FROM THE DIRECTOR

People often ask what we have been doing lately, assuming that with this nasty virus running loose we would be deprived of work. Actually, we’re very busy, in some cases more than usual as we find ways to adapt to the public health issues we’re faced with. We haven’t been able to teach in the traditional ways, but have come up with new methods to connect people to nature. We don’t organize groups of people here the way we used to, but many people still visit, perhaps more than in previous years. It’s wonderful to see our visitors enjoying the trails, grounds, gardens, and the preserve, and we are truly reminded how important it is to spend time in nature. It teaches us, nourishes us, and heals us, and there is such a great need for all of those things right now.

Our new addition is open to the public weekdays and ready for future events. We’re still putting on finishing touches - planting on the outside and display development on the inside. Covid is making fundraising a bit more challenging, and although the addition itself is finished, we’re still working on critical aspects of the Center. We welcome any continued support for this, our most significant project ever.

Our new restored wetland complex on Woodland Drive is now past the earthmoving phase and is being planted in an 80-acre mosaic of prairie, shrub swamp, and re-created ridges and swales. We have been documenting the change in birdlife using the area and look forward to tracking the changes as the vegetation matures. Birds are spreading out into the new wetland from our existing preserve across the road. The changes in the ecosystem there are exciting to see. In a few years we’ll be able to construct a trail so that our visitors can explore this area as well.

We’re also conducting additional restoration work across Woodland Drive near the wetland created by WPS, as well as the wooded parcel east of Taylor Street. This will restore a degraded area of ridges and swales used heavily by birds.

We are happy to work with the City of Manitowoc to provide additional access to Camp Vits Park adjacent to property we own there. The City will be developing a parking area, picnic area, and restrooms, with an accessible trail crossing part of our property to the park, with beautiful views, mature forest, and river access.

Our bird monitoring projects continue, including our Motus remote sensing station, bird counts, and banding. Other recent monitoring here revealed a federally endangered bumblebee and a new record of a State-threatened plant.

As we move into winter, we plan to promote outdoor fun with snowshoe hikes. We’re also planning a fun virtual version of our Tropical Blast fundraiser that you can enjoy from the comforts of your home. I would like to thank each of you for your continued support for our mission, and wish for you good health and safety until we can gather again.

~ Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director
Looking for unique Christmas gifts this year? Why not give them something meaningful and supports Woodland Dunes at the same time?

Hiking sticks: We have unique hiking sticks that were carved by beavers that allow for a perfect notch at the top of the stick for your thumb. You cannot buy a commercially made hiking stick that will fit your hand as well. (John Muir, Sigurð Olson and Aldo Leopold always used hiking sticks.)

Marvel Meal Logs: These winter bird feeders have been tooth crafted by busy beavers of the Wolf River. Attractive and functional. A fantastic Marvel Meal recipe is included that will draw your winter birds to your feeder. Once up, send us your photos!

Cozy mittens, cribbage boards, another batch of honey and more! Come take a look and let us know how we can make your holiday giving easier this year!

Christmas Gifts From Our Shop!

Marvel Meal Logs: These winter bird feeders have been tooth crafted by busy beavers of the Wolf River. Attractive and functional. A fantastic Marvel Meal recipe is included that will draw your winter birds to your feeder. Once up, send us your photos!

Cozy mittens, cribbage boards, another batch of honey and more! Come take a look and let us know how we can make your holiday giving easier this year!

Why Do You Support Woodland Dunes?

I grew up without nature experiences. When we moved to Two Rivers, Helen Dicke Krivacek took me to Woodland Dunes. It was like opening a door on a whole world I didn’t know much about. I have always loved animals, and was immediately drawn to the huge number of plants that live at Woodland Dunes. Volunteering as a Teacher Naturalist, I felt I was helping the students to have that same ‘a HA’ moment I had many years ago. — Lucy Zeldenrust

This year has been a great challenge. Unfortunately, we have not been able to hold many of the events we like, including our volunteer thank you picnic. We apologize for that. We treasure our volunteers who fully help us continue our mission and do so much to keep the nature center running.

