

St. Croix urrent

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Carpenter St. Croix Valley **Nature Center**

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www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org

Wisconsin Campus: o E. Cove Rd. udson, Wisconsin 54016

"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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Headwater Riffles...

By J. Fitzpatrick

How do I condense 32 years onto one page? I remember Ted & Effie Walseth, the caretakers, who lived in part of the Carpenter house. That house now serves as CNC's Administration Building. I remember our first program in the garage that is now our reception area. The room had one bare light bulb. I remember the Parent-Tot class when the children tried to build bird nests. I remember moving the Walseth's to the farm house. I remember our first maintenance man, J. R. Komonko, who cleaned up the shop and made it into a maintenance area...which we eventually transformed into our current Visitor Center.

I remember some tough times. In 1982, there were serious plans to move Highway 10 and the Prescott Bridge so they ran right through



Staff photo from the 1980's featuring the Walseth's in the front row (above). The Carpenter Home shortly after it was built in 1942 (left).

Carpenter Nature Center, passing just outside the Administration Building. Fortunately, with many voices speaking against it, that plan did not come to fruition. I remember the financial downturns of 1987, 1992, 2001 and 2009 where we always lost something. Most often it was good employees and those hurt. Several of them made me cry.



I also remember so many of those moments that kept me going through those years and still inspire me today. The grins on the faces of children tasting maple syrup after a trek through the snowy sugar bush. The interns who call me up to tell me how the opportunity that I gave them at Carpenter Nature Center gave them the courage and connections to turn their passion into a fulfilling career as a naturalist or teacher. The smiling faces of thousands

of volunteers who have passed through the CNC gates over the years, lending their time, talents and energy to the dream that is Carpenter Nature Center.

I must say with great pride and a heartfelt thanks that I remember most the great staff we put together. Without fail, everyone wants the Nature Center to survive and prosper. Everyone, both past and present, worked their fingers to the bone helping us get on to the next task with great gusto. Oh sure, there were times when their spirits were down,

I am not going away. I am just simply slowing down and becoming another consultant. You know those guys. They are the ones who

but they came through with excellence and I salute them for that.

sleep in and play golf when it's nice out. I hope I get a chance to do that regularly. So this is not good bye. It is "till we meet again, down the Where at CNC? road a bit."

As always please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor before recycling it. Thank you and Happy New Year.



This beautiful metal sundial is located outside the Administration Building. The shadows from the sun's rays fall onto the dial allowing visitors to calculate the time of day. This sundial has been part of CNC since the Carpenter's days.



Iim & Drake during their successful hunt for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

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

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Adult Moonlight Snowshoe Hikes

January 25 & February 22 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Enjoy a winter night under the moonlight with a relaxing snowshoe hike. Warm up by the fire after the hike and enjoy some fresh popcorn and hot apple cider. Snowshoes provided or bring your own; no experience necessary. Dress appropriately for the weather and wear warm boots. Choose whichever date works for you. Program fee: \$8 per person or \$6 for "Friends of CNC."

MARCH

Making Maple Syrup

March 10 & March 24 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Welcome the coming of spring by joining the CNC staff in the



These students could not resist sampling the sap right from the tree.

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. These programs usually fill quickly. Program fee: \$6 per person or \$4 for "Friends of CNC" and children under 10.

Scout Day - Making Maple Syrup

March 16 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Join other Scouts (boys and girls) as we hike to the "sugarbush" to tap

maple trees and collect the sap. See how the sap is turned into maple syrup and sample the finished product. This program will start indoors, but be prepared to hike in the spring snow and mud. Program fee: \$6 per person or \$4 for "Friends of CNC."

APRIL

Home School Program: Adaptations & Survival

April 10 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. CNC's Home School Programs are created to offer home-schooled students an opportunity to meet other children, take part in environmental education programs and enjoy the outdoors. Students ages 5 - 9



Building a fire is just one of the survival skills students learn.

yrs. will learn about plant and animal survival adaptations through hands-on activities. Older students (ages 10 yrs. & up) will learn about human survival needs and work in teams to build fires, shelters and send emergency signals. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Program fee is \$6 per student and \$4 for "Friends of CNC."

