

The St. Croix Current

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Summer 2013

Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

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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."

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our newsletter to full color!*



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Field Notes

By J. Vieth



When I was a child, my father was determined that his daughter would not be squeamish. My very first pet was a Garter Snake, aptly named "Sissy." Sissy made the task of recruiting babysitters more challenging, but my father's plan worked. That tiny creature taught me about predators and prey, and the diversity and beauty found in nature. I am still enthralled by snakes. If you've met me you know that you don't have to twist my arm to get me to introduce Carpenter Nature Center's

Western Hog-nosed Snake to visitors.

After a season, the Garter Snake was released back into the wild and my father had another lesson for me. We were going to get a pet frog! Imagine my disappointment when we returned from our wetland excursion with a bucket of pond water. Suffice it to say, we raised a healthy crop of tiny tadpoles into frogs, which we released back into the wild. I learned lessons about omnivores and metamorphosis. Two years later, when the wetland was filled in to make room for an expansion, I learned about habitat loss.

Not every child has such a science-focused upbringing. It is also no longer wise to 'borrow' frogs and snakes from the wild. Today, children learn these valuable natural science lessons at nature centers around the country. Visit Carpenter Nature Center during the school year and watch students as they sweep nets through the prairie grasses to identify the multi-legged creatures hidden within. Giggle along with the Kindergarteners who provide nectar (lemonade) to other students while they dust them with pollen (flour) to learn about pollination. The students are learning state required science lessons. Yet, all they know is they are having fun in the natural world. Carpenter Nature Center is a truly amazing teaching center.



Frog populations across North America have declined. Wander across a wet meadow and you no longer see as many Leopard Frogs leaping out of your way. The frogs' decline is due to many factors, including Red-leg Disease, pollution, pesticides and the loss of habitat. What can you do about it? From citizen science activities, such as the statewide Frog & Toad Surveys, to properly disposing of chemicals - your actions WILL make a difference.

Where at CNC?



You can find this Chimney Swift tower in the orchard. CNC's swift tower was built by local scouts with support from Audubon Minnesota. Chimney Swift populations have declined over 50 percent during the last 40 years due to loss of nest sites and roosting areas. One tower can provide a roost site for hundreds of swifts. The third annual Chimney Swift count will be held in downtown Hastings at the end of the summer. Stay tuned for more info!

I am honored to lead Carpenter Nature Center into our next era. The work that Mr. & Mrs. Carpenter, Jim Fitzpatrick, the Board of Directors and ALL of you have done over the past 32 years is remarkable! I fell in love with CNC when I worked alongside you as a volunteer. I feel like I know many of you personally after seven years of writing to you to ask for your help to make the amazing things CNC stands for into a reality. Thank you for your incredible support!

I assure you that CNC's mission will remain the same, as will our dedication to protecting habitat and teaching future generations about the wonders of the natural world. And my door will remain open. Please don't hesitate to stop in to say hello, share an idea, or tell me how you first connected to CNC. It is the aggregate of these amazing personal stories of CNC's impact that is our history and our future.

Upcoming Programs

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Carpenter Nature Center offers a wide variety of public programs. **Reservations are required.** For more information, to RSVP, or to schedule a group program please call the office: **651-437-4359**

SUMMER CAMPS AT CNC

FISHING FUN (ages 6-11)

June 19 & July 11 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Come to CNC for a 1/2 day of fishing fun! Bring your own rod and reel or use one provided. The majority of time will be at the river so bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and dress to be outside! Program fee: \$30 per participant or \$20 for "Friends of CNC".



A youngster shows off his trophy Rock Bass at fishing fun day camp!

NESTLINGS (ages 5-7)

June 24 – 28

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Mattie, Olivia, and friends examine a 'Painted Lady' after its recent metamorphosis from a caterpillar into a butterfly.

We will make crafts, play games, have a snack, and explore as we learn to be comfortable in nature, with other kids, and in a camp setting. Snacks provided. Families are invited to a "Family Picnic" on Friday at noon. Program Fee: \$95 per participant or \$80 for "Friends of CNC".

FLEDGLINGS

(8-11 yrs) July 15 – 19

Fledglings Camp is full at this time.

