FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ready, Set, Spring! After the winter we’ve had, we should be ready for mud and slush and all those good things that make fresh green foliage seem even more wonderful. It’s good to freshen things up, even within our organization. You’ve probably already noticed a change in our appearance. After some discussion involving our staff and Board, we’ve decided to update our logo, not that we don’t love our saw-whet owl, but we want to visually encompass other important aspects about Woodland Dunes - the forest, ridges and swales, a wetland, and our connection to Lake Michigan. The logo also displays the majesty of a soaring osprey, which has become an integral part of our summers at the Nature Center.

We’re also welcoming three new members to our Board of Directors: Dr. Rebecca Abler, biology instructor at UW Manitowoc, Bill Hoeltke, Vice President at Country Visions Cooperative, and Mark McLaughlin, recently retired but formerly with Felician Village and Holy Family Memorial. We are sincerely grateful for their willingness to help further our mission.

We are also grateful to be remembered in the estate of longtime friend, Grace Peppard. Grace bequeathed a portion of her estate to our general endowment fund. (We actually have two endowment funds, one general and one for education). We hope that more friends will contribute to these funds, ensuring the legacy of our organization.

We have many projects on deck for the coming year: several habitat restorations, the exciting development of a canoe/kayak trail on the Twin Rivers in cooperation with the City, and much more. As we map out these priorities, we are increasingly aware of the vulnerability of the land, and the effort it will take to protect its species. It’s becoming obvious that we face two great threats in the future- a warming climate that threatens the composition of plants and animals in our preserve, and the invasive emerald ash borer and the damage it does. According to the DNR, our ridges and swales are at highest risk of disruption of all Great Lakes coastal wetland types as a result of climate change, and because green ash trees dominate large areas of our forest, it’s only a matter of time before we see the ash borer here. Dealing with these two threats, in addition to an overabundance of deer and invasive plant species, will challenge our capacity and resources but the work must be done.

Onward into spring, with all of its joys and challenges. Let’s see how much good we can bring to our little corner of the world.

~ Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director
Johnsrud Receives Honor from Chamber

Our very own Education Coordinator, Jessica Johnsrud, received the Manitowoc County Chamber’s Education Impact Award on Tuesday, Feb. 7th at their 100th Annual Dinner & Meeting. The award states, “In recognition of an exceptionally dedicated educator.”

Jess graduated from UW-Stevens Point where she majored in Biology, but soon moved into the field of Environmental Education. She has excelled immensely as our Education Coordinator. She’s responsible for providing meaningful, science-based education to six thousand school children and adults each year using curricula that meets current State and national standards. She manages several of the Center’s largest events, successfully working with dozens of volunteers. Her field trip programs consistently receive the highest rating on teacher evaluations, she is, as one elementary school student described her, “a joy to be around.” Jess exemplifies the qualities that result in effective education in a non-traditional setting, and she represents the spirit of Woodland Dunes to the fullest.

Congratulations, Jess!

Spaghetti Dinner Rescheduled

The Spaghetti Dinner has been rescheduled to Monday, March 20th from 4:00-7:00 pm.

Location: Two Rivers Family Restaurant. $8 per plate. Baked goods available for purchase. Enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner and support Woodland Dunes Nature Center at the same time! All proceeds support environmental education programs. No reservations required.

Woodland Dunes Wish List

- 25 padded and stackable chairs
- Printer(s)
- Bird seed
- New laptop computer

Bird Breakfast & Migration Celebration

Saturday, May 20th | 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m

Celebrating spring and the return of many of our migratory songbirds! Guided bird hikes, kids games and activities on deck. Be watching our website for more details.

5K Dash at the Dunes

Dash with us to help support our beautiful habitat and children’s nature-based education programs!

Dash on April 22nd from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Register by April 8th: $30 per adult $10 per child (12 and under) Guaranteed T-Shirt

Register by April 15th: $35 per adult $10 per child (12 and under) Guaranteed T-Shirt

Register by April 21st: $45 per adult $15 per child (12 and under) Guaranteed T-Shirt

Guaranteed T-Shirt for all participants pre-registered by April 14th

Bus shuttle: A bus will shuttle participants back to Aurora Hospital between 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Trip Advisor Review from July 2016

“Delightful experienced”

Reviewed July 26, 2016

We happened to join an “every-Friday” guided bird walk with the Director, a few interns and local birders, and other novices. This was a great experience—having them id birds from sound as well as help id those we saw; explanation of the various habitats we covered as well as description of other trails we could do on our own. They made you feel welcome and we saw at least two new birds we had not seen before. There is a great board walk through various types of habitat, so it is comfortable and safe to go alone as well. Everyone at the Center was pleasant and helpful. This would be a favorite spot is we lived in the area.

