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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

"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

What do you do when you get a request to band a nest of Saw-whet Owls? Why, you drop everything, drive through a thunderstorm, and arrive to clear skies for the unique opportunity to band five endearing owlets. As ornithologists we now wait with anticipation to learn about their owlets adventures. Saw-whet Owls can live up to ten years in the wild. I can't help but wonder, which state they'll wander to on their tiny silent wings.

The owlets (right) were wonderful, however the best part was meeting the young family whose property the owls had claimed. Their consideration of the local wildlife, and their stewardship of the habitat was inspiring. As more native species in the Midwest lose quality habitat, and our populations of birds, bats and bees decline, we need more stewards like them. Not just for the birds, bees and bats. But also for us.

You see, time in nature changes us. Anyone who walks the CNC trails will tell you how much they personally benefit from the peace, tranquility and wonder of spending time in nature. There's scientific documentation behind those feelings. Time in nature improves your concentration by decreasing your mental fatigue, reducing your stress hormones, and lowering your blood pressure. Sharing this experience with the next generation is also crucial.

It's not just spending time in nature, seeing the trees and feeling the wind, which changes you. Birds change us too. A compilation of studies highlighted what birders intuitively know. Birds and bird-watching makes us happier. Simply seeing or hearing birds improves mental wellbeing for up to eight hours! I know that any time I personally take away from screens, to get outdoors to see birds in their habitats, forces me to relax. I'm more mindful. I pay attention to the sounds, smells and sensations of the world around me. This August I was



Top: CNC Volunteer Betty Most gently holds the oldest of five nestlings to be banded while data is recorded. All banding, marking, and sampling is being conducted under a federally authorized Bird Banding Permit issued by the U.S. Geological Survey's BBL.

Bottom: A few days later the

Bottom: A few days later the owlets were ready to fledge.

fortunate to observe more than 200 American Avocets milling around in a wetland. The mass of graceful shorebirds, feeding fervently before resuming their long migration beyond our borders, invoked a sense of awe. Psychologists know that invoking awe and wonder helps achieve expansive thinking. This is a state of mind that inspires creativity. It helps us think more flexibly and find the wonder in the everyday.

This October we will celebrate our tenth year as part of the International Project Owl-net, a collaborative study to learn more about the migratory routes and population cycles of Northern Saw-whet Owls. As we learn about these owls, we also inspire and teach the next generation. Not only do we offer the opportunity to stay up late with the owl researchers at programs, but many of CNC's daytime programs also feature birds. There's "Winter Birds" for the Elementary students all the way up to "Birds & Banding" for University Field Biology Students. CNC's education staff and visitor center hosts share awe-filled moments with visitors all year long. As part of the CNC family, you make these moments possible. From sharing a walk along our trails with a dear friend, to supporting programming at CNC and out in the community. We thank you for joining us on this journey.

2023 Bio-blitz Recap

A bio-blitz is part citizen science, part education program, and part community engagement event.

Experts and members of the community gather together for a set time period to identify all the species they can find within a predetermined area.



Ghost pipes, bees and blacklights! After a hiatus during the pandemic and the capital campaign construction, Jen and Abbey co-hosted our 4th Bio-blitz on July 21-22, 2023. This year the Bio-blitz was headquartered at CNC's new Al & Laurie Hein Visitors' Center on the WI Campus. The format was adjusted from a one-day event, to an evening event followed by a morning event. A few of the new and popular features were the "Black Light Fungi hike" and mothing. Fun, but not quite as heavily attended was the Oh-My-Gosh-it's-early Bird Survey that started at 4:45 a.m. on Saturday morning. The Bio-blitz was attended by more than 100 people. Together the team documented more than 285 species during the 22 hour blitz. Highlights included 81 new invertebrate species found on the campus. Chris Smith and his bee survey volunteers spotted a federally-endangered Rusty-patched Bumblebee. Volunteers and visitors also found 45 new plant/fungi species for the campus, including the beautiful Ghost Pipe (bottom left). Next year's bio-blitz will be at the MN Campus Visitors Center July 28-29, 2024.





















