FROM THE DIRECTOR

Somehow the summer has again flown by and much was accomplished here at the Center. We were very busy with education programs and camps every few days, and it is always good for our place to be livened by the sounds of children experiencing the outdoors. Likewise, our visitation by the public in general was high, especially with the addition of our two stops on the Twin Rivers Water Trail. There were also a number of photographers attracted by our birds, especially the nesting ospreys - along with our beautiful wildflowers and insects.

We conducted our summer bird and bat surveys. Numbers of birds were comparable to other years, but there were fewer bats than in previous years, unfortunately consistent with statewide trends.

We were very busy with habitat projects, especially the planting of more than 2,000 trees in anticipation of the emerald ash borer. Our staff is very grateful for all the help received from the many volunteers who pitched in, especially our Wednesday Barberryans, our deer management group, and representatives from several local companies. Our summer interns, Jay, Abby, and Anna also worked hard to secure the health of our forest.

Speaking of interns, we were very fortunate to have three in total this year- Anna Hall from Silver Lake College and Abby Adams from UW- Stevens Point for parts of the summer, and Jay MacKenzie from Lawrence University for most of the summer. All three are exceptional young people who worked well together and for us. We are grateful to the Wisconsin Association for Independent Colleges and Universities, the West Foundation, the US Forest Service, and Dr. Fred and Charlotte Alyea for the funding which made it possible to hire them.

One large project, the Forget-Me-Not-Creek outfall restoration, was completed and that area is now being re-planted in native vegetation in conjunction with the Spirit of the Rivers project. Dedication for the statue is planned for September 16. In addition to restoring native vegetation, we are improving fish passage up the stream to promote spawning in the spring.

The Henry preserve wetland restoration is slated for construction this fall. Grades on the land will be re-worked to restore a more natural hydrology. Following that, the entire 80 acres will be planted in native vegetation to provide additional habitat for birds, amphibians, and other animals. A trail to allow access for hikers will be created after the vegetation is established - that may take a couple of years. The wait with be worth it, however.

Last but not least, we are evaluating our facilities needs. We are busier than we used to be, and frankly would benefit from more public indoor space. Our existing center has served us very well for nearly 40 years (the “new” addition is now 27 years old), and our Board is looking at potential improvements. We have a very generous pledge of support for this type of project and are excited about the possibilities for the future.

We continue to make progress in so many ways - thanks to all of you. And as usual, moss grows well in our forest, but not so under the feet of our busy staff and volunteers! We continue to look forward to steadily improving ourselves, but with an appreciation and respect for the wildlife which needs our protection.

Wishing you a refreshing fall season.

~ Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director
Has Woodland Dunes been important in your life? Do you and your family have an interest in seeing our habitat managed into perpetuity? Would you like to make a lasting and permanent difference?

Planned Giving is a meaningful way to ensure that Woodland Dunes will be able to take care of its precious land and provide strong nature-based programs to the children and families of our community.

**What we can accomplish with your personal commitment:**

- ensure that another 100,000 children (and more) will actively learn about nature through our impactful education programs on the preserve
- continue the fight against harmful invasive species, which threaten our globally significant land every day
- help both our common and rare wildlife species thrive through the maintenance and protection of beneficial native plants, shrubs, and trees

**Opportunities:**

**Memorial Gifts and Bequests**

Individuals may leave a bequest to Woodland Dunes Nature Center. A bequest is a gift made through a donor’s will and is completely free from federal estate tax. If you have already named Woodland Dunes Nature Center in your plans, we would like to acknowledge your meaningful gift. Please contact us.

**Endowment**

Make a gift that will support Woodland Dunes and its mission in perpetuity by contributing to the endowment fund. A percentage of the interest earned each year will support the nature center and its work, keeping the principle intact. Contributing to the endowment fund is an act of great vision, as you will leave a legacy to ensure Woodland Dunes serves the community for future generations.

**Donating Stocks and Bonds**

Individuals may avoid paying capital gains taxes by donating stocks and bonds to Woodland Dunes Nature Center. Donors are entitled to a charitable income tax reduction equal to the full market value of the stock.

**Life Income Agreement**

A life income agreement allows you to make a substantial capital gift to Woodland Dunes Nature Center, while retaining your income for your lifetime and/or that of additional beneficiaries.

For more information regarding any of the opportunities outlined above, please contact our Executive Director, Jim Knickelbine at: nature@woodlanddunes.org or by phone: (920) 793-4007.