BIRD BANDING

Fourth Fridays

8:30 a.m. – Noon

May 24 June 28

July 26 August 23

Have you wondered what bird banding is all about? Banding records help us learn how long birds live, where they travel, when they migrate and many other interesting facts. CNC

has been banding birds for 30 years. Our experts welcome you to see songbirds up close and learn about the birds who share our ecosystem. Banding runs continuously for the full 3 1/2 hours but visitors may come and go at any time. Please RSVP so we know you are coming. Donations of bird seed or suet are greatly appreciated in lieu of a program fee.



White Throated Sparrows are common spring & fall migrants and can be identified by their song. The mnemonic is "Old Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody...." or "Oh Sweet Canada, Canada, Canada..."

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Fridays

May 3 BIRDS

July 12 WHIRLING WIND

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

June 21 SUMMER CELEBRATION

August 9 AMAZING ANTS

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: \$5.00 per child per program 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.

2013 DATES

TO PUT ON THE CALENDAR

Apple Shack Opens around Labor Day

Raptor Release September 28th

Apple Fest October 12 & 13th

Apple Shack Closes Thanksgiving



They've moved!

The pair of Bald Eagles who call CNC home have moved their nest to the flood plain. In April, two chicks were spotted in the nest which can be viewed from the River Overlook.

NATURALISTS AT ST. CROIX BLUFFS

Carpenter Nature Center naturalists present programs around the metro area at state and county parks, schools, chambers of commerce, festivals and businesses. This summer CNC will present campfire programs at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park at 7:15 p.m. on the following dates:

June 29 – PREDATORS

July 13 – ANIMAL ADAPTIONS

July 27 – BIRD BANDING

The programs feature live animals and will be held in the campground area. Programs are free for park visitors but you do need a pass to get into the county park. St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park is three miles north of CNC, nestled on the bluffs along the river providing picnic areas, camping and a boat launch. For more information about booking a CNC outreach program please contact Mayme@CarpenterNatureCenter.org

Upcoming Events

More details available at www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org or by calling **651-437-4359**

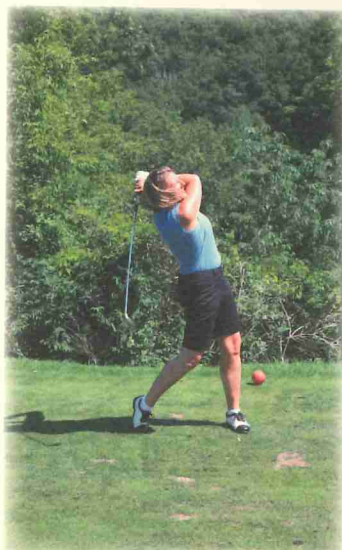
Apple Blossom Races

Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center • Hastings, MN
May 19, 2013 2K Fun Run • 5K Run/Walk
 10K & 1/2 Marathon

For 28 years, runners of all abilities have flocked to the St. Croix Valley to support CNC. The Apple Blossom has a race distance and speed for everyone. Marathoners enjoy the challenging, hilly 1/2 marathon course while families and youngsters love the trails in the shorter runs. All proceeds support Carpenter Nature Center's K-12 environmental education programs and habitat protection. Visit our website to see the course map. Start time is 8:00 a.m. Registration will be online via active.com, midwestevents.com, the CNC website, or by calling 651-437-4359 for a registration brochure.



On the home stretch...a runner smiles as she passes the wetland on the way to the finish line!



Team 'Girl Power' has made it a tradition to get together to support CNC at the tournament.

5th Annual St. Croix Valley Scramble

Monday, July 22

Enjoy a day of golf at the Afton Alps Golf Course and support Carpenter Nature Center! All proceeds from this event support K-12 environmental education programming at CNC. It will be a fun 18-hole "best ball" tournament. Cost includes box lunches, greens fees, carts, dinner, door prize and a donation to CNC. Hole sponsorships are available. Please visit the CNC website or call the office to request a golfer or sponsor registration form.



Three generations represented Team Tinucci at the scramble in 2012.



Youth investigate a sap bucket during a Maple Syrup Making Program.

Natural Challenges

Throughout the past year, visitors of all ages have been encouraged to increase their fitness level and learn about healthy eating choices by attending CNC's Natural Challenges Series. More than 100 people participated in

one or more of the programs! The 'Maple Syrup Making Hike & Program' in March had the highest attendance. Participants hiked to the sugar-bush, learned how to identify maple trees, tapped some trees and learned how to turn the sap into syrup. Other popular programs were 'Kick-sledding' and 'Geocaching', both of which got people moving and enjoying the outdoors. The Natural Challenges Series was provided with support from the St. Croix Valley Foundation, 3M Cottage Grove and the Hoel Stewart Family Fund.

