Woodland Dunes Nature Center
Dunesletter

From the Director

Woodland Dunes Nature Center is on one hand a mosaic of wild elements teeming with life. On another, it’s a refuge for people that gives us a place to explore, play and learn, while recovering from the stress of daily life. For our organization, it’s also a canvas upon which we try to optimize opportunities for all those elements. Some aspects are best simply protected and left alone, while others benefit from improvements we make.

We are in the fortunate position to be able to work with a number of partners on projects in our community and specifically, at Woodland Dunes. You may have noticed some significant changes already.

Wisconsin Public Service is helping us restore a wetland along Woodland Drive, which should greatly improve that property for wildlife including migratory birds. More than 15,000 yards of soil has been excavated. Native vegetation will now be reestablished with an emphasis on benefits for pollinating insects with the help of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) of the US Dept. of Agriculture. An observation platform will allow nature watchers to enjoy this property as well.

Prior to construction, volunteers and staff saved more than 1,500 monarch butterfly caterpillars and eggs, which were moved to other areas of the preserve or are being raised for release as adults.

Many other projects are very exciting. NRCS will be working with us to improve many other grassland acres for bees and butterflies. At the same time, the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be working with us to improve migratory bird habitat as part of the Restore the Shore Project in and near our preserve. Students from Silver Lake College will be involved in this project as well. Wisconsin DNR is also helping us with Phragmites management on the Twin Rivers and mapping of Japanese barberry in our forest. The Friends of the Twin Rivers group is also helping us with water quality monitoring.

Not only are we active with land management projects, but now we have the opportunity to improve our facilities here at the Nature Center. We have received a generous donation from Mrs. Laurel Alyea toward improvements to our barn, along with a donation of a beautiful telescope to be used for programming here at the Nature Center. A building to house the new telescope will also be built. Starting this fall, Cattail Trail will begin to be rebuilt. The boardwalk was installed over 30 years ago and with school children and visitors using the trail daily, it is now in need of repair. The Manitowoc Jaycees group has donated funds and volunteer time, along with donations from Janet Krivacek in memory of Anne Krivacek, to start repairing the first section of the trail. We continue to look for funding for the rest of the boardwalk.

We have also received a grant from the Pivot Rock Fund for educational display improvements in the Edna Smith Room. The project will start this fall and will hopefully be completed by the new year.

So although wildlife faces incredible challenges these days, we are working as hard as ever to provide appropriate habitat and improve our community as well.

-Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director
Fall Events

Contact Information:
Woodland Dunes Nature Center
3000 Hawthorne Ave
Two Rivers, WI 54241

Phone: (920) 793-4007
Website: www.woodlanddunes.org

Nature Center Hours:
Monday- Friday: 9am-4pm
Saturdays (April-October): 9am-12pm

Yoga at the Dunes
Wednesdays, September 2nd - October 28th
9:00-10:00am

Full Series (chose 8 of the 9 sessions offered):
$80 per adult; $40 per child under the age of 18

Individual Classes:
$12 per adult; $6 per child under the age of 18

Join certified yoga instructor Jennifer Jelenic for this fun and simple yoga series set in the beauty of nature at Woodland Dunes. No prior yoga experience necessary. Bring your mat or outdoor blanket, water, and wear comfortable clothing (light, long sleeves and long pants may help deter mosquitoes). We will find a different area to practice each week around the preserve. Some walking involved, with the building as an option if the weather is poor. Register with Jennifer at 920-242-4811 or with Woodland Dunes.

The Wonder of It All: Monarch Tagging Program
Wednesday, September 2nd
3:30-5:00pm

FREE - donations are appreciated

Help tag monarch butterflies before their long journey to Mexico. Local monarch enthusiast, Ann Shebesta, will explain the importance of tagging butterflies. Participants who have raised their own monarchs are invited to bring them, and they will be tagged and released. Meet at the Nature Center. If raining, program will take place on Thursday, September 3rd at the same time. Registration appreciated.
Sponsored by the Dominion Foundation.