Photo credits: Jennifer Vieth and Ben Douglas

Y Orchard Update Y

Our apple orchard began as the passion of Thomas and Edna Carpenter in the early 1940's, and today, CNC's apples are some of the tastiest and healthiest apples in the community. As a nature center, we are committed to growing and providing the highest quality fruit using sustainable methods.

APPLE SHACK OPENS FOR SEASON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd

Wednesdays - Sundays • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

We proudly grow 15 varieties of high-quality apples. By purchasing apples from CNC, you are not only getting delicious, local, eco-friendly fruit, you are also supporting environmental education and habitat protection in the St. Croix Valley.

Early varieties—First Kiss, SweeTango, Zestar!, Chestnut Crabs
Early/mid-season varieties— Sweet 16, McIntosh, Haralson, Honeycrisp, Cortland
Late/mid-season varieties— Honeygold, Fireside, Connell Red, Regent
Late varieties—Snowsweet, Keepsake

Also available:

CNC—grown squash, gourds, and pumpkins available while supplies last.

Apple Sauce | Apple Butter | Spiced Peaches | Pies | Jams & Jellies | Maple Syrup | Honey

BBQ Sauce | Mustard and Relish | Salad Dressing | Salsa

For an up-to-date list of varieties in stock, please call 651-437-4359 ext. 115. For further information on our orchard, contact Orchardist and Sustainable Agriculture Instructor Sam Behrends at sam@carpenternaturecenter.org or 651-437-4359 ext. 109.



Where Are They Now? Fledged Intern

"BIRDS OF A FEATHER" - KENDAHL CHERGOSKY



Kendahl migrated to Carpenter Nature Center in September 2019 and was an education intern at CNC for nine months. While at CNC she experienced a full-scale fall school program season, then the she endured the peak of the pandemic, and helped with the early work of creating the new Wisconsin Visitors' Center.

Kendahl felt an immediate connection to the birds of prey and teaching programs. She still remembers with pride when her supervisor, Mayme Johnson, told her she was "a natural" after her first program. After her internship Kendahl landed at the World Bird Sanctuary, where she is now the "Nature Center Manager." In her new role she oversees the training of more than thirty animals, which includes free-flying Barn Owls, Harris' Hawks and more. CNC was where she first worked with raptors and realized it was where she wanted to hang her cap. Her current favorite bird to work with is a four-year old Bald Eagle, named Scout. She's enjoying watching his confidence grow as he learns to be an outreach ambassador. We watched Kendahl grow as a trainer and presenter. From her first programs at CNC for kindergarteners, to this year when she was the presenter for the World Bird Sanctuary's "Fete du Feather" an annual fundraiser attended by 300 quests. Congratulations Kendahl! We're cheering for you as you continue to soar to new heights!



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



MN Campus Bird Hikes



Oct 7 • 8:00—10:00 am Nov 4 & Dec 2 • 9:00—11:00 am

WI Campus Bird Hikes



Sept 9 • 8:00—10:00 am Meet at 279 South Cove Road

Oct 14 • 8:00—10:00 am Meet at 300 East Cove Road

Nov 11 • 9:00—11:00 am Meet at 279 South Cove Road

Dec 9 • 9:00—11:00 am Meet at 300 East Cove Road

Learn to identify birds with local experts. Binoculars and field guides available or bring your own. Program Fee: \$5 per person or FREE for 'Friends of CNC,' SCVBC and students.

