



St. Croix Current

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Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

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“The mission of the Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center is to foster appreciation and inspire stewardship of the natural world 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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Headwater Riffles

by J. Fitzpatrick

I think the beginning of the new decade will be a refreshing start for everyone including us at CNC. We have begun our new fiscal year. It began October 1st and saw great life in the markets, giving everyone hope that the recession of 08/09 is on its way out. Hope is returning, houses are beginning to sell again, and the days are getting longer.

Our numbers for 2009 will look weird in every instance because it is a nine-month year. We did this for many good reasons, but one of the obvious ones is that it puts us in a planning mode that coincides with the school year. October and early November have always been some of the busiest times of the year at CNC with school groups and the public pouring in on the great warm days.

We have some major milestones to celebrate as well.

- Two thirds of the planned exhibits in our new visitor center are in place.
- We have a brand new program bird on display in the visitor center. A 6-year-old male bald eagle came to us from Condon, Montana. A car had hit him, and then he was cared for by a rehabilitation facility for a year. He has come to us to be evaluated for release and trained as a possible Program Ambassador for CNC.
- We raised \$50,000 in endowment funds and qualified for a \$50,000 match from the

St. Croix Valley Foundation, so we will have another fund to help the Nature Center do what it does so well.

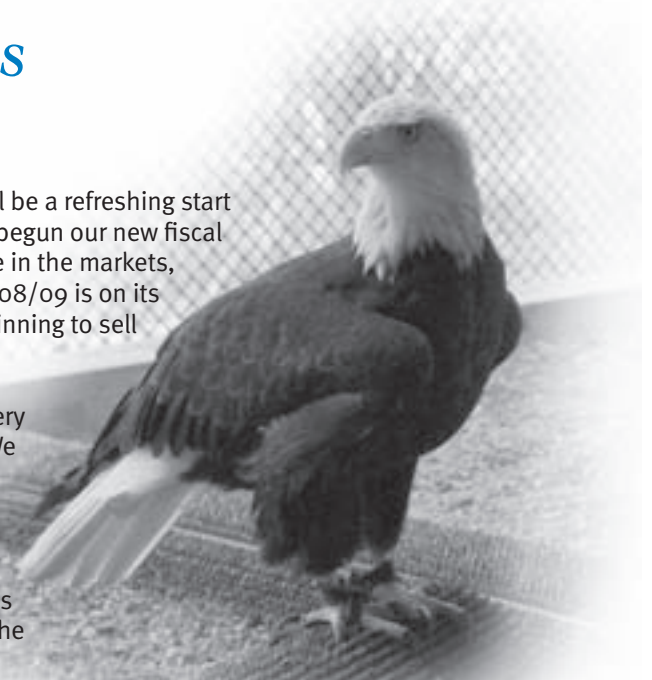
- We continue to find new “Friends of CNC” to help us do our teaching of environmental education to the schools and the communities. Our area of service continues to expand even into the Twin Cities.
- Four big Eagle Scout projects added a blind, a trellis, a woodshed, travel crates for our birds of prey, and repaired our herb garden.



Nature & science really come alive for students during a visit to CNC.

dates. We will continue to be everyone’s outdoor classroom, their nature escape, their quiet hiking spot, and their birding place. We literally have miles of trails with wonderful views. We hope you will join us in our exploration.

Come and visit. Bring a friend. Join our growing “Family” of Friends of Carpenter Nature Center. Share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor before recycling it. Happy New Year!



Carpenter Nature Center’s newest avian ambassador is now on exhibit at the Visitor Center.



Eagle Scout Nathan Kintzi completed the wildlife watching blind on CNC’s wetland.

Upcoming Programs

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

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Friday, January 29 & Friday, February 26 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Moonlight Snowshoe Hike

Enjoy the winter night under the light of the moon with a relaxing snowshoe hike at Carpenter Nature Center. Afterward, warm up by the fire and enjoy some fresh popcorn and hot apple cider. Snowshoes provided or bring your own. Dress appropriately for the weather; recommended for ages 10 and up. Program fee: \$7.00 per person or \$5.00 for “Friends of CNC”.

