**Headwater Riffles...**

By J. Fitzpatrick

Today the temperature topped out at 97 degrees, with a heat index over 100. I am thinking ahead to the fall when you will be reading this newsletter. The apples will be ripe, the raspberries will be lush, the fields will be full of students...and hopefully the weather will be more reasonable.

The hot, lazy, hazy days of summer are busy days at CNC. Summer campers are splashing in the St. Croix River. Interns are learning about horticulture, communications and environmental education. Our Board of Directors is recruiting sponsors for the Autumn in the Valley Gala. Volunteers are helping in any way they can, from mowing prairie trails to hand-crafting auction items. CNC is hosting many weddings and corporate gatherings this year including guests from 3M and Flint Hills Resources. Staff are preparing for the fall when we teach thousands of students. I’m working on the 2012-2013 budget and trying to find funding to continue all our great programs. As always, it is a challenge to do it all. Fortunately we are not alone. This year we received 9,000 hours of volunteer support and annual gifts from 560 “Friends of CNC.” Thank you. YOU all are the glue, the energy and the passion that makes everything possible.

One of our community’s greatest strengths is the partnerships amongst neighbors, non-profits, corporations and even strangers. We work together to achieve greater things, from habitat conservation to educating thousands of students, to increased tourism and economic health in our area. I am pleased to share four new projects we are working on today – all because of partnerships. The 3M Foundation is helping CNC teach new programs about nature’s energy producing elements and energy conservation. The new “Natural Challenges” series, made possible by the St. Croix Valley Foundation, is getting people outdoors into nature for some fun, healthy exercise. On the Wisconsin side of the river The Hudson Community Fund is supporting CNC’s new WI campus trail system addition. Last, but definitely not least, the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board is helping CNC educate school groups and pavilion renters about decreasing waste. As you can see there are lots of things going on at CNC.

We are also celebrating a new kind of partnership with the St. Croix River Association. This is the SCRA’s 101st year in business and I have personally participated in both the 100th year paddle and the Namakogen River paddle. The partnership with the Confluence Committee is also gearing up. This group celebrates the confluence of two great rivers by supporting tourism, orchards and trails. It encompasses Prescott, River Falls, Hudson, Afton, Hastings, two national parks and all points in-between.

Don’t forget to sign our guest book when you visit and sign up for our monthly e-newsletter. When you are finished with this newsletter, please don’t throw it away. Hand it to a neighbor or family member. Or better yet, bring them to CNC and show them first-hand what a wonderful place we all share right here along the Wild & Scenic St. Croix River.

WHERE AT CNC?

The old stone silo, visible from the North Loop Trail, was once part of the Johnson Farmstead. Originally used to store corn silage through the winter months, it later served as an Osprey “hack site.” “Hacking” is the process in which young raptors are put into an artificial nest structure, fed and eventually released to the wild. Along with Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons, Osprey numbers have recovered from “no nesting at all” in the midwestern United States to over 608 active Osprey nests in 1984 to over 608 active Osprey nests statewide today.
Upcoming Programs
Reservations Are Required

September/October
Home School: Trees & Forestry
September 19  1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
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. will use hands-on activities to learn about the life cycle of a tree, basic identification, and the many human uses of trees. Older students (ages 10 yrs. and up) will go more in-depth on a tree identification hike as we practice using a dichotomous key and carefully observe some of the largest living organisms. Program fee: $6.00 per student or $4.00 for “Friends of CNC”

November/December
Minnesota Star watch with Mike Lynch
November 2  7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Join WCCO Radio Meteorologist Mike Lynch to watch the great celestial show in the skies over Carpenter Nature Center. This night with the stars and planets, starts off with an indoor orientation followed by quality time outside. Get to know the constellations like The Big Bear and Cassiopeia and some of the great stories behind them. We’ll also use large reflecting telescopes for close up views of the planets, as well as getting close and personal with star clusters, nebulae, galaxies and other wonders in our evening sky. You’ll get a great handout package with user-friendly star maps, constellation charts maps, websites, a telescope-buying guide, and more! Bring your own lawn chair. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Reservations required. Program fee: $15.00 per person or $12.00 for “Friends of CNC”

