Field Notes By Jen Vieth

Spring has taken its time arriving. Nevertheless, the American Woodcocks are back on territory—dancing through the skies in the early evenings. Tree Swallows are swooping over the prairies chasing insects. Along the bluffs of the St. Croix River, a pair of eagles are barely visible in their over-sized nest. In the forest, tree buds are swelling, leaves will soon break out, and the St. Croix Valley will be awash in verdant greens. At CNC we have been anticipating spring more than normal. After 30 years of planning, the AI and Laurie Hein Visitors’ Center will open to the public by summer. Through thousands of hours of hard work, incredible generosity, and hundreds of community voices, the grand opening of this inspiring gateway to experiencing the St. Croix River Valley will signify the culmination of years of dreams.

It has been exciting seeing the vision come to life. Standing inside the new building, the space is open and airy. Even in the dead of winter, the sun illuminates the rooms. Designed with energy efficiency in mind, the large roof overhangs block the heat of the high summer sun, while welcoming the winter light through the large windows. The view of the conifer forest beckons from every window, as if the windows frame great works of art. Like any true masterpiece, you are drawn to look closer into the scene. The trees and trails tempt you out of the building and onto the path, for a visitor center isn’t a just destination, it is a “leaping off point” for great adventures. I’m reminded of this moment from The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien: “It’s a dangerous business, going out your front door. You step onto the road, and if you don’t keep your feet, there’s no knowing where you might be swept off to.”

Along the journey there have been many high points. I think of visits with Buzz and Mary Marzolf who spent summers in The Cove before the land belonged to CNC. Their love of conservation echoes through the new facility and exhibits. I remember Dan Greenwald, one of the driving forces in making CNC’s entire Wisconsin Campus a reality. I recently walked through the new center with Dan’s son, Jack, who has kept the dream moving forward. “It’s even more amazing than we ever imagined,” he shared. CNC volunteer Ken Heiser has shared stories of Laurie Hein’s compassion for all living creatures, including spiders. The stories make me think she’d be overjoyed that we are teaching the next generation about environmental stewardship. Together with the voices of the past, we are inspiring tomorrow’s youth to appreciate creatures and to protect their habitat.

As we turn towards summer, CNC’s team is already hard at work on the next chapter—including collaborative projects with DNR partners and private donors to diversify the species in the old pine plantation to make the forest more sustainable. CNC naturalists are creating new programming for the site for both the young and the young at heart. Volunteer teams are working on national songbird research projects right at CNC. The excitement of embarking on this next phase of the journey, and all the adventures that await, is palpable.
Trails & Ales
June 2 • July 7 • Aug 4 • 6:30—8:30 pm
June 18* • 1:00—3:00 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. *Bring your dog!

Bird Hikes
June 4 • July 2 • Aug 6
8:00—10:00 am
Learn to identify birds with local experts. Binoculars and field guides available or bring your own. Program Fee: $5 or FREE for ‘Friends of CNC,’ SCVBC members and high school students.

Evening Exploration
May 16 & June 21 • Open until 9:00 pm
Come enjoy a summer evening on the trails. Check-in upon arrival required. Free to attend, but donations appreciated.

Preschool Story Time
Fridays • 10:00—11:00 am
May 20 Pigeon Party • June 10 Terrific Toads
July 8 Amazing Ants • Aug 19 Spectacular Spiders
Program Fee: $6 per child or $4 for ‘Friends of CNC.’
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
No charge for adults.

Honeybees & You
May 21 • 9:00—11:00 am
Join CNC’s beekeepers to find out what goes on inside a beehive and how bees make honey. The majority of the program will be outside so dress for the weather.
Program Fee: $5 per person.

Public Bird Banding
May 27 • June 24 • July 22 • Aug 26
8:30 am—Noon
See birds up-close and watch the experts band birds at CNC. Banding runs continuously, so come and go as you please. Donations of birdseed appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

Yoga on the River Bluff
June 6, 13, 20 & 27 • July 11
6:00—7:00 pm
Experience the beauty of the St. Croix River while moving through a combination of yoga sequences designed to align the body and mind. Bring your own mat. Program Fee: $5 per person per session.