Saturday, February 20 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Watercolor Painting with Charlene Buescher

Learn to paint from internationally renowned artist Charlene Buescher. This class is for people with no previous drawing or painting experience and can be a great activity to do with your child or grandchild! If you are experienced, her techniques will be new; so you will be challenged and gain valuable tools to improve your skills. You will use a large brush and very little pencil for optimum learning of watercolor painting. You will go home with your original completed landscape, and enthusiasm that watercolor is fun, easy, versatile, portable, inexpensive and gratifying. Contact Charlene at charleneart@yahoo.com if you have questions. Call ahead to get the equipment list or arrange to borrow supplies (for an additional \$23). Program fee: \$45.00 per person or \$42.00 for “Friends of CNC”. Bag lunch required.

MARCH

Sunday, March 21 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Making Maple Syrup



Visitors examine the sap during a maple-syruping program.

Welcome the coming of spring by joining the CNC staff in the tradition of making maple syrup. We'll hike to the “sugarbush” to tap maple trees, witness the process of turning sap into syrup and sample the finished product. This program will start indoors, but be prepared to hike in the spring snow and mud. Program fee: \$5.00 per person or \$3.00 for “Friends of CNC” and children under 10.

Bird Banding

Fourth Fridays of the month 8:30 a.m. – Noon
January 22 **February 26** **March 26** **April 23**

Bird banding records can help us learn how long birds live, where they travel, when and where they migrate and many other interesting facts. Carpenter Nature Center's bird banders capture, record, band and release songbirds. This is your chance to see songbirds up close. There is no admission fee, but please call ahead (651-437-4359) so we know you are coming. Donations of sunflower seed and suet are welcome.



CNC's orchard has over 14 varieties of apple trees all managed with minimum-spray, eco-friendly techniques.

Sunday, March 28 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Pruning Apple Trees

Whether you only have a couple apple trees in your backyard or you operate an orchard, you are invited to join Carpenter Nature Center's Horticulturist for a session on pruning apple trees. Winter and early spring is the best time for pruning fruit trees, so bundle up to walk through the orchard to see examples of properly pruned trees. See what a difference proper pruning can make and learn about the theory behind pruning. Learn what tools to use and participate in a pruning exercise in the orchard. Call by March 23 to make your reservation.

Program fee: \$20.00 per person or \$15.00 for “Friends of CNC” (includes apple tree pruning manual).

APRIL

Saturday, April 24 9:00 a.m. – Noon

Earth Day Clean-up

Celebrate Earth Day by helping CNC staff and volunteers clean up the Nature Center grounds and the stretch of highway that CNC has “adopted.” Bring work gloves and prepare to get dirty. Refreshments will be provided so please call to let us know that you will be coming.

Friday, April 30 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Home School Program: Insects & Invertebrates

Students ages 5 – 9 will examine insect life cycles, metamorphosis, and diversity by catching and releasing insects. Older students, ages 10 and up, will learn about the classification of invertebrates and get a close up look at arthropods, annelids and mollusks. Parents are welcome to stay with their students but not required. Dress appropriately for the weather. Program fee: \$5.00 per student or \$3.00 each for “Friends of CNC”.

Preschool Story Time

Fridays 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
January 15 Animals in Winter
February 12 Owls
March 12 Feathered Friends
April 9 Rabbits
May 7 Spring Blossoms



Intern Andrew Carrlson gets down to eye level with Story Time visitors

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. The fun-filled hour of activities includes a nature story, an art or craft project, exploring the outdoors, and observing or meeting real live animals. Please 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

Upcoming Events

More details available at www.carpenternaturecenter.org



Sunday, May 16

8:00 a.m.

Apple Blossom Races

Come to Carpenter Nature Center for the 25th running of the Apple Blossom Races. Choose your race (2K Fun Run, 5K Run/Walk, 10K or 1/2 marathon) or just come to watch and cheer for the runners. The 5K, 10K and 1/2 marathon all start at 8:00 a.m. with the 2K Fun Run following the timed races, approximately at 11:30 a.m. All races finish in front of the Nature Center's

Interpretive Center. All half marathon finishers will receive a race medallion, and awards will be given to the top three overall winners and age division winners in the 5K, 10K and half marathon. All ages welcome to run in the 2K Fun Run but awards will only be given to ages 12 and under. The 2K is free and is a great race for the family to run together. Proceeds from this event will benefit the environmental education programs and habitat preservation at the Nature Center. Please call for a registration form or check our website.

Sunday, March 7

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

"All About Owls"

Presented by the
World Bird Sanctuary
from St. Louis, Missouri

Over 200 different species of owls share our earth. Meet several exotic owl species while learning the importance of their existence. Come and see owls from all over the world! You will even see the largest owl species in the world and meet a free-flying "ghost owl". Space is limited; reservations required. Program fee: \$8.00 per person or \$5.00 for "Friends of CNC".