Kids’ Nature Club
September 10th: Monarchs
October 8th: White-tailed Deer
November 12th: Mystery Art

All programs are 9:00-11:00am
9:00-10:00am: Guided Nature Hike
10:00-11:00am: Activities
$2 per participating child

All families with children and teens are invited to the Kid’s Nature Club! Enjoy a guided nature walk followed by a guided nature activity. Please bring weather appropriate clothing, binoculars if you have them, a water bottle and comfortable shoes/boots. Kids’ Nature Club is for all ages, especially young children. Children/teens must be accompanied by an adult. RSVP to Margaret Pauwels at obyrmi@yahoo.com or 732-1562, by the Monday before the program.

Birding with Bernie
Saturdays Sept. 19th, Oct. 10th & Nov. 7th
9:00am-Noon

FREE - donations are appreciated

Relax and enjoy the new bird viewing area, Chickadee Landing, inside the Nature Center. Join seasoned birder Bernie Brouchoud and identify and observe the birds as they come to the feeders. Stop in anytime between 9:00am and Noon.

Exploring the Landscape Family Series: Fall
Saturday, September 26th
9:30-11:30am

FREE - donations are appreciated

Join us for the last program of this series focusing on nature play and exploration for families with young children (children 10 and under). Enjoy fall activities that encourage outdoor play for both caregivers and children. This program is for the whole family! Registration required by Wednesday, September 23rd. Dress for the weather.

Produced under a 2014-2015 grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board with financial support from the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation.
**Star Party: Lunar Eclipse**  
Sunday, September 27th  
8:00-11:30pm  

FREE - donations are appreciated  

Join a local astronomer to observe the lunar eclipse through a telescope. Bring a lawn chair and your own telescope or binoculars if you wish. Weather and sky conditions permitting.

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**The Enchanted Forest**  
Saturday, October 3rd  
4:00-8:00pm  

Members: $4 per person  
Non-Members: $5 per person  
Children ages 2 and under are free  

Journey along a candlelit trail and meet some of Mother Nature’s favorite (costumed) animals. This event is an outdoor, self-guided hike with surprises around every turn! Enjoy warm refreshments inside and games and activities outside. This event is educational, not scary. Please wear costumes and warm clothes.  
**Registration required.** Call or email to reserve a tour time soon. Times fill quickly!

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**The Wonder of It All: Water Quality in Southern Manitowoc County Streams: Students, Data, Issues, and Solutions**  
Tuesday, October 6th  
6:00-7:30pm  

FREE - donations are appreciated  

The Lakeshore Water institute, a collaboration between UW-Manitowoc and Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, has been collecting water quality data on streams in southern Manitowoc County over the past five years. Rick Hein and Rebecca Abler will discuss the sampling completed by their UW-Manitowoc students, data collected, results, and potential impacts on area beaches and Lake Michigan. They will also identify potential avenues for action to improve water quality and discuss the value of having students working on real, hands-on scientific research in the community.  
**Registration required by Friday, October 2nd.**  
Sponsored by the Dominion Foundation and co-hosted by Woodland Dunes and the Friends of the Twin Rivers.

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**Saw-whet Owl Banding Programs**  
Friday, October 23rd  
Session 1: 7:00-8:30pm  
Session 2: 8:30-10:00pm  

Members: $10  
Non-members: $15  

Woodland Dunes has been banding northern Saw-whet owls for research for 40 years. This is your chance to learn about the banding process and observe these interesting owls. Learn about all Wisconsin owl species through an indoor program. Then meet the owl banding team, see how the owls are banded and watch their release. Weather permitting, rain date Saturday, October 24th.  
**Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, October 21st.**  
Space is limited, no flash photography. Suitable for children ages 7 and up.

