



Volume 41, Number 1  
Winter 2022

## Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

12805 St. Croix Trail S.  
Hastings, Minnesota 55033  
Phone: 651-437-4359  
www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org  
Wisconsin Campus:  
300 E. Cove Road  
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

*"The mission of Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center is fostering a lifelong appreciation of the natural world through environmental education, habitat conservation, and outdoor experiences."*

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## Field Notes By Jen Vieth

Waking up on New Year's Day to a blanket of unmarred snow aglow with brilliant winter sunlight signals a fresh start. Today is the beginning of new adventures. New friendships. New connections. New discoveries. We've passed the shortest day of the year. The days are already getting longer as we look ahead to spring flowers and migrating warblers.

### Where will your adventurous journey take you this year?

Turning the page on 2021, the first day of January marks the beginning of the second annual Frosty 40 challenge. This fun event is a great excuse to get outdoors, enjoy the fresh air, and support year-round environmental education programming. Join friends and family to track your journey. List your daily miles, the parks you visit, and the animals you observe while enjoying time in nature.



Many birders keep lists, and January is when they turn the page on last year's tallies, starting the year list back at zero. How many species will YOU see this year? What will your first bird of the year be? Perhaps a Black-capped Chickadee at your suet feeder or a feisty Merlin whipping through your yard in pursuit of a meal? Throughout the decades, birders' lists have documented changes in bird populations, including the dramatic one-time unfathomable abundance and ultimate extinction of the Passenger Pigeon. Today, birders of all skill levels contribute to E-bird, hosted by Cornell University, which provides aggregate data ultimately used to help inform conservation actions.

If birds aren't your focus, you could begin tracking phenology this year. Phenology is the study of changes in seasonal natural phenomena. When will ice-out occur? When will the maple sap begin to run? When will the first Mourning Cloak butterfly appear? Practicing phenology, or creating a phenology journal, is a great way to connect with nature throughout the year and contribute to science at the same time. However you celebrate, the first day of the year is a terrific opportunity to seize the moment, get outdoors, and begin a new adventure.

*Journaling improves cognitive processes including memory, comprehension, and problem-solving. Combine these benefits with the mood-boost of being in nature by creating a bird list, recording phenology observations, or even illustrating your time spent in the outdoors.*

This year, our most anticipated adventure will be the Grand Opening of the new Wisconsin Campus Visitors Center. The culmination of a 30+ year journey is in sight. The incredible generosity, collaboration, and dedication of our friends, family, neighbors, and partners has made this dream a reality. Our hearts are full with the incredible gifts of time, talent, and treasure. The stories from those who began this journey decades ago buoy us. And the visions of what this facility will mean to environmental education and conservation in the St. Croix Valley for decades to come fills us with anticipation and pride. Thank you all for joining us on this journey.

*We are looking forward to sharing this next incredible adventure with you.*



# Upcoming Programs & Events

Minnesota Campus — 12805 St. Croix Trail South, Hastings, MN 55033  
Wisconsin Campus—300 East Cove Road, Hudson, WI 54016

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



## FROSTY 40

### January 1—March 20

Get outdoors this winter and walk, run, cross-country ski, or snowshoe **40 miles in 40 days**. Choose your own 40-day schedule. Days do not need to be consecutive, and activities can be done at any location.

**Adult Participation Fee: \$40** Includes registration, a short sleeve t-shirt, and the option of becoming a "Friend of CNC" to receive free snowshoe rentals at CNC for the season. Substitute a long sleeve t-shirt for an additional \$5.

**Student (K-12) Participation Fee: \$20.** Substitute a long sleeve t-shirt for an additional \$5.

**NEW THIS YEAR: Sponsor a participant!** Donate on behalf of another person.

**Stocking hats available for purchase! \$20**

To register, visit [www.carpenternaturecenter.org](http://www.carpenternaturecenter.org).

### Frosty 40 Kick-off Party

Jan 2 • 1:00 —3:00 pm

Join us for a guided hike at CNC and start tracking your Frosty 40 mileage. Program is exercise-focused, so come prepared to elevate your heartrate! Snow conditions will determine if this will be a regular trail hike or a snowshoe hike. Snowshoes provided by CNC or bring your own. Enjoy a warm fire and refreshments after the hike. Registration for the Frosty 40 will be available on-site. Call 651-437-4359 to RSVP. Program Fee: \$10 or FREE for Frosty 40 participants.