Planting for Pollinators
June 11 • 10:00—11:30 am
Turn your yard into a haven for pollinators with instruction from Master Gardeners. This program consists of an indoor presentation followed by a short tour of the CNC gardens and the opportunity to purchase native plant seeds.
Program Fee: $5 per person.

Butterfly Walk
July 2 • 10:00 am—Noon
Join Bob Dunlap for a walk highlighting the area’s butterfly diversity. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair from CNC. Wear shoes for off-trail hiking. Program Fee: $5 per person.

St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament
July 18 • 1:00 p.m.
Enjoy a day at the Hastings Golf Club benefitting education and habitat conservation at CNC. 18-hole best ball tournament with shotgun start. Fees include box lunch, green fees, carts, dinner, and a donation to CNC. Sponsorships are available. Visit our website or call to request a registration form. Fee: $100 per golfer or $400 for a team of four.

Christmas in July Bird Count
July 25 • 7:00—9:00 pm
Hike around the grounds or set up by the bird feeders* to count birds. We’ll have experienced birders leading the hike and stationed near the feeders to answer questions. Program is free but donations are encouraged.
*Dependent on avian flu conditions at time of program.
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. We will be opening a new visitor center facility this summer to meet the education and recreation needs of Hudson and surrounding communities.

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

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

Grand Opening of the Al & Laurie Hein Visitor Center • July 9 & 10

To celebrate our decades-long dream of building a facility on our Wisconsin Campus, we will be hosting a Grand Opening event in conjunction with our Masters of the Sky Program!

We are still in the process of planning the specifics of this event, but more info will be available in the coming months. Scan the QR code to visit our website for updates, or sign up for our e-newsletter.

Tropical Wings
Bird Migration Celebration

May 14 • 8:00 am—Noon
CNC WI Campus—300 East Cove Road, Hudson

Begin your day with an 8:00am hike guided by experts from the St. Croix Valley Bird Club, then enjoy bird banding demonstrations, MOTUS tower information sessions, hospitality tent with refreshments provided by the Cove Neighbors, and kids crafts provided by The Phipps Center for the Arts. Program Fee: FREE.

Bird Hikes

May 14 • June 11 • July 9 • Aug 13
8:00—10:00 am

Learn to identify birds with local experts. Binoculars and field guides available or bring your own. Check our website for meeting location. Program Fee: $5 or FREE for ‘Friends of CNC,’ SCVBC members and high school students.

Critter Crafting Summer Camp at The Phipps

June 27—29 • 1:00—4:00 pm

Meet live animal ambassadors from CNC and use them as inspiration for multi-media craft projects using paint, beads, paper, string, and stones. Instruction provided by CNC naturalist staff. Ages 8–12 years old. Fee: $89 per participant. Visit thephipps.org to register.

Wildflowers & Weeds

July 26 • 6:00—8:00 pm

Wildflowers and weeds are both present on CNC’s properties. Using a mix of collected samples and a walk around the neighborhood, we’ll learn to identify them and some of the benefits they provide or problems they cause. Meet at the Al & Laurie Hein Visitor Center at 279 South Cove Road. Program Fee: $5 per person.

Carpenter Art Festival

Aug 20 • 10:00 am—5:00 pm

CNC welcomes you to celebrate art and nature with music, fine arts and crafts, and food from local artisans. Take in the scenery of this outdoor event, visit the CNC welcome tent to meet some of our live animal ambassadors, participate in monarch tagging, and tour the new Al & Laurie Hein Visitor Center. This event will take place rain or shine. A portion of all proceeds benefit CNC. FREE admission! Located on the north end of the property at 300 East Cove Road.

"The Journey"
By Naomi Hart
# 2022 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