Please know how grateful we are to each one of you and how thankful we are for your help. One of the best things about Woodland Dunes is how wonderful people work together to make our little piece of Earth a better place. We miss seeing you, working with you, and thanking you! We look forward to when we can do so again. In the meantime, know that we are thinking of you and so appreciate your help.

Volunteers We Thank You!

For more information go to: www.woodlanddunes.org under the Events tab and be sure to check back for updates, or call 920-793-4007 and ask for Nancy.

Tropical Blast Goes Virtual in 2021

Get ready to have a BLAST with a twist!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 27, 7:00 pm.

Keeping everyone safe during this time of Covid is of utmost importance, so we’re bringing the tropics to you from the comfort of your own home!

Get ready for tropical fun with a beautiful gem raffle, wine raffle, fantastic auction, tropical-dressed contest, steel drums, and more!

In lieu of dinner seats, we will deliver tropical swag boxes to you the week before the event with gift certificates from Courthouse Pub plus other wonderful goodies and tropical surprises.

Please help us raise $40,000 to educate children about the wonders of nature and protect our unique and precious preserve.

If you have attended in the past, an invitation will be mailed to you in January just as before.

For more information go to: www.woodlanddunes.org under the Events tab and be sure to check back for updates, or call 920-793-4007 and ask for Nancy.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Virtual Tropical Blast Fundraiser

To Benefit Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve

Saturday, February 27, 2021 7-8 pm

* $75 per person – 1 swag box.
* $600 - swag boxes for 8 people, $750 - swag boxes for 10 people
* Evening: Tropical trivia, gem raffle, wine raffle, tropical dress contest and more!
* $Swag box – Courthouse Pub gift certificate, tropical goodies and surprises.

(Will be delivered one week before event.)

All proceeds support year-round, nature-based education and conservation programs at Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve.

For more information, please contact Nancy at Woodland Dunes: 920-793-4007 or www.woodlanddunes.org
Greg Skurupey, Energy Services Manager for Two Rivers Water & Light, said, “The nature center has been a steward of the environment for some time, and we are really excited to see EV technology gaining popularity in Two Rivers and Manitowoc, Wisconsin, including seven miles of hiking trails. To learn more, visit woodlanddunes.org.”

Two Rivers Water & Light provided $2,000 in funding from their Wholesale Power Provider, WPPI Energy. A not-for-profit organization, WPPI Energy has an EV Technologies Initiative to assist organizations interested in installing EV chargers.

Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve has a two-fold mission: to protect our globally important habitat by maintaining its ecological integrity, and to educate our community in understanding and appreciating the value of nature.

To help protect the environment and encourage the advancement of electric vehicle (EV) technology, the nature center recently installed an Energy Star certified Level 2 EV charger. To support their efforts, Two Rivers Water & Light provided $2,000 in funding to the nonprofit organization, WPPI Energy. WPPI Energy has an EV Technologies Initiative to assist organizations interested in installing EV chargers.

“In the early 60s, my parents teamed up with the Alfred and Delores Baum family and we built a 17th-century-style 1.5-story log cabin next to the Rahr School Forest in Point Beach. To stay close to nature, we didn’t want any modern conveniences. We had a wood burning stove, kerosene lanterns, an icebox, and outside outhouse.”

“Since then, the Baum family has donated an additional 1,500 acres to WD, which now has a geothermal system and a 4.25 kW Solar DG array as well.”

Installed in September, the charger is already in use. The charger can charge 20-25 miles per hour, with a cost of $0.71 per hour. While their vehicle charges, users are encouraged to explore the 1,500 acres of hardwood & conifer forests, wetlands, and prairies located between Two Rivers and Manitowoc, Wisconsin, including seven miles of hiking trails. To learn more, visit woodlanddunes.org.