Visited July 2016

Fun Fact:

Woodland Dunes will be featured in the Spring edition of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine which has an estimated readership of 350,000 people.
Mixed Level Flow Yoga with RYT Jennifer Jelenic

Wednesdays in March, April and May
6:00-7:15PM
Drop-in fee: $12 or purchase a class pass $50/5 classes
This ‘yoga flow’ class will help build strength, flexibility and stamina. Each class begins with a meditation and gentle warm up for the spine and muscle body to deepen your mind-body connection. Class appropriate for all levels, with modifications demonstrated so every “body” has the opportunity to experience yoga safely. Dress for movement and comfort. Props are on site, however feel free to bring your mat. Contact Jennifer at 920-242-4871 or visit www.yogafem.com for more information.

SNOGA at the Dunes
Saturday, March 11th
9:00-10:30AM
Members: $2/child | Non-members: $3/child
Experience the wonders of nature with your 2-5 year old through nature hikes, play and guided activities. Help your child notice the natural world and ignite their curiosity!
Registration required by the Monday before each program. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather.

Nature’s Garden
Saturday, March 11th
1:00-2:30PM
*Program held in the Behringer Room inside the J.E. Hamilton Community House at 1710 W. Park St. in Two Rivers
Join nature and garden author/radio host Rob Zimmerman for a look at great ways to create wildlife habitat right at home, no matter how large or small your property. Explore excellent ways to get closer to birds, butterflies, bees and more, right in your own backyard. Materials and other resources will be available for home gardeners. Registration required by Thursday, March 9th. Co-sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant and the Friends of the Twin Rivers.

Midwest Annual Crane Count
Saturday, April 8th | 5:30AM
Only a few sandhill cranes were left in Wisconsin in the 1930’s, but due to protection, their population now exceeds 10,000. Each year volunteers visit designated sites in Manitowoc County to count courting sandhill cranes. If you would like to help, or join a seasoned crane counter to learn the technique, contact Jim at nature@woodlanddunes.org for more information.

Star Party
Saturday, May 6th
9:00-10:30PM
Join astronomers Al and Ben and view night sky constellations, the moon and other celestial objects through the big telescope in the Sky Shed! Bring a lawn chair and your own telescope or binoculars if you wish. Weather and sky conditions permitting. Program takes place outside the Nature Center. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Raising a Wild Child Preschool Program
Thursdays March 9th, April 13th & May 11th
9:00-10:30AM
Members: $2/child | Non-members: $3/child
Experience the wonders of nature with your 2-5 year old through nature hikes, play and guided activities. Help your child notice the natural world and ignite their curiosity!
Registration required by the Monday before each program. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather.

Maple Syrup Program for Families
Saturday, March 18th
9:00-10:30AM
Members: $4/person or $10/family
Non-Members: $5/person or $15/family
Bring the kids to discover why March is the sweeter time of year! Learn about the syrup making process and taste real maple syrup on popcorn. Dress for the weather and be prepared to walk a short distance to the program site. Activities best suited for kids age 5 and up, but younger siblings are welcome. Space is limited, registration required by March 15th.

Nature Artists Summer Camp
(Ages 8-12)
Wednesday, July 26
12:00-3:00PM
Members: $20 | Non-members: $30
Let creativity be your guide as you gather inspiration from the outdoors and make fabulous works of art to take home. This will be a creative camp, using nature as the inspiration and source of beautiful artwork.

Little Wings Summer Camp
(Ages 4, 5 & 6 not completed kindergarten)
Monday, June 26 – Friday, June 30
9:00AM-Noon
Members: $95 | Non-Members: $115
Every day is an adventure for Little Wings campers! Explore the outdoors and learn about things with wings! Each day will include a snack, crafts, free-play in the Little Wings nature play area and lots of outdoor exploration and activities! Families are invited to join their campers for a celebration on Friday at 11:00am.

Parents and kids are invited to join their campers for a celebration on Friday at 11:00am.

Frog, Toads & Salamanders Summer Camp
(Ages 4-7)
Wednesday, July 5
1:00-3:00PM
Members: $12 | Non-members: $20
Meet the amazing amphibians of Woodland Dunes! Learn about their lifecycle and even what they sound like. Try your luck catching frogs and tadpoles in the ponds by the Nature Center. This is an interactive camp for young learners!

Homeschool Families Summer Camp
(Ages 6-10)
Wednesday, June 14
12:30-3:00PM
Members: $20 | Non-members: $30
Calling all bird enthusiasts! Learn how to use binoculars, where to look for birds and other essential birding skills. Enjoy a guided bird hike in the preserve and watch how birds are banded for research (weather permitting).

Woodland Dunes Princess Summer Camp
(Ages 4-6)
Wednesday, August 9
12:30-3:00PM
Members: $20 | Non-members: $30
Do princesses wear hiking boots? They do when exploring their natural kingdom! Woodland Dunes Princesses will enjoy teatime, make nature crowns, search for frogs and more! Wear princess attire that can get dirty and hiking/tennis shoes, of course!