The Series will wrap up at the Apple Blossom Races on Sunday, May 19. Families and individuals are encouraged to get in shape and run in the 2K Fun Run, which starts at 11:15 am. The 2K Fun Run is free, unless runners want a race t-shirt for \$10.00 (youth sizes are available). Pre-registration is encouraged. Runners receive a finisher ribbon, and the overall male and female winner (ages 12 & under) receive a race sweatshirt. Certificates for participation in the Natural Challenges Series will be awarded after the 2K.

Autumn in the Valley Gala

Sunday, September 8th

Join Carpenter Nature Center's Board of Directors for a wonderful evening at CNC. Each year friends and community partners spend an evening raising funds to support K-12 environmental education in the St. Croix Valley. The event will be held in CNC's River Bluff Pavilion which has a spectacular view of the St. Croix Valley. The dinner will be catered by Lake Elmo Inn. It is a fun way to support a great cause.



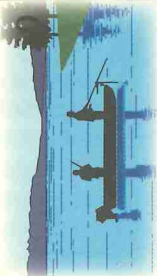
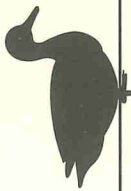



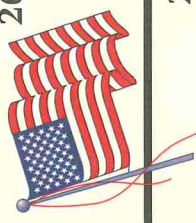

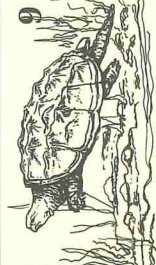






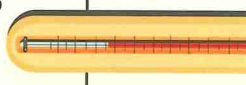





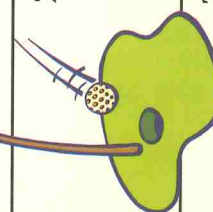



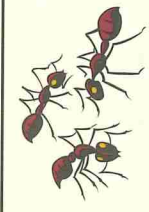


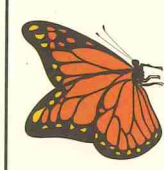
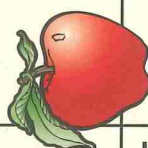

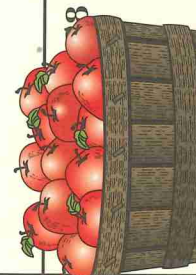
Vickie Batroot, vice-president of CNC's Board of Directors, poses with her husband Gregg and friend Pamela Regan at a recent gala.

Guests enjoy tours of the trails, mingling near the water gardens, a silent auction and a live auction. Sponsorships at all levels 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 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

Phenology from 2012 (with additional entries from 1848, 1996, 2000, 2005, 2008, 2010)

May			14 hours and 16 minutes of daylight	1	Tiger Swallowtail sighted	2	3	4
							Preschool Storytime: Birds	Wisconsin Fishing Opener
	5	6	2.75 inches of rain	7		8	9	11
					Budding Plants New Moon (Ojibwe)			Minnesota Fishing Opener Minnesota Statehood - 1858
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	25
	Mother's Day		Tadpoles in water garden					New Record High - 93° F
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
				Cedar Waxwings by flower garden	Female mallard and 9 ducklings in water garden	Public Bird Banding		
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	8
		Memorial Day		Wisconsin Statehood - 1848			Fireflies out - 2005	Strawberry New Moon (Ojibwe)
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	15
			River up to railroad bed	Polyphemus moth hatched from cocoon		Wild strawberries red		4 chipmunks by Admin building
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	22
			Pea sized hail - 2008		Fishing Fun Camp caught 13 fish			
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	29
	8+ inch snapping turtle in water garden - 2008			Fishing Fun Day Camp (age 6-11)	3 Henslow's Sparrows singing in prairie	Preschool Storytime: Summer Celebration Summer Begins at 2:04 a.m.		More cicadas buzzing
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
		Nestlings Day Camp (age 5-7)	Nestlings Day Camp (age 5-7)	Nestlings Day Camp (age 5-7)	Nestlings Day Camp (age 5-7)	Nestlings Day Camp (age 5-7)		

