



Volume 42, Number 1  
Winter 2023

## Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

**Minnesota Campus**  
12805 St. Croix Trail South  
Hastings, Minnesota 55033

**Wisconsin Campus**  
279 South Cove Road  
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

Phone: 651-437-4359  
[www.carpenternaturecenter.org](http://www.carpenternaturecenter.org)

*"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

How do you communicate? Grouse, elephants and alligators interact using infrasound—frequencies so low that humans can't hear them, but we can FEEL them. In the Northwoods, low vibration felt in your chest may signal a Ruffed Grouse nearby. There are a myriad of communication methods used within species, across species, and across landscapes. Birds, frogs, whales, and wolves sing. Bees dance. Fireflies put on a beautiful light show. Eel, fish, and platypuses use electric fields. Ants, moths, and coyotes use pheromones. Bats use echolocation. Beaver and dolphins smack their tails in water. Spiders, blind mole-rats, and skunks use seismic cues. Dogs, geckos, horses, and parrots use postural gestures. Mosquitos, snakes, and bullfrogs use infrared light. Jellyfish, sea stars, and sharks use bioluminescence. Voles, kestrels, and cats use ultraviolet light.

Humans, consciously and unconsciously, make use of many non-verbal cues and have also developed more than 7,000 different languages worldwide. In the Greater Twin Cities area and Western Wisconsin, nearly 300 languages are spoken including American Sign Language, Dakota, and Xhosa. At CNC's Apple Fest, multiple languages were overheard including Ukrainian, Hmong, and Hispanic while families enjoyed the fall harvest. As we communicate with each other it's valuable to remember that an individual's lexicon, interpretation of cues, and basic points of reference may differ from ours. A naturalist's job as a communicator includes successfully navigating these differences to share the wonders of the natural world with diverse audiences.



Left: Mayme at Masters of the Sky, 2014.  
Right: Mayme's first year at CNC, 1987.

As you explore the outdoors this winter, stop to look, listen and sniff for signs of animal language. Are there bobcat scent marks on trees, coyote pheromones on the trail and winter bird song on the wind? As spring approaches, the St. Croix River Valley will reverberate with the sights, sounds, and smells of animal language if we only stop to listen.



Top: Vibrations produced by the alligator family cause water to "dance." Bottom left: Jellyfish light up to communicate with one another and confuse predators. Bottom right: Under ultraviolet light, the feathers of Saw-whet Owls glow pink.

Mayme Johnson, CNC's longtime Program Director, is a master of human communication. She has taught thousands of youth about nature. She's mentored hundreds of interns and staff. She artfully moves between disseminating information to interpreting, which is inspiring students on a guided discovery of the natural world. As Mayme prepares to retire, we want to wish her all the best and congratulate her on her communication legacy. She has taught and inspired generations of children in our community, and beyond, who now work around the world, many still using the knowledge she has taught over the past 35 years. Read the People Profile on page 6 to learn more about her life and career.





## Upcoming Programs & Events

Minnesota Campus — 12805 St. Croix Trail South, Hastings, MN 55033  
Wisconsin Campus—279 South 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.

**Participation Options—Adult/Student Pricing**

- \$40/\$20 • Merchandise: Running Belt
- \$50/\$25 • Merchandise: Long-sleeve T-shirt
- \$60/\$30 • Running Belt + Long-sleeve T-shirt

Fees include registration, specified merchandise, and the option of becoming a 'Friend of CNC' to receive free snowshoe rentals at CNC for the season.

Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit environmental education and habitat conservation at CNC.

To register, visit [www.carpenternaturecenter.org](http://www.carpenternaturecenter.org).  
Deadline February 1, 2023.

❄️ **Symbol indicates suggested programming for accumulating Frosty 40 miles!**

### ❄️ Snowshoe\* Hikes

*Frosty 40 Kick-off & Moonlight Hike*

**Wisconsin Campus**  **Minnesota Campus**  
Jan 5 • 7:00—9:00 pm Jan 6 • 7:00—9:00 pm

Celebrate the start of the new year with a guided hike. Hot cocoa and popcorn will be provided, and Frosty 40 participants are eligible for prizes! Snowshoes\* provided or bring your own; dress for the weather. Program Fee: \$15 or \$10 for 'Friends of CNC.' FREE for Frosty 40 participants.

**Fitness Focus Hikes** Saturdays • 9:00—10:30 am

**Wisconsin Campus** **Minnesota Campus**  
Jan 14 & 28 • Feb 11 & 25 Jan 21 • Feb 4 & 18

Enjoy the CNC trails while elevating your heartrate. Fee: \$5 per person or FREE for Frosty 40 participants. Snowshoes\* can be rented for an additional \$5. Snowshoe rentals FREE for Frosty 40 participants.

