



St. Croix Current

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September – December 2011

Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

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Wisconsin Campus:
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"The mission of Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center is to foster appreciation and inspire stewardship of the natural world. We accomplish our mission by acquiring and preserving land and wildlife habitat, providing quality environmental education, conservation practices and enjoyable outdoor experiences for visitors of all ages and capabilities."

IN THIS ISSUE:

Headwaters Riffles.....	1
Upcoming Programs	2
Upcoming Events.....	3
Phenology Calendar	4-5
People profile.....	6
Memorials	7
Volunteer Needs.....	7
Wish List.....	8

CONTRIBUTORS:

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Mayme Johnson, Alan Maloney,
Chad Richardson, Jen Vieth

Headwater Riffles...

By J. Fitzpatrick

By the time folks read this we will have hosted our annual Friends of CNC and Volunteer Appreciation picnic which has been known as the Carpenter Nature Center Birthday Party because we opened on August 1, 1981. This year marks 30 years of serving the public on our Minnesota Campus and 22 years on the Wisconsin side.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is coming up and then we enter what has been called our hectic season with Autumn in the Valley Gala, the Fall Raptor Release and Apple Festival all within 6 weeks of each other. Our raspberries suffered a fungal infection last year late in the season. We planted new ones but their first year is not very productive. There will be berries



A handmade canoe was one of the sought-after live auction items at the Autumn in the Valley Gala in recent years. The fabulous food is always a highlight of the event.



just not as many. The good news is we will have the Apples everyone loves including Honey Crisp, SweetTango, Haralson and Sweet Sixteen among all the others. My personal favorite is the Honey Gold apple.



Linnea & Simon enjoy a few of CNC's eco-friendly Honey Gold apples.

Looking back we are proud to say that our "Friends of CNC" program has never been stronger. We have surpassed the 500 level of active friends and now are reaching towards 1000. I know we have a ways to go but with all your help we can continue to grow! Thank you!

We are partnering with the Confluence Project and celebrating the meeting of two great rivers, two units of the National Park System, three counties, two states and two cities and a township and two great learning centers. We are partnering with an eagle camera project hoping to get a camera in the nest across the river from the Prescott Great River Road Learning Center.

And we have a new pavilion which will be completed in time for our September 11th Gala. Wow – was that ever an impressive drive! The open air pavilion will have sides that roll down for inclement weather. And talk about partnering! The fill and the trucks were donated, the electrical systems were donated, the landscape plan and materials were donated, and the finish dirt work and road construction was donated. What started as a \$95,000 replacement for our aging tent ended up being worth well over \$200,000 when all the donations and service work are factored in. Thank you everyone who participated, donated to, and worked on this project.

Our fiscal year comes to an end on September 30 and we are looking forward to another year in black ink, the beginning of a new decade of serving the community, a host of new partners, and a busy and productive fall. As always I urge you to share this newsletter with your family, friends and neighbors before recycling it.



CNC celebrates Volunteers & Friends of CNC of all ages at the annual picnic. Mike proudly displays his grandson's t-shirt awarded for 10 hours of service.

October is also our busiest season of the year when it comes to school groups. Over 1000 students go through our orchard every fall and this year will be no exception. These students learn about pollination and fruit growth, they see what is inside the apple, taste several varieties, pick a pumpkin, get two apples and then help make some apple juice with our hand powered apple press.

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Where at CNC?

The confluence of the St. Croix and the Mississippi Rivers has a long history of human habitation, serving as a seasonal camp for Native Americans and later as permanent residences of early settlers. Point Douglas is now a ghost town but it was once a thriving city with a post office, a mill, a lime kiln, a hotel, and a school.

Visitors to Carpenter Nature Center can see the old Point Douglas cemetery, which is located adjacent to the Minnesota Campus prairie. The cemetery contains over 24 burials, many are now unmarked, with the oldest known being Calvin R. Henry in 1855.



Upcoming Programs

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

For more information, to RSVP, or to schedule a group program please call the office:

651-437-4359

SEPTEMBER

Home School: Apple Orchard & Plants and People

September 28

(ages 5 – 9 yr.)