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

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poison Ivy stems showing red ('98)</td>
<td>Orchard pear tree in full bloom ('04)</td>
<td>Rose-breasted Grosbeak at bird feeder</td>
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<td>Wi Fishing Opener</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly by circle garden ('01)</td>
<td>MN Statehood 1858</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Evening Exploration MN Campus Open until 9pm</td>
<td>Woodchuck in tree</td>
<td>Red-tailed Hawk preyed on Homing Pigeons</td>
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<td>Migration Celebration and Bird Hike WI Campus MN Fishing Opener</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Fox Snake sunning in parking lot ('10)</td>
<td>Two newly hatched Painted Turtles in parking lot</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>WI Statehood 1848</td>
<td>Cottonwood Trees dropping seeds ('17)</td>
<td>June</td>
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<td>Yoga MN Campus</td>
<td>Blue-eyed Grass blooming ('08)</td>
<td>Trails &amp; Ales MN Campus</td>
<td>Green Frogs calling in wetland ('17)</td>
<td>Bird Hike MN Campus</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Yoga MN Campus</td>
<td>Flag Day Full Moon</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Gray Fox with mouse crossed driveway near North Loop Trail ('95)</td>
<td>Fishing Fun MN Campus</td>
<td>Record high of 96°F</td>
<td>Preschool Story Time MN Campus</td>
<td>Bird Hike WI Campus Planting for Pollinators MN Campus</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Yoga MN Campus</td>
<td>Summer Equinox MN Campus Open until 9pm</td>
<td>Fishing Fun MN Campus</td>
<td>Red Fox and Coyote seen on game camera ('16)</td>
<td>Trails, Tails, &amp; Ales MN Campus Spittlebugs active ('19)</td>
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<td>Yoga MN Campus</td>
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<td>Fireflies active ('08)</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Yoga MN Campus</td>
<td>Milkweed blooming ('18)</td>
<td>Blackcap Raspberries</td>
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<td>Bird Hike MN Campus</td>
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<td>St. Croix Scramble Golf Tournament</td>
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<td>Honeysuckle has berries (00)</td>
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<td>Trails &amp; Ales MN Campus Rainbow over CNC (98)</td>
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<td>Coyotes howling during Explorers Camp overnight</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Juvenile Purple Martins flying (97)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Grashopper-Sparrow nest on prairie trail (93)</td>
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<td>1st Kiss apple of the season (19)</td>
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<td>Flock of Common Nighthawks migrating (16)</td>
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<td>Queen Anne’s Lace blooming (98)</td>
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<td>Grashopper-Sparrow nest on prairie trail (93)</td>
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<td>Grashopper-Sparrow nest on prairie trail (93)</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Black Bear at CNC (14)</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Jerusalem Artichoke blooming (95)</td>
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<td>Spearmint blooming vigorously (98)</td>
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<td>Namekagon Canoe Trip — Full for 2022 — Visit our website for details</td>
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<td>Queen Anne’s Lace blooming (98)</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Summer Skills Day Camp — Full for 2022 — Visit our website for details</td>
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People Profiles
On behalf of the staff at CNC, we would like to take time to express our gratitude for the contributions of just a few of the individuals who help us serve the communities on both sides of the beautiful St. Croix River.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Michelle Gallo
Abbey Holden
Erika Jensen
Mayme Johnson
Marty Lynch
Alan Maloney
Sverre Sundgaard
Tess Zahradka

Learn About Our Team
In anticipation of opening a new facility on our Wisconsin Campus, we have welcomed additional staff people to our team over the last couple of years. While each of these people have been working at CNC for a while now, we realize that you may not have met them yet, so here is an introduction to our “new” team members!

Todd DeRosier
Maintenance
Todd grew up in Stillwater and began working at CNC in January 2020. He has a variety of work experience in the service industry, and prior to working at CNC was part of the maintenance team at Warner Nature Center. He enjoys being outdoors and working with his hands, and particularly enjoys projects where he gets to help with animals. In his spare time, he likes to travel, camp, and fish. His favorite CNC apple variety is Honeycrisp.

Michelle Gallo
Administration
Michelle has been helping manage finances at CNC since April 2020. She went to St. Catherine University and has work experience in the insurance industry and working for her family’s business, Gallo Concrete. Michelle is married with two children and loves her two dogs and three cats. In her free time, she likes hiking and camping, and has recently begun the adventure of solo traveling.

Abbey Holden — Education
Abbey grew up in Hudson and attended the University of Wisconsin—River Falls. She was an Environmental Education Intern at CNC in 2018 and then worked as a part-time contract naturalist and animal care volunteer until she was hired full-time in January 2020. Abbey spends most of her time on the road providing environmental outreach programming to the community, but she is also co-lead of the CNC animal ambassador program and oversees habitat restoration on the Wisconsin Campus. She is a talented photographer, avid backpacker, and also works at The Mineral Division rock shop in River Falls. Although she cares for all of CNC’s ambassador animals, Korppi the Raven is her favorite.