**Adult Moonlight Hikes**

**Wisconsin Campus**  **Minnesota Campus**  
Feb 2 • 7:00—9:00 pm Feb 3 • 7:00—9:00 pm

Snowshoes\* provided or bring your own; dress for the weather. Program Fee: \$15 or \$10 for 'Friends of CNC.' FREE for Frosty 40 participants.

*\*6+ inches of snow cover required for snowshoe use. Programming will be held regardless of snow conditions and will be modified based on the weather.*

### FREE Family Ice Fishing at Lake Rebecca



Jan 7 & Feb 4 • 9:00—Noon

Learn to ice fish from the experts at these fun and educational catch-and-release programs. Bait, tackle, and poles provided. Programs are open to learners of all ages, and no fishing license is required! Located at 415 Lock & Dam Rd. in Hastings. For more info, contact Paige Marschall Bigler of Hastings Parks & Recreation at 651-480-6182. Registration is required—scan code or visit [hastingsmn.gov/recregistration](http://hastingsmn.gov/recregistration).



### ❄️ Bird Hikes

**Minnesota Campus**  
Jan 7 & Feb 4 • 9:00 am  
Mar 4 & Apr 1 • 8:00 am

**Wisconsin Campus**  
Jan 14 & Feb 11 • 9:00 am  
Mar 11 & Apr 8 • 8:00 am

Learn to identify birds with local experts. Binoculars and field guides will be available to use, or you may bring your own. Program Fee: \$5 or FREE for 'Friends of CNC,' SCVBC members, and high school students.

### Preschool Story Time

**Wisconsin Campus**   
Wednesdays • 10:00—11:00 am  
Jan 11 • Feb 8 • Mar 15 • Apr 12

**Minnesota Campus**  
Fridays • 10:00—11:00 am  
Jan 13 • Feb 10 • Mar 17 • Apr 21

January—Nutty Squirrels  
February—Bunny Buddies  
March—Maple Syruping  
April—Earth Day Celebration

Listen to stories, spend time outdoors, make a craft, and meet live animals. Designed for ages 2-5. **Children must be accompanied by an adult.** Program Fee: \$6 per child or \$4 for 'Friends of CNC.' No charge for accompanying adult.



Lizzy Danich

### ❄️ Minnesota Campus Trails & Ales

Jan 12 • Feb 9 • Mar 9 • Apr 13  
6:00—8:00 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.



## Upcoming Programs & Events

Minnesota Campus — 12805 St. Croix Trail South, Hastings, MN 55033  
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ALL PROGRAMS REQUIRE RESERVATIONS—Please call 651-437-4359

### ❄️ Minnesota Campus Owl Prowl

Jan 13 • 6:30—8:00 pm

Many of the Midwest's 12 owl species are vocalizing to attract mates this time of year. Explore CNC on a guided night-hike to look and listen for these owls. Program Fee: \$8 per person or \$5 for 'Friends of CNC.'

### Minnesota Campus Public Bird Banding

Fridays • 8:30 am—Noon  
Jan 27 • Feb 24 • Mar 24 • Apr 28

Watch CNC's expert bird banders as they catch, band, and release songbirds. Banding runs continuously, so visitors may come and go any time. Program Fee: FREE.

### Wisconsin Campus Winter Birds

Feb 18 • 9:00—10:30 am

Students K—5th grade are invited to join local birding experts for a guided bird hike, raptor pellet dissection, and a meet-and-greet with CNC's ambassador Barred Owl! Drawings for door prizes! Binoculars and field guides will be available to use, or you may bring your own. **Children must be accompanied by an adult.** Programming is provided for FREE thanks to a generous contribution from the St. Croix Valley Bird Club.



### Minnesota Campus Masters of the Sky

*Presented by the World Bird Sanctuary*



Mike Mann

February 25 & 26  
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. Learn about raptors from around the world and have the chance to experience live hawks, eagles, owls, falcons, and vultures in free-flight.

Non-refundable pre-payments are required. Event Fee: \$15 or \$10 for 'Friends of CNC.'

### Wisconsin Campus Hiking the Superior Trail

Mar 4 • 10:00 am

Join hiking enthusiast and CNC Naturalist Abbey Holden as she discusses the many facets of preparing for a thru-hike of the Superior Hiking Trail. Get a glimpse into the planning process including the best time of year to hike, what to eat and how to pack it, transportation considerations, organizing resupplies, and even bringing your dog along on your trip. Program Fee: FREE.

### Minnesota Campus Maple Syruping

Mar 5 & 19 • 1:00—3:00 pm

Welcome spring by joining the CNC staff in making maple syrup. Hike to the "sugarbush" to learn about the structure and function of trees, tap maple trees, watch the process of turning sap into syrup, and sample the final product. The program starts indoors, but be ready for spring snow and mud. Program Fee: \$8 per person or \$5 for 'Friends of CNC.'