To register or register for a program, call the Nature Center at 920-793-4007 or email Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org.
Land Management

We’ve spent much of the winter taking advantage of the mild weather and finishing invasive species removal projects from 2016. We’re also focusing on spring-coordinating tree, shrub, wildflower, and native grass orders as we are replacing invasive species with natives, and diversifying our forests and prairies.

Our preserve faces many threats. The emerald ash borer now surrounds our area, and green ash trees dominate large portions of our forest. A recent study by the DNR listed the Great Lakes ridges and swales community as the only coastal wetland habitat at high risk of degradation due to warming (climate change); our preserve is one of the few remnants of that habitat on western Lake Michigan. An overpopulation of deer threatens our native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, preventing natural forest regeneration and degrading pollinator prairies into grass-dominated communities. Disturbed habitat also provides an opportunity for invasive species encroachment from surrounding areas.

Now, more than ever, we need focused land management. We are planting bigger, native trees and shrubs to help prevent deer browse, increasing their survival rate and preventing our ash-dominated forest from becoming an invasive-dominated forest. We’re also planting native prairies for pollinators, providing habitat for species such as monarch butterflies and possibly rusty patch bumblebees. Work is being done on restoring wetlands and sensitive native wildflowers, which historically grew in our preserve. We have an active deer management program and have applied to partner with the DNR’s Deer Management Assistance Program to get a better understanding of our deer population and its relationship to our ecosystems.

We can always use your help. These are large undertakings and aren’t possible without our staff, interns, and volunteers working together. If you’re interested in helping with land management projects, please contact Jeni at 920-793-4007 or jenniferp@woodlanddunes.org.

Maple Syrup Sugar Shack Coming!

Thanks to Gary Drohman, generous donor of a maple syrup evaporator, we are now able to take our syrup-making to a new level. With this gift, we are faced with the exciting opportunity to build a proper “sugar shack” to house our new equipment. Fortunately, we have a slab that can be used as a foundation at our Field Station. We also have volunteers eager and ready to construct the building. The cost of the materials is modest and we already have several people willing to donate some of the necessary funds, but to really make it go we’re seeking additional contributions. Would you like to be a part of this project? Your support is a great way to honor or remember someone who loved the outdoors and will help us educate people about the sustainable use of forest resources. Please contact us if you are interested in making a donation toward this sweet project!

SPOT THE CAUSE is an opportunity to support a local not-for-profit organization through your purchase of selected merchandise at Country Visions Cooperative. Look for the RED STICK to see the item and offer for the current Cause.

Maple Syrup Sugar Shack

Land Management

In memory of James Anderson
Dale & Suzanne Wieting
Bruce & Laura Rowe
James & Sharon Rath
Jen & James Orvis

In memory of Robert & Lois Bush
Jeffrey & Julie Rathbun

In memory of Mrs. Gerald Nelson
Helen Bleser
in memory of Grace Peppard
Helen Bleser

In memory of Lee Bray
Charles & Marilyn Sontag
Kyla Philbrook
Gail Zinkel
Jim & Sue Luther
Don & Jeanie Miller
Gerald & Nancy Perreault
Mary Jacobi
James & Ann Perreault
Mary Schultz
Friends & Family of Lee
Michael & Elizabeth Gigl
Rozemarie Bug
John & Sharon Brey

In memory of Russell Shambour
Helen Bleser

In honor of Jessica Johnsrud
Darkene Waterstreet

Land Management/Invasive Species

Brenda Weyers
Shana Shoblaska
Roger & Darlene Meissner
Douglas Manz
Rosemary Bodart
Nick & Lisa Novachek
Dale Schultz
Chris Rusch

Land Restoration Projects

Janet Krivacek & Randy Gage

Memorials/Honorarials

In memory of James Anderson
Dale & Suzanne Wieting
Bruce & Laura Rowe
James & Sharon Rath
Jen & James Orvis

In memory of Robert & Lois Bush
Jeffrey & Julie Rathbun

In memory of Mrs. Gerald Nelson
Helen Bleser
in memory of Grace Peppard
Helen Bleser

In memory of Lee Bray
Charles & Marilyn Sontag
Kyla Philbrook
Gail Zinkel
Jim & Sue Luther
Don & Jeanie Miller
Gerald & Nancy Perreault
Mary Jacobi
James & Ann Perreault
Mary Schultz
Friends & Family of Lee
Michael & Elizabeth Gigl
Rozemarie Bug
John & Sharon Brey

In memory of Russell Shambour
Helen Bleser

In honor of Jessica Johnsrud
Darkene Waterstreet

Land Management/Invasive Species

Brenda Weyers
Shana Shoblaska
Roger & Darlene Meissner
Douglas Manz
Rosemary Bodart
Nick & Lisa Novachek
Dale Schultz
Chris Rusch