Come and meet this young Spectacled Owl who is now all grown up.

March 14-20, 2010

Eco-tour to Jalisco, Mexico

Join executive director, Jim Fitzpatrick, on an eco-tourism trip to Jalisco, Mexico, 44Km south of Puerto Vallarta. Our lodging for the trip will be a private, American owned ranch, called Rancho Primavera in the town of El Tuito. Our guides will be Larry Liese of Tucson Audubon, an avid and enthusiastic birder and veteran of hundreds of trips into Mexico. We will also be joined by Pinau Merlin, a naturalist and author of numerous books on the natural history of the Sonoran Desert region. Her insights and observations have been featured on PBS Arizona Illustrated, on National Public Radio and in the Smithsonian and National Wildlife magazines. These leaders have promised over 150 species of birds in habitats including Pacific Ocean coast, mangroves, lowland thorn shrubs, arid and moist deciduous forests, pine-oak and pine woodlands. Activities will include boating to Los Arcos in the Bay of Banderas, snorkeling, and sea turtle conservation. This promises to be an outstanding trip full of birds and all manner of natural history. Call 651-437-4359 for more information.



Painted Buntings are just one of the 150 bird species eco-tour participants will get the chance to see in Jalisco.



CNC volunteer Don Harrington gives an impromptu lesson about Red-tailed Hawks to some Story Time guests.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

St. Croix Valley Scramble
Monday, July 19, 2010 at Afton Alps Golf Course

Autumn in the Valley Gala
Sunday, September 12, 2010 at CNC

Raptor Release
Saturday, September 25, 2010 at CNC

For details or to inquire about sponsor opportunities please contact Jennifer at 651-437-4359

Calendar

Calendar

People Profile

Board Member Bio



We are pleased to welcome a new face to our board of directors and many of you will recognize him immediately. **Denny McNamara** and his wife of 33 years, Lynne, have been 'Friends of CNC' for many years. You may recognize him as the District 57B State Representative. Denny has been active in the Hastings community for many years, serving as Chair of the Chamber of Commerce and he was Chair of River Town Days, a member of the Hastings Natural Resources and Recreation Commission and as President of the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association. Denny is an active outdoorsman. He has two sons, Michael and Brian, and one grandchild, Alaina. One of Denny's priorities is preserving Minnesota's environment and natural resources. Welcome to the team Denny!

Volunteer Spotlight

This quarter we are pleased to shine the spotlight on a new volunteer who comes with lots of energy and experience – the wonderful **Kathy Zonne**. Kathy started volunteering in April of 2009 and has become our Thursday animal care person where she puts in lots of time (well over 100 hours so far) cleaning, feeding, and talking to our program animals who are becoming very fond of their new adopted mom. Kathy also volunteers at The Raptor Center and the Humane Society so she has lots of experience with animals; she even did wildlife rehab out of her house. She brings in food, generously donated by Kowalski's, to help feed our critters. Thanks Kathy for your great support and dedication to CNC! We love seeing your smiling face come through our door, and we are very happy to include you in our family of volunteers.



Meet Our Intern



It was a pleasure to have **Clare Patten** as the fall Environmental Education Intern. She flew in from Dublin, Ireland, the day before the Autumn in the Valley Gala and jumped right in to help. She has been busy ever since, teaching a variety of programs for all of the school groups that visited this fall, helping with the Raptor Release and Apple Fest, and taking care of all of the live animals that we use for programs. She has had many new experiences, including handling raptors

and snakes, watching bird banding, and teaching programs in the snow (in October!). One of her goals was to become more comfortable teaching a variety of programs to young people. Because of her experience here, she would like to continue working with youth in an educational field when she returns to Ireland. Clare earned her degree in Biological Sciences at the National University of Ireland in Maynooth and would like to pursue a Masters Degree in the future. We'll be sending her off with best wishes for her future plans and a big thanks for all her help this fall!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Informational meetings for new volunteers will take place on **January 19th** and **March 11th** at 7:00 pm. Please call Alan at 651-437-4359 to RSVP.

Volunteer Opportunities

Staff the Visitor Center: greet visitors, answer general questions, light cleaning; especially helpful on the weekends.