MN Campus Preschool Story Time



Fridays • 10:00—11:00 am Sept 22—Orchard Fun

Oct 27—Costumes & Critters

Nov 10—Farewell to Fall

Dec 15—Animal Signs

WI Campus Preschool Story Time



Wednesdays • 10:00 - 11:00 am Oct 25—Costumes & Critters Nov 8—Farewell to Fall Dec 13—Animal Signs

These programs introduce children ages 2-5 to nature in a fun and safe environment. Listen to stories, spend time outdoors, make a craft and meet CNC's live animals. Call ahead to register. **Children must be accompanied by an adult.** Program Fee: \$6 per child or \$4 for `Friends of CNC.' No charge for adults.

MN Campus Public Bird Banding*



Fridays • 8:30 am—Noon Sept 29 • Oct 27 • Nov 17 • Dec 29

See birds up-close and watch the experts band birds at CNC. Banding runs continuously, so come and go as you please. Donations of bird seed and suet are appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

*All banding, marking, and sampling is being conducted under a federally authorized Bird Banding Permit issued by the U.S. Geological Survey's BBL.

Raptor Release



Hosted at the CNC MN Campus in partnership with The Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota

Sept 23 • 11:00 am—2:00 pm

Join Carpenter Nature Center and The Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota as they release rehabilitated raptors at CNC. Event includes hay wagon tours, kids activities, raptors on display, and a variety of education booths from area environmental organizations. This FREE event is enjoyed by all ages. Dogs are not allowed.



Raptor Count/Hawk Watch



Hosted at the CNC MN Campus in partnership with the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

Sept 24 • 8:00 am—2:00 pm

Each fall, thousands birds migrate south to their wintering grounds in the southern U.S. and beyond. Join our team of spotters to count birds including raptors, songbirds, gulls, and other species. Binoculars will be available upon request. Program Fee: FREE.





Upcoming Programs & Events

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

Apple Festival Hosted at the CNC MN Campus Orchard Home of the Apple Shack

Oct 7 & 8 • 10:00 am—5:00 pm

Visit CNC to celebrate the harvest with hay rides (weather permitting), live music, live animal programs, children's activities, apple brats, pumpkin decorating, bake sale, cider-making demonstrations, pick-your-own apples and more. This FREE event is fun for the whole family and will be held rain or shine!



Wendy Hill

WI Campus Owl Banding*

Oct 19 • 8:00 —10:00 pm

MN Campus Owl Banding*

Nov 9 • 8:00—10:00 pm

Learn about the migration patterns of Saw-whet Owls. Join our team as they venture out to band these mysterious birds. Program is weather-dependent. Program Fee: FREE. SPACE IS VERY LIMITED. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

*All banding, marking, and sampling is being conducted under a federally authorized Bird Banding Permit issued by the U.S. Geological Survey's BBL.

WI Campus Holiday Décor Making

Dec 2 • 12:00—2:00pm

Join CNC Director of Education and Visitor Services Sarah Germscheid to create a one-of-a-kind holiday home décor piece. Participants will be outside for a portion of the program collecting materials, please dress for the weather. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Program Fee: \$30 per person.



Dates to Remember in 2024

Masters of the Sky
Saturday & Sunday, February 24 & 25

Hastings Earth Day Birding Festival
Saturday, April 20

St. Croix Valley Scramble Golf Tournament
Monday, July 22

Minnesota Campus Bioblitz Friday & Saturday, July 26 & 27

Carpenter Art Festival
Saturday, August 17

Autumn in the Valley Gala Sunday, September 8

Raptor Release
Saturday, September 28

Apple Festival
Saturday & Sunday, October 12 & 13



People Profiles

On behalf of the staff at CNC, we would like to take time to express our gratitude for the contributions of 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
Susan Barnes Elliott (Secretary)
Laurie Bauer
Dave J. Brown
Hannah Coyle
Jim Freund (Treasurer)
Paul Gerbec (Past President)
Gary Griswold
Don Kern
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Sarah Germscheid · Maddie Hayden
Abbey Holden · Erika Jensen
Brad Johnson · Grace Johnston
Kaden Knox · Marty Lynch
Erin and Ella Mahnke · Alan Maloney
Aaron McGuire · Alex Theisen
Tess Zahradka · Sammi Weigel

Meet our 2023 Summer Interns



Wyatt Isakson – Orchard and Land Management

Wyatt lives in Burnsville, MN and is currently attending Northland College majoring in Natural Resources – Fisheries and Wildlife and minoring in History. He grew up visiting Carpenter Nature Center, where he once spent a morning releasing banded songbirds, which began his love of the outdoors. He joined CNC as an intern not only to gain more field experience, but to also give back to a place that inspired him as a child. In his free time, he enjoys birdwatching, wildlife photography, hiking and geocaching.

