VOODLAND DUNES NATURE CENTER & PRESERVE DUNESLETTER

Winter 2019 | Volume 178

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Photography by Nancy Nabak unless otherwise noted.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our nature center is a living thing - ever changing and successfully growing. Some of you may remember when Woodland Dunes was only 40 acres of swamp with an office consisting

of Bernie's kitchen table. With increased interest, we acquired the Rahmlow farm with an ancient brick farmhouse, classrooms in the barn, and a few hundred acres

of land. Growth really happened when a generous bequest from Edna Smith made an addition possible, complete with indoor plumbing.

Through the years we've worked to make Woodland Dunes not only a place for wildlife, but one that provides for

you, our guests,

making your encounters with nature easier, more interesting, and fun.

With great care, our efforts have been successful. We have more visitors now. Our programs are well attended, and as a result, we sometimes run out of space. Unfortunately, we can't accommodate more than one group at a time, and if the weather is bad, we have to cancel events - even if they are sold out. The good news is that Woodland Dunes is maturing, and it's time to grow again.

Our dear friend Laurel Alyea and members of her family offered us a very generous donation in the form of a matching gift to enhance our Nature Center. To that end, we've assessed our needs and are moving forward to create more meeting and education space, improve our public parking,

and address ADA compliance. We are striving to be as environmentally-friendly as possible with our growth, implementing technologies such as geothermal heating-reducing our carbon

⁶⁶ The good news is that Woodland Dunes is maturing, and it's time to grow again.⁹⁹

emissions, bird-safe glass,

and a permeable parking area to prevent flooding and run off. We're also reconstructing an old chimney in which chimney swifts have

nested for many years. New viewing windows will allow visitors to look directly into the beautiful Dorothy Star Bee and Butterfly Garden. Improved



displays will better engage visitors and students and illustrate the amazing benefits nature provides for all of us.

We're now at

the exciting point where we're ready to get the public involved. We know that you have time and again supported our mission of conservation and education. Now, I ask for your financial support for this project, proving we are truly a community committed to nature, building an environmental ethic in our young students, and serving visitors from all over the world.

Please join our Board and me as we boldly move forward to make transformations in student's lives and help change the world with nature-based improvements right here in Two Rivers. With your help, our entire community will benefit. Thank you.

~ Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director



To our community and business leaders, please consider a gift that accompanies naming rights, permanence, and great visibility. Please call me or send an email for naming right levels and more information: nature@woodlanddunes.org, 920-793-4007. Thank you! - Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director

Woodland Dunes Pledge Card Campaign for the Nature Center Building Addition

I/We are pleased to support your efforts with a gift of:	
○\$500 ○\$1,000 ○\$2,500 ○\$5,000 ○Other \$	_
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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Ed Brey

How long have you volunteered at Woodland Dunes and why did you decide to get involved? I became actively involved at The Dunes eleven years ago. For two years, I was an assistant to the Teacher Naturalist for classes taught to children. This experience was so positive it inspired me to become an instructor for the next three years. At that time I was asked

to serve on the Board of Directors. This is my sixth year and I enjoy working to enhance Woodland Dunes. Our mission and staff are the best.

What do you most enjoy about being involved with Woodland Dunes? Two things: A) when you see the spark of interest in children's eyes as they become aware of nature's wonders. As people, we are part of an ecosystem that is impacted by our actions. B) As a member of the Board of Directors, I enjoy watching the expanding community interest in the progress of Woodland Dunes.

What are some of your favorite pastimes or hobbies?

I very much enjoy being outdoors. Working in our yard, gardening, and yard maintenance occupy much of my time. Hobbies: golf, bowling, card games of all sorts, and local sports.

Words of wisdom for other volunteers?

When I volunteer, it is my experience that the time put in is far outweighed by the satisfaction received.



Nature Center Closings to Celebrate the Holidays

We will be closed on December 24, 25, 31 and January 1 to celebrate the Christmas and New Year's holidays. We wish you all a wonderful and joyous holiday season with your family and loved ones. Our trails are open daily from dawn to dusk.





Cellcom Supports Nature-based Education

Thank you to Cellcom for their Green Gift to support our nature-based programs at Woodland Dunes. Specifically, they will be help fund our Maple Syrup program -serving fourth graders who will explore a forest ecosystem and learn what a forest needs, contains and provides through the act of making maple syrup.