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**Owl Fest**  
Saturday, October 17th  
9:00am -Noon  

Members: $15 family, $5 individual  
Non-Members: $20 family, $8 individual  

Join us for an exciting morning learning about Wisconsin owls! Enjoy kids’ activities, nature walks and a kids’ owl hooting contest. Meet live owls and raptors at presentations by Wildlife of Wisconsin. Baked goods will be available for purchase. This event is wonderful for families, but all ages are welcome.  
**The event takes place at the Nature Center.**
Fall Events

Herbal Soap Making: Hands on Fun!
Tuesday, October 27th
6:00-8:30pm

Members: $35
Non-members: $40

Join herbalist Linda Conroy for this fun hands on soap making workshop. We will start out learning the basics of soap making and then dive into a hands-on experience. Soaps will be made with herbs, as well as fresh goat’s milk. Everyone will go home with 6-9 bars of soap made in class, along with the instructions and recipes for making soap at home. All supplies provided.

Registration and payment required by Friday, October 23rd.

The Wonder of It All: High Altitude Trekking and Mountaineering, When You are Past Fifty!
Wednesday, November 11th
6:00-8:00pm

FREE - donations are appreciated

Award winning author Ed Abell will take you along on his journeys to: Mt. Fuji, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Adams (Mountaineering school), Mt. Everest Base Camp (with a climbing expedition, and his father’s ashes), across the Grand Canyon, and a Class 3 scramble up one of Colorado’s 14ers (Mt. Sneffels). His presentation includes: route maps, photographs, some climbing gear, hopefully, a few laughs, and no questions left unanswered, well mostly. Copies of his book, My Father’s Keep: A Journey of Forgiveness through the Himalaya, will be for sale.

Registration and payment required by Friday, October 23rd.

Save the Date:
Herbal Gift Making Class with Linda Conroy:
Wednesday, December 9th from 6:00-8:30pm

Christmas Bird Count for Kids:
Saturday, December 19th from 9:00-11:30am

Farm to Table Fundraiser

Thank you to our sponsors and to everyone who came to support us at the Farm to Table Dinner Fundraiser. We raised over $10,000 to support environmental education programs thanks to all the individuals, organizations and businesses who believe in our mission!

Next year, we are looking forward to ordering local ingredients from surrounding farms and having Holiday Inn’s chefs cook the meal! We will also have local beverages, live music, and a silent and live auction. More details to come in spring.

-Corrissa Frank, Marketing & Development Coordinator

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Thank You

Education Support
Thank you to all Teacher Naturalists (TN) who helped with summer programs! We could not offer these programs without you!

Memorials
In memory of Marie Kloss
Harold & Catherine Charlier
Jeffrey & Holly Heinen
Sandra Scheer
Donald & Sharon Charlier
Family & Friends of Marie Kloss
Monique Charlier
Connie Thorne
Bill & Carol Heinen
Camille & Jan Charlier
Jeanne Labish
In memory of Lois Bush
From her children: Kathy Taddy, Scott, Eric, and Chris Bush
In memory of Glen Rauschenberger
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Kiwanis Club of Two Rivers Foundation – Two Rivers Fish Derby, Inc.
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Jeff Edgar - In honor of Andrew & Stephanie Koeser’s daughters, Edith, Evelyn, & Elizabeth
Kay Kaufman
William Stegemann
Brian Wilkins

Butterfly Garden Memorial
Gregory Scheuer & Merrie Star

Grants
Pivot Rock Fund- Peter B. Cardinal

Matching Funds
Bristol-Meyers-Squibb
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New Members
Joel & Patti Trick
Jeanne Satori
David Larsen
Laura Rozoff
Tammie Gronewold

New Guarantors
Bill & Nan Webster
Scott & Vicki Wichlacz
My internship at Woodland Dunes has been so much more than I expected it to be. Walking in on the first day, I was expecting to be doing mostly invasive species control and habitat restoration; I couldn’t have been more wrong. While I have been involved in extensive invasive species control and habitat restoration, that was just a small part of my job. Take a walk around the Nature Center and you will see my involvement in multiple projects. My favorite part of my internship has been the construction projects. Most recently, I built a pergola over our existing front porch to add shade and enhance the bird viewing area. While most of my projects have been behind the scenes, I really enjoyed working outside, looking back at my work week and seeing that I made a big impression on how the property looks. I thoroughly enjoyed my short time working here at Woodland Dunes Nature Center.