Tess Zahradka — Administration
Tess started her CNC journey as an Environmental Education and Communications Intern in 2018. Since then she has spent time teaching classes, caring for ambassador animals, helping plan CNC events, and picking apples in the orchard. She is now providing administrative support for Development and Education and also assists with communications. Tess loves viewing nature through a camera or microscope lens. Her favorite spot at CNC is standing at the bottom of the Ravine, looking up at the bright yellow maple-leaf canopy during the fall season.
Volunteer Spotlight

Cathy Olyphant

This summer we are delighted to shine the spotlight on Cathy Olyphant. Cathy started volunteering in 2015 and has since logged over 350 hours. A humble but enthusiastic birder, Cathy is currently the President of the St. Croix Valley Bird Club, and shares her passion for birding when she leads monthly bird hikes at our WI Campus. In addition to leading those hikes, Cathy is also part of the bird banding crew that meets at the MN Campus on Friday mornings. Thank you, Cathy, for sharing your time, talent, and eager smile with us. We are grateful you are part of our Volunteer Corps. You are truly a top-shelf volunteer.

Want to join our volunteer team? Here's how!

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator Alan Maloney at 651-437-4359 or alan@carpenternaturecenter.org.

Volunteer Opportunities this Season

Gardening help wanted: Come play in our dirt! Volunteers are the reason our gardens are so lovely and we are always looking for people to help weed and water. Training available. Hours are very flexible.

St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament: How many golfers does it take to change a lightbulb? Fore! If you know any other good golf jokes (or bad ones) you can volunteer to help on Monday, July 18.

Carpenter Art Festival: We could use help directing cars to parking areas, helping set-up the day before and the morning of, help staff the CNC info booth, and help take-down in the afternoon/evening. Shifts will be determined as the date gets closer. This event will take place on our Wisconsin Campus on Saturday, August 20.

Wisconsin Campus volunteers needed this summer: Opportunities include gardening, animal care, visitor greeter, and more!

Save the Dates

Upcoming volunteer opportunities include:
- Raptor Release on September 24
- Apple Fest on October 8 and 9

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Honor of

A Friend from Nancy Greer, All Barred Owls of the St. Croix River Valley from Greg & Katie Seitz, Loren Albin from Jim & Laurie Garbe, Mike Bergen from Bill & Barb Sippel, Liliana, Mariah, Sydney, and Jackson from Ron & Pam Kukacka, Jennifer Vieth from Gregg & Vickie Batroot

In Memory of

Elizabeth Bell from Gordie & Jo Bailey, Lu Hegerness, and Greg & Jennifer Vieth, Mark W. Berg from Bill & Betty Berg, Lyle Bradley from Bruce & Kathy Ause Harvey Briesacher from Iris Briesacher, Anton (Tony) Raymond Fast from Phil & Marlene Kachelmyer, James Holden from Kelly & Lynn Coulson, Joanne Haroldson from Hank & Sloane Meyers, Jean & Dick Janssen from Kathy Janssen Judy Kennedy from Susan Fruncillo, James Harrison, Steve & Mayme Johnson, Ruth Marske, Susan Tily, and Greg & Jennifer Vieth, John Kern from David & Audrey Kern Lois Kinsey from William Lane, Susan Mueller, Greg & Jennifer Vieth, and Robert & Linda Whyte, Joe Kiha from Keith & Rosie Sorensen, Pauline Markman from Gary & Melissa Porter, Buzz & Mary Marzolf from Tom Marzolf and Bryan & Mary Brigid Michalowicz, Don McQuade from Mark & Rozanne Crowley, Elizabeth A. Miller from Craig Miller & Paul Moss, Patricia Walker from Timothy Walker, Rod Wiebedink from Rebecca Corley, Ron Winch from Toni Meglitsch and Greg & Jennifer Vieth

Additional Dates to Remember

Apple Shack
Opening around Labor Day
9:00am—5:00pm · Wednesdays—Sundays

Autumn in the Valley Gala
Sunday, September 11, 2022
Celebrating the Gala’s 20th Anniversary

Raptor Release
Saturday, September 24, 2022
Presented in partnership with The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota

Apple Festival
Saturday & Sunday, October 8 & 9, 2022
Pick-your-own apples, cider-making demos, live music, live animal programs, children’s activities, and more!