30		1	July	2	New Record High of 99° F 	3	Mullein Blooming 	4	Independence Day 	5	Earth at Aphelion: Earth-Sun Distance 94,508,959 miles	6	Corn tasseling 
7		8	Midsummer New Moon (Ojibwe)	9		10	Fishing Fun Day Camp (age 6-11)	11	Preschool Storytime: Whirling Wind	12		13	
14		15	Fledgling Day Camp (age 8-11)	16	Fledgling Day Camp (age 8-11) Pheasant and 6 young spotted by prairie	17	Fledgling Day Camp (age 8-11)	18	Fledgling Day Camp (age 8-11)	19	Fledgling Day Camp (age 8-11)	20	
21		22	St Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament 	23		24		25	Northern Lights Visible – 2002 	26	Public Bird Banding	27	Delta Aquarid Meteor Shower Peak 9:00 pm
28		29		30		31	July 2012 - 2nd warmest on record	1	August	2		3	
4		5		6	Harvest New Moon (Ojibwe)	7	Goldenrod starting to bloom	8	Preschool Storytime: Amazing Ants 	9		10	
11	First aster blooms in restored prairie – 2005	12		13		14		15	Swallows flocking	16	Monarch starting to group – 2000 	17	
18	Harvesting Zestar apples – 2010 	19		20	New England Asters starting to bloom	21		22	Minnesota State Fair Begins 	23	Public Bird Banding	24	
25		26		27	Basswood leaves dropping	28		29		30	First apple of season sold – 1996	31	13 hours and 16 minutes of daylight

People Profile

Volunteer Spotlight

In this issue, we proudly shine the spotlight on **Jean Johnson Magle**, one of CNC's newer volunteers.

Jean started volunteering in November of 2012 in the animal care area. She is a compassionate critter care giver with a thirst for knowledge. She has previous experience handling song birds and quickly expressed an interest in working with the raptors, which we greatly welcomed. Jean also branched out into the education area where she easily establishes a rapport with the students and shares her enthusiasm for the natural world. Thanks Jean for your dedication to CNC, your ability to jump in, and the confident modesty you bring with you.



Jean poses with Abby, a MiniRex Rabbit, one of CNC's educational ambassadors.

Board Member Bio

As one of its newest Board Members, **Laurie Bauer**, joined Carpenter Nature Center in late 2012. An avid birder and gardener with a fondness for water, Laurie spent much of her childhood fishing on Mille Lacs Lake and swimming in the St. Croix River. She learned the names of the birds and their calls, especially her favorite black-capped chickadee, from her now 90-year-old grandmother, who lived for many years in Afton.

As Andersen Corporation's vice president of Corporate Communication, she oversees internal and external communications, community relations, and the code and regulatory teams. With more than 20 years of marketing and communications experience, Laurie brings her expertise to the development committee. She served on board of the South St. Paul Educational Foundation, and is currently a member of the Andersen Corporate Foundation's Board of Directors.

Laurie and her husband Doug reside in Inver Grove Heights. They have shared their love of the outdoors with son, Tony, 21, a junior studying wildlife management at Bemidji State University, and daughter, Madeline, 19, a freshman at the University of Minnesota Duluth studying biology. "It's a gift to be able to share

my passion for birds and the outdoors by expanding the reach of the nature center."

Carpenter Nature Center's beach provides a quiet space to reflect on the beauty of the natural world in its wild state.



Board Member Bio

Jerry Hope was welcomed to the CNC Board of Directors in August of 2012. Jerry and his wife Amy live along the beautiful St. Croix River neighboring CNC.

As Global Head of Corporate Systems for Thompson Reuters, Jerry has extensive experience in business improvement and technical operations. He earned an MBA from the New York Institute of Technology, an MS in Telecommunications from Saint Mary's University and a BA degree in Computer Science from the University of Minnesota. His vast background in technology and operations management is a great asset to CNC.

Jerry is active in various philanthropic activities in his free time. Besides the Carpenter Nature Center Board of Directors he serves on the technology advisory committee for the St. Croix Valley Girl Scouts of America and the Board of Directors for Hostelling International. Jerry greatly appreciates the mission of Carpenter Nature Center and his close proximity to the Nature Center, bordering his home on two sides, has given him a further appreciation for the great work done by the center and its volunteers.