“We are really excited to see EV technology gaining popularity in Two Rivers,” stated Skurupey. “The utility is committed to being environmentally responsible, and our staff is here and ready to help residents and businesses who may be interested in installing EV chargers.”

Cultural Grant Awarded to Woodland Dunes

In November, Governor Tony Evers announced that $15 million in COVID-19 Cultural Organization Grants had been awarded to 385 cultural organizations across Wisconsin. Woodland Dunes was one of them.

“Just like small businesses, cultural organizations have taken a major financial hit,” said DOA Secretary Joel Brennan. “We’re all in this together. We hope that these funds will make it possible for us to be able to enjoy the museums, theaters, nature centers, and music from these organizations once it is safe to do so again.”

Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), the COVID-19 Cultural Organizations Grant program provides grants to nonprofit organizations whose primary missions are to produce, present, or exhibit cultural disciplines such as music, dance, theater, literature, and the visual arts, or items of environmental or scientific interest.

Cultural Grant Awarded to Woodland Dunes

In November, Governor Tony Evers announced that $15 million in COVID-19 Cultural Organization Grants had been awarded to 385 cultural organizations across Wisconsin. Woodland Dunes was one of them.

“Just like small businesses, cultural organizations have taken a major financial hit,” said DOA Secretary Joel Brennan. “We’re all in this together. We hope that these funds will make it possible for us to be able to enjoy the museums, theaters, nature centers, and music from these organizations once it is safe to do so again.”

Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), the COVID-19 Cultural Organizations Grant program provides grants to nonprofit organizations whose primary missions are to produce, present, or exhibit cultural disciplines such as music, dance, theater, literature, and the visual arts, or items of environmental or scientific interest.

Cultural Grant Awarded to Woodland Dunes

In November, Governor Tony Evers announced that $15 million in COVID-19 Cultural Organization Grants had been awarded to 385 cultural organizations across Wisconsin. Woodland Dunes was one of them.

“Just like small businesses, cultural organizations have taken a major financial hit,” said DOA Secretary Joel Brennan. “We’re all in this together. We hope that these funds will make it possible for us to be able to enjoy the museums, theaters, nature centers, and music from these organizations once it is safe to do so again.”

Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), the COVID-19 Cultural Organizations Grant program provides grants to nonprofit organizations whose primary missions are to produce, present, or exhibit cultural disciplines such as music, dance, theater, literature, and the visual arts, or items of environmental or scientific interest.

Cultural Grant Awarded to Woodland Dunes

In November, Governor Tony Evers announced that $15 million in COVID-19 Cultural Organization Grants had been awarded to 385 cultural organizations across Wisconsin. Woodland Dunes was one of them.

“Just like small businesses, cultural organizations have taken a major financial hit,” said DOA Secretary Joel Brennan. “We’re all in this together. We hope that these funds will make it possible for us to be able to enjoy the museums, theaters, nature centers, and music from these organizations once it is safe to do so again.”

Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), the COVID-19 Cultural Organizations Grant program provides grants to nonprofit organizations whose primary missions are to produce, present, or exhibit cultural disciplines such as music, dance, theater, literature, and the visual arts, or items of environmental or scientific interest.

Cultural Grant Awarded to Woodland Dunes

In November, Governor Tony Evers announced that $15 million in COVID-19 Cultural Organization Grants had been awarded to 385 cultural organizations across Wisconsin. Woodland Dunes was one of them.

“Just like small businesses, cultural organizations have taken a major financial hit,” said DOA Secretary Joel Brennan. “We’re all in this together. We hope that these funds will make it possible for us to be able to enjoy the museums, theaters, nature centers, and music from these organizations once it is safe to do so again.”

Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), the COVID-19 Cultural Organizations Grant program provides grants to nonprofit organizations whose primary missions are to produce, present, or exhibit cultural disciplines such as music, dance, theater, literature, and the visual arts, or items of environmental or scientific interest.
SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS!