Alaska Dog Sled Adventure
December 7  7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Jim Ryder, Wisconsin native, journeyed solo by dog team, 800 miles from Nenana to Nome, Alaska early in 2011, replicating the original Serum Run which follows part of the Iditarod Trail. This is the route of the sled-dog relay that carried diphtheria antitoxin to Nome in 1925. Jim will share stories, images and display much of his gear as well as discuss his preparation for the adventure including dog training. This event is appropriate for all ages. Program fee: $10.00 per person or $7.00 for “Friends of CNC”; Family max $25.00

Natural Challenges Programs
CNC will be offering monthly activities for individuals and families. Participants will be encouraged to increase their fitness level, make healthy eating choices, and attend as many of the monthly programs as possible. See the list below for upcoming challenges and stay tuned for future activities like snowshoeing, kick sledding, maple syruping and many others. Special participation awards will be handed out next May during CNC’s 2K Fun Run/Walk. This series provided with support from the St. Croix Valley Foundation. Program fee: $6.00 per person per program or $4.00 for “Friends of CNC” and children under 10 or $20.00 max per family program unless otherwise noted.

Intro to Geocaching
September 16  1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Come to CNC for an afternoon of geocaching fun! We will start with a presentation covering the basics of GPS units and explain the world of geocaching. Then you will get a chance to practice your skills while searching for geocaches on the Nature Center grounds. Bring your GPS if you have one. Space is limited.

Orchard Walk
October 20  10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Join a naturalist as we walk through CNC’s apple orchard, sampling different varieties of apples and learning about the benefits of healthy eating. CNC’s Apple Shack will be open for anyone wishing to purchase apples or other products after the program.

Count your Steps!
November 3  1:00 p.m.
You’ve probably heard about the recommendation to walk 10,000 steps a day but might need a little more motivation to get you started. We will have trail maps and pedometers available for you to use that will count your steps for you. See how far you can get and how many steps you take. Keep in mind that 10,000 steps equals approximately 5 miles so plan your afternoon accordingly. There is no program fee or charge for using the pedometers but you must stay on CNC property and return them before you leave. Please call ahead to reserve a pedometer.

Bird Hike & Survey
December 29  8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Join CNC’s Executive Director, Jim Fitzpatrick, on a bird hike to conduct a survey of the species found at CNC as part of the annual Christmas Bird Count. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them.

Preschool Story Time
Fridays  10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Sept. 14 - Orchard Fun  Nov. 9 - Once Upon a Time
Oct. 26 - Costumes and Critters  Dec. 7 - Get Ready for Winter
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. We will be going outside for every program so be sure to dress appropriately for the weather. Program fee: $5.00 per child or $3.00 per preschooler for “Friends of CNC”; no charge for accompanying adult.

*CNC Story Time programs have been partially funded through support from Target
Autumn in the Valley Gala  
Sunday, September 9th, 2012  
4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Join us for an enchanting evening along the St. Croix. 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. Sponsorships are available. Auction donations are welcomed. To become a sponsor, volunteer, or arrange to donate an auction item, please contact Jennifer at 651-437-4359.

2013 CNC Costa Rica Eco-tour

Visit a Costa Rican rainforest, stay at the eco-friendly www.BlueBanyonInn.com bed and breakfast, tour diverse natural areas including Manuel Antonio National Park on the Pacific Coast and the Kids Saving the Rainforest Wildlife Sanctuary near Quepos. This region is home to over 224 bird species and an incredible 109 mammal species. The habitat ranges from primary and secondary rainforest to mangrove swamps, lagoons, and white sandy beaches with a mountain backdrop. Participants will fly into San Jose and spend two nights in the Costa Rican capital before traveling to the Blue Banyon Inn. A few of the wildlife highlights include migrating whales, dolphins, three-toed and two-toed sloths, kinkajou, Tinamou, Boat-billed Herons, multiple species of caracara, parrots, hummingbirds and the Laughing Falcon (pictured above). The trip runs from February 16 through the 24th and costs $1,750 per person not including airfare. Please contact Jim@CarpenterNatureCenter.org or 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot.

Apple Fest

October 13th and 14th

Celebrate the bounty of the season at this popular two-day event. Visitors will enjoy pick-your-own apples, hay wagon rides, educational programs, live music, pumpkin painting, and much more. Carpenter Nature Center’s volunteers bake an amazing array of goodies for purchase at the Bake Sale, including fresh pies made with Carpenter’s eco-friendly apples. After spending time sampling some of the many varieties of apples grown at CNC, sit down to enjoy an apple brat and some music. Bring the entire family out!