Natural Challenges Programs

This activity series is provided through support from the St. Croix Valley Foundation with help from 3M Cottage Grove and the Hoel Stewart Family Fund. Participants are encouraged to increase their fitness level, make healthy eating choices, and attend as many of the programs as possible. Special participation awards will be handed out during CNC's 2K Fun Run/Walk. Program fee: \$6 per person per program or \$4 for "Friends of CNC" and children under 10. There is a \$20 max per family per program unless otherwise noted.

Kick-sledding & Winter Pond Exploration

January 12 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate winter as we explore pond life and try kick-sledding on the frozen wetland. Blankets will be available to bundle up the little ones in the kick-sled while the older folks try their hand at sledding. Warm up with some hot chocolate by the fireplace and listen to local authors. Susan Amundson, author of *Hero Finds His Path*, will read the story about her Samoyed puppy. Charlie Johnson, author of *Emmy of Whistling Well Farm*, will read the story of his dog Emmy helping in the orchard. Emmy and Hero will be at the Visitor Center. Books will be available for purchase and signing by the authors. Dress appropriately for the weather and don't forget to bring your camera!

Daytime Snowshoe Hike

February 2 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join a naturalist on an afternoon snowshoe hike to look for anim tracks and other clues of animal activity. Snowshoes provided or bring your own; no experience necessary. Dress appropriately for the weather and wear warm boots; recommended for ages 10 and up. Program fee: \$7 per person or \$5 for "Friends of CNC".

Making Maple Syrup

March 10 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate spring as we 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.

River Clean-Up & Water Quality

April 21 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Help protect the St. Croix River by cleaning up the shoreline along the Nature Center's property and conducting experiments to determine the quality of the river water. We'll be looking for macro invertebrates and testing for nitrates, phosphates and dissolved oxygen. Discover what critters are living in the water and see what their presence tells us about the water quality. Dress for the weather and to get your feet wet!

Apple Blossom 2K Fun Run/Walk

May 19 11:30 p.m.

Bring your family and join in on the fun during the 2K walk/run on CNC's trails. The 2K is open to all ages and is free for all participants. Finisher ribbons will be handed out at the finish line. Special awards for people completing the Nature Challenge series will be handed out at the 2K awards ceremony.

Upcoming Programs (continued from page 2)

Reservations are required. From more information, to RSVP, or to schedule a group program please call the office: 651-437-4359

Anuary 25 February 22 March 22 April 26
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. 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.



Alan shows a live, banded Blue Jay to students before releasing it.

Preschool Story Time Fridays

January 11 Owls

February 15 Tracks & Scat

April 20 Spring's Sprung

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.

Upcoming Events

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



Masters of the Sky Presented by the World Bird Sanctuary

March 2nd & 3rd

1-hour programs at 11:00 a.m.,

1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Learn about the fascinating world of raptors and see live hawks, eagles, owls, falcons

and vultures up close. Witness the silent flight of a barn owl as its ghostly form glides over the audience. The expert staff and birds of the World Bird Sanctuary travel around the country teaching people about raptors, our environment and what we can all do to protect birds and their habitats worldwide. The birds are beautiful and the program is entertaining and educational. Program fee is \$10 per person or \$7 for "Friends of CNC." Due to the flight demonstrations audience members must remain seated during the program. Please call early to RSVP as these programs WILL sell out.



A Common Yellowthroat is just one of the beautiful native birds visitors may see and hear during the birding stival.

