As we look forward to another busy spring season, we reflect on how the winter has flown by despite the challenging weather. We wish there had been better conditions for some events, but are grateful for the good weather during Candlelight Night and the many happy faces we saw enjoying the trails and snowbanks.

Now our attention turns to our Dash trail run, summer camps, tree planting, butterfly gardening, wetland restoration, and dreams of a building expansion. We are now in our 45th year as an organization, and we are just hitting our stride. I think it’s hard for people to realize the scope of what goes on here because a lot of our effort is put into dozens of locations each year. Long ago it was decided that wildlife and education would be our priorities, and although this still remains the case, we realize that people need this place too, perhaps more than ever.

So we plunge into 2019, but as we do, we remind ourselves of the intricate beauty of nature and our responsibility for its welfare - our obligation to teach others to appreciate it as well. To do that effectively, we will also do our best to make our place as enjoyable to visit as possible. It’s always a challenge to work on so many fronts at once, but we’ve always found a way, and we’re grateful that so many are willing to help. Working for and with you, and seeing the results of those efforts, makes it all worthwhile.

Outside my window is a tiny red-breasted nuthatch, one of a pair of which have spent the winter. I think about how these little birds survive in a harsh world through their boundless energy and adaptability, constantly searching for new ways to sustain themselves. Despite their small size, they are good role models, and their energy is something we will need to emulate in the coming year!

~ Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director
Phoersts Are Phunky Photo Contest
Trees are amazing and curiously beautiful. Capture your best seasonal tree images and send us two that you would like to see published. Get your mind a thinkin’, aperture settings ready, and cameras clicking!

Rules: Cropping & basic editing allowed. No removal or addition of objects, such as a moon in the composition. Photos must not have artist’s name on the images to ensure fair and impartial judging.

Winter Contest: Dec. 2018 - March 2019
Winter Contest: April - June 2019
Winter Contest: July - August 2019
Fall Contest: September - November 2019

More than 70 of you worked hard to accomplish our tree planting goals in 2018. Because coordinating everyone for a single photo was proving to be a challenge and we didn’t want to exclude anyone, if you were a tree planting volunteer over the past year, we want you to insert your image here.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and sense of humor when the mosquitoes were getting to you. Our amphibians thank you. Our shade plants thank you. You make our world a better place.

Interested Course! This course is a beautiful 5K trail run/walk that begins in the parking lot behind Aurora Medical Center, which leads to a forested section of the Ice Age Trail. Then, enter ridges and swales, cross small bridges and trek through a secluded meadow. The last 3/4 of a mile runs along Columbus Street, crosses Haworth Avenue, and ends at our Nature Center.

Enjoy the uniqueness we offer and walk or run for a bit of healthy fun! This is a friendly race event, a naturally slower course because of the roots, surprise “trail trolls,” and natural terrain. Give it a go! Walk or run with us and check out the spring melt, new buds reaching skyward, and a natural uniqueness that only this 5K can offer.

To register early at a discounted rate, please go to: www.woodlanddunes.org/dash-at-the-dunes-5k-trail-run

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

Note: Spring trail runs can be muddy, so be prepared to get speckled!

Great idea! Bring dry shoes for the ride home.

Finish Line Celebration! Snacks and drinks will be provided to all participants after the race with the award ceremony to follow. All children 12 and under will receive a wooden medallion for participation.

Sweet! A Bus Shuttle! We will shuttle dashers back to Aurora Hospital between 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Dogs are not allowed on this course.

Planned Giving
An Everlasting Gift
Are you passionately interested in our mission of habitat protection and nature-based education? Do you wish to see Woodland Dunes sustainable years from now? If so, you can make a gift that will support Woodland Dunes and its mission in perpetuity by contributing to our endowment fund.

Your generosity is an act of great vision. You will leave a legacy that ensures Woodland Dunes serves the community for many future generations. To contribute to the endowment fund, please contact Executive Director, Jim Knickelbine, at 920-793-4007 or email: nature@woodlanddunes.org.

Candlelight Night
The fog and drizzle didn’t keep the crowds away at our annual Candlelight Night event! Over 120 people of all ages enjoyed a wonderful, wintry evening at the Dunes. Many used snowshoes and followed the luminaries along sections of Willow and Goldenrod Trails. Solar lights were also placed along Cattail Trail for a unique evening effect and strolling. Astronomers Al and Ben were in the Sky Shed and the fire was warm and toasty for marshmallow roasting! Thank you to the amazing volunteers and sponsors who helped make this event possible! Sponsors: ATC, Thrivent, and Kohl’s Action Team.
~Spaghetti Dinner~

Two Rivers Family Restaurant
3015 Tannery Rd.
Two Rivers, WI
March 18, 2019, 4-7:00 pm

Come twirl your fork & enjoy a warm, delicious meal while raising funds for the Nature Center!