### Weekly Guided Hikes

**Wisconsin Campus**  
Jan 15 • Jan 29 • Feb 12 • Feb 26

**Minnesota Campus**  
Jan 22 • Feb 5 • Feb 19

9:00—10:30 am

Enjoy the CNC trails with a group while working toward your mileage goal for the Frosty 40! Programs are exercise-focused. Program Fee: \$5 per person or FREE for Frosty 40 participants. When conditions allow, snowshoes can be rented for an additional \$5. Snowshoe rentals are FREE for Frosty 40 participants.



### Trails & Ales

Jan 6, Feb 3 & Mar 3 • 6:30—8:30 pm  
Jan 15, Feb 19 & Mar 19 • 1:00—3:00 pm

Enjoy a guided hike at CNC followed by a tour and tasting at Spiral Brewery! This experience includes snowshoe rental if snow conditions allow and a beer flight for each participant. Call 651-437-4359 to RSVP. Must be 21+ to participate. Program Fee: \$30 per person.



SPIRAL BREWERY

### MN Campus Owl Prowl

Jan 7 • 6:00—8:00 pm

Explore CNC on a guided night-hike for adults to look and listen for Midwest's 12 owl species. Program Fee: \$8 per person or \$5 for 'Friends of CNC.'

### Bird Hikes

**Minnesota Campus**  
Jan 8 & Feb 5 • 9:00—11:00 am  
Mar 5 & Apr 2 • 8:00—10:00 am

**Wisconsin Campus**  
Jan 8 & Feb 12 • 9:00—11:00 am  
Mar 12 & Apr 9 • 8:00—10:00 am



Program Fee: \$5 or FREE for 'Friends of CNC,' SCVBC members, HEP members, and high school students.

### Family Ice Fishing at Lake Rebecca

Jan 8 & Feb 12 • 9:00 —12:00 pm

Learn about ice safety, fish species and habitat, ice fishing gear and techniques, and more. Instruction, equipment, and bait provided. For more information and to register, contact Paige Marschall Bigler of Hastings Parks & Rec at 651-480-6182. Program Fee: FREE.

### Preschool Story Time

Fridays • 10:00—11:00 am

Jan 14 • Feb 11 • Mar 25 • Apr 22

Program Fee: \$6 per child or \$4 for 'Friends of CNC.' Children must be accompanied by an adult. No charge for adults.

### Adult Moonlight Guided Snowshoe Hikes

**Minnesota Campus**  
Jan 14 • 7:00 —9:00 pm

**Wisconsin Campus**  
Feb 18 • 7:00 —9:00 pm

Enjoy the moonlit evening with a guided snowshoe hike at CNC. Snowshoes provided or bring your own; dress for the weather. Program Fee: \$15 or \$10 for 'Friends of CNC.'





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Lizzy Danich

## Scout Days

Jan 15 • Winter Survival  
Mar 27 • Making Maple Syrup  
1:00—3:00 pm

Have fun outdoors and make new friends while working to earn badges. Cub and Girl Scouts, ages 8-11, are welcome to participate in this outdoor experience.  
Program Fee: \$5 per child. No charge for accompanying adults.

## Valentine's Day Candlelight Hike

Feb 14 • 5:00—9:00pm

Celebrate Valentine's Day with an enchanting hike at CNC. Candles will guide your way as you explore the trails with your loved ones. There will be a warm fire and refreshments when you want to escape the winter chill. If you're feeling extra adventurous (and snow conditions allow) you have the option to rent snowshoes. Program Fee: \$15 per person or \$10 for 'Friends of CNC.'

## Evening Explorations

Open until 9:00 pm

Full Moon • Mar 18  
Earth Day • Apr 22

Come explore the trails at dusk and enjoy the beauty and fun of the seasons. There is no program fee, but donations are appreciated.