Earth Day Bird Festival

April 20th 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Have you always wanted to learn more about the birds that live in your backyard? Hastings Environmental Protectors are partnering with Carpenter Nature Center to host a one-day birding festival. Celebrate Earth Day by attending the "Introduction to Birding" class and field trip. The events will also include a Bird Banding demonstration, a "Raptors 101" class and afternoon field trips in the Hastings area. RSVPs are required. Box lunches may be ordered. Please dress for the weather. Program fee is \$2.50 per person or \$10 per person including a box lunch. Any proceeds

from the event will support K-12 environmental education programming and habitat protection at Carpenter Nature Center. For more details please visit the CNC website.



A visitor proudly registers for the 2K fun Run. It's fun for the whole family!

28th Apple Blossom Races 5K, 10K, ½ Marathon, 2K Fun Run

May 19th

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. Are you new to running,

or are you planning to make your 2013 resolution "getting into better shape"? Visit our website to print out a 1/2 marathon or 5K training plan and see the race course map. Registration will be online via active.com, MidwestEvents.com, the CNC website or by calling 651-437-4359 for a registration brochure. Sponsorships make this event possible. If you are interested in donating food, drink, awards or funding please contact Jennifer@ CarpenterNatureCenter.org.

2013 DATES TO PUT ON THE CALENDAR

Summer Camp for 5 - 7 yr. olds: June 24 -28
Summer Camp for 8 - 11 yr. olds: July 15 - 19
St. Croix Valley Scramble July 22nd
Apple Shack Opens around Labor Day
Autumn in the Valley Gala September 8th
Raptor Release September 28th
Apple Fest October 12 & 13th
Apple Shack Closes Thanksgiving

2013 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center Phenology from 2012 (with additional entries from 1886, and 1996 - 1999)

ı		,							
	2	12 Natural Challenges: Kicksledding & Winter Pond Exploration	19 Red Fox tracks on North Loop Trail	Full Moon 26	2 Natural Challenges: Snowshoe Hike	6	Cardinals singing territorial song	23	Masters of the Skv
	4 7 Swans in cornfield	Preschool Story Time: Owls	3 81	25 Public Bird Banding Adult Moonlight Snowshoe Hike	February	Scardinal singing spring song (1996)	Preschool Story Time: Tracks & Scat	22 Public Bird Banding Adult Moonlight Snowshoe Hike	March 1
לוסוור דססס) מנוגמר	3377	New record high of 52°F	17	24	31	L 3 C	Valentine's Day	21	1st Bluebird 28 spotted north of
more of the food of the	2 8 hours and 53 minutes of daylight	6	16	23	Blue Jay "Pumphandle" song heard (1997)	Starlings bathing in puddles in orchard	13	1st tree tapped for sap (1998)	27
	New Year's Day – CNC Closed	8	15 1st Winter Carnival Ice Palace block laid (1886)	22	29	ro.	12 Woodpecker heard drumming	61	726
and General	January	2 Pileated Woodpeckers on suet together	14	21 Martin Luther King Day	28	4	111	18 President's Day	Full Moon
	11.	94	13-lined ground squirrels running around	20	27	3	10	11	24

				3	30 14 hours and 11 minutes of daylight	29	28 Toads trilling
	Wild strawberries blooming	26 Public Bird Banding	Full Moon	24	23 seen (1996)	22	21 Natural Challenges: Water Quality & River Clean-up
	20 Earth Day Festival	19	18 Chorus Frogs singing loudly by wetland	17 Orchard in full bloom	16 Snow flurries	15	14
	13	12 Preschool Story Time: Spring's Sprung	11	10 Home School: Adaptations & Survival	6	8	7 Dandelions blooming
	Banded a Brown- headed Cowbird	5	4	3 Dragonflies by Admin. Building	April 2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet singing	31
	30	29	Prescribed burn 28 completed on oak savannah	Full Moon 27	26	Pasque Flower 25	Public Program: 24 Making Maple Syrup
pe 1 a a	23	22 Public Bird Banding	21 Hooded Merganser on river	20	19 4th consecutive 80 degree day	18 Green frog hopping around water garden	17 lce out on St. Croix River
	16 Scout Day: Making Maple Syrup	15 Mourning Cloak by Boxelder tap	14	$oldsymbol{13}$ Daffodils are up	12	11 Robins by bird feeders	Natural Challenges & Public Program: Making Maple Syrup
	6	8 Preschool Story Time: Squirrels	7 1st Red-winged Blackbird at CNC	Sap running in Red Maples	2	4	3 Masters of the Sky
		handle" song					