-Alek Henseler

I can hardly believe that my summer at Woodland Dunes is over! If I were to go back and ask myself one year ago what I thought I would be doing this summer for a job, I would have never placed myself at a nature center. I am so thankful to have been an environmental education intern. This summer has been so rewarding. I acquired a lot of teaching experience, learned so much about birds, plants, and pond life, and I became a part of a wonderful staff. Being involved in Little Wings Camp was a complete blast because Jess and I were able to have fun with seven children for three hours everyday for a whole week! Their enthusiasm about learning and nature really made that week one of the best weeks of the summer. Thank you Woodland Dunes for an unforgettable summer!

-Breanna Gosh

My internship this summer at Woodland Dunes was such a great experience. I enjoyed coming to work, knowing that I would learn something new about our environment and that every day was going to be different. Some of my favorite parts of the internship were removing invasive species, educating children about nature and attending several bird and bat surveys. I would like to thank all who helped make this internship a great learning experience, one that I will carry with me into my career path when I graduate next spring.

-Erica Groelle
Summer is a time of sunshine, fresh air, picnics and activity. Woodland Dunes provides a setting to explore nature and experience all that is summer. The season kicked off with a celebration of International Mud Day on Monday, June 29th. This was our first time celebrating the holiday and it won’t be the last! Families investigated soil, painted with mud and played in the mud kitchen, complete with kiddie pools of mud, a wheel barrow of water, pie pans, spoons and more. At first, the kids daintily touched the mud with their fingers. Soon, they took off their shoes, stepped in and let the mud squish between their toes. Eventually, kids were painting their legs and arms with mud paint, plopping in the mud pools and making wonderful, muddy pies. To wash off, everyone ran through a sprinkler. It was a mudder-ific time and I look forward to next year’s celebration.

In July, we piloted a new Little Wings Summer Camp for preschool-aged children. Each day the kids learned about something in nature with wings, played games, and explored the outdoors. The kids had fun eating like butterflies, testing seeds by dropping them off the tower to see if they float, meeting a live song bird and hiking the trails near the Nature Center. Some of the campers’ favorite activities included free play in the Little Wings Nature Play Area at the end of each day, Drip, Drip, Drench (Duck, Duck, Goose with water) and dipping in the pond. Watch our calendar in late winter for information about next year’s summer camps.

We also offered Nature Time Tuesdays and Little Wings Family Programs, which were well attended by families. Additionally, several day cares and other groups attended the Summer Program or a similar field trip at the Nature Center. Visitors experienced the magic of twinkling fireflies at dusk at the Firefly Night program. Adults and children peered through telescopes to view the craters on the moon, Jupiter and other objects in the night sky at the Star Parties. Add in a few bat monitoring walks, a library program, a native pollinators program and you have one busy summer! Thank you to everyone who stopped at the Nature Center to say hello, attended a program or volunteered their time. You all contributed to the fun and fullness of the summer season.

-Jessica Johnsrud, Education Coordinator & Assistant Director
This summer has been fun and exciting in the world of land management. We completed work funded by a WI Department of Administration Coastal Management grant, and in cooperation with the City of Two Rivers, removed invasive buckthorn, honeysuckle, and barberry species from 20 acres of land including both Zander Park (City of Two Rivers) and part of the Woodland Dunes State Natural Area. Without the partnership with the city, we would not have been able to receive this funding. In total, 800 native trees and shrubs were planted and protected from deer and rabbits.

The deer hunter volunteers, as well as volunteers from many local schools, logged over 700 volunteer hours. As an added bonus, Cullin Hiliker, an Eagle Scout candidate, constructed two Aldo Leopold benches and planted native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers next to Zander Park on Columbus Street, creating a bird viewing area. The State Natural Area had some dense pockets of invasive species but, for the most part, were scattered throughout the area. Zander Park’s understory consisted mainly of invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle. The outcome is a striking difference in appearance as well as the amount of sunlight penetrating down to the forest floor and we expect to see a lot of new growth with the increased light exposure.