(ages 10 & up)

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Carpenter Nature Center'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. Students ages 5 – 9 yrs. can sign up for the Apple Orchard program which will take them into CNC's apple orchard to learn about the parts of a tree and where the apples come from. They will sample and compare different varieties of apples and make fresh-pressed apple cider. Students ages 10 yrs. and up will investigate the relationship between plants and people. Discover the importance of plants to human life as we hike into the apple orchard and through a restored prairie. We'll discuss uses of plants and management techniques used in each of the plant communities. Dress appropriately for the weather. Program fee \$6 per student or \$4 for "Friends of CNC".

OCTOBER

Animals with a Bad Reputation

October 22

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Some animals have been given reputations that they don't deserve. Take a closer look at some of these animals, like snakes, toads, cockroaches and owls and learn what roles they play in a healthy ecosystem. Program fee: \$6 per person or \$4 for "Friends of CNC".



In many cultures owls are the harbingers of death and a bad omen, but we know them as excellent rodent control.

NOVEMBER

Digital Photography Teacher Workshop

November 19

12:00 – 4:00 pm

Digital Photography Bridge to Nature is a Minnesota DNR initiative, offering FREE workshops to teachers of grades 3 – 9, including home school teachers. Facilitators

will show you how to enhance your curriculum, using digital photography experiences to tie in with state education standards. Teachers who participate in the workshop will be eligible to check-out kits, free of charge, that contain 12 cameras and field guides to use with their students during the school year, and can also receive 4.0 Continuing Education Units.



DECEMBER

Jim's Southern Birding Program

December 17

1:00 – 2:30 pm

No, this isn't Texas. It is even farther south. See the birds from amazing eco-tour trips to Sinaloa and Jalisco, Mexico, and Belize. Look at both our neotropical migrants and those birds who stay in the warmth of Mexico and Central America. Jim Fitzpatrick will be your bird guide for this PowerPoint look at these amazing and beautiful creatures. You will also get a preview of the next trip to Ecuador in February. Program fee is \$6 per person or \$4 for "Friends of CNC".

Preschool Story Time

Fridays

10:00 – 11:00 am

September 16: Orchard Fun

October 28: Costumes & Critters

November 18: Nature Shapes & Colors

December 9: Who Hibernates?

CNC's Preschool Story Times are designed to introduce young children, ages 2 through 5 (with a parent or guardian), to nature in a fun and safe environment. We'll listen to stories, spend some time outdoors, make an art or craft project and meet live animals.

Please be sure to dress appropriately for the weather. Program fee: \$5 per child per program or \$3 for "Friends of CNC"; no charge for accompanying adult. *CNC Story Time programs have been partially funded through support from Target.



The Man with the Yellow Hat (CNC naturalist Alan Maloney) shows Hannah, Caris and Michael a Hognose Snake.

Bird Banding

Fourth Fridays

September 23

November 25

8:30 a.m. - Noon

October 28

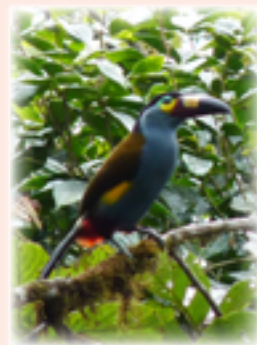
December 23

Banding records show us how long birds live, where they travel, when they migrate and other interesting facts. CNC has been banding birds for 29 years. See songbirds up close and learn about the birds who share our ecosystem. Bird banding runs continuously for the full 3 1/2 hours but visitors may come and go at any time. Call ahead so we know you are coming. Donations of bird seed or suet will be greatly appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

Ecuador Eco-tour

February 25-March 4

Join Jim Fitzpatrick and 16 fellow nature lovers on the adventure of a lifetime! The tour departs from Quito, Ecuador, with five nights in the Tandayapa Bird Lodge (TandayapaBirdLodge.com) and two nights in Hotel Sebastian (HotelSebastian.com) in Quito. The Tandayapa Lodge is located in the Cloud Forest and has a trip list of over 600 species including Barred Forest Falcons and over 31 hummingbird species including the Booted Racket-tail. Coined "the Mecca of Neotropical birding" Ecuador is a birding destination not to miss.



The Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan is easy to see in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.