People Profile



Volunteer Spotlight

In this issue we proudly shine our spotlight on a group of students from Hastings High School. For the past four years **Kathee Zeien** has been bringing her students to CNC to help with various tasks. They have

helped clean animal tanks, set-up chairs for events, vacuum, mulch gardens, set-up and take down parking area ropes and stakes, remove over-aggressive vines, harvest pumpkins, pick-up windfall apples, and other various tasks. All of the students are courteous, respectful, hard-working young adults. Thank you Kathee, Katelyn Kasel, Hailey Olson, Ellie Knapp, Andrew Rood, and Matt Anfang for your generous service to CNC, we appreciate your help immensely.

Meet Our Intern

Our current intern for the fall and spring season is **Carolyn Friedrich**. Originally from NE Iowa, Carolyn attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and graduated with a degree in Wildlife Ecology- Education and Information.



Her past experiences in the natural resources field include county park maintenance, environmental education, and work with a wildlife reserve during her time at UW- Stevens Point. Carolyn heard about CNC through a coworker from a previous position and began volunteering for us in March 2012. She is enjoying her time working with Carpenter Nature Center and is regularly preparing for classes, teaching classes, working with the education animals, and training to work with the raptors. "I've always loved the outdoors and going into the natural resources field has always been the obvious choice." Carolyn said. In the future Carolyn would like to find a position working with a county conservation board, possibly a conservation district, or a state level natural resources position. She is interested in developing environmental education programs, working with conservation programs, habitat management programs, and invasive species education.

Board Member Bio

Carpenter Nature Center is pleased to welcome **Troy Weathers** to the Board of Directors. A resident of Hastings, Troy has 28 years of banking



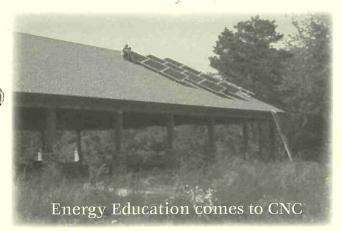
experience and is the President of Provincial Bank in Hastings. He is an avid outdoorsman and shares his love of nature with his two teenage daughters, Katie & Maddie, and his wife Cindy. The family spends as much time as possible snowshoeing, hunting and fishing at their family farm in Foxboro, Wisconsin. Troy co-coaches the Hastings High School Trap Team, serves on the Regina Foundation Business Relations Committee of Hastings, the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce, the Hastings Area Tourism Board, the Rediscover Initiative at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church and is a member of the Hastings Rotary. As a youth Troy was a Boy Scout and his parents instilled in him an appreciation of the beauty and value of our natural resources. Today he feels strongly about sharing his love of our natural resources and the outdoors with others, especially children. "My primary interest in serving on Carpenter Nature Center's Board of Directors is to give back to nature what is has given to me along with my close personal alignment to CNC's mission.



A CNC Board Member's first assignment is learning about all the terrific work that CNC does. Recently Troy spent a morning at CNC experiencing bird banding. In this photo Shelley Bowman is helping Troy release a banded Dark-eyed Junco. Troy also met CNC's animal ambassadors including the Peregrine Falcon.

Intern Housing Receives a New Roof

In 2013 Carpenter Nature Center will turn 32 years old. The structures that are used daily are much older than that. One of the older structures on the campus is the Johnson Farmhouse which was built in 1875. The farmhouse now serves as our Intern Residence, where students from around the world live while doing internships at CNC. These structures need maintenance, upgrades and repairs from time to time. This year we were fortunate to receive a *huge* helping hand from 3M in the form of shingles. On behalf of all the future interns who will gain valuable work experience at CNC, and the students they teach, **Thank You**.