Nancy Nabak
Communication & Development Coordinator for Woodland Dunes, has been selected as the 2019-2020 Two Rivers Optimist Member of the Year. Nancy joined the Club in 2018 and has attended or participated in nearly every event since that time. She works in Manitowoc but lives in Green Bay -- so this is no easy feat! Nancy has also received the Rookie of the Year award in her first year. Regardless of the task, Nancy lends a hand without question and has taken over as chair of the Fire Fighter Appreciation event. Her smiling face is a welcoming sight for both the Club and the public!

Judy Goodchild, Woodland Dunes Tropical Blast volunteer, received the Club's Best award in recognition of her endless effort to support the club. Judy has been an Optimist member for 20 years and in that time held positions as secretary and president and chaired various committees. In 2004-2005, Judy reigned as Governor of the Wisconsin North – Upper Michigan District, which includes Two Rivers and 69 other clubs. Her leadership skills have helped with club successes and recognition internationally.

The vision of the Optimist International is to value all children and help them develop to their fullest potential.

In the eyes of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, “If you want to be a true professional, you will do something outside of yourself. Something to repair the tears in your community… a meaningful life is living not for oneself, but for one’s community.”

We commend and celebrate your dedication, Nancy and Judy! Congratulations!

Dawn Hilliker, Two Rivers Optimist Club

Bank First Donates to Woodland Dunes Capital Campaign

Representatives of Bank First presented a large check to Woodland Dunes Nature Center in support of its capital campaign and their largest fundraiser, the Tropical Blast, which will be held on February 27, 2021.

Left to right: Chuck and Marilyn Sontag – Honorary Chairs of the capital campaign, Jeff Zimmerman of Bank First, Woodland Dunes Executive Director – Jim Kneidelhine, Dennis Tieron and Betty Bittner of Bank First, Don and Ellen Lewellen – chairs of the campaign, and Tom Kocourek, president of the Woodland Dunes board of directors.

Birds can’t see glass, and because of this, one billion are killed each year in the U.S. as they try to navigate around houses, office buildings, and other obstacles.

Birds hit glass because:
- Reflections of vegetation or landscape attract birds to collide with glass.
- Green habitat inside buildings with see-through glass can lure birds to their deaths.
- Glass corners or narrow passages can allow birds to see through to habitat on the other side of a building, and they die trying to fly through.

Ways we are helping:
- anti-reflective film
- zen curtains
- manufactured bird-friendly glass

For more information on how you can prevent bird strikes, go to www.abcbirds.org

A Big Thanks to Rotarians in Action

On September 29th an energetic group of members from the Rotary Club of Two Rivers put their hearts and hands into planting and weeding in the Dorothy R. Star Butterfly Garden. After receiving a Rotary District Grant in July, they were able to supply patio furniture, pond plants, and pollinator plants to our newly refurbished garden. We appreciate their hard work and cheerful attitudes on what was a bit of a blustery day! We can all look forward to seeing the fruits of their labors when spring rolls around. Until then, the garden will be a wonderful source of food and protection for wildlife throughout the winter.

Wendy Lutzke
Butterfly & Bee Garden Coordinator

The Butterfly Garden
New Nature Kits
Are you looking for outdoor, screen-free activities for your preschool through 3rd and 4th grade kids? We have new nature kits available at Woodland Dunes! Check out a kit at the front desk and use the activities to learn more about nature while on the trails. Kits have four or five activities based on a theme and directions and supplies are included. Please note, they are for onsite use and need to be returned the same day. Materials will be cleaned and restocked after each use. Kits are available first come, first served.