Kaden Knox – Orchard and Land Management

Kaden is from River Falls, WI where he attends the University of Wisconsin—River Falls pursuing a degree in Field Biology. Kaden is looking forward to working in conservation after he graduates. When not at work or school he enjoys reading, archery and doing "nerdy" things.

Tyler McGinnis – Environmental Education

Tyler was born and raised in Rockford, IL and is attending the University of Wisconsin—Stout pursuing a degree in Applied Science with a minor in Environmental Health. He is enjoying taking part in all the experiences he can during his short summer internship. In his spare time, he likes spending time with the people he loves, exploring outdoors, and swimming.

Nastassja Frampton – Orchard and Land Management

Nastassja grew up in the Woodbury/Afton, MN area and is currently a senior at the University of Wisconsin—River Falls majoring in Biology and minoring in Horticulture. She has been exploring the St. Croix River valley since she was young and is passionate about its beauty. During her free time, Nastassja likes to do yoga, visit new places, and make things like art and tinctures.

Connor de Bruin – Environmental Education

Connor grew up in Owatonna, MN and is currently majoring in Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. He is passionate about environmental education and loves teaching people about all kinds of awesome animals. Outside of his internship at CNC, Connor also volunteers at The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota.

People Profiles

Our Volunteer Board of Directors is essential to supporting the mission at Carpenter Nature Center.

They dedicate their time and talent to guide our team and plan for the future of our organization.

Meet New Members of our Board of Directors



Susan Barnes Elliott

Susan retired in 2021 after almost four decades of practicing law in Minneapolis. The majority of her career was spent at Lindquist & Vennum (now Ballard Spahr) in the banking department representing troubled banks, their shareholders, directors, and officers. She worked part-time for much of her career while she and her husband Bruce raised their two boys Max and Charlie. As the boys grew, she was able to spend more time birding, gardening, and reading. She became involved with the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, first as its secretary and later as a Board member/Chairperson of the Awards Committee. During her time at MOU, Susan collaborated with CNC Executive Director Jennifer Vieth and other nature enthusiasts to create the Spring Birding Primer event. After serving on the MOU Board for seven years, Susan retired in November. She wanted to become involved with an organization that directly focuses on connecting kids with nature, which brought her to join the Board at CNC.

Dave J. Brown

A native of the St. Croix Valley, Dave grew up in Stillwater. He married his college sweetheart, Gail, and they reside in Richfield, MN. They have four children who all live in the Twin Cities area, which allows Dave and Gail to see all eight of their grandchildren on a regular basis. Dave spent most of his career in public accounting. His work experience gave him significant background in income taxes, accounting, auditing, and management consulting. Much of his experience included nonprofit audits and nonprofit tax planning and compliance, which is how he initially became involved with CNC in the 1980s. He originally assisted CNC with tax planning and compliance, and in later years provided audit services and consulted on various projects. He officially retired from the work force in December, 2022. Dave has served on the board of directors at FamilyMeans in Stillwater and has been a trustee with the Richfield Foundation.



