Communications

Delaney is from Oshkosh, WI, and just graduated from the University of Wisconsin River Falls with a degree in Field Biology. She has experience in bluebird banding as well as sports media, and is excited to apply her degree and previous work expertise at the same time. Some of her hobbies include learning native plants, rock climbing, and hiking. Her favorite part about CNC is the extremely kind staff and volunteers.



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

Jackie Northard



In this issue, we shine the spotlight on our Volunteer of the Year, and this year we are thrilled to recognize Jackie Northard as the recipient of this award. Jackie is one of those volunteers who very rarely, if ever, records her time – often because her work is “behind the scenes.” Yet we know that she has put in several hundred, if not thousands, of hours. She is an immense help with the Autumn in the Valley Gala and is also the catalyst behind our Trails and Ales programs which are a delight for us to lead. Thanks, Jackie, for your dedication to CNC. Your leadership and guidance are very much appreciated by the staff. You are a valuable member of our Volunteer Corps and we are extremely happy you are a member of the CNC family. Congratulations on your Volunteer of the Year award.

Volunteer Corner

Our **Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup** will take place on Wednesday, September 21 starting at 5:30 pm. Trash bags and flashy safety vests will be available. If you are able to help, bring your gloves and your favorite litter-grabbing tool. This usually takes about 1 ½ - 2 hours depending on the number of volunteers available.

Apple Fest takes place on October 8 - 9 and is an event where we need lots of volunteers. This is a fun, family-oriented event and volunteers help ensure everyone enjoys their visit. Duties include pumpkin painting, kid's crafts, bake sale, and more.

If you are interested in helping with any of these events, please call 651-437-4359 and ask for Alan the Volunteer Coordinator; or email alan@carpenternaturecenter.org.

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Honor of

Judy Alnes from Jeffrey Schulman & Susan Alnes

In Memory of

Elizabeth Bell from Gordon & Jo Bailey, Lu Heggerness, Tricia Hinz, Dave & Mary North, Brian North, Mike & Gretchen Sieben, and Greg & Jennifer Vieth

Jeanne Diefenbach from Jill Berke

Donald D. Frazier from Gary & Mickie Griswold

Oake Gregory from Jim & Judy Freund

Lois Kinsey Greg & Jennifer Vieth

Richard & Ann Mueller from John & Gladi Sippel

Gale Qualls from Jim & Judy Freund

Ron Winch from Greg & Jennifer Vieth

Thank You For Your Donation!

CNC has recently received several equipment donations from donors who wish to remain anonymous. While we want to respect their privacy, we wanted to take a moment to acknowledge their generosity.

Donations of materials and equipment are incredibly valuable to operations at CNC, and we are deeply grateful these contributions. Thank You!



Registration for the 2023 Frosty 40 opens December 1, 2022!

Get outdoors this winter to refresh your body and soul by walking, running, cross-country skiing, or snowshoeing 40 miles in 40 days. Choose your own schedule between **January 1st and March 20th, 2022**.

Visit our website carpenternaturecenter.org/frosty-forty for more info!



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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

Trails, buildings, parking lots, and front gates
open daily from 8:00am—4:30pm.

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



Wisconsin Campus

279 South Cove Road
Hudson, WI 54016
(651) 437—4359

Visitor center, paved parking, and front gates
open daily from 8:00am—4:30pm.

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

Trails open year-round from sunrise to sunset.

