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 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
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.

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.

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.
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.

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

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

The Menu
Caribbean style appetizers, arugula and endive salad, entree 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 so please be sure to let us know.

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.

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

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.

Congratulate 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!
**Family Program**

**Animals in Winter**

**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, surrounded by the snow, and finish with a campfire. Space is limited, registration required by December 13th. Registration appreciated.

**Snoga at the Dunes**

**Saturday, February 8th**
10:00am-Noon

$20/person or $30/couple (if registered by 2/6)

Non-Members: $20/person or $30/couple (if space available)

Members: $12 and under, free

Are you looking for something fun to do with the kids? 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 and reflect on the natural world. Warm beverages and light snacks served after. Registration appreciated by February, December 27th.

**Great Backyard Bird Count for Families**

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

Families are invited 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 February, December 3rd.

**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 cherylgorusch@gmail.com.

**Comming Events**

**Create A Wild Child**
By Jessica Johanns

The 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 wool frog, and a piece 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.

To register for any of our programs, please contact Jess at jessicaj@woodlanddunes.org or call at 920-793-4007.
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 many options available 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 (Two River Twin), 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 populations are responding to modern climate change, will discuss what future actions are suggested by data gathered from breeding bird atlas work.

Donations
Georgie Lusk
Sunrise Optimist Club of Manitowoc
Anonymous
Lucy Zeldensztut
Stephen & Beverly Hamann
Steve P. & Christine J.
Lankton Charitable Foundation of Lakeshore Foundation
Jeff Rammmer Frey
PayPal Giving Fund
Manitowoc Landscape, Inc.
Silver Creek Nurseries, Inc.
The Cawley Company
Marge Nemitz
Betty Holuback

We hope you’ll join us in May for Great Birding On A Great Lake!
**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 / Tech Support: Jennifer Klein  
- Administrative Assistant: Tina Kuitek  
- 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  
- Lucy Zeldenrust

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

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