Hannah Coyle

Hannah joined our board in 2023 after spending two years serving as Hudson's community news reporter. She was first introduced to Carpenter Nature Center while covering the opening of the Al & Laurie Hein Visitor Center at the Wisconsin Campus. Currently, she is the communication specialist at the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health and has a degree in journalism from DePaul University. Hannah lives in Minneapolis with her boyfriend, Jared, and dog, Stevie. She is enthusiastic about the work and programming at Carpenter Nature Center as someone who grew up around and learning from Minnesota's landscapes and waterways, and visiting "the sticks" of Canada. In addition to promoting children's well-being at work, and environmental stewardship with CNC, Hannah serves on the board for the Red Wing Royal Ambassador program, helping young women to grow into their power.

Volunteer at Carpenter Nature Center

Pursuing our mission would not be possible without the dedication of hardworking volunteers.

Contact Alan Maloney at 651-437-4359 ext. 104 or alan@carpenternaturecenter.org to join our team.

Volunteer SpotlightVolunteers of the Year

Art Luedtke and Greg Swanson

In this issue, we double-up the spotlight on our Volunteer of the Year because this year we are happy to recognize two outstanding Volunteers – Art Luedtke (left) and Greg Swanson (right).

Art began volunteering in 2013 and has logged over 650 hours. He has helped with Adopt-A-Highway cleanup (even picking up litter on his bike rides past the nature center), habitat restoration on the WI Campus, put in long hours boiling sap in the sugar bush, was a "tail" for the 10K run at the Apple Blossom Races, and has picked bushel upon bushel of apples in the orchard.

Greg started his volunteer career in 2014 and has put in over 750 hours. He is a mainstay with the Education Department and has helped teach



various classes to thousands of students as well as helping with Moonlight Snowshoe hikes. Greg has helped with the Adopt-A-Highway cleanup, the St Croix Valley Golf Scramble, got up early many times to help with registration at the Apple Blossom Races, and serves as a Visitor Greeter at both the MN and WI sites.

We, the staff, are in awe of these two Volunteers of the Year. Thanks Art and Greg for being a part of our Volunteer Corps, your exceptional dedication and commitment to CNC shows that you both are top shelf Volunteers and we salute you.



Volunteer Corner

Our Adopt-α-Highway Cleanup for St. Croix Trail South will take place on Thursday September 21 starting at 5:30pm. Trash bags and flashy safety vests will be available. If you are able to help, bring your gloves and your favorite litter-grabbing tool. This usually takes about 1½ - 2 hours depending on the number of volunteers available. Please contact Alan at the number or email below if you are coming to help with this task.

The Fall *Raptor Release* is back. This year the event will be on Saturday, September 23 and we will need lots of volunteers to help pull this off. A partial list of duties includes: parking, information, parking, perhaps help in the Apple Shack, and, did we mention parking? More details will be coming via email when the date gets closer.

Apple Fest takes place on October 7 - 8 and is an event where we need lots of volunteers. This is a fun, family-oriented event and volunteers help ensure everyone enjoys their visit. Duties include pumpkin painting, kid's crafts, bake sale, and everything that goes with a great time in the orchard. Call the number below to get on the email list for more info about how you can help with this event.

If you are interested in helping with any of these events, please call 651-437-4359 ext. 104 for Alan, the Volunteer Coordinator; or email alan@carpenternaturecenter.org.

Donate to Carpenter Nature Center

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Carpenter Nature Center heavily relies on the support of generous donors. Your contribution in any amount benefits environmental education and conservation for our community. Contact Erika Jensen at 651-437-4359 ext. 101 or erika@carpenternaturecenter.org for more information

'Friends of CNC' Program

Your financial contribution through the 'Friends of CNC' program is essential to helping us serve the community by:

- Keeping our facilities free and open to the public 361 days per year
- Providing quality environmental education programs at significantly reduced fees
- Protecting 725-acres of critical wildlife habitat on both sides of the St. Croix River
- Providing an inspiring place for our community to connect with nature

In return for your generosity, you will receive special benefits, the greatest of which is knowing you are making incredible learning experiences possible for thousands of people every year:

- A one-year subscription to the St. Croix Current newsletter, published three times annually
- Free snowshoe rentals, reduced or free admission to select CNC programs, and Apple Shack discounts
- Subscription to our monthly email newsletter