Feef: $8.00
Includes: All you can eat spaghetti & meat sauce, garlic bread, & beverage!

In memory of Bernie Brouhard
Patrick & Jean Willis
Bernie’s family: Jeff, Jen, Juliana, Kandy, Jayson, Michelle, Kate, Chris, Joe, Amber, Leila, Sophie, Annabelle, Lucy, Lyn
Jayson Brouhard
In memory of Bob Malacon
Nancy Hooper Horvath
In memory of Beverly Varkeu
Geoffrey & Carla Liban
Lucy Zeldemust
Robert & John Wenert
Helen Biser
Modesta Olson
Chuck & Marlyn Sontag
In memory of Lena Skubal
Lou Ann Styx

Memorials/Honorarials

Two Rivers Family Restaurant
3015 Tannery Rd.
Two Rivers, WI

We are working on some exciting changes in the Land Management program this spring. As we ramp up yet again to plant 3,000 native trees and shrubs to protect the swales from the effects of Emerald Ash Borer, we are adding programs to highlight the uniqueness and importance of the habitats which encompass our preserve. Our first program, Save the Swales, will be a week-long celebration in May of the unique swales of Woodland Dunes, which are so rare they are listed as Globally Significant.

We’ll kick it off with the delivery of 3,000 trees and shrubs to the preserve on May 20. We’re looking for lots of able-bodied volunteers to assist with unloading the semi-truck that day. We’ll also be reaching out to the community to help organize several tree planting days throughout the week of May 20 -24th, including local scout groups and schools. Look for fun facts on our Facebook page as we highlight the beauty and wonder of the swales. Also, don’t forget to check out and participate in our “Phorests are Phunky” Photo Contest (see article), which is part of our major tree planting project funded by the US Forest Service.

Help us welcome in spring and watch our preserve wake up after a long winter’s nap. Stay tuned for more information. We will be highlighting more unique habitats within the preserve throughout the coming seasons.

To volunteer with tree planting or any other land management activities, please contact Jeni Klen at 920-793-4007 or jennifer@woodlanddunes.org.

THANK YOU

In honor of Marilyn Sontag’s 80th birthday
Chuck Sontag
Barry & Sandy Bast
Tom & Betsy Kocurek
John & Mary Wallace
In memory of Frank Turkat
James & Jean Alyea
In honor of Marty & Nancy Drury’s 60th Wedding Anniversary
Carolie Anhalt
Bob Rozoff
On behalf of Gaby Fields
Susan Defranco
In memory of Terry Banner
Lee & Julie Stadler

Osprey Camera
Steven Lankton
Cattail Trail Boardwalk
Jim & Susan Knorr
Sugar Shack
Forward Endowment
Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
Education Programs
The Edward Jones
Office of Carla Liban
Harold Kalls Chantable Trust
Giving Tuesday
Mike Reise
Dara Powell
Woodland Dunes Endowment Fund
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Dolly McNulty
Corporate Match
U.S. Bank
Wisconsin Public Service Foundation

Dorothy Star Bee & Butterfly Garden
Chris & Kristin Schreuer
Mark & Janie Schreuer
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Grants
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Tim & Karen Myers
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Fund Drive Donors
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Janice Teetliff
Jim & Martha Rasmus
New Guarantors
Chris Jagodinsky & Gary Budysz
Thomas & Barbara Hermann
In memory of Ron Stolie
Nancy Hooper Horvath
In memory of Paul Vinoche
Bill & Traci Hoeltke
In memory of Ann Sautteringer
Helen Biser
Family & Friends of
Ann Sautteringer
In memory of
Kenneth Briedenmehl
Doris A. Magyar
In memory of John Nickles
Thomas Rees
In memory of
Dr. Robert & Lois Bush
Jeffrey & Julie Rathanmier

Donations
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The Cawley Company
Suzanne Karmann Trust
Ken Helt
Two Rivers Fish Derby, Inc.
Kiwasis Club of Two Rivers
Tom & Betsy Kocurek
Bob & Peggy Tumball
Cheryl Philipp
Milbourn Seeds
Jayne Puchatzke
Two Rivers Business Association
Hokkibach Excavating
Country Western Cooperative
Celtic – Ginn’s Little
Back Program
Ross Buege
Richard & Tammy Mathewson
Mally Pinting

If you are receiving this newsletter but not our monthly email updates and alerts, please contact Nancy at 920-793-4007.
We want to make sure we are not falling into your spam filter. Thanks!

Land Management

Despite some blustery, cold and soggy days, I am happy that winter provides time away from the physical work in the Butterfly & Bee Garden as I study publications and read news reports about matters that pertain to pollination and quality habitat. And boy, do I have a lot to learn! Here’s an example.