Mary Marty

### Hastings Area Birding Festival

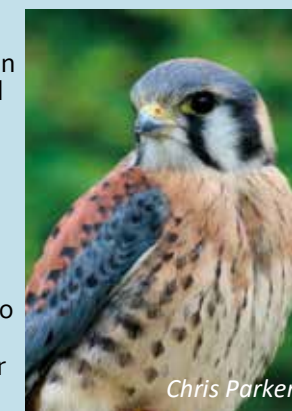
*In partnership with the Hastings Environmental Protectors*

April 22 • 8:00 am

Celebrate birds and conservation at the CNC MN Campus. Attend classes that introduce you to raptors, birding, bird banding, and go on guided bird trips through the Hastings area.

The Youth Birding Competition is a highlight of the festival. 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.



Chris Parker

### Minnesota Campus Summer Camp Sneak Peek

**REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1, 2023**  
Visit [www.carpenternaturecenter.org](http://www.carpenternaturecenter.org) for more info!

**Fishing Fun (ages 6-11)** June 21, 28 & July 26 • 1:00—3:30 pm  
Fee (per session): \$40 per child or \$30 for 'Friends of CNC.'

**Nature Nuts (ages 5 & 6)** June 19—23 • 9:00am—Noon  
**Pioneers (ages 7 & 8)** June 26—30 • 9:00 am—Noon  
Fee: \$130 per participant or \$110 for 'Friends of CNC.'

**Explorers (ages 9-11)** July 17—21 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm  
Fee: \$205 per child or \$185 for 'Friends of CNC.'

**Outdoor Skills (ages 10+)** July 11—13 • 9:00 am—4:00 pm  
Fee: \$120 or \$100 for 'Friends of CNC.'

**Canoe Trip (ages 12+)** Aug 1—3 • All day/Overnight  
Fee: \$295 per participant or \$275 for 'Friends of CNC.'



# 2023 Calendar of Events at Carpenter Nature Center

Phenology from 2022 (with additional entries from CNC's past phenology notes)

January CNC Closed Frosty 40 Begins	1	8 hrs 51 mins daylight	2	Quadrantids Meteor Shower peak	3	4	5	6	7
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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 those who help us serve the communities on both sides of the beautiful St. Croix River.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jaber Alsiddiqui  
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Laurie Bauer  
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Paul Gerbec (President)  
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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer Vieth

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Todd DeRosier  
Jessie Eckroad  
Michelle Gallo  
Abbey Holden  
Erika Jensen  
Mayme Johnson  
Marty Lynch  
Alan Maloney  
Sverre Sundgaard  
Tess Zahradka

## New Chapter for CNC Program Director

*Mayme Johnson*

This winter, Mayme Johnson will be retiring from CNC after spending over 35 years educating the community about the environment, science, and the natural world. Since joining the CNC team in 1987, she has had a monumental impact in the shaping of our organization, its programs, and values.

Mayme's love for the outdoors began at a young age on her family's farm in northeast Iowa. She attended Wartburg College where she earned teaching certifications in General Science & Biology and Physical Education & Coaching. Following her time at Wartburg, Mayme was a Backpack Wilderness Guide at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center in Fort Collins, CO. She completed graduate coursework in Environmental Education at Iowa State, taught at the Environmental Learning Center (now Wolf Ridge ELC) near Isabella, MN, and then became the Environmental Education Director at Sky Ranch. Just prior to beginning her career at CNC, Mayme also taught at Camp St. Croix in Hudson, WI.

She began her work at CNC as an Interpretive Naturalist before becoming the Senior Naturalist, Summer Camp Director, and Program Director. During her time at the Nature Center, she has helped educate over 130,000 K-12 students from the St. Croix Valley, Twin Cities, and Western Wisconsin communities. Many of these students are now grown up and are bringing their own children to Carpenter. She has been involved with developing and teaching over 100 unique program topics at the Nature Center. From 1987—2018, Mayme played an integral role in hosting the Apple Blossom Races, and she has been overseeing the Frosty 40 Challenge for the past three years. She also serves as the CNC Internship Coordinator where she has mentored and inspired dozens of young professionals who are now working at nature-based organizations throughout the country. Some have even stayed-on to become longtime staff at CNC. Throughout her career, she has been a member of National Association of Interpretation, Minnesota Naturalists Association, and the Minnesota Association for Environmental Education.

Mayme has dedicated over 40 years of her life to teaching and instilling a love of nature in people of all ages. She has had a tremendous impact in the field of environmental education, not only at Carpenter Nature Center, but throughout Minnesota and other areas around the country. Although she will be greatly missed, we are wishing her all the best as she pursues new adventures during retirement! THANK YOU!