"By simply recycling old devices our customers are partners in our Green Gifts program. Together we are investing in our communities and contributing to programs and projects that support sustainability and have a positive impact on the environment," said Cindy Durand, director of public affairs at Cellcom.

Pictured: Awesome Woodland Dunes volunteer, Lucy Clara Brey and Cellcom representative, Jaimie Salta.





Let's go to the Caribbean in the middle of winter! Join us at the gorgeous Sepia Chapel with live steel drums, a new sound system, great tropical food and drinks, wine raffle, valuable mystery treasure, and new tropical fun on deck!

Tickets: \$75 /person, \$600/table of 8, \$750/table of 10

Our goal is to raise over \$30,000 to support our important year round nature based-education programs for children.

The Menu

Caribbean style appetizers, arugula and endive salad, entrée of Caribbean style roasted pork shoulder or roasted chicken breast with forbidden black rice, nappa cabbage and pineapple slaw, or vegetarian Caribbean fusion medley, and a delicious dessert. We do make accommodations for dietary needs BAYCARE CLINIC so please be sure to let us know.

This event fills up quickly, so get your friends together and reserve your seats today!

For more information or to register online, please go to: www.woodlanddunes.org/tropical-blast

SAVE THE DATE!



5K Trail Run/Walk Fundraiser Saturday, April 18th 10:00 am

Be watching for new happenings to celebrate 10 years of dashing for nature!

Register now at the lowest fee by going to our site: https://www.woodlanddunes.org/dash-at-the-dunes-5k-trail-run/

Sponsorship opportunities are available to help us celebrate this milestone. Please contact Nancy at nancyn@woodlanddunes.org or by calling 920-793-4007.

Land Management

This year we implemented a new series of weeklong programs aimed at highlighting different habitats in our preserve and why care for our land is so important:

Save the Swales:

We started by unloading 3,500 trees and shrubs from two semi-trailers. Our goal - to protect



over 400 acres of forested wetland habitat, which is dominated by ash species and under threat of the emerald ash borer. In the last two years we've put over 5,000 trees and shrubs in the ground and we'll be planting another 5,000 in the next two years. Many groups from the youngest girl scouts, to middle and high school students, to adult volunteers worked together on this project. Habitat highlights, videos and photo contests were posted on Facebook, offering fun prizes to increase enthusiasm and public awareness.



Prairie Fest: Pollinators and wildflowers were the stars of this program. Highlights included monarchs, rusty-patched bumblebees, clearwing moths, milkweed and wild bergamot. We've enrolled or re-enrolled 400 acres of prairie habitat into restoration and conservation programs over the last

five years. Activities such as controlled burns, mowing, herbicide application and seeding are management priorities for us. Our Nature Time Tuesday program adopted the prairie theme and The Bug Lady, Kate Redmond, gave an interesting presentation on insects in our Center. Watch for exciting new developments for next year!

Rockin' the Forest: The stars this time were our 500 acres of upland forest. Our local forester and Board member, Sue Crowley, led a tree



identification presentation and hike with lots of good tips such as using the acronym, MAD Buck (Google it). Our preschool Wild Child participants learned about different leaves and what they can find in the forest, and Denmark Community School students cleaned up trash on the roadside along the forest edge. Fun forest-facts on Facebook and a photo contest rounded out the rockin' forest spotlight.

DASH with us to help support our beautiful habitat & children's nature-based education programs!



Winter Wildlife (December 15-21): How does wildlife survive winter? What signs of wildlife do we see? Our approximate 200 acres of shrub-carr, sedge meadow, and cattail marsh habitat are home to many species of wildlife – even in the winter!



Join our Executive Director, Jim Knickelbine, and Education Coordinator, Jessica Johnsrud, on a night hike to experience winter wildlife on December 18, and stay tuned for more fun facts and programs related to wildlife in winter!

Jennifer Klein, Land Management Coordinator

Rockin' the Forest Photo Contest Congratulations to Ashley Kathleen for submitting this great photo during our Rockin' the Forest photo contest! Nature is beautiful and to be shared.

Grab a friend, get out there and capture it!