You will be among the many compassionate friends who have a long-term vision of keeping Woodland Dunes an important and special place.
Thank you to everyone who attended Owl Fest! The weather was wonderful, the owl hooting contest was a treat as always, and many folks enjoyed guided hikes along the trails. Wildlife of Wisconsin also brought live owls and birds of prey for guests to see and learn about up close and personal.


As we transition from the heat of summer to the beginning of fall, we may be thinking more about brightly colored tree leaves and brown stems rather than flowers. However, prairie flowers are great “fall” flowers. There are early, mid, and late season blooming plants with flowering continuing well through fall (asters, for example). These late bloomers are important for the migrating and late season pollinators. Prairie habitats are very important to many wildlife species, not only birds and insects but also for mammals, reptiles, and other animals. Here at Woodland Dunes we have been increasing our prairie habitat by hundreds of acres each year.

Prairies start out in many different forms. One type may have been an old prairie which needed to be revitalized. Another may have been a farm field coming out of production and returning to a more natural state. Some prairies are what people call “old fields,” farm fields left to turn wild on their own. Often times these fields fill in with less desirable weed species, but they can be transitioned over to high quality wildlife areas. The end result of all of these is the same; after three to five years of patience and nurturing they become wonders for both animals and people to enjoy.

This fall we will be managing approximately 100 acres of prairie habitat, controlling invasive species and boosting native plant life with a variety of native seeds. These seeds will hopefully find a comfortable place to nap under a snow blanket before setting roots in the spring. While we will not see the full beauty of these seeds for a few years, we take comfort in knowing they are there, preparing to enhance the function of the prairie for years to come.

We are always looking for volunteers. To become a “Barberryan,” contact Jen at jenniferp@woodlanddunes.org

Jen Klein
Land Management Coordinator,
ISA Certified Arborist ®
In memory of Bernie Brouchoud
Ryan & Jennifer Bahnaman
Cindy Bayless
Bob & MJ Beehner
Helen Bleser
David & Laurie Bliese
Rosie Bugs
Bill & Nancy Censky
Dan Cichantek
Marge Cohen
Thomas & Margie Davis
Scottie Dayton
Joe & Janet Debilzen
Ellie Deubler
Mary Beth Dixon
Marty & Nancy Drury
Mary Ann Duebner
Employment Verification Service, LLC
Dianne Finnegan
John & Cindy Gallenberger
Michael & Jenene Garey
Glenn & David Gaterman
LouAnn Gray
Bob & Carla Gregurich
Ken Gresl
Lawrence & Jayne Hagman
Peter & Diane Hansen
Janice Henschel
Bill & Traci Hoeltke
Kent Holshbach
Anne Schuette & Daniel Hornung
Curt & Kaye Johnson
Henry & Barbara Katz
Barbara Koch
Tom & Betsy Kocourek
Karen Koebel
Raymond Kronforst
Ron & Donna Kryzenske
Susan Landers
John & Charlotte Larsen
John E. Larson

Memorials/Honorarials
Bob & Linet Lewerenz
Jim & Sue Luther
Robert Lyman
Doris Lyman
Ray & Jane Mack
John & Vickey Marquardt
Cory Masiak
Dolly McNulty
John & Cindy Meyer
Mona Moen
Pat & Vicki Mullins
Philip & Stephanie Netzer
Audrey Niquette
Bonnie O’Leske
Douglas Patrykus
Ruth Perry
Al & Cherie Petrashek
Susie Polk
Victor & Marilyn Ponce
Chris Putnam
Charles & Judith Rasmussen
Bruce & Colleen Risterer
Mark & Barb Rusboldt
Mary Savage
Harry & Nancy Schaefer
Michael & Mary Schaus
Barbara Schiesl
Kathy Schmill
Fritz & Mary Shuler
Paul & Bonita Simons
Charles & Marilyn Sontag
Jim & Amy Steffen
Gail Terry
Sheriene Thiry
Joel & Patti Trick
Charles & Karin Tuschil
Richard Van Dorn
& The Van Dorn Family
Casey & Kelly Vorron
Robert & JoAnn Weinert
Thomas & Cheryl West
Jack & Jean West

John & Julie Woodcock
Lucy Zeldenrust
Brent Zinkel
Jerry & Chris Zinkel
Timothy & Michele Zinkel
Anonymous

