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 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.

The Visitor Center in the early years (below) and as it looks today (right).

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

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

Where at CNC?

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.
Upcoming Programs
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

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 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 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 animal 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 a.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. For more information, to RSVP, or to schedule a group program please call the office: 651-437-4359

Bird Banding  Fourth Fridays  8:30 a.m. – Noon
January 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.

Preschool Story Time  Fridays  10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
January 11  Owls
February 15  Tracks & Scat
March 8  Squirrels
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.

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

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 visitor proudly registers for the 2K Fun Run. It’s fun for the whole family!

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.

28th Apple Blossom Races
5K, 10K, 1/2 Marathon, 2K Fun Run
May 19th  8:00 a.m.
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

St. Croix Current, January – April 2013 3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>New Year's Day - CNC Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8 hours and 53 minutes of daylight</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7 Swans in cornfield</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Preschool Story Time: Owls</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Natural Challenges: Kicksledging &amp; Winter Pond Exploration</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>2 Pileated Woodpeckers on suet together</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1st Winter Carnival Ice Palace block laid (1886)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>13-lined ground squirrels running around</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>New record high of 52°F</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Blue Jay &quot;Pumphandle&quot; song heard (1997)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Public Bird Banding Adult Moonlight Snowshoe Hike</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Full Moon</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Public Bird Banding Adult Moonlight Snowshoe Hike</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Valentine's Day</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Cardinals singing territorial song</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>1st tree tapped for sap (1998)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Cardenal singing spring song (1996)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>PresidentsDay</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>1st Bluebird spotted north of Maiden Rock (1999)</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Masters of the Sky</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>1st Red-winged Blackbird at CNC</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Daffodils are up</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Natural Challenges &amp; Public Program: Making Maple Syrup</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sap running in Red Maples</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Robin by bird feeders</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Masters of the Sky</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Preschool Story Time: Squirrels</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>April</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>4th consecutive 80 degree day</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Ruby-crowned Kinglet singing</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Snow flurries</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Green frog hopping around water garden</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Public Program: Making Maple Syrup</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Full Moon</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Banded Brown-headed Cowbird</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Dragonflies by Admin. Building</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Home School: Adaptations &amp; Survival</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Chorus Frogs singing loudly by wetland</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Full Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Wild strawberries blooming</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Toads tilling</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Natural Challenges: Water Quality &amp; River Clean-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>14 hours and 11 minutes of daylight</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Dandelions blooming</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>1st bumblebee seen (1996)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Snow flurries</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Earth Day Festival</td>
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<td>Full Moon</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Preschool Story Time: Spring's Sprung</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Hooded Merganser on river</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Public Bird Banding</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mourning Cloak by Boxelder tap</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Scout Day: Making Maple Syrup</td>
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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.

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.
Energy Education comes to CNC

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 31: 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 Rummie 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. Kauff
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 Assad & Iman Ghazalla, Ron & Susan Suean Ausan, Carol & Ken Boles, Carol Boucher, John Brodrick, Eileen Cardwell, Sherry Carlsrom, Daryl Domath, Mary Engel, Bruce Gilman & Pamela Wagnoner, Eileen Goren & Terrence Joyce, Sara Guyette, J. L. Hall, Mary & Eugene Hoff, Kristin Krinkie, Bonita Lawrence, Kathy & Allen Lenzmeier, Lee Littman, Karol Lurz, Mary Mackbee, Carolyn Marks, Verne Melberg, Matt Mohs, Lynn Moore, Mary Jo & Danny Newbauer, Fred & Judy Nohr, Mary Parker, M.D., Lois & Richard Rockney, Jean & Charles Romans, Nancy & Roubi, Pamela J. Sanders, Neala Schleunig, 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 Baroot from Betty Hawk
In honor of Jennifer Vieth from Audrey Kintzi
In honor of the earth from Tatjana Zemciunik & Boris Popov

FRIENDS OF CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________________ 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
☐ SUSTAINING FRIEND OF CNC

Form of Payment: ☐ Cash (accepted in person only)
☐ Check (payable to Carpenter Nature Center)
☐ Credit Card Amount $ __________ (Visa or MasterCard are accepted)

Copies of this form are acceptable

Card #: __________________________
Exp. Date: __________________________
Signature: __________________________

☐ I'm interested in learning more about the Tom & Edna Carpenter Society
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Vickie Batroot, Laurie Bauer
Dr. Denis Clohisy, Jim Freund
Jay Griggs, Gary Griswold
Jerry Hope, Don Kern

Curt Mages, Denny McNamara
Colleen Moran, Steve Messick
Al Most, Tim Power
Sven Sundgaard, John Tinucci
Troy Weathers

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STAFF
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Jen Vieth.............Interim Director/Development Director
Alan Maloney..................Interpretive Naturalist
Linda Polglase..................Administrative Assistant
Marty Lynch..................Maintenance Foreman
John McPherson..................Horticulturist

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:

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

CNC News & Events

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.