Restoring Wild Rice at Green Bay Coastal Wetlands
Tuesday, November 17th
7:00pm
The bay of Green Bay is the world’s largest freshwater estuary and one of the most productive systems in the Great Lakes. However, Green Bay and its watersheds have a long history of intensive use and modification, including loss of wetland habitat. Recent efforts have emerged to actively restore aquatic vegetation to improve coastal wetland habitat within Green Bay. Jade Arneson, a recent UW-Green Bay graduate, will share her Masters thesis work evaluating the restoration potential of wild rice, a native annual grass once historically abundant within Green Bay and its tributaries. Registration required by Monday, November 16th. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Snowshoe Rentals
Spice up your next winter walk in the preserve with snowshoes! Snowshoes will be available to rent at the front desk for $5/pair and are for use in the preserve. Please call ahead to make sure there is adequate snow cover. Adult sizes and children’s sizes (fit most kids 4 years and older) are available.

Restoring Wetlands and Migratory Stopover Habitat in Manitowoc County’s Clay Plain Soils
Tuesday, December 8th
6:30pm
Wetland restoration ecologists with environmental consulting firm, Stantec, worked with staff from Woodland Dunes and funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to restore a mosaic of wetland and upland habitats on an 80-acre drained soybean field. The project restored the hydrologic regime to near pre-settlement conditions and created microtopography with ephemeral wetlands typically found in the local glacial till landscape unique to Manitowoc County. This presentation, given by Jon Gumlow, Senior Wetland Scientist with Stantec, will focus on the history, challenges, and partnerships associated with converting a soybean field to a high-quality wetland complex and the associated wildlife response. Registration required by Monday, December 7th. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Seed Nature Kits available
Friday, November 6th - Wednesday, November 25th
Animal Signs Nature Kits available
Friday, December 4th - Wednesday, December 30th

Upcoming Events

Adult Learning Series Goes Virtual
The adult learning series is moving to a virtual format and it’s simple to participate! Register by calling 793-4007 or emailing jess@woodlanddunes.org with your name, phone number and email address. You will receive an email with directions and a link to the presentation. Contact Jess with any questions.

Geologic History of Northeastern Wisconsin
Tuesday, January 5th
2:00pm
Join UWGB Geoscience Professor Jon Luczaj for a description of the Geology of northeastern Wisconsin, with a focus on the Niagara Escarpment and related features. The presentation will focus on how and why the Niagara Escarpment formed, the history of glacial activity in the region, and some interesting places you can visit. Registration required by Monday, January 4th. Sponsored by Next Era Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Upcoming Events

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

Land Management

Land management has been busy wrapping up this year’s field work and prepping for the spring. All the caging we’ll need for tree protection next spring is being stored in our barn, waiting for us to cut and bundle it over the winter. Our trees for this coming spring are ordered and we wish them a gentle winter slumber. Fall field preparations and plantings taking place right now will produce next year’s prairie fields, and many grant applications are being sent out in hopes of funding our greatest needs.

One new program from this year, our Trail Saver 20, is off to a great start. Membership has grown and we have one “Member’s Only” event under our belt. Our fall night-time fungus hike brought staff and 1520 members out in the preserve to learn about and identify some neat fall mushrooms. Fun was had by all, and we learned some really interesting and lesser known facts about mushrooms along our trails.

Trail Saver 20 is a dedicated fund for trail maintenance and upkeep such as boardwalk repairs and invasive species removal. Thanks to our pioneer members, we were able to purchase lumber to repair Yellow Birch Trail, where many seasons of ground freezing and thawing had pushed the boardwalk sideways, creating sort of a rollercoaster hike. I encourage everyone to go out on this trail and see the improvements for themselves. And today, our Executive Director sent me this note: “Walked on Yellow Birch this morning—it looks better than it has in 10 years.”

– Jeni Klein, Land Management Coordinator
**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: Jenifer Thompson
- 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
- Ed Brey
- Sue Crowley
- Robert Gahl
- Jon Henry
- Susan Knorr
- Ellen Lewellen
- Mark McLaughlin
- Dolly McNulty
- Charles Sontag
- Lucy Zeldenrust

**Become a member or give a gift membership!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Contribution Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributor</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservator</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefactor</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steward</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardian</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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