

# Woodland Dunes Nature Center Dunesletter Winter 2015 & Volume 162

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### From the Director

It's been an exciting fall at the nature center and we're looking forward to the coming winter season. I've had the good fortune to be able to spend more time than last year working in the preserve and with our neighbors on land management. Our staff and contractors have been managing many acres of land for invasives this fall and planting to restore some of those areas. Our new wetland on Woodland Drive is already popular with waterfowl, shorebirds, and sandhill cranes even though the permanent vegetation hasn't yet been established. It's holding water well and will be an interesting enhancement to our mosaic of habitats in the preserve.



Almost every day from mid-September through early November there are groups visiting for education programs- from school groups of three-year-olds to garden clubs with senior citizens. To see the wonder on children's faces when they see a banded bird, examine a deer skull or even, dare I say, hug a tree- makes our staff and volunteers feel like we are doing something worthwhile. This morning as I was working on the banding station, I was treated to groups of four-year-olds walking the trails honking like geese and hooting like owls- it was wonderful, and the birds didn't seem to mind a few minutes of competition.

We have now enrolled in several programs through the NRCS with the help of their biologists (thank you Travis and Matt) to improve habitat in the preserve. There is great concern for the welfare of honeybees and other pollinators, so we will be improving more than 100 acres. Our staff will be planting and managing for native wildflowers that bloom in early, mid, and late summer with some extra milkweed for our large monarch population. Neighboring landowners are planning to enroll and do the same, which will increase the size of this habitat patch by 90 acres. This winter and spring, we'll also begin additional restoration work to benefit our forests and migratory birds under a grant we've received from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We have also applied for funding to restore parts of Forget Me Not Creek, which flows into Lake Michigan at the site of the Spirit of the Rivers project. Doing this would compliment the Spirit project, which honors Native People who lived along the Lakeshore, and benefits the ecosystem of our preserve.



We have received partial funding for reconstruction of the boardwalk, thanks to Janet Krivacek, Randy Gage and the Manitowoc Jaycees. We're also beginning to work on remodeling the barn. In a couple of weeks the new roof will be installed, materials have been ordered for a new building to house the telescope donated by Laurel Alyea, and work will begin on the building's foundation.

We are also designing new displays for the Edna Smith room, including new display cases and flooring for the restrooms and kitchen. This remodeling will also take place over the winter. We have received a grant to start this project from the Pivot Rock Fund, but would appreciate donations toward this effort to improve our most important teaching space for the benefit of our visitors. Improving our displays, which has not been done in years, will compliment the work we did last year to create our bird viewing area.

At our Field Station, we will be constructing a sugar shack to house the maple syrup pans and cooker which we received through a generous donation by Gary Drohman. This donation will benefit future maple syrup programs for 4th graders.

Each of you helps us continue to care for the life in our preserve and the facilities which bring people to appreciate it. Thank you for supporting our staff and volunteers who work hard to keep this place a haven for life. Please stop in to see what's happening in your preserve and enjoy what you are making possible.



### **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

All hiking trails except Cattail Trail and part of Willow Trail will be closed from Nov. 21st - Dec. 9th for the gun deer season.

### **Herbal Gift Making Class**

Wednesday, December 9th 6:00-8:30pm

> Members: \$35 Non-members: \$40

Join herbalist Linda Conroy for this fun, hands on class! Make 6-8 herbal items this holiday season! Gifts may include lotion, felted soap, herbal condiments, dream pillow, herbal tea blend and herbal massage oil. Learn about herb varieties while crafting too. All supplies and decorative packaging provided. Registration and payment required by Friday, December 4th.

### **Christmas Bird Count for Kids**

Saturday, December 19th 9:00-11:30am

\$2 per child

Learn birding basics at binocular boot camp, then enjoy a friendly morning of counting birds for the National Audubon Society's 116th Christmas Bird Count. Small groups led by experienced birders will walk a trail, document bird species and tabulate results. The bird count is for children ages 8 and up.

Kids ages 4-7 can join us for the Budding Birders program while their older siblings are on the trail. Learn about birds and help decorate for the birds! Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required by December 16th. Call 920-793-4007 or email jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org.

### Kids' Nature Club 9:00-11:30am

December 19th - We encourage you to participate in the Christmas Bird Count for Kids. More information on the left column of this page.

January - No meeting

February 11th - Guided nature hikes by snowshoe will be offered at 9:15am, 10:30am, etc. Please call to reserve your time and snowshoes.

\$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 obyrml@yahoo.com or

732-1562, by the Monday before the program.