Alaska, the 49th State: Denali to Seward with my Brother

Wednesday, December 11th 6:00-7:30pm

In September 2018, Titus Seilheimer, Fisheries Outreach Specialist with the Wisconsin Sea Grant, joined his brother in



Alaska on a guest to visit all 50 states. They explored the area around Denali National Park, sampled several local breweries, and visited the glaciers and

fjords of the Seward area. Come on a journey through the wilds of Alaska through photos with a sampling of ecology. Registration appreciated by Monday, December 9th. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Raising a Wild Child Preschool Program

Thursdays December 12th, January 9th & February 13th 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. An adult must accompany children. Dress for the weather. Sponsored by the Edward Jones Office of Carla Liban

Early Evening Night Hike

Wednesday, December 18th 6:00-7:00pm



preserve. We'll listen for owls and learn about animals that are awake after the sun sets. Space is limited,

registration required by Friday, December 13th. Dress to be outdoors. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Animals in Winter Family Program

Monday, December 30th 9:30-11:30am Members: \$2/child Non-Members: \$3/child Bring the kids and learn how animals survive winter.

We will start indoors with a story and hands-on activities for the whole family. After, we will go outside for a short nature walk and finish the morning roasting marshmallows around a fire (weather permitting). Wear warm clothes and winter boots. Registration appreciated by Friday, December 27th.

Full Moon Walk

Fri, January 10th 5:30-7:00pm

Bring family and friends to explore the trails near the Nature Center by the light of the full moon! Visit the astronomers to view the full wolf moon through a telescope. The Nature Center will be open and if there is snow, adult and kids' snowshoes will be available to rent for \$5/pair for members or \$8/pair for non-members. Note, this is a self-quided experience and trails are not groomed. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Candlelight Night

Saturday, February 1st 6:30-8:30pm 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 is a fun, relaxing evening with friends and family. Adult and kid's snowshoes available for use (if there's snow) or bring your own. Held at the Nature Center.

Snoga at the Dunes

Saturday, February 8th 10:00am-Noon \$20/person or \$30/couple (if registered by 2/6) \$25/person or \$40/couple walk-in (if space available) Children 12 & under, free

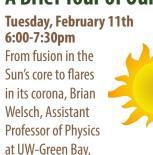
Are you looking for some winter fun? Join us for the 6th annual Snoga at the Dunes with certified yoga instructor Jennifer Jelenic of YogaFern, Snoga

is a guided, meditative, snowshoe trek through the

trails on the preserve, with time to pause throughout to practice sequenced, standing yoga poses. No yoga experience necessary, plan for up to a 1.5-mile hike and about 1.5 hours outside depending on the conditions. Warm beverages and light snacks served after. Dress for the weather and easy movement, layers are usually best. Limited number of snowshoes available. Register to ensure snowshoes. If no snow, we will hike on foot. Best for ages 4+ (with parent discretion) that can hike on the snow.

Fun Studying the Sun: A Brief Tour of Our Star

6:00-7:30pm From fusion in the Sun's core to flares in its corona, Brian Welsch, Assistant



will give an overview of the Sun, and discuss what scientists find interesting about it. Registration appreciated. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Great Backyard Bird Count for Families

Saturday, February 15th 9:00-11:00am



to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Help count birds at the bird feeders

for this annual citizen science project and contribute to a real-time snapshot of bird populations. No experience necessary! We will also have birdhouses available to paint and take home (while supplies last). An adult must accompany children. Registration appreciated by Thursday, February 13th.

Families are invited

The Ice Age **Trail Lakeshore Chapter Meeting**

Saturday, February 15th 9:00am-Noon **Lester Public Library** Public is welcome! For more information, contact Lakeshore Chapter Coordinator, Cheryl Gorusch at cherylgorsuch@gmail.com.

Winter Woods Tree ID and Beyond

Tues, March 3rd 1:00-3:30pm Spend the afternoon with forester Sue Crowley to learn winter tree identification and threats affecting Wisconsin forests. Jeni Klein, Woodland Dunes' Land Management Coordinator, will provide an update on how Woodland Dunes is addressing some of these factors. We will spend the first part of the program indoors, then spend the remainder of our time (~1 hour) on the trails identifying trees. Space is limited, registration required by Tuesday, Feb.25. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

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







Create A Wild Child

By Jessica Johnsrud

he Raising a Wild Child program is designed to engage both young children ages two - five years old and their caregivers. It has been running for almost three years and is offered the second Thursday of each month. I'm delighted to report the program has been very successful with 597 people participating over the last 34 months. Even better, many families attend monthly or regularly throughout the year. This consistency is a key component to getting young children hooked on nature. Research shows that children who regularly spend time outdoors and share some of that time with an adult mentor, grow into adults who care about the natural world. Other benefits of spending time outdoors include: better motor control and concentration, more creative play, a strengthened immune system, decreased levels of stress, depression, and symptoms of ADHD, increased fitness levels and less bullying.