Land Restoration Projects

Janet Krivacek & Randy Gage

Memorials/Honorarials

In memory of James Anderson
Dale & Suzanne Wieting
Bruce & Laura Rowe
James & Sharon Rath
Jen & James Orvis

In memory of Robert & Lois Bush
Jeffrey & Julie Rathbun

In memory of Mrs. Gerald Nelson
Helen Bleser
in memory of Grace Peppard
Helen Bleser

In memory of Lee Bray
Charles & Marilyn Sontag
Kyla Philbrook
Gail Zinkel
Jim & Sue Luther
Don & Jeanie Miller
Gerald & Nancy Perreault
Mary Jacobi
James & Ann Perreault
Mary Schultz
Friends & Family of Lee
Michael & Elizabeth Gigl
Rozemarie Bug
John & Sharon Brey

In memory of Russell Shambour
Helen Bleser

In honor of Jessica Johnsrud
Darkene Waterstreet

Land Management/Invasive Species

Brenda Weyers
Shana Shoblaska
Roger & Darlene Meissner
Douglas Manz
Rosemary Bodart
Nick & Lisa Novachek
Dale Schultz
Chris Rusch

Land Restoration Projects

Janet Krivacek & Randy Gage

Memorials/Honorarials

In memory of James Anderson
Dale & Suzanne Wieting
Bruce & Laura Rowe
James & Sharon Rath
Jen & James Orvis

In memory of Robert & Lois Bush
Jeffrey & Julie Rathbun

In memory of Mrs. Gerald Nelson
Helen Bleser
in memory of Grace Peppard
Helen Bleser

In memory of Lee Bray
Charles & Marilyn Sontag
Kyla Philbrook
Gail Zinkel
Jim & Sue Luther
Don & Jeanie Miller
Gerald & Nancy Perreault
Mary Jacobi
James & Ann Perreault
Mary Schultz
Friends & Family of Lee
Michael & Elizabeth Gigl
Rozemarie Bug
John & Sharon Brey

In memory of Russell Shambour
Helen Bleser

In honor of Jessica Johnsrud
Darkene Waterstreet

Land Management/Invasive Species

Brenda Weyers
Shana Shoblaska
Roger & Darlene Meissner
Douglas Manz
Rosemary Bodart
Nick & Lisa Novachek
Dale Schultz
Chris Rusch

Land Restoration Projects

Janet Krivacek & Randy Gage

Memorials/Honorarials

In memory of James Anderson
Dale & Suzanne Wieting
Bruce & Laura Rowe
James & Sharon Rath
Jen & James Orvis

In memory of Robert & Lois Bush
Jeffrey & Julie Rathbun

In memory of Mrs. Gerald Nelson
Helen Bleser
in memory of Grace Peppard
Helen Bleser

In memory of Lee Bray
Charles & Marilyn Sontag
Kyla Philbrook
Gail Zinkel
Jim & Sue Luther
Don & Jeanie Miller
Gerald & Nancy Perreault
Mary Jacobi
James & Ann Perreault
Mary Schultz
Friends & Family of Lee
Michael & Elizabeth Gigl
Rozemarie Bug
John & Sharon Brey

In memory of Russell Shambour
Helen Bleser

In honor of Jessica Johnsrud
Darkene Waterstreet
WOODLAND DUNES NATURE CENTER

Headquarters & Nature Shop
Hwy 310 West of Two Rivers

Hours
Monday - Friday: 9 am - 4 pm
Saturday: 9 am - 12 pm (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
Executive Director Jim Knickelbine
Assistant Director/ Education Coordinator Jess Johnsrud
Communications & Development Coordinator Nancy Nabak
Land Management Coordinator Jennifer Klein
Administrative Assistant Tina Kvitak

Board of Directors
Chairman Tom Kocourek
Vice Chairman Bruce Robinson
Treasurer Troy Christiansen
Secretary Lyn Brouchoud

Board Members
Rebecca Abler
Helen Bleser
Ed Brey
Robert Gahl
Jon Henry
Bill Hoeltke
Susan Knorr
Ellen Lewellen
Mark McLaughlin
Dolly McNulty
Charles Sontag
John Woodcock
Lucy Zeldenrust

Become a member or give a gift membership!

Name_____________________________________________________
Address____________________________________________________
City________________________________________________________
State______________________ Zip______________________________
Phone____________________________ Email________________________

☐ $25 Individual
☐ $35 Family
☐ $50 Patron
☐ $100 Contributor

Guarantors
☐ $250 Conservator
☐ $500 Benefactor
☐ $1,000 Steward
☐ $5,000 Guardian

Please send this form and your tax-deductible membership to Woodland Dunes!