### **Sunrise Solstice Walk**

Monday, December 21st 7:00am

FREE - donations appreciated

Enjoy coffee or tea and watch the sun rise on the shortest day of the year. After, take a guided, short walk along the Cattail Trail boardwalk. Registration required by Friday, December 18th.

### Spaghetti Dinner

Monday, January 18th 4:00-7:00pm Location: Two Rivers Family Restaurant

\$8 per plate Baked goods available for purchase

Enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner at the Two Rivers Family Restaurant and support Woodland Dunes Nature Center! All proceeds (50% per plate, plus tips) support environmental education programs.

No reservations required.



# Ice Age Visionary: Charles Whittlesey and the Origin of the Kettle Moraine

Thursday, January 21st 6:00-7:15pm

FREE - donations appreciated

The Kettle Moraine is Wisconsin's most famous glacial landscape, yet few people know of its importance in the early geological exploration of Wisconsin, and the adoption of the ice age theory. Join Nelson Ham, Professor of Geology and Environmental Science at St. Norbert College, and learn about early geologist and likely America's first glacial geologist, Charles Whittlesey. Whittlesey explored Eastern Wisconsin and eventually interpreted the formation of the Kettle Moraine as we still understand it today.

Registration required by Monday, January 18th.

### Candlelight Night

Saturday, February 6th 6:30-8:30 pm

Members: \$5; \$15 Family Non-Members: \$8; \$20 Family



Enjoy an evening stroll along a candlelit trail, live music and warm beverages. Learn about winter constellations (weather permitting) and enjoy an outdoor fire and s'mores. This night will be a fun, relaxing evening to enjoy with friends and family. Adult and kid's snowshoes available for use (if there's snow) or bring your own.

### Full Moon Walk

Monday, February 22nd 6:00-7:30 p.m.

FREE - donations appreciated \*Small fee for snowshoe rental if needed\*

Enjoy a self-guided walk, snowshoe or ski by the light of the full moon! Bring family and friends along for this great experience. If there is snow, adult and kids' snowshoes will be available to rent on a first come first served basis for \$5 per pair for members or \$8 per pair for non-members. You can also bring your own snow shoes or skis. *Note: the trails are not groomed.* 

### Save the Date!

### Intro to Home Cheese Making Class Tuesday, March 8th from 6:00-8:30pm

Join veteran cheese maker Linda Conroy to find out how simple it is to make cheese in your own kitchen. We will create and sample several simple styles of cheese that can be easily cultivated at home. More information to come!

### Dash at the Dunes 5K Trail Run/Walk Saturday, April 23rd from 10:00am-12:00pm

Join Woodland Dunes for our annual trail run/walk fundraiser! Come explore the beautiful trails while supporting our educational programs and events for youth and adults. Registration will be open at the beginning of 2016! Keep an eye on our Facebook page and webiste for more information.

### Bird Breakfast & Migration Celebration Saturday, May 14th from 8:00-11:00am

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Bird Breakfast! Enjoy a ham and pancake breakfast, bird banding, guided hikes and on-going children's activities. More information to come!



### **Education Support**

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

#### Memorials

In memory of Joseph Kupsh
Helen Bleser
In memory of William Torrison
Jack & Marie Kubitz
In memory of Valerie Rocheleau
Helen Bleser

### **Fund Drive Donors**

Gloria Wallace Mike & Debbie Timm Brian Wilkins

### **Donations**

Janet Krivacek & Randy Gage - Cattail Trail
Manitowoc Jaycees - Cattail Trail
Nancy Leigh - Network for Good Volunteer Match
Grace D. Boeder
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Alessandra Schwartz
Grace D. Boeder
Gary Sydow - Garden Cart
Gary Drohman - Maple Syrup Evaporator
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### **Grants**

Besadney Grant - *Native Tree Purchases* Cellcom Green Gifts - *Summer Education Programs* Jane & Arthur Stangel Fund Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership

### New Members

John K. Thompson Alessandra Schwartz Shana Shoblaska Bob & Sue Wallen

### Volunteer Spotlight Judy Bull



# How long have you volunteered at Woodland Dunes and what made you decide to become involved?

I retired from nursing in 2003 and wanted to remain active in our community through volunteer services. The next year, the local newspaper mentioned the need for help at Woodland Dunes Nature Center in the Butterfly Garden.

# What do you most enjoy about being involved with Woodland Dunes?

It is a fun experience meeting people as they walk through the gardens, watching the children as they explore and learn about nature. I also enjoy the birds and butterflies that I see and photograph in the garden.