The cost is \$1675 per person (single occupancy is \$1829), including meals, ground transportation, and entrance fees to the reserves. Space is limited! Reserve early! For more information contact Jim@CarpenterNatureCenter.org or call 651-437-4359.

Upcoming Events

More details available at www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org or by calling **651-437-4359**
Please call early to RSVP.

Autumn in the Valley Gala

Sunday September 11th, 2011

Join emcee Sven Sundgaard and other Friends of CNC to celebrate this year's accomplishments and attend the first event in the new pavilion. Each year CNC's closest friends and community partners spend an evening raising funds to support K-12 environmental education in the St. Croix Valley. Guests enjoy tours of the trails, mingling near the water gardens, a silent auction, a live auction, great friends and terrific food. To become a sponsor, volunteer, arrange to donate an auction item, or RSVP please contact Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org.

4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.



Kare 11 Meteorologist and CNC Board Member Sven Sundgaard with his mother, Linnea, at the 2010 Gala.



A juvenile Bald Eagle released by 3M's Marshall Smith takes flight at the 2010 Fall Raptor Release.

Fall Raptor Release

Saturday, September 24th

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

One of the season's best FREE public events, the fall raptor release provides an inspiring and educational experience. Watch as live raptors, once injured, and then rehabilitated at The U of MN's Raptor Center, are released for a second chance at life in the wild. The number and species of birds to be released is a well-guarded secret. However we do know that there will be at least 3 birds released at 11:30 a.m. and another 3 or more birds released at 2:00 p.m. Plan to arrive early to avoid a delay at the parking lot. There is plenty to do before and after the



Julie Greenwood's Minnesota Species series includes this stunning image of a Short-eared Owl.

release including meeting live hawks, owls, eagles and falcons. To learn more about the event please visit www.TheRaptorCenter.org or www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org.

This year we are especially fortunate to have local artist, Julie Greenwood, selling prints and originals from her "Minnesota Species" series, which depicts Minnesota wildlife including endangered, threatened and at-risk species. Julie will be set up in the Visitor Center and has generously offered 100% of the proceeds from sales on the day of the raptor release to support conservation and environmental education at Carpenter Nature Center. To see Julie's artwork visit: www.JulieGreenwoodsArt.etsy.com.

Apples for Sale

Crisp - Fresh - Healthy

**•Pumpkins•Cider•Squash
•Honey and more**

MINIMUM SPRAY ORCHARD...

**Healthier for you
and the environment!**

Opening Sept. 1st - Nov. 24th

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. DAILY



CNC uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program in the orchard, which reduces the amount of chemicals used on the apples, making the apple better for you and better for the environment. The early varieties of apples should be ready for harvest mid to late August. By mid September many of the popular varieties (Cortland, McIntosh, Sweet 16) will be ready, with the Haralson, Regents, Honeygold, Honeycrisp, and Fireside soon to follow.

651-437-4359

Apple Fest

Saturday, October 8th & Sunday October 9th 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



Apple Fest is a great time to sample many of the 14 varieties of apples grown at CNC.

Celebrate the bounty of the season at this popular two-day celebration. Visitors will enjoy pick-your-own apples, hay wagon rides, education programs and much more. Carpenter Nature Center's volunteers bake an amazing array of goodies for purchase at the Bake Sale, including fresh pies baked with Carpenter's eco-friendly apples. After spending time sampling some of the many varieties of apples grown at CNC, sit down to enjoy a brat and some music.



Pumpkin decorating is one of the children's favorite apple fest activities.

*****New in 2011*****

"Ride for CNC" motorcycle benefit

Saturday, October 8th




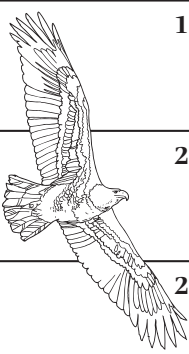







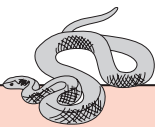
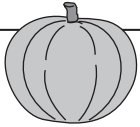


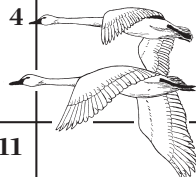

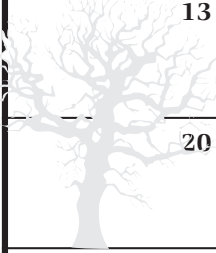










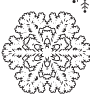








Held in conjunction with the Apple Fest and sponsored by Afton Leather, bikers will meet at the Visitor Center at 11:00 a.m. and will return to Carpenter Nature Center in time to enjoy some brats and apples afterwards. All proceeds support affordable K-12 environmental education programming at Carpenter Nature Center. For more information please call Afton Leather at 651-998-1344



This image shows an apple maggot trap that keeps pests off the real apples without using chemical sprays.