You can make a one-time annual donation or split your contribution into monthly sustaining gifts. Either way, there is a giving option for everyone:

Individual: \$25-\$49 Family: \$50-\$99 Donor: \$100-\$249 Patron: \$250-\$499 Benefactor: \$500-\$999 St. Croix Society: \$1,000-\$2,999 Eagle Society: \$3,000-\$4,999 Director's Council: \$5,000 & above

Consider giving the gift of CNC to your loved ones! By sponsoring their enrollment in the 'Friends of CNC' program, your friends and family members will enjoy a gift that keeps on giving all year round.



There are several convenient ways to make your donation:

- Call 651-437-4359 ext. 101 and pay over the phone
- Access a print-and-mail form on the CNC website
- Make a convenient online payment by visiting <u>carpenternaturecenter.org/friends</u> or scanning the QR code below!



Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

In Honor of

Irene Koelewijn & Andrew Bertram from Gerben Koelewijin **Mayme Johnson's Retirement** from Andrew & Muriel Janneke and Karl Willson

In Memory of

Paul Boettcher from Jacquelyn Batz, Clark & Susan Duffey, Karin Dunn, Judith Fitcha, Michael Ford, Connor Hood, Steve & Mayme Johnson, William Johnson, Tom & Betty Kieffer, Gwen Meyer, Jodi Mork, John & Gwynn Mundinger, Anne Patteson, Donald & Joyce Rodahl, Alison Shea, Bethany Silfer, Sonia Thampi, Greg & Jennifer Vieth, Gary Wegner, and Robert & Jean Wise

Donald Buck from Greg & Jennifer Vieth Mary Fuith from Loren & Pam Albin, Mike DeBois, Lu Heggerness, Steve & Mayme Johnson, Amy Sonnek, Yvonne Szatkowski, Sonia Thampi, Greg & Jennifer Vieth, and US Bank Law Division

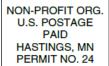
Bob and Joyce (Jo) Horak from Bonnie Bailey, MaryKay Buresh, Gregg & Susan Coghill, Gary Jacobson, Marge Koch, Donald Splichal, Douglas Tufte, Randy Weyer, Linda Will, and Greg & Jennifer Vieth Jim Keller from Susan Abderholden, Christine Anfinson,

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Kathleen Michels, Eb Mengistu, Thomas & Margaret Nelson,
Maureen Otwell, Eugenia Potosky, Debby Reisinger,
Marcia Robert, Jennifer Sedivy, Ron & Linda Stancer,
Kathleen Vanderwall, Patrice Vick, and Greg & Jennifer Vieth
Iris Reddeman from Loren & Pam Albin

Ruth Schwichtenberg Nyquist from Loren & Pam Albin Jim Pratt from Jim & Judy Freund Colette Ruemmele from Jim & Judy Freund John Szatkowski from Loren & Pam Albin and Greg & Jennifer Vieth

Larry Wagner from Patricia Bauer, Joannie Becker,
April Bendt, Harrison Benjamin, Bill & Betty Berg,
Linda Bindman, Carolyn Bonanno, Gregory Carlson,
Doug & Ann Duin, Ann Fitz, Julie Fox, Constance Housker,
Annette Johnson, Ken & Heather Kamrowski, Drew Karnick,
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Jim McGree, Craig Morrison, Darryl & Camille Nelson,
James Nolan, Scott & Jackie Northard, Michael Obler,
Mary Potter, Richard Raths, Kay Rowan, Suzanne Schanno,
Deb Seipp, Mary Shaughnessy, Lavonne Soleim, Anne Strodhoff,
Marlene Swanson, Tom Trautmann,

Greg & Jennifer Vieth, Claudia Wagner, Randy Wagner, Lisa Walther, Francis Weber, and Lois Wroge





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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.



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 ext. 114

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.