In memory of Robert & Lois Bush
Kathryn Taddy

In memory of Jon Stollberg
Helen Bleser

In memory of Edith Sylvester
Moxie Bailey

In memory of Joe Lajeunesse
Mona Moen

In honor of Henry & Barb Katz’s 50th Wedding Anniversary
Barry & Sandra Bast

Donations
Laurel Alyea
The Cawley Company
The Amazon Smile Foundation
Humble Bundle
PayPal
Thomas & Virginia Bare
Yardscapes
Steven Lankton
Rebecca Kitchen
Keith Grupe
Skarda Land, LLC
Fred & Marilyn Nash
Carmeuse Lime & Stone
Rita Janda
Skarda Land, LLC
Tom & Betsy Kocourek
Cindy Lupin & Michael Pintok
Heart-A-Ramma
Karel & Itka Bock
Kay Baum
Facebook Friends- Anonymous
Master Gardeners of Manitowoc County

Dorothy Star Bee & Butterfly Garden
Greg Scheuer & Merrie Star
Carmeuse Lime & Stone
Stacey Cox & Daisy Troop #8242
Kristin Truttschel
Joe Cisler
Paul Johnsrud
Jaelee Messman
Catherine Patella

Woodland Dunes Endowment
Dolly McNulty
James F. Fluck

Grant Awards
The Shopko Foundation
Pheasants Forever, Inc.
Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation

Environmental Education Programs
Bill & Nan Webster

Cattail Trail Improvements
Bill & Nan Webster

Land Restoration Project
Bill & Nan Webster

New Guarantors
Kate M. Reynolds
John S. Durbrow
Lakeshore Express, Inc. – Gary Kohls

New Members
John & Char Haug
Moxie Bailey
Paul & Nancy Dvorachek
Richard & Daren Erdmann

URGENT NEED!
We are in need of a new iPad for our shop!
We can no longer use ours because of software updates. Your donation would help us immensely!
Abby Adams
My internship here at Woodland Dunes has been such a fulfilling experience. Coming from part-time retail jobs that didn’t particularly suit my interests, this has been a gratifying way to spend my time. After hearing about this position from my college professor—from whom I studied in pursuit of a wildlife ecology degree—I was very excited to start working here since I was thinking about pursuing a career related to habitat restoration upon graduating. While I’ve enjoyed many different facets of this internship, I have to say that one of my favorite parts is invasive species control and native planting. I like the immediate turnover of the invasive species control, and although having to go out into acres of 8-foot-tall wild mustard was daunting, it was satisfying to cut back and discover the native plants growing underneath. Native planting obviously takes a bit longer to show results, but I’m proud and excited to see the natives grasses, shrubs, and trees along the Ice Age Trail where we helped plant 2,500 trees for the U.S. Forest Service, and shrubs and grasses along the Forget-Me-Not Creek restoration site along Lake Michigan. I’ve enjoyed just about every other part of the internship as well, from trail maintenance to helping Eagle Scouts to helping teach little kids at summer camp, and all of these experiences will definitely help carry me through the rest of my career, for which I am extremely grateful.

Jay MacKenzie
I’ve had a wonderful experience as an intern at Woodland Dunes. During my time here, I’ve learned a great deal about the natural world and how we can care for and maintain it. Along the way, I’ve also learned more about myself and gained plenty of practical experience. I’ve had the opportunity to be involved with a wide variety of projects and tasks; some of them have pushed me out of my comfort zone, but they all have made my internship engaging and rewarding in their own way. Every day has brought something unique, from planting trees to surveying local bat populations to teaching kids about pond ecology to talking with boaters about aquatic invasive species control. This diversity has been the highlight of my internship. When I return to Lawrence University this Autumn to complete my degree in Environmental Studies, Woodland Dunes will still be on my mind and will remain a special place for me for years to come. I am very grateful to all the staff at Woodland Dunes for giving me this opportunity and teaching me so much about the biology and ecology of the preserve, the functioning of the nonprofit sector, and so much more.

Wendy Lutzke
Environmental Educator/Butterfly Garden Coordinator

Butterfly & Bee Garden
As I write this article, the garden is in full bloom. Purple monarda, tall ironweed, bright sunflowers and scented snakeroot are welcoming countless busy bumblebees. Hovering hummingbirds visit vivid trumpet vines and butterflies dance through the air. Leopard frogs of all sizes decorate the soil and lily pads. And one very large garter snake sheds its skin and guards its territory in the grass. It’s a wonderful time to take a stroll in the garden!