2011 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

(Phenology from 2010)

			September	1 13 hours and 15 minutes daylight	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10 
11  Autumn in the Valley Annual Gala	12 Full moon – Harvest Moon 	13	14 Northern Harrier in Prairie	15 	16 Preschool Story Time: Orchard Fun Hummingbirds at feeder	17
18 	19	20	21 Trees begin to change colors	22	23 Bird Banding Autumnal Equinox – Fall begins	24 Raptor Release
25	26 First Frost in River Falls	27 Falling Leaves  New Moon (Ojibwe)	28 Home School: Apple Orchard & Plants and People	29	30	1 October
2 	3	4	5	6 	7 Juncos Here	8 Peak Color – new record high of 87°F in metro Apple Fest 
9 Apple Fest	10 Columbus Day Observed	11 Full Moon – Hunter’s Moon 	12	13	14 	15 
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Animals with a Bad Reputation
23 	24	25	26 Freezing  New Moon (Ojibwe)	27 Early morning snow flurries	28 Bird Banding Preschool Story Time: Costumes & Critters	29 Ice on water garden
30	31 Halloween, 10 hours and 14 minutes of daylight	1 November	2 	3 Flocks of robins and bluebirds around	4	5 
6 Central Standard Time Resumes	7	8	9	10 Full Moon 	11 Veterans Day Honeybee sighted	12 Swans heading south
13 	14 Snowman in Hastings	15 	16	17 Leonid Meteor Shower Peak	18 Preschool Story Time: Nature Shapes & Colors	19 Wisconsin Deer Opener (Firearms) Digital Photography Workshop
20	21	22 	23	24 Thanksgiving CNC Closed 	25 Descending Cold New Moon (Ojibwe)  Bird Banding	26 Islamic New Year begins at sunset
27	28	29	30 9 hours and 5 minutes of daylight	1 December	2 Tree Sparrow spotted	3
4 			7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 	9 Preschool Story Time: Who Hibernates?	10 Full Moon – Total Lunar Eclipse begins 6:45 am 
11 20+ inches of snow since 12/10 	12	13 Rooster Pheasant at feeder	14 Ice house on St Croix	15 	16 	17 Southern Birding
18 	19 	20 Hanukkah begins at sunset	21 December Solstice – Winter begins	22 	23 Bird Banding 	24 Little Spirit New Moon (Ojibwe) 
25 Christmas CNC Closed	26 Kwanzaa begins	27 	28 	29 	30 Snowiest December on record!	31 New Years Eve, 8 hours and 53 minutes of daylight

People Profile

Volunteer Spotlight

In this issue we are very happy to shine the spotlight on our 2011 Volunteer of the Year – **Pam Albin**. Pam started volunteering as a bird bander in July of 2009. She has since branched out to help with animal care, data entry for our bird banding records, as well as office help with end of year “thank you” notes and other mailings. In all, Pam has logged over 450 hours volunteering for CNC. She also volunteers for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic in Roseville and has recently started volunteering for The Raptor Center too. Thanks Pam for selflessly giving of your time and talent to CNC! Your cheery smile and positive attitude always brightens our day and we are lucky to have you as a member of our volunteer corps. You’re one of the best!



Get to know our Friends of CNC



If you’ve been to CNC’s fall events you’ve probably seen **Bill Kruschel**. He usually arrives by motorcycle and you can’t miss his smile. His enthusiasm for CNC and Denmark Township is contagious. His affection for the community goes back to the days when he earned \$1 a month to build fires in the one room school house on Neal & 100th. His family relocated from Germany in 1923 and

shortly afterwards his father passed away leaving his mother with one car, three children and one hundred dollars. Bill learned some valuable lessons from his mother...keep a positive outlook on life and be thankful for what you’ve got. She lived to be 101.