We have also been actively controlling wild parsnip, both at the first known location within the preserve and along roadsides close to the preserve. Other control projects for this fall include Japanese knotweed at locations surrounding Woodland Dunes including near the Manitowoc Yacht Club, the Shoto Dam and the Woodland Clinic. We also have helped control Phragmites on the East Twin River and West Twin River up to the first dams as part of a five year control and restoration effort funded by the DNR, Phragmites control at the county recycling center, Manitowoc River, and wildlife ponds near Woodland Dunes, funded by a grant from LNRP and barberry control on Woodland Dunes property, also funded by the DNR.

As you can see, a lot was accomplished this summer and more projects need to be completed this fall. Since we had so many volunteer hours from deer hunters and schools this summer, we did not have regularly scheduled Barberryan days. We will continue to control invasive species throughout fall and into winter. Please contact Jennifer Powell at 920-793-4007 or jenniferp@woodlanddunes.org for information on how you can help with these efforts as volunteers will continue to be needed.

-Jennifer Powell, Land Management Coordinator

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**Ways of Giving**

Woodland Dunes is a non-profit organization and provides educational programs for youth and adults while maintaining 1300 acres of land for the community to enjoy free of charge.

Please consider making a donation.

I wish to support Woodland Dunes with the following donation:

$10____ $25____ $50____ $100____ $200____ Other____

Name (please print)________________________ Phone________________________

Address________________________________________________________

City________________________ State______ Zip________________

Please make checks payable to Woodland Dunes and return this form with your donation:

Woodland Dunes, P.O. Box 486, Two Rivers, WI 54241
NEW Projects

Wetland Mitigation

Woodland Dunes partnered with Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) on a successful wetland restoration project on Woodland Drive. Woodland Dunes employees treated many acres of invasive reed canary grass during site preparation prior to the wetland construction. The wetland construction is complete, and with additional funding received from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, it will be planted with wildflowers which benefit pollinators throughout the entire growing season.

Wildlife Deck

A donation was received from the Haupt family and friends in memory of Mary Haupt to plant native bushes and shrubs in front of the bird viewing area, and to create a wildlife seating area.

The seating area overlooks the Little Wings Outdoor play area and is a great space for families and individuals to enjoy our facilities.

Environmental Displays

We recently received a donation from the Pivot Rock Fund to update our environmental education displays. Renovations will be made this fall into the winter, with hopes of a grand opening at the beginning of 2016. We look forward to sharing these improvements with our visitors!

Barn and Trail Improvements

With the generous donation from Laurel Alyea, we are able to start improving our barn. The funds will be used to install a new roof, build a small building to house the new telescope, and update the inside of the barn to create a space that can be used for programming and events. We are very excited about the possibilities!

The Manitowoc Jaycees also gave a donation, and offered volunteers to start repairing Cattail Trail, as it is heavily used for school programming. These funds combined with donations from Janet Krivacek in memory of Anne Krivacek will help repair the first section. The boardwalk was originally installed over 30 years ago, and the railing was added about 10 years ago. These improvements will prolong the life of the boardwalk and allow students coming on school field trips to continue using this resource. Thousands of students each year use Cattail Trail to pond dip and learn about different types of wetlands. We continue to seek funding to repair the entire boardwalk.
Woodland Dunes Nature Center
P.O. Box 486
Two Rivers, WI 54241-0486
woodlanddunes.org

Headquarters and Nature Shop
Hwy. 310 West of Two Rivers

Hours
Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm
Saturday: 9am-12pm (April-October)

Contact
Phone: (920) 793-4007
Email: nature@woodlanddunes.org
Website: www.woodlanddunes.org
Facebook: Look up Woodland Dunes in Two Rivers, WI and like our page!

Staff
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Jim Knickelbine
Assistant Director/Education Coordinator
Jess Johnsrud
Marketing and Development Coordinator
Corrissa Frank
Land Management Coordinator
Jennifer Powell
Administrative Assistant
Tina Kvitek

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