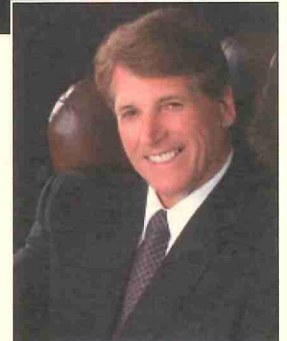


Get to know our Friends of CNC

Sam & Jan Tripp have been an active part of the community since 1978 when the newlyweds moved to Hastings so that Jan could walk to her job as a teacher at Hastings High School. Today Jan runs "Jan's Dance Studio" in Hastings. Jan is full of energy, with a fresh smile and kind word for each child, remembering all their names and taking a brief moment to greet parents as she dashes from one dance class to another. Sam jokes that "we could be on a desert islands and Jan would know someone." Sam keeps busy with Samuel C. Tripp Attorney At Law, with offices in both Hastings and Edina.

Sam grew up hunting and fishing and shared his enthusiasm for the outdoors with their children, Josh and Thor. "When the boys were younger we were at CNC all the time." The fact that the boys are older hasn't stopped Sam & Jan from finding time to enjoy CNC's trails. They believe in all that CNC offers to the community and enjoy life in this river town community where it is still a joy to find a Tom Turkey strutting on the deck or deer wandering through the yard. Sam sums it up simply, "It's important to preserve the outdoors." Sam and Jan have been annual supporters of CNC since the program began in 1989.

Thank you Sam & Jan for being part of our CNC family.



Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation
for the following gifts:

In Memory of Donna Buck from Donald Buck
In Memory of Amber Dufresne from Jeffrey & Jorja Dufresne
In Memory of Jo Hartnett, from Robert & Roma Solberg
In Memory of Don & Muggs McQuade from Bruce & Michelle McQuade
In Memory of Lloyd Petrie from James & Judy Freund
In Memory of Pete Rodewald from Jim & Dorothy Beix
In Memory of Jim Ruemmele from James & Judy Freund
In Memory of Louis Schilling Morgal & Mary Loretta Kraml Morgal from
Dakota & Gwen Ellen M. Henrich
In Memory of Bill Swanson from James & Judy Freund
In Memory of Ray Swanson from Howard Markus

In Honor of Dennis & Daryl Donath from JD & Ann Donath
In Honor of granddaughters Eva & Coralie from Otto & Tinka Bloedow
In Honor of Arlene Holden from Carol Jager
In Honor of Tom & Mary Skinner from Kathleen Fritz
In Honor of Bob & Mavis Voigt from Melissa & Gary Porter

Wisdom begins in wonder.
Socrates



Thank you!

It takes thousands of gifts of time, talent and dollars every year just to keep CNC's doors open for visitors and students. Please know that **we appreciate each and every gift**, big or small. This issue we'd like to say a special thank you to Jim & Judy Freund, whose timely donation of a pick-up truck in December really did keep the doors open this winter! CNC's aged pick-up died and without the new truck, we wouldn't have been able to plow the driveway to let visitors onto the site.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Persons interested in becoming a volunteer at CNC can attend a Volunteer Information Meeting on June 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center. If you'd like to volunteer but can't attend the meeting, please call Alan at 651-437-4359 to set up a one-on-one meeting.

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Help would be appreciated for the following events and tasks:

Gardens and Gourds – Come play in our dirt; folks are needed to water flower gardens as well as weed and water the pumpkin patch. A few hours a week will bring compliments and smiles from our visitors.

Fore! – Volunteers are needed for various tasks at the St Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament on Monday July 22nd.

Staff the Visitor Center – warm, dry weather brings lots of visitors. Come be that friendly face that greets them in the VC and tell them about your favorite loop to hike.

Mark your calendar for the Raptor Release on Sept 28th and **Apple Fest** on Oct 12th & 13th. Lots of volunteer help will make these events successful for our guests.

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

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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John McPherson	Horticulturist
Linda Polglase	Administrative Assistant

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

CNC Wish List

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

Walkie Talkies (compatible with Motorola)	Heavy duty office scissors
8 1/2 x 11 printer paper	Black-oil sunflower seed
	White or colored card stock

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.



CNC News & Events

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.



giveMN.org
Click. Contribute. Change Your World.

twitter



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.