My only regret in writing about Bill is that there is not enough room to include all of his amazing stories. From taking a full day wagon trip to pick up heifers from Stillwater Prison, to skiing to school, to navigating the Hastings Spiral Bridge in a Model T Coupe WITHOUT BRAKES, Bill has led a fascinating life. Professionally he spent 37 years at 3M as a Mechanical Engineer in Minnesota, Japan, Germany and Switzerland, and three years in the service. Yet home was always Denmark Township.



*The students of “District 59 School”,
February 1934*

Bill knew the Carpenters and remembers when they built their home. Throughout his travels he kept track of CNC and never ceased to be amazed by what is accomplished here. “Denmark Township is a great community to live in, and CNC epitomizes it through its events and school programs for kids.”

Bill has three adult children, Bill, Kathy and Jeff, five grandchildren and six great grandkids. He and Barb spend as much time as possible enjoying life, bird watching and taking photographs of all sorts of creatures they come across on their travels. When asked what is next, Bill has two goals. First he’d like to return to Pavuvu, the island in the South Pacific where he was stationed. And then he’d like to jump out of a plane at 12,000 feet.

Thank you Bill for your many years of support for CNC!

Board Member Bio

Curt Mages, his wife Kathy, and their three daughters (Kristen, Suzanne, and Michelle) have lived in Hastings for 16 years. Curt grew up on a beef and dairy farm near Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. He has an engineering degree from the U of MN and a MBA from the University of St. Thomas. Curt has worked for NYCO, Inc. in Inver Grove Heights for the past 23 years and is co-manager of the company. Curt enjoys many outdoor activities including golfing, biking, skiing, boating, hunting, fishing, and camping.



Curt believes everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. He feels the CNC does a great job of providing this opportunity. “From tapping maple trees in the spring, to hiking through the woods and prairies in the summer, to harvesting apples in the fall, to snowshoeing in the winter, CNC has something for everyone. It’s great to have an easily accessible bit of paradise next to our large metropolitan area. This is definitely a place of great value, and worth our efforts to make it the best place possible.” Curt joined the Board of Directors in the fall of 2010. Welcome to our leadership team Curt!

Meet Our Interns

We were very fortunate to have two wonderful interns with us over the summer. **Katie Kezar** arrived in early May to help teach environmental education programs to the visiting school groups and stayed until the middle of August. Throughout the summer she taught several programs, helped with summer day camps and assisted with animal care. Katie is attending the University of Minnesota Crookston, majoring in Natural Resources, and is looking forward to graduation this fall. Katie interned at the MN Zoo last summer and has also worked at the University of MN Early Childhood Development Center in Crookston. She has an excellent rapport with children and was a great addition to our education staff.



Alyssa Dunn completed the summer Horticulture Internship and will be returning to St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN as a senior this fall. She came to CNC with a desire to learn more about horticulture, apples and the process of running a successful apple orchard. She spent several hours in CNC’s gardens and the

orchard, learning about Integrated Pest Management, monitoring the insect traps and labeling the orchard map with the dates planted and the rootstock used for each tree. Alyssa has a dream of someday operating an apple orchard with her family and will be able to utilize the knowledge she gained during her internship. We wish both Alyssa and Katie much success with their future plans!



Once again summer camps were a blast as you can see in the Spittlebugs photograph above. This year's Dragonflies summer campers enjoyed a dragon fly workshop, a monarch encounter, and of course everyone's favorite part – the campout sleep-over (with very little sleeping). At right, Olivia examines a monarch caterpillar.



Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In memory of Bill Stock from Jim & Judy Freund

In memory of Delia Setzer from Jim & Judy Freund

In memory of Ann Husch from Samuel & Linda DeHaven

In memory of Lela Huxtable from Amy & John Reents

In honor of the Brogan Marriage from Michael & Amelia Versland

In honor of Gordie Bailey from the Ford & Catherine Nicholson Fund of the Nicholson Family Foundation.