Top: Mayme explains the process of tapping a tree to make maple syrup. Left: In her early years at CNC, Mayme poses next to the apple press prior to an Orchard program. Middle: Mayme has led dozens of canoe trips during her career. Bottom right: As an experienced handler, Mayme works with CNC's ambassador animals during programs including Masters of the Sky.

## 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 Spotlight

*Bill Wynn*

In this issue, we are happy to shine the Volunteer Spotlight on Bill Wynn. Bill started volunteering in 2019 and has been a tremendous help in our Naturalist Assistant Corps. Bill has helped with many classes in the spring and fall, lent a hand with many of our night hikes setting out candles and keeping the bonfire going, has pitched in for Apple Fest, and has been a Visitor Greeter at the WI campus. Thanks, Bill, for sharing your time and talent, and your wonderful sense of humor that brings a smile to our faces. You are a fantastic Volunteer and we are grateful to have you as a member of the CNC family.



## Volunteer Corner

It is a New Year and a good time to start volunteering. Carpenter Nature Center may be just the place for you. 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 to becoming part of our volunteer team. Volunteer opportunities are available on both the MN and WI campuses.

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

**Collect Maple Sap** – Like to be out when the snow is melting, the birds are singing, and Spring is overtaking Winter? One sure sign of Spring is the maple sap running. 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. This takes place at the Lodge on the MN site.

**Highway Cleanup** – Our official Adopt-A-Highway spring cleanup on the MN side will take place on Thursday, April 20, starting at 5:30pm. We will also be cleaning up the roadside near the WI site on Wednesday, April 19, at 5:30pm. 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 road that runs past CNC.

### April 16—22, 2023 is Volunteer Appreciation Week!

Join us in expressing special thanks to all the people who contribute their time and talent to CNC. We couldn't pursue our mission without your support. Thank you!

## Memorials & Honorariums

### In Honor of

**Orchard Education Staff** from Kelly Sorg  
**Judy Alnes** from Jeffrey Schulman & Susan Alnes  
**Mayme Johnson** from Tracy Backer and Jyneen Thatcher  
**Marty Lynch** from Jyneen Thatcher  
**Alyson Sandve** from Cynthia Schou

### In Memory of

**Joe Campion** from Jim & Judy Freund  
**Oak Gregory** from Krista Spieler & Thomas Smith  
**Paul & Nancy Hansen** from Kris Hansen  
**Nils Odegard** from Gary & Mickie Griswold  
**James E. Ostenson** from Jeff & Stacy Carlson  
**Ross & Sue Pierson** from Gary & Mickie Griswold  
**Bob Setzer** from Jonathon Alexander,  
Jane & Dwight Allison, Margaret Allison, Ronald Andersen,  
Celeste Arnold, Paul & Joyce Boettcher, George & Joani Bond,  
Doris & Larry Calhoun, David & Amy Carovillano,  
Jerry Cawley & Pat Huber, Naomi Dahl, Jim & Judy Freund,  
Gary & Mickie Griswold, Maxine Groves, Wayne & Jean Haut,  
Pamela Haas, Heathcote Book Club, David Hanson,  
David & Mary Hense, Karol Hitt, Merrill & Dody Johnson,  
Katy Kapaun, Karen & Doug Keys, Judy Kinkad, Tom &  
Monique Kloster, Magnusson Vet Services LLC,  
Joe & Sue Meyers, Peggy Mulligan, Alan & Sandra Murphy,  
Bruce Olson & Betsy Setzer Olson, Roy & Cammie Olson,  
Deborah Ritson, Pat & Jack Rooney, Paul & Sandra Rosso,  
Greg & Jennifer Vieth, Karl & Ann Wasson,  
Richard & Lucy Willhoit, Beth & Skip Wyer  
**Benjamin Curry Stassen** from Jay & Helen Stassen  
**Randy Thoreson** from Michael Coleman, Dan Dressler,  
Lu Heggernes, George Hoepfner,  
Jim & Nancy Hendrickson, Steve & Debbie Johnson,  
KAKAttack St. Croix River Paddle Club, Caroline Kurz,  
Molly MacGregor, Greg & Mary Maw, Douglas Moote,  
Marta Newkirk, the National Park Service, Gary Noren,  
Melanie Skoglund, Greg & Jennifer Vieth,  
Robert & Lynda Whyte, John Wygant  
**Kristine (Kochanski) Vento** from Gina Vento





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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

**Trails, buildings, parking lots, and front gates  
open daily from 8:00am—4:30pm.**

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



### Wisconsin Campus

279 South Cove Road  
Hudson, WI 54016  
(651) 437—4359

**Visitor center, paved parking, and front gates  
open daily from 8:00am—4:30pm.**

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

**Trails open year-round from sunrise to sunset.**