Of course the staff at Woodland Dunes is the best! All are so pleasant and smiles about. How could anyone not be happy outdoors in nature!

# What are some of your other favorite hobbies or pastimes?

My other interests are volunteering at the Blood Center of Wisconsin and the Roger Street Fishing Village Museum. In my spare time, I like reading, golfing, beach walking, collecting shells and maintaining a garden on Mariner's Trail with our daughter.

### **Cellcom Green Gifts:**

Cellcom was able to donate over \$30,000 to the nonprofit community this year because of their cellphone recylcing program. Remeber - if you have an old phone that you are not using, you can donate it by dropping it off at either the Manitowoc or Two Rivers Cellcom locations. In the past seven years that Cellcom has offered this program, they were able to donate over \$100,000 in total to local charities. Woodland Dunes is so grateful to receive a donation this year from Cellcom of \$1,500 in support of our 2016 family summer programming!





### **Guarantors**

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Dr. Fred & Charlotte Alyea
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### **Enchanted Forest**

After two years cancelation due to poor weather, the Enchanted Forest event was a huge success! Thank you to the 211 participants and 24 volunteers and staff that contributed to the fun evening. Ant, Fox, Skunk, Spider and Owl all made appearances on the trail.











Thank you to Kohls who sponsored this event! Families enjoyed pumpkin toss, apple bobbing, the bone yard, a pumpkin walk, learning their bird fortune and sipping on hot cocoa or cider. We hope to see you next year!







### **Owl Fest**

Thank you to the 200+ people that attended Owl Fest! Everyone enjoyed meeting and learning about live owls and other birds of prey from Wildlife of Wisconsin (W.O.W.) Children enjoyed activities such as owl pellet dissection, learning about owl adaptations and owl calls for the kids' owl hooting contest. Guided nature walks, a bake sale and hot beverages were also offered. Thank you to our sponsors, Bob & JoAnn Weinert, Rahr West Art Museum, Jayne Purchatzke and Fricke Printing, and all the volunteers and staff that made this a fabulous event!



Jerry Theys from W.O.W with a Barn Owl



**Owl Pellet Disection** 



**Owl Hooting Contest** 





Once again, fall was a busy time for land management. Woodland Dunes staff treated 20 acres of Phragmites on the West Twin River and approximately ½ acre on the East Twin River. We also hired two contractors to help with these projects through our WI DNR aquatic invasive species control grant. One contractor treated most of the East Twin River, while the other used specialized equipment to reach Phragmites in difficult areas on both rivers. We had mapped a total of 60 acres of Phragmites on the two rivers last winter, however, some of that was killed from our first treatment last fall and some died off from the high water levels this year.

We have three years left of this grant project, with the last two years focusing more on planting native species to restore the shorelines. Woodland Dunes staff also treated Phragmites on private land near our preserve, funded by other grant opportunities. Treating Phragmites near the preserve is vital in protecting our ecosystems. We also treated Japanese knotweed on surrounding properties this fall through a grant from LNRP. Through a rapid response grant from the WI DNR, we mapped and began treating Japanese barberry on the preserve. Many volunteer hours have gone into this project, and we could not keep up with control without the help of our many volunteers.

Volunteers also removed ash tree seedlings from the prairie next to our restored wetland. This area is enrolled in an NRCS program for improving pollinator habitat. Our staff will be planting that area with a native prairie seed mix, with some native grasses and native wildflowers which bloom at different times throughout the growing season, following a controlled burn to reduce the amount of tree seedlings and invasive species in the area. There are many land management projects occurring, these are just the current highlights.

We will continue to be busy in the winter, controlling woody invasive species and ordering trees for spring planting. We are always in need of volunteers for invasive species work and plan on asking our Barberryans to assist with winter invasive species control. To become involved, call 920-793-4007 or email jenniferp@woodlanddunes.org.

-Jennifer Powell, Land Management Coordinator

### Ways of Giving

Woodland Dunes is a nonprofit 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 general donation:		
\$10 \$25 \$50 Name (please print) Address	<del></del>	
CityPlease make checks payable to Woodlan	StateZip d Dunes and return this form with your donation: . Box 486, Two Rivers, WI 54241	
Wish List:  *Black Oil Sunflower Seed  *Updated Computer Programs: Quickbooks for PC, Adobe Indesign & Photoshop for MAC	Additional Project Contribution:  \$ Educational Displays  \$ Cattail Trail Boardwalk  \$ Education Programs  \$ Land Restoration Projects	



## Woodland Dunes Nature Center

### 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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Corrissa Frank
Land Management Coordinator
Jennifer Powell
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Tina Kvitek

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