Double your dollars to CNC

We'd all like to see our money stretch a little further. Why not have twice the impact with your donation? Many local employers match donations and/or volunteer time for current and retired employees. CNC has received matching donation gifts from General Mills, IBM, McAfee, Red Wing Shoe Company, The Saint Paul Foundation, Thomsen Reuters, Toro, Travelers Foundation, US Bank and Xcel Energy. Corporations that match volunteer time include Ecolab and 3M. Volunteering at CNC for 25 hours can earn CNC a \$250 donation from 3M. For more details on these programs or to find out if your current employer matches gifts, please contact Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

A Volunteer Information Meeting will be held September 14th at 7pm for those interested in volunteering. This informal meeting will last about an hour and expand on the volunteer opportunities available at CNC. Please call 651-437-4359 to let the Volunteer Coordinator know you are coming; if you can't make this meeting please call for a one-on-one time slot.

Volunteer Opportunities for Fall (Call 651-437-4359 to sign-up)

September 10th Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

Let's make sure the roadsides are litter-free when visitors come for our special events and to get apples. Join us from 9am until about 11am to pickup litter along the road by CNC. Bring your favorite litter-poking stick. Snacks will be provided for those who are food motivated.

September 24th Raptor Release

Always a popular event, we are lucky to be the site for The Raptor Center's fall release. We will need volunteers to help with parking, info booth, and in the apple shack. See raptors returned to the wild and volunteer to help things run smoothly.

October 8th and 9th Apple Fest

This is our weekend to really push apple sales and it's lots of fun. Volunteers are needed to help with parking, info booth, hay rides, kid's activities, and much more. Also please consider baking something for the bake sale – we can supply the apples if you make the pie. Hope to see you there – the more the merrier. Thanks!



CNC VOLUNTEERS ARE AWESOME!

If you think you are too young, too old, or too middle aged to be a volunteer at CNC-think again! We can use your help in all areas from office work to weeding the gardens. Our volunteers

know how to have fun whether they are greeting visitors or taking care of salamanders. And we are truly grateful for their help. Kate, Claire, Jacob and Collin even have a blast cleaning up pond sludge!



CNC News & Events

To receive important updates and program notices please contact Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org to be added to our email list.

FRIENDS OF CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Gift membership given by: _____

Check appropriate level:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL | \$25 to \$49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY | \$50 to \$99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DONOR | \$100 to \$249 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PATRON | \$250 to \$499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR | \$500 to \$999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE ST. CROIX SOCIETY | \$1,000 to \$2,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE EAGLE SOCIETY | \$3,000 to \$4,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE DIRECTOR'S COUNCIL | \$5,000 & Beyond |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING FRIEND OF CNC | |

Form of Payment:

(Check one)

Copies of this form are acceptable

- ☐ **Cash** (accepted in person only)
- ☐ **Check** (payable to Carpenter Nature Center)
- ☐ **Credit Card** Amount \$ _____
(Visa or Master Card are accepted)

Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

- ☐ I'm interested in learning more about the Tom & Edna Carpenter Society



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www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org



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Alan Maloney	Interpretive Naturalist
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Marty Lynch	Maintenance Foreman
John McPherson	Horticulturist
Phil Gruis	Orchardist

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

CNC Wish List

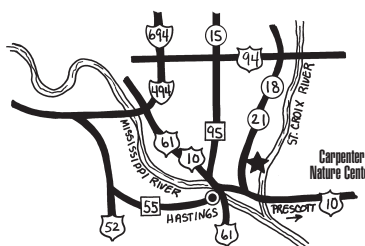
Carpenter Nature Center is in need of the following items in good condition:

Night lights
Bathroom rug
Plastic 8-15 gallon storage containers with lids
DVD player
MP3 Player or iPod

A book list is available if you are interested in purchasing a book for use in programs or for the CNC library. Just give us a call at 651-437-4359. Remember that donated items are tax deductible!

If you are not receiving monthly e-mail updates, contact:
Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org to join our e-mail list.

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Trails and interpretive exhibits are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A trail map (with a self-guided trail) is available at the registration desk where we ask all visitors to check in. Admission is free but we

encourage donations which go to help the environmental education programs at the Nature Center. To join our email list contact: Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org.