Recently, volunteers from Carmeuse Lime & Stone spent several hours spreading donated limestone on our path. We are so grateful for their generous donation of time and materials! The Master Gardeners of Manitowoc County held their June meeting here, pulled weeds, learned about upcoming activities, and offered their advice. Painted rocks with educational messages now enhance the garden scene. Next time you come, pick one up and turn it over to read a garden fact! Paul Johnsrud and Joe Cisler built a fantastic new compost area to the north of the garden. This three-stall arrangement will allow us to create our own nutritious soil to help garden plants thrive. Volunteers have donated time and plants to keep weeds out and blooms in.

We’re always happy to welcome new helping hands to the bee and butterfly garden. If you’d like to breathe in the sweet smell of blossoms and the rich, warm soil now and then, please contact Wendy at wendyl@woodlanddunes.org or visit our website to fill out a volunteer form. You’ll make lots of new flying friends and we will be forever grateful!
Fall Star Party Series
Saturday, September 8th
9:00-10:30pm
Saturday, October 6th 5:00-9:00pm
Saturday, November 10th 7:00-8:30pm
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. If sky is cloudy, star parties will take place the following Saturday at the same time. Watch Facebook and website for changes. Program takes place outside the Nature Center. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Swift Night Out
Thursday, September 13th
6:30-8:00pm
Cool City Bar, 1509 Washington St., Two Rivers
Help us track roosting Chimney swifts in the Two Rivers downtown district! This is part of a continent-wide monitoring program to increase awareness around the decline of this unique bird species. No experience necessary. Meet up with fellow “swifters” at 6:30 for a brief orientation on how to find roosting swifts then head out with experienced birders to pre-determined locations to count how many may “drop” into observed chimneys at sunset. Bring binoculars. We’ll gather back at Cool City Bar to tally results, discuss what we observed, and socialize with food and libations. In partnership with Two Rivers Main Street.

Raising a Wild Child Preschool Program
Thursdays: September 13th, October 11th & November 8th
9:00-10:30am
Members: $2/child
Non-members: $3/child
Experience the wonders of nature with your 2-5 year old in 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. Adults must accompany children. Dress for the weather.

Pollinator Garden on a Budget: Saving Seeds to Start Your Own
Saturday, September 8th
10:00am-Noon
Learn how to identify native pollinator plants and how to collect seeds to create your own pollinator garden. Instruction and demonstration provided by the Master Gardener Volunteers of Manitowoc County. All ages welcome. Space is limited, registration required by Thursday, September 6th. Note: Seed gathering is not allowed on any Woodland Dunes property. Sponsored by Master Gardener Volunteers of Manitowoc County.

Wild Edibles/Culinary Weekend with Rob Zimmer
Friday, September 28th
1:00-3:15pm
Join nature and garden writer/radio host Rob Zimmer for a fun and information-packed look at the world of edible wild plants. Many wild plants in our area are edible and delicious, including some surprising delicacies. Rob will showcase a number of safe and tempting wild edibles found right here in our own backyard. Registration required by Wednesday, September 26th.

Manitowoc Restaurant and Culinary Weekend is an opportunity for locals and tourists to check out some of the finest cuisine, dishes, and traditions Manitowoc County has to offer. Restaurants will get to show off what makes them unique, while area attractions and producers will showcase what makes them some of the best anywhere!
Enchanted Forest
Saturday, October 6th
5:00-8:30pm
Members: $5/person
Non-Members: $6/person
Children 3 and under, free

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

Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Mushroom Walk
Wednesday, October 17th
1:30-3:00pm
Fall is a great time for mushrooms in Wisconsin! Join Rebecca Abler, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at UW-Manitowoc, for a fun and informative nature walk investigating this interesting group of organisms. Mushrooms and their relatives are often overlooked, but they represent incredible biological diversity and ecological importance. Registration appreciated by Monday, October 15th. Dress to be outside on the trail. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Aussie Adventures
Wednesday, November 7th
6:00-7:15pm
Join Wendy Lutzke and Laurie Paulin on a journey through the Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland as they share a view of spring Down Under. Registration required by Monday, November 5th. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

I just wanted to say how much my child and I enjoyed your Wild Child program. You are doing a phenomenal job. Teaching these kids (and parents) to value nature will pave the way for them to be conservation-minded adults. As an educator for the county conservation department, I can truly respect and appreciate what you are doing here at Woodland Dunes. I believe you are making an impact.”

- Amanda Maria Cordova

Testimonials ~ Recent Facebook Reviews …
Woodland Dunes
Nature Center & Preserve

PO Box 486  I  Two Rivers, WI 54241-0486

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 Kvitek
Environmental Educator/ Butterfly Garden Coordinator  Wendy Lutzke

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

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

Become a member or give a gift membership!

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

I would like to contribute to the endowment fund.
Please contact me.

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