Mike Mann

## Masters of the Sky

*Presented by the  
World Bird Sanctuary*

February 26 & 27  
11:00 am • 1:00 pm • 3:00 pm

The World Bird Sanctuary staff from St. Louis, Missouri, will be coming to CNC to present a captivating program about birds of prey. Visitors will learn about raptors from around the world and have the chance to experience live hawks, eagles,

owls, falcons, and vultures up close and in free-flight. The presenters will introduce methods to help protect raptors and their habitats. RSVP and non-refundable payment are required, so call 651-437-4359 to reserve your seats.  
Event Fee: \$15 or \$10 for 'Friends of CNC.'

## Making Maple Syrup

Mar 6 & 20 • 1:00—3:00 pm

Hike to the "sugarbush" to tap maple trees, watch the process of turning sap into syrup, and sample the final product. Be ready to hike in the spring snow and mud.  
Program Fee: \$8 per person or \$5 for 'Friends of CNC.'

## Hastings Area Earth Day Birding Festival

*In partnership with the Hastings Environmental Protectors*

April 23

Celebrate birds and conservation at the Hastings Area Earth Day Birding Festival.

Attend classes that introduce you to raptors, birding, bird banding, and go on guided bird trips through the Hastings area.

A highlight of the festival is the popular Youth Birding Competition. Young birders are encouraged to team up and count all the bird species they find. Stay tuned for competition details.

More information can be found on our website as we continue to finalize the details of this event.



Jacob McGinnis

## Highway Clean-up Apr 21 • 5:30 pm

Help CNC maintain a healthy environment along St. Croix Trail by picking up roadside trash. Safety vests, garbage bags, and gloves will be provided. Bring your own litter stick or trash napper if you have one. With a good group of volunteers, cleaning CNC's adopted stretch of highway takes about 1—1/2 hours. Please call 651-437-4359 to let us know if you would like to participate.

## Spring Programs

The details of the programs below are still to be determined, but there will be more information available in the coming months.

Woodcock Walk  
Planting for Pollinators  
Beekeeping  
Bird Banding



Jason Riedy

**Save the Date: Tropical Wings Migration Celebration**  
May 14 • 8:00 am—12:00 pm

Visit our website for the most up-to-date program information [www.carpenternaturecenter.org](http://www.carpenternaturecenter.org).





# 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

Jaber Alsiddiqui  
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Mayme Johnson  
Marty Lynch  
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Tess Zahradka

## Meet our New Board of Directors Member

### Scott Sharp

Scott Sharp is the Vice President of Energy Supply Operations at Xcel Energy where his main focus is leadership development and the transition to 100% carbon free energy production. He has more than 27 years of experience in power plant operations, having previously held roles as Vice President of Prairie Island Nuclear Plant and Vice President of Nuclear Operations at Xcel Energy.

Scott grew up in Rosemount, MN and has been married to his wife Carolyn for 28 years. They have two children, Gretchen and Kyle. Scott enjoys the outdoors, spending time with the family boating, camping, and hiking. He also has a passion for hockey—both playing and coaching! In addition to serving on the Board at CNC, Scott also serves on the Board of the United Way, the NuScale Advisory Board, and the Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Start Board for development and promotion of next generation nuclear technology.



## Volunteer Spotlight

### Jim Wolf

This winter we are pleased to shine the Volunteer Spotlight on Jim Wolf. Jim started volunteering in 2018 and has recorded nearly 300 hours. Jim is an active member of the Minnesota Master Naturalist program and has helped teach many of the environmental education classes here at CNC. He also helps monitor the bluebird trail on our WI campus, helps with special events, and serves as a Visitor Greeter. Thanks Jim, for your enthusiasm and willingness to pitch-in. You truly are a top-notch volunteer, and we are thankful you are part of our volunteer corps.

## Meet our Interns

### Sammi Weigel—Education Intern

Sammi is a graduate from Bemidji State University with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology. She plans to become a naturalist so that she can continue to teach youth about the importance of wildlife and how to have fun outdoors. She is looking forward to continuing to pursue her career with the experience she has gained from working with the raptor ambassadors here at CNC.



### Catherine Smith

Catherine is a senior at University of Wisconsin-River Falls majoring in Horticulture and minoring in Conservation. During her internship, Catherine was able to apply her horticultural experiences and conservation education by participating in outreach education, prairie seed collections, bird hikes, and apple orchard operations. After graduation, Catherine hopes to work with plants in a natural resources setting. In her spare time, Catherine enjoys hiking, fishing, gardening, and knitting.