Help process maple syrup: in March we'll be gathering and boiling sap and help is appreciated for both tasks. Enjoy spring in the sugarbush.

Earth Day Cleanup Saturday, April 24th: we'll do our semi-annual highway cleanup and then hit the grounds of CNC for a little "sprucing up".

Volunteers are also wanted to help with classes and public programs. Snowshoeing, Survival, Winter Birds, and Winter Fest are a few of the classes requested by school groups this season.

Mark your calendars for **May 16th: Apple Blossom Races.** Volunteers will be needed to make our 25th running a success.

Are you "wild" about CNC apples?



Were we sold out of Honey Crisp or Honey Gold Apples by the time you visited? A simple way to ensure you get top quality, locally produced, sustainably grown CNC apples is to become a CNC apple sponsor. CNC staff will carefully select some of our finest fruit and store it for you in our temperature controlled apple cooler. You can collect all 40 pounds at one time or collect your apples in eight 5 pound bags. Limited sponsorships are available. For more information contact Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org or at 651-437-4359.



A granite bench was dedicated in honor of David & Su Southwick's 50th wedding anniversary from their loving sons.

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

Emil & Kathy Zonne in memory of Elizabeth Nicolais Poggenburg

Daryl & Jan Standafer in memory of Logan Jacobson

Adrian & Susan Sween in memory of Dan Greenwald

Louis & Pat Tinucci in memory of Mrs. Pearl Farrell

Barbara Miller made a gift in memory of David Dehler to support the new raptor housing

The following gifts were made to support the internship program

David & Audrey Kern in memory of John Kern

Deb & Peter Gagnon in memory of Marquelle Gagnon

Ann Cavin in memory of Bennet Cavin

A Prairie Gem Pear Tree was dedicated in memory of Bill Montgomery from Bette Montgomery

A Prairie Gem Pear Tree was dedicated in honor of Bob Setzer's birthday from his daughters



CNC News & Events

Does this look familiar? If not you may be missing out on timely CNC updates and news. Send your email address to Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org to be added to our free email list.

YOU are a very important part of our world

Through your participation, donations, and volunteer efforts you make it possible for us to provide stellar environmental education for our community and protect critical habitat in the St. Croix Valley. While the Nature Center has definitely had a rough year, YOU have made it possible for us to continue changing lives and opening up new horizons for students every day.

In this holiday season we would like to say THANK YOU for helping us raise over \$8,000 through "Give to the Max" day on www.givemn.org and for helping us reach our PARTNERS FOR THE FUTURE endowment building challenge goal. Together, these two fundraising efforts will help us continue to provide enriching experiences for students in 2010 and beyond.

Today it costs roughly \$20 per student to provide our exceptional K-12 environmental education programs, yet we charge only \$4.00 per student in order to keep our programs affordable for everyone. Please help us ensure that quality environmental education and natural habitat remain accessible in our community. If you are not yet a "Friend of CNC" simply tear out the form to the right and join today. If you are already a "Friend of CNC", please consider becoming a sustaining monthly donor through www.givemn.org and naming CNC in your will. Many employers will match donations made by employees (i.e. General Mills) while others will match volunteer time with a financial donation (i.e. 3M). What an easy way to double your positive impact in our community. Thank you.

FRIENDS OF CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Gift membership given by: _____

Check appropriate level:

- INDIVIDUAL \$25 to \$49
- FAMILY \$50 to \$99
- DONOR \$100 to \$249
- PATRON \$250 to \$499
- BENEFACTOR \$500 to \$999
- THE ST. CROIX SOCIETY \$1,000 to \$2,999
- THE EAGLE SOCIETY \$3,000 to \$4,999
- THE DIRECTOR'S COUNCIL \$5,000 & Beyond

Form of Payment:

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

Copies of this form are acceptable

Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____



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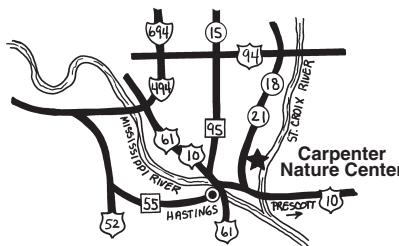
CNC Wish List

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

Black Oil Sunflower Seed	Printer ink cartridges
Suet	HP78 & HP45
Pine animal bedding	Children's Snow Shoes
Timothy hay for rabbit	Steam cleaner for Visitor Center

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.

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

encourage donations which go to help the environmental education programs at the Nature Center.