“Ride for CNC” motorcycle benefit

Saturday, October 13th

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 in time to enjoy Apple Fest food and activities. All proceeds support affordable K-12 environmental education programming at CNC. For more information call Afton Leather at 651-998-1344.

Raptor Release

September 22nd  
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 11:30am and 3 more raptors at 2pm. Plan to arrive early to avoid delays in the parking lot. There is plenty to do before and after the releases including meeting live hawks, owls, eagles, and falcons. To learn more about this event, please visit www.TheRaptorCenter.org or www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org

St. Croix Current, September – December 2012 3
# 2012 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

### Phenology from 2011 (with additional entries from 1989 – 2010)

**September**

- **13 hours and 13 minutes of daylight**

**Autumn in the Valley Annual Gala**

- **9**

- **10**

- **11**

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**Monarch Butterfly by wetland Sukkot Begins at Sunset**

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- **2**

- **3**

- **4**

- **5**

- **6**

**Central Standard Time Resumes – 2:00 am**

- **7**

- **8**

- **9**

- **10**

- **11**

- **12**

- **13**

**Veterans Day**

- **14**

- **15**

- **16**

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**December**

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- **31**
Volunteer Spotlight

In this issue we are proud to shine our volunteer spotlight on our 2012 Volunteer of the Year – Lenny Gallus. Lenny started volunteering in 2001 and has since logged over 1400 hours – at least that is our conservative estimate because Lenny doesn’t log his hours – he really doesn’t like the recognition. But when it came to nominations, no one could argue with Marty’s testament to Lenny’s unsolicited help in the maintenance shop. Lenny is great at welding/fabrication, can fix anything mechanical, and helps keep the shop organized. He has also helped with mowing, setting-up and tearing-down for special events. Thanks Lenny for your hard work and dedication to CNC and for your quiet, humble character. We are extremely happy to have you as a member of our volunteer crew and we salute you.

Interns

We were very fortunate to have three awesome summer interns. Nick Pritchard arrived at CNC after graduating from the University of Minnesota with a degree in landscape architecture and design. Nick came to the center hoping to learn more about horticulture and the process of running an apple orchard. He spent countless hours throughout the summer trimming, thinning and weeding all of the different gardens making them look beautiful for the visitors. “I had a lot of fun getting to learn about the orchard’s Integrated Pest Management,” Nick said. We are very grateful to have Nick out at the orchard with us!

Kallie Pechacek was our summer environmental education intern. She taught programs at the nature center to the visiting school groups and helped with the summer camps. Kallie was also a wonderful help feeding and taking care of the animals. She is now able to handle and feed the raptors in the visitor center, as well as all of the other critters. “I really loved getting to work at such a beautiful place and being able to teach children about the animals and nature,” said Kallie, who recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin– Stevens Point with a degree in environmental education and interpretation. We were very lucky to have Kallie’s help this summer; she has an incredibly strong passion for nature, children, and of course, CNC.

During the month of May Alicia Little completed her Senior Project for St. Paul Academy at Carpenter Nature Center. The Senior Project helps high school students explore career choices in a structured professional work environment. While Alicia was at CNC she helped teach several school groups and preschool programs, assisted the naturalists taking care of the program animals and helped with the Apple Blossom Races. She worked in the Leadership Development Program at YMCA Camp Du Nord near Ely, MN this summer and will be attending George Washington University in Washington, DC this fall. It was a pleasure to have Alicia here at CNC and we wish her well in her future endeavors!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Opportunities for the Fall at CNC

Sept 12th Volunteer Info Meeting
The Information Meeting for new volunteers will be held 7:00 p.m. in the Visitor Center. Volunteers are needed for helping with animal care, nature classes, and greeting visitors. If you can’t make it to the meeting please call 651-437-4359 for a one-on-one session.

Sept 15th Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup
Let’s make sure the road sides are clean when visitors come for special events and to get apples. From 9am – 11am we’ll be picking up litter along the road by the Nature Center so bring your favorite litter stabber and gloves. Cookies and juice available to replenish lost calories; not responsible for fun or hidden treasures.