# Help Support CNC

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Carpenter Nature Center heavily relies on the support of dedicated volunteers, hardworking interns, a passionate Board of Directors, and generous donors.

## Volunteer Corner

Is your New Year resolution to get more involved in the community? Volunteering at CNC may be just the thing. If you want to become a CNC volunteer, please send a message to the Volunteer Coordinator [Alan@CarpenterNatureCenter.org](mailto:Alan@CarpenterNatureCenter.org) and start down the road of becoming part of our volunteer team. Volunteer opportunities are available on both the MN and WI campuses.

### Volunteer Opportunities this Season

**Aquarium Maintenance**—Having clean enclosures is essential to the health of our animal ambassadors. Our primary need is for an adult volunteer that is able and willing to sanitize tanks and change water for our aquatic turtles on a weekly basis.

**Collect Maple Sap**—During the month of March we will be tapping maple trees and making tasty maple syrup. If the sap runs a lot, we will need help with this process – you'll be hauling sap and helping to boil it down to syrup. Look for an email in March for this task.

**Adopt-A-Highway Spring Cleanup**—Thursday, April 21, starting at 5:30 pm. Please call 651-437-4359 to let us know you'll be joining us. We'll supply safety vests and garbage bags. You supply enthusiasm for helping clean up the earth as we pick up litter along the highway that runs past CNC.

## Memorials & Honorariums



We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

### In Honor of

**Bill & Winkie Coyne** from Jennifer & Greg Vieth  
**Jessie Eckroad** from Christopher & Kellie Eckroad  
**Lorri & Tom Evans** from Edward & Lorraine Evans  
**Our Families** from Barbara & Joel Mielke  
**Denis Kania** from Justin Kania  
**Luca & Eli Kern** from JoAnn & Clem Kern  
**Ron Zaudke** from Ron & Colleen Zaudke

### In Memory of

**John Caponi** from Gary & Melissa Porter  
**Douglas L. Johnson** from Margel Johnson  
**Judy Kennedy** from Shelley & Lee Bowman,  
Bonnie & Seth Chasin, Lu Heggerness, Patti Kasten,  
Jay Kennedy, Shannon & Cyril Kennedy, Ben Maurer,  
Maryls & Robert Robole, Evelina Sowa, Kathy Unruh  
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David Wilhelm, Lucia Wroblewski, Cynthia & Rick Yokiel  
**Donald Morris** from Donna Morris  
**Jim Nielsen** from Pam Nielsen  
**Larry Schneider** from Jim & Judy Freund  
**Phil Schneider** from Jim & Judy Freund

## 2022 Sneak Peek

### Upcoming Events

Grand Opening of the  
Al & Laurie Hein Visitor Center..... Date TBD  
WI Campus Bioblitz..... Date TBD  
St. Croix Valley Golf Scramble..... July 18  
Carpenter Art Festival..... August 20  
Autumn in the Valley Gala..... September 11  
Raptor Release..... September 24  
Apple Festival..... October 8 & 9

### Summer Day Camp Dates

Fishing Fun (6—11 year olds) Jun 15 & 22, Jul 13 & 14  
Nature Nuts (5 & 6 year olds)..... Jun 20—24  
Outdoor Skills (Ages 10 & up)..... Jun 28—30  
Pioneers (7 & 8 year olds)..... Jul 11—15  
Explorers (9—11 year olds)..... Jul 18—22  
Canoe Trip (12—15 year olds)..... Jul 26—28  
Pathfinders (Ages 10 & up)..... Aug 1—4



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## Locations and Hours

Carpenter Nature Center is a 501(c)(3) private, non-profit organization with property on both the Minnesota and Wisconsin sides of the scenic St. Croix River.

For more information about our properties, please visit [www.carpenternaturecenter.org](http://www.carpenternaturecenter.org).



### Minnesota Campus

12805 St. Croix Trail S.  
Hastings, MN 55033  
(651) 437— 4359

**Hours:** 8:00am – 4:30pm daily

**Trails, buildings, parking lots, and front gates  
close daily at 4:30pm**

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day,  
New Year's Day, and Easter.



### Wisconsin Campus

300 East Cove Road  
Hudson, WI 54016  
(651) 437— 4359

**Hours:** Trails open year-round from sunrise to sunset