The program highlights a theme each month through a guided activity, then we explore the trails on a nature wander. In October, we started the program by singing a song about the falling leaves, then wandered on Black Cherry Trail. We noted colors of leaves and found many treasures including patches of soft moss (that we had to stop and feel), a wood frog and part of an old hornet nest. We finished with a craft using a few fallen leaves collected outside. If you have a little one in your life, please considering joining us for Wild Child! Details can be found under the Upcoming Events calendar. Thank you to the Edward Jones Office of Carla Liban for their generous support of this inspiring program.

ΤΗΑΝ K YOU

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T H A N K Υ 0 U

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Gerry Sisel

We're excited to announce that we're joining the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology as its partner during the 81st annual convention in Two Rivers from May 14-17, 2020. Other local convention partners are the Lighthouse Inn and Conference Center, the Manitowoc Area Visitor and Convention Bureau, and the Two Rivers Main Street program. Local birders from the Bird Brunch Bunch are also enthusiastic about leading half-day field trips in the area and helping with other convention logistics.

"Great Birding On A Great Lake!" is this year's theme and there will be some new options to the convention, taking advantage of the fact that it'll be on Lake Michigan. Spectacular birding field trips will be offered throughout the weekend at skill levels ranging from beginning to advanced, with early and late start time options, and may include kayaking (West Twin River), a night hike, and biking options.

The keynote speaker for the convention banquet on Saturday evening will be Dr. Ben Zuckerberg, associate professor in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Zuckerberg, whose UW lab has found overwhelming evidence that wildlife populations are responding to modern climate change, will discuss what future actions are suggested by data gathered from breeding bird atlas work.



Ben Zuckerburg, Associate professor in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison



Study Links City Parks to Feeling You Get On Christmas

A new study published in the journal People and Nature this August used tweets to determine people's moods while in green space. It found people's language had a huge bump in positive sentiment while in parks. "Yes, across all the tweets, people are happier in parks," said Aaron Schwartz, a University of Vermont graduate student who led the study ."But the effect was stronger in large regional parks with extensive tree cover and vegetation." In other

The convention will start on Thursday and be a grand evening like never before. The traditional membership appreciation picnic will be in Central Park– greeting old friends and having an opportunity to meet and make new ones. Immediately following the picnic will be a stunning performance by the Oneida Nation Smoke Dancers, sponsored by the Bay Area Bird Club out of Green Bay. The 10 dancers and musicians will appear in handmade Native American regalia accompanied

> WISCONSIN SOCIETY for ORNITHÓLOGY

by a master of ceremonies who will explain what each dance represents and the history of how it evolved culturally. He also will describe the ways that Native Americans in general, and the Oneidas in particular, think about and interact with wildlife and the natural world, including birds.

WSO is welcoming the public from the Two Rivers/Manitowoc area to attend the free performance as well as the annual Passenger Pigeon Awards ceremony that will follow. Honoring outstanding Wisconsin citizens and organizations that have made great strides in avian-based research, education, awareness and conservation will cap the evening.

WSO members and non-members are encouraged to help recognize such contributions by participating in the nominating process. For further information about individual awards or the awards process, contact Awards Chair Wendy Schultz at awards@wsobirds.org. (Woodland Dunes board member, Dr. Charles Sontag and Executive Director, Jim Knickelbine have both received the prestigious Bronze Passenger Pigeon award.)

We're looking for volunteers to help lead local half-day field trips by kayak and bike. If you're interested in being part of this exciting event, please get a hold of Convention Chair Nancy Nabak by emailing nancyn@woodlanddunes. org or call 920-793-4007.

We hope you'll join us in May for Great Birding On A Great Lake!

words, greener park areas led to a bigger boost in mood. It also found that people's positivity increase was equivalent to that documented on Christmas day. Part of the study's conclusion: "We suggest building or expanding parks near populations with limited access to greenspace and targeting funds towards the most effective types of parks for mental benefits." This study validates what an important asset Woodland Dunes is to our community's well being...and that every day is like Christmas day here!



PO Box 486 | Two Rivers, WI 54241-0486

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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