Sept 22nd Raptor Release
Volunteer to help things run smoothly for this popular event and see raptors returned to the wild – a winning combination for sure. Volunteer tasks include helping with parking, info booth, and apple shack.

Oct 13 & 14 Apple Fest
This is our big push to sell goods from the apple shack and we would like your help to do it. Tasks include parking, info booth, hay rides, kid’s activities, bake sale and much more. Please consider baking something for the bake sale – we’ll supply the apples if you bake the pie. This event is really lots of fun (and a little work).

Please contact Alan@CarpenterNatureCenter.org or call 651-437-4359 to sign-up to help out.
Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In memory of Genevieve Cook from Jim & Judy Freund
In memory of Dakota from Jeannie & Eric Sonstegard
In memory of Phil Gruis from Duane & Janet Miller, Richard & Galyna Gruis, Diane Albright, Cheryl Milling, Bob & Kathy Setzer, Mayme & Steve Johnson, Emily Kerton
In memory of Lillian Mills from Jim & Judy Freund
In memory of Bill Montgomery from Elizabeth ‘Bette’ Montgomery
In memory of James E. Oie from Robert Solberg
In memory of Bill Schurmeier from Don & Rose Mary Eisenmenger, Jay & Lu Hegerness, Jane & Arnie Becklin.
In memory of Richard & Irene Skare from Jim & Judy Freund
In honor of Tom Bell’s 80th birthday from Julie Bell & Michael Campbell, Mindy Bell & Darrell Kaufman, Jenny Caskey, Erik Bell & Fran Bell, and grandchildren Alex, Becca, Lindsey, Ben, Cassie & Luke.
In honor of Rev. Barbara Cavin from Ann Cavin
In honor of Pam & Amy Kaufenberg from Pineridge Garden Club
In honor of Amanda McKellip's birthday from Cameron & Vachelle Johnston and Emmerson & Susan Ward

Scramble follow up:

Our annual St. Croix Valley Golf Scramble took place on July 23, 2012 and was a great success. Twenty-seven teams filled the golf course with a total of 107 golfers and competed in the tournament along with other side games that were run by our volunteers and interns. The winning team was from Afton Alps; Hank Tressel, John Reents, Wally Hagen, and Jeff Hagen. Great Job to all!

DATES TO PUT ON THE CALENDAR

Apple Shack Opens Friday, August 31st
Autumn in the Valley Gala September 9th
Raptor Release September 22nd
Apple Fest October 13th & 14th
Apple Shack Closes Thanksgiving
Costa Rica Ecotour Feb 2013 RSVP by Nov. 30th

For more details please call 651-437-4359

Summer campers jumping off the dock at the CNC beach.

Will your Employer Match your Efforts?

Many local companies will match their employee's gifts dollar for dollar. Select companies match gifts for retired employees, spouses, widows or widowers of employees or non-employee directors. If you are not sure whether your current or past employer will match your gifts to Carpenter Nature Center the best course of action is to contact your Human Resources department. Carpenter Nature Center has recently received matching gifts from the following companies/employers:

- General Mills Foundation
- IBM Corporation
- McAfee
- Red Wing Shoe Company
- Travelers Foundation
- The Saint Paul Foundation
- The Toro Foundation
- Thomson West
- UBS Foundation
- US Bancorp Foundation
- Williams: Pro Source Technologies
- Xcel Energy Foundation

A number of employers will also donate funds to the non-profit organization at which their employee, or retired employee volunteers. There is often a minimum time commitment of 20-40 hours per year, with some limits of one donation per year. Once again the best course of action is to contact your Human Resources Department. Currently the 3M Foundation matches 25 volunteer hours with a gift of $250, and both the Ecolab Foundation and Securian Foundation will match volunteer hours with $100.

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CNC Wish List

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

Pedometers, Kids-sized snowshoes, Hot cocoa mix (Swiss Miss Hot Cocoa Mix canister), Postage Stamps for mailings, 8 ½ x 11 paper in light colors, 3 Boxes of Black-only crayons, 3 Boxes of Brown-only crayons, Glitter glue, 8’ x 10’ tarps for survival class, Spool of Anchor Rope (braided nylon not polypropylene),

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. And 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.

Follow us online: www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org, Facebook, Twitter, or www.givemn.org.

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

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