As I was thinking ahead about potential summer projects, I was drawn to photos I’d taken of a mason bee hotel that I’d seen at a large university horticulture garden. It was really appealing to me, but a deeper study and a helpful conversation with fellow staff members made me realize it’s not a good fit for our garden. I learned if not maintained properly, a structure like this can actually prove harmful to some of the very bees we’re trying to help! Last summer we had bees galore, so conditions were right without needing one. This opportunity reminded me that observing nature, nurturing what it already provides, and facilitating education for visitors are all worthy goals that are manageable. Actually, it’s what we do really well here at Woodland Dunes.

To that end, I look forward to working with wonderful volunteers again in spring, summer and fall as we continue our wonderful and worthy efforts: protecting monarchs, facilitating healthy growth of native pollinator plants, identifying the variety of butterflies, bees, and birds that spend time in our garden, and creating a place where humans and creatures join to celebrate our environment.

Watch for activities occurring throughout the warmer seasons, and please make the Dorothy Star Butterfly and Bee Garden a regular part of your frequent visits!

Wendy Lutzke
Environmental Educator/Butterfly Garden Coordinator

FROM THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

We want to make sure we are not falling into your spam filter. Thanks!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Maple Syrup Saturday
Saturday, March 9th 9:00-10:30am
Organization required by the Monday before March 25th. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

How to Start a Purple Martin Colony
Wednesday, March 27th 6:00-7:00pm
Learn about the Purple Martin, the largest member of the swallow family in North America, and tips and tricks to attract them to your home. Join Bob Shimek as he explains housing needs, location and how to check martin nests. Bob is a member of the Wisconsin Purple Martin Association, a Purple Martin Mentor for Manitowoc County and has a colony on his property. Registration appreciated by Monday, March 25th. Sponsoreed by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Raising a Wild Child Preschool Program
Thursdays March 14th, April 11th & May 9th 9:00-10:30am
Experience the wonders of nature with your child ages 1-5 years old. Join us on a nature hike, play and learn through play. Registration required by the Monday before each program. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather. Sponsored by the Edward Jones Office of Carla Liban.

Midwest Annual Crane Count
Saturday, April 13th 5:30-7:30am
Only a few Sandhill Cranes were left in Wisconsin in the 1930’s, but thanks to protection efforts, their population now exceeds 10,000. Each year volunteers count courting sandhills in an organized effort in Manitowoc County. If you would like to help, or join a seasoned crane counter to learn the technique, contact Jim at the Nature Center (nature@woodlanddunes.org) for more information.

Timberdoodle Hike
Thursday, April 18th 7:30-8:30pm
Learn about the Purple Martin, the largest member of the swallow family in North America, and tips and tricks to attract them to your home. Join Bob Shimek as he explains housing needs, location and how to check martin nests. Bob is a member of the Wisconsin Purple Martin Association, a Purple Martin Mentor for Manitowoc County and has a colony on his property. Registration appreciated by Monday, March 25th. Sizontally sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Spring Migration Bird Walks
Fridays, May 3rd - June 7th 8:15-9:30am
Attend our weekly guided bird hike during the peak of the spring migration! Meet at the Nature Center and bring your binoculars. All walks are weather dependent and sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Spring Star Parties
Saturday, May 4th 9:00-10:30pm
View night sky constelations, the moon and other celestial objects with astronomers Al and Ben using the big telescope in the Sky Shed. Bring a lawn chair and your own telescope if you wish. Weather and sky conditions permitting. If cloudy conditions, star parties will take place the following Saturday at the same time. Watch Facebook and the website for changes. Program takes place outside the Nature Center. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Summer Camp Registration is Open!
Summer fun is at Woodland Dunes! Nature camps help kids foster a deeper connection to nature through exploration, hands-on activities and play! Register online or stop in at the Nature Center. Camps fill quickly, register soon! Full camp descriptions and information can be found online at https://www.woodlanddunes.org/summer-camps/ or contact Jess at: jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org

Little Wings Summer Camp
4-6 years old, not completed kindergarten
Monday, June 24th – Friday, June 28th 8:00-11:00am
Adults $6, Children $5; Kids under 4, free (includes breakfast)

Nature Grossology Summer Camp
6-10 yrs
Monday, June 24th – Friday, June 28th 12:30-3:00pm
Nature Princess Summer Camp
7-11 yrs
Tuesday, July 2nd – Thursday, July 4th 1:00-3:00pm
Nature Princess Summer Camp
8-11 yrs
Friday, July 12th – Monday, July 15th 1:00-3:00pm
Nature Princess Summer Camp
8-11 yrs
Saturday, August 10th 8:00-11:00am

Star Gazers Family Summer Camp
8 yrs and up
Saturday, August 10th 8:00-11:00am

To register for any of our programs, please contact Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org or call at 920-793-4007.
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!

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Become a member or give a gift membership!

$25 Individual
$35 Family
$50 Patron
$100 Contributor
$250 Conservator
$500 Benefactor
$1,000 Steward
$5,000 Guardian

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

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