Thanks to support from the 3M Foundation and LSP Cogentrix as well as help from Xcel Energy, Carpenter Nature Center is now producing energy from solar panels on the pavilion roof. The solar array produces as much energy per day as a typical household uses. Part of this project includes providing new energy-focused curriculum to local students. Please contact Mayme to book a POWER program today.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer Information Meetings will be held January 23rd and April 10th at 7:00 pm. These one-hour meetings are for anyone interested in volunteering at Carpenter Nature Center. Please call Alan at 651-437-4359 to RSVP. If you are interested but cannot make a meeting please call for a one-on-one appointment.

Winter Volunteer Opportunities

Below are some programs, events, and projects that are great ways volunteers can help.

Public & School Programs: Help naturalists teach school classes on winter birds, survival, winter fest and maple syrup making. During moonlight snowshoe hikes, we'll need "tails" for the hikes and popcorn makers. During maple syrup making, we will need boilers and sap collectors.

Masters of the Sky March 2nd & 3rd: Volunteer help will be needed throughout this weekend preparing for more than 800 visitors who visit CNC in just two days. Tasks will include cleaning, visitor check-in, food and drink sales, kids activities, parking & more.

Apple Blossom Races on May 19: Please mark your calendars for race day as we will need lots of help to make the races a success. We host 500-700 runners plus their families from 6 a.m. - noon that day. Typically this event needs the help of 75 volunteers to run smoothly. It's a fun event to help out with as you will meet many of CNC's other smiling and fun volunteers.

Other projects: collecting sap during maple syrup season or helping John prune apple trees in January and February.

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 Mark Berg from Bill & Betty Berg
In memory of Ben & Donna Cavin from Ann Cavin
In memory of Timothy Gregory from Tom & Jeanne Gregory
In memory of Debra Kay Kummer from Robert & Roma Solberg
In memory of Joni Stanton from Carol Jager
In memory of John G. Stellpflug from Jim & Judy Freund
In memory of Robert W. Erickson from Elizabeth & K.C. Kauth
In memory of Jackie Weathers from Troy & Cindy Weathers

In memory of Donna Waldhauser from:

Anonymous, Alexis Akagawa, Mary Jo Maynes & Ron Aminzade,
Rita Amon, Ragui Assaad & Iman Ghazalla, Ron & Susan Sweum
Ausan, Carol & Ken Boles, Carol Boucher, John Brodrick, Eileen
Cardwell, Sherry Carlstrom, Daryl Donath, Mary Engel, Bruce
Gilman & Pamela Waggoner, Eileen Goren & Terrence Joyce, Sara
Guyette, J. L. Hall, Mary & Eugene Hoff, Kristin Krinke, Bonita
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Mackbee, Carolyn Mars, Verne Melberg, Matt Mohs, Lynn Moore,
Mary Jo & Danny Newbauer, Fred & Judy Nohr, Mary Parker, M.D.,
Lois & Richard Rockney, Jean & Charles Ronnei, Nancy & Roubi,
Pamela J. Sanders, Neala Schleuning, Sharon & Thomas Schmid,
Lawrence Shomion, Allen & Joyce Thoreson, John Williams,
Wayne Young.

Sun Wisneski, Marge Vanderhoff, Annette Evans donated a picnic table in memory of Donna Waldhauser.

In honor of Vickie Batroot from Betty Hawk In honor of Jennifer Vieth from Audrey Kintzi In honor of the earth from Tatjana Zemcuznikov & Boris Popov

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PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

CNC Wish List

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

#10 Business Envelopes Snow Shovels Heated Bird Bath

Kleenex Shepherd Hooks for bird feeders Tarps for Survival Class

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.





Trails and interpretive exhibits are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A trail map (with a selfguided 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.